
DATE: Monday, December 19, 2022
TIME: 7:00 pm
PLACE: 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

The City Council Committee of The Whole of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, December 19, 2022, at 7:00pm.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor; Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk; CM Christopher Evans, CM Shirese Hursey, CM Jaya Kolisetty, CM Chaundra Bishop, CM Grace Wilken, CM James Quisenberry

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: CM Maryalice Wu,

STAFF PRESENT: Carol Mitten, Bourema Ouedraogo, Darcy Sandefur, Dave Wesner, Will Kolschowsky, Elizabeth Hannan, Nick Olsen, Tim Cowan, Kevin Garcia, John Zeman

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chair: *Grace Wilken, Ward 6*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Chair Wilken called the meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 7:12 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

12-05-2022 Minutes

Motion to approve minutes by CM Hursey and seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Voice vote:

AYE: Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None

3. Additions to the Agenda

Chair Wilken asked that the public input be moved to precede the closed session.

4. Public Input and Presentations

a. Public Input

Derrick Bryles asked for additional time for Council to consider the FOP contract and expressed concerns about the lack of changes from the previous contract. *Karen Medina* shared concerns about the timeliness of this contract and asked for greater transparency. Expressed concerns about the selection of the negotiation teams. *Leslie Owens* urged Council to not support the FOP contract and called for greater transparency and public review of the contract. *Tracy Chong* expressed concerns about the history of FOP contract approvals and urged the Council to not approve the current contract without amending the CPRB side letter. *Christopher Hanson* expressed concerns about the legality of the existing

FOP contract. *Stuart Levy* expressed concerns about the negotiations process for the FOP contract and also about the length of time Council has been given to decide. *CM Wilken read written input in on behalf of Sarah Blanco, Carol Leff, and George Vassilatos (see attached). CM Hursey read written input from Allan Max Axelrod, see attached. Written input from the following is also attached: Carol Spindell, Matt Soyland, Jane McClintock, Carol Leff, Katherine Soriano, Hrant Kebantsi, Justin Mansfield, Christopher O'Brien, Peggy Patten, Victor Font Bartumeus, Luke Lee, Ricardo Diaz, Belden Fields, Audrey Ishii.*

5. Closed Session: Collective Bargaining, Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)

Motion to enter closed session by CM Quisenberry and seconded by CM Hursey.

Vote by roll call:

AYE: Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None

Motion to return from closed session by CM Hursey and seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Vote by roll call:

AYE: Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None

6. Staff Report

None.

7. New Business

a. Resolution No. 2022-12-091R: A Resolution Approving a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #70 (Term of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026) - HRF

Motion to keep in committee by CM Bishop and seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Vote by roll call:

AYE: Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None

b. Ordinance No. 2022-12-053: An Ordinance Amending the Urbana Zoning Map (1603 East Washington Street / Plan Case No. 2464-M-22) - CD

Presented by Nick Olsen and Kevin Garcia from Planning. Item amends the zoning for the property at 1603 East Washington Street from business to medium high density/multifamily residential. Olsen shared a location map of the property and explained a history of the property usage. Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to approve to consent agenda by CM Quisenberry and seconded by CM Hursey.

Vote by roll call:

AYE: Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Quisenberry

NAY: Wilken

c. Ordinance No. 2022-12-054: An Ordinance Amending Urbana City Code Chapter Three, Section 3-43 (Increasing the Number of Class R&T-1 Liquor Licenses for Best of Africa Food Store LLC, 208 W. Griggs Street, Urbana, IL) – Exec

Mayor Marlin asked that this item, as well as the relating right of way agreement be kept in committee and presented at a future meeting.

Motion to keep in committee by CM Quisenberry and seconded by CM Kolisetty.

Vote by roll call:

AYE: Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None

d. Resolution No. 2022-12-092R: A Resolution Approving an Amended and Restated Right-of-Way License Agreement with MCDJ, LLC (208 W. Griggs Street) – PW

See above.

Motion to keep in committee by CM Quisenberry and seconded by CM Kolisetty.

Vote by roll call:

AYE: Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None

8. ARPA Discussion: Next Steps

Council asked Will Kolschowsky the management analyst clarifying questions. Questions for applicants should be directed to Kolschowsky who will facilitate them. Council is going to try to have applications sorted into buckets (Yes, Full Funding; Yes, Partial Funding; Maybe; No) and submitted to staff for organization no later than January 6th.

9. Council Input and Communications

CM Quisenberry shared condolences to the Bennett Family and thanked those who were able to come together to create a lasting memory. *CM Bishop* thanked public for their input on the variety of topics this evening and shared the importance of being an active participant in their government. *CM Kolisetty* shared thanks for this evening's public feedback and also thanked the negotiations teams for their work.

10. Adjournment

With no further business before the committee of the whole Chair Wilken adjourned the meeting at 9:43 p.m.

Darcy Sandefur

Recording Secretary

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable [on-demand HERE](#).

Minutes approved: 02-06-2023

Sandefur, Darcy

From: George Vassilatos [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 12:50 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 12/19

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I'm writing to express deep concern with the process and contents of the new police contract.

In 2021, the city of Urbana overwhelmingly elected progressives. Voters young & old turned out to vote in favor of candidates who claimed they would hold the police accountable after the mass protests against local & national police brutality in 2020.

Now, with the police contract nearing its expiration date, members of council have an opportunity to follow through on their promises.

Just as in 2020, the police will try intimidation tactics. They'll try to make it seem like if the council doesn't approve this contract, an arbitrator will automatically rule in favor of the police. In 2020, the city of Urbana stood up against police intimidation--and now in 2022 it's time for the council to do the same.

Instead of voting to approve this horrendous contract, which weakens the CPRB & protects the police from serious third party investigations of misconduct, I urge you to vote no or extend the deliberation period. Families & workers in Urbana have a right to know that this new contract would take almost a million more of their tax dollars. They have the right to know that the former police officers with the Law Enforcement Action Project believe that the Urbana's police contract is one of the least transparent and least accountable in the country.

There has not been enough time for public input, and that's intentional. The police want this contract to be signed in the dark, because they know that if deliberations are extended, your constituents who turned out in support of Black lives in 2020 & 2021 will make their voices heard in public comment.

Thank you for your time

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Carol Spindel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 2:49 PM
To: !City Council; Marlin, Diane
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 12/19/2022

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Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

The Champaign County ACLU wishes to express our deep concern over the lack of transparency surrounding the new collective bargaining agreement for the Urbana Police Department. We understand that the contract could be voted on as early as this evening, although the members of the community have not had a chance to read this lengthy and complex document.

We remind the members of the council that the Urbana Police Department has agreed to the NAACP's 10 Shared Principles and has committed to rebuilding trust with all residents of our community. To vote on a police contract hastily, without giving community members time to read the contract, discuss it among themselves, and then openly with their elected officials, risks undermining the progress our city has made in rebuilding trust between the community and the police.

The 4th and 5th Shared Principles stress transparency, accountability, and giving both police and residents the opportunity to be heard:

4. We endorse the six pillars in the report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. The first pillar is to build and rebuild trust through procedural justice, transparency, accountability, and honest recognition of past and present obstacles.
5. We endorse the four pillars of procedural justice, which are fairness, voice (i.e., an opportunity for citizens and police to believe they are heard), transparency, and impartiality.

We urge the city council to postpone voting on a new contract until they have made the contents of the new contract public and created opportunities for public discussion of these policies and their consequences, especially those that affect the Citizen Police Review Board.

Thank you for your attention to this letter and please include it in the public record.

Champaign County ACLU

Carol Leff, President,

and Steering Committee Members

Tony Allegretti, Amani Ayad, Jennifer Enoch, Barbara Hudgings, Bob Illyes, Julie Laut, Jane McClintock, Ben Mueller, Leslie Reagan, Melissa Schoepfle, Carol Spindel, Pamela Van Wyk, Karl Weingartner, Ruth Wyman



Carol Spindel
she/her
Director of Communications
ACLU of Champaign County

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Matt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 4:05 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 12/19/2022

***** Email From An External Source *****

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To all alderpersons,

I urge you to vote no on the hastily introduced Fraternal Order of Police contract that is on the agenda tonight.

This contract still does not address public concern about police accountability. Powers of the Civilian Police Review Board should be explicitly stated in this contract. Additionally, use of force and misconduct provisions are severely lacking. Brushing our concerns aside is a surefire way to ensure we lose whatever trust is left in this city's government.

Attempts by the police to rush this contract through, as well as the city placing a closed session immediately ahead of public comment, are clear attempts to avoid controversy. These underhanded, deceptive tactics are unacceptable.

Sincerely,
Matt Søyland

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Jane McClintock [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 4:47 PM
To: !City Council; Marlin, Diane
Subject: Public Input 12/19/22

***** Email From An External Source *****

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Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

I wish to express concern over the new collective bargaining agreement for the Urbana Police Department. It is imperative that the community and council be given adequate time and opportunity to review the proposed agreement and provide input.

The agreement will have a lasting and substantial influence on our ability to improve community/police relationship, our civilian police review board and safety in our community.

I urge the city council to postpone voting on a new contract until they have made the contents of the new contract public and created opportunities for public discussion of these policies and their consequences, especially those that affect the Citizen Police Review Board.

Thank you for your attention to this letter and please include it in the public record.

Sincerely,
Jane McClintock

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Carol Leff [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 4:49 PM
To: !City Council; Marlin, Diane
Subject: Public Input 12/19/2022

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear and Mayor and Council Members

Please do not rush something through when it is as important as the next police contract without time for the council to fully consider, much less allow for public input--especially not just as the holiday season is beginning for both Hanukkah and Christmas. Not an ideal time for thoughtful reflection on a sixty page document for many.

Thanks for your due consideration of this time constraint.

Carol Leff

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Katherine Soriano [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 5:32 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 12/19/22

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Dear alderpersons,

Please vote NO to the Fraternal Order of Police contract. I don't believe the current contract as written discussed or emphasizes accountability and unnecessary use of force of our officers. This is a community concern that should be addressed before passing.

Thank you,
Katherine Soriano

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Hrant Kebantsi [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 5:33 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 12/19

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It has come to my attention that a resolution for approval of a new hastily negotiated Fraternal Order of Police union labor contract for 2023-2026 is being brought before Urbana City Council on Monday, December 19. This is occurring with very little notice to Council members and no notice whatsoever to the people of Urbana. I urge all Council members to vote "no".

I understand the new contract fails to address the critical issues of the use of excessive force and witness coercion. Further, I have learned that the contract disempowers the Civilian Police Review Board and only allows for internal review of police misconduct.

As a concerned member of the Urbana community, I must ask that you vote "no" on this resolution. It is imperative that both City Council as well as the general public be allowed to thoroughly review and provide comment on this contract. It is entirely unacceptable for such an important resolution to be snuck in at the last minute.

Given the ongoing issues with law enforcement locally and nationally, it is equally unacceptable to have a contract negotiated without transparency and that does not address the community safety issues that an unchecked police force can present to this community.

I ask that you please vote "no" or, at the very least, to defer any decision until adequate time is provided to City Council and the public for review and comment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Sarah Blanco [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 5:34 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 12/19

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I'm concerned to learn about the surprise vote tonight on the 2023-2026 police contract. The public deserves to have more time to provide input on issues concerning the police. City council members also need to have enough time to review this contract in depth & propose changes in accordance with their constituents' wishes. There's six months left on the current contract, so there is absolutely no need to rush a new three year contract through over the holidays.

The proposed contract flies in the face of the urgent demand for police accountability that the public has raised repeatedly—both during and after election cycles.

I urge all council members to vote to delay this contract decision, in accordance with their responsibilities as public representatives.

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Justin Mansfield [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 6:38 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 19 December 2022

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A vote on a police contract has abruptly appeared on the slate for tonight. The contract fails to include changes that would allow the Civilian Police Review Board to effectively and independently hold police officers accountable for misconduct. Surely, the city would take misconduct seriously. It makes sense to hold police officers accountable in the event that they engage in excessive use of force or the falsifying of evidence. It makes sense to have an entity - not the police department itself that's subject to the investigation, nor one influenced by the police department - that has the ability to carry out independent, transparent, public, and impartial investigations into complaints regarding the actions of police officers. The contract fails to allow for the termination of police officers in the event that they use excessive force or falsify evidence. Why should someone be allowed to keep such a position if they commit such acts of misconduct? Why are circumstances being left open in such a way that the police department could condone such acts of misconduct? Why wouldn't this be included in the contract, that someone could be fired for reckless misconduct? If police officers conduct themselves responsibly and with proper regard to the rules, then there's no need to worry. So, why would they be so opposed to including this in the contract? Why has this vote come about so suddenly? Why does the contract fail to include these very basic and reasonable considerations? If we take a step back and look at the broader picture, if you will, the situation doesn't look good. It's not a good look. Indeed, it looks very bad. How should people feel about the institutions that have such a large effect on their lives when this is the way they proceed? I'm vexed. Terribly vexed.

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Christopher O'Brien [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 6:54 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 12/19

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I urge the city council to reject this police union contract. A police force with little oversight can easily spiral out of control, and the current contract doesn't even allow officers who falsify information to be fired. Good cops have nothing to fear from common-sense regulations. A new contract with appropriate regulations of police conduct is imperative.

Christopher O'Brien

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Peggy Patten [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 6:56 PM
To: !City Council; Marlin, Diane
Subject: Fraternal Order of Police contract

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To Members of the Urbana City Council & Mayor Marlin:

I realize you may not see this email before tonight's City Council meeting. I apologize for its lateness but only recently learned that the Council will be considering a FOP union labor contract at tonight's meeting.

When I joined the Civilian Police Review Board (CPRB) this past May I was told there was an effort underway by some of the CPRB members to recommend changes to the Ordinance establishing the CPRB to help make the Board more effective. Unfortunately, there has not been any discussion at our public meetings on this topic since I joined in part because half of our scheduled meetings were cancelled for preventable reasons, in my view.

I understand that the FOP contract expires in June 2023. I ask that the Council postpone a decision on the labor contract until closer to the June date. This will permit the CPRB to review the proposed contract language in light of changes under consideration for the CPRB Ordinance.

Thank you for your service.
Peggy Patten
CPRB member

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Victor Font Bartumeus [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 7:12 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 12/19

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Dear Council,

I sincerely believe this vote should be delayed. I just found out about this and none of my neighbors or work partners had any idea that this was happening.

Something of this magnitude and public interest, given the recent history with our city's largest protests ever, should at the very least be divulged amongst the public and given time for an informed response.

Best,
Victor
West Urbana neighbor

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Luke Lee [REDACTED]
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 12/19

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good evening Councilmembers,

Only a few days ago, it was suddenly revealed that a resolution for approval of a new hastily negotiated Fraternal Order of Police union labor contract for 2023-2026 would be voted on by the City Council this evening. This is occurring with very little notice to Councilmembers and no notice whatsoever to the people of Urbana. I urge you to vote "no".

I understand the new contract fails to address the critical issues of the use of excessive force and witness coercion.

Further, I have learned that the contract disempowers the Civilian Police Review Board and only allows for internal review of police misconduct. According to Law Enforcement Action Partnership (or LEAP), in 2021 the FOP contract in Urbana, Illinois was identified as one of the worst in the country for accountability and transparency in the way the police department is able to control the City's Civilian Police Review Board. A group charged with public safety needs full transparency with, and rigorous accountability to, those who they are tasked with making safe.

Lastly, this contract gives police a 10.1% salary increase by 2026. It is imperative that instead of continuing to fund the police, we invest in communities and alternative methods of public safety.

As a concerned member of the Champaign-Urbana community, I must ask that you vote "no" on this resolution. It is imperative that both City Council as well as the general public be allowed to thoroughly review and provide comment on this contract. It is entirely unacceptable for such an important resolution to be snuck in at the last minute.

Given the ongoing issues with law enforcement locally and nationally, it is equally unacceptable to have a contract negotiated that does not address the community safety issues that an unchecked police force can present to this community.

I ask that you please vote "no" or, at the very least, to defer any decision until adequate time is provided to City Council and the public for review and comment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Ricardo Diaz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 6:48 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Police contract and the CPRB

***** Email From An External Source *****

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Greetings Council members:

I am the chair of the police review board; I address you that we may continue to labor to better our city. I am out of town tonight and the short notice did not allow the CPRB to address you as one voice. Other members may speak for their ideas.

First things first. Thank you for serving and giving your best to the city and the community's interests.

Second, I appreciate that decisions need to be made in contracts and that there are lots of pieces to satisfy all parties. One of those sections is how much oversight the citizenry should have over the members of the police department and its actions. The contract with the members of the police department does affect this relationship and balance.

As you know, for the latter the Citizen Police Review Board has been charged by your body through an ordinance to consider improving such oversight; last year at this time of the year we approached you (unanimously asking to have a more open membership drive) with one recommendation and you directed our member to return with a series of requested changes, not a single one. The CPRB has been working over the months to finalize and consider such a list with the HRO and the city manager. Would we have known that the contract with the police union was going to be brought up, we would have finalized the list.

As chair of the CPRB I respectfully request that you allow us to do that job that you have requested from us such that those recommendations may be integrated into your vote. Approval of the contract before that integration would preemptively short change the needs of the residents of Urbana.

Respectfully,

Ricardo Díaz @ [x](#) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Belden Fields [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 8:47 PM
To: !City Council
Cc: Marlin, Diane
Subject: no rush on the police contract

***** Email From An External Source *****

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Please extend the period that people can have to get a better understanding of the nature of the contract between the city and the FOP. There needs to be much more transparency and discussion. I used to think that was characteristic of Urbana's decision aking. I hope it still is.

Belden Fields



Audrey Ishii [REDACTED]

Public Input to Urbana City Council, Dec. 19, 2022

Audrey Ishii [REDACTED]

Draft To: CityCouncil@urbanaininois.us

Tue, Dec 20, 2022 at 8:18 AM

On tonight's agenda you have a budget amendment for the traffic study at Vine and Water \$15,000, but like the study done at Vine and Main, it is a reactive piecemeal response to a pedestrian death. We know that Joseph Wilske was killed there in January. And three years ago, Shelly Taylor was killed crossing Main at Vine toward Starbucks. Both were killed by turning pickups that just didn't see the victims until too late. Both drivers were doubtlessly traumatized by the event and subsequent legal effects. So I applaud the City's effort to understand what went wrong and how it perhaps can be made better, even if it is one intersection at a time. But I want to talk about taking a more systemic approach to Urbana's pedestrian deaths.

Both the Vine St. crashes occurred in crosswalks. Last May, Christopher Bowen was killed crossing Cunningham Avenue where it narrows at Park St. The alternative for him was a 3-minute walk to the crosswalk, plus the need to cross many scary lanes of traffic at 5 points. And in January 2021, Tonya Barnett, took the MTD to the bus stop at East Main and Dewey, and started across the narrow street to the mobile home neighborhood after the bus had departed. The nearest crosswalk was a 6 minute walk away. As we know from the first two crashes, crosswalks offer absolutely no promise of safety. But no study nor response of any kind was needed for these deaths. Simple--they weren't in a crosswalk.

Is it normal to have so many pedestrians killed in a town this size? While we have had two pedestrian deaths this year, we have been averaging one per year since 2007. However, in the 10 years before 2007, we had 3 pedestrian deaths over 10 years. It is not normal to jump from 0.3 deaths per year to 1. It's the difference between being a rare tragedy to an annual statistic. It is above Chicago's rate, and far above Indianapolis'. But let's just compare with Champaign for now.

Over the same two ten year periods before and after 2007 that Urbana went from 3 to 10 pedestrian deaths, Champaign actually dropped from 8 to 6 deaths, with more than twice our population. Our overall traffic deaths increased from 12 to 21, while Champaign's went from 34 to 32. Champaign went from nearly 3x Urbana's pedestrian deaths to 60% of Urbana's deaths. Why have you not heard of this before?

Urbana turns to the Regional Planning Commission for much of our traffic planning jointly with Champaign, Mahomet and Savoy. Since 2018, RPC stopped providing separate city crash values in the annual report cards. Instead, they are referring to an agglomerated "urbanized area" that lumps everything together. Why does this matter? RPC is optimizing crash statistics across the entire region. If Urbana's fatalities go up, but Champaign's fatalities go down, it's all the same to RPC. If we aren't even aware this is happening because they have agglomerated the statistics, tough luck. Champaign can be the economic engine for the area, and Urbana can be the speedy afterthought. The crashes all have one thing in common, and it is cars traveling faster than the driver can see the people in right front of them. Or faster than the human victims can see them coming or judge their speed.

If we want to stop this, we must change the systemic culture that is in place on Urbana's streets. Recent News-Gazette front page stories have covered the efforts of Savoy and Champaign to change the speed culture. Champaign has been doing speed enforcement, even its chief has ridden on patrols. Savoy has dropped its residential speed limit to 25mph. Talk about a systemic approach to creating a livable community! While we are addressing the root causes of violence, let's not forget having a civil street culture that values human life. I will be sending you my public comment to RPC about their agglomerated statistics. Please read it. This is something we can influence at no cost to Urbana. Thank you.