

Unofficial excerpt from the special Cincinnati city council meeting on 7.23.25 beginning at hour mark 1:25

Mr. Cramerding:

One of the things asked I do hear from citizens is this perception that the police officers are discouraged from enforcing certain laws.

We were talking about the curfew today, which is a great conversation. Expired tags is another one is that perception among the officers that they feel like they're discouraged from enforcing certain laws.

Police Chief Theetge:

I have heard this a couple of times and what I will categorize as rhetoric as well. I will tell you from the moment I've sat in the chair that is the police chief during both the interim capacity and as the permanent police chief, That couldn't be further from the truth.

I encourage enforcement. If all else for compliance fails, I will back our officers many people have heard me say many times as long as they are following their training, our policies and our procedures. I will back and support whatever decision they make. They have a lot of discretion. A lot of discretion is a law enforcement officer, and they need that discretion. I shouldn't be watching over their shoulder every single minute for every decision they are making. if there is a belief that they are encouraged to not enforce something that is not accurate. That is not accurate. They do have to work within the confines of some of the resources that they have. Sometimes they ask to me to remove those confines when they occur, so that they can go out and enforce what they deem necessary.

Mayor Pureval:

Mister Cramerding, if I could interrupt us briefly. building on Mr. Cramerding's question, I too have heard this somewhat vague concern that we have somehow handcuffed police officers from doing their job. I just want to ask a direct question: Have I or any of the elected officials here directed you or asked you to tell police officers not to enforce certain laws.

Chief Theetge:

Absolutely not.

Mayor Pureval:

Thank you.

Mr. Cramerding:

Thank you, mayor. And thank you chief and that was very clear and I think that was necessary. Thank you both.