

Matthew Berher
124 W. Main Street
St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950

June 7, 2020

Kathryn Thalman
Mayor of The City of St. Clairsville
100 Market Street
St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950

Dear Mayor Thalman,

I wanted to take a moment to address and bring to your attention a matter of great import. A post was shared to Facebook by Councilman Perry Basile concerning the current human rights movement – Black Lives Matter. The post insinuated that the abbreviation of BLM (Black Lives Matter) should be changed to *Brats Love Moaning*. This post (attached to the next page) only serves to discredit, degrade, and disparage the all too important movement for racial equality. To reduce the present-day human rights movement and call those who fight for civil rights ‘Brats’ who merely love to “moan” is absolutely appalling.

This attitude from a citizen is unnerving, however this attitude illustrated on social media by an elected city official is hideous. Is this what we as the City of St. Clairsville want from a councilman? Is this the image we want to portray to our fellow citizens or potential residents? I believe I speak for the vast majority when I say NO this is *not* the sentiment of our community. St. Clairsville is full of diversity and I cannot sit idly by and let that be thrown to the wayside.

The attitude of our city officials, by the virtue of their election, reflects the attitude of the community itself. Those who have influence within our community should be speaking out against all forms racism and promoting equality. This post did the exact opposite. It served to divide rather than unify. During this trying time in our country, communities look to their leaders for guidance and support. Just this past week the *Times Leader* reported that the Village of Bellaire took action to terminate an employee who made racists comments on Facebook.

I sincerely hope that this attitude does not reflect the council or city as whole. I respectfully ask that you address this matter. City officials *MUST* be held to a higher standard and St. Clairsville must not be allowed to be seen as anything but a bastion of civil rights.

I thank you for your time and your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Matthew Berher

(740)296-1905

cc: St. Clairsville City Council