

Heidi Samuel

For Columbus City Council

To Columbus' Public Safety Forces:

When the alarm sounds or the call comes in - you respond. In the face of danger, you run toward it when natural instinct and the teaching of our parents told us to run the other way. There are many who refer to their jobs or volunteer efforts as public service; it pales in comparison to someone who puts the life and personal safety of others above their own.

Increasing public safety in Columbus should be city council's top priority.

I believe economic growth and development, revitalization of neighborhoods and attracting new residents is vital to the future of our city. Step one is ensuring Columbus citizens feel safe. If citizens don't feel safe in their neighborhoods, those who can afford to move out of the city will eventually move out.

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Leaders in our business community benchmark Columbus against the nation's best performing cities in job growth and innovation. Why do we find it acceptable for city leaders to benchmark our public safety against the worst? In the past year, when confronted by recent statistics, city leaders compared Columbus with Detroit and Cleveland, both struggling metropolitan areas ranked 2nd and 7th most dangerous cities in America. I propose we benchmark Columbus against a similar city such as Austin with a growing economy and a ranking as America's 5th safest large city.★

I have spent many hours talking to you and your colleagues during ride-alongs, on paramedic runs, at neighborhood civic meetings, over a meal in your station house and in my own front yard. The message is clear: city council needs to raise the priority of public safety as its single greatest responsibility it has to Columbus residents.

Not only do we need to address staffing levels, the condition of personal equipment and vehicles is absolutely vital to your safety. During recent ride-alongs with both police and fire, I witnessed the repeated and often sharp load demand on vehicles and equipment required to immediately respond to each run. If not maintained and replaced, this equipment and these vehicles risk injury to our first responders and to the public.

Beyond the safety of the city, your service and the perils that come with it are shared by your family your friends and your children. I understand the underlying concern of family members – I grew up in a military family and a military environment; my father, grandfathers and uncles all combat veterans. There is something unsettling about your leaving for work and a sense of relief when you return home.

As a neighborhood leader and mother of two young children, the safety of our citizens should come above all else. When I dial 911, you answer the call; you can expect no less from me. I ask you for your support so that I can be a voice for your needs on Columbus City Council.

Thank you for visiting my website and learning more about my campaign. If you would like to get in touch with me, please [click here](#).

Respectfully,



Heidi Samuel

OVERALL: (371 cities)**SAFEST 25:****MOST DANGEROUS 25:**

1	Brick Township, NJ	1	St. Louis, MO
2	Amherst, NY	2	Detroit, MI
3	Mission Viejo, CA	3	Flint, MI
4	Newton, MA	4	Compton, CA
5	Troy, MI	5	Camden, NJ
6	Colonie, NY	6	Birmingham, AL
7	Irvine, CA	7	Cleveland, OH
8	Cary, NC	8	Oakland, CA
9	Greece, NY	9	Youngstown, OH
10	Coral Springs, FL	10	Gary, IN
11	Thousand Oaks, CA	11	Richmond, CA
12	Orem, UT	12	Baltimore, MD
13	Round Rock, TX	13	Memphis, TN
14	Dover, NJ	14	Trenton, NJ
15	Lake Forest, CA	15	Richmond, VA
16	Sterling Heights, MI	16	Kansas City, MO
17	Simi Valley, CA	17	Atlanta, GA
18	Roswell, GA	18	Cincinnati, OH
19	Lee's Summit, MO	19	Washington, DC
20	Broken Arrow, OK	20	North Charleston, SC
21	Chino Hills, CA	21	Reading, PA
22	Gilbert, AZ	22	Newark, NJ
23	Edison Township, NJ	23	Little Rock, AR
24	Cranston, RI	24	San Bernardino, CA
25	Port St. Lucie, FL	25	Orlando, FL

CITIES OF 500,000 OR MORE POPULATION: (32 cities)**SAFEST 10:****MOST DANGEROUS 10:**

1	San Jose, CA	1	Detroit, MI
2	Honolulu, HI	2	Baltimore, MD
3	El Paso, TX	3	Memphis, TN
4	New York, NY	4	Washington, DC
5	Austin, TX	5	Philadelphia, PA
6	San Diego, CA	6	Dallas, TX
7	San Antonio, TX	7	Nashville, TN
8	Louisville, KY	8	Charlotte, NC
9	Fort Worth, TX	9	Columbus, OH
10	Jacksonville, FL	10	Houston, TX

CITIES OF 100,000 TO 499,999 POPULATION: (213 cities)**SAFEST 10:****MOST DANGEROUS 10:**

1	Amherst, NY	1	St. Louis, MO
2	Irvine, CA	2	Flint, MI
3	Cary, NC	3	Birmingham, AL
4	Coral Springs, FL	4	Cleveland, OH
5	Thousand Oaks, CA	5	Oakland, CA
6	Sterling Heights, MI	6	Gary, IN
7	Simi Valley, CA	7	Richmond, CA
8	Gilbert, AZ	8	Richmond, VA
9	Edison Township, NJ	9	Kansas City, MO
10	Port St. Lucie, FL	10	Atlanta, GA