

## POLICE REINVENTION COMMITTEE

02/09/21

### Zoom Minutes

**Present:** Sheriff William A. Schrom, Chemung County Sheriff's Office  
Chief Joseph Kane, Elmira Police Department  
Deputy Chief Anthony Alvernaz  
County Executive Christopher Moss, Chemung County  
Chief Rick Churches, Elmira Heights Police Department  
Mayor Margaret Smith, Elmira Heights  
Chief Thomas Stickler, Horseheads Village Police Department  
Manager Nathan Nagle, Horseheads Village  
Captain George Delnagro, New York State Police  
EMO Director Douglas Houper, Emergency Management  
DA Weeden Wetmore, Chemung County District Attorney's Office  
Attorney Hyder Hussain, County Attorney's Office  
Director Brian Hart, Office of Mental Health (late)  
Melissa Brown, Chemung County Sheriff Admin. Asst.  
Randy Reid, Reid Media Group  
Anita Lewis  
Jerome Emanuel  
Georgia Verdier  
Miquelle Fountain  
Juhura Shazer  
Nykole Parks

- I. An Agenda was provided by Chief Kane to all committee members:
  - A. The meeting was called to order by Chief Kane at 9:05 a.m.
  - B. Attendance was marked by Zoom logins.
  - C. Motion was made to approve the Minutes from 01/19/21 by Nathan Nagle and seconded by Randy Reid.
- II. Subcommittee Reports

**Chief Kane:** All final reports were received from the Subcommittees and forwarded to the County Executive.

**Sheriff Schrom:** P&P A24 for Use of Force was revised in November, 2020. It will be sent to the County Executive with the Sheriff's Office Biography today.

A. Mental Health:

**Brian Hart** gave an update on their subcommittee. There has been no changes since their Report was sent to the County Executive. The summary from their meetings is that they need to fine tune training, have more peer involvement both fiscally and logistically. He did submit all their Agendas, but did not take Minutes. He said he could go back and type up Minutes. **Moss** replied there is no need to recreate the Minutes.

B. Faith Based:

**Chief Churches** – They set a Mission for the Subcommittee. Julian Hughey has collected the number (and names) of churches with large African-American congregations. Their goal, when things open back up, is to have the law enforcement liaisons reach out to these churches either through their leader or through the youth. Their report has been submitted to the County Executive, Sheriff Schrom and Chief Kane. Sam Zoubi still needs to review the Report and may have changes, they can send as an amendment if needed.

C. Community and Youth Engagement:

**Nykole Parks** – Subcommittee Report was submitted to County Executive. Their Goal was to foster and promote relationship between law enforcement and the youth. Their recommendations are to collaborate with the schools. After COVID, they are looking into CCSO and CCC for training of cadets and exposure to the local youth. They are also looking for EPD to rotate active police in the schools to engage the youth. They want to create a Youth Leadership Caucus to assist as youth liaisons between police and youth. They want to join the YWCA annual summit and perhaps coordinate with the Faith Based liaisons to participate in other community outreach efforts.

**Sheriff Schrom** – He just met with Hillary Austin and the director of the Southern Tier Law Enforcement Academy about recruits shadowing CROs in the schools in March. She was all for it.

**Chief Kane** – They have a 12-week FTO Program (field training) for their new police officers, but they need to be careful where they send them. They cannot act in a police capacity because they haven't completed their

training. They usually send to dispatch, etc. so they get a feel for what other departments do, but can definitely look at including schools.

**Juhura Shazer** – Perhaps the cadets could join with the church liaisons.

**Nykole Parks** – How often do law enforcement trainings occur?

**Chief Kane** – They have four days of training every year, two are in-service and two are for firearms. Recommending the addition of one full eight hour day to include Diversity, Implicit Bias and De-escalation training.

**Anita Lewis** – She spoke with Deputy Chief Alvernaz about coming back to the table on this topic each year.

**Nykole Parks** – They no longer have a law enforcement representative on their subcommittee due to Chief Barr retiring.

**Chief Kane** – Still need to decide if the Subcommittees will still exist or just keep the general Police Reinvention Committee. He thinks we should just remain as the one committee now but is open to discussion.

### III. Public Hearing Discussion

**Director Houper** – He thought the Public Hearing was moderated very well and commended Ms. Fountain.

**Nykole Parks** – She thought the partnership went very well. She asked if the chiefs read all the survey comments, there was good feedback. She believes people felt more comfortable speaking this time.

### IV. Updates on Local Law and Plan Submission

**County Executive Moss** – They are in the process of putting everything together. There are five (5) general steps in the Executive Order, but it should be submitted on time. They still have to go before the Legislature's Standing Committee on 2/22 and then the Full Legislature meeting on 3/8 to have it approved and ready by the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. The Executive Order showcases each law enforcement agency. Should be ready to send out for review next week. There is also a form in the back of the Police Reinvention Guidebook that needs to be signed by each chief, he will get them out for signature. They will also be putting it on the website and have it open for comments.

**Chief Kane** – He was at a conference last week where a lot of counties were asking for extensions.

**County Executive Moss** – Many plans will differ throughout the state.

**Juhura Shazer** – As a community we do care. He would like to keep this Committee going, it has built relationships that can help the community. Not just for the Executive Order.

**Georgia Verdier** – Need a community roundtable to be proactive not just reactive.

**Anita Lewis** – Need to monitor the plan after it is submitted, a checks and balances system.

**Nykole Parks** – Will the two positions that were created help with this?

**County Executive Moss** – They will assist with the Police Reinvention Committee issues.

**Nykole Parks** – Is there any type of yearly reporting? Any place to apply for additional funding? Is this a financially equitable plan?

**County Executive Moss** – Funding is possible. 90% of the problem is always finding volunteers. He will work with Brian Hart on grants, etc.

**Juhura Shazer** – He is very encouraged and thanks everybody for their commitment and time.

**Chief Kane** – The people on this committee have a good reach out to the community now. Unfortunately, we are stuck with Zoom right now, but the future is bright.

## V. Community Survey Update

### A. Date to Close

**Chief Kane** – He believes the survey was going to close 2/1/21, but if it hasn't we should close it today. The results will be shared with all the departments.

**County Executive Moss** – IT will run the top 10 concerns from the survey and that will be included in the final plan.

**Nykole Parks** – She has been reading the responses and would be interested to see the top 10.

**Chief Kane** – These will probably be pulled out by a computer, not by personal review.

**Nykole Parks** – She read a lot of replies on mental health training and thinks that will probably be in the top 5. Last she knew there was over 900 responses and wondered if we hit 1,000.

**Chief Kane** – Mental health training for police. It is difficult because when they get there it is for the emergent issue, we don't get into the treatment aspect. Police are thinking more about public reactions and better training for de-escalation.

**Jerome Emanuel** – Another black man was murdered. We need to bridge the gap with police, but there are problems in their own community. Need to keep kids from killing each other.

**Chief Kane** – There have been two homicides in two weeks. The gun violence is disturbing. The number of rounds fired was close to a mass shooting. Fortunate, not more were killed. He is open to any ideas this group may have, he wants help and ideas. Retaliation is also an issue.

**Georgia Verdier** – We are all in the together, we need to break the cycle.

**Juhura Shazer** – Why go to the faith based groups? There is retaliation even at funerals.

**Jerome Emanuel** – We need to share information with law enforcement and the community.

**Chief Kane** – If family members have ideas, get them and share with the police. Due to the Bail Reform and new Discovery Laws people are afraid to talk with Law Enforcement.

**Nykole Parks** – People are afraid to call the police because their name goes into a Blotter and they become a snitch and subject to retaliation. She understands why they did the Bail Reform, but it is causing other problems.

**DA Wetmore** – The Discovery Bill says for Grand Jury disclosure they need to turn over all materials. The Bill was promoted by downstate New

York. Many DA's throughout NYS opposed it. They need to get an audience in Albany to voice concerns.

**Jerome Emanuel** – Based on his own personal experience, Albany doesn't understand rural New York. Everything is based for New York City.

**Miquelle Fountain** – What can we do as a group to reach Albany?

**Chief Kane** – Need to make personal contact with your elected officials. We can also reach out as a Committee.

**Anita Lewis** – Are there any lobbyist in Albany on this issue?

**Chief Kane** – The Prosecutors Association does.

**Georgia Verdier** – NAACP goes to Albany in March, but they don't have the impact that this Committee would make.

**Nykole Parks** – She is all in to take this to the next level.

**Anita Lewis** – We need to get the stats for the number of kids killed.

**Juhura Shazer** – Media publishes the multiple arrests for people, which has to be just as frustrating to the police to keep arresting the same person just to have them set free. Need stats on this.

**Chief Kane** – It would be difficult to obtain data on the number of people that are scared to come forward.

**DA Wetmore** – The two recent homicides, a ton of people there but nobody saw anything. People are afraid to come forward on violent crimes.

Lots of discussion on crimes, investigations, tips, court, evidence with Chief Kane, DA Wetmore, Anita Lewis, Nykole Parks, Juhura Shazer, Jerome Emanuel due to Bail Reform and the new Discovery Laws.

**Georgia Verdier** – She personally and her church group have been received threats. She wants to warn people to be careful and stay alert.

The meeting ran over and a lot of the members had left the group.

VI. Committee Member general feedback: No response

VII. Old Business

VIII. Next Police Reinvention Committee meeting date was scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.; however, due to this meeting being rescheduled from February 2 due to snow that is just next week and probably too soon.

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.

Meeting adjourned by Chief Kane and seconded by Sheriff Schrom at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sheriff William Schrom  
Co-Chairman

Respectfully submitted,



Chief Joseph Kane  
Co-Chairman