

## Summary of October 8th Meeting of the Saranac Lake Police Review Committee

The meeting was held via zoom from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Present were: John Sweeney, Chief James Joyce, Melinda Little, Chris Morris, David Hayes, Ernest Hough, Sarah Clarkin, Betsy Fuller, Angela Brice, Rhonda Lynn Couwenhoven and Suzanne Lavigne.

Melinda Little shared with the group that the prior meeting recordings which had been stored in the cloud under her account had been removed in error when she was told by Zoom that she had run out of storage space and didn't realize that removing the recordings from her account would impact their availability on the Village website. Going forward, we will be using the Village Zoom account which has more storage capacity.

Chris Morris shared that Dr. Lorenzo Boyd will be partnering with ADI to provide police forces across the North Country with information about best practices. The Police Chief will be meeting with Dr. Boyd on Oct 16 and on Oct 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm there will be an open meeting, location TBD.

As of 10-8-2020 only 2 hard copies of the survey have been returned to the Village Office.

The group decided to extend the deadline to Oct 15, 2020

In keeping with the group's decision at last week's meeting to dive into the strategies outlined in the Governor's executive order, starting with Use of Force Policies, Police Chief Joyce started the discussion by reviewing current Use of Force Policies and the evolution of the orders.

Melinda Little questioned should we be looking at the broad topic of use of force or are other items possibly integrated.

The group decided to use the Governor's guidance workbook, which identifies several strategies that raise concerns starting on page 24, as a guide for addressing the topic.

Police Policies were reviewed and associated to what other types of use of force are used,

Rhonda Lynn questioned if Hand Cuffing was considered use of Force?

- Broken Window: Reviewed. In this approach, police would ticket for every infringement, no matter how small. This is not a practice of the SLPD.
- Stop and Frisk: Reviewed. This is not a practice of the SLPD
- Bias Based Stop/Search and arrests: Basic statistical information shows that we do not have this issue but the group agreed that more info is needed. The Chief offered to try and get 3 yrs of data on additional traffic stops to look at.
- Choke Holds and other Restrictions on breathing: Policies are in place against these types of restraint.
- Use of Force for punitive or retaliatory reasons: SLPD has policies in place against these actions.
- Pretextual Stops: This is a strategy that would involve stopping a car for a minor violation in order to conduct a "fishing expedition." Currently we do not have a policy in place to prevent this but, we need to. Chief will review.
- Informal Quotas for Summonses, tickets or arrests: SLPD does not practice this.
- Shooting at Moving Vehicles and High Speed Pursuits: SLPD policy in place, however we need to look for additional policy guidelines.

- No-Knock Warrants: This practice has never been done in SL. There are specific guidelines for their issuance and they would only be issued in extraordinary circumstances. This practice is being discussed at the State level and the committee will look to them for guidance on this.
- SWAT Teams: SWAT teams have been requested by the SLPD previously but should only be requested in extraordinary circumstances after other avenues have been exhausted. A check list for items should be developed to weigh whether the situation warrants the use of a SWAT Team. We need to look for policy guidance on this issue
- Less than Lethal Weapons: Such as Taser and Pepper Spray- current policy for reporting in place, additional policy needed on this item
- Facial Recognition Technology: The SLPD does not use this.

Next week De-escalation training & practices to be reviewed. Police Chief will send documents for the group's review.