

## Amy Harvey

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**From:** Jeanette Coffin  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 02, 2019 1:27 PM  
**To:** Amber Mathwig  
**Cc:** CHRIS BLUE; Allen Buansi; Donna Bell; Hongbin Gu; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Lindsey Bineau; Michael Parker; Nancy Oates; Pam Hemminger; Rachel Schaevitz; Town Council; Amy Harvey; Carolyn Worsley; Catherine Lazorko; Flo Miller; Laura Selmer; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Rae Buckley; Ralph Karpinos; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver  
**Subject:** email...RE: Public Comment  
**Categories:** Agenda Packet Process

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

If your email is related to a development application or a particular issue being addressed by the Council, your comments will be made part of the record. If applicable, we encourage you to attend any public meetings related to the items addressed in your email.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



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**From:** Amber Mathwig [mailto:amber.mathwig@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 6:59 PM  
**To:** Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>  
**Cc:** Amber Mathwig <amber.mathwig@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

Good evening Mayor Hemminger, Chapel Hill city council,

My name is Amber Mathwig, I live in Carrboro and have been a staff member at UNC Chapel Hill since September 2015. I am here tonight to ask you to initiate an investigation into Chapel Hill Fire Department's participation in a recent training exercise with UNC Police Department that egregiously failed to consider

student safety and well being and resulted in my arrest after I attempted to intervene to stop the high risk training from happening within yards of my students. I ask that you not only conduct this investigation, but appropriately reprimand key decision makers, update interagency training protocols, and notify the public of your results and decisions.

Last Wednesday, April 24 at around 5:30pm, as I was leaving my place of work, the Carolina Veterans Resource Center, located at 211 Branson St - a building regularly used by students and their families - I observed multiple UNC Police Department, Chapel Hill Fire Department, and Orange County EMS vehicles and first responders. As a former military police officer, what specifically piqued my interest was that some personnel were holding paintball masks. While you can read more details in the statement I've emailed to you, the summary is that these agencies were engaging in an active shooter training exercise using simunition rounds, and had failed to notify the public or take proper safety precautions such as barricading the area around which they were conducting their training. An older white male wearing a white polo shirt indicating he was with the fire department approached me and told me I had to leave where I was sitting, as it was "unsafe" for myself and the two students who followed me to be there. Knowing that they would continue such a dangerous training exercise if I left, I refused to leave the steps and was subsequently arrested.

I now face criminal charges for trespassing and resisting a public officer because, as multiple events this past year have shown, UNC Police Department has a complete disregard for student safety and Chapel Hill town council and employees continue to be complicit in their own lackluster responses and continued enabling of UNC Police Department to do whatever the hell they want to students and the greater Chapel Hill community.

While we may all differ on our opinions regarding the place of police forces and guns in our community, I would hope that we would agree that the utmost safety precautions should be taken whenever weapons are being utilized, whether in training or in real life. Treat every weapon as if it were loaded, treat every weapon as if it were real. The most basic of safety rules for weapons training were ignored and I find myself deeply disturbed that fire department and emergency medical service personnel were willing participants in this event.

[Daily Tar Heel Article](#)  
[News & Observer Article](#)  
[WCHL Article](#)  
[My personal statement](#)

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Solidarity,

Amber Mathwig

Pronouns: She/her/hers

"Those who do not move, do not notice their chains." - Rosa Luxemburg