

# ONEIDA INDIAN NATION



## ONEIDA NATION HOMELANDS

December 15, 2020

Madison County Board of Supervisors  
138 N. Court Street  
Wampsville, NY 13163

Dear Members of the Madison County Board of Supervisors:

Shekóli – greetings. The Oneida Indian Nation was recently referenced in a letter from the Hamilton Area Anti-Racism Coalition (HAARC). We were listed as an entity who should provide input regarding New York State's Police Reform Plan Committee and its ongoing process to examine policing efforts as it relates to people and communities of color.

As such, we are pleased to use this opportunity to contribute to the ongoing conversation and share our experiences working with the Madison County Police Department. We would also like to relay our perspective on the qualities we deem essential to law enforcement.

Our relationship with the Madison County Police Department has been one of mutual respect, and productive in meaningful ways to the people we serve. Under the leadership of Sheriff Todd Hood, the officers of Madison County PD have collaborated closely in many areas with the Oneida Indian Nation and its own Police Department (OINPD), which has produced enhanced community policing and public safety within the county.

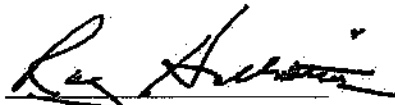
Following the historic settlement of 2013 between the Oneida Indian Nation, New York State, Madison County, and Oneida County, the two counties partnered with the Nation to deputize the OINPD. Since then, our collaboration has only improved. Sheriff Hood regularly reaches out proactively to understand the sensitivities of our community and ask how the Madison County Police Department can work more collaboratively with OINPD and the people it serves.

Additionally, the Oneida Nation's partnership between Oneida and Madison Counties, along with the training it has done to distinguish itself, has helped make our own OINPD a national model for tribal law enforcement agencies. In 1998, our police department became the first tribal police department in the entire country to be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, a certification that has been renewed every year since.

We have witnessed police officers of Madison County conduct their duties and engage with the public on a basis of compassion for all, understanding of nuanced circumstances, integrity in upholding the law, and a genuine desire to help their friends and neighbors. These are the values we demand from members of the Oneida Indian Nation Police Department and we believe them to be shared by our partners in Madison County.

We appreciate you taking the time to include our perspective on this matter relating to the recent letter from the HAARC. We hope you find this information helpful in answering any questions you may have on this subject. Your members are also welcomed to contact us should you like to discuss this matter more.

Na ki? wa,



Ray Halbritter

Oneida Indian Nation Representative and  
Oneida Nation Enterprises CEO