



Village of Saranac Lake

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Saranac Lake Police Review Committee announces public hearings, survey

SARANAC LAKE — The Saranac Lake Police Review Committee will host a public hearing to gather initial input as it begins drafting recommendations in accordance with Gov. Andrew Cuomo's executive order on police reform and reinvention.

In addition to the first public hearing, the Police Review Committee has launched an online survey to maximize public input. The survey can be taken here: bit.ly/slpdsurvey.

The deadline to complete the survey is now Thursday, October 15th. Print surveys can be obtained and dropped off at the following locations:

- Village of Saranac Lake offices
- Saranac Lake Free Library
- Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
- North Country Community College
- Harriestown Housing Authority
- Franklin County Social Services (3 Main St.)
- Adirondack Health

The first hearing will be held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24 on Zoom, and will be simulcast on the village of Saranac Lake's Facebook page. The committee will provide an update on work to date, an overview of the executive order, and then open the discussion to the public to share questions and comments about their vision for the future of the police department and public safety.

"The Board of Trustees, our village manager and police chief, and this committee are dedicated to making this reform and reinvention process transparent and accessible to the public," Trustee Melinda Little said. "The governor has made it clear that public participation is foundational to his executive order and as such, the committee will be seeking input from residents of the broader Saranac Lake community as well as visitors and students who interact with our officers

on a regular basis. We strongly encourage everyone to share their vision for the future of our police department.”

Executive Order 203 directs local government entities with policy 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.”

In addition to public input, the review committee will follow the guidance outlined in Gov. Cuomo’s workbook, which can be viewed here: on.ny.gov/3h3tFUu

“Our police department is committed to reflecting the values and needs of our community,” said village police Chief James Joyce. “To that end, we urge the people we serve to read the workbook and engage in this process throughout.”

In addition to Chief Joyce and Trustee Little, Saranac Lake’s Police Review Committee includes: Saranac Lake Village Manager John Sweeney; Sarah Clarkin, Harrietstown Housing Authority; Ernest Hough, Lakeside House and Samaritan House; Chris Morris, Adirondack Diversity Initiative; David Hayes, Franklin County District Attorney’s Office; Betsy Fuller, Adirondack Health; Angela Brice, North Country Community College; and Susan Lavigne, Franklin County Community Services.

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

The September 24, 2020 at 5:30 p.m., ZOOM Meeting may be accessed via: <https://saranaclakeny.gov/index.php?section=visit-calendar&evtid=889>

Village of Saranac Lake Facebook Live may be accessed via: <https://www.facebook.com/villagesaranaclake>