



Office of the West Seneca Town Supervisor
Hon. Gary A. Dickson

Memorandum

To: Honorable Town Board
From: Town Supervisor's Office
Date: March 16, 2021
Subject: Policing Reform Plan

Please see attached for a resolution to approve the *Policing Reform Plan* drafted by the "West Seneca Police Reform and Reinvention Task Force". Upon adoption of the resolution, the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor's Office to execute and submit the attached *Plan Certification Form* and *Policing Reform Plan* to the New York State Division of the Budget by the established deadline of April 1, 2021.

WHEREAS: The NYS Police Reform & Reinvention Collaborative was directed by NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order No. 203 of June 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS: All municipalities in New York State that have police forces are required to participate and submit a written plan by April 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS: If communities fail to submit a written plan, their funding will be withheld by the NYS Department of Budget; and

WHEREAS: This process was structured according to the guidelines provided in the New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative, requiring community input and participation, along with an assessment of the Police Department's policies, practices, and procedures; and

WHEREAS: The Town of West Seneca understands that maintaining public safety is extremely important and is one of the essential roles of government. To achieve that goal, there must be mutual trust and respect between police and the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS: The Town of West Seneca has followed the guidelines of the Police Reform & Reinvention Collaborative in the following ways:

- Convened local stakeholders in the community with the formation of a "West Seneca Police Reform and Reinvention Task Force";
- Reviewed the needs of the community served by the Town of West Seneca Police Department and conducted a comprehensive review of the Department's current deployments, strategies policies, procedures and practices;
- Developed a "Policing Reform Plan" to improve such deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices;
- Involved the entire community in the discussion by way of a public survey distributed in February 2021;
- Offered the Plan in draft form for public comment to all citizens and hosted a community-wide conversation on March 2, 2021 and March 4, 2021. No comments or recommendations were received from the public; and

WHEREAS: The Town of West Seneca Town Board has reviewed and considered the information presented in the Plan; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Town of West Seneca Town Board accepts and adopts the Town of West Seneca Policing Reform Plan and will use it as a guide for future decision-making; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Town of West Seneca Town Board, upon adoption of this resolution, hereby authorizes the Supervisor to execute and submit the Plan Certification Form and Policing Reform Plan to the New York State Division of the Budget by the established deadline of April 1, 2021.

APPENDIX B

NEW YORK STATE POLICE REFORM AND REINVENTION COLLABORATIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION FORM

Instructions: The Chief Executive of each local government must complete and submit this certification and a copy of their Plan to the Director of the New York State Division of the Budget on or before April 1, 2021 at EO203Certification@budget.ny.gov.

I, _____, as the Chief Executive of _____
(the "Local Government"), hereby certify the following pursuant to Executive Order No. 203 issued by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo on June 12, 2020:

- The Local Government has performed a comprehensive review of current police force deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices;
- The Local Government has developed a plan, attached hereto, to improve such deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices (the "Plan");
- The Local Government has consulted with stakeholders (including but not limited to: membership and leadership of the local police force; members of the community, with emphasis in areas with high numbers of police and community interactions; interested non-profit and faith-based community groups; the local office of the district attorney; the local public defender; and local elected officials) regarding the Plan;
- The Local Government has offered the Plan in draft form for public comment to all citizens in the locality and, prior to adoption of the Plan by the local legislative body, has considered the comments submitted; and
- The legislative body of the Local Government has ratified or adopted the Plan by local law or resolution.

Name

Signature

Title

Date