

Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Feedback

Received Thursday, October 29

Name (optional) Anonymous pending permission from submitter

Hamlet (optional) Delmar

Feedback I am interested in the police department's inventory of military grade equipment purchased from the government. If there are a lot of unnecessary items, those could be sold and used to get a social worker on the staff. I believe that having a civilian mental health expert on staff could be a boon for the police department and their relationship with the community. This social worker could also be used in the schools rather than having a police presence in the school buildings. The money spent for Detective Whitely could be used for other social programs that would benefit POC in our community. Thank you for your time. This is such important work!

Received Tuesday, November 10

Name (optional) Anonymous pending permission from submitter

Hamlet (optional) Glenmont

Feedback I watched part of the Monday police reform public meeting and see that another one is scheduled. I will not be attending. I also watched the video on Facebook of the pickup truck with a trump flag. What I see is a person with an opposing viewpoint and a bunch of people saying they are scared causing someone spoke out against them. I personally would not recommend that anyone do a donut in the front of the street but if these people are really afraid of someone at a complete stand-still in the roadway it shows they are afraid because the person disagreed with their view point. Is there any more video showing anything else?

After watching people say how traumatic it was I had to shut off the meeting- this town has no hope if these are the people steering the ship to our future. Maybe they should go hold their banners in Troy or Albany where people hear gunfire every night- that is something to be afraid of- not a person who has a different view point and a different political stance. Is there a second video- are we missing something. Can we get the whole story not just the one political side- and so you know I voted for Biden and am a strong democrat but I don't see it here.

Received Tuesday, November 10

Name (optional) Anonymous pending permission from submitter

Hamlet (optional) Elsmere

Feedback I am wondering why the police chief is not leading these meetings. I have two daughters and we have heard much a-do about the past bad acts of the police chief. Is there a reason she isn't more active in these meetings then she is? I struggle with the transparency questions as I have seen some of the bad food for thought over the town and police chief appointment. I don't think it was transparent and the same people aren't letting the police chief run these meetings like a chief should be. Isn't the chief in charge of the police and the police reform committee?

Received Thursday, November 12

Name (optional) Field not completed.

Hamlet (optional) Field not completed.

Feedback I see this week's meeting is about transparency which to me means open and not hidden. I generally think the everyday workings of our police department are transparent. They pull cars over, they go to calls and they keep stats. I am not sure what people really want to know and have transparent about the police, I imagine most people do not care. We have a very good police department in this town and I think most of them do what they are supposed to do.

What is not transparent was the choosing of the new police chief. I know David VanLuven told community members well before the interview process even took place that a male would not be getting the position. Yet he and the board wanted us to believe that no decision was made. The town tells us what they want to and the same will hold true for police reform.

Name (optional) Anonymous pending permission from submitter

Hamlet (optional) Delmar

Feedback I would like to first start off by saying that the town of Bethlehem is a great place to live, I had always hoped to raise my children in a small town. Although great for upbringing children I have run into concerns I didn't think I would be facing in the year 2020. Two of my children attended Bethlehem high school. During the academic year and while my child was still 17 he got into a little bit of trouble. I was deeply, and still am concerned with his treatment by law enforcement. Before charges were pressed law enforcement tried to gain access to my home while I was at work. Luckily that day I came home early to find my child with two officers who would not let him go home unless they gained access. Again no charges and no warrant. They wanted to search my home. I strongly believe my child was treated this way because of race. Upon proceeding with the court process I accompanied my child to help with the understanding of what was going on. When I tried to read the documents that my child was told to sign I was told that I would be escorted out. This was scary as my child did not know what he was signing. I felt powerless and I do believe the town of Bethlehem can do better.