



TONAWANDA REFORM AND REINVENTION COLLABORATIVE



MAIN COMMITTEE MEETING

March 4, 2021

9:30 AM

ZOOM meeting

PRESENT

Jill O'Malley – Facilitator
Joseph Emminger
Kenneth Martin
Kenneth Walker
Jim Chatham
James Stauffiger
William Laugman
Corey Fleteau
Tiffany Hamilton
Danielle D'Abate
Shannon Patch
William Krier
Darren Hearitt

ABSENT

Rev. James Rozier

I. DRAFT OF PLAN COMPLETED

- The draft of the plan is completed. We will announce the plan at Town of Tonawanda Town Board meeting on March 8, 2021. We will allow the community one week (until the 15th) to offer feedback and changes. The completed Plan will be submitted to the Town Clerk by March 17, 2021 at 12:00pm to be put on the Town Board Meeting agenda on March 22, 2021 for Town Board meeting at which time there will be a public hearing.
- We may need to amend after the public hearing and will decide whether a resolution will be built into the guidelines
- Lt. Christine Milosich was very dedicated and contributed significantly to the plan with the Park Talks. We will have an acknowledgement page for Lt. Christine Milosich or honor her in some way within the plan.
- Chief Stauffiger and Supervisor Emminger will pen a joint letter for the opening of the plan

II. COMMITTEE FEEDBACK ON PLAN DRAFT

- **Community Policing** – 6 officers will be trained creating 4 hours of overtime (HUD grant)

- **SWAT Team No Knock Warrants** – They are very rare and not used often
- **Spit Hood Policies** – there is a danger to officers that has come to light due to incident in Rochester, NY. Chief will look into the policies
- **Police Community Forum Recon** –
 1. There was a complaint regarding people who were sharing their stories, that officials and reporters did not recognize themselves at the forum. Some participants would not have shared had they know who was there.
 2. The invitation was released on social media platforms and the press. The community was invited to attend. People are sharing in a public forum so there should not be any restrictions, including the press.
 3. Press followed recommendations but used different language in the article. Should there be follow up for permission to use participant’s stories?
- **Missing Events Listed** –
 1. **Add a Juneteenth event** – June 19th recognition for freedom/emancipation day for slaves
 2. **Add National Night Out** – Enhance relationship between neighbors and police enforcement
 3. **Take Back the Night** – A night to commemorate victims of sexual assault and domestic violence
 4. **Fire Awareness** – In October at Texas Roadhouse on Colvin Blvd.
- **Bail Reform** – How can we reduce amounts of arrests with bail reform?
- **Revise policy on how we house people we arrest based on gender they identify with**
- **Sensitive Data** –
 1. Cell phone tracking concerns – i.e. – covid case tracking had privacy issues
 2. Town of Tonawanda does not use facial recognition
 3. Erie County uses facial recognition only in investigative incidents
 4. Cell phones can only be viewed with a warrant, in compliance with the law
 5. Police do not have access to cell phone video or camera. They will request evidence if they need it.
 6. New street lights will have potential video cameras attached
- **Female Officers** – City of Buffalo has most female officers, Amherst ranks 2nd.

- **Create Health and Safety Committee with Union Member** – Comprehensive plan – Assistant Chief Bado had volunteer members, Chief will re-convene.
- **Community Engagement** –
 1. Should we form a committee and partner with a faith based organization. They can work with trouble kids, re: tough love
 2. We name community liaison officers
 3. Do we have any car seat checks? – The Ken-Ton Closet and Village of Kenmore used to have car seat events. Lt. Milosich used to have car seat events as well. There is a grant opportunity regarding car seats Chief Stauffiger is working on now.
- **Do we have bi-lingual officers** – Chief Stauffiger will find out

Meeting adjourned – 11:00 am