

## **Committee on Police Reform and Reinvention**

**Meeting: February 24, 2021**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Recorded by Susannah Amiteye

#### **Attendees:**

- Mayor Larry Woolbright
- Police Chief David Bush
- Lori Acee (Chairperson)
- Susannah Amiteye
- Joe Stapf
- Lorri Riggs

#### **Unable to attend:**

- Ray Otten
- Kelli Gregory

### **Proceedings**

Lori:

- Tonight we will go through the survey results
- Many items we have already identified; some suggestions that Chief Bush may find useful. Also some bigger issues like parking that beyond our purview
- Survey results included only Village residents
- Survey validated our gut instincts; the Village seems very pleased with our police department and our policing

Lorri: This is a moment to celebrate; the results were very positive. Congratulations to Chief Bush

Survey results:

- Reviewed results for each question
- Discussion of summarizing some of the open-ended responses; calling out themes. Consider call-outs next to the graphs
- Training
  - Everyone can benefit from training
  - Some suggested areas: mental health, special needs
  - We should prepare proactively for situations that may arise in the future
    - We need to prepare, anticipate issues

- Somehow we should look at parking in the Village
  - There was a committee a couple of years ago that looked at this; the issues may have been that there is not enough parking directly in front of local establishments
  - Mayor obtained extra parking from EOC and County after hours
  - Maybe we should have a call-out about the parking situation
- Speeding cars should be addressed on Hyde Blvd, Chapman, Malta Ave
  - We only have 2 police officers who cannot sit on these streets all the time
- Add box asking residents to turn in tips: submit a report

Chief: Very difficult to arrest drug crimes; takes more than just witnessing a deal. It takes time. Everyone who works narcotics is overwhelmed. Has been a rash of overdose deaths in Saratoga County. Last week, there were 3 overdoses in Ballston Spa (2 deaths). Impurities being mixed with heroin and cocaine.

- Small departments like ours handle everything. We don't pass anything off to investigators or other staff
- Special needs: We have special needs citizens and homes in the Village. We work with the staff at those homes.
  - A lot of the training addresses mental health and specialty needs, part of conflict resolution, de-escalation
- Lorri: Maybe we need to educate the community on what the police are receiving in training
- Chief: Would be good to say that we plan on doing additional training, and list that out. No need to include timing
- Lori: PD will receive ongoing training with the County
- Lorri: We are building trust. We are committed to conducting the training

Village Board will have a public comment meeting on March 22

Lori: We could have our draft report to the Board by 3/15; needs to be shared for public comment at least a week before Board meeting on 3/22

- We need to pull some findings and graphics into the plan
- Lorri: Happy to help, will make the time
- Will send the draft report back to the group for review
- Will send to Mayor by 3/12

Will post report on the Website

May not need survey in paper copy

No public comments