

Minutes of Work Group Session for the Coalition on Community Safety and Engagement, Town of Yorktown held via Zoom Video Conference on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, 363 Underhill Avenue, Yorktown Heights, New York 10598.

Representatives from the Town of Yorktown Present:

Matthew J. Slater, Supervisor
Thomas P. Diana, Councilman
Alice E. Roker, Councilwoman
Vishnu V. Patel, Councilman

Diana L. Quast, Town Clerk

Robert Noble, Chief of Police
Adam Rodriguez, Town Attorney

Members of the Coalition on Community Safety and Engagement Present:

James Poulin
Paul Cirillo
John Lanza
RoseMarie Panio
Toni Reynolds
Liz Rivera
Rabbi Robbie Weiner

Community Partners Present:

Daks Armstrong, Yorktown for Justice

Steve Ronco, Westchester County District Attorney's Office

Supervisor Matt Slater opened the Listening Session for the Coalition on Community Safety and Engagement:

Good evening, Yorktown. Welcome to the sixth meeting of the Coalition on Community Safety and Engagement. It is Wednesday, January 6, 2021. I appreciate everyone taking time out of their busy schedules to join us. We are going to begin with the Pledge of Allegiance. So, if you could please rise and join me in the pledge. I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Thank you.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

I'm gonna ask Rabbi Weiner, if you could lead us in a moment of silence tonight.

Rabbi Robbie Weiner:

I would be happy to and honored to, before we get to that moment of silence, I just wanted to offer the following words of prayer. And that is Oh, source of light and life in this world. Please, please grant protection to all of the men and women on the frontlines in DC who are putting themselves in harm's way. Also grant healing to all of the individuals in DC, whether it is our leadership, or whether it is those participating in different ways. Please grant a sense of healing to all those that

are in need of healing in that city, but also grant healing to this entire Country, whether it is the struggles that they're going through and managing COVID or their loved ones who are managing COVID, or just those that are sitting at home like us and watching these images of what's happening in our Nation's Capital, please help each of us heal, so that we can go forward making this nation and this world a better place. Amen. Whether it is with those words that inspire you in your prayers, or perhaps your own motivations that enable you to send your prayers up to the Divine. Let's just take a moment of silence. Amen. Thank you, everyone.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Thank you very much. I think it's important that we do acknowledge obviously the terrible events that have occurred in Washington, DC today. I did release a statement earlier, expressing my feelings about what has transpired, I did think it may be appropriate. Also, as part of my statement that I released, they also provided a quote from one of my favorite public servants, and that's former United States Senator Robert Kennedy. And he stated, "What has violence ever accomplished? Or what has it ever created? No martyrs cause has ever been killed by an assassin's bullet. No wrongs have ever been righted by riots and civil disorders. A sniper is only a coward, not a hero in an uncontrolled or uncontrollable mob is only the voice of madness, not the voice of the people and that was stated by United States Senator Robert Kennedy. I did speak to several of the Coalition members tonight about going on with our meeting. The response that I did receive is that the members of the Coalition did want to continue with tonight's work session. This is a Work Group Session. And so, that's why we are continuing with the business before us. We're also trying to ensure that we are in compliance with the Executive Order. Again, this is the Executive Order handed down by the Governor of the State of New York that has to do with police reform and reinvention called the Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative. Now, for five meetings. The individual members, appointed members of the Coalition have been educated by our Chief of Police Robert Noble, and they've also heard from the public. And I think it's time for us to hear from those individual members of the Coalition to hear what they've learned, to hear about their perspective and to hear their recommendations. As we take the next step in compliance to this Executive Order. I should have started with this but I did not again, I want to introduce the appointed individuals who are members of the CCSE. We have Peter Lanza. Rabbi Robbie Weiner, we have Toni Reynolds. We have Liz Rivera, Paul Cirillo, RoseMarie Panio. And we have Jim Poulin. You're joined by two of our Town Board members that I see, we have Councilman Tom Diana, and Councilwoman Alice Roker.

Rose Marie Panio:

Happy New Year to both of you.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

We have Steve Ronco from the Westchester County DA's office. We also have with us and I want to give a special thank you for her continued assistance in getting these meetings off the ground, our Town Clerk Diana Quast, who has also provided minutes that will be included in the report. We have with us as well, who's joining us is Ernie Garcia from Thompson and Bender, Thompson and Bender are the communications consultant for the town. And will be assisting us with the drafting of the final report. We also have with us, it looks like we have our Town Attorney Adam Rodriguez. And we have Daks Armstrong representing Yorktown for Justice, one of our groups that have been participating as well. And so, as I said earlier, tonight is a work group and really focused on the members of the Coalition. This is our opportunity, what I believe is your opportunity for a conversation, a very open and honest conversation about what you've learned from the instructional presentations that we've received from Chief Noble and Chief, I want to thank you for your efforts in that. And also, for us to hear what your perception and

recommendations are going to be for us to include in the first draft of our report, which ultimately would then go to a public hearing. So, we will get input from the public. After the reports are drafted, this is all dictated within the process that was put forward by the State last year. From there, it would be after the public hearing, it would be finalized and submitted to the Town Board for approval. And then once that approval is granted by the Town Board, it would be submitted to the State of New York. And so that is the point we're now at which is hopefully the beginning of the drafting after we hear what those recommendations are going to be from the members of the Coalition. I do want to go over to Chief Noble. Chief, I know you're not presenting tonight, but I wanted to see if you wanted to have some words that you wanted to share with the public, or anything that you wanted to share with the Coalition.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

No, I think I shared something in an informative communication with the members of the Coalition. And I stand by what I had said in that communication, that it's been a privilege, it's a nice group, nice group of folks. I can't say it any more matter of factly than that. Thank you for listening. Thank you, for your support through the process. It gave me the opportunity to present to you the fine work that our agency does on a day to day basis. And there's always room for improvement. I think I've found some spots where we can improve. And I'm just curious to see what your take is from learning a little bit about us. And what I think is the exemplary work that we do in the community. So, thank you for listening and for your attention. And this is kind of a thankless job, serving on this Coalition. Thanks for stepping up.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Absolutely. I'm going to open it up to the members of the Coalition to see, this is our opportunity to hear from you. You've heard from a lot of people over the last five meetings. And now it's your turn to provide the public with again, your assessment, your thoughts, and your recommendations that should be included in the first draft of the report that we'll be drafting. So, if there's anyone from the Coalition who would like to provide their thoughts?

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Rose Marie, do you want to go first?

Rose Maire Panio:

If you wish. I've written this up, because I don't want to leave anything out. To the Honorable Supervisor Slater and members of the Yorktown Board the Honorable Ed Lachterman, Alice Roker, Vishnu Patel, Tom Diana, and of course to our Town Clerk Diana Quast. I'd like to thank you for appointing me to the Yorktown Coalition on Community Safety and Engagement. It's been an honor to serve in an attempt to comply with Executive Order 203 and to participate in this important task. Along with so many other talented people. I've met a lot of new people. I have listened very carefully to all the comments. I've read every article and every letter written. I've studied procedure and training and learned so much about our Yorktown police department. I have studied the record as provided by Chief Robert Noble, and learned rather proudly that your town is one of only 16 municipalities to have an accredited police department, which means it complies with vigorous training and follows and complies with best practices. I've read every letter studied every comment and really listened and taken notes at every listening session. I especially reviewed carefully the letters written by the Superintendents of the Lakeland and Yorktown School District, both of whom emphasize the cooperation and service that exists to protect and safeguard our precious school aged children, not to mention the many programs that it offers to engage our use. The subject of race has come up a lot in our talks. And it's unfortunate no doubt that racism exists everywhere. However, we have been mandated to review the procedures and behavior of the

Yorktown police department. I've had many neighbors comment to me on this, the positive experiences they've had with the Yorktown police. The questions of the community Review Board has come up on numerous occasions. And I have thought this over very carefully. But my response to this is still, that we actually have a review board, which is responsible for overseeing the PD and it's called our duly elected Town Board. Racism, no question needs to be defeated. wherever it exists, we must root it out in our town, in our schools wherever it exists. But we need to do this with the help of our parents in the home. Our teachers in the schools, our faith community, which means they need to do this in the houses of worship. And in our neighborhoods and in our clubs, our sports clubs. I personally found no evidence that the Yorktown police department or any member of the department engages in acts of racism. It consists of people I have found out of all backgrounds and gender, who have been well trained and follow the letter of the law. I have the utmost respect for chief Robert Noble, and confidence in his leadership. I do believe some very good ideas, however, to prevent and to minimize lethal outcomes in the future has come out of our discussion. The bola wrap we talked about that at great length, the Byrna gun, I hope, I have some of these terms, right, Chief, you'll correct me if I'm wrong. And the use of body cams for officers when dealing with the public on duty. I believe they protect the public, as well as the police officers. And they provide a review of every stop and occurrence. In closing, I hope we continue to volunteer in our community work to teach our children to respect our laws. To be a positive example to our children and grandchildren, respect our neighbors and treat all with respect and kindness. Thank you.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Thank you, RoseMarie, we appreciate your thoughts and your perspective on that.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

Thank you, very much.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Any members of the Coalition, Jimmy, I mean, again, this is for the members of the Coalition. This is supposed to be an open conversation. So, I know it can be difficult with a camera and you're seeing yourself on this Zoom. I totally get it. I think Councilman Diana and Councilwoman Roker and I can attest to how difficult this is, it is supposed to be open conversation. So, feel free to engage, this is not, you know, testimony it's just kind of screen time.

James Poulin:

A lot of screen time for you Supervisor. First, I'd like to say Happy New Year, hope the holidays treated you all very well. Chief, I wanted to first call you out to say when this Executive Order came down, I can only imagine what might have gone through your mind of. Oh my God. Now I've got to defend my group. Now certainly going into it. You had a lot to do. Not a lot to defend. What I have found it during our sessions is, for the most part, people are pretty happy with what you're doing and how you're handling things in your group. So, I wanted to call that out to let you know, at least I recognize that it could have been very difficult when this first started. So, I'd like to start there. And there are several things that and probably more questions than I probably have the answers to. But I know that if you wanted to make sure and work with getting the mobile crisis unit, you know, I know that's a big deal. Some of you know me know that mental health is extremely important to me and my world. Had some other ideas and thinking is there a way to, for officers to take college courses that would set up a certificate that, you know, in the counseling world might benefit each of the police officers, and maybe there could be pay increases to that. Now, of course, I don't know anything about the budget. And I don't pretend to so if I had my best wish would be that the Yorktown Police could have their own person hired, social worker,

whatever, as part of their 40 hours a week. 30 hour, whatever it is, to kind of be there to be a source immediately at the ready. Dealing with having your liaison with St. Vincent's, while I know St. Vincent's is amazing, St. Vincent's is not around the corner. And sometimes things need to happen and need to happen now. So that was always a you know, that was a concern to me. So, I and I do know, Chief that you are, you know, that's something that's important to you, as well. And I appreciate that race has come up quite a bit during this time. And I have a few questions. That may be, you know, we can come to an answer with my first question. Because if you don't see racism, does it exist? Now statistics would tell you that, you know, racism really exists everywhere. If you've got one person in your community that's racist, then you cannot say that your town, your community has no issue with racism. If there's one person that is now, does your town have the same issues as maybe a Peekskill? I know that was a force that we had looked at? Probably not. And that's just, you know, my guess is a different demographic that we're dealing with. But we're here to try to figure out where does race and the Yorktown police, where is it there? So, my first question where that's concerned is, is there any sort of any type of racism within the York County Police Department? systemic? Maybe somebody's families got some background there that has some issues that kind of spurs on that? I don't know. But if there is, there's another question that comes with that. What do we do about it? How do we fix it? I'm not always 100% saying, Okay, if something comes up, that's really horrible. They should be fired. Maybe it's, you know, recommendations, whatever it is. We take that route. If there isn't, how do we make us better? All right, we've got as you know, zero issues of racism on our force. What can we do to get better? You know, because we are not just trying to figure this out for your town Police Department 2021. You know, this is something we want to have ready. We want to be the blueprint, if I can use that word. So, I think that that's, those are two questions that come from anybody on the police force having racism. I also in the last couple of years, I've gotten an opportunity to know Chief a little bit and I really 100% believe, if you knew about it, you'd put a stop to it. That's my feeling and what I have come to know from you, Chief. What do we do when issues of racism appear in our community? How do we handle that? Because maybe it comes down to a store owner saying something to a customer and it's a he said, she said, whatever, you're not going to necessarily know who's in the right or in the wrong. How do you he'll handle that. Because not every race issue is against the law. And that's a very tough situation to be in. But by the same token, we need to be able to respond and handle these things, and what do we do? Can we put in, you know, put on the books, how we would handle something of that nature? You know, because by the time the police get there, you know, there's going to be the two stories, your story, my story and the right story. And sorry, Chief, you and your team got together. What would be awesome, is if we could learn from our neighbors, every town in New York is going through this? I know it would be great to be able to predict and say where our demographics are going to be in 5,10, or 15 years? We can't do that. We don't we just don't know. How do we predict? Well, I'd say the best way we can predict is to learn from our neighbors. Sorry, I lost my train of thought that I learned from our neighbors. Now, if we've got different demographics, like maybe a Peekskill, or White Plains, or Greenburgh, who are a little bit more diverse than your account, well, what are they doing? Because there is a chance that our demographics can change, what happens when you have great schools, who have a great police force? People move to your town, and we're not going to be saying, okay, only white people, only black people. LBGT, we've got it all. So, what do we do? Let's look and see what our neighbors are doing. And maybe there's some recommendations they have, that we can get together, get on the books, and then it's ready. When and if it ever happens, and none of it will ever need to be used. So, that's where my thoughts are. I know, I gave a whole bunch of other questions to answer. But that's where I was really thinking. I think our town is good. I think we can be better. So, there's that. To my fellow Coalition. It's been great serving with you on this, and we'll continue to finish this work. And thank you for entrusting me to be on this Coalition. Thank you.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Thanks, Jimmy.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

Thanks, Jim.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Chief, is there anything you wanted to address? One of the things that I thought, you know, was relevant is for the first time we're mandating diversity training for all town employees that we started in 2020. Jimmy, I don't know if that answers any of your questions. I know, Chief, you've also explained to us about the principal policing courses that are being taken, I'm not sure if that would apply as well.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

Yes. And we had scheduled that to take place in March in service training, before COVID struck. So even before any of the events that occurred that spurred on Executive Order 203 came to be, we were implementing that in March until we had to scale it back. It was a great training. I think everybody learned a lot, so much so that, we are going to include it annually in our in service training. Jim, to your question if there's a racist on my police force, I don't want him or her, I mean, they gotta go, there's no business. There's, no place for that in law enforcement and no place for that anywhere. It's just not acceptable. So, you know, we're going to continue to try to improve with our training with our conversations. The town also has a harassment policy where employees can report harassment of any kind to their supervisor, and it has to get to the level of the department head and it's acted upon, so it would it would kind of fall in in that as well, you know, any type of harassment. Thank you.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Thank you. Jim. Did I answer that?

James Poulin:

Yes. There's some things that I believe if there was an issue of race on the force that you would deal with it. There's no question and that's what leads the way the relationship that I've gotten to know you over the last several years. That's what I believe in. But we also have to know that just because we don't see it doesn't mean it doesn't happen. And please, I'm not saying that I know somebody, because if I did I would tell you.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

Listen, in the age of whistleblowers and cell phones there is not many secrets out there, Jim.

James Poulin:

Right. That's true. That is true. But yes, I mean, there's a lot of different things that could arise that, just when you think you've learned it, all, you find out, you need to learn something else.

James Poulin:

So that's the world I live in every day. I know, people think you can turn the page to a new calendar, it's just another day, you know, 2020 to 2021. It's another day and something new is going to happen.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

And the other thing, Jimmy, that I just searched for, you're in for the coalition's education. So, Councilwoman Roker, and I did meet with Legislators Gashi and Smith, specifically about the mobile crisis unit to advocate for the mobile crisis to be brought back. They were both very interested and supportive, they recognized the need. Legislator Smith is obviously in a leadership role regarding the county's own review and compliance within EO 203. And he provided some great insight from his standpoint as well. But that was something that we did have a very productive conversation about. Councilwoman Roker, I don't know if you wanted to add anything about the conversation that we had.

Councilwoman Alice Roker:

Yes, I know. The Chief participated with us.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

Absolutely.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

So, all right, sorry, Chief. Yes.

Councilwoman Alice Roker:

And he, Colin said that he knows the County Executive has put extra money away for mental health. He didn't know whether or not any of that money was going to go to the police and mental health. So that's a question, he said he would get back to us on. Because he thought it was a good idea as well.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Right. So that's where we left it, it was right before the holidays. So, we have not had a chance to circle back with them to continue that conversation. But Jimmy, just for you, for the public and for the Coalition, though that conversation did take place, and it will continue to be followed up on until we get an answer from the County.

James Poulin:

Okay.

Councilwoman Alice Roker:

Yes, I'm good.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Okay. Anyone else? Other members of the Coalition? I would love to hear from Liz or Peter.

Liz Rivera:

I'm just nervous, Sorry, I'm just nervous.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Please, and Toni too. You've been to five meetings, just taking it all in. So, this is really your opportunity to let the community know what you have observed and what you think virtually should go in.

Liz Rivera:

Okay, I'm just nervous and I don't have a statement. But, you know, some of what I've learned and some of what I wanted to kind of share from what I thought I remember I was talking a lot about, the public asking for a Civilian Review Board. I know that we have the town board and the town, and that's what the Town Board is for. But maybe it's just a lot of people in our community are not okay with just or they don't know that they can go to the Town Board. I didn't know that I could go to the Town Board and to file a complaint. If I had one. I don't have one. But I'm just saying maybe just letting the public know that this is a resource and that they're safe to come to the Town Board and to follow their complaint. And even if they're afraid because they want it to be anonymous, but it can't because you can't really investigate it. How do we keep them anonymous? How do we keep them safe? So that's something I would like to look into is something that we could think of as a Civilian Review Board, that the public will be okay. Have you comfortable to come to file a complaint if they had one? Also something that I wrote down was the use of body cameras. And I mean, I don't know if we can discuss the letter that was sent to us today. But I think the use of cameras would be a good bet that it protects both the police department and the public. I don't know, again, our budget, but you know, I think that's something that we should look into. I think it's something that, if there was ever a complaint, we can look at that. What else that I you know, and I also had questions about racial profiling. And I think that in your letter Chief Noble, you did point out that racial profiling is strictly prohibited. What is the training that goes behind that? How do we train our officers to not racially profile people, and I know that we have many hours of training. And I think that our department trains a lot more than many other departments. I think what concerns me is that, I'm from New York City. I remember growing up in an era where, racial profiling was part of what NYPD did. And it caused a lot of issues. And again, maybe not your time, but that's something that we should also look at. And again, I think that Yorktown PD, I think you guys are amazing. The reason why I moved up here was because of the police department, I felt comfortable raising my children as a minority here in Yorktown, I feel very comfortable here. And I feel very safe. But you know, we can always strive to be even better than what we are.

Rose Marie Panio:

Thank you.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

That was great feedback. So, just so we're talking, Liz, from what you're saying, better education of the Town Board in our role as Commissioners and maybe a more formal process or a more formal, probably, I guess, process is the best way to describe it, for residents to file a complaint through the Town Board as it relates to the police in our role as police commissioners. That concurred. Yes, the other two things were the body cameras, and then additional training in regards to racial profiling. Okay, great. That's great feedback.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

If I could jump in real quick, Liz, thank you, very much, Number 1, what I would want people to know is that, along with the Town Board, we want to hear your complaints, you can come into the police department, I explained that we have a personnel complaint policy. we encourage people, if they want to come in, you come in and then obviously, if you don't think your concerns are being addressed, you can go to the Town Board, if it's something of a criminal nature, you can go to the District Attorney's Office, as well. But that's, why we're trying to be transparent about that. And that's why I was suggesting putting that policy up on our website, so that everybody can see it, and that you can come into your police department because, you know, how do you get the word out there that, you know, everybody thinks, oh, they're going to come get me? Well, that just doesn't

happen. That's the quickest way a cop can get in trouble. And, you've got our Chief of our District Attorney branch. The minute we start going after somebody punitively, that's when we violate someone's civil rights, and that's when you lose your job. And that goes to racial profiling as well. You know, before, you know, like you said, You live down in the City, I never did. So when, when people thought about, you know, racial profiling, you're not, you know, I'm a cop, and I'm the chief. I'm like, well, that's one of the quickest ways to lose your job. Who the heck does that? I listened. I mean, who in their right mind is this, okay, there's a few bad apples, I mean that's in every profession, but that's why I listened. And I thought to include that in our rules and regulations because what you think is just, you know, who the heck would do that? Well, now we're memorializing, we're putting that in our General Orders. And you know, everybody's going to receive that and get that training. And like I said, if there is additional training, you know, on that, we can pass it along to the membership, you know, we're gonna look to do that. And it doesn't have to be somebody you know, for something like that doesn't have to be somebody coming and speaking, if there is, um, you know, if there's some type of webinar or something where, you know, a lot of the training that we're trying to incorporate,

Liz Rivera:

There's a lot of training,

Police Chief Robert Noble:

Exactly. And it's something once you go on too long, you lose the audience. So, if it's something that's a little quicker and more impactful, that's, what we're looking for where guys can, click on a button and say, okay, hey, this is coming to your in-car computer, this is what we want you to watch. And we can memorialize that they watched it. And if they have any questions, or any type of misunderstanding about what we're trying to tell them, they can go to their Supervisor, and we'll clarify that, but those are things that we're, we're looking to improve upon. So, again, we get a lot right, but we're looking to get a lot more right. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Right, Pete.

Peter Lanza:

I'm sitting here, I'm going through all my notes from all the meetings and I keep on coming up with the same stuff. From what I've known for the last 16 years. 16 years now I've been in Yorktown, the police department has been great. The interaction I've had in different events that I've been to, they've always been very forward and nice and I haven't had any issues, but I keep on coming back to the same things, more training, the body cameras, because I think that protects the citizens and also the police officers. And, dash cameras on the cars, and SUVs so that you can, see what's going on out on the road when they're not in the car, or if for some reason they're separated. And I probably wrote the same thing about 15 times, so I'm sticking with that. But that's where I'm at.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

That's great. That's great feedback. Chief, do you have dash cams? I don't know, I don't discuss this.

Chief Robert Noble:

We do have them in a few of the cars. It comes down to dollars and how you spread it around with equipment. So, I would need more. I like them. And like you said body cams, we're beta testing them right now. And in the letter to the Coalition, we hope to have a recommendation on the body

cam, we think it works for us and a cost analysis of what that would cost. So, like I said, our goal is to get that in as soon as possible, but no later than April 30th. And then we can discuss how we're going to finance the acquisition, if we do move in that direction.

Rose Marie Panio:

Can I ask a question?

Supervisor Matt Slater:

I think we had two people. Okay. All right, Rosie. Go first.

Rose Marie Panio:

I just want to know, is there any funding for some of these things Federal funding, or I'm not gonna say State funding? Because I don't think the State has the money. But is there any way we could get funding for these, any organizations that would be willing, like we had, we sent out a memo on the Bola Wrap, and boom, you know, we were able to buy what, three, four, with donations,

Police Chief Robert Noble:

Yeah, we wound up using that, the cartridges are the most expensive part of that, Mrs. Panio. So, we will have, I think, by mid-year, we have three already, we should have five, and then once we develop policy and train everybody, those will be out in the field. And again, that's another less than lethal device that the troops can use out there. And I think they're gonna come in especially handy with dealing with people who are in mental crisis or emotionally disturbed people.

Rose Marie Panio:

Especially, there are people with special needs.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

Yes. You saw it firsthand, deployed out there. And now why I was an advocate for that to try, to bring that to our agency. I get that out in the field in 2021. And it's another, proactive tool that we can try to use that's in proper situations, it's another less than lethal device.

Rose Marie Panio:

And I think if we reach out, maybe we could find some funding somewhere, some organizations that would be willing to help us with that. I think it's what's gonna happen in the future. So, we might as well face it at this point.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

I think, thankfully, the Supervisor has a grant, right? Supervisor, the grant writer that we've looked into.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

We have looked into an organization, the Laberge Group who looks for grants, but I think it would be good, though, if within the report, we also emphasize the fact that additional funding opportunities would be very helpful for us to be able to afford these types of new technologies, and training services, and so on, and so forth. So, I think it would be important to include in the report as well.

Councilwoman Alice Roker:

I do think that is going to be very helpful to include that in the report, because I guess there are certain benchmarks the Governor wants you to meet and you need money to meet this benchmark.

Rose Marie Panio:

That's right.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

So, we'll make sure a note to include a request for additional funding sources to achieve what we're trying to achieve here.

Rose Marie Panio:

Including the many clubs and organizations that we have in town. They might see fit to take this under their wing and it could happen more easily than we think.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Of course. I mean, we have so many Not-for-Profits, you know, Jim, you're in the Lions Club, as always, you know? But yeah, the Lions Club, the Elks Club, you know, we do have a number of organizations and we've private individuals, and that's how we got things like the Bola Wrap technology as well. But I think it's important, if we're going to submit this to the State of New York, I think it's important, that we include, I would like to say more than a few, but a few lines about the importance of making sure things available to help support what we're trying to achieve, because we all know, our budgets are tight all ready. And so, if the State wants to see these things being implemented, you know, it'd be great if we could, I don't think it would be unfair to ask them for their help with the financial aspects.

Rose Marie Panio:

Don't ask you don't get that's for sure.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

All right. Jimmy, you wanted to say something before?

James Poulin:

I do. I want to ask the Chief a question. But I do want to first say, because I missed you before, Daks, thank you for your input during this as well. You've had some valuable information to us. And I just want to say I appreciate. Chief, after you got though training, your officers go through training are they given an exam, how do we know that they got it.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

For certain trainings, Yes, there is an exam that's given, your use of force, deadly use of force, you know, for certain, you know, first aid, there are exams that are given, for others, no, there's no pass/fail.

James Poulin:

Okay, but how do you know, if they really got everything out of the training?

Police Chief Robert Noble:

Well, if they have any questions, they can certainly ask the instructor. But not all of the in-service training have tests at the end of them.

James Poulin:

Okay. Thank you.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Yes. Right, Rabbi.

Rabbi Robbie Weiner:

One quick thing about the money, and then I'll go into my thoughts about the report, the money thing is I think we're on the right path. And I also would lean a little bit on the Supervisor, if he doesn't mind feeling a little pressure. And that is perhaps in any type of meeting that you might have with anyone in the Governor's office, or maybe fellow Supervisors in Town Mayor's and things of the sort, where you say, Hey, we did our job. But the idea that you thought that we could go through this process, and not dream of things that were going to cost money is kind of silly, that maybe there is some sort of grant out there that the Governor's office could create, because if the Governor is forcing these Towns to go through the process of visioning a little bit and making their police departments better, maybe he could do a little bit of visioning on his own, to come up with a grant that Towns could tie into where we apply for the grant money, and we write in what we want to do, and it has to tie into these reports that we're putting together. But it might be something that's not necessarily in our court, but it is really more of an informal thing that you Supervisor do, where you're on the phone with somebody in the Governor's office saying, Hey, is there something in the future that's going to come about where there's like some sort of grant that we apply for? Because that would make a lot of sense.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Happy to do it, without a doubt.

Rabbi Robbie Weiner:

As far as my overall thoughts about this process, and some thoughts about, you know, going forward and the report. First and foremost, I want to come out and say, in light of Jim and others, the struggle. For me, I began this process. And I think for many in the interfaith community, the clergy community, we, don't even ask ourselves the question, does racism exist in our town? Or even to be as bold as to say, does racism exist in our police department? I think that we come out of the gate, saying racism exists in our police department, racism exists in my synagogue, racism exists in the churches and in the mosques. And it exists. It's sort of an existential reality. For us that's, I know, from my perspective. And therefore, to start from that point, and to hear from Daks and from others to know that there are people in our community that don't feel comfortable to talk about the racism that they might be experiencing from any government or any institution in our town is not surprising, and it's saddening, but it is an existential component, it is a reality. And that's my starting point. That's where I started from in coming to these meetings and then going forward. At the same time, what I learned very early on, was, as it relates to our police department, is that we have a fabulous police department. We have an awesome police department, we have an amazing police department. And so therefore, as I said, in a previous meeting, I saw this process is taking our department helping our department go from not from bad to good, but from better to best in terms of taking a fabulous police department and almost like saying what could we do to make it even better? And so now we're at this point where it's like so what do we as a coalition, what could we suggest? Who are we to take a great police department and suggest things to make it better? I mean, like if we had a crappy police department, I think we all could list some great things. And that's what I started to think about in terms of this process is like, our job would be so easy if we had a crappy police department. He would say, and this is important, this is an important thought process that I have in terms of what would we say we would say to the Chief, we want you to search for accreditation, we want you to put in your policy that you prohibit, you know, anti-bias kind of thinking and racial profiling, we want you to put that in your policies, we want you to have training, and we want you to have some community outreach programs. You know,

these are the things that when we think about towns, where we learn about towns or cities, or municipalities that have trouble with racism, and all of its forms, we learned that they don't have those things. And yet, our police department has those things. So, that's great for our police department. And it's great for our town, and hopefully great for our community members. And so therefore, our task is to kind of what can we do to make things better. And so, I loved, absolutely loved the letter that the Chief provided because it underlined not only how committed he is, and the department is to continue in the accreditation, and underlining the policies against racism, and going further with training and some suggestions about training, and continuing the community outreach. But I loved stuff that we already talked about in terms of trying to see if we can get the County to reinstate the Mobile Crisis Unit. The cameras we've already talked about, um, I think all of that stuff is a way to take a police department to go from better to best. Now, how do I know that? It's because we learn some of this stuff together. And we're also hearing about it from the chief himself. And I also know in talking with friends who live in other towns, what they don't have, and what we have as a starting point, I mean that we happen to have a police department the way that we do in terms of the training that they do, you know, I think that it's fabulous. And so, improving upon those things only makes us better or a rise at that. So last thing I wanted to say, last little comments is as it relates to money, I think it would be fabulous if we could get money for training for our police department additional to what is already set aside by the Chief for training. And maybe, it means, it's funny that Jim, you asked the Chief about how does he know, I was even thinking in terms of, I don't know how much Chief there is, um, accolades that police members of the force have at certain periods in their journey. But I know in teaching, they do these things, in the rabbinate. As rabbis, we do these things in terms of if we learn a certain amount of material, we get an accolade, we get an award, there's something that's raised up and maybe it's something that the town awards someone with a special honor for, but specifically for anti-bias training, like specifically about racism, anti-bias training, right against racial profiling, like things of that sort. I love how the chief put in, you know, a specific speaker, and if we hear about other training types of things, that we can incorporate that and then like rewards, so to speak, individuals who are taking advantage of these things. Last thing, and it's totally an out of the box, kind of thought and if it's offensive, I completely sorry. And I'm just kind of throwing it out there.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Bring it on. It's ok.

Rabbi Ribbie Weiner:

And it's related to Liz's comment about what I see as a marketing problem for us in our town. And while a community service board or community resource board, whatever, that I think is valuable for some communities. I don't know if we're at that level yet, because we already have a vehicle. I'm not yet ready to say that our vehicle fails. I want to say, first of all, I think our vehicle is not marketed well. And it's funny that a Rabbi is saying it's about marketing, but we do a lot of marketing and the religion biz as well. So, um, the last comment that I want to make is the out of the box idea that I was playing around with was, and so I apologize, Chief, if this is a little weird. And that is, what if we marketed the idea of people going to the Town Board if they have concerns or they had a run in, so to speak or a difficulty with somebody? What if the campaign was also marketed through the police, or with the police's website and marketing materials. I was imagining almost the tagline of, you know, "Yorktown Cares or We Care." And then just like a little line that says, if you have any trouble with any officer for any reason, please call. And then there's a phone number, you know, the Town Board at this number. And it's not just marketed through the town. But it's an interesting thing to see, we're pushing, you know, the Chief does these amazing community outreach programs, and he has lots of great marketing and lots of great programs. But what if there was also in the small corner of the marketing that police puts out there, or they have

it every once in a while on the website, if you had “We Care” with a big heart, and it says, you know, if there are any concerns at all you might have with an officer, please feel free to reach out to an unbiased person, but it's a marketing campaign that we think about. So that's, what I got.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

That's great, Rabbi.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

Thank you, Rabbi.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Great ideas. So, we're talking Rabbi, advocacy for funding. Acknowledging racism exists, I think that's something that we should really talk a bit more about, because I think it would be important to put that obviously, in the report, I think it's important to acknowledge that racism does exist, and it exists in every community, including ours. And so, I think it's important obviously, to have in there.

Rabbi Robbie Weiner:

I'm sorry, Supervisor. But I forgot to even say that in light of my opening statement, and that is the reason why the Chief and the Police Department has all of these things already in place. Because I want to say whether the Chief is going to say it or not, I want to say he acknowledges the existential reality of racism, because you wouldn't have these policies if he thought racism didn't exist.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

That's great. I'm writing it down right now.

Rabbi Robbie Weiner:

You wouldn't train your police officers in anti-bias training, if you thought racism isn't a problem. No, you train them because it could be a problem. That's what's great about the department.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

It's great, and with what you said about the marketing campaign, Rabbi, that is out of the box. But again, I still, you know, I still want people to feel comfortable calling me or calling, you know, a Supervisor on our job. And, making a complaint. We've looked into them in the past, and there have been complaints that have definitely been substantiated, based upon the citizen complaint. That absolutely does happen. But yeah, if somebody else, you know, really struggles with the concept to have the availability to call a member of the Town Board, who are Police Commissioners, that's not a problem.

Rabbi Robbie Weiner:

I think that if we are going to take the information that we received seriously, that we have residents, specifically residents, of people of color, who might not feel comfortable going to the police department, after an issue, whatever the issue is, and maybe it's not now maybe it's something in the future, if we're going to take that that reality seriously, then I think that we make our town better by doing something moving, you know, trying to create great and welcoming and comfortable gateways for people to walk through. And I heard that loud and clear from some of the things that we received.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

And my way of trying to meet that challenge is, who feels that way and can I speak with them, come speak with me. I think I'm a little ahead of you. Because I want anybody who feels that way. I'd like to talk to him, or I'd like them to meet a few of my officers. And that's why in my tenure, I've spoken at the Islamic Center. I've spoken in multiple temples, I've met with an interfaith group. Anybody who's asked to speak with me, like I said, I don't duck anybody and I enjoy it. Listen, that's, in my wheelhouse. I'm not the smartest guy in this room. But you put me with just about anybody. And I can guarantee you, I'm going to find some common ground there. And we're going to work on the positives and try to get through any of the barriers that may exist. So while you have me as your Chief, that's a strength of mine. So that's what I would like to do, to try to not even, you know, necessitate going to the Board. If you don't look, some people are going to have preconceived biases and they don't want to talk to a cop. I'm trying to break through that. That's, hopefully what's come across in this process, I've done you know, I've done listening, but I've tried to, I think, I've really tried to, put it out there that you got somebody who's accessible and listens. And you know what, even if we agree to disagree, sometimes, you know, it's just common ground will be found, and you're not going to have somebody who's going to shut you down.

Rabbi Robbie Weiner:

It was a very, hard lesson for me to learn as a Rabbi to know that there were people just by the nature of who I was, they didn't feel comfortable talking to me, and I'm a Rabbi, Chief, I mean, that this is like what I do. I mean, I got to talk to people, and people got to talk to me, and no one's going to want to talk to me. I mean, that's hard. But to feel comfortable knowing that somebody could go to a, say it was an issue of gender, a woman on our Board of Trustees to talk to them first. And it was basically, I came to the reality Chief that it had less to do with me and any of the skills that I had or didn't have, and more to do with the reality of the biases or the challenges that the other person had. And I gave into that. And that was helpful. So, we're talking about, perhaps, hopefully, a very, very small percentage of people. But you know, at least we're helping that small percentage of people.

Rose Marie Panio:

You know, Chief, you're a big hit, you're always a big hit at the senior Advisory Committee. With regard to stores, I think Jim brought up something about people who shop in different stores. And I was in retail for 40 years. And the key to everything is how you treat people and how polite you are and how nice you are. I don't know why the Chamber, perhaps we could suggest to Sergio and Aaron, at the chamber that they might want to do a workshop for their members and people who are in business generally, even if they're not their members, about this subject, we could at least try to do that. I think that's one way we could reach out to them, it's to their benefit.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Pete, you're the Vice President of the Chamber. That's your other hat.

Peter Lanza:

Yes.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

I understand, my understanding, what can you tell us about some of the things that I know that there are a couple of conversations that have been going on within the chamber specifically about this issue.

Peter Lanza:

Actually, we haven't talked about this with them, but we can definitely bring it up. We're always open to do workshops and offer stuff to our businesses and our people in the town. So, this is definitely a good idea. And I will, I'll talk to Sergio about it.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

I did have a conversation with Sergio about this issue. And I apologize, I mean, to put you on the spot, but, my bad. I know that he is working with some of the members about creating a subcommittee, I think it's like a diversity and business subcommittee. And so that's one of the ways that they're trying to address this issue as well.

Peter Lanza:

With this COVID, we haven't had as many of our normal meetings.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Yes, I know. The trustee meetings over zoom at eight o'clock in the morning are a lot of fun. How about Toni? Toni, any thoughts for us? Toni is rather quiet.

Toni Reynolds:

Honestly, I don't have any additional ones. For the chief, everything that I would have thought about to ask, the Chief is already doing that. All those things are in place. And like Rose Marie said and the Rabbi, things can get better, so you can be better than yourself today. You know, everything we try to improve. But I don't have anything. I mean, personally, in this town, I've never been treated different. I've never experienced racism. But again, I've lived in a bubble, maybe my whole life. So, but I'm not saying it doesn't exist, because I mean, just watching the news, we see that it exists. We know that it exists in the town. It's just that the Chief is already addressing everything in case something happens. We're going to have people coming up from the City to Yorktown. They're used to the tensions of everything with the City, whether it's race or gender differentiations so they will come up with a little emotional scarring, not realizing that. town is very open, our town police are already versed in how things will be handled. So, I don't think really, I have anything else to add.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

Thank you, Toni.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Alright, who else from the Coalition, Paul.

Paul Cirillo:

Everything I was thinking was already said. But I would just like to thank you, Chief for your time. And you taught us a lot and your guys are great, and you're great. And you spend a lot of time with the training and making sure your guys know what they're doing. And I'm always out there in the public, I'm familiar with you guys and comfortable with you. Thank you.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

Thank you very much, Paul. That means a lot that somebody your age, you know, because if everybody, you know, what you see on, in social media and a lot of different things, there's a lot of pressure on people your age to really, that the police aren't that popular. We're regular people that just want to go home safe to our families and do the best we can while we're working out there. To have you have that mindset, it's reassuring, it really is. Because there's a lot of good

people that put on the uniform and tried to do the right thing out there. And the ones who don't the ones who are the bad apples, that's on us to get to find them and to not have them in police services. But thank you very much. And hopefully, you'll sit for the test one of these days, you know, keep your options open. You never know.

Paul Cirillo:

They are open.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Hey, Paul. I don't mean to put you on the spot, but as a representative of the youth of our community, what other ways can you think we can be communicating with the youth, whether it's from Town Hall or from the police station. How would you recommend, are there better ways to do that?

Paul Cirillo:

I think definitely, with social media is one of them. And I know, the Yorktown Police does a good job with going to schools, and having those groups in the schools teaching about that. Um, just so everyone is familiar, and is open. And I know those choices are available. I've seen them myself. So, they're out there.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Great.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

Thanks Paul.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Paul I don't mean to keep asking you on the social media side, I always ask this question. Is there one because now social media is just morphed into this whole thing? Is there a specific channel or medium that you would recommend? So, obviously, the Chief and the Police Department does a phenomenal job on Facebook. Are there other social media avenues that they should also consider exploring?

Paul Cirillo:

Um, I would say Instagram, it's just like Facebook, I would say that probably would be the second best.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Okay.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

So, what do I need to create a face thing for that, or just...

Rabbi Robbie Weiner:

I was actually going to suggest as a part of the report that we recommend the police department do regular Tick Tock videos on a weekly basis.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

He would be really good at it.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

You're gonna put a target on my back.

James Poulin:

That's got to get in the report.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Tick Tock videos for the PD. No problem.

RoseMarie Panio:

I don't know if any of you read well, you know, I read the Italian newspaper every day. And recently, there was an article about a 15-year old who unfortunately passed away. But he has been beatified as the Saint of the Internet, because during his short years of 15, he spent most of his life talking about religion and faith and had a whole following of young people. So, I guess the Vatican is ahead of you guys.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Very good.

James Poulin:

Supervisor.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Yes, sir.

James Poulin:

Is there a way that we could meet up with one of the other or get other information from some of the other towns and the other police forces in our County.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Okay, So, there's an email group. I'm a part of it. All the other Supervisors are Mayors. And so, I'm happy to inquire about what proposals they're considering. And I'll collate the responses and send it back to the Coalition. Does that work?

James Poulin:

Yes I Just think whenever you can learn anything. It may be irrelevant to us. But maybe, there's one nugget we can find. You know, as long as my age is good there Chief. My age, you talk about Paul being so young, same old.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

Well, you're young at heart, Jim.

Rose Marie Panio:

Alright, let's get off that subject, please.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Good. All right. So, other thoughts from the Coalition? The big things that I've written down are training, the Mobile Crisis Unit, the cameras, the additional education, and potential campaign on the use of the Town Board, as a Police Commissioner role, but it is also in conjunction with the Chief and his officers. Let's see, I said the Mobile Crisis Unit, also considering and Rabbi, I'd love

to riff with you more on this, but consider some type of town recognized accolade for the training. For extensive, we'll say extensive training, right. Anti-bias and anti-racism. That could be something that we can come up with.

Rabbi Robbie Weiner:

Yes, I actually would riff also with the Chief to know if there is something in the world of the police department where, you know, whether it's in another area of training that they receive an accolade. Is there something that could be in tandem with that, it might be something like they're used to having in firearms training, where it's like, you know, you reach a certain accolade, you reach a certain number of hours in the cage or whatever, you get an accolade versus, you know, with this, you could have a certain number of learning hours on bias training or something like that, and, and the town gives them similar accolades. That's all I'm thinking about. But basically, I would borrow from what's already in the police department. The other thing that I want to ask the Chief specifically about is that he put in his report, suggesting the speaker Quintin Williams now I don't, this is not my world. So, I didn't know if us putting that in our report is important when we're talking about training. And if he wanted to share his thoughts about this person, or just letting us know a little bit about this program.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

Well, no, I saw him speak, he presented to the students and the staff at the Yorktown Central School District, and I was able to sit in on a few of the discussions and trainings that he had, and I came away with, I think my cops would really relate to this instructor which is very important, if you were to have somebody speak on this topic, and I came away from listening to him thinking that you know, he'd probably be beneficial, in this discussion, and in this type of training. So that's why I mentioned him specifically.

Rabbi Robbie Weiner:

So, then my recommendation is to add that to our section on training, specifically put that in there.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

So, we're going to additional training with Mister?

Police Chief Robert Noble:

You have his name. Supervisor. You have it's in there.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Yes, Quintin Williams. Right.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

Yes.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

All right, great. Chief, is there anything that you want to add, based on the comments tonight, based on what we're hearing from the Coalition.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

Um, no, I think, like I said, very, very well received. And I think there's some, you know, based on the comments, I think, quite a few of them, you know, we can make happen. And I think they fall in line with a lot of the suggestions that I made for the implementation, some of the things are, you know, out of the box, and I think we can craft, you know, a message, you know, like I said,

like, you know, what the Rabbi was saying with, you know, we care that we can we probably make something like that happen. But, you know, and I'm listening, I know, there's a few people out there, I'll never reach, but I'm not going to give up trying. And that's why I'm saying that.

Councilwoman Alice Roker:

I have a suggestion for you.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

Well, I am all ears, Alice.

Councilwoman Alice Roker:

You are absolutely right. Once you start talking to someone, they'll get it. And all of the information you gave off to this Coalition, over the last couple of weeks, I think would be excellent. On its own in a video for people to understand what your department does, and who you are. I think, you know, if you're going to break through, that is how you're going to break through. There are some people who, as Toni says, come to Yorktown haven't been broken elsewhere. And so, they're never going to come to you. But for many, they will come but they need to hear you, they need to see you. And I think, like I said to you earlier today, government does a bad job of public relations. You are good at what you do. And the presentation blew me away. And I've known you guys for a long time. But I think if more people got to see you and not the Chief but the person who's making this presentation and listening to you. They might come forward.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

I think it's great idea.

Rose Marie Panio:

Good idea. Very good idea.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

I think it's a great idea.

Councilwoman Alice Roker:

Can I just say something because it's been bothering me since I heard someone, someone told me that someone said, racism doesn't exist in Yorktown and when I was Town Clerk, I witnessed many instances of racism. My first week this man walks in my door. I'm right here in front and my Deputy is behind me. He literally pushes me to the side to get behind me, because he thinks she's the Clerk. And I could hear my poor Deputy going, Oh, God. Um, she's the Clerk. And when I turned around and looked at the man, he was devoid of color. And so, the way I handle people like him, I said, Okay, I'm busy right now. But if you go outside and sit on that bench for a few minutes, I'll come out to you. And that's the way I handle people. Go out, sit down, think about what you did. And then come back. And I'll be really happy girl, because I've made you sit down and think about why I'm asking you to go out there and sit down. It wasn't the first, it was the first. But it was followed by many, many others. Racism can have a very subtle, it can be very subtle. but you get the point. And when I talk to white people, what I say is that you may never have had it directed towards you, because you are white, so you wouldn't know. So, it's when people say it doesn't exist in Yorktown. I go, please it exists everywhere.

Rose Marie Panio:

That's what I said, it's everywhere.

Councilwoman Alice Roker:

You're absolutely right.

Police Chief Robert Noble:

I know firsthand. I was sitting minding my own business with my wife on summer day and somebody called me a honky mother... and you know that story. And that happened right here in Yorktown. So, you know, it comes in all shapes. It's all about what's in your heart, man. It's house to house. It's how you were raised and how you raise your family.

Rose Marie Panio:

Absolutely. It's what you learn in your home. Absolutely. Parents conversation. It's all very important.

Councilwoman Alice Roker:

It is so important, equally with young, young children.

Liz Rivera:

I had a lot those conversations in my house.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

And that's why I think it's important for the report to also acknowledge the fact that racism does exist and it exists in all of our communities, including the Town of Yorktown, I think that's an important point. That's an important point to include in the report. Very good, I am just trying to think if there are any other items that we may have missed, anything else anyone wants to add.

Rabbi Robbie Weiner:

The only thing that I would add in light of what we were just talking about is Jim's point when he was giving his opening. And that was adding the important point about racism. That if we're going to say that racism exists in Yorktown, which I think it's important, I would add the little nuance that Jim provided, and that was that even though that we might not have it in any of our statistics, or it might not be seen clearly, in any data that we see in our town records or in the police department. We as a Coalition recognize, and then whatever the statement is, but that nuance, I think, is extremely important. It's because, it underlines the work that we're trying to do, that we don't want to say oh, you know, it's rampant, we see it, you know, it's actually the opposite. We're going forward from a different perspective.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Good. Very good. Ernie Garcia. I know that you've been typing away over there. Is there anything that you need us to expand on or revisit.

Ernie Garcia:

Not right now.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Okay. Very good. Well, if there's nothing else that any of the members of the Coalition want to put forward, I think what we can do then next, is we're going to work with the Town Clerk Diana Quast. Again, I want to thank her personally for doing a great job helping us out with these meetings, as well as taking the minutes. Well, we're going to collate the report. Ernie Garcia from Thompson and Bender is going to help wordsmith the report, at least the introduction and the recommendations, working with our Town Clerk's office will collate the correspondence that

we've received and shared. And then we'll put an initial draft together. That draft again in accordance with what we're following from the State will then be disseminated to the public, we'll reconvene. And we'll have a, essentially a public hearing on the report to gain or hear from the public about what the recommendations are. And then we will revise said report and then present it to the Town Board. And again, we're trying to do this all by the first of April. And that's the timeline that we're working on. Any questions from the Coalition?

Rose Marie Panio:

So, will we get an outline of the report, so that we can study it.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Oh, absolutely. Yes, it'll be circulated to the members of the Coalition, obviously, to make sure that it's accurate. And it encompasses everything that we talked about here today, as well as any other ideas that you may have, that you would like to see included.

Rose Marie Panio:

And our date is what April?

Supervisor Matt Slater:

The date that it has to be submitted to the State is by April 1, 2021. So, we have to get through the drafting of the first edition, the next public meeting, and then the approval of the Town Board, all within really the next three months. So, we're still on track to meet those goals. But that's the timeline that we're working on.

Rose Marie Panio:

Very good.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Okay.

Rose Marie Panio:

Thank you. Very good.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Councilman Roker. I know we have Councilman Patel, also, who joined us, I want to acknowledge him or Councilman Diana, do you want to add anything before we sign off?

Councilman Tom Diana:

No, I think it's all been said at this point. I'm going to hold off till the next meeting and let everybody come together at that point. I can give nothing but accolades to our police department in the way its run. And a finer police department, you're not going to find, and the training that they get and the way they get it and the way it's documented, so on so forth, is seconded to none.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Great, Councilwoman Roker, is there anything you wanted to add?

Councilwoman Alice Roker:

No, I'm good. I think I've said as much as I could. You know, we talk about our police department. I am proud of all of them. Every one, every man and woman that works in that in that building. What more can I tell you?

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Yes. I hear you. Thank you. Councilman Patel. You there?

Councilman Vishnu Patel:

Okay. When the Chief hires somebody, and we approve it, if something goes wrong, we can blame the Chief, and he has a very good staff and he communicates with us. And we speak to him. So, when it comes to everything to the Board, we will discuss and we will support him. Because one of the reasons when Nancy Elliott was there she could relate to something she wrote in The New York Times, and is still the truth, why people come to Yorktown, and safety, and housings and all these things other than politics. I think that is the only thing. Thank you.

Supervisor Matt Slater:

Thank you, Councilman Patel. Okay, so then with that, we will adjourn our meeting. And we will notice our next meeting, probably in the month of February. At this point, we have not set that date, but we will, we will work on that date in the coming days and then publicize it for the public. In the meantime, I do want to personally thank all the members of the Coalition for their commitment to our community and for the dedication to this cause. I really do appreciate your efforts. And it has been a wonderful experience. And I really do want to thank all of you individually.

Everybody present:

Good night, everybody and Happy New Year.