

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

John Sweeney, Village Manager

manager@saranaclakeny.gov

(518) 891-4150

Saranac Lake Police Review Committee to host second public hearing

SARANAC LAKE — The Saranac Lake Police Review Committee will host a public hearing to share the results of its recently completed survey, provide an update on progress to date and to listen to community input and answer questions.

The hearing is set for 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, and will be conducted via Zoom. The link to participate is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85168530712?pwd=YWp6bldGR1VuS2NDUHRxcEdRVGFpQT09> Meeting ID: **851 6853 0712** Passcode: **569512**

The Police Review Committee was formed in accordance with Executive Order 203, which directs local government entities with police agencies, like the village of Saranac Lake, to perform a “comprehensive review of current police force deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, and develop a plan to improve such deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, for the purposes of addressing the particular needs of the communities served by such police agency and promote community engagement to foster trust, fairness, and legitimacy, and to address any racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color.”

The full executive order can be viewed here:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-203-new-york-state-police-reform-and-reinvention-collaborative>

The governor’s guidance for local police review committees can be viewed here:

https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/Police_Reform_Workbook81720.pdf

Saranac Lake Police Review Committee: Community Survey

The Saranac Lake Police Review Committee, formed to respond to Executive Order 203, conducted a community survey to gather feedback from Saranac Lake area residents and visitors about the Saranac Lake Police Department and public safety.

Responses were submitted via an online Google Form and paper copies. Below is a brief overview of key survey questions as they relate to EO203; all responses and charts can be viewed by visiting bit.ly/slpdsurveyresults. The responses that were submitted as hard copies can be viewed here https://saranaclakeny.gov/corecode/uploads/document6/uploaded_pdfs/corecode/Saranac_Lake_Police_Review_Committee_Public_Surveys_Hardcopies_1068.pdf. A spreadsheet with additional data and individual responses can be obtained by emailing manager@saranaclakeny.gov.

Brief survey overview

A majority of respondents (over 150) indicated that mental health issues, homelessness, and substance abuse should be handled by trained social workers or other non-police personnel.

A majority of respondents (over 150) indicated that they support the following reforms:

- requiring continued de-escalation training;
- requiring mandatory body camera use and release of body cam footage when legally appropriate;
- requiring strict guidelines on use of force, especially deadly force;
- ending profiling and stop-and-frisk;
- investing in rigorous training to reinforce policies, including testing for bias.