

February 3, 2020
HPCC Meeting

Dear

The 1967 Class of William Penn High School would like to address some issues within the community that are of grave concern to us. There is violence in the city, gang activity, drug problems, and lack of interest in the future of older well established neighborhoods. We want to know how the city is addressing these problems.

It is unimaginable to observe businesses on Main Street closing, because of safety concerns. If businesses can't operate in this area of our town without complete assurances that they have the protection of the city, something is very wrong. Additionally, while reflecting on the city as a whole, one can empathize with our citizens and their safety concerns when Main Street becomes a liability. When problems leave these areas, they don't go away. They tend to encroach upon our neighborhoods. Is police presence enough to curtail these problems? This may be a question that the city needs to investigate. Citizens are fearful that their neighborhoods may be the next to go. These are reasonable questions that require answers. We need to know the police can provide security for all locations in the city.

Moreover, violence, especially among our youth, is definitely problematic for our communities and a solution is desperately needed for us to survive. We are losing too many of our youth to gangs and drugs. What is the city doing to address these issues before our children get into trouble? Our youth is our future and we need to know if the city is focusing on pre-emptive strategies to curb some of these struggles before they become problems that the courts must resolve.

As older citizens, most of us live in older neighborhoods. The city has gone through a building phase to provide affordable housing. These houses are beautiful and well kept, but what is the city doing about older neighborhoods. The city has well established guidelines for homeowners to adhere to in order to preserve the appearance of these areas. How are these guidelines being enforced? There are cars parked on the grass and some in the front doors of homes. We believe there are laws on the books to address these concerns. The value of our homes is being destroyed by the lackadaisical efforts of our neighbors and enforcement officials. When will these laws be enforced?

Lastly, the future of High Point City and all of its citizens depend on us making changes now. This is our home and our people that we grew up with and want to continue to grow old with for some time to come. However, we all want to feel safe and secure in all of our neighborhoods.

Thank you for your time. We look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

James Roberts, President

The 1967 Class of William Penn High School