

Greenwood Village City Council and Mayor,

Mayor George Lantz, Dave Bullock, Jerry Presley, Anne Ingebretsen, Dave Kerber, Libby Barnacle, Donna Johnston, Tom Dougherty, Dr. Judith Hilton

Over the last two months, America has awakened to the realities of racial injustice, unequal administration of the law, and the realities of police brutality perpetrated against people of color. We support the Black Lives Matter movement and were so proud to see Colorado lead the nation in implementing police reform last month by passing Senate Bill 217 with a huge bipartisan majority. The bill, which is now being used as a model nationally, bans certain choke holds, requires public transparency regarding police body cameras, and allows for officers to be held civilly liable when their actions are deemed to be unjustified. These were long overdue reforms to protect all Coloradans, and particularly people of color, from police brutality.

We have the utmost respect for police who stand to serve and protect. We also believe that when this sacred relationship with the community is violated that accountability is vital. This common sense measure will help push all of us to a more just, accountable, and peaceful relationship.

We were appalled last week to learn that the City of Greenwood Village, CO passed a resolution to undermine the applicability of SB20-217 within its community. The Greenwood Village City Council approved Resolution 40-20 to cover all legal costs and any civil liability for which police officers have been found guilty of unjustified abuse--even when that officer acts in bad faith. The new resolution shockingly predetermined all future police abuse as justified to further shield bad officers from enforcement mechanisms created within SB20-217.

Recently we have discussed plans to play at Fiddler's Green, we write to you today to publicly announce that we will not play music there until Greenwood Village rescinds its recent resolution permitting police to act without accountability.

We stand with artists and fans attending future performances at the Fiddler's Green Amphitheater in Greenwood Village when concerts resume. The concerts held at Fiddler's Green attract a diverse audience who could be at risk when facing the virtually all-white Greenwood Village Police Department with their newly enshrined impunity, courtesy of The Greenwood Village City Council. Furthermore, Fiddler's Green is one the largest sales tax generating establishments in Greenwood Village. Artists and fans should not be forced to financially support a City government that has established such racist policies to perform in Colorado or see their favorite artists perform locally. In fact, no one should.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats

Nathaniel Rateliff, Joseph Pope III, Mark Shusterman, Pat Meese, Luke Mossman, Andreas Wild, Jeff Dazey, Daniel Hardaway