

# 10 Fast Facts Yeadon Residents Want to Know

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## **Why did Yeadon Borough Council Remove Anthony “Chachi” Paparo from his position as Chief of Police?**

We cannot allow our top law enforcement official to enforce the rules while breaking the rules. Mr. Paparo violated the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement by continually scheduling part-time officers to work more hours than the Agreement permitted. Mr. Paparo exceeded the number of hours the Agreement permitted him to schedule part-time officers to work by a whopping 6,200 hours and he did this over an extended period of time during two consecutive calendar years: 2019 and 2020. As a result of Mr. Paparo’s violation of the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement, the Borough of Yeadon must pay \$387,000 to the 16 full-time police officers whose rights under the Agreement were violated due to Mr. Paparo’s repeated breaking of the rules.

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## **Mr. Paparo has said publicly that he *had* to schedule part-time officers to work more hours than the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement permitted because he was short-staffed and because of protests in response to the killing of George Floyd. Do these excuses justify his actions?**

When confronted with a staffing shortage, the appropriate response from a Chief of Police is not to violate the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement by giving part-time officers more hours than the Agreement permits. If Mr. Paparo was truly short-staffed, all he had to do was contact the Fraternal Order of Police, explain that he was short on officers and ask for staffing support. The FOP would have been happy to work with him just as they have worked with many other police departments to help resolve staffing shortages. Regarding protests in response to the killing of George Floyd, Mr. Paparo used a substantial number of the 6,200 hours in question *in 2019 before* George Floyd was killed on May 25, 2020.

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## **Was Mr. Paparo ever issued a warning before his actions escalated to the point of costing the Borough nearly \$400,000?**

The Philadelphia Inquirer reported on February 8, 2022 that the Fraternal Order of Police said their union “repeatedly warned” Mr. Paparo “but he did not make any adjustments.”

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## **The Yeadon Borough Code stipulates that Mayor Rohan K. Hepkins is responsible for overseeing the police department. How does something like this happen under the oversight of the Mayor?**

Unfortunately, Mayor Hepkins has not provided Council or this community with a clear and direct answer as to how this happened under his watch. And while Council does not speak for the Mayor, he appears — to many — to have either been sleeping on the job while Mr. Paparo was breaking the rules or turning a blind eye to Mr. Paparo’s actions.

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## **While it was Mr. Paparo who kept assigning part-time officers to work more hours than permitted under the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement, who within Yeadon Borough government kept authorizing the ballooning payments part-time officers were receiving for hours the Agreement never permitted them to work?**

The Council President during that entire period of time was Latoya Monroe, a current member of Council. The more Mr. Paparo kept scheduling part-time officers to work hours not permitted by the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement, the more Ms. Monroe kept authorizing payments for those prohibited hours.



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## **Did Mr. Paparo's race play a role in Council's decision to remove him from his position as alleged by Mr. Paparo, Mayor Hepkins, Councilwoman Latoya Monroe and Councilwoman Liana Roadcloud?**

Race played no role whatsoever and all accusations of racism have been categorically denied. The same black Councilwomen they are accusing of removing Mr. Paparo because he is white are the same black Councilwomen who "hired" Mr. Paparo — choosing him for the Chief of Police position over three qualified black candidates. Additionally, the person Council appointed to lead the police department after removing Mr. Paparo is a white male just like Mr. Paparo. It is widely believed that those who are "playing the race card" are only doing so to distract this community from their own culpability in Mr. Paparo's violation of the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement, which cost the Borough \$387,000.

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## **What about the petition to "Keep Chief Chachi" that collected more than 1,000 signatures?**

We encourage everyone to exercise their right to peacefully protest via petition. It is, however, important to note that this petition misleads people into signing it based on an outrageous claim of racism. It is also worth noting that the number of Yeadon residents who signed the petition has not been verified. And many residents in this community have reported having their "signatures" added to the petition without their consent.

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## **Did Council provide Mr. Paparo with due process before removing him from his position?**

Yes. Council President Sharon Council-Harris has consistently and publicly said that in January 2022, she requested three times that Mr. Paparo meet with her to discuss his actions, which put the Borough in a \$387,000 predicament. But he declined each time. Yeadon Borough Council also provided Mr. Paparo with an opportunity to address his actions before Council on February 17, 2022.

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## **Did Mr. Paparo provide Council President Sharon Council-Harris, Council Vice President Learin Johnson, Councilwoman Carlette Brooks and Councilwoman Taliah Jones-Waters with any kind of "due process" before telling numerous media outlets these women wanted to oust him because of the color of his skin?**

No. Instead of letting these four Councilwomen know he was allegedly hearing "rumors" that they wanted to oust him because of his race, he went straight to the press and blasted his allegations to numerous media outlets creating a media firestorm for Yeadon along with Mayor Hepkins, Councilwoman Monroe and Councilwoman Roadcloud. At no point did Mr. Paparo even ask the four Councilwomen in question if the "rumors" he was allegedly hearing were true. Let the record show that these four Councilwomen provided Mr. Paparo with due process while being denied due process themselves.

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## **Who is leading the Yeadon Police Department now?**

Leadership of the Police Department is in the capable hands of Police Lieutenant Shawn Burns. Council appointed Lieutenant Burns as Officer-in-Charge on February 17, 2022. Lieutenant Burns has been with the Yeadon Borough Police Department for 20 years.



Left to Right: Yeadon Borough Councilwomen Taliah Jones-Waters, Learin Johnson, Sharon Council-Harris and Carlette Brooks.

### **Message from Councilwomen Jones-Waters, Johnson, Council-Harris, and Brooks:**

*While there are seven women on Yeadon Borough Council, pictured are the four of us who were thrust into a media firestorm and labeled racists, an allegation we unequivocally deny. As we look ahead and work together to move Yeadon forward, we hope these 10 fast facts will help you cut through some of the noise that remains after the storm. Truth matters. And with so much misinformation circulating throughout the community, it is our responsibility to provide you with factual information that can easily be substantiated.*

**TRUTH MATTERS**