

Police Reform Committee Public Comment Round 2 Minutes
12/16/20 12:00 PM

Attendees:

Madison County Sheriff, Todd Hood
Madison County Board of Supervisors Vice Chairman, Cliff Moses
Georgetown Supervisor, Pete Walrod
Madison Supervisor, Ron Bono
City of Oneida Supervisor, Mary Cavanaugh
City of Oneida Supervisor, Matthew Roberts
Madison County Administrator, Mark Scimone
Second Assistant Madison County Attorney, Melissa Felton
Madison County Assistant District Attorney, Robert Mascari
Director of Madison County Mental Health, Teisha Cook
Madison County Public Information Officer, Samantha Field
Secretary to the Board of MC, Emily Burns
As well as numerous members of the Public.

To view this meeting in full, please visit: [Madison County Sheriff's Office Police Reform Public Comment - YouTube](#)

Chairman of the Criminal Justice, Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs, Pete Walrod gave a quick introduction regarding the Governor's Executive Order No. 203 requiring each local government to adopt the policing reform plan.

Supervisor Walrod then asks Public Information Officer, Samantha Field to read aloud a written letter that was submitted as a public comment by a Oneida Indian Nation representative, Ray Halbritter. This letter spoke on the relationship between the Oneida Indian Nation and the Madison County Sheriff's Office. To read the letter in full, please visit:

<https://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13663/Oneida-Indian-Nation-ltr-to-Madison-County-12-15-20>

County Administrator then invites members of the public to speak, beginning with those who signed up ahead of time.

Cris Amann, Hamilton Resident and member of HAARC, expresses concerns brought up from the Hamilton Area Anti-Racism Coalition. Cris addresses the committee asking that a thorough examination of policies, procedures, and practices within the context of racial inequity is properly conducted. She also explains that HAARC feels as though members should be added to the committee to help represent those most impacted by racial inequities and policing. Cris also

suggests that current policies and procedures should be posted at easily found on the Madison County Sheriff Office's website.

County Administrator Scimone then invited Julie Carlson, Resident of Lebanon, to speak. After a short period of time, there was some difficulty hearing Julie, County Administrator Scimone then asked Julie if she would like to try to fix the connection and he will then come back to her.

John Bailey, Resident of Hubbardsville, was next to speak. John expressed his concern as well as HAARC that the Committee has failed to follow the spirit and mandate of Executive Order 203. As far as community input for this process, the response only brought 1.06% of Madison County residents, which he feels as though this is not an accurate representation of community input. John further expressed his concern with the time and date of this meeting and that it did not make it easily accessible to the public.

John further expressed that the Committee should make this process more accessible by including different languages, creating an opportunity for those with different disabilities, as well as scheduling the public comment period at a different time of day so that others may be able to participate.

Concerns were also expressed with the presence of the thin blue line flag and how it was displayed. John and HAARC suggest that this should be removed from County property. John then describes a recent experience of his when he dropped off the HAARC survey in response to Police Reform at the Madison County Jail.

Michael Eiffe, Chittenango Central Schools Superintendent, was then invited to speak. Superintendent Eiffe spoke on the relationship between the Chittenango School District and the MSCO and how it has grown. Superintendent further explains that in recent years, the MSCO and its focus on relationships, especially those within the Community has increased and it is a huge value to have. This is a valuable communication and partnership.

Superintendent Eiffe then further explained that the partnership with the OIN is extremely important to Chittenango with having two casinos within the school district. Having good communication and a focus on relationships is a good thing and is extremely beneficial to the community.

Sharon Patterson was then invited to speak. Sharon begins by stating that years ago she was introduced to an organization called Measures for Justice located in Rochester, NY. This organization assesses and compares the performance of entire Criminal Justice systems on a County by County basis. Sharon expresses that the idea that "no data means no change" carries weight in this process. She hopes that with this process we can gather real data and produce real change as well as coming up with better practices moving forward. She suggests that members of this meeting should look up the organization "Measures for Justice".

Jennifer Stromer-Galley, resident of Cazenovia, was then invited to speak. Professor Stromer- Galley expresses that she recognized that policing is hard and the challenges that are faced, and Thanks Sheriff Hood as well as the MSCO for their hard work. She further explains that she shares concerns raised by HAARC in terms of the process and the challenge of joining the meeting at the time and day it was scheduled. Professor Stromer- Galley also states that she agrees that insuring partnerships within the community is crucial and that there should be a stronger presence of community input on this topic.

Professor Stromer- Galley shares her concerns with the committee on militarization of police and the potential impact it has on the community. She suggests that the County should evaluate and review the need for this type of equipment and if there is a true need for it, this equipment is risky and dangerous. She also states that it is unclear the type of training that the MSCO receives and requests that there be more transparency and community engagement and education on this matter.

Margaret Millman- Barris, Resident of Oneida, was then invited to speak. She begins by thanking everyone for this open comment period and expresses that she hopes that this is just the start of this process and that it continues after the plan is submitted to the State. Margaret explains that she agrees with members from HAARC that more expertise on police reforms and racial justice should be brought in and added to the Committee. As far as partnerships and relationships with School districts, she suggests that we keep in mind the difference between relationships with administration versus relationships with individuals.

Margaret suggests that a new complaint procedure should be implemented, this should be in a transparent way, easily accessible and it should be known who review the complaint and where it is in the process.

Karin Bump, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), was then invited to speak. Karin begins by saying that when she began with CCE, she recognized that there was an opportunity to build a relationship with Sheriff Hood and the MCSO. She expresses that from her first meeting with Sheriff Hood, it was clear that was an opportunity that he was open to as well. She further explains that CCE and the MCSO have worked together on numerous events such as the Madison County Fair with the Child Safe Program, Training presentations on animal care and welfare, providing support on first response calls to farm and large animals response and emergencies as well. From beginning to now, working with the Sheriff's Office has always been respectful and a great relationship overall with willingness to learn and work with one another.

Anne Ferguson, resident of Cazenovia, was then invited to speak. Anne explained that she shares the concern with militarization of equipment and arms and that she would like to see situations that MCSO goes in without guns. She feels as though that situations with psychological or mental health problems, the MCSO should approach with Mental Health professionals rather than weapons. Anne further explains that she does not want to see AR-15's or any similar weaponry within the MCSO.

County Administrator Scimone then asks Julie Carlson if she would like try to speak again and that he will start her time from the beginning. Julie Carlson, resident of Lebanon and member of HAARC, then began to share her comment.

Julie expressed that she appreciates the opportunity for this forum and explains that good communication and relationships within the County are great. HAARC's goal is to have that extended to everyone within the County and community especially those who may have challenging relationships with the MCSO. Julie expresses that HAARC recommends the following:

- Implement a Citizen Review Board including community members that have expertise and or experience in addressing racial and other social inequities as they pertain to policing.
- Data Collection in specific areas including shootings by Officers, firearm discharges, civilian injuries, etc.
- Ban the use of no knock warrants, positioning of individuals being placed on their stomachs while restrained, application of pressure on someone's pressure while face down and use of force on any individual who is handcuffed etc.
- Recommend the use of summons rather than warrant lists, arrests and minor incidents.

Julie references the document that HAARC submitted to the committee and hopes that the committee reads it. She concluded by addressing Sheriff Hood and stated that HAARC is very willing to work with the MCSO to help make policing within Madison County exemplary in New York State.

County Administrator Scimone then asks if anyone else from the community that did not sign up to comment would like to make a comment at this time. With no one responding for comment, he then thanks everyone for their participation in working with Madison County on this topic. County Administrator Scimone then explains again that this meeting was recorded and available for viewing on the Madison County NY YouTube channel. If anyone has and questions, please feel free to call or email. He then turns it over to Sheriff Hood.

Sheriff Todd Hood then thanks everyone for taking the time to come out and voicing their opinions. There was a lot of good things and good suggestions and we will take a look at everything that was brought to the table today.

Supervisor Walrod then thanks everyone for giving the committee the opportunity to listen and review the suggestions that were brought to attention. He also mentions that the committee is still taking comments in written form as well not just through email, they can be mailed in to Madison County Office Building. These comments will also be read recorded and taken into consideration when the Committee is writing their plan.

Public Information Officer, Samantha Field, then reiterates that if anyone would like to submit a comment, they can email to PoliceReform@madisoncounty.ny.gov. They can also mail a written comment to:

Madison County
Attn: Samantha Field
138 N Court St.
Wampsville, NY 13163

Supervisor Walrod then thanks PIO Samantha Field for all of her hard work she has put into orchestrating this. All the messaging coming out of the County is largely due to her hard work, she is an exceptional worker and Madison County is lucky to have her.

The meeting concluded at 12:43 PM