



**For Immediate Release
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CITY OF GENEVA INITIATES POLICING REFORM AND REINVENTION COLLECTIVE

Geneva, NY – In accordance with Governor Cuomo’s Executive Order 203 mandating Chief Executives, Police Chiefs and Sheriffs to convene working groups to execute and adopt a plan for police reform by April 1, 2021, City Manager Sage Gerling and Chief Passalacqua announce the kick-off of the City of Geneva’s Policing Reform and Reinvention Collective on October 13th at 6 PM. All Collective group meetings will be streamed live via the City of Geneva, NY’s YouTube channel. Meeting information will be posted on the City’s calendar and ongoing information will be posted at <http://cityofgenevany.com/police-reform/>.

As charged by Governor Cuomo, the working group will review and make policy, procedures and program recommendations for the Police Department with specific focus being addressed, but not limited to the following:

- Use of Force Policy
- Deployment of Procedural Justice
- Trainings as to Systemic Racial Bias/Justice in Policing; Implicit Bias; and De-Escalation Policies and Practices
- Policies related to Law Enforcement Diversion/Restorative Justice
- Approach to Community Based Outreach/Conflict Resolution
- Approach to Problem Oriented/Hot Spot Policing
- Approach to Focused Diversion
- Execution of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
- Approach to Violence Prevention
- Policies related to Model Policy Review

The group will be led by Facilitators Dr. Sim Covington Jr., Chief Diversity Officer for Finger Lakes Community College, and D Ekow King, Asst. to the VPSA for Intercultural Engagement, Equity and Inclusion Director, Intercultural Student Engagement at University at Albany. Both

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gentlemen are facilitating other municipalities' police reform collective groups. Coordinating the process are co-chairs Erica Collins on behalf of the City Manager's Office and Lieutenant Valenti on behalf of the Police Department. Workgroup members as outlined in the Executive Order and include the Ontario County District Attorney; Ontario County Public and Conflict Defenders; the Mayor and Ontario County Supervisor; City administration; the Geneva Police Department; Faith-based and non-profit groups; and community members from areas with high numbers of police and community interactions.

Working Group Members:

- **Raul Arroyo**, Geneva Police Department, Geneva City School District SRO
- **Carrie Bleakley**, Ontario County Conflict Defender's Office
- **Dr. Jose Canario**, Finger Lakes Community Health, Geneva City School District Board of Education
- **Erica Collins**, City Manager's Office, City of Geneva- Co-Chair
- **John Cromartie**, African American Men's Association, Finger Lakes Community College
- **Raul Fuentes**, Delivering Word Church, Creator's Touch Barbershop
- **Allauna Overstreet-Gibson**, People's Peaceful Protest
- **Reverend Donald Golden**, Mount Olive Baptist Church
- **Lou Guard**, Ontario County Board of Supervisors
- **Daniel Hickey**, Geneva Police Department
- **Teresa Johnson**, Ward 5 resident
- **Leanne Lapp**, Ontario County Public Defender's Office
- **Lucile Mallard**, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Geneva Chapter (NAACP), Ward 6 resident
- **James (Jim) Ritts**, Ontario County District Attorney
- **Richard Thomas**, African American Men's Association, Ward 5 Resident
- **Lieutenant Matthew Valenti**, Geneva Police Department- Co-Chair
- **Steve Valentino**, Mayor, City of Geneva

Additional resources for this process will be posted at <http://cityofgenevany.com/police-reform/> as this exciting endeavor gets underway.

The end result will be a plan and recommendations for policy amendments and resources to assist the police department in serving our community. City Council will be the approving board in early Winter 2021 to meet the April 1, 2021 due date to submit the approved plan to the NYS Director of the Division of the Budget. The community will be encouraged to provide ideas and feedback to the working group through multiple avenues throughout the process.

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