



Worcester Police Patrol Officers' Union

New England Police Benevolent Association, Local 911



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Terrence Gaffney
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On Thursday, May 8, 2025, at approximately 11:15 am, the Worcester Police were dispatched to Eureka Street for a call that came in for federal law enforcement officers needing assistance due to a hostile and uncooperative crowd surrounding them. Officers arriving on scene continued to call for more officers as the scene continued to escalate rapidly. Police officers respond to a variety of highly emotional calls daily and there is nothing that can be more emotional or difficult to deal with than a call that involves times when families are separated or arrested or taken into custody in front of other family members. These types of calls for assistance can be extremely dangerous and place officers at a high risk of injury due to the high emotions people feel at the time. Our officers always strive to be as compassionate as we can daily. We as fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters understand human emotions and try to be as empathetic as we can while still doing the job we are required to do daily.

Here, all available Worcester police officers were dispatched to Eureka Street to protect the public and ensure the safety of federal and Worcester police officers on scene. For obvious reasons, officers became concerned for their safety and that of the federal agents based on the actions of the crowd. They tried to deescalate the situation and prevent injury to all present. Despite those efforts, Worcester police officers and federal agents were threatened, abused and even assaulted on scene. Such conduct cannot be tolerated or condoned. Because some protesters threatened officers' safety, police had to make additional arrests. Of particular concern in this case, one of our elected policy makers and someone who has created this difficult task for the police, District 5 City Councilor, Etel Haxhijaj, incited aggression towards the police during the incident. This councilor participated in the conduct of the unruly crowd and eventually assaulted both Worcester police and federal law enforcement officers on scene. Her behavior also emboldened others to act in this manner. The conduct of this anti-police activist councilor is deplorable and unacceptable. Regardless of political opinions or views, city officials should never condone the assault of an officer and flat-out disregard to the point of violent opposition, the authority of police to maintain safety and public order.

The Worcester Police Patrolman's Union Local 911 will not stand silently in the face of such outrageous conduct or allow the safety of our officers to be put at risk by any individual. Any official, particularly a sitting councilor, who acts in such a manner is, in the opinions of those of us ordered to keep the peace during such hostilities, unfit to serve. This councilor's egregious actions were not limited to physical interference, as she attempted to use her official position several times to interfere with the police on scene. This type of conduct is controlled by the state's ethical laws and our own city charter. Councilor Haxhijaj, in our opinion, broke her oath and these ethical laws, and in doing so put the safety of our officers and our citizens at great risk. The members of the Worcester Police Patrolman's Union Local 911 condemn this councilor's disrespectful and dangerous behavior. We will take the necessary steps to hold her and anyone who assaults our officers accountable and call upon those state and local policy makers to do the same. We demand that the city conduct an ethics investigation into her conduct. No doubt, federal authorities will also review the incident and determine whether federal charges may be coming for those involved. No one has the right to act in such a reckless manner towards police officers, and we demand accountability for all criminal and ethically deplorable behavior.