

# *The Kingston Interfaith Council*

*United in Service to Justice, Mercy and Love*

July 19, 2018

Alderwoman Andrea Shaut  
355 Hasbrouck Avenue  
Kingston, NY 12401

Dear Alderwoman Shaut,

As religious leaders in Kingston, we are deeply concerned about the ongoing struggles to hold our city police officers accountable for their actions which violate their core responsibilities to protect and serve all the residents of our city. We believe that the renegotiation of the Kingston Police Department contract is an opportunity to create greater accountability to these core responsibilities.

We are grateful for the work of Rise Up Kingston in comparing the Kingston police contract with the contracts in Poughkeepsie and Hudson, and for lifting up several key provisions of our city's contract which are not present in these other places, and which serve to weaken the city's ability to hold our officers accountable for the responsible performance of their duties.

Therefore, we are writing to urge you to vote *no* on the new police contract if it comes with the following provisions unchanged:

Article 8

"The City will indemnify all employees against losses arising out of any judgments of claims for acts committed by them in the discharge of their duties and in the course of their employment, provided that such losses did not result from the willful and wrongful act or gross negligence of the employee."

Article 12, Section 1

"Since all police officers are presumed to be subject to duty 24 hours each day, any action taken by an employee on his/her time off, which would have been taken by a police officer on duty, shall be considered police action and the employee shall have all rights and benefits of police officers as if he/she were on duty, and in the event the police officer becomes injured or ill for taking police action"

Article 13, Section 5

"No employee shall be ordered or requested to submit to a polygraph for any reason"

Article 13, Section 6

"No employee shall be required to submit to a blood test, breathalyzer test or any other test to determine the percentage of alcohol in his/her blood for any reason, except as may be provided otherwise by a specific statute."

# *The Kingston Interfaith Council*

*United in Service to Justice, Mercy and Love*

If you would like more detailed information about the results of Rise Up Kingston's research and their specific recommendations about amendments to these provisions, please contact Rev. Erica Baron at [ebaron@uuma.org](mailto:ebaron@uuma.org) or 617-558-0301.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your work on behalf of our city.

Sincerely,

Rev. Erica Baron, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills, Kingston

Rev. Frank Alanga, Holy Cross/Santa Cruz Episcopal Church, Kingston

Rev. Filomena Servellon, Holy Cross/Santa Cruz Episcopal Church, Kingston

Rev. Dr. Faye Banks Taylor, Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, Kingston

Rev. Dr. Renee House, Old Dutch Church, Kingston

Rev. Michelle Meech, Saint John's Episcopal Church, Kingston

Rev. Jordan Scruggs, Saint James United Methodist Church, Kingston

Rev. Thomas Taylor, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kingston

Rev. Kendra VanHouten, Fair Street Reformed Church, Kingston

Rev. Susan Auchincloss, St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, Woodstock

Rev. Alison Quin, Christ the King Episcopal Church, Stone Ridge