



Office of the Sheriff

MONROE COUNTY
"ONE TEAM"



Sheriff Todd K. Baxter

Undersheriff Corey K. Brown

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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POLITICS OR PUBLIC SAFETY?

Rochester, NY (July 16, 2020) – In response to the recent news release by the Republican Caucus of the Monroe County Legislature regarding a protest planned for Sunday, July 19, 2020 in the City of Rochester, of course the Monroe County Sheriff's Office has been in contact with and continues to work with its law enforcement partners. MCSO will lend its support to the Rochester Police Department and the New York State Police, as the demonstration is anticipated to move from downtown Rochester to Interstate 490. RPD has primary enforcement responsibility in the City of Rochester. NYSP has primary enforcement responsibility on Interstate 490 within the City of Rochester.

Furthermore, Sheriff Todd Baxter remains baffled by and disappointed in Majority Leader Steve Brew and Legislator Karla Boyce for failing to reach out to him, prior to publishing the letter calling for his response to the planned protest occurring in another law enforcement agency's primary jurisdiction. This, despite the Sheriff's practice of sharing his personal cell phone number with the majority of the legislators and communicating directly with them on a regular basis. **Sheriff Baxter asks**, *"Where were these two legislators during the recent protests and ensuing conversations throughout the community in the days following the unrest? While I appreciate Ms. Boyce is 'deeply concerned about the safety of all involved,' not once did she call to ask questions, not once did she call offering support for our deputies, not once did she call to offer how we can build up the community together. I was with my deputies throughout the evening of May 30, and have continued to be ever since, as we support peaceful demonstrations. I'm leading this police agency and working to build up the community while others play politics. In the future, as professionals, I would hope that we could address these types of matters with conversations rather than press releases."*

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