

## **POLICE REINVENTION COMMITTEE**

**10/13/20**

### **Zoom Minutes**

**Present:** Christopher Moss, Chemung County Executive  
Sheriff William A. Schrom, Chemung County Sheriff's Office  
Chief Joseph Kane, Elmira Police Department  
Mayor Daniel Mandell, City of Elmira  
Chief Thomas Barr, West Elmira Police Department  
Neil Milliken, Town of West Elmira  
Chief Rick Churches, Elmira Heights Police Department  
Mayor Margaret Smith, Elmira Heights Village  
Chief Thomas Stickler, Horseheads Village Police Department  
Nathan Nagle, Horseheads Village Manager  
Director Douglas Houper, Emergency Management  
DA Weeden Wetmore, Chemung County District Attorney's Office  
Attorney Hyder Hussain, County Attorney's Office  
Lt. Julian Hughey, Chemung County Sheriff's Office – Corrections  
Public Defender Peter Finnerty  
Melissa Brown, Chemung County Sheriff Admin. Asst.  
Randy Reid, Reid Media Group  
Anita Lewis  
Georgia Verdier  
Jerome Emanuel  
Juhura Shazer  
Miquelle Fountain  
Nykole Parks  
Sam Zoubi, Corning, Inc.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Schrom at 9:06 a.m.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Roll call was done with all above individuals present.

#### **County Executive Moss:**

A. PowerPoint Presentation:

- Arrest Data for all five police agencies: 2017-2019 white vs. nonwhite arrests and the population for each area.
- Included both bar graphs and pie charts for each agency.
- Mental Health calls by agency, by year.

- Disturbance calls by agency, by year. CCSO was mislabeled as WEPD and is actually the 2<sup>nd</sup> to last column.
  - **Nykole Parks** asked for a clearer definition of a Disturbance. Chief Kane and Sheriff Schrom both explained that a Disturbance is not anything law enforcement finds on their own, it is always a call from a citizen for assistance. However, it could be anything that is clearly not defined under another crime. Also, Director Houper added that sometimes the call comes in as a Disturbance, but could be changed to another type of call (mental health, domestic violence, etc). These stats only show what the call came in for originally.
- **Nykole Parks** asked if these stats could be broken down further to a more precise location, rather than by police agency. County Executive Moss said he could try. Chief Kane said he does have the ability to break down by patrol car, which is assigned to a specific area. It would be time consuming, but can be done. Any more specific than that would be very difficult. She also asked about partnering with Elmira College on a training with their Law Enforcement students.
- **Jerome Emanuel** stated that in the past he met with the Police Academy cadets and found that they had little interaction with the black community.
- **District Attorney Wetmore** asked where the percentages of population were obtained from? Was it the last US Census? If so, is this accurate since that is 10 years old. County Executive feels they are still pretty accurate. All Chiefs agreed that there is probably a slight increase in the black population for their areas since the last census.
- **Chief Kane** also pointed out that his area shows a 100% of the violent crimes committed in the City of Elmira for 2020 will show they were committed by young blacks. There are other problems aside from just looking at percentages. Both Chief Kane and County Executive Moss agreed this is a systemic problem, lack of jobs, money and housing are all problems in this area. Not sure if this committee can fix the cause.
- **Nykole Parks** asked if a mental health representative can be appointed to his committee. Chief Kane suggested a mental

health Sub-Committee. As a side note, Brian Hart has since been contacted by County Executive Moss and added to this committee.

- **Sam Zoubi** asked about the Use of Force stats on these Disturbance calls. Sheriff Schrom said he has access to those for the Sheriff's Office and can get from his Undersheriff. Chief Kane states these forms are always reviewed by a Supervisor. They then have to file a form with NYS, this has been a requirement with the state since 7/11/19 for all police agencies. It would be time consuming to compile a report, but perhaps NYS already has a report available. Chief Stickler and Chief Barr states their process is similar to Chief Kane's. Chief Churches states that his numbers are low for Use of Force and would be difficult to get, but can if necessary. Sheriff will get numbers together for next meeting. We are currently working on a standardized Use of Force form for all five police agencies.
- **Georgie Verdier** this is not just a police problem, the crimes in the city are bigger than this committee, there is a definite community connectivity problem.
- **Juhura Shazer** Getting into the homes of the youth might be a better solution than police reform. This is systemic and a much deeper problem than law enforcement.

## B. Survey

County Executive Moss sent a 22 question survey to all committee members for input. The questionnaire will be sent out to the public on all websites.

- **District Attorney Wetmore:**
  - #9 Deadly Force – is public aware of definition?
  - #16 Less Than Lethal – is public aware of definition?
  - #17 Bail Reform – is this question necessary
- **Nykole Parks:**
  - Can we put this out on Social Media?
  - Too many questions, maybe limit to 10-12 questions.
  - Will be hard to get feedback:

**County Executive Moss:** It will be hard to get feedback. Hoping for 100-200 response.

- **Georgia Verdier:**
  - They have a similar survey in Steuben County about the same length and have had good responses.
- **Sheriff Schrom:**
  - Feels the survey is inclusive and all questions are necessary and good as is.
- **Jerome Emanuel:**
  - Likes question #17
- **Juhura Shazer:** Sometimes the same person is arrested, given an appearance ticket and released, just to commit another crime, sometimes on the same day. Misrepresents the numbers.
- **Jerome Emanuel:** Question #10
- **District Attorney Wetmore:** Does not feel 100 people would be a fair view. This is unscientific survey and will only gauge feelings. Should we not publish the results?  
**County Executive Moss:** We will publish for transparency.
- **Nykole Parks:** Possibly add zip codes for person completing survey?
- **District Attorney Wetmore:** Question #22, income below \$75,000. Survey should not be limited by income.
- **County Attorney Hussain:** Is there a way to verify the submission of said survey is from our community? Would be biased if people outside of Chemung County complete the survey.  
**Jerome Emanuel** – Is there a way to limit social media reached by zip code?
- **Neil Milliken:** Throw out Question #4
- **Chief Kane:** Approximately ½ of the Committee Members have completed their review of this survey on Survey Monkey.

**Chief Joseph Kane:**

A. Mental Health Calls:

**Sheriff Schrom**: There are many reason Law Enforcement is the first on the scene at a Mental Health call:

- The situation could be dangerous;
- The time of day or night that it occurs;
- Timeliness of agency to respond;
- Unknown questionable people at the scene;
- NARCAN report could be administered, report done and tracked;
- LE takes the person for a mental health facility for evaluation;
- LE puts the individual in touch with mental health services.

**Chief Kane**:

- LE are the first on the scene because every second counts in these situations;
- Officers are already out at all times day, night, holidays;
- There is already a Good Samaritan Law established;
- LE doesn't treat mental health patients, they restore peace and control to the situation;
- Sometimes there is State Order for a Mental Health pickup for law enforcement;
- Sometimes a mental health case overlaps with a crime occurring;
- LE works with Crisis Intervention;
- LE is not legally obligated to stop a suicide if it endangers others.

**Anita Lewis**: Perhaps this is something Legislative. Talk to Brian Hart at DSS about a subcontract with mental health agencies. Also suggests a Subcommittee for Mental Health.

**Georgia Verdier**: We have resources out there, just need connectivity.

**Nykole Parks**: There is a resource problem. The community is underserved by mental health, we need counselors.

**Chief Kane**: We use many resources: Catholic Charities, Crisis, fliers but many people are refusing help. There are homeless people camped at EPD right now. They have tried to take them to homeless shelter, but they refuse to follow the rules of the shelter.

B. Use of Force Forms:

- These are to prevent misconduct by law enforcement;
- All Use of Force forms are reviewed by a Supervisor, then to the Deputy Chief. If there is any possible misconduct, then reviewed by State Police.

C. Ride-A-Longs: Specify the agency you want to ride with and the length of time.

- **Chief Stickler**: Must sign waiver due to the risk. Stipulations: have to wear body armor, no video, do not get involved in the complaint.
- **Chief Kane**: EPD will need to hold off for at least 10 days before they can do any Ride-A-Longs. They have had positive COVID cases in their agency. You can submit interest but make sure beyond the 10 days.
- **County Attorney Hussain**: Will this be opened up to citizens outside of this Committee?
  - **Chief Kane**: EPD has always had a Ride-A-Long policy open to the public.
  - **County Executive Moss**: This is not included in the Local Law.

D. Use of Force/Police Equipment Training

**Chief Kane**: This pertains to the Spit Sock, Taser, etc. Perhaps a one-hour training, through the Reality Based Training at EPD or the Police Academy, for committee members would help them to have a better understanding.

**Nykole Parks**: Again suggested inviting Brian Hart to this Committee.

**Mayor Dan Mandell**: Agrees with this suggestion.

E. Subcommittees:

- Mental Health/Overdose
- Police Use of Force
- Faith Based community – suggest Juhura Shazer head this subcommittee
- Public Hearings – TAKE THIS OUT
- Community and Youth engagement for 14-16 year olds.  
Nykole Parks: Currently has Youth Court
- Community Survey

**County Attorney Hussain**: If you are interested in any committee, send an email to Chief Kane

**Sam Zoubi**: Will there be a committee on training?

**County Executive Moss**: County currently hires out training for Diversity and Use of Force. They have narrowed it down to three vendors and need to pick one.

If anybody has questions from this meeting or for the next meeting, they can be sent to the Chemung County Sheriff's Administrative Assistant Melissa Brown at

[mbrown@chemungcountyny.gov](mailto:mbrown@chemungcountyny.gov) She will send to the appropriate agency for a response or add to the next meeting Agenda.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 9:00 A.M.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Sheriff Schrom motioned to approve the Minutes from 09/29/19. Motion was seconded by Chief Kane. Nobody opposed.

Meeting adjourned by Sheriff Schrom at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sheriff William Schrom  
Co-Chairman

WAS/mab