

**SPECIAL MEETING
SOUTH NYACK BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2021
VIA: ZOOM**

PRESENT: Mayor Bonnie Christian
Deputy Mayor Catherine McCue
Trustee Michael Lockett
Trustee Michael Hogan
Trustee Jeffrey Hirsch

ALSO PRESENT: Village Clerk Jill Schwarz
Village Attorney James Birnbaum
Police Chief Daniel Wilson

Members of the public

Mayor Christian called the special meeting to order at 7:32pm. Mayor Christian stated that the Joint Police Board agreed on a resolution to be adopted by the Village of South Nyack and the Village of Grand View-on-the-Hudson related to police reform.

NEW BUSINESS:

SOUTH NYACK/GRAND VIEW POLICE REFORM – pursuant to Executive Order 203:

Mayor Christian moved as follows:

WHEREAS, Executive Order 203 requires each local government that has a police agency to perform a comprehensive review of its police force deployments, strategies, policies, procedures and practices and develop a plan to improve such deployment, strategies, policies, procedures and practices and to promotes community engagement, particularly addressing any racial bias and disproportionate policing of persons of color, and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid Executive Order requires each local government, in conjunction with its police agency, to consult with stakeholders including members of the community,. Members of non-profit and faith-based groups, the District Attorney, the Public Defender and elected officials to create a plan to adopt and implement recommendations resulting from its consultation with the various stakeholders, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the Village of South Nyack and the Mayor of the Village of Grand View-On-Hudson, in conjunction with the Chief of Police of the South Nyack-Grand View Police Department, have established a committee consisting of the aforesaid stakeholders to conduct a review of the Department’s deployments, strategies, policies, procedures and practices, and a Steering Committee comprised primarily of Black, Indigenous and other People of Color has prepared a report and made recommendations for changes to the Department, and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of Executive Order 203, the Board of Trustees of the Village of South Nyack and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Grand View-On-Hudson have prepared a Police Reform Plan based upon recommendations made by the Steering Committee that are appropriate to our small Department, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of South Nyack is adopting this Resolution approving the identical Police Reform Plan,

#9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of South Nyack hereby adopts the following Police Reform Plan for implementation by the South Nyack-Grand View Police Department:

SOUTH NYACK-GRAND VIEW POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE REFORM PLAN

The following recommendations made by the Panel on Police Reform are hereby adopted:

1. **CREATE A PERMANENT CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT BOARD** – we plan to work with NACOLE on an implementation strategy. We will apply for funding from New York State.
2. **INVESTIGATE APPLICANTS AND ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL’S SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS FOR TIES TO WHITE SUPREMACIST, WHITE NATIONALIST, ETHNONATIONALIST, MILITIA OR ANTI-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS ORGANIZATIONS IDENTIFIED BY THE FBI AS DOMESTIC TERRORISM OR HATE GROUPS** – we strongly agree with this recommendation but it will require cooperation and initiative from Rockland County Personnel. We will explore what legal authority we have to remove officers on this basis. This will probably require legislation from Albany.
3. **MANDATE MORE INTENSIVE ANT-BIAS TRAINING FOR RECRUITS IN POLICE ACADEMY AND ON AN ANNUAL BASIS FOR ALL ACTIVE DUTY OFFICERS< REGARDLESS OF RANK** – if the County will not provide this training at the Academy, we will implement it for our own officers.
4. **BAN CHOKEHOLDS AND NECK RESTRAINTS** – this ban already exists except in cases where deadly force is deemed justified, and will continue. See General Order 313 Section VI C.
5. **ENFORCE THE “DUTY TO INTERVENE” RULE** – this Rule already exists and is being implemented. See General Order 313 Section V.
6. **REMOVE POLICE FROM SCHOOLS** – we will remove police from schools upon the request of school administrators.
7. **USE BODY CAMS AND STRICTLY ENFORCE THE REQUIREMENT THAT THEY BE TURNED ON WHENEVER AN OFFICER IS ON DUTY** – we will apply to the State for funding of body cameras and require that they be turned on whenever an officer is on duty.
8. **INVEST IN COMMUNITY- BASED MEDIATION APPROACHES** – we support mediation and will use it where appropriate.
9. **EMBRACE COMMUNITY POLICING, INCLUDING FOOT PATROLS WHEREVER PRACTICABLE** – we support community policing and plan to institute foot patrols at Franklin Street Park and SUP terminus in Spring 2021.

The following recommendations made by the Panel have not been adopted because they are not appropriate to our Department for the following reasons:

1. Ban use of K9 dogs and mounted police; ban kittling – we do not use these methods.
2. Policy for detention of children – we do not have detention facilities for children.
3. End marijuana arrests and prosecutions; create domestic bill of rights; develop countywide mental health support network – these are things that must be done on a county or State wide basis; however, we agree with the concepts and will support them.
4. End collaboration with ICE – this is not relevant to our Department but we will advocate to keep ICE out of our communities.
5. Demilitarize the police – this is not relevant to our Department – we are not militarized.
6. Investigate Sheriff’s Department – we have no jurisdiction or authority over the Sheriff’s Department.

7. Break up “Old Boys Network” in hiring and promotion – our Department is very small and there is little room for promotions; there will probably be no new hires because of the dissolution of the Village of South Nyack.
8. Ban the use of stun guns and eliminate use of “No Knock” warrants – we believe these require more study.

The Village of South Nyack is committed to continuing the conversation with community stakeholders, particularly persons of color, in an attempt to improve relations between our police and the community and to address many of the issues and concerns raised by the Panel.

This resolution was seconded by Trustee Lockett.

Following discussion, this resolution was adopted with a 5-0 vote as follows:

Bonnie Christian – Aye
Catherine McCue – Aye
Michael Lockett – Aye
Michael Hogan – Aye
Jeffrey Hirsch – Aye

Mayor Christian noted that the South Nyack Board of Trustees resolution, the South Nyack/Grandview Police Department reform plan, the South Nyack/Grand View-on-the-Hudson police reform panel report, Rockland People’s Panel on Policing (RPPP) report, and certification form will be emailed to New York State tomorrow. Mayor Christian expressed her appreciation to everyone involved with this accomplishment.

At 7:48pm, upon motion made by Mayor Christian, seconded by Trustee Hogan, the meeting was adjourned with a 5-0 vote as follows.

Bonnie Christian – Aye
Catherine McCue – Aye
Michael Lockett – Aye
Michael Hogan – Aye
Jeffrey Hirsch – Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Schwarz
Village Clerk