

SOUTHOLD JUSTICE REVIEW & REFORM TASK FORCE

GENERAL MEETING

10/20/20

6:00PM-

8:00PM VIA ZOOM

**Facilitator:** Carolyn Peabody

**Note Taker:** Julia Fetter

**Attendees:**

1. Carolyn Peabody	10. Liz Gillooly
2. Alison Byers	11. Margaret Cowden
3. Brian Mealy	12. Martin Flatley
4. Anne Smith	13. Paul Pallas
5. Bob Knuts	14. Reverend Wimberly
6. Brian Hughes	15. Sonia Spar
7. Stephen Kiely	16. Valarie Shelby
8. Jack Slattery	17. Julia Fetter
9. Laura Held	18. Jeremy Schwartz

**Excused:**

1. Jack Martilotta
2.

**Guests:**

1. Richard Buonaiuto
2. Leslie Weisman
3. Roman Wilinski
4. Ed

**MINUTES**

**WELCOME**

- Minutes were accepted by all

**STEERING COMMITTEE REPORTS: PRESENTED BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

- Stephen reported that he consulted with the Committee on Open Government. Though we are going to be as transparent as possible and reasonable, according to their decision, we are an advisory body and can't make formal decisions and so are not bound by the law.
- The Steering Committee is recommending that the weekly general meetings should be public and have formal minutes for the purposes of transparency. However, workgroup meetings will not be posted.
- There was a question about the role of outside members in the Task Force meetings, and Margaret suggested that at each meeting there should be a section on the agenda for comments and questions from the public, the group agreed.
- Liz presented that the group will be utilizing a phone number set up by Google voice. This will allow community members to contact us via telephone and also leave voice messages

#### MISSION: PRESENTED BY CAROLYN

- Utilizing all the input from those who contributed mission statement versions and the Governor's Executive Order & Guidance as well as the original framework adopted by the Town, Anne, Carolyn, and Julia developed and proposed an official mission for the Task Force. There were some concerns by members of the group:
  - Brian H. thinks it may be misleading to say that the Justice System is represented in the Task Force since there are no members of other components of the Justice system represented on the Task Force. He does not agree that should be in the mission.
  - Carolyn responded that, consistent with the framework adopted by the Town, representatives from the different components of the Justice system will be serving as members of the Task Force as we specifically focus on those areas. And in the interim, they will be consulted on necessary issues, and will remain a crucial part of the reform process. However, she acknowledged that the phrasing of that part of the mission could be misleading.
  - Multiple members agreed that we should adjust the mission to specify that we are in consultation with the Justice System, rather than saying they are a part of the Task Force.
  - This led to a discussion regarding the make-up of the Task Force, and whether or not members of the Justice System are supposed to be represented on a weekly basis vs consulted on certain issues.
  - In order to proceed with the matters on the agenda, it was decided that Brian Hughes and Stephen will continue the conversation outside of the group for clarification.

<b>Action Item:</b> Meet to discuss the make-up of the Task Force	<b>By Whom:</b> Stephen Kiely & Brian Hughes	<b>Due Date:</b> Before 10/27 meeting
Update the mission based on the group discussion	All members	Before 10/27 meeting

**PRESS CONFERENCE & SURVEYS: PRESENTED BY CAROLYN**

- The group agreed for the Press Conference to take place **November 9th at 2:00PM**
- Surveys should continue to be worked on by the Communications Subcommittee. The surveys should be for both the community and the police. We will be asking the Task Force members for potential questions regarding not just policing, but all public safety as well
  - The goal is for the first survey to be initiated as of the press conference, there will be additional surveys after that.
  - Bob Knuts is working on potential interview questions for the police to hear their perspectives and opinions
  - We would like to keep questions broad and sensitive; Work group 2 mentioned that Jack Slattery has lots of insight on this and will be of great help
  - Survey Monkey will be used to administer surveys. It is safe, easy to use and HIPAA compliant capable of being anonymous.
  - Chief Flatley and Carolyn discussed potentially having a presentation for the police to have open conversations about their experiences. Chief Flately said it may be difficult to gather all officers at the same time, but this will be followed up on.

<b>Action Item:</b> Work on creating survey questions for community and police	<b>By Whom:</b> Bob Knuts & Communications Subcommittee	<b>Due Date:</b> ASAP
Collaborate with Jack Slattery on questions for police	Bob Knuts	ASAP
Suggest survey questions	All members	ASAP
Follow up on presentation for the police department	Carolyn & Chief Flately	Soon

**BUDGET: PRESENTED BY LIZ**

- Liz presented the proposed budget to the group and requested feedback via email
  - A concern was brought up about the deadlines for budget proposals for 2020 and 2021; Liz said she will follow up and look into this
- The budget mentioned funding for trainings for the group, and Jack Slattery shared that he feels Fred Brewington would not be a good idea to have as a trainer because it might send the wrong message to the police considering his law firm focuses on police misconduct, and that he has sued the Town of Southold in the past.
  - Reverend Wimberly responded that the law firm also focuses on civil rights and other issues, and he seems to have experience in this field.
  - Carolyn said all of that will be taken into consideration in the decision-making process for the trainer
  - Valarie Shelby recommended “Erase Racism” for training, and Brian Mealy has connections with BOCES diversity training

<b><u>Action Item:</u></b> Respond Via Email with feedback on the budget	<b><u>By Whom:</u></b> All members	<b><u>Due Date:</u></b> ASAP
Look into all potential trainers	Steering Committee	ASAP

**DATA MANAGEMENT: PRESENTED BY CAROLYN**

- Since we will be reviewing and analyzing all policies & procedures, as well as surveys from the community, info from research into best practices, and other data we need some kind of management program to assist in organizing the data as well as the progress of the project.
  - Carolyn suggests we use a program called “Airtable.” It is a program that manages and organizes data, divides up tasks, and manages collaborations
  - A recent graduate MSW of Stony Brook, Alex Saint Laurent, Executive Director of New York Social Action, is willing to set up our project on Airtable and will train our group and do one on one training for those who might need more help.

<b><u>Action Item:</u></b> Reach out to Alex and set up training	<b><u>By Whom:</u></b> Carolyn	<b><u>Due Date:</u></b> 10/27/2020
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**WORK GROUP 1 REPORT: PRESENTED BY REVEREND WIMBERLY**

- Group 1 met on 10/15 and discussed the roles of Police in Southold to gain a better understanding of their duties and shortages

- They discussed the screening processes for 911 calls, and what roles police are performing that they are not equipped to do.
- Chief Flatley provided an organizational chart which will be provided to the entire group as well
- Rev. Wimberly did not record the meeting but will provide a summation and submit it
- Chief Flatley briefly presented the roles and structures of policing in Southold in the workgroup meeting and will present it to the Task Force next meeting

<b><u>Action Item:</u></b> Provide organizational chart to the Task Force	<b><u>By Whom:</u></b> Chief Flatley	<b><u>Due Date:</u></b> Before 10/27 meeting
Provide a summation of the workgroup meeting	Reverend Wimberly	

**WORK GROUP 2 REPORT: PRESENTED BY LIZ GILLOOLY**

- The group took all of the questions from the guidance and divided them into sections of 6 questions per work group member for them to research how other towns and counties are handling those issues
- The group also discussed doing interviews and focus groups to get honest feedback from the community, as well as the importance of collecting responses that are both good and bad interactions with the police

**WORK GROUP 3 REPORT: PRESENTED BY ALISON BYERS**

- There were some technical difficulties preventing all members to be present, but the group started discussing some of the questions from the guidance.
- They discussed what is currently in place for the general well-being of the officers- not just in regards to mental health
- The group would like to start by coming up with ideas about the best practices for destigmatizing mental health issues of officers
- Conducting studies would be useful, but Southold has limited resources and challenges include limited scale, scope & size

**LEXIPOL: PRESENTED BY CAROLYN**

- Concerns were raised about the relationship between Lexipol and the Task Force in regards to the policy making, and whether or not we will be in direct contact with them. Carolyn will follow up with the town board on this issue

<b>Action Item:</b> Follow-up on the relationship between the Task Force and Lexipol	<b>By Whom:</b> Carolyn, Stephen & Rev. Wimberly	<b>Due Date:</b> 
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**GUEST COMMENTS & QUESTIONS: PRESENTED BY CAROLYN**

- Richard and Roman of Southold PD will continue to assist and provide feedback in any way possible
- Carolyn elaborated on our desire to have them continue to join us, and asked what the best way is for them and the rest of the PD to get involved in providing us with their experiences
  - Roman responded that it is difficult to talk to all of the department because of the way the shifts work, but he will reach out to get as many people together as possible.
- Stephen Kiely asked Richard and Roman to explain their roles and “a day in the life” as officers
  - Roman is currently assigned to the Detective Division so he interviews witnesses and suspects. He’s not on patrol anymore, but he was for 15 years. He clarified that the Detective Division covers some misdemeanors and all felonies
  - From midnight to 8:00 there is always 1 person from the detective department on call
  - Richard is assigned to the Community Response Unit, so he addresses issues within the town, as well as juvenile investigations. He also serves as the SRO’s for the community which includes multiple schools.
- Stephen asked if they have roles they take on that they feel should be taken on by another entity
  - They responded that any call they are given they will handle and they would never hesitate to answer any calls that come in
- Alison asked in what way we can be most helpful to them, they both responded that it is something they will think about