



Police Reform Community Stakeholders Updated Call Summary

8-25-20

Webpage Rollout

Dutchess County Police Reform & Modernization will have its own page posted on the Dutchess County website. The page will be available for the public to view pertinent information such as; the Executive Orders 203, FAQs, Community stakeholder's bios, workgroup committee list with each workgroup member, along with the upcoming Community Forums. The page will have the most updated committee summaries and a sign up for the public to register for Forums. The page will also have a feature that the public can use to get updates on the collaborative as things are progressing forward.

Community Stakeholders Focus Group First Meeting

Building Public Trust and Legitimacy while Enhancing Connection to the Community was the first focus group meeting topic. A brief was created and shared with everyone in the focus group and all the workgroups. One of the main topics of discussion was the character of the police and their role within the community, to serve and protect. Concerns of lost connections between the police and the community needs improvement. The non-enforcement interactions need to be created where police officer's communication and connect with the community, potentially serving as mentors within their communities. Other topics that were discussed was the number of college credits that are needed for one to serve as an officer in Dutchess County. The need to give candidates an opportunity to fulfill this requirement over a period may help to add diversity to the police department.

Community Forums

The Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights members has been asked by the County Executive to collaborate with the Police Reform collaborative to host county wide forums in the effort to reach the entire county. The Human Rights Commission will be hosting county forums geographically in English and Spanish via Zoom. The purpose of the community forums is to give the community a chance to give feedback on Police Reform. Each forum will be for one and half hour, or longer. The public will be asked to register in advance and only specific people who work, live, worship within the municipality will have the opportunity to speak for 3 minutes.

Group Discussion

The group discussion for this meeting focussed on community engagement and diversity of the law enforcement workforce. One issue relating to the college credits required by Dutchess County to become a Police officer was a primary topic of discussions. In order to become more divers many believe the 60 college credits requirement needs to be rolled back, or that candidates /probationary employees are given the opportunity to complete the 60 credits over a 3 to 5 year span. In addition to the college credit issue, recruiting methods were also discussed.

Community Stakeholder members feel that the Police departments need to interact with the community to learn what the community wants thier role to be. As a community we need to inform the Police department on what the communities need from them. Recruitment and training is one of the key points in helping to achieve the overall goal of Police Reform.

The group also discussed the importance of positive non-enforcement contacts between law enforcement and members of the community, the culture of policing and how it is a vocation rather than simply a job, and the importance of the “guardian” mindset.

Chief Pape from the City of Poughkeepsie shared information on the Procedural Justice Training that was given by the City of Poughkeepsie and hosted by the Dutchess County Sheriff department. The training provided ideas of fairness in the processes that helps police resolve disputes and allocate resources. Procedural justices concern the fairness and the transparency of the processes by which decision are made and may be contrasted with distributive justice and retributive justice. The training was an eight-hour training that was beneficial to everyone that participated.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be September 8, 2020 at 4pm. The new brief for the next focus group topic will be sent out by the end of week or beginning of next week.