

Minutes of Listening Session for the Coalition on Community Safety and Engagement, Town of Yorktown held via Zoom Video Conference on Thursday, October 22, 2020, 363 Underhill Avenue, Yorktown Heights, New York 10598.

**Representatives from the Town of Yorktown Present:**

Matthew J. Slater, Supervisor  
Thomas P. Diana, Councilman  
Alice E. Roker, Councilwoman

Diana L. Quast, Town Clerk

Robert Noble, Chief of Police  
Adam Rodriguez, Town Attorney

**Members of the Coalition on Community Safety and Engagement Present:**

James Poulin  
Paul Cirillo  
John Lanza  
RoseMarie Panio  
Toni Reynolds  
Liz Rivera  
Rabbi Robbie Weiner

**Community Partners Present:**

Diego Jaramillo, Yorktown for Justice  
Daks Armstrong, Yorktown for Justice

Steve Ronco, Westchester County District Attorney's Office

**Members of the Public Present:**

Doug Ofner  
Louise DeMarco  
Gabrielle Saline  
Brian Sillik  
Joanne Sillik  
Hari Rau-Murthy  
Richard Shaw  
John DelVecchio

**Supervisor Matt Slater opened the Listening Session for the Coalition on Community Safety and Engagement:**

My name is Matt Slater, I am the Town Supervisor for the Town of Yorktown. I want to thank everyone for joining us tonight. If you could all please rise and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Thank you.

Everyone, please join me in a Moment of Silence. As again, we remember the men and women protecting our freedoms overseas, to remember, lives lost due to the COVID virus. As we keep praying for those combating the COVID virus, as we pray for our first responders, our front liners, and our leaders on the local County, State and National levels. Thank you.

Again, this is the Coalition on Community Safety and Engagement. This is in response to Executive Order 203 that was handed down by Governor Cuomo, the Governor of the State of New York, in the spring. This is our second meeting. We did have our first meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October and that meeting is available online and you can watch it at your leisure. You can watch the presentation that Chief Noble provided in the initial presentation on our police department. The PowerPoint presentation is available on the town's website; you can go to the Coalition on Community Safety & Engagement tab. You can watch online, and you can go through the slides that were presented. That's all on the Town of Yorktown website under the Community Coalition for Safety and Engagement tab. You can see all the presentations that have been given to the town on this specific topic. Tonight, is our first listening session, and the hope is really a collaborative conversation about the performance of our police department. We heard from our police department earlier in the month and now we are turning to members of the public and different organizations to provide feedback about the performance of our police department within our community. The ground rules tonight are pretty simple. We're going to begin by inviting our community partners and participants - we do have a member from the District Attorney's office, we have members of the Legal Aid Society of Westchester with us. We may have a member of the Yorktown PBA with us. We're going to begin with those organizations to provide some feedback in regards to performance of our police department. And then we're going to open it up to the public. It's basically a Courtesy the Floor scenario where we're just here to get your feedback. Once we hear all the testimony, if the panel has anything that they want to say or any questions that they might want to ask, either the chief or one of the testifiers, they're able to do that. I do want to say that we have close to 20 people signed up to speak in addition to the invited Community Partners that we have as well. So, if we can do our best to just try to keep our remarks to about five minutes. Obviously, if you have more to say, by all means we're here to listen, but we do want to also make sure that we're moving through the program and managing the time as best we can. I want to see if there are any members of our panel who would like to speak. I'm happy to reintroduce our panel once again. We are going to begin with Jim Poulin. Jim, anything that you'd like to say tonight, before we begin?

**James Poulin, CCSE:**

I'm good right now. Thank you.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

We have RoseMarie Panio, anything you'd like to say before we begin? RoseMarie Panio, who is the Chair of our Senior Advisory Committee for the Town of Yorktown.

**RoseMarie Panio, CCSE:**

I just want to state for the record that I found Chief Noble's presentation very informative. It laid out the day-to-day operation, the training, the law enforcement issues for our town. And it's really going to be very helpful to me. If I'm asked to give comments about how we can improve, maintain whatever, it was a great presentation, it was very helpful to me, I learned a lot.

**Police Chief Robert Noble**

Thank you very much. That's what I want to hear. Thank you.

**RoseMarie Panio, CCSE:**

I learned a lot. I think people would learn a lot from hearing what you said.

**Police Chief Robert Noble:**

Thank you.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Thank you, RoseMarie. We are also joined by Rabbi Robbie Weiner. Rabbi, would you like to say a few words before we begin.

**Rabbi Robbie Weiner:**

I just want to thank everybody for coming. And thank everybody, especially the people that are going to be coming forward and sharing their thoughts. It's really important. In some ways, it was wonderful to hear the Chief explain to us all the things that he has been doing to make our police department, the amazing police department that it is. And it's fabulous to hear the public, the people that are receiving the gifts of our police department. And I'm sure that the Chief also kind of feels the same way in terms of hearing from people. It's really, really important. Thank you, everybody, for coming tonight.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Great point, Rabbi. Thank you. Paul Cirillo would you like to say a few words?

**Paul Cirillo, CCSE:**

Thank you, everyone for coming.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Thank you. We have Liz Rivera, another one of our members.

**Liz Rivera, CCSE:**

Hi, good evening, everyone. I just wanted to say thank you, everyone, for coming. And I look forward to listening to all of the testimonies tonight.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Thank you, Liz. Thank you. Next, we have Toni Reynolds. Toni, would you like to say a few words before we begin?

**Toni Reynolds, CCSE:**

I just want to say, this is a very great panel to be on, our Coalition. And I liked the presentation that the Chief gave last week, it was really detailed, and I really love my town. I've been here for 25 years. I really love it and just want it to stay nice and clean the way it is.

**Police Chief Robert Noble:**

Thank you very much, Thank you.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Thank you, Toni. We also have with us, Peter Lanza, Vice President of the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce. Pete, do you want to say a few words before we begin?

**Peter Lanza, CCSE:**

I just want to say I am glad to be here tonight and thank everybody for joining us. I am looking forward to listening to all the people and everything they have to say tonight.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Pete, thanks so much. The two members of the Coalition that are mandated by the Governor is myself and the Chief of Police. I want to welcome, of course, Robert Noble, the Chief of the Yorktown Police Department. And again, Chief, I think you've heard from the panel the great job you did on the 8th with your presentation. Thank you for that and do you want to say a few words before we begin?

**Police Chief Robert Noble:**

No, just thanking the Coalition and everybody who's going to contribute to this evening. We're ready to listen, and we want to be the best that we can be. So hopefully, going through this process will allow us to improve and you know, we just want to do the best we can for our community and keep it safe and serve the people, you know, treat them like we would treat our own family. So, let's have at it.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

I do also want to say that for those who want to submit written testimony, there are two ways of doing that, really three. You can email the [ccsc@yorktownny.org](mailto:ccsc@yorktownny.org) that was made specifically for this Coalition. You can email Diana Quast our Town Clerk at [dquast@yorktownny.org](mailto:dquast@yorktownny.org), and you can email me directly at [mslater@yorktownny.org](mailto:mslater@yorktownny.org). For those who want to raise an issue and have their identity protected, the two avenues that I would recommend is the [ccsc@yorktownny.org](mailto:ccsc@yorktownny.org) email address, or contacting me directly and we can foster that conversation in a way that protects anyone who feels uncomfortable presenting anything to the public. Lastly, the only other thing I wanted to say is something that the Rabbi and also Chief Noble touch on which is that this is really like a performance evaluation and evaluations are good. They foster productive positive conversations and I think you've heard the Chief say, plenty of times, that they are always looking for ways to improve. So, if we can find anything that does need improvement, I think that there is an openness and a desire to make those improvements that get brought to light. So, I want to make sure that everyone is comfortable coming to the Coalition to bring any type of testimony that they want. We need to hear everything that's out there. And so that's why this is set up by the Governor, and why this Coalition is set up by the Town to foster that dialogue and that conversation. So again, I just want to thank everyone, for their participation. We're going to begin tonight by starting with our invited Community Partners and Participants. We do have some of them with us tonight. I know what we have a member of the District Attorney's Office with us. Is that individual Steve?

**Steve Ronco, Westchester County District Attorney's Office:**

Yes, that's me. Thank you, everyone for inviting me, and I look forward to hearing what everyone has to say.

**Police Chief Robert Noble:**

Great. Thanks, Steve.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Steve, if I can just ask from the District Attorney's Office's standpoint, are you participating in these around the County?

**Steve Ronco, Westchester County District Attorney's Office:**

Yes.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

What is the role that the District Attorney's Office plays during these listening sessions? I believe you were over at the Peekskill conversation, a few weeks back?

**Steve Ronco, Westchester County District Attorney's Office:**

Right, we were at the Peekskill conversation, we're going to be in Croton. Our role here is to not give opinion, not to offer advice. We are here to listen and to offer legal answers to any questions that may be presented to Chief Noble or to the panel. I'm here to listen mostly. If anybody has any questions, not just for the police department, but the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, I'll answer those questions.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

That's fantastic. Thank you, and forgive me. I know I'm jumping around a bit, my apologies for being so scattered. I do want to also thank our Town Clerk Diana Quast, for her continued assistance in making this Zoom Coalition possible, as well as Tom Sciangula who is with us as well. We are joined tonight by Councilman Tom Diana and Councilwoman Alice Roker, she's not on video but on the telephone. I do want to acknowledge and thank them both for joining us as well. Thank you, Steve, on behalf of the District Attorney's Office. We also have, I believe someone from the Legal Aid Society of Westchester. Do we have someone from Legal Aid Society joining us tonight?

**Steve Ronco, Westchester County District Attorney's Office:**

I don't see anyone.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Okay, No problem. How about Hope's Door?

**Police Chief Robert Noble:**

I don't think Melissa was able to pick up tonight. If she wants, she can watch the recording tomorrow.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Okay, great. I see that we have Diego from Yorktown for Justice on. Diego is the liaison from Yorktown for Justice to the Coalition.

**Diego Jaramillo, Yorktown for Justice:**

Yes, I'm on and Daks is on as well.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

And Daks Armstrong is on as well. That's fantastic. Diego, do you want to say a few words before we begin?

**Diego Jaramillo:**

I have some questions that I'd like to address later on. I'd like to thank the Chief for being open to this process. Like everyone else, I think that it was very informative and it shows how much goes into the care and thought on how he manages the Yorktown Police Department. I look forward to working together and to see if there's some brainstorming we can do. That's really it.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Okay. Very good, and last but not least, the Yorktown PBA, I don't know if the PBA president is on, Detective Tom Nadoraski, or any member of the PBA, I don't see them. So hopefully, they can join us in our next meeting. Moving on after tonight there will be two meetings in November, those meetings will be on the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>. The 12<sup>th</sup> is a workgroup similar to what we saw on the 8<sup>th</sup>, and I believe Chief Noble is going to have another presentation to make to the Coalition and to the public. Then we'll be here on the 19<sup>th</sup> for another listening session, identical to this one. I know that we're going to have our Yorktown School Superintendent Ron Hatter join us, as well as the Yorktown Central School District and Lakeland Central School District Principals. I know that Dr. Lyons, the Lakeland School Superintendent, is going to be submitting written testimony as part of that November 19<sup>th</sup> Listening Session. So, with that, we are able to open it to the public and our Town Clerk Diana Quast is going to let us know who is in line to speak. And I'm going to turn it over to Diana.

**Town Clerk Diana Quast:**

I'm just going to go down the list that I have. I'm going to start with Doug Ofner.

**Doug Ofner:**

Hi, guys. Hi, everybody. How are you? I don't know if you can hear me. I just wanted to thank everybody for being here. I just wanted to participate by listening and so I'm going to pass with any questions right now. But again, thank you, everybody, for everything that you do for Yorktown. Much appreciated.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Thanks, Doug. Diana who do we have next?

**Town Clerk Diana Quast:**

We're going to go to Denise Connelly.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Okay, do we have Denise, I don't see her on.

**Town Clerk Diana Quast:**

I have another one that's coming on now.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

What we can do, Diana, is we'll go through the whole list. And then we'll go back again to see if there's anyone who jumped on. We may be moving faster than they realize. So, we'll do that.

**Town Clerk Diana Quast:**

Let's do that. So why don't we go to Chloe Curtis?

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Okay. Chloe are you on. Hi, how are you? Good evening.

**Chloe Curtis:**

I'm good. How are you doing?

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Good. Thanks for joining us.

**Chloe Curtis:**

Yes, thank you. I'm really feeling pretty privileged to be here to see this town in action. I do have a question. And my question is, how are the police and the police department dealing with the mental health of our officers?

**Police Chief Robert Noble:**

Hi, Chloe. And for everybody on the Coalition, this evening was supposed to be a listening portion for me. I won't be answering every question, but the questions that I can answer, and I am prepared to answer I certainly will. This is something that I can speak to because it's something that is very important. And Chloe, you know what? As part of accreditation, we assign goals and objectives every year at the Yorktown Police Department. One of our goals and objectives this year was to enhance and increase our offerings of mental health and wellness opportunities for our officers and to increase our conversations amongst all of us, whether it's supervisors, peer to peer. So I'm in February of this year at a staff meeting, and EPA representatives were there as well. We had Westchester Blue come in. Those are its brothers in law enforcement, United Westchester Blue, they came in and spoke to the services that they offer to law enforcement officers. We also have a representative from the New York State Police. So, New York State Troopers, they have a zone mental health wellness officer that offer services within zones. Lieutenant Graham secured the representative from our zone, who came in and met with our administrative staff, and he was scheduled to come in and meet with our officers in the spring but COVID threw a wrench in that because our in-person meetings were greatly decreased. What we did was we shared his contact and we had assurances from the troopers that if they were needed, they would be there for us. It was anonymous; it was available to the officers, and that information was provided.

What we're also working on is I'm almost ready to introduce the valor app, which is from the Bureau of Justice Administration, which is something that if the officers get it on their phones, they'll have access to mental health and wellness at the touch of their fingers. And also - the Supervisor - I got to throw him a major shout out because attached to our paychecks this week was information on a new Employee Assistance Program, which was sorely needed here in the Town of Yorktown. To read that pamphlet and see the services that were offered anonymously only added to our goals and objectives, to show that we've met them, and I can't thank him enough for bringing that to us, as well. But what you should know is we've had conversations about this throughout the year and we just saw a young officer, a 25-year old officer from Bedford take his own life last month, and we can't have that happen here. We can't have that it changes your police department forever; I would never want to see that happen. And, you know, we've initiated these conversations amongst each other at roll calls, anywhere we can, we bring it up that if you're struggling, you have peers, you have these outreach programs that you can reach out to, my door is always open, it's not the easiest thing to walk into the Chief of Police's Office. But, you know, I think if you ask anyone of my guys, I think they would tell you that they know I'd be there for them. I have no problem saying in a public forum on a recorded line that they know there's not anything that I wouldn't do for any of them or their families. I think the conversations that we have at the police department that reinforced that, it's not BS - it's something that we take to heart, and that if the officers are going to do the best job that they can do in the community, they have to have the support and know they're supported by the administration, by their Chief, and most importantly, by their community. You will hear me say at Town Board meetings, when we used to have them in person, when we went there I thank the Town Board because when the board supports you, that's what makes it easier for me to lead. And I think the guys, you know, the men and women at

that agency feel appreciated. I think any of us that sit here, you know, on this forum are listening out there. You know, if you appreciate it, you're going to go out there and do your best. And, you know, sometimes, like I said, some of the best accolades that I received, as a police officer was by a Supervisor that said, thank you, or good job. And you know what? If it's sincere, it goes a long way. But I know I've been a little long winded. But again, you brought up something that, you know, really is something that we really hit on this year that I'm proud of, it was one of our goals. And, you know, we'll have met that goal. I think if you ask any of our officers, they would tell you that, yeah, you know, we do have these conversations, and we know we can go for help if it's needed.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Right. And one of the things with the EAP is that it was actually an incredible package that we're able to provide not just for the police department, but for all town employees, which we're very excited about. But one of the things that I mentioned during our Town Board meeting on Tuesday, is that we're going to be mandating, and it starts next month in November, is diversity training. And that's going to be included for not just the police department, but all town employees as well, which is obviously an important educational aspect for anyone. So that's also included in the EAP. All right, Chloe, thank you.

**Chloe Curtis:**

Thank you.

**Police Chief Robert Noble:**

Thank you.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Let's go back to Diana.

**Town Clerk Diana Quast:**

Let's go to Gabrielle.

**Gabrielle Saline:**

I'm just here to listen.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Thank you. Thank you for being here. We appreciate it.

**Town Clerk Diana Quast:**

Louise, did you want to say anything?

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

I see Louise's iPad is on but I don't know if she is unmuted.

**Louise DeMarco:**

Hi, sorry, I was having a problem with the Zoom. Everybody was going in and out, in and out. It was hard to even follow the conversation going on. But Hi, good evening, guys. I want to thank the Yorktown Town Board for giving me the opportunity to join this evening's listening session with the Coalition on Community Safety and Engagement regarding police reform. I firmly believe we should have a fair and unbiased discussion on how to improve the relationship between our local police and the citizens of Yorktown. But I also believe in the need for respect on both sides,

and the need to educate our community to respect our police officers, especially in this current climate of animosity. Being a resident of Yorktown for the past four plus years, I can personally comment on the relationship I have seen and heard with my own eyes and ears. Chief Noble and his officers and staff have always displayed complete and total professional and compassionate behavior and respect for the citizens of your town. They strive every day to protect this community and property while risking and putting their own lives on the line; not knowing if they'll be going home to their families safe and sound. The low paying salaries is not the reason that they do this. It's because they are dedicated and believe in service to our community. Yorktown Town Board members have also praised Chief Noble and our police department. Councilman Tom Diana said and I quote, "they're going to find no shortcomings" end of quote, and Councilwoman Alice Roker is equally supportive and said, and I quote, "I'll put my Police Chief against anybody's and I know I'll come out on top" end of quote, so yes, let's have a fair and unbiased discussion and deal with the facts and the truth, without any prejudices or biases. Thank you.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Thank you, Louise. Thank you for your participation. We will go to our next speaker.

**Town Clerk Diana Quast:**

I have Brian Sillik.

**Joanne Sillik:**

Joanne and Brian. Okay.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Okay, so we have Joanne Sillik, for the record. Just letting the Coalition know.

**Joanne Sillik:**

Okay, good evening.

**RoseMarie Panio, CCSE**

Good evening.

**Joanne Sillik:**

I would like to address some comments to the Yorktown Police Department led by Police Chief Robert Noble. Chief Noble has a staff of 59 officers, servicing a community of 42 square miles, and nearly 40,000 residents. Quite remarkable. Originally from New York City, I very much appreciate the Yorktown police treating us with respect and professionalism. Having lived here for several years, I've come to know many of the officers by name. I asked myself, how is that possible? They might not realize that officers are always around not only keeping us safe, but at the San Gennaro Festival, St. Patrick's Day.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

I think we lost Joanne. Joanne, It looks like you were muted. I don't know - it sounded like you were moving your device and maybe you hit the mute button by accident. I think it's on the bottom left corner of your device if you're using an iPad or a phone. That's a touchscreen - bottom left corner. If you can press that and unmute yourself, then we can continue with your comments. Joanne, we're going to come back to Joanne to see if she can unmute their device. So, we can continue with our speakers. Diana who do we have next.

**Town Clerk Diana Quast:**

I have Hari Rau-Murthy.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Hi, how are you doing?

**Hari Rau-Murthy:**

Hi, how are you?

**Hari Rau-Murthy:**

So, my name is Hari Rau-Murthy. I'm a PhD student in mathematics at Notre Dame. I've been in your town since I was two years old; before that I was in Tarrytown, where I was born.

**Joanne Sillik:**

I was on.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Joanne, I'm sorry. Just wait two minutes so we can finish with Hari Rau, and then we can go back to you if that's okay. I am sorry. Continue.

**Hari Rau-Murthy:**

And so, yeah, I've been living in this beautiful town since I was two years old. And I guess you need my address, right. I live in the Huntersville neighborhood in Yorktown Heights. If you want to find me.

**Louise DeMarco:**

Perfect. Thank you.

**Hari Rau-Murthy:**

I'm a PhD student at Notre Dame and I've been taking part in the conversation over there in South Bend, Indiana, and I think it's a beautiful, Midwestern town, South Bend, Indiana and they have a community. They've been discussing legislation to go to a Community Police Review Board. It's really for the benefit of the police who put themselves out in line every day.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

I'm sorry, you're referring to South Bend, Indiana?

**Hari Rau-Murthy:**

Yes, I'm referring to South Bend, Indiana. And I just really think that what is being done in South Bend, Indiana, could be a model for Yorktown Heights. We should consider this legislation that was just passed yesterday in South Bend. I think having a Police Community Review Board - a place where complaints are sent first before they're forwarded to the Police Chief- here could be useful. It's really for the benefit of the police. I just want to ask if there were any conversations about an independent community review board that is independent of the police that gets the complaints first.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Thank you for participating. Are you currently in South Bend right now?

**Hari Rau-Murthy:**

Right now, I'm in Yorktown Heights in New York.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

You are in Yorktown now. That's great. I didn't know if you were in Notre Dame. But best of luck with your PhD pursuit. That's so impressive. I think that it's a great, and just to remind everyone, and I mean no disrespect but the purpose of this conversation is to focus on the Yorktown Police Department. I don't know, the intricacies of the South Bend community or the South Bend Police Department. So, I don't know how we can correctly compare the South Bend operation with the Yorktown operation.

**Hari Rau-Murthy:**

I guess that the question doesn't really have anything to do with that. What I'm saying is, is has there been any conversation over here about having a police review board that is independent and is run by the community that gets the complaints first.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

To answer your question, there has been to my recollection no public conversation about a Police Review Board of that type.

**Hari Rau-Murthy:**

Okay. I just think it would be a great idea to start something like this since we are having a conversation, and we're trying to see what we can do better. I think this will strengthen our community relations between the police in Yorktown and the community in Yorktown. It'll build up trust in our institutions and it was just passed in South Bend. And I think there's a comparison between South Bend and Yorktown, I just think that it has been done in cities all over the Country and, small towns and big cities. There's no reason why it can't happen in Yorktown Heights, New York.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Okay. All right. Well, we appreciate the input on the community Police Review Board. I wasn't trying to say you were speaking for South Bend. I just want to make sure your comments are about proposing a community police review board for the Town of Yorktown, just so we are totally clear.

**Hari Rau-Murthy:**

Totally. Yes.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Very good. Thank you very much. We appreciate your participation. And again, best of luck with your PhD at Notre Dame. That's, fantastic. Okay, we're going to go on to our next speaker.

**Town Clerk Diana Quast:**

Are we going to go back to Joanne Sillik?

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Yeah, we'll go back to the Silliks. That's great.

**Joanne Sillik:**

Okay, I don't know how much of it you heard from the beginning. Did you?

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Yes. We heard a little bit at the beginning, but if you want to start from the top, feel free.

**Joanne Sillik:**

Okay. Hi, everybody. Good evening. Thank you for this opportunity to speak tonight. I would like to address my comments to the Yorktown Police Department led by Chief Robert Noble. The chief has a staff of 59 officers servicing a community of 42 miles and nearly 40,000 residents. Quite remarkable. Originally from New York City, I very much appreciate the Yorktown police treating us with respect and professionalism. Having lived here for several years, I've come to know many of the officers by name. I asked myself how is that possible? Then I realized that the officers are always around not only keeping us safe, but as our neighbors going to street fairs. The San Gennaro feast, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Veterans Day, I can go on and on. But let's not forget that these trained officers are putting their lives on the line, if necessary. How many other career people would be asked to do that? I would like to share an incident with you. On leaving my house one day I saw my neighbor fall very hard hitting the cement driveway. I went over and called his wife. Although he tried to get up, being overweight he wasn't able to. I called 911 and explained what happened. Literally in less than five minutes. The Yorktown police car was there. Apparently, they knew the man since they were called to assist him before and helped him get up. The officers were professional, respectful and friendly. They knew my neighbor by name. In addition, I knew one of the officers as well. This does not happen by accident. Our Police Department actively engages with us. The results speak for themselves. Now let's not forget who was at the helm. Chief Robert Noble, beginning in Yorktown as a patrolman, he rose through the ranks and became chief of police in 2016. The Yorktown Police Department is credited by the state's Division of Criminal Justice Services. Only 29% of municipal police departments achieve this. I repeat only 29%; it is a formal recognition that the policies are and, I quote, "conceptually found and operationally effective." I am personally impressed with Chief Noble's dedication to the community, including Toys for Tots Coordinator, the Shrub Oak Athletic Club, and is a member of the Alliance for Safe Kids. Clearly, he has established a solid bond with the people of Yorktown. No wonder he has earned our respect and appreciation with his exemplary leadership. I am proud to say the Yorktown Police Department is truly the backbone of our community. Thank you. Thank you for all you do keeping us safe. God bless you. And thank you for this opportunity. And Brian would like to say something now. Is that okay?

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

I believe he signed up right, Diana? He is signed up. Yes, Brian can speak.

**Brian Sillik:**

Good evening, Brian Sillik, Yorktown Heights, New York. I just want to thank you for taking the time to listen to us. And I have nothing but praise also for the Yorktown Police Department. The other night, I sat pulled over with my wife to get the GPS out of the trunk. Within literally one minute a policeman came by says "Everything all right? Can I help you with anything?" They seem to appear out of nowhere and they're always random, always good. We're sitting with a group of people, six feet apart, social distancing and policeman drove by. We waved. He pulled into the parking lot. We're all sitting thinking that we didn't need him and that we just wanted to say hi, and thank them for all they do. If I may, Chief Noble again, was made Chief in 2016 four years ago on September 6, I'd like to quote what he said in his swearing in ceremony. First of all, he was a longtime Yorktown resident, and he lived here with his wife and three children. He was in the police department prior to being the chief. This is a quote, "this is an amazing, amazing Town" Noble said, "I am a lucky man to be working here. I am a lucky man as I stand before you as your Chief of Police. I'll always be humble and never forget this night. Thank you all for making it so

special.” Chief Noble, however, said that his department receives mostly the support from Yorktown community, from sports and arts to parades and festivals. This is all quoted by Chief Noble, he said Yorktown is a special place to raise a family. There's something for everybody in this town, should they want to get involved. He said this town is just a great, great place for anybody. Also, there's a meeting with the police for breakfast. I suggest everybody try to attend and learn and know our police. We were checking on a traffic light, my wife and I, a while back we went to the police department in Yorktown to find out some traffic information. Chief Noble, we hadn't asked for it, but he was just there, he came out introduced himself and offered to buy us a soda from the vending machine. He's a gentleman. He's great. The police department is fantastic. If you wave to them, you say hello to them. They're nothing but pure courtesy. And you'll find them popping out of side streets on Route 6 and catching speeders - they are a fantastic department. We have something that no other police department has in the country. We have Chief Noble. Thank you.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Brian, thank you. Thank you.

**Police Chief Robert Noble:**

You are going make me cry.

**Town Clerk Diana Quast:**

I'm going to call upon Richard Shaw.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Okay, we have Rich Shaw.

**Richard Shaw:**

Hey, Matt, how are you? Sorry, guys. I'm multitasking listening to my daughter's teachers. As I'm participating. I just want to say thank you for the invitation to listen in and all the things that we've said. I'm in agreement with all the things said about Chief Noble. I just want to give you one instance that I had, not necessarily with Chief Noble, but with one of his officers. About two years ago, we had an unfortunate event where my dog got hit by a car. And Officer Garcia came over and Bobby, I don't know if you got my voicemail, but I did leave you a voicemail about this. I work about 90 minutes away. My wife works about 90 minutes away. And Angel stayed with my daughter, comforted her the entire time, until we got somebody here. And not only did he do that and stayed until we got here for a couple of minutes afterwards, after his tour was done. He didn't want to get over time; he didn't want to do anything. He went back and got into civilians and he came back and he sat with Alyssa for about another 20 or 30 minutes on his own time. So Chief, I think you have an incredible bunch of people that work for you. I sometimes work for you when I put on my Westchester Sheriff's outfit. And I enjoy working; I enjoy working with the CERT Team with Craig. So, again, I really appreciate it. You got a great team. And I'm looking forward to participating in the future. Thanks, Matt. Thanks, Diana.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Thank you, Rich. Appreciate you participating.

**Town Clerk Diana Quast:**

That's all I have on my list. But is there anybody on that would like to speak at this time?

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

I know we have Daks Armstrong. I don't know if he wants to speak.

**Daks Armstrong:**

Yeah, so I'm going to speak now.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Yeah, absolutely, please.

**Daks Armstrong:**

Okay. Good evening, everyone. How's everybody doing?

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

But thank you. How are you?

**Daks Armstrong:**

Thanks. Good, Chief. Good to see you again.

**Police Chief Robert Noble:**

You too, Daks. How you doing?

**Daks Armstrong:**

I'm good. We haven't spoken in a little while.

**Police Chief Robert Noble:**

Ok, you let me know when.

**Daks Armstrong:**

On Sunday we have a little event; stop on by and support. I know you are a baldly, so maybe you don't need a haircut but maybe you can sponsor a haircut for somebody else. It is really good, you know, to hear all of the stories and all the support for Chief Noble. I know that my interactions with the Chief have been positive; my interactions with the officers in town have been positive. And you know, I've never shared this with anyone - no one knows - but my uncle, God rest his soul, was actually a NYPD detective for many, many years. So, you know, my role in town and, and with Yorktown for Justice is not in any way a slight against our police department, which is exemplary. It's simply to use the platform of our police department and our town to set an example for our County to set an example for our Country. I think that we're in a position of privilege to do that. So, with that said, I wanted to acknowledge one of the speakers from earlier today, Hari Rau-Murthy. I appreciated your comments and one thing I've learned over the years as an educator is when you have a PhD prospect telling you something, it's a good idea to listen. I feel privileged, because I know that great minds think alike. However, you're not alone in that idea about a civilian complaint board. I know that it's something that I've brought up in the past in private and I do support your idea and hope that it's something that the Coalition will discuss and explore ways that we can use to our advantage. It is a way to protect officers, it's a way to protect the process for the town, for both the community and for the police officers. As great as Chief Noble is, he's not going to be our Chief forever. What we're going to hit at some point, you know, Chief Noble will retire and hand over the reins to someone else. And we want to make sure that our process as a town is uniform, regardless of who is at the helm. So, I say that and want to offer up a couple of points to the Coalition to explore. First, are body cameras. Body cams are something that our neighboring municipalities already employ and it's a good way to protect our officers when they're on the job

on a daily basis. I strongly suggest that we look at outfitting our police department with body cameras. Also, implicit bias training. I know, the Chief has been gracious enough to share with me what goes on within our department. And I know that there's an implicit bias training that Officer Fortunato already provides and Officer Fortunato is an excellent officer. I've met him on a number of occasions, he gets my stamp of approval without any questions. However, I think it's always good to add additional trainings. So, I would recommend more than just the one training that Officer Fortunato offers, and to have trainings yearly, multiple if possible, I think that would be best, and to vet outside organizations and outside facilitators that can come in and do those trainings. So, I would ask the coalition to look into additional implicit bias trainings in education. And just going back to my previous point, I'd like to see us improve our methodology for reporting encounters with the police. I'd like to see us align our reporting methods with that of other Westchester municipalities. We should be looking at reforms that the Westchester Task Force and our neighboring towns taskforces are exploring, and we should strive to provide a safe space for community members to submit their complaints while protecting them from any possible backlash. We should look at methods to ensure the safety and confidentiality of the community and those that make reports. Okay, so thank you for your time, you know, we have a debate going on and there's a lot of things going on in town. So, thank you for hearing me tonight and for taking time out of our busy schedules to be here.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Daks, I really appreciate your insight and your participation and comments. When you say that there are neighboring communities, can you be more specific? Which ones are you referring to? You mentioned body cams - I just want to see if we can try to be specific on body cams in which neighboring communities.

**Daks Armstrong:**

Westchester County Police Department actually already employed body cameras; I learned that through their taskforce listening session. So I think that if the County Police are using body cams, surely, I think we can do the same.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

I don't mean to keep cutting you off.

**Daks Armstrong:**

it's fine. It's fine. Go ahead.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Are there any other municipalities and municipal police departments that are using body cams? I know Yonkers for instance just did it. So are there any other police departments using them, like Peekskill?

**Steve Ronco, Westchester County District Attorney's Office:**

Yes.

**RoseMarie Panio, CCSE:**

Is that for every officer?

**Steve Ronco, Westchester County District Attorney's Office:**

That's correct.

**Daks Armstrong:**

So, I would say, without knowing every municipality and all of their procedures, I would say Peekskill is a pretty good, comparable department to ours.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Okay, on the methodology of reporting, I'm just curious if there are other municipal police departments. I understand the County but other municipal departments that are currently instituting some type of specific methodology and reporting.

**Daks Armstrong:**

Well, every neighboring town in Westchester currently has their own Task Force, and they're going through their own procedures. I would assume that everyone's looking at their reporting procedures; if they are not, I'd be concerned. So, I'm just urging us to do the same to review our procedures, and to see how we can ensure the confidentiality and the safety of people that make reports. I would support the earlier suggestion of a Civilian Community Complaint Board.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

As part of the Executive Order, every municipality that has a municipal police force has to engage in this conversation. Maybe I misunderstood you. I thought you were saying that there were other municipal or other police forces, and I understand the County, but I was trying to get to other municipal police forces that already implemented or are implementing enhanced reporting of this type. So that's what I was just curious about.

**Daks Armstrong:**

Sure.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

I don't know if anyone else wants to ask Daks any questions. I think he's our last speaker. I'm sorry, we have one more, correct, Diana? I think we had one more speaker.

**Daks Armstrong:**

And I know Diego hasn't spoken yet.

**Town Clerk Diana Quast:**

John, did you want to speak?

**John DelVecchio:**

Yes. I was not sure if it was the right time. But yes, I do want to speak.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Give us your full name, please.

**John DelVecchio:**

I have lived in Yorktown for the past 20 years. I have 25 years of experience in the civil service side. I'm now in the private sector as a security business. So, I kind of see both sides of what's being said today. I know we touched a lot on this civilian Community Review Board. I have an opposite opinion on that. I am no longer in the police work field. Police work is a completely different dynamic than a civilian is used to. It's not something that I think civilians can actually comment and decide what is right and what's wrong on except what's seen on the media and a lot

of things that people are swayed by. So being in the private sector now, I don't think any police department or community benefits from a Civilian Review Board. Trust me, when I tell you in the law enforcement side, there are so many checks and balances on the inside between supervisors. Things that are controlled through training. It's not simple to just say, okay, put a civilian board in charge, and say this officer did something wrong, or this officer did something right. Due to the training, and especially in Westchester County, and having experience all through the Country, these officers receive the highest level of training anywhere around, you're getting the creme de la creme of officers within Westchester County. One other comment on Angel Garcia, I know him personally as well, he is one of the greatest officers that I've dealt with in Yorktown Heights. I just wanted you to know, we did focus on two speakers tonight. But I just don't agree with the Community Review Board. I would love to talk further about it with this panel and give more reasons why. I think there's more negatives than positives that will come out of that. Implicit bias training, I'm all for, I think it's great. Training, officers love training, there is training that is good. And training, some of it is repetitive, but that's what we do. That's what we need. But I do agree that implicit bias training is good, I've been in a couple those in the private sector. I think it's a great way to open up dialogue between different people's opinions. And, you know, that's how you get problems solved by talking about it, by getting it out there. By actually, you know, speaking of experiences and why people react or act in a certain way. I mean, implicit bias training is good. Just like I said, I just would like to discuss more about the Community Review Board, if that ever goes on the table. I have a lot of insight, and a lot of knowledge that I think I could bring towards the table as well. I don't have a PhD, but I do have graduate degrees in criminal justice. So, I think I can offer a lot to that, if that ever does come through, if it's talking about coming to fruition, or further talks about that. Your town police, like I said, I've lived here 20 years, they do a great job with protecting the community. everything, every experience that I had, was positive as far as anytime I needed anything or had to speak to anyone. So, I don't see any problems that would arise with where that sort of review board would be even needed. But like I said, I would love to talk more about it, if it does come on the table. Thank you, I just want to thank you for inviting me tonight and allowing me to speak and be part of this board.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

John, appreciate your comments. I will say that these discussions are open to the public. Our next listening session is November 19<sup>th</sup>. If you want to come back with more specifics about the things that you discussed, if you feel the need to educate the Coalition, I offer the same to Daks and I offer the same thing to Hari on the issue itself, by all means; that's why we are holding these and they're open to the public to solicit that type of feedback and education to the Coalition. So, don't feel that you need a formal invitation. I would just encourage you to participate, and just know that you have another opportunity next month to provide additional detail on your views. I know that Diego wanted to speak from Yorktown for Justice.

**Diego Jaramillo:**

I basically have some questions that I want to ask. I don't expect them to be answered tonight. But I think it could lead to a more positive working session in the future. First, Chief Noble, thank you so much for being open to this input. You know, it's clear you're running a class organization and this can only hopefully make you better. You implemented Hope Not Handcuffs as a diversionary methodology. Is there something that can be done with mental health support and perhaps is there anything in place for you know, teens and juveniles? Do we have a program in place to help them out? My second question is - you showed us the incident report - are we evaluating those incident reports, are we seeing any patterns, is there anything that you take away from that as an opportunity for improvement, and implementation through training? And then what had been the recent

training changes that you've made? I don't expect an answer tonight, but I think it would be productive to the conversation next time. Thank you so much.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Chief, do you want to respond, I don't know if you're able to answer any of those questions. But do you want to?

**Police Chief Robert Noble:**

The next presentation that I am going to make involves our personnel complaint policy. It involves our departmental training, and hiring process. So, all of those like I said, I'm trying to focus on areas or rules and regulations that conform to Executive Order 203. I think the public, you know, it gives them transparency, it gives them a peek inside as to how we do things at the Yorktown Police Department. I'm trying to give the public out there as much bang for their buck as they can get with why we do things, how we do things, and the way the finished product is that the public receives. I'm very confident that we service the public at a very, very high level. And, you know, you've heard a few officers mentioned, I've got an agency full of them. I've got a lot of talent, they treat people well, they get treated well and I think that's the recipe when you're treated well, you return that out to the public. I think the data will support us. I will have more data at the next presentation in November. I think we will show we're doing pretty well and I fully expect that to continue. You'll hear me say I'm proud of this agency; I continue to be lucky to have surrounded myself with good people. When you do that, in any walk of life, you'll see positive results. So, we're going to touch upon Diego's questions, we're going to touch upon the training, some of the things that we've done. And I think when the public hears how many hours of training that our officers receive, I think you're going to be blown away. I think it's something that really speaks volumes because any training that we can receive, if it's quality training, it is good, it's excellent for the officers to receive and implement. Like I said, we strive to stay ahead of the curve. The most important thing that's implemented or discussed is the ability to communicate, and you know, what, to be able to communicate with anybody out there, whether you have a PhD, or whether you maybe have mental health problems, you know, to be able to calmly, slowly, effectively, and with empathy and compassion, be able to communicate with and be able to get the job done out there.

**Diego Jaramillo:**

Thank you for the communication. Thank you for the transparency. I look forward to the continued conversation.

**Police Chief Robert Noble:**

Yeah, no problem.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Thank you, Diego. Diana, Do we have anybody else we have to speak.

**Town Clerk Diana Quast:**

Daks has requested to clarify something.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Okay. Daks, Mr. Armstrong.

**Daks Armstrong:**

You can call me Daks. Just a clarifying a point. The comments made by John DelVecchio about the Civilian Complaint Board. My comments were more in line with the community supporting the reporting process, so that there's a mediator between the community members making a complaint of an issue and the police department, who they may be making a complaint about. So clearly, you can see how there could be a conflict and probably a Civilian Complaint Board could play a role. I was in it, you got to be careful when you start to make comments regarding people's ability to judge right and wrong. I think you know, as human beings we can all judge right and wrong. I understand not having the training of a police officer. And I understand that is definitely a difference. But I lived in New York City for 30 years. It's a town of 8 or 9 million people, has a lot of police officers, and they've had a Civilian Community Complaint Board for decades, and it hasn't completely destroyed the police department there. So, if a town of 8 or 9 million or so people can have a board, I think a town our size can have a board as well. And I don't think it would topple the entire system.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Daks, Thank you. Appreciate that.

**John DelVecchio:**

Should I respond back to that or no.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

You know, I'd rather we not get into a back and forth, if you'd like to respond, you can.

**John DelVecchio:**

I lived in the city as well, for some time. I know the dynamics revolving around the New York City Police Department, they're a much larger department, there's a lot of different facets, it's a completely different job. I'm not saying a civilian review board will topple over the police department, I just don't see the benefit of it in Yorktown Heights, coming from a County with, I think we have 42 towns and villages in Westchester County. I don't know of any civilian review boards in the county, I could be wrong - I'm going to do some homework on that just for my own knowledge and understanding. I just don't see any benefit. If someone makes a complaint against the police officer, which they have the right to do, they can still do that and confidentiality and everything else still plays a factor. I agree 100% training is good. Training costs money, but it's good. And the reason why you have such great police officers in Westchester County, specifically Yorktown Heights, is because they go through a lot of training. They know what they're doing. You're not having these incidents that you see in other municipalities and other locations and other areas. I'm not saying you're wrong by wanting to implement that. I'm just saying it's part of it. Don't try and fix that part if it's not broken. That's all I was trying to say. But like I said, I'm sorry, if I'm getting a little long winded, I talk a lot. But I would love to, you know, go through an open dialog. You're supposed to listen to other people and I am listening to you. I do respect what you have to say I just want to say from my training and my knowledge and my understanding of what's done and what's not done. I think given those factors and what we're dealing with in Yorktown Heights, I wouldn't want to disturb that. You have a great police department with great officers, and they go through very good training, just being through Westchester County. That's it. Sorry if I'm going too long.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Thank you. Appreciate that, John. I do have one written comment that actually, let me just check to make sure – Diana, is Mr. Murphy on? Otherwise we can read his letter.

**Town Clerk Diana Quast:**

No, he's not on and he asked to have his letter read.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Okay, do you want me to read or do you want me to read it.

**Town Clerk Diana Quast:**

You can read it.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Okay. The letter states addressed to our Town Clerk Miss Quast. Please submit and read the below statement at the October 22 Coalition on Community Safety and Engagement Listening Session. My name is Patrick Murphy. I own a small business in New York town for over 13 years over that timeframe. I had several interactions with Yorktown police each and every time they were professional, positive and proactive. They took the time and care to educate me on safety and prevention and kept my customers employees and surrounding neighborhoods safe. The police department consistently display their professionalism. I've seen firsthand how they have responded to elderly in the community, those whose medical conditions sometimes pose a risk to their own safety. The police and ambulance are very responsive and professional taking control and keeping the family safe and informed while letting the volunteer ambulance staff do their job. I grew up in your town and made the decision to move back here and raise my family in no small part based on the security of this community, the police presence and their unwavering commitment to our community schools and businesses. As reinforced that decision for me repeatedly. My family and I are extremely grateful to live in Yorktown a continued focus on public safety will be key to enabling my own children to make a similar decision for themselves. Thank you signed Patrick Murphy.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

That is the only written comment that we've received for tonight. I do want to go back to the Coalition and see if they have any comments or questions that they want to either address or repose.

**James Poulin, CCSE:**

I first want to say thank you, everybody for your comments they were eloquent and well appreciated. I think one thing we need to keep focused on is that it's not just today. I mean, Chief, you've got a tough job, and you do it well. But it's setting up for tomorrow as well. And I think if we don't keep that in mind, I think that'll certainly help us as we go forward with this group. But thank you, everybody. Appreciate it.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Thanks, Jim.

**RoseMarie Panio, CCSE:**

I'd like to just say that I'm very happy with the idea of the camcorders because they not only protect the public, but they protect our policemen as well. I think that's a great idea that they should have those. I'm also learning a lot about bola wraps. When is this appropriate to use?

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Chief, You want to answer that question.

**Police Chief Robert Noble:**

In our endeavors to try to keep people as safe as possible. I, a few months back, I learned of the bola wrap device, I actually knew about it probably about six months ago and they brought a demonstration to the City of Yonkers Police Department. I attended and Lieutenant Graham attended and our defensive tactics use of force lead instructor, Michael Caprio attended. We thought it'd be useful tool for us as a less lethal device. It is along the lines of you know, Taser, basically, or OC. The resin capsicum known as pepper spray, where I think you can make a difference is with agitated subjects or maybe, you know, those emotionally disturbed people that we do run into where if we can get them before they get too excited or too, you know, violent. If we can use this wrap too, you know what it is, it's a projectile that shoots a Kevlar rope, and it wraps around a person's legs, or you try to get their arms or one arm or two arms basically wrapped around, it's almost like, I hate to use this analogy, if you watch Spider Man and you know, that there's a wrap that goes around, and it kind of keeps your limbs in pretty close. Um, I think it can be useful. I know, it was a very generous thing the other day, that was done with raising funds so that we can purchase them. I'm optimistic that they're going to come in useful. But before we ever utilize them in the field, we have to train our officers. And we have to develop a policy to use it correctly. And that's underway right now we're looking into it, we may acquire this product. But again, before it's ever utilized in the field, we have to train. And we need a policy. Because you know what, our officers deserve any tool I can get them that makes them safer and the public safer. That's a win, win. And we're all about that. But, you know, when you talk about police work, it is split second decisions, and the best way that my officers can make those split-second decisions correctly, is through training, muscle memory, which is you know, the training and well written policies that are easy to understand. And, you know, easy to implement.

**RoseMarie Panio, CCSE:**

So these are non-lethal, obviously.

**Police Chief Robert Noble:**

Less, there is nothing non-lethal. It's less lethal.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

You're welcome. Thank you, Rose. Who else from the Coalition wants to say something.

**Liz Rivera, CCSE:**

I just wanted to say thank you to everyone who participated. And I appreciated hearing a lot of the feedback from, you know, our fellow town members, and definitely look forward to. I mean, I like the idea of a civilian complaint board. So, I would definitely like to explore that more. And again, I just loved all the ideas that were brought forth. And Chief Noble, I just keep saying, you know, keep doing a good job.

**Police Chief Robert Noble:**

Thank you, Liz. Thanks a lot. Thank you for your support.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Excellent. Anyone else from the coalition Rabbi Robbie.

**Rabbi Robbie Weiner:**

It's really more of like a process question. And that is, you know, while we've been hearing about the sort of review board and we've also been hearing about body cameras is that for us as a board to make decisions or even recommendations with the help of the chief. Well, we have an

opportunity to hear from people who literally know about these things like they've created them in their communities, and they come and they talk to us about it, because right now, we're hearing from different stakeholders, which is really important at this stage. But I'm curious to know, as we go further in this process, whether it's in the fall or going towards the winter, and start thinking about recommendations, are we just going to base those recommendations off of the information that we've heard in these types of listening sessions. Will we have an opportunity to say, hey, they built this type of thing down in Larchmont or other parts of the County, and it succeeded. And then we hear from another community where it failed and things of that sort, and we get this information about the process, or even with the body cameras to know, we might like the idea, but if it costs the town, you know, an extraordinary amount of money, where it really constrains your budget. Like, before we make a recommendation about anything, I would love to learn more about these things.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

We can definitely engage With Chief Noble and work with Mr. Ronco from the DA's Office, if we can get some direction and individuals who could speak on those matters, to educate the Coalition. And maybe we can include that as part of our next workgroup meetings. So, this way, that's what the workgroup meetings with the Chief provide for the Coalition be educated. And so we have the Chief educating us on the policies of the of the Yorktown Police Department, and if we want to have others who have some other expertise or experience in these things, and Chief, I'm not trying to take that away from you, if you can speak on them. Great. But if there are others that we should hear from then I think that it's only fair for us to hear from them.

**RoseMarie Panio, CCSE:**

Yes, I agree.

**Police Chief Robert Noble:**

Yes, and that's why I sent you my email, if you have questions, you can certainly send them my way. And you know, I'll do my best to get the answers for you.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Chief, there was a question I had. I'm sorry, Rabbi. Did you have any other thoughts or comments? One of the other questions was there was a comparison made to Peekskill. Do you want to speak on that comparison, is the Yorktown Police Department comparable to the Peekskill Police Department? What are we looking at there is it apples to apples?

**Police Chief Robert Noble:**

I don't necessarily think we're comparable. That's Peekskill. I can't say you know, let me put it right out there Peekskill is a much more diverse community than Yorktown is. The census data will back that up. You know, the policing in Peekskill may be a little different than the policing in Yorktown. So again, we talked about broad brushes and things like that, you know, it is different. I don't necessarily think Peekskill, and Yorktown are comparable. But again, we can agree to disagree.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Okay, I apologize. I'm not trying to put you on the spot.

**Police Chief Robert Noble:**

You did.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

I know. It was part of the dialogue.

**Police Chief Robert Noble:**

I told you, I don't duck anybody Supervisor, not even you.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

I know that don't worry. Anyone else on the Coalition. any thoughts or comments that you might have.

**Paul Cirillo, CCSE:**

I thought it was great hearing everyone's comments, and it proves that Yorktown Police are really good and Chief Noble is doing the right thing with all the training.

**Police Chief Robert Noble:**

Thanks. Let me chime in right there to hear that from a young man like you. That means something because right now, you see a lot of things on TV with the national media. And that somebody your age can have that opinion, that says a lot. I tell my own kids who are right around your age, have your own opinion, make your own opinion don't listen to the news of what's fed to you on TV, educate yourself and make an informed decision. It's like I said when I go on next time, you'll hear me talking about the SRO program, ad nauseum and to have the ability to meet with adolescents and now on one school district side with elementary school children. We're giving these kids the ability to form their own opinions to actually have dialogue with a police officer. And so you know what, that guy's not so bad and you'll hear me say we all have a lot more in common than we have differences. I'm very optimistic. It'll make us all better. But I don't want to get too long winded. But Paul, thanks, I'm happy to hear that. It restores my faith because you have to carry us the rest of the way. You're the future.

**Paul Cirillo, CCSE:**

Thank you, Chief.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

All right. Is there anyone else from the Coalition that would like to speak?

**Peter Lanza, CCSE:**

I just want to second what everybody said, it was good to hear the great things that our police department has done. I haven't had too many run ins thank God, good or bad. I did witness a couple of games of kids versus cops and the interaction between 12-year-old, 10-year-old and 13-year-old kids and our police force, it was unbelievable. Over the years. It's a fundraiser that Sergio Esposito has put together and they've always been there for us. Thank you, everybody for being here tonight.

**RoseMarie Panio, CCSE:**

Thank you.

**Police Chief Robert Noble:**

Thank you.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Before we close, I saw Councilman Tom Diana on. And we have Councilwoman Alice Roker before we sign off, I just want to see if either of you want to say anything to add to tonight's conversation.

**Councilman Tom Diana:**

Sure. Thank you, Supervisor. Thank you to everybody here and to the Coalition. I think this is a very laudable cause that we're doing here to support our police department. God knows I had my time in the field and Chief can back me up on that. I don't know about Peter Lanza's brushes with the police, we're going to have to look into that one. I can only say, Chief, keep up the good work, the guys are great. We had that fundraiser to hopefully help them out a little bit over the weekend. With the bolo wrap, and Rose, when you get a chance, I'll show you a video, I think you'll get a kick out of it. I'm doing the Tennessee bird walk. But anyway, it's a great tool, great new tool for the police department with the proper documentation that they have to follow rules, regulations and training. So, it's a less than lethal device that will 100% help, especially with the mental health people we do encounter out there where they may not understand a police officer's commands, and you don't want to hurt those people. You know it but you do have to do a job. And that's what people have to understand. So, this is the lesser, kinder, gentler way to take care of business. Chief, keep up the good work.

**Police Chief Robert Noble:**

Thank you, Councilman.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Thank you, Councilman Diana, I just want to see if we can get Councilwoman Alice Roker on the phone not sure if we can. I know we have some feedback from someone right. Di, we can't unmute.

**Town Clerk Diana Quast:**

No, it will not let me unmute Councilwoman Roker.

**Supervisor Matt Slater:**

Well, that will conclude tonight's listening session, I want to thank everyone, for participating. And I think one of the great things about tonight is even though we heard opposing, not necessarily opposing but different views and different perspectives, it's very clear that during the entire time, we were able to maintain a very high level of respect and civility, which is so important for us as a community. So, I really want to thank everyone, I want to thank the Coalition for their leadership. And our next meeting will be November 12<sup>th</sup>. That'll be a work group meeting similar to again, our meeting that was on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October. We'll have a presentation from Chief Noble and to Rabbi Robbie we will work between now and then to try to find some folks who can speak to some of the issues that we heard tonight. And with that, we will adjourn the meeting. Again, I want to thank everyone who came on and thank the Coalition. Thank you, everyone. A very good night. Happy Halloween. Stay safe and stay healthy.