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**Saratoga Springs
Democratic Committee**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24, 2020

SARATOGA SPRINGS DEMOCRATS ENDORSE CITIZEN'S REVIEW BOARD

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. (September 24, 2020) – The Saratoga Springs Democratic Committee (“SSDC”) has announced its support that a Citizen’s Review board be established in the City of Saratoga Springs as an independent body free from bias and interference from the public safety department.

The board would have procedures for receiving, reviewing and commenting on completed investigations of complaints made by citizens and visitors against officers of our City for alleged misconduct or use of excessive force.

The City Democratic Committee voted unanimously on August 22 in support of a resolution calling for the establishment of a citizen’s review board.

“This is a no brainer. It’s remarkable that the City has remained so resistant, given recent history. Moving forward, SSDC will only be endorsing candidates that subscribe to transparent and independent reviews of allegations of police misconduct, excessive force and city public safety policies.” said Sarah J. Burger, Esq., Chair of the Saratoga Springs Democratic Committee.

In early June, Burger appointed an anti-racism subcommittee, co-chaired by Natalya Lakhtakia and Joy King tasked to make recommendations to the SSDC for development of the platform regarding police reform, public health, education and housing.

“The time is now to elect leaders who commit to doing anti-racist work in office. Our subcommittee is working to create a platform that candidates can commit to. When a city makes socially progressive changes to, among other things, combat racism, everyone in the community is safer, healthier, and more connected. We need leaders who want more oversight of our systems - that’s good governance.” Said Natalya Lakhtakia.

For more information about the Saratoga Springs Democratic Committee, visit saratogadems.org.

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