

December 8, 2015

Dear Chief Mayer,



Sgt. Meghan Lehman, Sgt. Andy Breidenich  
Police Officer Russ Barrows -  
THANK YOU ALL FOR REPRESENTING  
TROY PD SO WELL.  
I APPRECIATE IT. Gary P-03b

Thank you for the continuing support of the City of Troy Police Department in the mission and programs of Troy-area Interfaith Group. Together, what a powerful, effective message of peace we convey to the community through our partnering efforts!

Last evening, Sergeant Meghan Broderick Lehman and Officer Russ Barrows attended our December program, engaging with our diverse group in informal but important conversation. They listened and shared, and asked and answered questions about issues of mutual interest and also about more casual topics as fellow citizens of Troy. This was a unique opportunity to interact and understand and be understood. I can't help but note, how remarkable--or maybe more importantly--how *unremarkable*, that this group of 25 individuals, representing six major world religions and several ethnic and cultural backgrounds, could come together to share a simple meal and sit and talk about football, and school, and vacation plans, and end the evening with handshakes and hugs and wishes of Happy Holidays. Most importantly, we had four students, ranging from fourth to twelfth grade, who shared a table with the two officers and our other participants, providing the youth an important, positive perspective of the involvement of law enforcement and an appreciation of diversity in our community of Troy.

Additionally, we appreciate the ongoing support of Sergeant Andy Breidenich. We value his connection, insight, initiative, and dependability, from presenting to our group, to contacting TIG to assist in the founding and continued operation of the *Troy Area Alliance Against Hate Crimes*, to providing community resources for TIG programs and faith communities. How fortunate we are to be able to call upon him--and to call him friend.

We thank you and the Department for being proactive in creating community relationships, and backing that up with presence and support--allowing us to connect with the individuals behind the uniforms. Together we make a stronger community.

Looking forward to our next opportunity for a joint community program between Troy-area Interfaith Group and the City of Troy Police Department!

Brenda Balas  
Chair, Leadership Team  
Troy-area Interfaith Group