

Mayor Valentino's Update on City of Geneva Police Reform and Reinvention Collective Group

Governor Cuomo has mandated, through Executive Order 203, a review of policies and procedures to enhance police accountability and responsibility in local police departments. The City Manager and Chief of Police have challenged administrative staff to facilitate the following process and creation of an action plan for City Council's approval before April 1st, 2021, in accordance with the Governor's order. These efforts compliment City Council's police reform work and the strong call to action from the Geneva community this year. New York State has created a guidebook for reference throughout this process for public officials and citizens

The group is 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 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 (GPD). 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.

To Date:

- 3 meetings have been held;
 - Kick off- setting the tone; learning one's perspective, getting to know one another.
 - GPD presentation on policies and orders currently in place; the collective group begin generating their thoughts and questions.
 - Collective group discussions and Q & A session; Collective group questions were heavily weighed on the Use of Force Policy and mental health arrests. Group engaged in dialogue and were able to hear different perspectives from officers currently in the force and members of our community.

Next week: Thursday, November 5th at 5:30pm LIVE streamed

- Will be continued discussions amongst the group. They will also hear from absent members and questions that have come in from residents.
- Followed by announcement on public input session dates and times which will be virtual.
- Discussion on draft for scope overview of work sessions continuing forward.

Typically, meetings are taking place every Tuesday evening from 6:30pm-8pm via Zoom. Although, sometimes meetings may change, due to conflicting schedules for collective. All sessions will be posted on the City's website calendar.

Meetings will be streamed LIVE via the City of Geneva's YouTube page.

Additional resources for this process will be posted at <http://cityofgeneva.ny.com/police-reform/>

To assist in the development of the plan required by Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 203, part of this process involves listening and learning from members of the community about their perspectives, experiences and interactions (both positive and negative) with the City of Geneva Police Department. Anyone that does not feel comfortable sharing in an open public format when sessions are announced, can also share their perspectives, experiences and interactions anonymously on our City website under Police Reform <http://cityofgenevany.com/policing-reform-reinvention-collective/>

If you have any questions regarding the Collective Group, its process or to provide feedback and input on policies and discussions please reach out to Erica Collins, ecollins@geneva.ny.us.

I'd like to extend my gratitude the whole Collective group on the discussions and work taking place currently. Past 3 sessions, have been inspiring not only to myself, but to our group and residents viewing.