



Dear Mayor Ginther,

As people of faith in Central Ohio, we are calling on you to increase the availability of de-escalation training for law enforcement officers and first responders.

After several high-profile, officer-involved incidents resulting in the deaths of a child, a person living with mental illness and people of color, we are taking a moral stand for public safety, trust, accountability and diversity in our growing community.

As people of faith, we believe in doing justice and loving mercy. Too many lives are lost in violent encounters with police. Too many neighborhoods are filled with fear.

We ask for three solutions to prevent tragedies in the future.

First, we call for increasing law enforcement access to Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. CIT is a method of community policing that brings together law enforcement, mental health service providers, hospital emergency departments, and individuals with mental illness and their families to improve responses to people in crisis. It is a proven and effective de-escalation technique that not only protects officers and people experiencing mental health crises, but also makes our entire communities safer. Only 13 percent of officers currently serving on the Columbus Police Department have been CIT trained. CPD should adopt the goals of Franklin County's Stepping Up strategic plan, which calls for 50 percent of officers trained in CIT by 2020.

Next, 100% of first responders, including patrol officers, dispatchers, firefighters and paramedics, should be trained in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA). CPD requires eight hours of continuing education every year. It should be mandated that MHFA is the first or next continuing education for every officer.

Finally, law enforcement and other first responders must increase training on implicit bias, racism, and cultural competency in partnership with the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at The Ohio State University and other agencies.

We believe this three-pronged approach will improve public safety, prevent tragedies, and advance justice. Your support will demonstrate that you are the leader you have promised to be for Columbus.

Rev. Lane Campbell
Columbus, OH

Rabbi Jessica Shimberg
The Little Minyan Kehilla
Columbus, OH

Horsed Noah
Abubakar Assidiq Islamic center
Columbus, OH

Rev. Dan Clark
Faith in Public Life
Columbus, OH

Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens
First Congregational Church
Columbus, OH

Pastor Joel Miller
Columbus Mennonite Church
Columbus, OH

Pastor Al Allan Debelak
ELCA
Columbus, OH

Sr. Loretta Sullivan
Columbus, OH

Deacon Nick Bates
Columbus, OH

Dr. Eric Brown
Woodland Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Columbus, OH

Rabbi Sharon Mars
Columbus, OH

Sr. Rosemary Loomis
Columbus, OH

Sr. Germaine Conroy
Dominican Sisters of Peace.
Columbus, OH

Rev. Jennifer J.S. Brooks
First Unitarian Universalist Church
Columbus, OH

Rev. Rich Johnson
Columbus, OH

Rev. Emily Corzine
First Congregational Church
Columbus, OH

Rev. Kathleen Fowler
Columbus, OH

Eric H. Brown
Disciples of Christ
Columbus, OH

Rev. Meredith McDougale
United Methodist Church
Columbus, OH

Rev. Lynda Smith
Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio
Columbus, OH

Rev. Eric Meter
First Unitarian Universalist Church
Columbus, OH

Rev. Kate Shaner
First Community Church
Columbus, OH

Rev. Dr. John Wallace
Church of the Saviour United Methodist
Columbus, OH

Rev. Larry Trover
Columbus, OH

Rev. Deniray Mueller
Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio
Columbus, OH

Rev. Meribah Mansfield
Columbus, OH

Rev. Joan VanBecelaere
Central East Region of the UUA
Columbus, OH

Gary Witte
Columbus, OH

Pastor Beth Staten
Columbus, OH

Ms. Kelly Litt
Dominican Sisters of Peace
Columbus, OH

Kris LoFrumento
Columbus, OH

Sr. Gemma Doll Doll
Dominican Sisters of Peace
Columbus, OH

Aaron Thompson
Columbus, OH

Susan Carter
Columbus, OH

Dr. Alice Faryna
Columbus, OH

Mary Counter
Columbus, OH

Jacqui Buschor
Columbus, OH

Ms. Virginia Vogts
First UU Church of Columbus
Columbus, OH

Ms. Emily Fogel
First Unitarian universalist
Columbus, OH

Judi Moseley
Columbus, OH

Prof. Sabra Webber
Indianola Presbyterian
Columbus, OH

Ms. Nan Moorman
Columbus, OH

Ms. Elizabeth Staten
Columbus, OH

Erin Cordle
Catholic Diocese of Columbus Office for Social Concerns
Columbus, OH

Ms. Connie Hammond
Maynard Ave UMC
Columbus, OH

Mr. Thomas Brownfield
1st Congregational Church, UCC
Columbus, OH

Sister Roberta Miller
Columbus, OH

Mark Rupp
Columbus Mennonite Church
Columbus, OH

Ms. Karyn Deibel
Columbus, OH

Kay Lipovsky
columbus, OH

Mr. Mitchell S Gilbert
Columbus, OH

Charles Wilson
Columbus, OH

Carl Rayburn
Columbus, OH

Michael a Jasper
Columbus, OH

Michael Ames
Columbus, OH

Dr. Margaret Lynd
Columbus, OH

Anthony Chatman
Columbus, OH

Rev. Joan VanBecelaere
Central East Region of the UUA
Columbus, OH

Rev. Suzan McCrystal
Columbus, OH

Pastor Deb Bergmann
Columbus, OH

Rev. Christopher Rinker
Columbus, OH

Bonnie Vallette
Columbus, OH

Pastor Jason Ridley
Columbus, OH

Kathryn Macke
St. John's UCC
Columbus, OH

Kittie Palmhouser
First UU Columbus
Columbus, OH

Pastor Allan Debelak
Columbus, OH

Dr. Denise Deschenes
Columbus, OH

Lezlie Combs
Columbus, OH

Rick Kritzer
Columbus, OH

Marian Garcia
Columbus, OH