



WAYNE STATE  
UNIVERSITY

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Student Senate  
Wayne State University  
*Via Campus Email*

Dear members of the WSU Student Senate,

We received and reviewed Student Senate Resolution 2324-24 and appreciate the engagement by elected student leadership.

As you noted in the resolution, the Student Senate Charter provides for you, as the elected representative body, to make recommendations on matters that involve student safety and welfare. We thank the senate members for the recommendations offered in Resolution 2324-24. These recommendations, along with our formal response below, are integral parts of our tradition and framework of shared governance with our elected representative bodies.

We would like to clarify some facts underlying the points presented in the resolution:

- As a public urban research university, Wayne State University is committed to continuous learning and lifelong educational opportunities. We encourage all members of our community, including our safety and security personnel, to participate in training and professional development opportunities.
- As a part of this work for our diverse community, the members of the WSU Police Department (WSUPD) regularly engage in cultural sensitivity training. In fact, Chief Holt has led anti-bias training for other law enforcement agencies across our state and nation through the National De-escalation Training Center.
- In this spirit, Chief Holt was part of a delegation invited by the Israel Ministry of Diaspora Affairs that traveled to Israel in 2019 for education – joining representatives from Metro-Detroit suburbs, Pittsburgh, and Cleveland. Chief Holt was the sole participant from WSUPD and the only participant employed in Detroit. The trip was funded by the Ministry, and no WSU funds were used. The trip included educational activities – including facility tours, visits to cultural sites, and lectures and discussions on protecting the public in active shooter scenarios. None of the activities were military-, tactical-, or weapons-related.
- There is not and never has been any reciprocal relationship or affiliation between WSU and the State of Israel, or any other country. There has been no follow-up communication or connection between WSU and the State of Israel since the conclusion of the trip. WSUPD has not adopted any policing,

surveillance, and/or militarized strategies or tactics from the State of Israel or any other foreign country.

- University leadership rejects all forms of violence, including the use of excessive force. This value has guided the work of the WSUPD under the leadership of Chief Holt during his long and highly respected service to the university. Resolution 2324-24 describes non-violent public safety responses to two campus incidents in 2023. In each case and consistent with normal practices, WSUPD protected the free expression rights of the speakers while peacefully preventing disruption of campus operations.
- We are proud that College Choice [ranked](#) WSU among the nation's safest large college campuses because of the work by Chief Holt and his team to protect and serve all members of Wayne State and Detroit's pluralistic community. To date in the 2023-24 academic year, WSUPD has fielded over 4,300 calls for assistance, including providing safe walks across campus and connecting people without permanent homes to local shelters, in addition to addressing crimes like theft and sexual assault. The round-the-clock services provided by WSUPD are critical to attracting and retaining students and their families, supporting the important work of our faculty and staff, and advancing a safe and prosperous Midtown community for working, learning, and living.
- Last year, WSUPD initiated a rigorous review process for accreditation through the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, joining more than 40 police forces across the state. As part of accreditation, WSUPD is undergoing a self-assessment on each of 189 individual law enforcement standards guided by the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission. This will be followed by an onsite assessment by representatives of the commission and an opportunity for the WSU student body, WSU faculty and staff, and our larger community to engage and offer feedback.

Our university, including WSUPD, welcomes feedback and regularly collaborates with the campus and surrounding community, which is an integral part of serving at a public university. We remain more committed than ever to our mission of creating and advancing knowledge, preparing a diverse student body to thrive, and positively impacting local and global communities.

Thank you for your continued support and leadership of Wayne State's mission and values.



Bethany Gielczyk

Interim Senior Vice President for Business Affairs; CFO; Treasurer

cc Laurie Lauzon Clabo, Ph.D., Provost and Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs  
David Strauss, Ph.D., Dean of Students