



The City of
Worcester

Khrystian E. King

Vice Chairman / Councilor At-Large

February 19, 2026

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**Vice Chairman Khrystian E. King Statement:
Accountability, Officer Safety, and Strengthening Public Safety**

Worcester, MA –

“Accountability strengthens public safety. Civilian oversight strengthens trust. Constitutional policing strengthens democracy. Worcester deserves all three.”

In light of recent public commentary, I am clarifying my position as recent statements have mischaracterized both my remarks and my record.

A statement issued by NEPBA Local 911 inaccurately framed my comments regarding federal immigration enforcement. My remarks addressed the impact of ICE operations on Black and Brown families in Worcester — not the referenced court proceeding nor Worcester Police. Conflating those issues distracts from the broader conversation about public trust and constitutional rights.

Instead of engaging my long-standing call for accountability, the union labeled a Black male elected official as biased and engaging in “race baiting.” That rhetoric is offensive and beneath the standard of discourse our city deserves. This perpetuates a false narrative regarding governance toward equity and fairness.

I do not make decisions based on pressure, intimidation, or the volume of any single voice. I govern based on principle and what strengthens Worcester for the long term.

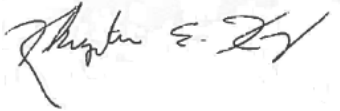
I support effective law enforcement, the safety and professionalism of our officers, and meaningful civilian oversight across all city departments, including public safety.

“Officers deserve to return home safely after every shift. Residents deserve to feel secure in their neighborhoods. Those goals align when policing is constitutional, transparent, and accountable.”

Accountability is not anti-police. Oversight is not anti-public safety. Clear standards and public trust reduce risk and strengthen public safety for everyone. I acknowledge the jury system, due process, and I respect the difficult work performed daily by members of the Worcester Police Department. Supporting constitutional rights and transparency strengthens public safety.

Worcester is the most diverse city in the Commonwealth. Our city leadership must reflect upon that reality. I will continue to lead with steadiness, fairness, and an unwavering commitment to safety and dignity for every individual who lives and or works in this city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Khrystian E. King". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Khrystian E. King
Vice Chairman / Councilor At-Large

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