

*Below are notes compiled from the Tarrytown Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative meeting 2 held on October 19, 2020 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. Twenty eight people attended the virtual meeting. The topic for the evening was **Social and Community Engagement Aspects of the Role of the Police**. Police Chief John Barbelet presented on ways in which is department facilitates community engagement programs and initiatives. He also presented on the “Say Their Name” Reform package, and on data in reference to racial disparity. Breakout sessions discussed these initiatives. Facilitators asked participants questions that they wanted addressed by the Chief, issues related to these initiatives, and suggestions for next steps/ideas for resolving these issues.*

#### *General Questions for Executive Committee about this Process*

- Will information be shared among river towns of outcomes of all efforts?
- Have someone from the Committee join Greenburgh’s Committee to see what they are doing regarding police reform. Meetings are 6:30 – 8:30 pm on Wednesday evening
- Will we be involving the community on what we are discussing?
- How do we bring all of this to the community? Need to brainstorm this.
- What is the objective of further community involvement? Is it to help create trust with residents? Is it to assist with local recruitment? Are we trying to build better relationships?
- Can we do a survey to the community on the variety of programs/initiatives that the Chief discussed to understand how the community feels about the effectiveness of them?
- Need for testimonials from the community on perception of racial disparity
- Bring high school survey/stats into this discussion
- Learn more about – presentation from head of police union about interest of union and its role in some of the reforms on these topics.
- Can the public be in breakout rooms but on mute during these sessions?
- What is the baseline we are working on for the conversations that we are having? We need a baseline as a Committee – recognition that black lives matter and that there is racial disparity – people need to believe in Tarrytown’s effort in this Committee
- It’s okay for the village and Chief Barbelet to say "I don't know" sometimes. We aren't necessarily expecting answers to all of the questions. It would be good to hear "we don't know and we want to learn".

#### **Topic 1: Police & Community Engagement**

##### *Positives*

- People did like coffee/cone with cops
- Car seats

##### *Questions/Issues*

- What would the purpose of a youth council be – community policing or providing services to the community? Clarity on objectives for the programs.

- What is the need for officers in our schools?
- Police officers in the schools – what is the meaning behind it? Isn't it normalizing the role of violence/weaponization to keep you safe – can continue a cycle of violence.
- How do we get youth involved? How do we get the community involved? People don't typically participate anymore.
- Future of DARE programming in our community and how it reflects on our work? Understand more about program. Evidence based research on efficacy
- Do we share data/best practices with neighbors (Sleepy Hollow) and extend these programs?
- Can we share a council with Sleepy Hollow? Is there one? Communities are so intertwined. What are best practices?
- What is the process for the police collaboration in Sleepy Hollow?
- Need to involve the Spanish community – translation of report and upcoming surveys/announcements
- Is the police engaged with the Ring application?

#### *Ideas*

- Ongoing meetings with community members to get continued feedback. Ongoing way that police engage with the community.
- Informal gathering with community - Police chief with officers with village meeting with his policies, black lives matter, and police interaction
- Tailor programming around objectives that we are trying to meet.
- See police department use more social media (Example Ossining)
- Suggestions/programs discussed by the Chief will only continue to involve residents that already trust the police. They don't help promote trust and engagement with those that feel marginalized or lack trust in the system. Need to find programs that encourage marginalized groups to engage with police.

### **Topic 2: The "Say Their Name" Reform Package**

#### *Questions/Issues*

- Is there somewhere to go for more in-depth information on "Say Their Name"
- Would like to know based upon the review of the package what needs to still be addressed? Any processes need to be reformed?
- Would our village allow for technology to allow disciplinary records online or how can you access them?
- Prohibiting false race based 911 calls, what is the process behind that?
- Is it possible to find out how many/if any police with disciplinary records are working in Tarrytown now?

### **Topic 3: Racial Disparity and Building Trust**

#### *Questions/Issues*

- What is Tarrytown policy on desk appearance tickets versus summary arrests? Specifically regarding VTL and 511/512

- Can the Committee be provided data on car stops by demographics – whether Town has data on the number of car stops and the demographics of those involved even when it doesn't result in citation
- Can we be provided data on the number of arrests broken down by each officer (names do not need to be shared)
- Breakdown of demographics seems flawed – Hispanic breakdown is sprinkled between white and black. How can we break this down better? Numbers are problematic.
- Percentage of arrests in Tarrytown of African American individuals out of proportion to Tarrytown residents.
- Records of stops/citations needed instead of arrests
- More about arrest statistics presented? Related to substance abuse.
- How is the data collected and coded?
- What type of crime occurred in the Village? More detail.
- Diversion program data not showing up in the data?
- How does the police department work with social service, family services, substance abuse, mental illness, and mental health (mitigation and preventable arrest)?
- Are we looking to move police department to be more proactive and less reactive for the next generation?
- How might the pandemic change this data?
- What data management system is currently being used and if Tarrytown is looking to implement a new system?

#### *Ideas*

- Not a lot violent crime, but traffic court issues. Suspended license become more problematic for low income community. May need state legislation change.

The following are ideas/comments in relation to next meeting's topic.

#### **Police Department Recruiting, Staffing, Training and Accountability**

- More information about trainings.
- Is it possible for Committee members to observe police training?
- Will we get details on types of training the police go through in the next session? Does the topic involve recruitment?
- Push more away from cultural competency and implicit bias into an anti-racist and what training opportunities are there for that type of training.
- What form the training takes? Does it require active participation?
- Learn more about – Expectation of levels of education of officers on the force (training and general background)
- How is the police department measured/evaluated, who does it (i.e. number of arrests, how well the community is)?

- Hiring practices and is hiring from within a best practice? Evidence based research behind this.
- Hiring practices (x amount of Hispanic people, x amount of Hispanic officers)
- Racial makeup of those in leadership in Police Department.