

To the Village Council and the YSPD,

We, as local demonstrators, have become increasingly concerned about the issues of systemic racism across the United States. To bring awareness to this issue, after George Floyd was murdered, we decided to hold weekly rallies that have also been followed by Black Lives Matter protests. Although our village has not necessarily seen brutality rates comparable to some neighboring, larger, areas, the problem of systemic racism is bigger than our village and our goal is to keep people educated on what it is like to be Black in America while also spreading awareness by marching down the state route to maximize the number of people that see our message.

Yellow Springs prides itself on being an accepting community for all, but unfortunately, the support from some members of the community has not remained. On top of this, racism was recently deemed a public health crisis in Yellow Springs, but this announcement has not been followed with action.

Specifically, we are concerned about the call the chief made to the self-proclaimed KKK member about the parade being canceled, as mentioned in the July 2 edition of the YS News story "Parade canceled after KKK threat." The response to the threat made by the KKK is extremely concerning as the Chief is in charge of an entire police force. The chief called to express that the parade was canceled while failing to address the racism that was the sole purpose of the threat, dismissing the public health crisis that was declared. This also raises concerns about the village council, who may be aware of the chief's recent interactions with both the BLM protesters and the supposed KKK member.

With this, we as demonstrators, have a list of demands for the village of Yellow Springs to ensure the safety of Black and Brown people. Below you will find the list that wishes to see through:

1. Admit that an error in judgment that has been taking place in the past few weeks.
 - a. This, most importantly, needs to include an analysis of Yellow Springs Police Department, specifically an analysis of the recent phone calls that chief Carlson has made with an alleged KKK member.
 - b. Address the lack of urgency against threats made from a member of a terrorist organization against members of the community.
 - c. This also includes the council undermining everything they have announced publicly by reaching out to other village members in an attempt to silence the organizers.
2. Put substance behind the announcement of racism being a public health crisis. Steps need to be taken immediately to show a plan of action.
 - a. Be in attendance for rallies and/or protests, showing support that is not negated by complaints of the inconveniences protests have on the town.

- b. Reallocating funds and resources to address this public health crisis.
 - c. Publicly expressing what *you have done* to make change in hopes that this will cause a ripple effect and inspire other people in the community to stand up for justice.
3. Hold officers, council members, all elected officials, and teachers accountable for their actions and ensure they are consistently checking for the bias they may hold.
- a. Ongoing or regular Implicit bias training should be given to all people who hold positions of power in this community.
 - b. Actively work to ensure that implicit biases are questioned and countered in every decision, legislation, and educational curriculum made for the village.

Establish quantitative and qualitative analysis of progress and data of any programs established to measure progress toward goals.

Financially support the creation of a column in the YS News which will feature African American people and issues and causes, locally and nationally

The weekend booths with masks and petitions, donations funds, pamphlets to make phone calls.

Educational reform (ex- intermixing the events of the 60s [civil rights movement + cold war])

Repercussions/ strategic plans on how to handle calls made to YSPD reporting “suspicious activity”

We ask that you provide both a public and private report in the next 48 hours.

Sincerely,

Angela Allen
Bomani Moyenda
Julian Roberts
Judinya Thwaites-Brevik