



PRESS CONFERENCE – Friday, October 23rd.

Remarks from Ohio Senator Cecil Thomas

Good morning. Bruce Hoffbauer shot and killed an unarmed Black man named Walter Brown. Bruce Hoffbauer is not fit to be Sheriff of Hamilton County.

Mr. Hoffbauer entered the home of an unarmed Black man and shot and killed him. The City's investigate agency and the City Manager both found that Mr. Hoffbauer used excessive force.

Mr. Hoffbauer led a division of Cincinnati police known for their excessive use of force. He would run the Sheriff's office with an emphasis on force and escalation – and that's the last thing our community and our country needs right now.

Because the worst part is that Bruce Hoffbauer has not learned his lesson for this grievous mistake. Just last month, he told a reporter if he had to do it over again he would make the same choice – he would again choose to shoot and kill a Black man. Mr. Hoffbauer was promoted time and again after his disastrous judgment.

There must be consequences for these actions.

Voters must reject Bruce Hoffbauer and send the message that this type of disregard for Black Lives is not acceptable. Nowhere outside Jim Crow in the 1950s would a county knowingly elect someone who shot and killed a Black man. It's outrageous he's even running for sheriff.

As someone who spent 27 years in law enforcement, as your state senator who is overseeing police reforms, I am asking you to trust my judgment: reject Bruce Hoffbauer. Do not give him this next promotion. We don't need a good old boy network in law enforcement. We need dedicated public servants like Charmaine McGuffey who will keep all of us safe.

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