



Fall River Police Association
Massachusetts Coalition of Police
Local 1854

President
Jonathan Ferreira
Vice President
Edmond Desmarais
Secretary
David Reed
Treasurer
Peter DaLuz

To: Residents of Fall River

Re: Fall River Police Association endorsement for political office

Date: October 20, 2023

The Fall River Police Association is a labor organization affiliated with the Massachusetts Coalition of Police and represents the Fall River Police Officers below the rank of Sergeant. That representation is performed as the bargaining agent in matters of policy, wages, hours and other conditions of employment to include mitigation of hazards. We promote and develop fellowship among all members of the Police Department and encourage cooperative understandings and agreements with all organizations, agencies, and officers of government concerned with the Fall River Police Department for mutual benefit of its members and the improvement of public service.

The Fall River Police Association membership scheduled a meeting for Thursday, October 19, 2023 with a portion of that meeting itinerary dedicated to candidates/incumbents for the position of Mayor and City Council to make a presentation and answer questions posed to them by the members. The Association requested the contact list for all candidates/incumbents from the elections office and sent formal invitations to each candidate utilizing that contact list, which the Association used to gauge ease of access by the residents and was part of our overall assessment of that candidate/incumbent.

On Thursday, October 19, 2023, the Association held the membership meeting and had the opportunity to listen to several candidates/incumbents for Mayor and City Council where they all were provided ample opportunity to discuss public safety within Fall River to include topics such as staffing levels, allocation of police personnel, professional development training, equipment such as cameras throughout the city, vehicles and protective equipment for officers. Some candidates/incumbents discussed plans while others did not have a plan but pledged their promise for their participation in the improvement in these areas.

The policing profession has advanced in numerous ways over the past several years to include standards and technology, which raise the standard of service to a level the community deserves. We need

our local government to support the Association to fulfill that demand with funding for training, funding for equipment, and maintaining safe staffing levels so the community will receive efficient service and our officers can provide that service in a safe manner. An example of an advancement of service is the implementation of body worn cameras, which took funding and cooperation in the development of policy regarding their use in regards to transparency with personal privacy in mind. Without cooperation of local government with funding and policy development, the body worn camera program would not have come to fruition and we want to continue that cooperative work.

The Association has had the opportunity to observe candidates over recent months and hear their opinions and positions on various issues that impact public safety and after working with the incumbents over the past two years and knowing their opinions and positions on public safety, the Association has decided to endorse an individual for Mayor of the City of Fall River and seven (7) individuals for City Council and they are as follows;

The Fall River Police Association endorses **Mayor Paul Coogan** to remain the Mayor of the City of Fall River. Mayor Coogan and his Administration has worked very hard with the Association over the past two years to improve work conditions, improve standards, and make staffing levels a priority. We look forward in continuing that work and further improving the service the Association members provide to their community.

The Fall River Police Association endorses City Council incumbents **Linda Pereira, Bradford Kilby, Laura Washington** and **Andrew Raposo**. These incumbents have proven through their actions that public safety is a priority and they have voiced their opinions, taken action and aided in the advancement of our ability to provide efficient service to the community and we look forward to working with them in the future.

The Fall River Police Association endorses City Council candidates **Paul Hart, Gloria Saddler** and **Gabriel Amaral**. These candidates have displayed in a variety of ways how public safety within Fall River is a priority and they were able to provide plans on how they would move public safety forward with the use of sub-committees and working with the Mayor in a legislative way such as the creation of ordinance to empower the police to take enforcement action on quality of life issues as well as funding priorities for professional development training and equipment for our members.

We want to thank Councilors Leo Pelletier and Pam Laliberte for the support they have shown and expressed for public safety during their time on the City Council. They took part of our professional growth.

Regards,

Jonathan Ferreira

Jonathan Ferreira, FRPA President