TOWN OF GUILDERLAND
Office of the Supervisor
Town Hall, Route 20
P.O. Box 339
Guilderland, NY 12084-0339
Phone: (518) 356-1980
Fax: (518) 357-2859

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Jessica Montgomery
(518) 356-1980

Formation of Town of Guilderland Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Committee

The Town of Guilderland is proud to announce the formation of the Town of Guilderland Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Committee. The Committee is formed in response to Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order 203 which requires the Town to prepare a plan to address racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color. The Order requires that the Town Supervisor, Chief of Police, and appointed stakeholders shall convene to prepare the plan by considering directives in the Order and expounded upon in the Governor's Resources & Guide for Public Officials and Citizens (August, 2020).

Town Supervisor Peter G. Barber commented: "I greatly appreciate the willingness of persons to devote time and effort in this important mission which is the first step in the Town's planned concerted effort to eliminate systemic barriers that prevent people of color from enjoying the benefits of living in our community. We were unfortunately unable to appoint all qualified persons to this committee, and hope that they will participate in the committee's public forums."

Chief of Police Daniel McNally added: "I look forward to working with the members of our committee as we improve police community relationships, promote accountability and transparency, and reduce racial disparity as identified in policing. We will perform a comprehensive review of current police force deployments, strategies and policies, and develop a plan to move forward in a positive manner."

After consulting with Town Board members, community and religious leaders, and interviewing dozens of highly qualified interested residents, the following committee members are appointed:

Peter G. Barber, Town Supervisor
William Betjemann, NYS Division of Criminal Justice (retired)
Professor Jaya Conners, Director of Family Violence Litigation Clinic at Albany Law School
Willie Dean, Minority Business Owner
Robert Fleury, Assistant Attorney General (retired)
Matthew Hanzlik, Police Union Representative & Drug Abuse Resistance Education Officer
Daniel McNally, Chief of Police
Christine Rodriquez, Director of Domestic Violence Services at Equinox, Inc.
David Rossi, Assistant District Attorney
Salvatore Russo, Assistant Public Defender

Gustavos Santos, Minority Business Specialist, NYS Dept. of Transportation
Harjup Singh, Town Paramedic
Patricia Slavick, Town Board Member
Rev. Matthew van Maastricht, Pastor, Altamont Reformed Church

The committee's work will be supported by The Government Law Center at Albany Law School. Under the direction of Professor Ava Ayers, The Government Law Center has provided invaluable legal research and analysis on pressing important topics. The committee plans to hold its inaugural meeting in the first week of September, and there will be opportunities for public comment and involvement as the committee proceeds with its important work.

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