PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

OF THE

DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Thursday, August 6, 2020

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that pursuant to Executive Order No. 202.1, as extended by Executive Orders 202.14, 202.28, 202.38, and 202.48 issued by Governor Cuomo, and due to the public health and safety concerns associated with the COVID-19 virus, the Dutchess County Legislature conducted the August 6, 2020 Committee Meetings remotely.

The public was not permitted to attend these meetings in person. Public comment was accepted by email on agenda items up until 4:30 PM on August 6, 2020 to countylegislature@dutchessny.gov. There were 42 comments received and are attached hereto.

Committee Chair Keith called the committee to order at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT	11	BLACK, BOLNER, BRENDLI, EDWARDS, HOUSTON, KEARNEY, KEITH, MCHOUL, METZGER, PAGE, and PULVER
ABSENT	1	HAUSER
PRESENT/LATE	0	

QUORUM PRESENT

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Sheriff Adrian H. Anderson, Undersheriff Kirk Imperati, Chief Deputy Jason Mark, Patrol Captain John Watterson, Lieutenant Shawn Castano, and Detective Sergeant Adam Harris presented on the Pleasant Valley Black Lives Matter rally.

Minority Leader Page spoke of his concern for the distrust the public had for the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department during the Black Lives Matter rally in Pleasant Valley.

Majority Leader Bolner called a point of order regarding if there was a question to what Assistant Minority Leader Page was stating.

Committee Chair Keith acknowledged the point of order and asked for Assistant Minority Leader Page to ask his question.

Assistant Minority Leader Page asked if the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department would come to the Legislature in September with a follow up on their progression with the issues that occurred from the Black Lives Matter rally.

Legislator Zernike asked the members from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office to specify what the "Blue" in "Blue Lives Matter" or "Back the Blue" referred to.

Chair Pulver called a point of order stating that question does not pertain to the presentation regarding the Pleasant Valley demonstration.

Committee Chair Keith acknowledge the point of order and asked Legislator Zernike for a specific question for the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office.

Legislator Zernike questioned how many deputies were within the Sheriff's Office and how many were people of color.

Legislator Llaverias asked Undersheriff Imperati how the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office planned on diversifying the department.

Majority Leader Bolner called a point of order on the relevance of the question to the presentation.

Committee Chair Keith did not recognize the point of order.

Undersheriff Imperati stated that they were looking alternatives to the civil service requirements as part of the police modernization program.

Legislators Atkins question if the Deputies at the Pleasant Valley event saw disorderly conduct while they were working.

Undersheriff Imperati stated that both sides were equally aggressive.

Legislator Llaverias called a point of order stating that both sides were not equally aggressive.

The point of order was not recognized.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Hussing, Laura

From: Joel Tyner <tynerjoel@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2020 4:12 PM
To: dcsotips@gmail.com
Cc: Letitia.james@ag.ny.gov; nlgnyc@igc.org; NLGAlbanyNY@gmail.com; lowerhudsonvalley@nyclu.org; County Legislators; CountyLegislature; countyexec; naacpnewburghhighlandfalls@gmail.com; Houston, Deirdre
Subject: Sheriff Anderson-- what in God's name happened yesterday in Pleasant Valley?

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dutchess County Sheriff Adrian ("Butch") Anderson
cc: Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro
Dutchess County Legislators
Attorney General Leticia James
National Lawyers Guild - NYC Chapter
National Lawyers Guild - Albany Chapter
New York Civil Liberties Union - Lower Hudson Valley Chapter
NAACP - Newburgh Highland Falls Chapter

Dear Sheriff:

Yes I'm here in Oregon 2500 miles away-- but I've watched many videos and posts on social media from attendees at the Black Lives Matter Rally and March yesterday in Pleasant Valley. Hundreds of counter-protesters appeared and remained aggressive, hostile and attacked and assaulted Black Lives Matter marchers yesterday during the march. The Sheriff's Deputies did absolutely nothing.

Event organizers had been assured that the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office would protect them; however, not only did they do no such thing but there are multiple eyewitnesses of Sheriff's officers positively interacting with people who not only threatened violence against us but actually committed acts of harassment and assault in the third degree against many of their members including a 12 year old girl. One woman had her nose broken and the sheriff's deputy officer on an ATV actually fist bumped the person who punched her. No arrests were ever made.

I am shocked and appalled at the way the Sheriff's Office failed to protect and serve peaceful protesters exercising their 1st Amendment rights. This department should not only be ashamed of itself it should be ashamed of the way it is helping to perpetuate the myth that the Black Lives Matter movement is a violent, and aggressive movement when it's been shown to be quite the opposite and we are the victims of violence at the hands of people who counter protest and demand our eradication.

What I observed at this rally and March was sickening. Instead of protecting the Marchers they allowed counter-protesters to come directly within the marching route and stand in the middle so that there would be unintentional jostling by the Black Lives Matter protesters against these violent agitators. At no point did any of the Black Lives Matter marchers feel protected. To see a 12 year old girl get punched by a grown man without any arrests severely undermines my confidence in the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office as a whole.

As you can see I have cc'd Attorney General Letitia James, the New York State chapter of the ACLU, and the National Lawyers Guild Albany and I hope immediate action gets taken because the Dutchess County Sheriff's office's response or should I say intentional lack of response was reprehensible at best and criminal at worse.

Some march/rally attendees attempted to lodge a formal complaint against the Sheriff's Deputies who were present at the event yesterday, however there is no online ability to do so and as I am sure you can imagine many are, frankly, terrified for their safety if they attempt to do so in person.

Shame on you.

Respectfully submitted,
Joel Tyner

Hussing, Laura

From: Hannah K Giles <hkgiles@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2020 7:29 PM
To: CountyLegislature; Letitia.james@ag.ny.gov; nlgnyc@igc.org; NLGAlbanyNY@gmail.com; lowerhudsonvalley@nyclu.org; naacpnewburghhighlandfalls@gmail.com; Houston, Deirdre
Subject: Pleasant Valley Rally for Black Lives

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Hannah Kozaka Giles. I grew up in Chatham, NY and now live in Kingston, NY.

On Saturday, July 18, 2020 I attended the Black Lives Matter Rally and March in Pleasant Valley, New York. It was a truly life-affirming, beautiful event planned by a local organizer and attended by a wide array of people. At the same time, hundreds of counter-protesters participating in a "Back the Blue/Conservative Party of Dutchess County" event appeared and put themselves into proximity with our event and remained aggressive and hostile throughout the march, even attacking and assaulting the marchers. The Sheriff's Deputies did nothing to truly protect the Black Lives Matter March, which had been planned well in advance and was assured of safety.

The Rally for Black Lives organizers were assured that the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office would protect us, however not only did they do no such thing but there are multiple eyewitnesses of Sheriff's officers positively interacting with people who not only threatened violence against us but actually committed acts of harassment and assault in the third degree against many of our members, including a 12 year old girl. One woman had her nose broken and the Sheriff's deputy officer on an ATV actually fist bumped the person who punched her. No arrests were made.

I am shocked and appalled at the way the Sheriff's Office failed to protect and serve peaceful protesters exercising their 1st Amendment rights. This department should not only be ashamed of itself it should be ashamed of the way it is helping to perpetuate the myth that the Black Lives Matter movement is a violent, and aggressive movement when it's been shown to be quite the opposite. We are the victims of violence at the hands of people who counter-protest, showing both verbal and physical aggression in the face of our peaceful, life-affirming rally.

What I personally observed at the Rally was that our group of Black Lives Matter marchers was peaceful, and repeatedly reminded that our purpose was the affirmation of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all, including Black people, Queer people, Trans people, Women, children, all groups who have been historically marginalized by policies and customs in this country. When the March began, and the group stepped away from the baseball field where we gathered and into the streets, we were met with sickening aggression, assault and violence. And, instead of protecting the marchers, the law enforcement officers present allowed counter-protesters to come directly within our marching route and stand in the middle so that there would be unintentional jostling by the Black Lives Matter protesters against these violent agitators. At no point did any of us feel protected. When the group finished the march along the pre-planned route, and eventually able to safely return to the baseball field, the people who needed the attention of our medic team were women, many Black women, and children - including a 12 year old girl who was punched by a grown man. While the counter-protestors had the right to be on the sides of the streets (although it certainly wasn't necessary for them to be out on the same day at the same time - and all the violence could have been avoided if they had just let our Rally and March happen without disruption) they purposely put themselves in the path of our march, and up against the bodies of our marchers and peacekeepers in aggressive ways. Stopping that was the job of the Dutchess County Sherrif's Department, and they failed. For all of that to occuer without any arrests severely undermines my confidence in the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office as a whole.

As you can see I have cc'd Attorney General Letitia James, the New York State chapter of the ACLU, and the National Lawyers Guild Albany and I hope immediate action is taken. I am also submitting this in the online email submission portal for the Sheriff's office. The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office's response - or should I say intentional lack of response - was reprehensible at best and criminal at worse.

We need to see immediate attention, investigation, and resolution on this important matter - for the safety and security of all our friends, family, and neighbors.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Kozaka Giles

cc: Attorney General Leticia James
Letitia.james@ag.ny.gov

National Lawyers Guild - NYC Chapter
nlgnyc@igc.org

National Lawyers Guild - Albany Chapter
NLGAlbanyNY@gmail.com

New York Civil Liberties Union - Lower Hudson Valley Chapter
lowerhudsonvalley@nyclu.org

NAACP - Newburgh Highland Falls Chapter
naacpnewburghhighlandfalls@gmail.com

District 25 Legislator Deidre A. Houston (R)
dhouston@dutchessny.gov

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 10:43 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Pleasant Valley Protest

file

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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From: Matt Cera <mattxcera@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 9:51 AM
To: dcsotips@gmail.com
Cc: Letitia.james@ag.ny.gov; nlgnyc@igc.org; NLGAlbanyNY@gmail.com; lowerhudsonvalley@nyclu.org; naacpnewburghhighlandfalls@gmail.com; Houston, Deirdre <dhouston@dutchessny.gov>; Sagliano, Don <dsagliano@dutchessny.gov>; CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>; countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; info@delgadoforcongress.com; Serino@nysenate.gov; gov.cuomo@chamber.state.ny.us
Subject: Pleasant Valley Protest

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Sheriff,

My name is Matthew Cerasaro and I am a life-long Dutchess County resident. On Saturday, July 18th, there was a Rally and March in Pleasant Valley, NY for Black lives. Hundreds of counter-protesters appeared and remained aggressive, hostile, and attacked and assaulted peaceful protesters during the march. The Sheriff's Deputies did absolutely nothing.

Organizers were assured that the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office would protect the protesters however not only did they do no such thing but there are multiple eyewitnesses of Sheriff's officers positively interacting with people who not only threatened violence against the peaceful protestors but committed acts of harassment and assault in the third degree against many of the Black Lives protesters, including a 12-year-old girl. One woman had her nose broken and the Sheriff's Deputy Officer on an ATV fist-bumped the person who punched her. No arrests were ever made.

I am shocked and appalled at the way the Sheriff's Office failed to protect and serve peaceful protesters exercising their 1st Amendment rights. This department should not only be ashamed of itself it should be ashamed of the way it is helping to perpetuate the myth that the Black Lives Matter movement is a violent, and aggressive movement when it's been shown to be quite the opposite and we are the victims of violence at the hands of people who counter-protest and demand our eradication.

Instead of protecting the Marchers, they allowed counter-protesters to come directly into the marching route and stand in the middle so that there would unintentional jostling by the Black Lives Matter protesters against these violent agitators. And to see a 12-year-old girl get punched by a grown man without any arrests severely undermines my confidence in the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office as a whole. The actions of your officers or lack thereof is the exact reason the people are calling to Defund the Police -- if the police are not there to protect the safety and the well-being of law-abiding citizens then what are they there for?

As you can see I have cc'd Attorney General Letitia James, Governor Andrew Cuomo, the New York State chapter of the ACLU, and the National Lawyers Guild Albany and other Federal, State, and Local officials. I hope immediate action gets taken because of the Dutchess County Sheriff's office's response or should I say intentional lack of response was reprehensible at best and criminal at worse. You are an elected official and need to be held accountable.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew Cerasaro

Hussing, Laura

From: David Bisson <david.bisson@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 12:39 PM
To: CountyLegislature
Cc: countyexec
Subject: Request a Public Oversight Hearing on the DC Sheriff

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello,

My name is David Bisson. I'm a resident of Dutchess County. I'm writing to request a public oversight hearing of the Dutchess County Sheriff.

On July 18, 2020, I attended a March for Black Lives and Rally in Pleasant Valley, NY. There, I witnessed the Dutchess County Sheriff fail in their duty to keep the peace. They failed to adequately separate the counter-protesters from the protesters. This gave the opportunity to several counter-protesters to act violently, instances which included hitting a 12-year-old protester and breaking the nose of another young protester.

I therefore request that the Dutchess County Legislature conduct a public oversight hearing and require the Dutchess County Sheriff to explain the following:

1. What the plan was to ensure everyone's rights were protected and that they were safe.
2. What happened that allowed protestors and counter protesters to be in such close contact.
3. What they intend to do in the future to ensure this doesn't happen again.

Please let me know if there's anything further that I can do to help make sure this public oversight hearing happens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David Bisson

Hussing, Laura

From: Chris Victor <ceevictor@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 2:32 PM
To: CountyLegislature
Cc: countyexec
Subject: Hearing Request

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

To whom it may concern, I'm writing to formally request that the County Legislature establish a forum for the Dutchess County Sheriff to publicly explain his failure to protect the protesters.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Chris Victor

Hussing, Laura

From: marisa.j.mcclinton <marisa.j.mcclinton@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 2:33 PM
To: CountyLegislature
Subject: Pleasant valley march on 7.18.2020

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Good afternoon,
I am writing to you from my experience at the please valley BLM protest. My boyfriend and I were BLM protestors peacefully walking with our friends and family and we were met with great rage and violence. We prepared all week long to ensure that all participants were safe including the children that were involved. We saw the threats from the opposing side that came flooding in for days leading up to the protest and we prepared ourselves as best we could. Fast fowarding to that saturday, the atmosphere was positive and encouraging on our part, despite hearing the screams and air horns coming from the main street by the counter protestors.

When we began to march, my boyfriend and I chose to walk in the back to ensure our organizers were looked after. By the time my row got up the hill from the baseball field, a maylee was already enthralled at the front of the march. I witnessed many groups of men and women throwing water bottles at our group, I had several large men place their middle finger in my face, and many women wearing "trump 2020" t-shirts yelling at me calling me names. My boyfriend pulled me in front of him to keep me safe and with the group as I stopped to take video and pictures of everyone's faces. I saw signs that our group personally made being ripped up and thrown into the street and racial slurs being yelled at and to young people. I saw some cars still driving right through our march route with zero police blockades or oversights. I saw 4 cops on dirt bikes, 2 of them on the road trying to help us along safely while the other 2 sat on the side of the road and watched. I saw cops push some of the BLM persons to keep them inline but the counter protestors were not addressed; some were even walking with the police. Since i was in the back i was met with a wall of counter protestors rushing towards me and us screaming at the top of their lungs and pointing their fingers at me as i was the last person they saw in the group. I did not feel safe at all because I saw that the wall of anger was trying to co mingle with the police on four wheelers.

This is only a snippet of what I have experienced that day and while there are hundreds of other similar stories from the BLM side, I can only speak for myself. Although i did meet and speak with 1 police officer that was disappointed in how the counter protestors acted, the others seemed to be bothered at the fact that they were on this duty. I saw violence against women and children with no arrests. I saw and heard threats being thrown at us as well as projectiles. It was not only very scary but also very terrifying to see that the police did very little to assist us in a permitted and peaceful march. There was very little assistance from the sheriff's office and while both sides have the freedom of speech, it crosses the line to have physical altercations erupt with no oversight. I felt as though we were led into slaughter by the very policing agency that was dedicated to assist in this assignment. We looked and felt like sheep in the wolves den. The counter protestors were allowed to say and do as they felt and we had no choice but to forge ahead with minimal protections from the county that we are trying to serve and change.

Please I urge you to open a forum of accountability with the Dutchess county sheriff's office, local legislators, The town of Pleasant Valley and county board members to bring awareness and support to publicly ridicule animalistic behavior such as this on public roadways. We did all that we needed to do to set up this march legally and respectfully and the organizers, supporters, and resources were gravely let down after we did all that pleasant valley asked of us.

I truly appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

--
Marisa McClinton DKA; CLC

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 7:53 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: The Rally and March for Black Lives Held in Pleasant Valley

file

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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From: Luisa Fuentes <akashalabruja1271@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 4:08 PM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: The Rally and March for Black Lives Held in Pleasant Valley

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

My name is Luisa Fuentes, I am an attorney admitted to the practice of law in New YOrk, New Jersey and D.C.; I am a former ADA for Orange County. On Saturday, July 18, 2020, I attended the Rally and March in Pleasant Valley, New York supporting Black lives. Hundreds of counter-protesters appeared and remained aggressive, hostile and attacked and assaulted us during the march. The Sheriff's Deputies did absolutely nothing.

We were assured that the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office would protect us however not only did they do no such thing but there are multiple eyewitnesses of Sheriff's officers positively interacting with people who not only threatened violence against us but actually committed acts of harassment

and assault in the third degree against many of our members including a 12 year old girl. One woman had her nose broken and the sheriff's deputy officer on an ATV actually fist bumped the person who punched her. No arrests were ever made.

I am shocked and appalled at the way the Sheriff's Office failed to protect and serve peaceful protesters exercising their 1st Amendment rights. This department should not only be ashamed of itself it should be ashamed of the way it is helping to perpetuate the myth that the Black Lives Matter movement is a violent, and aggressive movement when it's been shown to be quite the opposite and we are the victims of violence at the hands of people who counter protest and demand our eradication.

What I personally observed yesterday at this rally and March was sickening. Instead of protecting the Marchers they allowed counter-protesters to come directly within our marching route and stand in the middle so that there would unintentional jostling by the Black Lives Matter protesters against these violent agitators. At no point did any of us feel protected. I personally did not. And to see a 12 year old girl get punched by a grown man without any arrests severely undermines my confidence in the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office as a whole.

AThe Dutchess County Sheriff's office's response or should I say intentional lack of response was reprehensible at best and criminal at worse.

I attempted to lodge a formal complaint against the Sheriff's Deputies who were present at the event, however there is no online ability to do so and as I am sure you can imagine I am terrified for my safety if I attempt to do so in person.

Respectfully submitted,

Luisa A. Fuentes, Esq. and former ADA for Orange County, NY

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 7:53 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Public forum to address public safety

file

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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From: Fiona Malamen <mobiusmassage@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 6:55 PM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Public forum to address public safety

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County legislators,

On July 18, rally for Black lives marchers encountered a dangerous situation created by the police who were legally obligated to protect them. Police allowed counterprotesters to occupy the route and multiple nonviolent marchers were assaulted, injured, spit at, received racial slurs and threatened. This is an egregious dereliction of duty. I'm calling on you, our electeds, to provide a PUBLIC forum for the Dutchess County Sheriff to address his department's devastating failure to fulfill these obligations.

Sincerely,
Fiona Malamen

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 7:53 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: BLM Rally March Pleasant Valley

file

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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From: debbiewright321 <debbiewright321@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 7:32 PM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>; countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; Page, Nick <npage@dutchessny.gov>; Edwards, Rebecca <redutchess6@gmail.com>
Subject: BLM Rally March Pleasant Valley

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Hello,

Below is an email that I sent to Sheriff Anderson.

I appreciate any and all oversight you may provide.

Debbie Wright

From: debbiewright321 <debbiewright321@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2020 5:16 PM
To: aanderson@dutchessny.gov <aanderson@dutchessny.gov>; dcsotips@gmail.com <dcsotips@gmail.com>
Cc: letitia.james@ag.ny.gov <letitia.james@ag.ny.gov>; nlgalbanyny@gmail.com <nlgalbanyny@gmail.com>; LowerHudsonValley <LowerHudsonValley@nyclu.org>; naacpnewburghhighlandfalls@gmail.com <naacpnewburghhighlandfalls@gmail.com>; donsagliano@dutchessny.gov <donsagliano@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: BLM Rally March Pleasant Valley

Sheriff Adrian H. Anderson
Dutchess County Sheriff
dcsotips@gmail.com

Sheriff Anderson -

My name is Debbie Wright. Yesterday I attended the Black Lives Matter Rally and March in Pleasant Valley, New York. Hundreds of counter-protesters appeared and remained aggressive, hostile and attacked and assaulted us during the march. The Sheriff's Deputies did absolutely nothing.

We were assured that the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office would protect us however not only did they do no such thing but there are multiple eyewitnesses of Sheriff's officers positively interacting with people who not only threatened violence against us but actually committed acts of harassment and assault in the third degree against many of our members including a 12 year old girl. One woman had her nose broken and the sheriff's deputy officer on an ATV actually fist bumped the person who punched her. No arrests were ever made.

I am shocked and appalled at the way the Sheriff's Office failed to protect and serve peaceful protesters exercising their 1st Amendment rights. This department should not only be ashamed of itself it should be ashamed of the way it is helping to perpetuate the myth that the Black Lives Matter movement is a violent, and aggressive movement when it's been shown to be quite the opposite and we are the victims of violence at the hands of people who counter protest and demand our eradication.

What I personally observed and experienced yesterday at this rally and March was sickening. Instead of protecting the Marchers they allowed counter-protesters to come directly within our marching route and stand in the middle so that there would unintentional jostling by the Black Lives Matter protesters against these violent agitators. At no point did any of us feel protected. I personally did not.

On two separate occasions a male counter protester approached me while I was marching in the march route. The first aggressor began screaming at me. I lifted my sign to shield myself and he punched my sign. A couple BLM volunteers pulled me away. The second aggressor came up behind me screaming. A Deputy Sheriff was next to me. I lifted my sign behind my head to shield myself and the aggressor hit my sign with a flag poel. I questioned the Deputy about the battery and he told me to move on. Again the BLM volunteers pulled me away.

As you can see I have cc'd Attorney General Letitia James, the New York State chapter of the ACLU, and the National Lawyers Guild Albany and I hope immediate action gets taken because the Dutchess County Sheriff's office's response or should I say intentional lack of response was reprehensible at best and criminal at worse.

I attempted to lodge a formal complaint against the Sheriff's Deputies who were present at the event, however there is no online ability to do so and as I am sure you can imagine I am terrified for my safety if I attempt to do so in person.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Wright

Hussing, Laura

From: Hannah K Giles <hkgiles@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 10:02 AM
To: CountyLegislature
Subject: Pleasant Valley oversight hearing

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Hannah Kozaka Giles. I grew up in Chatham, NY and now live in Kingston, NY.

On Saturday, July 18, 2020 I attended the Black Lives Matter Rally and March in Pleasant Valley, New York. It was a truly life-affirming, beautiful event planned by a local organizer and attended by a wide array of people. At the same time, hundreds of counter-protesters participating in a "Back the Blue/Conservative Party of Dutchess County" event appeared and put themselves into proximity with our event and remained aggressive and hostile throughout the march, even attacking and assaulting the marchers. The Sheriff's Deputies did nothing to truly protect the Black Lives Matter March, which had been planned well in advance and was assured of safety.

The Rally for Black Lives organizers were assured that the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office would protect us, however not only did they do no such thing but there are multiple eyewitnesses of Sheriff's officers positively interacting with people who not only threatened violence against us but actually committed acts of harassment and assault in the third degree against many of our members, including a 12 year old girl. One woman had her nose broken and the Sheriff's deputy officer on an ATV actually fist bumped the person who punched her. No arrests were made.

I am shocked and appalled at the way the Sheriff's Office failed to protect and serve peaceful protesters exercising their 1st Amendment rights. This department should not only be ashamed of itself it should be ashamed of the way it is helping to perpetuate the myth that the Black Lives Matter movement is a violent, and aggressive movement when it's been shown to be quite the opposite. We are the victims of violence at the hands of people who counter-protest, showing both verbal and physical aggression in the face of our peaceful, life-affirming rally.

What I personally observed at the Rally was that our group of Black Lives Matter marchers was peaceful, and repeatedly reminded that our purpose was the affirmation of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all, including Black people, Queer people, Trans people, Women, children, all groups who have been historically marginalized by policies and customs in this country. When the March began, and the group stepped away from the baseball field where we gathered and into the streets, we were met with sickening aggression, assault and violence. And, instead of protecting the marchers, the law enforcement officers present allowed counter-protesters to come directly within our marching route and stand in the middle so that there would be unintentional jostling by the Black Lives Matter protesters against these violent agitators. At no point did any of us feel protected. When the group finished the march along the pre-planned route, and eventually able to safely return to the baseball field, the people who needed the attention of our medic team were women, many Black women, and children - including a 12 year old girl who was punched by a grown man. While the counter-protestors had the right to be on the sides of the streets (although it certainly wasn't necessary for them to be out on the same day at the same time - and all the violence could have been avoided if they had just let our Rally and March happen without disruption) they purposely put themselves in the path of our march, and up against the bodies of our marchers and peacekeepers in aggressive ways. Stopping that was the job of the Dutchess County Sherrif's Department, and they failed. For all of that to occuer without any arrests severely undermines my confidence in the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office as a whole.

The **Dutchess County Legislature** needs to conduct a **public oversight hearing** and require the Dutchess County Sheriff to explain 1. What the plan was to ensure everyone's rights were protected and that they were safe? 2. What happened that allowed protestors and counter protesters to be in such close contact and WHY is was allowed to happen? 3. What they intend to do in the future to ensure this doesn't happen again? I strongly demand that the County Legislature establish a forum for the Sheriff publicly to explain his failure to protect the protesters.

We need to see immediate attention, investigation, and resolution on this important matter - for the safety and security of all our friends, family, and neighbors.

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Kozaka Giles

Hussing, Laura

From: Hannah St. Clair <hannahstclair01@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 10:32 AM
To: CountyLegislature
Cc: countyexec
Subject: Protestors were not protected on 7/18 at PV

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello Dutchess County Legislature,

My name is Hannah StClair. I attended a protest in Pleasant Valley on 7/18 with Black Lives Matter. Counter protestors became quite violent, shoving, punching, threatening, and verbally assaulting Black Lives Matter protestors.

I would like to know when the Dutchess County Legislature will be conducting a public oversight hearing requiring the Dutchess County Sheriff to explain: (a) What the plan was to ensure everyone's rights were protected and they were safe? (b) What happened that allowed protestors and counter-protestors to be in such close contact? (c) What they intend to do in the future to ensure this doesn't happen again?

I am requesting that the Sheriff publically explain the lack of protection for protestors and what will be changed for the coming protests.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing your response.

Hannah StClair

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:48 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Pleasant Valley Protest/Attacks

file

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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From: RoseAnn Fino <roseann.fino@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 10:19 AM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Pleasant Valley Protest/Attacks

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Hello,

I'm a resident of Dutchess County and I'm truly appalled by what happened last weekend in Pleasant Valley when peaceful protesters marching for Black lives were attacked by "Back the Blue" aggressors. I have seen countless videos and pictures and heard personal accounts of how racist, grown men attacked women and children who were simply marching for their right to live, and somehow no arrests were made. I'm wondering what the Dutchess County Legislature plans to do to make sure this does not happen in the future. Will there be a public forum with the Sheriff to discuss how our citizens were failed in being protected from these racist people?

Thank you for your time,

RoseAnn

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 12:04 PM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: counter-protestor violence in Pleasant Valley

file

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From: AddieRose Forstman <arforstman@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:52 AM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Cc: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: counter-protestor violence in Pleasant Valley

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It has come to my attention through friends and acquaintances that a group of counter-protestors infringed upon the Rally for Black Lives held in Pleasant Valley on July 18 -- some of them becoming violent, and charging at protestors as they walked by, bodyslamming and/or otherwise hitting them. While it seems there was a police presence that intervened to some degree, it is my understanding that the police obligation was to keep full physical separation between the two groups of protestors, therefore the counter-protest group (who were seen in video footage spewing sickening racist comments, in addition to making physical attacks) should never have been allowed anywhere near as close as they were, and really should have been directed to a separate area/route altogether.

Dutchess County Legislature should conduct a public oversight hearing requiring the Dutchess County Sheriff to explain ***what plans he had in place to ensure that everyone's safety and rights were protected,*** *and* ***why those plans failed to be enacted,*** *allowing the two groups of protestors to be in such close proximity that the* ***physical safety of the one group was jeopardized by the racist actions of members of the other group.*** Furthermore, the Sheriff should be asked to detail ***what they intend to do in the future to ensure this does not happen again.***

I find it interesting, shall we say, that where in similar instances across the country Black folks would be very likely to be immediately detained for such behavior as was exhibited in this case by counter-protestors, no such action was taken in Pleasant Valley. I am not implying that arrests are the solution, however this sort of precedent, being set across our nation, may well be allowing a large swath of people to feel very comfortable airing their penchant for racially charged violence, since there appear to be little to no consequences for their behavior.

I urge all of you who have the power to do so to think about the example that you are setting, and to consider what steps you might take to better and more truly, honestly, and faithfully serve the cause of justice, peace, and equality in our county and communities, thereby aiding in small steps the true growth of this nation in its dream of freedom.

None of us is too small to bring good into the world - personally, or politically.

Sincerely,
AddieRose Forstman
Red Hook, NY

--
Addie Rose Forstman, soprano
The Graduate Vocal Arts Program at Bard Conservatory, M.M.
Eastman School of Music, B.M.
www.addieroseforstman.com

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 7:50 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Pleasant Valley Rally

file

Carolyn Morris
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From: Elisabeth Kohomban <lkohomban@aidingchildrentogether.org>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 5:12 PM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Pleasant Valley Rally

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I attended the Pleasant Valley Rally for Black Lives on Saturday July 18th with two of my children. I was shocked by the violence instigated and perpetrated by the "Back the "Blue" counter-protestors. The violence that I saw went unchecked by the law enforcement present. In fact, as my kids and I were at the front of the march we witnessed the counter-protestors lined up across our marching route. It seemed that the marchers were led directly into this line of counter-protestors, setting up a situation whereby physical interaction would occur. This then was quickly escalated by the counter-protestors. My children and I were then harassed and intimidated by a group of white male counter-protestors as we walked by to our car. Law enforcement witnessed this and did nothing to discourage the counter-protestors who were harassing us.

The legislature should conduct a **public oversight hearing** and require the Dutchess County Sheriff to explain 1. What the plan was to ensure everyone's rights were protected and that they were safe? 2. What happened that

allowed protestors and counter protesters to be in such close contact? 3. What they intend to do in the future to ensure this doesn't happen again?

Feel free to contact me for further details about our experience.

Thank you.

Lisa Kohomban

President/Executive Director
A.C.T. - Aiding Children Together, Inc.
www.aidingchildrentogether.org

Hussing, Laura

From:	Morris, Carolyn
Sent:	Monday, July 27, 2020 8:14 AM
To:	Wager, Leigh
Cc:	Hussing, Laura
Subject:	FW: Sheriff dept. actions, Pleasant Valley

File

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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From: Debi Duke <debiduke22@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:00 AM
To: County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>
Cc: Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>; Letitia.james@ag.ny.gov
Subject: Sheriff dept. actions, Pleasant Valley

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Dear legislators,

Please conduct a public oversight hearing regarding actions by the sheriff's department during the July 17 Rally for Black Lives in Pleasant Valley. ACLU monitors reported that police failed to keep counter protesters fully separate from the Black Lives Matter group, which had the initial permission to demonstrate. The lack of physical separation led to altercations that should not have occurred. The county is fortunate that no one was seriously hurt, but more should have been done to protect BLM protesters.

Please require the Dutchess County Sheriff to explain (1) How the department had planned to ensure everyone's rights were protected and how they planned to keep everyone safe; (2) What happened that allowed two protests -- a protest and a counterprotest -- to be in such close contact; and (3) What the department intends to do in the future to ensure this doesn't happen again.

Debi Duke
845-876-4461
845-242-4121
debiduke22@gmail.com

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 2:26 PM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Problems at Pleasant Valley March for Black Lives
Attachments: Screenshot_20200721-164120.png

File

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From: Matthew Carroll <politicalmattc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 2:18 PM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>; countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; Sagliano, Don <dsagliano@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Problems at Pleasant Valley March for Black Lives

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I attended a March in support of black lives in Pleasant Valley, New York on July 18th at 2pm that was organized weeks in advance to meet at Cady Recreation Park. Then a few days before our event The Conservative party created a counter-protest that started one hour earlier than our previously scheduled March.

We were told that the counter-protesters would stay on the sidewalk so we could march down the street that was closed off for us. When the march started we were walking down the street and the counter-protesters made a wall of

people that we were forced to walk through bringing us into direct contact with them causing a confrontation! The Conservative Party wanted to suppress our freedom of speech & assembly.

The police basically did nothing, they were not in control of the situation. The police allowed the counter-protesters to create a wall of bodies ahead of us that we had to walk through. I saw grown men go off the sidewalk into the street to yell, harass and assault people. People were cursing at us, calling us Antifa, waving Trump flags in our faces, people spit on us, people were pushed and a woman was punched in the face and had a bloody nose! I also heard a 12 year old was hit. It was lawlessness and there seems to be more information coming out everyday.

After we passed the counter-protesters and got back to the park where we started from, the counter-protesters actually followed us back there and were waiting outside the park like psycho stalkers; they were like animals ready to pounce. When I went to go to my car to leave, a police officer told me to check around because they had reports of nails being thrown on the ground.

The day could have been much worse because of the lack of police presence but luckily we outnumbered the counter-protesters 2 to 1 according to the Poughkeepsie Journal.

The Dutchess County Legislature should conduct a public oversight hearing and require the Dutchess County Sheriff to explain:
1. What the plan was to ensure everyone's rights were protected and that they were safe?
2. What happened that allowed marchers and counter-protesters to be in such close contact?
3. What they intend to do in the future to ensure this doesn't happen again?

I request that the Dutchess County Legislature establish a forum where the Sheriff explain why there was a failure to protect the public that day.

Finally, what I'll say is anyone with any foresight can see that these marches/rallies/protests are going nowhere anytime soon and if anything will be increasingly occurring. Going forward it is of the utmost importance that the Dutchess County Sheriff guarantees Freedom of Speech & Assembly without oppression.

Thank you for your time.

*(I've attached a picture from the Poughkeepsie Journal that reports the counter-protesters blocking our path that day as the march started. If you look you'll see a man in a wheelchair! Why in the world would the police let a handicapped man in a wheelchair be in that position??)

--
Matthew Carroll
Poughkeepsie, NY
845-242-5259

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 11:16 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Problems at Pleasant valley March for BLM

File

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
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Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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-----Original Message-----
From: Bob Dorn <bluewizard52@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 11:10 AM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>; countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; Sagliano, Don <dsagliano@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Problems at Pleasant valley March for BLM

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Members of the Legislature, County Executive

I want to totally concur with my friend who also was the BLM march on July 18. I wrote an Opinion letter to the Poughkeepsie Journal which included my experience at the march/protest.
Let me just say at the start, that no protestor in support of Black Lives matter and the organizer, was aggressive, and we had monitors of the march for that purpose. I wrote in the LTE

I, myself ran into a line of 'Blue lives' supporters who were lined up across the street in front of me, and my fellow marchers. Our march security tried their best to keep us from these men, mostly, who obviously wanted a confrontation. My Question: Where were police while this was happening. They didn't seem to exactly 'intervene' to prevent the violence against the peaceful group.

I must add there was an intruder, a particularly aggressive woman, I 'll name a 'Karen', who somehow got behind gates into the area where the crowds were after the march. Obviously , she was approached, one young woman, very upset about this, confronted the 'Karen', others calmed her down. I assume the 'Karen' was escorted outside the gathering field area.
I agree with the demands stated by Matthew Carroll , as follows, "The Dutchess County Legislature should conduct a public oversight hearing and require the Dutchess County Sheriff to explain:
1. What the plan was to ensure everyone's rights were protected and that they were safe?
2. What happened that allowed marchers and counter-protesters to be in such close contact?
3. What they intend to do in the future to ensure this doesn't happen again?

I request that the Dutchess County Legislature establish a forum where the Sheriff explain why there was a failure to protect the public that day."

Respectfully

Robert Dorn
(aka Vankleeck), FB
15 laura lane, Red Hook NY 12571

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 5:44 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Request for a Public Oversight Hearing

file

Carolyn Morris
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From: Orr, Emily <emily.orr@sunydutchess.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 5:00 PM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Request for a Public Oversight Hearing

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hi,
This is Emily Orr. I'm emailing to request that the the Dutchess County Legislature establish a forum for the Sheriff to publicly explain his failure to protect protesters at the July 18th Black Lives Matter rally and march in Pleasant Valley, NY. I demand the Dutchess County Sheriff explain

a) What the plan was to ensure everyone's rights were protected and that they were safe?

b) What happened that allowed protesters and counter protesters to be in such close contact?

c) What they intend to do in the future to ensure this doesn't happen again?

The lack of protection at this event was disturbing and unacceptable. As one of the Black Lives Matter protesters I can attest that there was no separation between us and the counter protesters that were clearly instituting intense racism, hate and violence. Many were injured including a child. The police present at this event did nothing to protect participants of a peaceful march from this racial attack. I demand an explanation and police accountability.

Best,
Emily Orr

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 5:29 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Agenda Item for DC Leg on 8/6/2020

File

Carolyn Morris
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From: A Murray Johnson <amurj@aim.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 8:10 PM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Cc: Edwards, Rebecca <redutchess6@gmail.com>; Garito, Faye <fgarito@dutchessny.gov>; Sagliano, Don <dsagliano@dutchessny.gov>; Pulver, Gregg <gpulver@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item for DC Leg on 8/6/2020

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I would like to ask the Legislature how they are going to ensure that Sheriff Anderson's investigation into the Pleasant Valley March on July 18th will be fair.. Isn't the Sheriff the county lead for Trump's Re-election committee? Weren't the people committing the assaults carrying Trump signs? Didn't law enforcement fail to protect members of the march? Didn't a woman get her nose broken with law enforcement doing nothing? I sent an email to Don Sagliano, Faye Garito and Gregg Pulver. Only Don responded but he basically said it was up to the Sheriff. He did not seem interested in ensuring a fair and non-retaliatory investigation would be done. Faye and Gregg? Nothing. No response. Please ask the Legislature what their plans are to protect their constituents. Oh, and why don't they return their email?

Ann Johnson

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 12:11 PM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Open Forum Needed to Address Racial Justice

File

Carolyn Morris
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From: Rosendale Accountability Committee Landing Zone <rac.landing@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 8:43 AM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Open Forum Needed to Address Racial Justice

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To:

Legislators Rebecca Edwards and Nick Page, minority leaders
Legislator Brennan Kearney
Legislator Barrington Atkins
Legislator Hannah Black
Legislator Craig Brendli
Legislator Randy Johnson
Legislator Brennan Kearney
Legislator Giancarlo Llaverias

Legislator Kris Munn
Legislator Frits Zernike

Dear Legislator Kearney:

We are writing you and your fellow Legislators out of concern, at best and horror at worst, over your open letter to Chairman Pulver as posted on your Facebook page.

While we are grateful that you are seeking to have a discussion about the events of July 18, 2020 in Pleasant Valley during a peaceful rally and protest in support of Black Lives, we are wondering several things:

1. What took so long?
We, the citizens, stakeholders, witnesses, victims, and people on the right side of history, have been screaming about the injustice of that day since July 18. We have posted videos and photographs, demanded to speak with senators, legislators, the Sheriff and other officials. We have written letters to the Legislators of the County, the Attorney General's Office, the NAACP, the National Lawyers Guild, the NYCLU and the Sheriff, himself. We have started the process of going to the NYS Troopers at Salt Point to have victims of violations, misdemeanors and possible felonies make the statements and attempt to obtain justice within our present system. What took you all so long to speak out?

2. What are you planning to do next?
We the citizens, stakeholders, witnesses, victims, and those of us on the RIGHT side of history demand action NOW. We DEMAND to be HEARD at the Legislator meetings - not through emails but through active participation. How DARE our voices be cut off or restricted at this critical juncture. How DARE the voices of those hurt, humiliated, harassed and threatened by rabid, drunk, violent men and women, not be DEMANDED to be heard. How DARE those Sheriff's Deputies who stood around and did nothing while women and children were assaulted IN THEIR FACES AND VERY PRESENCE not be IMMEDIATELY named, publicly, disciplined, publicly, and made an example of as how NOT to be law enforcement officials in Dutchess County or anywhere in New York State. What do those Legislators named on this letter intend to do about this NOW?

We DEMAND AN OPEN FORUM WITH THE DUTCHESS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE. WE DEMAND TO KNOW WHY THOSE OF US WHO ATTENDED THE PROTEST WERE NOT PROTECTED. WE DEMAND TO KNOW THE NAMES AND DISCIPLINARY RECORDS OF THOSE SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES IN ATTENDANCE AT THE EVENT WHO STOOD AROUND, WATCHING ORDNANCE VIOLATIONS (open containers, public lewdness, public nudity, and public drunkenness), HARASSMENTS, DISORDERLY CONDUCT, ASSAULT, ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, AND HATE CRIMES, DID NOTHING BUT FIST BUMP THESE ASSAILANTS AND BARBEQUE WITH THEM AFTER WE LEFT. WE DEMAND THOSE SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES WHO DID NOTHING WITH CHAOS CONTROLLED AROUND THEM HAVE NOT BEEN DISCIP[LINED, REMOVED OR PLACED ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE SINCE JULY 18, 2020.

WE DEMAND THE RESIGNATION OF SHERIFF ANDERSON, A KNOWN SUPPORTER OF DONALD TRUMP; WE BELIEVE SHERIFF ANDERSON'S INTENTIONAL LACK OF RESPONSE AT AND TO THIS EVENT IS INDICATIVE OF HIS PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL STANCE REGARDING BLACK LIVES AND HOW THOSE BLACK LIVES SHOULD BE TREATED AND SUPPORTED AND PROTECTED WITHIN DUTCHESS COUNTY.

3. What about Executive Order 203?
https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-203-new-york-state-police-reform-and-reinvention-collaborative

We the citizens, stakeholders, witnesses, victims, and those of us on the RIGHT side of history demand action NOW. Governor Cuomo has given New York State a gift in terms of the above legislation. WHAT ARE LEGISLATORS DOING TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE?

At this time, Dutchess County is APPOINTING people onto a generalized 203 "committee" with plans to oversee all municipalities and their respective police departments. Upon information and belief, this Committee will include Sheriff Anderson (see, above) and will be used to DIRECT the changes to policies and procedures of local, municipal-based police departments around the County,. This is in total contradiction to the Governor's Legislative intent. EO 203 references the police agencies that are REQUIRED TO HAVE THEIR OWN INDIVIDUAL 203 COMMITTEES by stating those covered under the law are those agencies identified in CPL 1.20 which include, but are not limited to: State Police, County Sheriff's Offices, City, Town and Village Police Departments. By attempting to have "one committee to rule them all" it is clear Dutchess County in not interested in real change, but merely to effectuate the bare minimum amount of change to remain compliant with EO 203.

WE DEMAND TO KNOW WHO HAS ALREADY BEEN APPOINTED TO THE DUTCHESS COUNTY EO 203 COMMITTEE AND WE DEMAND TO HAVE A SAY THOSE WHO WILL BE REVIEWING THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND LOOKING TO EFFECTUATE CHANGE.

WE DEMAND THE LEGISLATORS WORK WITHIN EACH OF THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS TO ENSURE EO 203 IS STRICTLY COMPLIED WITH AND ADHERED TO AND WE DEMAND OPEN CONVERSATIONS ABOUT WHO SHOULD BE INCLUDED ON THOSE COMMITTEES.

WE DEMAND ALL EO 203 COMMITTEES WITHIN DUTCHESS COUNTY BE COMPRISED OF THE FOLLOWING PARTICIPANTS:

1. THE CHIEF OF POLICE/OIC OF EACH 1.20 LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY FOR THE MUNICIPALITY (IF A MUNICIPALITY HAS SEVERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THAT PATROL WITHIN ITS CONFINES, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH AGENCY SHALL BE PRESENT).
2. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
3. A BLACK WOMAN
4. A BLACK MAN
5 A BLACK YOUTH (BETWEEN 15 - 21 YEARS OF AGE)
6. A MEMBER OF THE LATINX COMMUNITY
7. A MEMBER OF THE LGBTQUIA COMMUNITY
8. AN AREA BUSINESS OWNER - MALE/
9. AT LEAST ONE (1) VICTIM OF A VIOLENT CRIME (TO BE OF ANY AGE, RACE, GENDER IDENTITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, ETHNICITY)

Legislators, we have begged, we have written, we have rallied, we have marched and now we have been beaten, harassed, spit on, called racial slurs and victimized by a system and those within that system sworn to protect us. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

WHAT DO PLAN TO DO AND WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO ALLOW THE COMMUNITY TO BE A PART OF THE CHANGE?

Elizabeth Render
RAC.Landing@gmail.com

Hussing, Laura

From: Luisa Fuentes <luisaafuentes@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 2:35 PM
To: CountyLegislature
Subject: The Peaceful Rally and March for Black Lives in Pleasant Valley on July 18, 2020

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To: CountyLegislature@DutchessNY.gov

Legislators Rebecca Edwards and Nick Page, minority leaders
Legislator Brennan Kearney
Legislator Barrington Atkins
Legislator Hannah Black
Legislator Craig Brendli
Legislator Randy Johnson
Legislator Brennan Kearney
Legislator Giancarlo Llaverias
Legislator Kris Munn
Legislator Frits Zernike

Dear Legislator Kearney:

We are writing you and your fellow Legislators out of concern, at best and horror at worst, over your open letter to Chairman Pulver as posted on your Facebook page.
While we are grateful that you are seeking to have a discussion about the events of July 18, 2020 in Pleasant Valley during a peaceful rally and protest in support of Black Lives, we are wondering several things:
1. WHAT TOOK SO LONG?
We, the citizens, stakeholders, witnesses, victims, and people on the right side of history, have been screaming about the injustice of that day since July 18. We have posted videos and photographs, demanded to speak with senators, legislators, the Sheriff and other officials. We have written letters to the Legislators of the County, the Attorney General's Office, the NAACP, the National Lawyers Guild, the NYCLU and the Sheriff, himself. We have started the process of going to the NYS Troopers at Salt Point to have victims of violations, misdemeanors and possible felonies make the statements and attempt to obtain justice within our present system. What took you all so long to speak out?
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4. WHAT ABOUT EXECUTIVE ORDER 203?
https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-203-new-york-state-police-reform-and-reinvention-collaborative
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Legislators, we have begged, we have written, we have rallied, we have marched and now we have been beaten, harassed, spit on, called racial slurs and victimized by a system and those within that system sworn to protect us. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. STOP TALKING AND DO SOMETHING.

WHAT DO PLAN TO DO AND WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO ALLOW THE COMMUNITY TO BE A PART OF THE CHANGE?

Hussing, Laura

From: Julia Cash <lala.cash@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 5:27 PM
To: CountyLegislature
Subject: Events in Pleasant Valley against Rally for Black Lives

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Legislators Rebecca Edwards and Nick Page, minority leaders
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WHAT DO PLAN TO DO AND WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO ALLOW THE COMMUNITY TO BE A PART OF THE CHANGE?

Signed,

Julia Cash
July 31st, 2020

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 2:37 PM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Comment to Sheriff Anderson

Please file.

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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-----Original Message-----
From: Cat Greenstreet <catgreenstreet@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 2:05 PM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Comment to Sheriff Anderson

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear County Legislators,

I was pleased to hear that Sheriff Anderson was coming to report to you about the recent Black Lives Matter demonstration and Back the Blue counter demonstration in Pleasant Valley, which got unpleasant to say the least. I was alarmed and deeply disturbed as I watched video footage of peaceful protesters being harangued by their neighbors and told to "go home," White men with hatred in their faces carrying sticks threateningly circle a young White man, and a physical confrontation as the Back the Blue protesters moved to block the forward motion of Black Lives Matter protesters, which the Sheriff's deputies finally had to disrupt. I wonder if the Sheriff has considered how this might have been better organized, so protestors were (and are) protected

regardless of whether we agree or disagree with their message. This is not a partisan issue: this is a democracy issue. It also made me wonder if there are plans in place in the Sheriff's office and among the Legislature of how to respond to demonstrations or worse following November's election.

Thank you,

Cat (Carol) Greenstreet

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 2:08 PM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: August 6th presentation regarding Pleasant Valley rally Public Comment

Please file.

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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From: Elisabeth Kohomban <lkohomban@aidingchildrentogether.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 12:46 PM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: August 6th presentation regarding Pleasant Valley rally Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

I am writing to express my concern that members of the public are not allowed to participate in the Public Safety accounting by Sheriff Anderson regarding the Black Lives Matter Protest in Pleasant Valley.

I was present at this rally along with two of my children. We were towards the front of the march, and I witnessed how the angry and aggressive "Back the Blue" counter-protestors were allowed to line up across the scheduled and approved route for our march without any intervention from law enforcement present. In fact, it appeared to me that a police officer on an ATV led our peaceful march directly into the line of violent "Back the Blue" counter-protestors, setting up a situation whereby physical engagement was likely in order to continue on the route. This led to immediate escalation by the counter-protestors, who hurled racial and homophobic slurs and physically attacked BLM marchers. When my children and I returned to our car, "Back the Blue" counter-protestors were allowed to swarm our vehicle and verbally harass us. Multiple law enforcement

officers witnessed this, and failed to intervene appropriately. I no longer have any faith in local law enforcement. Failure to hold our law enforcement officials accountable for their actions undermines public trust in these systems and jeopardizes public safety.

Lisa Kohomban

President/Executive Director
A.C.T. - Aiding Children Together, Inc.
www.aidingchildrentogether.org

Hussing, Laura

From: Wager, Leigh on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 4:05 PM
To: Hussing, Laura
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: FW: Fire Andson

file

Leigh Wager
Deputy Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113
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From: n canaan <ncanaan@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 9:38 AM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Fire Andson

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To the county legislatures

Anderson's continual racist attitude is fueling and endorsing the dangerous violent display of hatred by white-supremacists here in dutchess county. The kind of people who point loaded weapons at protestors. The kind of people who use violence to vent their own hatred.

Anderson must be fired for dereliction of duty.

N canaan
Beacon ny

Hussing, Laura

From: Wager, Leigh on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 4:03 PM
To: Hussing, Laura
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: FW: Justice for Pleasant Valley Protestors

file

Leigh Wager
Deputy Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113
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From: Kyle Conway <conway79.kc@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 11:52 AM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Justice for Pleasant Valley Protestors

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

To the Legislator of Dutchess County:

I am disheartened and appalled by the braggadocious nature I witnessed in the video of a man advertising he dragged a woman down by her hair during her participation in a peaceful protest in Pleasant Valley. In today's climate of tumultuous police relations with the citizens they are sworn to protect and as a concern American citizen who believes in the values that make this country great, it is imperative that justice is enacted accordingly and not arbitrarily. The police are here to serve and protect every citizen at all times. For this man, and others who acted in such a vile fashion, to not receive the penalty that complements his crime is a sign of neglect from the law enforcement officials of Pleasant Valley specifically and Dutchess County generally. The paucity of police protection for any of American's citizens is the reason for the current calls for these protest today. Tyranny is intolerable in this country.

This is a demand for justice for everyone who desires to not have their rights infringed. People should not feel insecure for their safety when they are utilizing their rights guaranteed to them our Constitution, especially when there is police presence.

This injustice took place in your county; what are you going to do about it? How do you and will you uphold the principles of your position as law enforcement official? How will you hold your Sheriff and local police officers accountable for their marginal security efforts? How will you stand for justice? Can you truly claim you do not tolerate injustice when there is video of a man proudly proclaiming he serves justice as he deems appropriate in your county? Is this man in the red hat a dedicated police or peace officer whose actions you stand by? Or is he a person who proudly commits crime in front of your law enforcement agents? This should be intolerable to you.

There will be action to ensure that all who travel through your county will have the protection garunteed to them under the law. Help people believe that the law is on their side again while we truly make America great for all its citizens. I should feel secure that I will be protected by the law any where in Dutchess county. I implore you to choose the principles you swore to uphold.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,
A concerned American citizen.

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 5:57 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Public Comment For Public Safety Meeting 8/6

file

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
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From: Christopher Quiñones <christopherquinones@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 12:05 AM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Public Comment For Public Safety Meeting 8/6

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

My Name is Christopher Quiñones and I am a resident on 460 Pine Hill Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12564.

I and my family attended the Black Lives Matter Rally on July 18th and witnessed the actions that occurred. My questions and statements are directed to Sheriff (Butch) Anderson and his review.

Was the scope of the investigation limited to criminal activity? Does it explain why counter-protestors from the dutchess conservative party were allowed by dutchess county officers and NY state troopers in attendance **to stand in the way** of a permitted and lawful peaceful protest, potentially inciting a safety issue?

As I mentioned, I was in attendance with my family and children. I was there to teach my sons that when they see injustice in the world that it is their RIGHT to protest and help enact reform. Protest is one such method.

I was not shocked by how aggressive counter-protestors were (some of them my neighbors here). What I was TRULY shocked by was how counter-protesters were seemingly ALLOWED to directly interfere and impede the permitted path by law enforcement present thereby putting the safety of all present at risk. I witnessed volunteer peacekeepers in neon green vests putting themselves directly in between potentially volatile altercations while Sherrif and Trooper's presence seemingly took a secondary position.

It certainly was a learning moment for family & children who witnessed this first hand. They truly understand now why reforms are necessary. Why Pleasant Valley? This is why.

I would appreciate a reply to my question. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.
845.418.1531

Sincerely,

Christopher Lee Quñones

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 5:56 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: July 18, 2020 Protest in Pleasant Valley

file

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Clerk
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22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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From: Jessica Mari <jessica.a.mari@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 12:20 AM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: July 18, 2020 Protest in Pleasant Valley

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To whom it may concern,

I participated in the Rally for Black Lives on the above mentioned date in Pleasant Valley. It was my understanding that threats were made against our well being and we would be protected by the Dutchess County Sheriffs and State Troopers.

What I saw was bedlam. A protester was punched in the face and got her nose broke. Children were pushed to the ground. Racial slurs were being hurled through the air.

And our protection? Severely lacking. How were the counter protesters allowed to a) block our March down Main Street and b) be allowed to rush our line and put their hands on people? On children??

Did the officers who were meant to protect us side with the BtB agitators?

I believe everyone has a right to protest, which includes BtB supporters. However, I don't understand how putting your hands on people who have a PERMITTED right to march backs your "cause." Those folks showed up for a fight (clearly illustrated by the threats of gunfire and driving into our crowd, which was reported to the town), and the police were either woefully unprepared or fell into the misconception that if you are for Black Lives you are anti-cop, so the officers let their personal opinions dictate how they would act.

I myself minored in criminal justice in college. A professor told us the greatest attribute a police officer needs to have is integrity and to protect those who need it most. That did not happen on July 18th. Even after it was promised.

Sincerely,
Jessica

Hussing, Laura

From: Wager, Leigh on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 4:02 PM
To: Hussing, Laura
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: FW: 7/18 Protest in Pleasant Valley NY

file

Leigh Wager
Deputy Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
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-----Original Message-----
From: Allan Mcclain <allanmcclain@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 1:18 PM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: 7/18 Protest in Pleasant Valley NY

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Dear Legislature,

I attended the protest on 7/18 in Pleasant Valley. I was aware that there would be counter protesters. What I didn't know was that the police would do nothing to protect the women and children that where there. The counter protesters were Allowed to stand in the middle of the street(As seen on video), and we were made to go aound them as they yelled, spit, and hit passers by with impunity(as seen on video). I witnessed numerous men that I can identify assaulting women and children. I have been to numerous protests, and have seen the large police presence at those protests, and they didn't have counter protesters. I'm not sure why the amount of police present wasn't a larger group. I also question why the counter protesters were allowed to not only assault the protesters, but they were allowed to follow us as we walked up the street away from them, yelling obscenities while police fist bumped them and laughed. I have a few questions for the sheriff:

Why were the counter protesters allowed in the street?

Why haven't any arrest been made?

Why were we forced to go around them?

Why wasn't more done to prevent them from coming in to the street?

Why weren't more officers assigned to the event?

Why weren't more state police assigned to the protest?

After reviewing the video there is only one conclusion I know you'll come to. I hope and pray your investigation Will give the victims justice. Feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions or need me to identify any of the suspects. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Regretfully,
Allan McClain

Hussing, Laura

From: Wager, Leigh on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 3:56 PM
To: Hussing, Laura
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: FW: Failure to act at March for Black Lives

file

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From: Julia Cash <lala.cash@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 3:18 PM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Failure to act at March for Black Lives

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Good Morning,

I was in attendance at The March for Black Lives in Pleasant Valley, NY on 7/18. I was not surprised at all by the voilent and racist behavior exhibited by the counter protestors on 7/18, it is sad but this behavior was expected and we were told to stay peaceful even in the face of the harrassment and violence that occurred. What i am out right enraged about and disgusted by is how the police stood by and actively allowed and condoned the violence that occured esspecially when they had promised to protect and keep the peace. In one of the videos it clearly shows one of the police officer fist bumping someone from the counter protest who had used physical voilence against a peaceful protestor. There were many people from the peaceful protest injured and worse. If the police had done what they promised it would have not occured. The police allowed the counter protestors to block the road as we started to march and the two police officers leading us on four wheelers lead us directly into these people, who intentions were to do harm to peaceful protestors. The behavior by the police department was unacceptable and they were not doing what they had promised, quite in fact the opposite. They need to be held accountable for the voilence and rascim that's occured at the March for Black Lives, as they did nothing to stop it.

Sincerely

-Julia Cash

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 6:49 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: July 18, 2020 March for Black Lives in Pleasant Valley

file

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
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From: Lori Gross <deeperwellmassage@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 6:39 PM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: July 18, 2020 March for Black Lives in Pleasant Valley

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Members of the Dutchess County Legislature,
Please include this letter in the public comments at your Safety Meeting on Thursday 8/6/20. I attended the March for Black Lives in Pleasant Valley on 7/18/20. We had a lovely rally on the ball field prior to our March where numerous speakers created a wonderful unifying and uplifting feeling among those of us there. It was very clearly stated that we were all there to exercise our right to free speech and peaceful protest. We all pledged to be 100% peaceful and to not engage with any of the counter protesters if they were hostile. We also were assured that the police were there to protect us and maintain a safe atmosphere for our March. Unfortunately, this was not the way it played out at all. It actually felt like the police simply ignored the hostility and violence of the counter protesters which clearly emboldened them and put all of us at risk for the scary scene that ensued. The counter protesters, who were almost exclusively unmasked...creating a very real public health risk... jumped off the sidewalks and right into the middle of the street

where we were marching. They were screaming in our faces, spitting at us, calling us racial slurs and wielding obscene gestures as well as physically pushing and hitting people. As is well documented in our videos and photos, every single one of us was wearing a mask and we were doing our best to keep the March moving forward without engaging in their violent attack on us with no help from the police. Unfortunately, a woman had her nose broken and a 12 year old child was pushed to the ground by an angry male counter protester. All of this could have been prevented if the police maintained a safe distance between the counter protesters and our peaceful Marchers. The police officers on duty, along with their supervisors and the violent counter protesters should all be held fully responsible for what felt like a total set-up and trap. I would appreciate a reply to this letter stating how you will be addressing this situation.
Sincerely,
Lori Gross
High Falls, NY

"As soon as a child is born, they should be issued a dog and a banjo"
-Charles Schulz
"Being generous of spirit is a wonderful way to live."
- Pete Seeger

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 6:48 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Subject: FW: Pleasant Valley Rally

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
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From: Stacie Woodard <slw617@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 6:53 PM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Pleasant Valley Rally

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Good Evening,
I am writing you today to express my anger, heartache and frustration regarding the horrible event that occurred on Saturday July 18th 2020 in Pleasant Valley N.Y. There has been tons of media coverage about this however so much is inaccurate and I felt it was necessary to give my side. Let me start by saying this rally was not put on by the BLM. It was actually organized by a man named Royal Parker who has lived in Pleasant Valley for the last 16 years. This rally was put together with nothing but peace and love in mind. Royal along with many of us are not against Good police. However, we are against the injustice that African Americans face every day and the broken system that is in desperate need for reform.
I have sat and thought about the events that took place at the March in Pleasant Valley over and over again the last few weeks. I have spoken to many people, shared stories, watched videos, read posts and news articles. Now we all know that there is always two sides to a story. But to the people believing that the group I was with created the violence you are mistaken. Let me explain. I was at the very front of the March with my 7year old daughter, directly behind the deputies who were on the ATV's. As we approached the first traffic light a group of counter protesters began to flood the street. As the ATV'S passed

through, the counter protesters [99% who were unmasked] formed a barricade across the road, completely blocking our path and separating us from the ATVs. There were no other officers in my sight. As we approached, they began yelling racial slurs, puffing out their chests and clenching their fists. I was terrified. At that moment I was angry with myself for thinking this would be peaceful enough to bring my child to. Unfortunately there was no safe way to get out, as in front of us was a mob of evil and behind us were 400 people marching forward. I grabbed my daughter, pulled her close and pushed through. I was met with much resistance. I felt spit on the side of my face, I was called a n*****lover and told to go f*** myself. But we made it out better than most. As I pushed through I turned around and saw the most disgusting, heartbreaking scene I have EVER seen in my life. Men and women, who were supposed to be backing law enforcement, were the ones creating violence. At that moment it was our peace keepers who were putting themselves in the middle, trying to de-escalate the situation and in turn they were physically assaulted. As we approached the second light we met the next group ready to create a violent confrontation. The same ensued. At this point I did see a few law enforcement officers but they still were not holding up their end. They gave their word we would be kept safe. We were lied to. They were strewn about looking completely lost. At this time the counter protesters began coming off the sidewalk shoving people, spitting and throwing around racial slurs. It was at this point that an older woman approached and put her middle finger in my seven year old daughter's face. SEVEN YEARS OLD. I was enraged, but I stood by my beliefs and remained peaceful. I grabbed my daughter closer and caught up to the ATVS and that is where I stayed. This was the point where our group was separated. I cannot speak on anything that happened behind me but at that moment I looked to my left and saw a woman bleeding from her nose as a man poured water on her face to wash away the blood. She was a peace keeper. A peace keeper who tried to de-escalate a situation but instead a man laughed and punched her in the face. But with anger in her eyes she held her head and continued forward. There power in her was remarkable.
I have never felt more vulnerable, and more scared in my life and I am sure that does not amount to the fear that people of color face every day. As we made a left and walked up the hill we were able to breath a little as there were not many counter protesters there. However there was one guy who told myself and the 2 young ladies next to me that we were a disgrace and stupid if we thought "they" would ever March for us. We ignored him.
As we made our way around I prepared myself to walk back into the attacks. As we walked parallel to Acme a car began slamming on its horn from the parking lot. Two women and a man charged into the crowd screaming belligerently and swinging. At that moment I cut across to avoid the attack and continued on. As we turned back onto rt. 44 I looked at the sidewalk to my right where the counter protesters had been standing for hours and there were beer cans thrown all over the grass. And again we were met with violent angry men. It wasn't until we rounded that corner back on to 44 that the law enforcement began to form a line between us and them. At that point I walked as fast as I could with my daughter in tow. We made it back to the ball field where I sat in complete confusion of what just happened. About 10 minutes after our group arrived is when the group that got separated from us returned. But they were not alone. Right behind them were the counter protesters who followed them back and tried to come into the field. At that point the law enforcement wearing SWAT gear created a human barricade. It was the first time I had seen them. It wasn't until that moment that I felt they did what they were supposed to do. It was at that moment that I finally felt a little safe. But it was too late. They failed to protect us when we needed it the most. Please don't get me wrong, I have the upmost respect for law enforcement. I believe in supporting good police. I have friends that I hold close who are on the job and I KNOW that they are good people. But in those moments, whether it was a lack of training or not, it felt like we were led straight into an ambush.
This was NOT what it was supposed to be!!!! It was supposed to be peaceful. It was supposed to bring attention to the inequalities that people of color continue to deal with every day. And honestly what it actually did was shed light on pure racism within the community.
I am sure people are judging me because I brought my young daughter to this rally. Honestly, I get it. I am grateful that she was oblivious to most things that occurred. I am my going to try to defend myself. What I am going to do and continue to do is draw attention to the ignorance, violence and racism I saw that day. I am going to continue to stand up for what I believe in. I am going to continue to stand up for my children. Im going to be their voice until they are old enough to use theirs, and then we will use our voices together. This is NOT right!!! This is NOT fair!!! I am heartbroken and I am ANGRY!! We should NOT be afraid for our children because of the color of their skin. It is 2020 NOT the 1960's!! And until there is equality, until we do not have to fear our children will be targeted, discriminated against or killed I will continue to speak out even if others don't agree. I can promise you I will NOT step down, I will NOT be complacent and I damn sure will NOT be quiet!!!
- Stacie Woodard -An Angry Mother

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 6:48 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Saturday 7/18/20

file

Carolyn Morris
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22 Market Street
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From: Benjamin Basile <benbasilebass@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 11:30 PM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Saturday 7/18/20

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Dear Legislators,
My name is Benjamin Basile. I have lived in the Hudson Valley my entire life, this is my home. I used to work in Pleasant Valley while in college, driving an ice cream truck through its neighborhoods.

Saturday 7/18/20 I attended the "Rally for Black Lives" and march in Pleasant Valley. The Sheriff's Deputies were too late to avoid conflict, they absolutely should have been better prepared. Our march stepped off and was peaceful for a total of 120 seconds. I was in the front of the march, I watched the officers drive their four wheelers around the counter protesters. The officers squeezed the four wheelers through the counter protesters but did not tell them to get out of the way. The counter protesters, who stepped off the sidewalk into the middle of Route 44, did this to directly block the march route. They succeeded in disrupting the march because the officers let them do it.

What ensued was complete chaos. I had never in my life been surrounded by so much hate and violence. Many aggressive counter protesters were screaming in my face, all while not wearing masks. People were hurt, people were crying, the woman next to me had a bloody nose, people were thrown onto the ground, pushed and shoved. I walked down route 44 with tears in my eyes. We were assured that the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office would protect us. And they failed.
How do you plan to respond to the event?

How will you make sure this does not happen again?

Dutchess County Native,
-Benjamin Basile

-

Ben Basile
Electric & Double Bassist
1-845-489-0360
BenBasile.com
BenBasileBass@gmail.com
Pronouns: he/him

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 10:14 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Police inaction at March for Black Lives Comment

File

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From: Chris Victor <ceevictor@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 9:32 AM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Police inaction at March for Black Lives Comment

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To Dutchess County Legislature,

I attended the March for Black Lives on July 18, 2020 and am outraged at the police forces blatant disregard for our safety in the face of angry and violent counter protesters. We were told the police were going to protect us and keep the protesters separate for our safety. This was of great concern to me because, although the March for Black Lives attendees were all deeply committed to a peaceful march, it was clear to anyone present (or anyone seeing the violent comments on Facebook prior) that the counter protesters had no such commitment to peace and wanted to cause violence.

The video footage of the march speaks for itself and is in agreement to my experience there. The police inaction in the face of violent counter-protesters at the Pleasant Valley march was a gross dereliction of duty, and a breach of their oath to protect and serve us all, and especially the very people who were assaulted and sustained injuries that day. They should be held accountable for their negligence.

Chris Victor

Hussing, Laura

From: marisa mcclinton <marisa.j.mcclinton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 10:27 AM
To: CountyLegislature
Subject: Public comment for meeting 8.6.2020

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Good Morning,

I am writing to you from the perspective of a peaceful participant of the July 18th March in Pleasant Valley. I have already sent an email of my personal account from this day and I appreciate your attention to that correspondence. I want to further reiterate that since that march, many are still suffering the effects of blatant bigotry and violence. Some of us are facing daily harassment and ridicule on social media sites, I, personally, have been followed by various vehicles that I witnessed were parked on the violent side, and have been retaliated against for bringing awareness of the hatred that we faced that day. It's terribly disheartening to hear of the harassment the organizer has faced for simply exercising his constitutional right. As much as we want to believe that the police are here to rpotect and serve, I have up close and personally seen how the uniform doesnt differentiate from bigoted personal opinions. Many of the police that i witnessed were pushing us instead of protecting and allowing the spit to fly instead of regulating the anger. It's important to show the community and the children affected that the behavior of the "back the blue" crowd is not tolerated, not safe, and not the moral standing of the Hudson Valley. Many of the violent people involved are community members with strong ties to community services and needs and its dangerous to leave these people unaccountable for their disgusting, vile actions. I just want to simply add, if it was the Black lives matter movement that acted in such a manner or initiated the violence as the counters did, would it have taken this much effort to get some sort of reprieve?

I appreciate your time and attention and as a community, I appreciate your willingness to enact unity and public health.

Sincerely,

Minister Marisa McClinton CDK.

Hussing, Laura

From: Sarah Cameron Sunde <scsunde@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 10:45 AM
To: CountyLegislature
Subject: public comment re. Law Enforcement's lack of protection during Pleasant Valley BLM protest

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Dear Duchess County Legislature,

I live in the Hudson Valley and was appalled to see the videos of what happened during the Pleasant Valley Black Lives Matter protest. It was extremely disappointing to see Law Enforcement fail to keep the peaceful protestors safe while counter-protests turned violent. This is unacceptable.

It would be most powerful if Law Enforcement and you all would stand up and say that you recognize the problem, apologize to the victims of violence who are needlessly traumatized as well as those who no longer feel safe in this area, and commit to being part of the solution.

I urge you with all my heart to take this action, admit the wrong-doing, and lead by example.

Thank you,
Sarah

SARAH CAMERON SUNDE

Performance // Video // Public Art
+1.646.325.7015 // @scsunde
SarahCameronSunde.com
36.5 / A Durational Performance with the Sea
Works on Water

Hussing, Laura

From: Tanya Smith <misstanya.s@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 2:24 PM
To: CountyLegislature
Subject: Pleasant Valley, EO 203, and Accountability

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Legislators:

I am enclosing the following message to amplify this call, with some edits to reflect my own opinions more closely.

Regardless, this region cannot be taken hostage by a radical and dangerous minority, led by ignorance and cult-like devotion. I believe the majority of people in this region are much more sensible and it is appalling that we fail to see representation. I refuse to passively let EO 203 occur to me without some attempt to break through with an alternative and ask for transparency, representation, and agency.

What happened in Pleasant Valley should be considered an embarrassment. The only way out is through--by holding the violent instigators accountable, by holding the reluctant enforcers accountable, and by holding each other accountable. I will continue to hold you accountable until you can prove otherwise.

Sincerely,
Tanya Smith, OSC

We are writing out of concern at best and horror at worst, over Legislator Kearny's open letter to Chairman Pulver as posted on your Facebook Page.

While we are grateful that you are seeking to have a discussion about the events of July 18, 2020 in Pleasant Valley during a peaceful rally and protest in support of Black Lives, we are wondering several things:

1. WHAT TOOK SO LONG?
We the citizens, stakeholders, witnesses, victims, and people on the right side of history, have been screaming about the injustice of that day since July 18. We have posted videos and photographs, demanded to speak with senators, legislators, the Sheriff and other officials. We have written letters to the Legislators of the County, the Attorney General's Office, the NAACP, the National Lawyers Guild, the NYCLU and the Sheriff, himself. We have started the process of going to the NYS Troopers at Salt Point to have victims of violations, misdemeanors and possible felonies make the statements and attempt to obtain justice within our present system. What took you all so long to speak out?

2. WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO NEXT?
We the citizens, stakeholders, witnesses, victims, and those of us on the right side of history demand action NOW. We DEMAND to be heard at the Legislator meetings — not through emails but through active participation. How DARE our voices be cut off or restricted at this critical juncture. How DARE the voices of those hurt, humiliated, harassed and threatened by rabid, drunk, violent men and women, not be DEMANDED to be heard. How DARE those Sheriff's Deputies who stood around and did nothing while women and children were assaulted IN THEIR FACES AND VERY PRESENCE not be IMMEDIATELY named, publicly, disciplined, publicly, and made an example of as how NOT to be law enforcement officials in Dutchess County or anywhere in New York State. What do those Legislators named on this letter intend to do about this NOW?

WE DEMAND AN OPEN FORUM WITH THE DUTCHESS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WHERE THOSE WHO WERE VICTIMIZED HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK. WE DEMAND TO KNOW WHY THOSE OF US WHO ATTENDED THE PROTEST WERE NOT PROTECTED. WE DEMAND TO KNOW THE NAMES AND DISCIPLINARY RECORDS OF THOSE SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES IN ATTENDANCE AT THE EVENT WHO STOOD AROUND WATCHING ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS (open containers, public lewdness, public nudity, and public drunkenness), HARASSMENT, DISORDERLY CONDUCT, ASSAULT, ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD, AND HATE CRIMES, AND DID NOTHING BUT FIST BUMP THESE ASSAILANTS AND BARBECUE WITH THEM AFTER WE LEFT. WE DEMAND TO KNOW WHY THOSE SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES WHO DID NOTHING ABOUT THE UNCONTROLLED CHAOS AROUND THEM HAVE NOT BEEN DISCIPLINED, REMOVED OR PLACED ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE SINCE JULY 18, 2020.

WE DEMAND THE RESIGNATION OF SHERIFF ANDERSON, A KNOWN SUPPORTER OF DONALD TRUMP. WE BELIEVE SHERIFF ANDERSON'S INTENTIONAL LACK OF RESPONSE AT AND TO THIS EVENT IS INDICATIVE OF HIS PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL STANCE REGARDING BLACK LIVES AND HOW THOSE BLACK LIVES SHOULD BE TREATED AND SUPPORTED AND PROTECTED WITHIN DUTCHESS COUNTY.

3. WHAT ABOUT JUSTICE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE JULY 18TH RALLY AND MARCH FOR BLACK LIVES?
We the citizens, stakeholders, witnesses, victims, and those of us on the RIGHT side of history demand action NOW. What are the legislators, named above, doing to help ensure the victims of brutality from the July 18, 2020 Pleasant Valley Rally and March for Black Lives receive justice through the criminal justice system?

Several women, men and a child of 12 years old were punched, dragged to the ground by their hair, spit upon, had signs and banners ripped from their grasp, called "nigger" and/or pushed. NO ONE HAS BEEN ARRESTED AS OF THE DATE OF THIS LETTER. We have brought several victims to the NYSP Trooper Barracks to file reports. In both instances both victims provided videos and/or photographs of not only their assailant but the attack itself. They identified the photos of their attacker from pictures taken on the day of the march. In one instance eyewitnesses have been spoken with and no arrests have been made. In the instance of a woman who had her nose broken by a man, she was told because someone identified someone else as HER attacker, no arrests would be made. HAD THE SUSPECT WHO PUNCHED A WOMAN IN THE NOSE IN FULL VIEW OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS BEEN ARRESTED AT THE TIME THE INCIDENT OCCURRED, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO NEED TO SEEK JUSTICE AFTER THE EVENT WAS OVER. In the interests of justice, the Troopers should interview BOTH of those men because they were BOTH identified by other victims has having been their victimizer. We intend to have other victims come forward and give their statements along with evidence in this matter. We are providing law enforcement GIFT WRAPPED CASES so they can do their jobs, draft complaints and make arrests. That is how the system is supposed to work. But as we are seeing, this system, not originally designed for us all, still picks and chooses who is "deserving" of justice and who will receive "justice for all."

WE DEMAND A FULL INQUEST INTO THE ACTIONS OF THOSE AGGRESSIVE ATTENDEES OF THE "BACK THE BLUE" COUNTERPROTEST BE IMMEDIATELY ARRESTED AND HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR VIOLATIONS SUCH AS HARASSMENT (P.L. 240.26) AND DISORDERLY CONDUCT (P.L. 240.20) COMMITTED WITHIN THE FULL VIEW OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS. WE DEMAND THOSE WHO COMMITTED THE CRIMES OF ASSAULT IN THE THIRD DEGREE (P.L. 120.00), ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD (P.L. 260.10) AND AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT (P.L. 240.30(3)) BE IMMEDIATELY IDENTIFIED, ARRESTED AND HELD TO FACE JUSTICE WITHIN OUR EXISTING CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. WE DEMAND THE LEGISLATORS SEEK ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION TO ENSURE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT ACCORDINGLY IN THE HANDLING OF THESE CASES.

4. WHAT ABOUT EXECUTIVE ORDER 203?
We the citizens, stakeholders, witnesses, victims, and those of us on the right side of history demand action NOW. Governor Cuomo has given New York State a gift in terms of the above legislation. WHAT ARE LEGISLATORS DOING TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE?

At this time, Dutchess County is APPOINTING people onto a generalized 203 "committee" with plans to oversee all municipalities and their respective police departments. Upon information and belief, this Committee will include Sheriff

Anderson (see, above) and will be used to direct the changes to policies and procedures of local, municipal-based police departments around the County. This is in total contradiction to the Governor's Legislative intent. EO 203 references that police agencies that are REQUIRED TO HAVE THEIR OWN INDIVIDUAL 203 COMMITTEES by stating those covered under the law are those agencies identified in CPL 1.20 which include, but are not limited to: State Police, County Sheriff's Offices, City, Town and Village Police Departments. By attempting to have "one committee to rule them all" it is clear Dutchess County in not interested in real change, but merely to effectuate the bare minimum amount of change to remain compliant with EO 203.

WE DEMAND TO KNOW WHO HAS ALREADY BEEN APPOINTED TO THE DUTCHESS COUNTY EO 203 COMMITTEE AND WE DEMAND TO HAVE A SAY IN THOSE WHO WILL BE REVIEWING THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND LOOKING TO EFFECT CHANGE.

WE DEMAND THE LEGISLATORS WORK WITHIN EACH OF THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS TO ENSURE EO 203 IS STRICTLY COMPLIED WITH AND ADHERED TO AND WE DEMAND OPEN CONVERSATIONS ABOUT WHO SHOULD BE INCLUDED ON THOSE COMMITTEES.

WE DEMAND ALL EO 203 COMMITTEES WITHIN DUTCHESS COUNTY BE COMPRISED OF THE FOLLOWING PARTICIPANTS:

1. THE CHIEF OF POLICE/OIC OF EACH 1.20 LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY FOR THE MUNICIPALITY (IF A MUNICIPALITY HAS SEVERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THAT PATROL WITHIN ITS CONFINES, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH AGENCY SHALL BE PRESENT)
2. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
3. A BLACK WOMAN
4. A BLACK MAN
5. A BIPOC YOUTH (BETWEEN 15 - 21 YEARS OF AGE)
6. A MEMBER OF A MEMBER OF A DIFFERENT MARGINALIZED COMMUNITY WELL-REPRESENTED WITHIN THE JURISDICTION
7. A MEMBER OF THE LGBTQIA COMMUNITY
8. AT LEAST ONE (1) VICTIM OF A VIOLENT CRIME (TO BE OF ANY AGE, RACE, GENDER IDENTITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, ETHNICITY)

Legislators, we have begged, we have written, we have rallied, we have marched and now we have been beaten, harassed, spit on, called racial slurs and victimized by a system and those within that system sworn to protect us.

--

Tanya Smith
She/her/hers
Women hold up half the sky.

Hussing, Laura

From: Deborah Langenau <deblangenaulcsw@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 2:41 PM
To: CountyLegislature
Subject: Pleasant Valley March July 2020

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

July 6, 2020

Dear Dutchess County Legislators.

I am writing with a heavy heart, concern and continued despair over the lack of support from the Sheriffs department during the attempted peaceful protest in Pleasant Valley.
First off let me clarify that I come from a law enforcement family. Both my mother and father are retired officers.
When I responded to misinformation posted on a Pleasant Valley Group Facebook site regarding the peaceful protest. I was threatened that if I attended a red pickup truck with a V plow would be waiting for me. To measure the disproportionate outrage of the writer I commented, "I'm a 62 year old Social Worker grandmother of 5, I'm certainly not a threat.
The writer went on that he was gonna get "Back the Blue and MAGA together to show the protestors. I then was blocked from the site.
I supported the Black Lives Matter protest and I do back "The blue officers who do not commit brutality and treat others without bias".

For the record,
movement isn
anti–Police.
It is anti–Polic
brutality. See
some of you a
confused.

I am sure you have viewed the many videos demonstrating how the BLM group were met with women and men under the umbrella of Back the Blue and the Conservative party and Trump flags waiting for the protestors to March. No masks, open drinking, and unorganized.

In contrast,

BLM protest was organized around peace, care for others, peacemakers in neon vests, medical supplies, UCLA in vests, food, music and non violent speakers.

The Sheriff department led the protestors from the driveway of Cady Park like sheep being led to slaughter.

The line of oppositional protestors who were allowed into the street causing harm, spewing hate speech, hitting one peacemaker in the nose, tearing signs away from children. It was and still is scary and traumatic to think that an underlying current of hate is alive and well in Dutchess County.

It is my hope that as we seek police reform, I would like to see the Deputy Sheriffs to become licensed by the State of New York like other professional organization requiring mandated training and a place where complaints can be lodged and unrelated panel of professionals review. I am ashamed of my community, I'm fearful of the covert hate. The lack of police intervention could have prevented a lot of the harm from happening.

Respectfully submitted in hope of dramatic change.

Deborah Langenau, LCSW
Pleasant Valley Resident.
Sent from my iPhone

Hussing, Laura

From: Shannon Wong <swong@nyclu.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 2:53 PM
To: CountyLegislature
Subject: questions for the sheriff's office

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello,
Not only was I in attendance at the march, I also spoke with the sheriff's office prior to the event and at the event.

It was my understanding that the primary protest and the counter protesters would be keep separate. I believe the plan was to have the group divided by an open lane of traffic, which the sheriff's office hope to keep open for emergency vehicles. When I arrived on the scene, the counter protesters where on both sides of the street and I told the officer from the sheriff's office on the ground this. Additionally, there were counter protestors entering the park with the primary protestors. Finally, when the primary march began the counter protesters were in the street. This lead to a co-mingling of the groups and the primary protest having to walk through a gauntlet of counter protesters. This is unacceptable.

Everyone has the right to protest and to counter protest. But the sheriff's office, not the marshals have an obligation to keep everyone safe. The counter protesters have a right to be within sight and sound of the primary protest but if there are threats of violence that distance can be expanded. There were threats from counter protesters on social media.

I urge to you ask the sheriff's office:

1. Where they aware of the threats?
2. What was the plan to allow both protests to occur?
3. How did they intend to keep the groups separate?
4. What happened to that plan?
5. What decisions were made on the scene to deviate from that plan?
6. Do they have a policy for managing protests?
7. If not, what is the timeline for creating one?

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please feel free to reach out to me with questions or concerns.

With appreciation,
Shannon

Shannon Wong
Pronouns: she, her
Chapter Director
New York Civil Liberties Union
297 Knollwood Road, Suite 217, White Plains, NY 10607
office 914.997.7479 | cell 914.805.2351

NYCLU
ACLU of New York

This message may contain information that is confidential or legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, please immediately advise the sender by reply email that this message has been inadvertently transmitted to you and delete this email from your system

Hussing, Laura

From: alexa lundin <alexalundin14@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 2:53 PM
To: CountyLegislature
Subject: Sheriffs department review tonight

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

I am writing in as a resident of pleasant valley who attended the Black Lives Matter March on July 18. As I am sure you are aware there were multiple acts of violence against BLM marchers. These acts of violence were video taped and the assailants have been identified yet no arrests have been made. If there was a police force (more than 2 officers) at the start of the March when we met face to face with the back the blue protest than maybe actual justice would have been assured through arrests made on the spot. The women who was punched went up to the officer and asked to make an arrest and the officer told her to go to the police station later. Even though her attacker was right there. That is not how our police department should be treating the people they serve. It was clear the police were protecting their own and that is still apparent by the lack of arrests made to this day. This lack of arrests tells me that our police department is racist. The removal of sheriff Anderson should be immediate. It was his job to supply proper police enforcement at this event and that was not done. Because of his mistake people are now moving from their homes because it is not safe, people were physically assaulted. Is this how you want pleasant valley to be known as? A racist town where the conservative white folk can beat you with no consequence? Sheriff Anderson was aware of the death threats made against our march on July 18 and as chief he should Know better than to take any threat as not dangerous. We should have seen from the start the swat team we saw at the end of the March. However, by that time, when the officers in swat gear showed the damage had already been done. As a resident of pleasant valley this behavior is unacceptable and sheriff Anderson should be ashamed of his lack of actions by himself and his officers. I hope to see action taken against the police department for its compliance during assaults and hate crimes.

Sincerely
Alexa Emard

Sent from my iPhone

Hussing, Laura

From: Royal Parker <parkerusa148@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 4:01 PM
To: CountyLegislature
Subject: Pleasant Valley Rally

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When they will the DCS Dep. have policies and procedures in place for protests and counter protests?

Hussing, Laura

From: Richie Rosencrans <richierose1221@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 4:30 PM
To: CountyLegislature
Subject: Pleasant Valley March

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Hello,

I am a US Army Veteran and 9/11 NYARNG responder. I have served on several municipal boards/commissions in the City of Newburgh, all to improve the quality of life in the community.

I participated in the march in Pleasant Valley on July 18, 2020. The Dutchess County Sheriff's Deputies permitted obviously intoxicated, obviously belligerent, obviously hostile and violent people to attack peaceful women and children. These are the facts in summary. I'm sure other participants have alerted you to the details. Commentary to the contrary is dishonesty, and evidence proves it. The Sheriff failed to uphold his oath, as did his deputies, one egregiously. When they did step in, it was too late. My observations also indicate some of them were glad people were assaulted so that we were taught a lesson.

It is also clear the Town of Pleasant Valley Supervisor is unethical, and has ties to these violent people.

We deserve better.

Richie Rosencrans

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 3:38 PM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: DCSO FORM D-37A PV PROTEST INVESTIGATION
Attachments: DCSO FORM D-37A PV PROTEST INVESTIGATION.docx

Please file

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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From: Pulver, Gregg <gpulver@dutchessny.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 1:24 PM
To: Atkins, Barrington R. <bratkins@dutchessny.gov>; Black, Hannah <hblackdc4@gmail.com>; Bolner, Donna <dbolner@dutchessny.gov>; Brendli, Craig <cbrendli@dutchessny.gov>; Caswell, Stephen <scaswell@dutchessny.gov>; Cavaccini, Joseph <jcavaccini@dutchessny.gov>; Edwards, Rebecca <redutchess6@gmail.com>; Garito, Faye <fgarito@dutchessny.gov>; Garito2, Faye <faydee@msn.com>; Hagstrom, Karen <khagstrom@dutchessny.gov>; Hagstrom, Karen <khagstrom@srddlaw.com>; Hauser, Edward <ehauser@dutchessny.gov>; Houston, Deirdre <dhouston@dutchessny.gov>; Johnson, Randy <rjohnson@dutchessny.gov>; Johnson2, Randy <rajohnson3568@gmail.com>; Joseph, Nick <njoseph@dutchessny.gov>; Kearney, Brennan <bkearney@dutchessny.gov>; Keith, Thomas L. <tkeith@dutchessny.gov>; Llaverias, Giancarlo <gllaverias@dutchessny.gov>; McHoul, Douglas A. <dmchoul@dutchessny.gov>; Metzger, John D. <metzger4dc@gmail.com>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>; Munn, Kristofer <kmunn@dutchessny.gov>; Page, Nick <npage@dutchessny.gov>; Paoloni, Lisa <lpaoloni@dutchessny.gov>; Polasek, Michael <mpolasek@dutchessny.gov>; Pulver, Gregg <gpulver@dutchessny.gov>; Sagliano, Don <dsagliano@dutchessny.gov>; Surman, Alan <alansurman@optimum.net>; Truitt, Will <wtruitt@dutchessny.gov>; Wager, Leigh

<lwager@dutchessny.gov>; Zernike, Frits <fzernike@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: FW: DCSO FORM D-37A PV PROTEST INVESTIGATION

Please see below and attached from Undersheriff Imperati.

See everyone tonight.
Gregg

From: Imperati, Kirk <kimperati@dutchessny.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 10:51 AM
To: Pulver, Gregg <gpulver@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: DCSO FORM D-37A PV PROTEST INVESTIGATION

Dear Chairman Pulver:

As agreed to during our presentation before the legislature on August 6, 2020 we are providing a follow-up report to the Black Live Matter protest in Pleasant Valley on July 18, 2020. Attached is Detective Sgt. Harris's follow-up investigation memo. Please share this memo with the entire membership of the Dutchess County Legislature. We also refer you to our presentation on August 6, 2020 for clarification on any questions the legislators may have.

As we stated in our presentation to the legislature on August 6, 2020 we have a very strong relationship with the Dutchess County community. We understand the public would like to see law enforcement become better. We have agreed to do so, to build upon the positive relationships we have with our communities and work with all our communities to become better. To strengthen trust between our communities and the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office we have tasked ALL of our staff to do the following:

Our policy review team is researching and developing a formal policy on handling protest and or demonstrations
We have been working with ALL Law Enforcement agencies in Dutchess County on Police Modernization Plans. Included in those plans are mandates that EVERY Police Officer and Deputy Sheriff in Dutchess County receive training in Procedural Justice and Implicit Bias as well as Pricipled Policing methods. We feel this training will help law enforcement better understand how to interact with the public and their interactions with the public will help in fostering stronger relationships and trust with law enforcement.

We are members of the Dutchess County reform and Modernization Collaborative. As members of this group we will attend all meetings, actively listen to ALL input from our communities and work with the people of our community to foster a stronger trust with law enforcement.
The Duthchess County Sheriff's Office will participate in ALL Police Reform Community Forums, actively listen to everyone's concerns and do our best to address those concerns.

In closing, The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office has ALWAYS lived by the golden rule, "treat people the way you would like to be treated." We stay true to that rule, we will strive to get better. We ask our legislators to make this same commitment and help us build upon our strong relationships we have with the residents of Dutchess County.

Sincerely,

Kirk A. Imperati
Undersheriff, Dutchess County Sheriff's Office
(845) 486_3872

INTERNAL MEMO *DUTCHESS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE*

To: Undersheriff Kirk Imperati

Thru: Chief Deputy Jason W. Mark

From: Detective Sergeant Adam D. Harris

Date: 09/09/20

Subject: Investigative Findings – Pleasant Valley Protest 07/18/20

Undersheriff Imperati,

I have completed my investigation into the complaints made against the Sheriff's Office regarding the Sheriff's Office Response to the Pleasant Valley protest and counter-protest that took place on July 18, 2020. The following was determined:

Sheriff's Office personnel did not violate Dutchess County Sheriff's Office policies and procedures related to arrest, use of force, or any other policy applicable to the protest response by Sheriff's Office personnel on July 18, 2020.

Law enforcement Officers have discretion in determining whether an arrest should be made unless the act committed is considered conduct related to domestic violence under New York State Criminal Procedure Law 140.10(4). Deputy Sheriff's from the Dutchess County Sheriff's and Troopers from the New York State Police exercised their discretion regarding arrest decisions made on July 18, 2020. These decisions were made in part, in the best interest of all of the participants safety including law enforcement.

All Dutchess County Sheriff's Office members debriefed regarding this incident stated nothing occurred in their presence that warranted an immediate arrest. In addition, NYSP members were physically present within a few feet of several of the physical altercations between both groups and made the same decision as Deputy Sheriffs not to arrest that day. NYSP members were debriefed independently by their own command staff. Troopers assigned and present in Pleasant Valley reported they did not believe ANY observed actions warranted an arrest at that time. As a result of the aforementioned investigation, it has been determined that arrest decisions were not made out of any alleged bias toward any particular group as shown by two different law enforcement agencies (DCSO / NYSP), working independently of one another and made the same decisions regarding whether to immediately effect arrests.

Sheriff's Office personnel did not make any promises of any kind to include any expressed "Special Relationship Exceptions", guaranteeing absolute police protection for the organizers and/or participants of the March for Black lives Matter on 07/18/20. Despite not making this promise or creating any type of "Special Relationship" with organizers and/or participants, the Sheriff's Office did in fact keep more than 99 percent of all participants safe. There are estimates that there were approximately 700 attendees between the two groups and less than 5 people reported minor injuries sustained during altercations. In addition, there were no reports of any property damage in the Pleasant Valley area during the protest.

It has also been determined by reviewing evidence and interviewing law enforcement members at the protest that offenses being committed were being committed by members of both groups. Through evidence obtained by the Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau that arrest decisions made by the Sheriff's Office personnel present did not just apply to one group but applied to both groups. This demonstrates that there was no bias shown by the Sheriff's Office toward any particular group.

Although unrelated to the complaints made against the Sheriff's Office, the following update is being provided to you regarding cases being handled by the Detective Bureau involving victims of offenses committed against them on 07/18/20 in the Town of Pleasant Valley:

The Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau has not substantiated any complaints or evidence of a person or child being the victim of a crime by a person or person(s) who marched with the protest for Black Lives Matter. I only bring the issue of a child being assaulted to your attention as that allegation appears in almost every complaint emailed to the Sheriff's Office. Despite the allegations of a child being assaulted being made publicly and to the Sheriff's Office there has been NO evidence provided to the Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau supporting this claim. On 08/06/20 you were notified by a member of the Legislature that they were in possession of a video that shows a child being assaulted. As of this date that video has not been turned over to this agency nor has anyone from the public provided evidence of this incident occurring. Additionally to date no parent has come forward to file a complaint with Sheriff's Office or the NYSP. All law enforcement personnel debriefed which included all members of the NYSP present at the scene, reported they did not observe any "assaults" occur in their presence.

In closing and as of this date, the Investigation into the complaints made against the Sheriff's Office have been determined to be UNFOUNDED. I am now requesting permission to close this investigation.

I will not comment further on any criminal investigations that the Detective Bureau may be conducting regarding the event on 07/18/20 as this memo will be shared directly with the Dutchess County Legislature.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam D. Harris
Detective Sergeant