

Matthew Slater

From: Yorktown for Justice <yorktownforjustice@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 11:05 AM
To: Coalition on Community Safety and Engagement
Subject: to be read tonight at the listening session

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I live in Yorktown. Sometime within the past 10 years when my son was a teenager, he had a severe mental health issue one day. He has a mental health diagnosis. On this particular day he was very upset about something and he barricaded himself in his room. His girlfriend was at the house, and she told us that he was suicidal, and that he had a set of culinary knives with him we had bought for him when he was studying culinary. We could not get his door open or break it down so we could see if he was alright. We did not know what else to do at that moment, so we called the Yorktown police. We explained to the police that there was suicidal young person in the home, barricaded in his room, and he may have a knife. We were told police would be sent out right away. Somehow my son heard through the door that the police were on their way; he came rushing out of the room in a panic and ran outside into the darkness.

When the police arrived shortly afterwards, we explained what happened. I spoke to one of the officers directly, and told him that there was no need to fear that my son would hurt anyone else, he had only threatened to hurt himself. All of us started looking for him. There followed several minutes of complete chaos as we all searched the neighborhood for him, calling out to him. At some point, he came face to face with a police officer in our yard. The officer pointed his gun at my son and told my son to show him his hands. Thankfully, my son showed him his hands, and the officer holstered his weapon. They then took my son for an evaluation at a hospital.

When I think back on that night, I think of how close my son came to being killed when he was asked to show his hands. He was not in his right mind, and he could've responded in a number of different ways that could have resulted in him being shot by the officer. I am so glad that something persuaded him to cooperate at that moment. I am very aware that others with mental illnesses in similar situations have not been cooperative, and horrible things have resulted.

The thing that panicked my son was hearing that the police were on their way. I **know** that he would've responded differently had he heard that a social worker was on their way, or a mental health crisis team was on their way. But he panicked at the idea of the police coming, and ran out of the house. In the insanity and chaos of those several minutes when he was running in the darkness, and the rest of us including armed police were trying to find him in the darkness, anything could've happened, including someone else being hurt.

I hope that you will hear this story and understand the importance of having someone other than a police officer be the lead responder on mental health crisis calls. It could well be that in situations like this, a mental health responder might want the police to accompany them, and I understand that since there was a potential for there being a weapon involved. However, someone with more mental health training than a police officer should be the person in charge in a situation like this, someone who can defuse the situation. I am not writing you this to say that the police officer who drew his gun did something wrong. I am not familiar enough with police protocol to know whether or not that is true. But I do know that my son remains traumatized to this day by the incident, and it was many years ago. Even just asking his permission to tell this story revisited the trauma of having the police aim a gun at him at a time when he was already in an emotional crisis. As a result

of this experience, I would not call the police in such a situation ever again. I don't know what I would do, but I would not risk a repeat of that horror.

I hope you will consider this and recommend that the town of Yorktown do whatever it can to make sure that people like my son in crisis are helped by someone who has training to deal with that specific kind of crisis. A terrible tragedy was barely averted that day, although the trauma has not gone away. Next time, the result may be deadly.

2239 Van Cortlandt Circle
Yorktown Heights, New York
10598-4222

**The Honorable Matthew Slater, Supervisor of the Town of Yorktown, and
Chair of the Coalition on Community Safety and Engagement, and
Members of the Coalition on Community Safety and Engagement
363 Underhill Avenue
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598**

Via email

November 23, 2020

Dear Supervisor Slater, Chief Noble and other Members of the Coalition on Community Safety and Engagement;

I moved to Yorktown in 1987, however, my family has had a presence in Yorktown since the early 1950's. My children have attended schools in the Yorktown School District.

I have been involved in various aspects of law enforcement for over 5 decades, retiring as a Deputy Chief of a major municipal police department before associating with a county law enforcement agency.

I have known Chief Noble for many years. He has always been accessible to the Yorktown Community at large and has fostered community relations within the Yorktown Police Department.

The Yorktown Police Department has been instrumental in advocating for early intervention, referral and diversion beginning with our children through the School Resource Officer Program. Police Officers in the School Resource Officer Program are active within their schools, developing positive relationships with staff and students alike. They are actively involved with problem solving activities within the school system and larger community. The Yorktown Police Department is actively involved in intervention, diversion and referral programs.

The "Use of Force" policies of the police department are posted on the Department's website for all to see. These "Use of Force" policies are more restrictive than those stated in the New York State Penal Law.

The Yorktown Police Department has repeatedly earned "Accreditation" from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. The departments' personnel, both uniform and civilian, should be commended for their professionalism.

What I have realized from listening to the commenters and talking to people from Yorktown is that what is needed is a Civics Lesson on how our government functions.

A. Authority:

1. Police Officers enforce laws and ordinances; they do not make laws or ordinances;
2. The Police Department does not make laws or ordinances;
3. The federal, state, county and local legislatures make laws and ordinances;
4. Police Officers and the Police Department do not fine anybody;
5. Police Officers can make arrests, issue summonses/citations and possibly Notices of Violation;
6. The federal, state, county and local legislatures legislate the minimum and maximum penalties for violations of laws or ordinances;
7. The Judges and Justices of our courts determine what, if any, penalties, sustained violations of the laws and ordinances should be imposed;
8. The police, the prosecuting attorneys and the courts are granted some discretion in their determination as to whether to arrest, prosecute, impose a penalty, intervene, divert, or refer. This limited discretion is granted by the federal, state, county or local legislatures and are written into law;
9. The power and authority of the Police is granted by the federal, state, county or local legislatures. These powers can be further restricted by the departments' executive authority but cannot be expanded without legislative authority.

B. Control:

1. The executive control of the Police Department is vested in the Chief of Police and the Board of Police Commissioners;
2. The Board of Police Commissioners is comprised of Members of the Town Board. They are *not* members of the Police Department; they are *elected* by the voters of the Town of Yorktown;
3. Letters of commendation or complaint can be sent, either signed or anonymously, to the Chief of Police or to any member of the town board.

With the exception of one individual, I am not aware of the occupational demographics of the members of the Coalition on Community Safety and Engagement (CCSE) or the people who have communicated with the CCSE. What I do know is that professionals that are subject to review are reviewed by peers within the same profession. Could you imagine the uproar if, for example;

Surgeons who use cutting implements when doing procedures are reviewed by licensed/certified carpenters that also use cutting implements; or

Neurologists who study and treat neurological illnesses which can be electrical in cause are reviewed by licensed/certified electricians; or

Interventional cardiologists and heart surgeons who treat cardiovascular problems are reviewed by licensed/certified plumbers; or, lastly,

Teachers who are responsible for the education of our children being reviewed by licensed/certified instructors who are licensed by NYS agencies other than NYSED, for example, NYS DCJS.

As an aside, one regular commenter to the CCSE who espouses an independent control board belongs to a union that spent millions of dollars lobbying against an independent peer review of the profession of the commenter and colleagues that would be conducted by the NYSED.

Further, on the teleconference of 11/19/2020 there were at least two attorneys and one law student commenting. It is only fair to point out that in New York only attorneys evaluate complaints and make recommendations about the conduct of other attorneys and that complaints against attorneys that are not substantiated are not available for public review.

Police actions can be reviewed at many levels:

These levels can range from internal supervisory review by the Sergeants, Lieutenants and the Chief of Police of the Police Department of the Town of Yorktown.

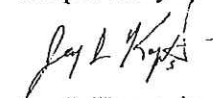
The Board of Police Commissioners of the Town of Yorktown also have the powers of review and oversight.

Additionally, the District Attorney of the County Westchester, the Attorney General of State of New York, the United States Department of Justice, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York and the United States Attorney General also have the ability, under certain circumstances, to review the actions of the police department.

Finally, comments that are made concerning "Justice for" or "Yorktown for Justice" lack one item. What is missing is their definition of "Justice". Is "Justice" served only when you get what you want, or is "Justice" served when it meets the standards set by the overall community, as long as those standards are based upon legally enacted law?

In my opinion, as long as the Police Department of the Town of Yorktown continues to maintain its "accreditation" with the State of New York and continues to have oversight by the Board of Police Commissioners of the Town of Yorktown, the Department and the Town have met their burden under the executive order.

Respectfully submitted,



Jay I. Kopstein

cc. Members of the Town Board, Town of Yorktown
Town Clerk of the Town of Yorktown



Yorktown Central School District



Dr. Ronald Hattar
Superintendent of Schools

2725 Crompond Road
Yorktown Heights, New York 10598
(914) 243-8001
(914) 243-8003 (fax)

November 17, 2020

Dear Yorktown Coalition on Community Safety and Engagement,

At the request of the Town of Yorktown, the Yorktown Central School District has been asked to provide a summary of our working relationship with the Yorktown Police Department. The items below include areas in which the District and the Yorktown Police Department have collaborated.

School Resource Officers

Currently, the Yorktown Central School District contracts with the Town of Yorktown and the Yorktown Police Department for two school resource officers--one at Yorktown High School and one at Mildred E. Strang Middle School.

To date, the District has been provided great consistency with the officers assigned to the schools, and they have performed to our highest standard of excellence. It is worth noting that the District does not conduct formal evaluations of the officers, as they are not employees of the District. In addition, the school resource officers are not permitted to issue disciplinary actions to students as that responsibility is solely limited to employees of the District.

The school resource officers are integral members of the school community. Specifically, the following functions are performed:

Mildred E. Strang Middle School

- ❖ Assists with the safety of students and staff during arrival/dismissal;
- ❖ Consistently visible in the building, including during lunch and recess, to build community and trust with students;
- ❖ Does periodic perimeter checks of building;
- ❖ Liaison between the school and the Yorktown Police Department;
- ❖ Supports families at times when student safety has been a concern;
- ❖ Co-chairs the Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) Committee;

- ❖ Organizes lockdown drills and assists with other safety drills;
- ❖ Co-teaches lessons with our health teachers on the effects of alcohol and drugs on one's body and mind, as well as the legal consequences of alcohol or drug use;
- ❖ Works with the Bully Prevention Counselor on cyberbullying and social media interventions;
- ❖ Works with clinical staff on community resources to help families in need;
- ❖ Performs well-checks on families;
- ❖ Presents to parents during Back to School Night; and
- ❖ Coaches a varsity sports team.

Yorktown High School

- ❖ Assists with the safety of students and staff during arrival/dismissal;
- ❖ Consistently visible in the building, including during lunch and recess, to build community and trust with students;
- ❖ Does periodic perimeter checks of building;
- ❖ Liaison between the school and the Yorktown Police Department;
- ❖ Supports families at times when student safety has been a concern;
- ❖ Co-chairs the Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) Committee;
- ❖ Organizes lockdown drills and assists with other safety drills;
- ❖ Teaches lessons on the effects of alcohol and drugs on one's body and mind, as well as the legal consequences of alcohol or drug use;
- ❖ Works with clinical staff on community resources to help families in need;
- ❖ Performs well-checks on families;
- ❖ Presents to parents during Back to School Night;
- ❖ Coaches a varsity sports team;
- ❖ Advises a co-curricular club; and
- ❖ Attends large school events such as athletic contests, graduation, and prom.

Logistical Planning

We rely on the expertise of the Yorktown Police Department to assist us in logistical planning for events where large crowds are expected. Such events include Friday night football games, back-to-school nights, school arrival and dismissal at the start of the school year, and other highly attended events. The school district is grateful for the logistical expertise provided by the Yorktown Police Department, as their expertise surpasses the District's capacity in these areas.

Reporting of Suspicious and Criminal Activity

As a school district, we are perpetually on high alert to provide our students and staff with an environment that protects everyone from individuals looking to commit any type of attack on our schools. Violent attacks perpetrated on schools is a very scary thought, but it is a potential that we face daily. The Yorktown Police department is responsive to our calls, and they arrive at our

schools within minutes, if not seconds, upon our alerting them of a concern. They demonstrate a profound commitment to ensuring our students and staff are safe.

Lockdown Drills

As part of our schools' preparation to respond to an active shooter situation or any other emergency situation, each school performs several safety drills during the course of the school year. In several instances, the Yorktown Police Department will send a team of officers to our schools to observe the process and participate in the training. The Yorktown Police Department debriefs each drill with our emergency response team, and provides us with specific feedback and recommendations. The expertise that the Yorktown Police Department provides in these situations is invaluable.

Consultation

As the Superintendent of Schools, the relationship that I have forged with Chief Noble is one of mutual respect, collaboration, and communication. It is reassuring to know that I am able to call Chief Noble or any of his Lieutenants, to discuss any questions or concerns that I have. Chief Noble has accepted my calls at all hours of the day, including late in the evening, on weekends, and holidays. Chief Noble and his department have demonstrated patience, support, and kindness in every interaction with me and my administrative team.

Drones

As part of a campus safety audit, the District underwent a review of its campus site lighting. Our intention was to ensure that there was adequate lighting for pedestrian traffic during the evening hours throughout our middle school and high school campus. With many events on the high school campus held in the evening, it was important for us to identify areas that were not properly illuminated. The Yorktown Police Department was integral in assisting us through this process because they were able to fly a drone on our campus during the evening and provide us with aerial images of our campus. Together we were able to identify specific locations on our campus where additional lighting was necessary.

Additional Collaboration

❖ Chief Noble and the Yorktown Police Department provided us the assistance for a car parade for the Class of 2020. In the midst of the COVID pandemic, the District was researching ways to make the end of year recognition of our Class of 2020 more special while minimizing the health risks in a large scale gathering. Chief Noble graciously worked with us to coordinate a car parade for our students, and this event was profoundly appreciated by our students, their families, and our school district.

❖ Another example of our collaboration was the First Responders Night during a home football game. In 2019, the Yorktown CSD honored the first responders of Yorktown. Chief

Noble and his department participated, and Chief Noble assisted us in contacting the veterans of the armed forces who live in our community. Chief Noble also organized a fly over by the Westchester County Aviation Unit. It was truly a memorable evening for all.

❖ At times, Chief Noble has joined me in visiting our middle school and high school to have lunch with our students. Our students have enjoyed having lunch with the Police Chief. The questions that our students ask of Chief Noble have impressed me time and time again. We appreciate Chief Noble taking the time out of his busy schedule to connect with our students.

Conclusion

The Yorktown Central School District and the Yorktown Police Department have established a strong working relationship. We are pleased with the support we have received from the Yorktown Police Department, and we look forward to continuing our relationship as it currently exists.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Hattar", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Ron Hattar

Matthew Slater

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 1:58 PM
To: Coalition on Community Safety and Engagement
Subject: Coalition on Safety & Engagement Public Notice

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Safety & Engagement Coalition,

I would prefer that my suggestions and comments be kept confidential, unless it's vital that I reveal my identity. I think it might be better if I remained anonymous.

It's just important that the Coalition is aware of an issue that I feel needs our community's attention. I would like to respectfully request that this Coalition takes a serious look at how the Yorktown Heights police department handles the issues around what is called a 'Welfare Check', which is a function used for times when a person, in any capacity, requests that the police department look in on another person when they're concerned that they might be having certain difficulties, medically or emotionally. In most localities, when police are asked to do a 'Welfare Check', on someone, they go to wherever that person is, observe the person to 'check' that they're not posing any kind of danger to themselves or others. Should the police observe the person acting extremely erratic, dangerous, or they are in a state of hysteria or other emotional crisis, then they; though they most certainly do not have the training required to make decisions about a citizen's psychiatric condition, can insist that the person in question get immediate medical intervention. Should that be the 'judgement' of the patrolwoman or man in charge of the case, and the person in crisis refuses their offers of assistance, and if the situation is 'judged' an emergency, then the police are authorized to transport the person to a local emergency room for EVALUATION BY EXPERTS; AS IN **A PSYCHIATRIC PROFESSIONAL**.

When doing the research on this issue, I was told by several state and local members of the mental health services community, that in most villages, towns and cities, as long as the person is not displaying impending dangerous, or life threatening behaviors, the police will report back to whomever requested the 'Welfare Check', that the person appeared to be healthy and understood that a concern had been raised, and that additional follow up by professionals would be advised. The police department would then complete a report on the incident, and no further action would be taken. It would then remain up to the person in question and their support system to take the next steps, if necessary, for follow up professionally.

In the therapeutic communities I've spoken with, the overall belief was that only in an emergency situation, would a citizen be forcibly removed, even handcuffed, and transported against their will, simply due to 'someone's'* request to perform a Welfare Check. The belief that these mental health care professionals had about the way the recommended police procedures were being followed by the Yorktown Heights police department, couldn't have been more incorrect. None of the individuals I consulted with about this could fathom that in Yorktown Heights, the only way the police department handles Welfare Checks, regardless of the circumstances or the condition of the person in question, is to forcibly take him or her to an emergency department, with or without their permission. There's a lot more to this issue than I can brief in this email, but to properly understand this procedure, we need a great deal more information about exactly what is recommended in cases like this, and exactly what the role of the police force ought to be playing. ***ABSOLUTELY ANYONE CAN REQUEST A WELFARE CHECK, A FRIEND, NEIGHBOR, DOCTOR; LITERALLY ANYONE, INCLUDING THE GARBAGE MAN OR ONES EX-WIFE OR HUSBAND. ANYONE CAN HAVE SOMEONE HAULED AWAY IN HANDCUFFS IF THEY JUST MAKE A PHONE CALL**

I believe our community seriously needs to review this process from the ground up. 'Barbaric' is the first word I think of when I hear these facts. Think about it for a few minutes, please give it some serious consideration! This is a significant civil rights issue that needs to be addressed before more people from our community are victimized and permanently traumatized by those who are supposed to 'PROTECT AND SERVE'! Compassion and Empathy are as vital to police procedures as protective equipment is! In the current climate of our nation, our world right now, we need to decide how human beings are to be treated; or more specifically, how they're NOT to be treated! Basic human rights are being eroded each time something like this occurs.

I've learned that it's up to each police department to determine how they handle these situations, therefore it's up to our community to do the right thing about this. Something can be done about this problem; isn't it nice to know that once in a while, we're not powerless over making changes for the greater good?

I will give you more information if I have it, please let me know what you might need. Thank you for hearing me out, I pray that I've articulated this well enough to give you food for thought. I hope Yorktown Heights has the ability and wisdom to address this terrible injustice.

Regards,


Yorktown Heights, NY

Matthew Slater

From: Town Clerk
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 1:59 PM
To: Matthew Slater
Subject: FW: 11/29 listening segment

-----Original Message-----

From: Joe Solazzo <joe@solazzo.com>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 7:38 PM
To: Matthew Slater <mslater@yorktownny.org>; Diana Quast <dquast@yorktownny.org>
Subject: 11/29 listening segment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Quast,

Please submit and read at the 11/19 listening segment meeting. My name is Joe Solazzo and I grew up in Yorktown and graduated from Yorktown HS. And am at present raising three young adults here. I'm proud to say that I knew many members of the current Dept. while we were growing up in Yorktown. And have gotten to know several more as they became my neighbors over the years. The fact that many from the Dept. have returned to town or chosen to reside here has been, in many ways, an immeasurable benefit to the people of Yorktown. I can name more than a few former and current officers who volunteer their time to mentor the youth of our town. Mostly in the form of coaching athletics or running clubs at Yorktown high school. I think we can all agree that Yorktown PD does an outstanding job of carrying on a tradition of professionalism and integrity, thank you Chief Noble! However Governor Cuomo's executive order 203 is concerning to me as it could possibly discourage, disrupt, or even discontinue all the benefits we enjoy from our Department, some of which I've stated above. I'm not aware of what is broken that needs to be fixed. And if procedural changes are implemented, I feel they would only serve to separate the community from the department. I would remind those that would, in this matter, choose the words oversight, reimagine and review, that others would use the words intrusive, distrust and hassled. As this process goes forward I would also like all involved to keep in mind that not changing anything could be a possible outcome as well.

Sent from my iPhone

Matthew Slater

From: Yorktown for Justice <yorktownforjustice@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2020 5:39 PM
To: Coalition on Community Safety and Engagement
Subject: 10/22 Listening Session

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We are passing along a statement to be read during tonight's session please.

CCSE,

I watched the Work Session two weeks ago. I saw a presentation about all of the great things the YPD does for our community. I do not think anyone would completely disagree. Most of us believe that we have a community based, involved, and benevolent police department, and I feel grateful for the YPD. When it comes to the public's encounters with YPD, I have heard and personally experienced significantly many more positive stories than negative ones. We still need evaluation and evolution.

NYS EO 203 is intended to be a pause and reflect moment for all PDs and the communities they serve. Yorktown does not have the types of problems faced by NYPD but that does not exempt us from the push for growth. In fact, supporting the police can mean-- should mean-- supporting the evolution of policing, higher standards for the profession, training and policies that help police officers learn about and address discrimination. Mandated EO-203 policy change is intended to keep the public and the public servants equally safe and protected.

As I watched the work session, I noticed the presence of officers on the screen. I thought about how many of these officers are well-known by the community, grew up in the community-- are integral and powerful parts of the community. I thought of residents that are not lifelong Yorktowners, who didn't grow up here. Or residents not welcomed in the same way that urban expatriates are. People who may have not had great experiences with police, in general, throughout their lives. People who have had blatantly negative experiences. I thought of my friends who live in Yorktown and have been mistreated by police. Not Yorktown police. But police. How comfortable would these people be to come on a zoom call, with their face and name on display surrounded by officers? This is nothing personal against any YPD officer, or against Matt Slater, or the town board. This is just the nature of the zoom. It's intimidating.

And we do have a problem with intimidation in Yorktown. Recently we heard from our councilwoman Alice Roker that even she was threatened-- that even her extremely even-keeled and balanced public support of racial justice was so unacceptable to a resident that someone threatened her. They were emboldened enough to publicly threaten an elected official. I've heard other stories. I know several people who refuse to share their stories here although you need to hear them. They won't share their stories of how their children have been mistreated, threatened, harassed. Maybe they're not scared of police retaliation; maybe they're scared of other Yorktowners. If you've been intimidated by your neighbors for your opinions or views on social issues like racism in the US, how comfortable would you be to speak them out loud to the board? To the CCSE? To YPD? To put oneself in such a vulnerable position is a big ask. And what if you have been intimidated by YPD? Couldn't you imagine the fear that coming forth in this type of arena would breed? I know of two incidents myself that residents will not report due to fear of retaliation by police and the public.

I am concerned about the validity of this process. It seems that the YPD's stance is that we don't have the issues raging in big cities, with big racial problems, that motivated EO-203 - that we're already there, we already have the department that EO-203 is supposed to give rise to. But we cannot rely on Chief Noble's leadership and the goodness of individual police officers. Policies need to be embedded into the system. This is not disparaging any YPD officer; it's the purpose of this exercise. What issues do we have in Yorktown and

how can we address them through policy and growth? Even good PDs can become better. Even good ones must.

And I believe that civilian review is paramount to becoming better; we have to create an avenue apart from the police department to file complaints about the police department. This practice is widely viewed as a key step in reform, and there are many models in NY to pull from. We might advocate for ourselves to be able to utilize county resources for multiple municipalities' oversight. If no Yorktown resident ever uses it, and we have no complaints, that's great. But, if someone does want to file a complaint to illuminate a potential issue then they need to feel safe to do that without fear of intimidation preventing the reporting.

Let's do better together.

Thank you for your time,

A proud Yorktowneer



CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Brendan Lyons
Superintendent

Dr. Karen Gagliardi
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Dr. Tammy Cosgrove
Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Dr. Steve Rappleyea
Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services

Binoy Alunkal
Business Manager

Jim Van Develde
Director of Communications

October 26, 2020

Matthew J. Slater
Town of Yorktown
363 Underhill Avenue
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Dear Supervisor Slater,

I write to you on behalf of the Lakeland Central School District in the spirit of providing feedback on the Yorktown Police Department to the Coalition on Community and Safety and Engagement.

Having only been the superintendent since July 1, I have had limited but consistently positive interactions with the police department, from School Resource Officers (SROs) and patrol officers, to Chief Noble. It is apparent that there is a very strong and cooperative relationship between the District and the Department. I have been impressed with the department's professionalism and willingness to offer assistance whenever needed.

When asking our building principals about their experiences, they consistently report excellent response times and assistance during emergencies. In addition, they speak highly of both their individual School Resource Officers as well as the overall program, using words such as helpful, honest, ethical, clear communication and approachable to describe Yorktown officers.

The District looks forward to a continued positive partnership with the Yorktown Police Department. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you should have any further questions. Thank you and best of luck with the comprehensive review process.

Sincerely,

Brendan Lyons, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Police , Yorktown N.Y.

In response to the article in the Yorktown news requesting comment on the Yorktown police, it brings to mind a situation that happened a couple years ago at the Firemans carnival behind the firehouse.

I found a parking spot there in the alleyway between the firehouse and Mitchells hardware. Getting ready to leave, there was a police car and a civilian truck ,idling paralel with each other ,blocking the alley way right in front of my vehicle. Both the policeman and the civilian who obviously knew each other were socializing from their vehicles. I waited for about 5 minutes for them to move and let me out, knowing they saw me get in and start my vehicle. Since they didn't, I tapped my horn to let them know I wanted to get out.

Upon hearing it, the policeman got out and approached me . I read on his face, an arrogance, of how dare I disturb him!

I told him I was waiting for him to move so I could get out and i tapped the horn to draw his attention to it. He told me that he could give me a ticket for disturbing the peace. Then moved.

Just his attitude left an indelible impression on me as to how some police men have this attitude that they are beyond reproach and are here not to serve the community but to exercise their authority.

The experience has left me with a very sour feeling towards him and the police department.

An annoyed citizen



COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

KNOWING GOD • GROWING TOGETHER • SHOWING CHRIST

November 20, 2020

Town Supervisor Matthew J. Slater
363 Underhill Avenue
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
cc: Jenna Belcastro

Dear Supervisor Slater,

We are writing regarding the New York executive order number 203 which calls local communities to review their policing practices for racial bias in consultation with local community stakeholders including faith-based community groups.

While we realize that you are already wrapping up this process, we would like to offer our ongoing support as you follow up and implement aspects of it. As a church we strongly desire to see strong police-community relations and to see justice and respect extended to all members of our diverse community.

Community Bible Church of Northern Westchester (CBC) is a diverse congregation of Christians from a variety of ethnic backgrounds gathered from across the New York City region from Manhattan to Putnam County, with many attenders living in Yorktown. In light of recent events, beginning with the tragic death of George Floyd, we, as CBC's leaders, have collectively felt grief, anger and frustration that those whose ancestors came from parts of the world enslaved by European colonists at the foundation of our country are still frequently subjected to systemic mistreatment and violence by those in power in our society. Yet, we are also painfully aware that individually, and as a community, we ourselves have done very little to stop this injustice towards the most vulnerable among us. Along with many others in our community, we desire to see that change and stand ready to help in any way possible.

With greatest humility and sincere love we are,

The elders of Community Bible Church