

PASSED: 67 Approve, 7 Disapprove, 7 Abstain

**RESOLUTION F23_002:
Regarding the Yale Police Benevolent Association Flyer**

Sponsors:

Riley A. Wadehra (GSA, Transit and Security Committee Chair, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Representative)

John T. González (GSA, Vice-Chair, Experimental Pathology Representative)

Recipients:

Anthony Campbell, Yale University Chief of Police

Ronnell Higgins, Yale University's Associate Vice President for Public Safety and Community Engagement

Mike Hall, President of the Yale Police Benevolent Association (YPBA)

John Criscuolo, Senior Labor Relations Representative for YPBA

Joe Sarno, Senior Director of Labor Relations

Dave Kelly, Associate Director of Labor Relations

Peter Salovey, President of Yale University

John Barden, Yale Vice President for Information Technology & Chief Information Officer

Mike Bellamy, Yale Vice President for Facilities, Campus Development and Sustainability

Renee Kopkowski, Yale Vice President for Communications

Commented [1]: michael.hall@yale.edu

Commented [2]: <https://your.yale.edu/work-yale/staff-resources/union-management-relations/contact-us>
john.criscuolo@yale.edu

Commented [3]: joe.sarno@yale.edu

Commented [4]: david.kelly@yale.edu

Whereas, in August 2023, the Yale Police Benevolent Association (YPBA),¹ the Yale Police Union, distributed Yale “survival guide” flyers to incoming undergraduate students upon their arrival to Yale’s campus;² and,

Whereas, the aforementioned flyers employed fear-mongering language and imagery to describe safety risks within the New Haven area, such as “some Yalies do manage to survive” and a graphic of the Grim Reaper; and,

¹ Yale Police Benevolent Association, It’s Your Yale- [link](#)

² *Yale Students Got a Terrifying Message. From the Campus Police*, The New York Times- [article link](#)

Whereas, the advice given, “Stay off the streets after 8 P.M.,” was overly cautious and extreme, and is not compatible with the diverse arrangement of graduate student research work on our campus.

Whereas, the flyers included accurate but cherry-picked and misleading crime statistics. For example, while it is true that in the “seven month period ending July 23, 2023, murders have doubled, burglaries are up 33%, and motor vehicle thefts are up 56%”, overall violent crimes in the city have, in fact, decreased by 29.2%;³ and,

Whereas, the narrative depicted in the YPBA’s flyers denotes an antagonistic sentiment towards the local New Haven community, which the Yale Police Department surveils and polices.⁴

Whereas, the flyers do not reflect the student body’s multi-year conversation over the relationship between Yale Police and the New Haven community.^{5,6}

Whereas, the Yale Police Department Union contract expired on June 30, 2023, and the union is currently in negotiation for a new contract.⁷

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Graduate Student Assembly condemns the distribution of such inflammatory materials and sentiments to our constituency and the broader Yale community; and,

Be it further resolved that the Graduate Student Assembly hereby calls for a public apology from the Yale Police Benevolent Association to the Yale community and residents of New Haven for the distribution of these materials; and

Be it further resolved that the Graduate Student Assembly denounces the YPBA’s effort to manipulate student opinion as an apparent contract negotiation tactic at the expense of the communities that the Yale Police Department serves and polices.⁸

³ New Haven Police Department Year-To-Date CompStat- [document link](#)

⁴ *Information on New Haven shooting of April 16, 2019*, Yale University Office of Public Affairs & Communications- [weblink](#)

⁵ *Petition to Defund and Dismantle YPD*, Change.org- [weblink](#)

⁶ *“An imbalance of power”*: Students criticize YPD for limited reforms, Yale Daily News- [article link](#)

⁷ *University, police union contract negotiations off to rocky start*, Yale Daily News- [article link](#)

⁸ *Yale police union distributes flyers alleging a crime-ridden New Haven during contract negotiations*, Yale Daily News- [article link](#)