

Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Feedback 11/18 – 12/2, 2020

*** If you supply your name and/or hamlet, it will be shared with the Advisory Committee as well as online. ***

Received Wednesday, November 18 via web form

Name (optional) **Taxpayer**

Hamlet (optional) **Delmar**

Feedback Why did the town shell out money for the lady who smiles and compliments everyone on what they say? With the budget problems that the town controller said exists in 2021 why did we waste money on this instead of having the police run the meetings like in Albany? This is my tax dollars- how much did the smiling lady cost and who is she friends with to get that job?

Name (optional) **Bruce McBride**

Hamlet (optional) **Elsmere**

Feedback Good evening --

I was reading through the annual reports for the Police Department and was a report published for 2019?

Thank you.

Received Wednesday, November 18 via email

Name held pending permission from submitter

What is available for the police when encountering mental health issues, substance abuse, domestic violence?

Received Wednesday, November 19 via email

Emily Marynczak

Feedback Thank you for addressing my questions.

Who has the authority to amend the Use Of Force Policy?

Why are there frequently so many police officers sitting in on the meetings when only the chief is listed as a member of the advisory panel?

Does an inventory of military grade weapons exist?

Should a budget process be completed without such an inventory?

Does the police department track every time a firearm is pulled from holster? If so, how many times was a weapon pulled out in 2019? Or the last 5 years? And does the department know which officers are responsible for pulling out firearms?

I'm assuming that Any firearms discharged would be reported, is that true, and If so, do we have a total for firearms discharged in 2019? Or in the last 5 years?

And finally, though I appreciate that the town wants to hear from the community, I'm surprised that the work of the advisory- at least up to now- has not been more researched based. Is there a plan to dive into our policing policies? Or reforms other departments around the country are making, or have made? Or any plans to read, as a group, Obama's task force report on policing in the 21st century? Or any reading on implicit bias in policing?

I do think the following article would be an excellent read for all involved in this important work.

https://www.theroot.com/a-judge-asked-harvard-to-find-out-why-so-many-black-peo-1845017462?utm_campaign=The+Root&utm_content=1599775152&utm_medium=SocialMarketing&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR3cT_Hn1SZN8Aupy5gl9ikz-bGQBneGEZ43lZr3Emm0DCCm_D9pJ54ByUk

Thank you

Received Sunday, November 22 via web form

Name (optional) **Field not completed.**

Hamlet (optional) **Delmar**

Feedback I watched part of the last recorded police reform meeting- I have gotten a few questions. Why are there some many committee people on this, nothing can get done with a thirty person committee. I also haven't seen any data that shows our police force is racist. It seems like some of the committee members are very closed minded and have already formed opinions based on no data or fact but a political agenda. I would like to know who the lady is running these meetings, does she even live in Bethlehem or know anything about Bethlehem. I Alamo see the town new police chief very quiet during all these meetings. Other then seeing the glow of her cell phone on her face while she texts all night I'm not sure why she is on the committee. I also think every black person in Bethlehem is on the committee so they asked for black people getting pulled over by police. Are there any complaints of racism or police targeting black people?????

I haven't heard of anything to support a change, where any of these black peoples tickets thrown out cause they actually didn't commit a crime? That is what shows racism but if you commit the crime do the time!

Name (optional) **Frustrated Citizen**

Hamlet (optional) **Slingerlands**

Feedback The overt corruption in Delmar town hall is out of control. This Chef Gina Cocchiara hasn't done anything at these meetings. I don't understand why all these cops are on the meetings and she is the only person listed on the committee. I want to hear her plans for the police force. The only thing I've seen so far is her racist Facebook post condemning Black Lives Matter. I find this post offensive and want to know if she was disciplined for making this racist statement. Can we see the number of complaints by black people or the number of times tickets were not fined because the officer made them up? Is there any data. Some of these black committee people obviously have an ax to grind with the cops - despicable- should not be put on the committee if you are a known cop hater. Can you tell us what the police ever did to you or do you like to just play the race card to try and get out of trouble. Ashamed and disgusted are the only words that come to mind when I watch these meetings that usually put me to sleep because they talk about nothing.

Name (optional) **Democratic playbook**

Hamlet (optional) **Delmar**

Feedback There is not one republican on this "reform" committee. Everyone was handpicked and is friends with someone in the democratic committee. This committee is NOT representative of people who live in Bethlehem. Does anyone even live in Selkirk on this committee. Only members and friends of the BDC—- shocking. What a joke. This town is so screwed with one party rule.

[Received Monday, November 23 via email](#)

Tracey Fountain, Glenmont

Seems like traffic stops are dangerous for police and cause community harm via racial injustice. Can we cut down or eliminate them?

Other ways to slow traffic

Road markings -art?

Traffic circles

"Your speed is" signs

Can we scan plates and reward non speeders in the area the signs are already posted?

Looked into speed humps/bumps: bad for emergency vehicles.

Can we change a ticket into food pantry donation? Community service? Can we calculate the fee based on income?

Survey about why you were speeding vs a ticket, and we could gather data about why people speed.

Longer term ideas:

Public transit

Incentives for biking

Incentives for car pools (should cut down traffic)

Received Monday, November 23 via web form

Name (optional) **Field not completed.**

Hamlet (optional) **Slingerlands**

Feedback In the interest of true transparency please tell us how many complaints by black or minority people have been made against the police in the last ten years. This will be telling if we have a big problem. A little problem. Or no problem.

Name (optional) **Who is the police chief**

Hamlet (optional) **Elsmere**

Feedback I haven't heard much from our new police chief, all I hear is we are going to be open and I'm going to do this -and that - can the new chief lay out her plans for the community policing they r gonna do? It would be helpful to see if it is fit for everyone or not.

Received Sunday, November 29 via web form

Name (optional) **Marquis Lastings**

Hamlet (optional) **Delmar**

Feedback I tried to watch one of these meetings but its was like paint drying - i dont see the point of all this talking -- i dont see much gettin done

first show me the problem - are blacks being arrested or stopped or beaten?

second then show me the fix to the problem

if theres no problem then no fix is needed

im black have lived in Delmar for 8 years and never pulled over by police or arrested.

Received Tuesday, December 1 via web form

Name (optional) **Kurt Hoegemann**

Hamlet (optional) Delmar

Feedback More of a statement. I walk our dog for at least four miles round trip up Delaware to mobil and around Kenwood. There are so many people looking down at their phones driving and not when at red lights, its crazy. They scare me more than the person speeding. Most of the time, the person driving fast is at least watching where they are going. Take a walk and watch, you will be surprised how many people are not watching the road and looking at a phone!

Name (optional) Delmar Patriot

Hamlet (optional) Delmar

Feedback The separation of church and state is a philosophy that goes back many years in our society and was decided by the US Supreme Court. Please keep this out of the schools, having the school send a message about police reform is just plain wrong. It crosses the line of fundamental appropriateness and shows that you lack respect for the institution of education to establish your views in anyway that you can. We the citizens demand an apology from the school and town.

Received Wednesday, December 2 via web form

Name (optional) Field not completed.

Hamlet (optional) Delmar

Feedback A few years ago I was pulled over for allegedly failing to stop at a stop sign. I really believe I did stop as this is an intersection in my neighborhood where I have seen many people not even slow down at the stop sign so I am very aware of the issue. I pause there almost daily to decide whether I want to turn or continue straight. The officer pulled me over about 3 blocks after the stop sign so that delay also seemed odd. Someone mentioned that might be so it was past the range where a dashcam would record it but I also question how close his vehicle was to the intersection.

I went to the courthouse at the assigned time and planned to discuss these issues. I was disappointed with the way the discussion with the court official was handled as two people are brought to a tiny room together and that discourages any conversation. I felt forced to agree to the charge and pay my fine or hire a lawyer and return to court, which I was advised by the court official would be more expensive. It seemed like it was a process set up to favor the officer and get my fee.

I'm concerned that this type of traffic stop is seen as revenue-generating for the town. I can see how paying this fee or arguing might not be financially possible for someone. This was my first and only interaction with our town police so it was very eye-opening to see how the process worked. It was not a significant interaction with the police but I was disappointed with the charge and process.