



City of Sherrill Police Department



Police Reform and Reinvention

Comments or Suggestions please email City Manager Brandon Lovett

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CITY OF SHERRILL POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Robert J. Drake



February 4, 2021


On June 12, 2020 Governor Andrew Cuomo signed an executive order requiring each local government in New York State to adopt a policing reform plan by April 1, 2021. Governor Cuomo acknowledged there is no “one size fits all solution”. The governor wanted local governments to convene stakeholders for an honest dialogue about the public safety needs of their community. The process was to evaluate the department’s current policies and practices or establish policies that allow police to effectively and safely perform their duties.

In the past couple of months, we have communicated with members of the committee that was made up of many different people which represents our diverse population in the City of Sherrill. This has allowed us to see the many different perspectives there are. These members have looked at the City of Sherrill Police Department Policies that have been in place for several years. Included in those policies were policies pertaining to use of force, NYS Mental Hygiene Law, and overdoses. There was feedback from several members of the committee with suggestions for changes and asking for interpretations. This was a great opportunity for me and the Police Department to revisit the policies to make sure they are meeting the needs of our citizens and our police officers.

The police department will continue to respond to calls for individuals who are experiencing mental health issues, as well as drug overdoses as there are not enough resources in Oneida County to handle every call that comes through the Oneida County Dispatch Center. We will also continue to review every instance of use of force as required by policy and enter the appropriate data on a monthly basis as required by New York State.

The police department policies will be reviewed and amended as the need arises from either changes in New York law or to adapt to changing community needs.

The City of Sherrill is confident that this plan will ensure that order and public safety continue to be of the utmost importance in the City of Sherrill.


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Introduction

The City of Sherrill gained its reputation as the Silver City as the leader in silver flatware once produced by Oneida Limited. Today Sherrill Manufacturing is carrying on this legacy as the only flat ware company in the USA. The former Oneida Limited campus is again thriving after years of inactivity, the campus known as the Silver City Industrial Park is home to Briggs and Stratton and its 500+ employees. Briggs and Stratton invested over 20 million dollars in renovating the former Oneida Limited space. The park is also home to several other local businesses such as Hotaling Imports, Upstate Stone, etc. The City of Sherrill offers the VVS school district which is one of this region's best educational systems that prepares students for life post high school. Sherrill is only a short distance from the high peaks of the Adirondacks, New York City and Boston, and the Finger Lakes. Within the City's boundaries you can find history, art, culture, and nature. Recreation opportunities are plentiful and boast beautiful residential neighborhoods. The Rome Police Department is comprised of 3 sworn full-time police officers, several part-time officers. To comply with the directives outlined in New York State Executive Order #203, a Community Advisory Committee was established to solicit thoughts and ideas from every aspect of the community.

Committee

The committee is made up as follows: Nancy Kolvick Campbell (Church of Christ), Becca Piccola, Mark Chieco, ESQ., Jovan Wimberly (US Veteran), Wendy Tiffin (Syracuse PD Retired), Commissioner Patrick Hubbard, Jeremy Roden, Bill Burns, VVS Superintendent Martha Group, Clark Speicher (Rotary/Veteran), Sgt. Shawn Platt, Chief Robert Drake, Comptroller Michael Holmes, and City Manager Brandon Lovett.

This committee began meeting on November 18, 2020. Initially, meetings were scheduled monthly, but due to COVID protocols meetings were held virtually and business was conducted via electronic and phone correspondence due to social distancing. Input from these committee members has been invaluable in identifying the needs of the community served by the Sherrill Police Department, evaluating the department's current policies and practices, and establishing new policy and training initiatives for future implementation. This committee will remain in place well after the adoption of this plan to provide guidance to the department well into the future. Additionally, discussions were had with the the Oneida County District Attorney's Office, Oneida County Public Defender's Office, The Oneida County Attorney, and the City of Sherrill Commission. This dialogue will remain open and the City of Sherrill Administration and Police Administration will consider all suggestions offered by these anyone wishing to offer their input to the City Manager. As a result of Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order #203, the Sherrill Police Community Advisory Committee has identified areas of improvement and reform and implemented these suggestions by the committee into the new policies which will be ratified at the March 8, 2021 Commission meeting. A public hearing was held on 2/22/21 at 7:15pm at the scheduled commission meeting. There was no public comment at this meeting and the public may submit their comments to the City Manager until 3/8/21. Copies of the City of Sherrill Police Policies and Procedures may be obtained by contacting City Manager Brandon Lovett at blovett@sherrillny.org