



Town of Stillwater Police Department

Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative

Meeting Minutes

Location: Stillwater Community Center

Date: 03/01/2021

Time: 7:00pm-8:00pm

Presentation: John Nett, Co-Chair

Attendees: Ray Cordani (Commissioner of Police), Justin McFarlane, Sara Kipp, Frank Tatum (via Zoom), Judy Wood-Shaw (via Zoom), Ed Kinowski, Jenn Weaver, John Nett and Don Carola. Jimel is excused.

Agenda Items:

Agenda Item	Owner	Time Allocated
Final draft review: Collaborative Police Reform	All	55 minutes
Set Next Meeting Time/Date/Location	TBA	

Review, final draft, Collaborative Police Reform

John:

Overall thoughts of Reform: positive response by all.

Sara appreciated goals listed at the end.

Judy thought it was “wonderful”

Demographics: Stillwater figures are close to 2020 census, which numbers have yet to be validated.

The Town of Stillwater is listed by SafeWise, an independent group, as #4 in Safest Small Towns in NYS, 2018.

This shows consistency is being maintained in the community with SafeWise listing Stillwater as #47 in Safest Small Towns in America, Sept 2020.

- Proactive policing: following trends, well-trained officers, keeping policies up to date. Goal: continue review of policies by Police Commission; cycle of updates to be announced but will be every few years in the least.

Survey results: 112 responses, higher number of responses than many other entities.

Feedback: validated where we are going.

Thanks to Justin (Community Center) and Sara (Library) for getting information out.



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Functional Reviews:

- Response to calls: high visibility; intervention; community outreach events.
- Drug abuse: “self-initiated intervention” discussed by Ray: after over-dose/Narcan administered, within a day County is contacted by officer for follow-up to offer in or out-patient care. Started practice within last year or so. Addiction problems don’t go away it’s needed. Stillwater Police has had 2 confirmed over-dose/Narcan administration cases in 2021, in addition to the many incidents that officers assisted other agencies.
- DWI: Ray “proactive approach and calls have been down, possibly due to Covid and lack of visiting bars, etc., but it hasn’t stopped. Make a point of attending community events such as “Superbowl”. Ed asked Ray about impaired driving violations due to marijuana use. Ray responded that drug impaired is the same offense as DWI; DRE is called in and county performs testing; also take blood to confirm drug suspicions. Ed stated that it is important that the general public understands steps Ray goes through in these situations involving drugs.
- Domestic violence: Ray: reporting same during Covid; majority of cases do not result in arrest: parties don’t press charges or event not witnessed; report and referrals directed to advocates, who will go to court with victim. Mechanicville has a particularly good advocacy program. Importance of reaching out to victim after-the-fact so advocacy groups are especially important.
- School safety: develop relationship with children and teachers. Teach kids not to dislike police so continuous interaction important and a benefit for the community. Positive results are seen. Trust has been built because children are coming to the officer in school, on their own, for help at home. Also, it is vitally important for officers to have a good working knowledge of Stillwater school structures, especially auditorium just built, in case of emergency such as active shooter.
- Officer Support: Supervisor Kinowski: needed because Officer safety and protection is the #1 priority. The Police Commission is in full agreement and is fully supportive. Examples of ongoing needs include new vests yearly, car maintenance and replacement, firearm replacement, to name a few.
- Procedural Justice and Community Policing was looked at critically with due diligence. Stillwater’s needs do not necessary match those across state. There is discretion and alternatives to criminal arrests and this helps relationship within community. Ex: Ray’s interaction with Sara Kipp and an incident at the library. This was an arrestable offense. The parents were called in, discussions had, and all parties agreed that this was the best way to handle this particular incident. There were no repeat offenses with the individual in question. Ray stated that “arrests aren’t always the answer.”
- Racial Disparities and Building Trust: Applications from all qualified applicants will be reviewed. Since the SPD is a part time position, and many of our officers are working with other departments such as Mechanicville or the sheriff’s, it is the policy of the SPD to accept applications from officers that are currently certified by attending a certified training academy.



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- **Hate Crime/Biased Base Policy:** This a policy identified as being addressed as a policy that needs to be written, reviewed by the Police Commission and once approved put into service and the training will begin., then active training will begin.
Training: everything discussed involves active training. There is only have so much time available so a well thought out training schedule is paramount.
- **Community engagement:** The SPD and the community work well together. There is a large number of opportunities that are taken showing with a good interaction between the Police Department and the residents of the Town.
- **Transparency:** Functioning dash cams and body cameras are essential for the protection of citizens, officers, and town. They provide accurate records of all incidents. All identified incidents are uploaded to the Saratoga County DA's office as evidence for both prosecution and defense discovery.
- **Recruiting:** training meets or exceeds requirements and is ongoing.
- **Officer well-being:** There is a need for this. There is ongoing research into what is the best form of wellness and psychological assistance. We must make sure all officers are cared for.

CONCURRENCE: from this group: Refer to Supervisor and Town Board for adoption.

PUBLIC COMMENT: within next 24 hours to be presented to public for review via Express Newspaper; Stillwater Town website and Facebook page; Stillwater Police Department Facebook page; and sharing via social media. Public Portal will be created for public comment.

TOWN BOARD: After public review, finalize and send to Supervisor and Town Board for approval.

SUBMISSION: Upon acceptance from Board, submit to NYS.

Next Meeting: within a few months for follow-up.

Future Plans: Resubmit survey at end of year to Stillwater residents to see if any changes.

Reminded all plan is a living document to be reviewed and revised as needs of community change.