

Village of Brockport Advisory Committee on Police Reform and Reinvention

Meeting Minutes December 16, 2020 via Zoom

Attending:

Co-Chair Mayor Margay Blackman, Co-Chair Trustee Annie Crane, Chief Mark Cuzzupoli, Village Clerk/Manager Erica Linden, Lt. Steve Mesiti, Monroe County Legislator Jackie Smith, Karen LoBracco, Dan Brockway, Bill Plews , Robert LeSuer, Melanie McDonald, Katy Wilson, Howard Ward

Excused: Orlando Benzan

Clerk/Manager Linden provided participation data for the survey we have asked the public to take. To date 249 people have responded to the survey, more than responded to the survey for the Comprehensive Plan, which was provided to the public in many ways over a period of months. Most responses reflected a positive attitude towards the Brockport Police Department. There were some interesting comments, some uneducated comments and some good questions. 85% of the respondents identified as white, which matches our demographics. The survey will continue until January 5, 2021. Erica will aggregate the data and provide a full report in January.

Mayor Blackman reported on the Zoom meeting with immigration attorney Emma Buckthal, which was arranged by Bill Plews. Mayor Blackman, Chief Cuzzupoli, Lt Mesiti, Clerk/manager Linden, Trustee Crane and Bill Plews attended the meeting. Ms Buchthal pointed out that many of the people she assists are victims of human trafficking, which is a serious issue for the undocumented population. Our undocumented population, which is mostly migrant farm workers is both sizable and invisible. They tend to be afraid of driving, being afraid that a traffic stop could ultimately result in deportation. They do come into Brockport, mostly males on bicycles. Emma can create a power point presentation for our Police Department, that can be used as part of an eight hour spring training.

That training would probably include recognition of what documents they are likely to have and which are acceptable IDs, the Green Light law, and Executive Order 170, which deals with interactions between ICE and local law enforcement. Emma will provide a draft of the power point in early January. The focus will be on education and meeting the needs of the community, not correction.

Chief Cuzzupoli presented an extensive power point on the many ways the Brockport Police Department and the Stetson Club, which is the union that represents the officers in the Department, interact with the public as part of community policing. The power point is available on the Village's website.

Mayor Blackman commented that it was a terrific presentation.

Karen thanked the Chief for the presentation. She has purchased some books on policing that she is willing to share. She appreciates it when the Police watch the traffic at her irregular corner from her driveway. She recently attended the Town of Sweden's public hearing on the proposed Gary Drive changes and noted that many people outside of the Village wish they had the level of service that we have, including policing.

Jackie commented that the Sheriff doesn't regularly patrol in Clarkson and she appreciated it that the Brockport Police are nearby. Chief Cuzzupoli replied that Sheriff Baxter is doing a good job and that we share services with his department all the time.

Katy commented that the University police's K9 is trained in a different specialty than the Village's. Brock is trained in drug detection and tracking, while the University's dog is trained in explosives and firearms. This provides both sets of expertise to be available in our area.

The next meeting will be on January 6th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40