

BAILY ROAD AND CHURCH LANE
P.O. BOX 5187
YEADON, PA 19050



BOROUGH of YEADON

OFFICES: 610-284-1606
FAX: 610-284-2138
www.yeadonborough.com

Jacqueline C. Romero, Esq.
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Pennsylvania
615 Chestnut Street, Suite 1250
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Ms. Romero,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Yeadon Borough Council President and pray that you will assist our Borough after another tragic incident that one of our citizens has endured in police custody.

On Tuesday, November 8, 2022, a 34-year-old woman was arrested for a domestic incident within the Borough of Yeadon, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, by Yeadon Borough, uniformed police officers. During the arrest the woman repeatedly told the arresting officers that she was suffering from a mental health issue and that she would harm herself. Instead, of taking the young woman to the appropriate medical facility they took her back to the Yeadon Borough holding cells at 600 Church Lane, in the Borough of Yeadon. Captured on police worn body cameras, are the young woman's pleas for help in addition to the very clear and unambiguous statement that she will kill herself if she is put in the cell. In response, the arresting officer slammed the cell door shut. The victim proceeds to remove her bra and attempts to commit suicide by hanging herself. The victim is successful in tying her bra around her neck and a structure in the cell. The victim hangs in the cell for approximately 20 minutes, before one of the Yeadon Borough part-time officers discovers the victim hanging on a video monitor and screams for help. CPR was successful but the victim is currently in critical condition. She is fighting for her life and on the risk of falling into a coma at Pennsylvania Presbyterian Hospital.

On July 5, 2022, Shawn Morcho, a 22-year-old resident of Yeadon Borough, hung himself to death in police custody. The Yeadon Borough Police and the Mayor did nothing to address Shawn's death. No policy changes were made, nor were any trainings or memos issued to the department. The current state of the Yeadon Borough Police Department presents an extreme concern for the human rights of those citizens taken into custody by the police.

Our county police and the local district attorney are investigating the incident for potential violations of Pennsylvania Law. I have high confidence in their ability to evaluate local law, but I am firmly convinced, after the second incident, that the state of the police department has risen to the level of human rights violations and pray that the Department of Justice will intervene before our community has to suffer a third, tragic and preventable incident.

Sincerely,

Sharon-Council Harris, President
Yeadon Borough Council