



# 2021 Port Dickinson Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative

## **OBJECTIVE:**

Pursuant to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Executive Order 203, the Port Dickinson Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Community Committee is responsible for organizing meetings to solicit input from community members regarding improvements and/or reforms to the Port Dickinson Police Department.

Through this review process, the Committee seeks to identify ways for the police department to better serve the Village's diverse community, improve public safety, implement 21st Century policing strategies, build confidence, strengthen trust and legitimacy and address disparities that affect communities of color.

## **PROCESS for the Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative:**

- Review the needs of our community served by the Port Dickinson Police Department
- Evaluate the department's current policies and practices.
- Establish and evaluate policies that allow police to safely perform their duties.
- Involve the entire community in the discussion by way of a Zoom public listening session, and submission of comments/recommendations via email or Comment Cards.
- Develop policy recommendations resulting from this review.
- Present the plan to the Port Dickinson Village Board.
- Certify adoption of the plan to the State Budget Director on or before April 1, 2021.

## **DEMOGRAPHIC of the Village of Port Dickinson**

Port Dickinson is a small village within the Town of Dickinson, County of Broome, in the Southern Tier Region of New York State with a population of 1641 people and a total of 739 households. The poverty rate for the village is 12%, lower than the state average. The largest ethnic groups in Broome County are White (Non-Hispanic) (95%,) Black (2%,) Asian (1.4%) and Latino (.82%).

*- Source, 2020 Census Tract.*

The Port Dickinson Police Department is comprised of 11 highly trained police officers who provide service on a twenty-four hour a day, seven day a week basis. The Port Dickinson Police Department serves the residents and visitors of our community as they attend school, go to work or commute within the village. The Port Dickinson Police Department enforces the laws of the State of New York, County of Broome, Town of Dickinson and our own village ordinances.

The Port Dickinson Police Department also provides mutual aid law enforcement services to the Binghamton Police Department, Broome County Sheriff's Office and New York State Police, and answers calls for service in their respective areas during emergency situations.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- **Kevin Burke**, Mayor (*per Executive Order*)
- **James DeGennaro**, Village Board (*per Executive Order*)
- **Robert Aagre**, Resident
- **David Robertson**, Resident
- **Carlos Chalaisant**, Resident
- **Jacqueline Mack**, Resident
- **Eva Rydos**, Resident
- **Steve Chastain**, Pastor, Community Baptist Church
- **Patrick Sine**, SRO, Broome County District Attorney's Office
- **Douglas Pipher**, Chief of Police, Port Dickinson Police Department
- **Scot McDonald**, Sergeant, Port Dickinson Police Department

**\*\* Current list as of 03/07/21, although membership may subject to change\*\***

## **MEETING STRUCTURE & METHODS OF TRANSPARENCY**

The Committee is responsible for organizing and maintaining themselves as representatives of the community of the Village of Port Dickinson. Further meetings and topics will be scheduled by the committee based on their needs and organized around their individual schedules. The purpose is to understand collectively the needs of the overall constituency group and relay those needs to the Port Dickinson Police Department. Meetings will be held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Mayor and Chief of Police reserve the right to issue additional correspondence through their offices.

All documents, testimony, outreach, etc. will be maintained at the Village Office. Meetings will be recorded and made available upon demand.

## **REFORM AND REINVENTION INITIATIVE PROCESS**

- 08/24/20 - Began review and update of current Use of Force Policy.
- 11/28/20 - Organizational meeting held within the Port Dickinson Police Department.
- 01/07/21 - Develop a flyer to be hand delivered to residences on every street within the confines of the village, with special attention given to the residences of minorities.
- 01/08/21 - Begin implementation of delivery process.
- 01/26/21 - Initial Zoom meeting to discuss plan and recruit committee members / group discussion
- 02/06/21 - Create a PowerPoint presentation, outlining the directives of Executive Order 203, the updates to our Use Of Force policy, and goals of the Port Dickinson Police Department
- 02/09/21 - Zoom meeting to present PowerPoint presentation to committee members / further development of committee / group discussion on increasing contact with village police.
- 02/21/21 - Final iteration of Use of Force Policy completed, submitted to Village attorney for recommendation / approval.
- 02/23/21 - Zoom meeting to discuss progress / input from committee on additional ways to contact Port Dickinson Police with comments, complaints, etc.
- 02/25/21 - Implementation of Contact / Comment Card program.
- 02/26/21 - Expand website to include contact information, Mission Statement, Contact / Comment Card Program, and Use of Force Policy.
- 02/26/21 - Door-to-door additional recruitment of additional Committee members.
- 03/09/21 - Meeting of Village Board, Use of Force Policy approved.
- 03/09/21 - Citizen's Police Advisory Board meeting, introduction of new members and schedule moving forward.
- 03/10/21 - All website upgrades are posted.
- 03/12/21 - Posting of Citizen's Police Advisory Board email link for residents to communicate with the Board.
- 03/10/21 - Completed report submitted to Village Board for review, adoption.

# Moving Forward

## Transparency & Accountability

- Body Worn Camera deployment and maintenance
- Publication of updated Use Of Force Policy
- Expansion of website to include more contact information, pictures, mission statement.
- Maintain our compliancy with any FOIL requests (Repeal of Civil Rights Law, Sec. 50-a,) and Use of Force Data Collection (Executive Order 837)

## Training

The Port Dickinson Police Department will continue to expand our training in cultural diversity, implicit bias, crisis intervention, mental illness and de-escalation tactics in correlation with the Training Office of the Broome County Sheriff's Office.

## Community Engagement

- Assisted in creating the Community Committee for the village, and will continue participation to give all village residents a voice.
- Upgraded Use of Social Media for Transparency.
- Coordination of "Meet Your Public Official" events with Fire Co. to continue to build trust and report with residents.
- Created and implemented Police Contact / Comment Card program.

## Alternatives to Traditional Policing

- Increase our approach to pro-active policing, conducting routine patrols of all neighborhoods, with a community oriented focus.
- Employ Focused Deterrence techniques as needed.
- Maintain specific police programs, such as Operation Reassurance and property checks on village residences as requested.



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Port Dickinson Police Department is to serve all people within our village. This is accomplished through the enforcement of local, state and federal law. The Port Dickinson Police Department is committed to providing a police service that meets our unique neighborhood needs by combining law enforcement activities, progressive crime prevention initiatives, and community policing strategies.

The primary goal of the Port Dickinson Police Department is to preserve the rights of all residents and visitors without prejudice or bias against race, gender, religion, ethnic and national origin or sexual orientation so that they may live prosperous lives and enjoy themselves. This is achieved through the protection of life and property; through the resolution of conflict and emergency situations; through the creation and maintenance of a feeling of security within the community; through a reduction of crime by minimizing opportunity through various crime prevention strategies as well as through the diligent apprehension and subsequent prosecution of offenders.

It is the duty of each member of the Port Dickinson Police department to strive on a daily basis to succeed in accomplishing these goals and objectives. All members of the Port Dickinson Police Department are expected to carry out these responsibilities in a diligent and professional manner. Port Dickinson Police Officers must seek out and preserve public confidence by maintaining high ethical standards, demonstrating impartial service to the law, and by offering service and trust to all members of the public.