



YORKTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NEW YORK 10598-3795
Robert M. Noble, *Chief of Police*

January 5, 2021

Town of Yorktown
363 Underhill Avenue
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Dear Supervisor Slater and Members of Yorktown Community Coalition,

After listening to members of our community, and being mindful of the feedback we have received from outside of the EO 203 listening sessions, my advisements and recommendations are as follows:

To revise our Personnel Complaint Policy to read that the Yorktown Town Board as Police Commissioners shall receive a quarterly report from the Chief of Police on any personnel complaints received from the public or disciplinary procedures initiated against a police department employee internally by the Yorktown Police Department. Currently, I meet with the Town Board in January of each year to brief them on said complaints.

To beta test body worn cameras and submit a report to the Town Board on the recommended body camera as well as the costs involved. We are currently in the process of testing body worn cameras and expect to have a report submitted to the Town Board by April 30, 2021.

To commit to annual anti-bias and de-escalation in service training. "Principled Policing" incorporates implicit bias and procedural justice as core components of the training. In addition, if a speaker such as M. Quentin Williams should be available to provide this training to the Yorktown Police Department, we would certainly welcome it.

Provide the Yorktown Police Department Personnel Complaint Policy on our police department website, as well as on the Town of Yorktown website. The Town of Yorktown may also post the Yorktown Police Department Use of Force Policy as well.

To acknowledge that racial profiling is strictly prohibited. Article 1.15.10 (6) of Yorktown Police Department's general rules and regulations states, "Any police-initiated action that relies on the race, ethnicity or national origin, rather than the behavior of an individual, or information that leads police to a particular individual who has been identified as being, or having been, engaged in criminal activity is prohibited."

As for advisements, I urge Westchester County to consider the reformation of the Mobile Crisis Unit. As I painstakingly articulated, calls for service involving emotionally disturbed persons (EDP) are amongst the most dangerous calls for service that a police officer responds to.

Supervisor Slater and Members of Yorktown Community Coalition

Page 2

January 5, 2021

We will continue our stellar community outreach initiatives with events like Coffee With A Cop, Cones with Cops, Pizza with the Police, Relay for Life, Halloween Parade participation, etc. Our robust Facebook page will continue to provide excellent communication with our residents. We will also continue to do our best to respond to requests from the public to provide a police speaker at neighborhood or civic events upon request.

We will continue to partner with the Hope Not Handcuffs diversionary program. We will look to support any future diversionary programs initiated by New York State, Westchester County, Office of the District Attorney, etc. that are applicable to the Town of Yorktown.

We will continue our commitment to maintaining our Accredited Police Agency status in New York State.

I would like to thank Supervisor Slater, members of the Yorktown Town Board, the members of the CCSE for their time, courtesy and support. The Executive Order 203 process has only highlighted the support that members of the Yorktown Police Department receive from our community. We are immersed in our community. The supportive cards, letters, emails and food deliveries that are received daily at Yorktown Police Department speak to our collective efforts in the community and our community's appreciation for our commitment to their safety. The Yorktown Police Department has taken the Governor's Executive Order as an opportunity to build on and further enhance the professional service we provide to Yorktown. Without active and empathetic listening, we cannot communicate effectively. When we are able to communicate effectively, we have the opportunity to improve. To make a positive difference. The Town of Yorktown Police will continue to be the backbone of this community. As Chief of Police, I am proud of my Department and of my community. Yorktown Police Department will always do our very best to listen to the needs of all and work towards safe, healthy and positive solutions.

If any of you have questions, please let me know. You have all of the requisite data in my prior presentations. Focus should be on the lack of "Use of Force Complaints," as well as "Personnel Complaints," from the public, that continue to demonstrate compassionate and professional police service provided to the residents of Yorktown.

Respectfully,



Robert M. Noble

Chief of Police

Town of Yorktown Police Department

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c Supervisor Slater
Members of Yorktown Community Coalition