

Seattle Voices: Aaron Roberts

Item 8145

Speaker: Seattle City Councilmember Richard Mclver

Seattle City Councilmember Richard Mclver: Like I said, I don't know that I can guarantee anybody that we can fire police officers. As I said, what I believe we want to be here about, and what I wanted to be here about is justice. I want justice for those police officers, just as much as I want justice for this community. So, when that occurs, once that happens, they'll figure out what to do. I'll be happy to work with you if they find a problem with them, if I don't agree with them, I'll be happy to agree with you, if I don't agree with you.

Rev. Robert Jeffery: Let me ask you this, do you all trust Dustin and I to ask these questions for you?

[crowd]: Yes!

Jeffery: Okay, let us asks these questions for you, please. Alright, Brother Councilor? Don't walk away now, please. I'm just trying to ask a question. I'm trying to be respectful. I'm trying to understand. You said you cannot vote in favor of the fact that they should be fired?

Mclver: I cannot – I want justice for everybody.

Jeffery: Would you - would you - would you be in favor of community people in this period, coming together with City officials to review objectively and some objective person coming in to review with the community whether they should be fired?

Mclver: Yes, I would.

Jeffery: You would be? If we gave you a list of names, would you receive those names?

Mclver: Yes, I would.

Jeffery: Alright, secondly - a second thing is, [unintelligible over crowd clapping and cheering] Yes, sir?

Mclver: I would be happy to facilitate with any of the police officers if you so desire.

Jeffery: Yes, sir, okay. The second thing is establishment of an independent review board elected by the community. Do you believe that we should work together to get that done?

Mclver: I believe we need a review board. I don't know what kind yet.

Jeffery: But do you believe that we should work together to have an effective review board?

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McIver: I think we should have a review board, but I obviously don't know what kind.

[crowd chatter]

Jeffery: So, in other words – wait a minute, wait a minute – so, in other words you're saying that what the City has in place now is unacceptable to you?

McIver: No, I'm saying is that I'm trying to understand as I talk to Mr. Grenel [sp?] here and as I talk to others, that I'm not saying that I don't agree with that, but what I need to do is educate myself on A.) why Judge Johnson, when he did his survey, did [unintelligible]...

Jeffery: So, at this time you have no comment?

McIver: No, I believe we need to have a different system that-

Jeffery: But you don't agree with this system?

McIver: I don't know what I agree with on that

Jeffery: Okay, so that's no comment. We'll see next time. Two more and then we'll be through, I know this is hard. For adoption of the People's Coalition for Justice demands on racial profiling, do you agree with that?

McIver: I believe we are working on racial profiling and a study is going underway and I would support about anything I can –

Jeffery: Do you support –

McIver: – that has to do with racial profiling –

Jeffery: But you can't –

McIver: – which I believe exists.

Jeffery: So you can't give a confirmative answer on any of this?

McIver: I don't know what the People's Coalition for Justice want. I do believe that racial profiling – let me finish – I do believe that racial profiling exists and I supporting doing anything we can to deal with it.

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Jeffery: [unintelligible]...we'll get there. Alright, the last one and then – and I know this is difficult and you know, I was [unintelligible], so....Agreement to work with the community to develop a broad-based comprehensive economic program. The committee is going to be developing a broad-based economic program to deal with redlining and displacement of the senior citizens in the Southeast and Central area and we're going to be bringing that to the City to work on that – a program and the community will benefit. Would you agree that that sort of thing needs to be done?

Mclver: Reverend Jeffery, have you ever asked me and ever I have not responded to that request?

Jeffery: Sir?

Mclver: Have you ever asked me to work with the community on development and I have not responded to that request?

Jeffery: So that's a yes?

Mclver: Yes.

Jeffery: Thank you.