

Committee Questions #1

1. What is the composition of the police reform committee? Specifically:

a. Who are the committee members?

Teresa Kenny, Orangetown Supervisor
Donald Butterworth, Chief of Police
Michael Shannon, Captain of Police
Denis Troy, Town Councilman
Don Hammond, Mayor of Village of Nyack
Dominic Crispino, First Assistant District Attorney
Barbara Gionta, First Assistant District Attorney
Tanya Gayle, Nyack NAACP & Rockland County Public Defender Office
Jerell Jones, Nyack Teacher / Nyack Football Coach
John McGowan, County Legislature and Orangetown Youth Court
Brandon D. McLauchlin, Pastor St. Charles AME Zion Church
Willie Outlaw, Tappan Community resident
Nicholas Whalen, Orangetown PBA President
Elizabeth Brancati, Orangetown Deputy Town Attorney
Michael Lawler, NYS Assembly
Allison Kardon, Committee Clerk

b. How were they selected?

Supervisor Teresa Kenny with input from Chief Butterworth and Mayor Hammond

c. What portion of the committee is composed of persons who are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color)?

Approximately 25%

d. How many committee members depend on relationships with law enforcement or associated government agencies for salary or money of any kind?

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e. Who is chairing the committee? What is their contact information?

Teresa Kenny Town of Orangetown Supervisor 845-359-5100

2. Who are the attorneys providing legal counsel for the police reform committee?
What is their contact information?

Elizabeth Brancati Orangetown Deputy Town Attorney 845-359-5100

3. Are meetings of the committee currently open to the public/ have the previously hosted meetings been open to the public?

Yes - Early meetings were not; December meeting public comments; Feb 2 open to public viewing; Feb 9 Police Commission public meeting, Feb 16 public comments

4. Where is information published or circulated about these meetings?

Town of Orangetown Website/ Facebook

How much notice is provided before each meeting?

Approximately 2 weeks

5. Are minutes taken from every meeting?

Yes

If so, where are they available to the public?

Posted on Town of Orangetown Website

6. Are the forums recorded?

Public meetings are recorded

If so, how does the public obtain access to these recordings?

T/Orangetown website for the public meetings

7. Have any members of the public or the panel been muted?

None, all who requested to comment were allowed

8. What efforts are being made to get authentic input from the general public?

Postings on Town website, Supervisor has an email for comments/questions, groups have made presentations to the committee, public meetings
policereform@orangetown.com

9. How is public input being incorporated into changes made around policing?

All suggestions / input are be considered

10. What is your schedule to make the EO 203 Committee's report public?

March 2021

11. Has any money been paid to Lexipol? No

Committee Questions #2

A. What types of statistics do you keep related to traffic stops? (Not just related to traffic stops but arrests as well)

The Orangetown Police Department does keep track of summonses issued by officer by the Vehicle Traffic Law offense type. We do not generate a statistical report based on that information. The new Spillman Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software has the option to track "Sex" and "Gender".

B. Do you keep them by race and ethnicity?

New York State does not track by race or ethnicity regarding Vehicle and Traffic summonses. However New York State does track by race and ethnicity on state issued arrest reports.

C. Do you keep tickets and warnings issued by race and ethnicity? Outcomes? What types of statistics do you keep on domestic violence calls?

The Orangetown Police Department does not track tickets or warnings issued by race or ethnicity, or any statistics on Domestic Violence. All Domestic Violence reports are submitted to NYS DCJS.

D. How many people of color are police officers on the OPD force?

The Orangetown Police Department has 2 Black sworn Officers, 1 Asian sworn Officer, and 5 Hispanic sworn Officers.

E. What is their commitment to diversity and inclusion? Do you have a goal to increase the number?

The Orangetown Police Department follows all civil service laws for the State of New York and the Rockland County Department of Personnel. The Orangetown Police Department sends recruitment information to areas of the community that are traditionally less represented in an effort to increase interest in a police career in Orangetown. Our recruitment flyers are posted in English, French Creole, Yiddish and Spanish.

F. How many women POs?

The Orangetown Police Department has 5 sworn female officers, and 7 female civilian employees.

G. What is the racial/gender makeup of the leadership of OPD?

The Orangetown Police Department has 19 supervisors including one female supervisor.

H. What types of statistics do you keep related to traffic stops? (Not just related to traffic stops but arrests as well)

The Orangetown Police Department records summonses by officer and Vehicle and Traffic law offense. NYS does not collect data on Vehicle and Traffic violations by race or ethnicity. All arrest data is completed on an NYS arrest form and forwarded to NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).

I. What type of diversity and inclusion training is currently provided or attended? Is the training ongoing? How has the training impacted policies and procedures?

See Christopher Strattner Presentation, Director Rockland County Police Academy, see Dec. 1, 2020 minutes.

J. What is the demographic make-up of their police department?

77 members: 72 male / 5 female

72 Non-Hispanic / 5 Hispanic

74 White / 2 Black / 1 Asian

K. What types of racial/ethnic sensitivity training are offered in the police academy/training? How has this impacted your policies and procedures?

See Christopher Strattner Presentation, Director Rockland County Police Academy, see Dec. 1, 2020 minutes.

L. What types of training or promotional systems are in place to ensure higher ranking officials have ethnic and gender representation?

The Orangetown Police Department follows all civil service laws for the State of New York and the Rockland County Department of Personnel.

Committee Questions #3 - Supervisor Kenny's Request for Information

1. Does the OPD or other law enforcement agencies in Rockland County utilize other agencies to address situations that fall within the expertise of other professionals (i.e. responding to calls involving individuals with mental illness); If not, has this been considered? (page 12)
RC police departments utilize the county-wide Behavioral Health Response Team (BHRT) for calls involving individuals with mental illness and/or suffering a mental health episode.
2. Related to #1, do the 911 operators have the ability, resources and/or training to divert calls to other mental health agencies? (page 17)
Our dispatchers can notify BHRT directly if the officer requests their assistance. Dispatchers would not divert a call that was made to our police desk initially, unless it was an informational only request for BHRT type services.
3. While we no longer have community policing in Orangetown, has there been any consideration to bringing it back? (page 23)
OPD does not have a Community Policing Unit due to budget constraints. We do continue to interact in Community Policing programs (i.e. DARE, Youth Court, Hope Not Handcuffs, School Resource Officer program, etc.)
4. What diversion programs does the Town have and are there others we can consider? (page 36).
DARE, School Resource Officer program, Youth Court, RC District Attorney Drug Court (Misdemeanor/Felony), Hope Not Handcuffs
5. What training is in place for de-escalation? (page 40)
Recruit and In-Service Training throughout each yearly training cycle. See RC Police Academy Director Strattner's presentation from 12/1/2020 meeting.
6. Do we have any community outreach programs? (page 43)
DARE, SRO, Youth Court, RC District Attorney Drug Court (Misdemeanor/Felony), Operation Medicine Cabinet (24/7 drop off at OPD), Hope Not Handcuffs
7. What reporting requirements and/or internal review do we have for use of force incidents (page 57)
Use of Force reports completed by the officer involved and the supervisor. Squad lieutenant reviews and submits to Use of Force Coordinator. All reports are reviewed and actions evaluated by the Special Services and Patrol Captains. Actions are evaluated to determine if proper conduct within department policies, conduct was effective, if the

procedure produced the desired outcome, if more training is needed for the officer or department, if discipline is appropriate for misconduct by the officer.

8. Do we have a General Order that requires officers to report misconduct of other officers? (page 60)

Yes, NYS DCJS has required all accredited law enforcement agencies to include procedures that mandate reporting misconduct by other officers. There is also a duty to intercede on behalf of the person. OPD is in compliance with this mandate.

9. Does the Town have an easy, accessible process for the public to report complaints of misconduct? (page 67)

As a result of conversations during an earlier committee meeting, we determined that our former procedure for reporting complaints was not as easily accessible as it could be. We have now included the reports and process on our department website. Complainants can also get the information by responding to the OPD or calling the police desk to speak to an on-duty supervisor to determine a convenient way to get the reports.

10. Does OPD maintain “stop data” from traffic stops – where, when, why, ticket given, gender or race (page 73)?

No, OPD has information on location, date, time, infraction and sex (based on NYS driver’s license information)

11. What training is in place to avoid potential bias incidents? Is there ongoing training? (page 98)

Recruit and In-Service Training throughout each yearly training cycle. See RC Police Academy Director Strattner’s presentation from 12/1/2020 meeting.

12. Do we have programs in place to support officer wellness and well-being? (page 103)

The Town of Orangetown is contracted with a professional Employee Assistance Program. Each supervisor has been instructed to provide information and guidance on the program to each subordinate. Emphasis has been placed on encouraging employees of the importance of utilizing the resources at any time.

Allison Kardon

From: Orangetown Supervisor
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 5:55 PM
To: Michele Hamilton; Orangetown Supervisor; Orangetown PD
Cc: Police Reform
Subject: RE: Request for information re: Police Reform Committee

Hi Michele,

Thank you for your continued interest in the Orangetown Police Reform Committee. By way of background, in addition to the stakeholders identified in the Executive Order, the Chief and I compiled a list of individuals that we each thought would be helpful to sit on the Committee. One of the individuals I chose was Nikki Hines, who originally accepted but later opted not to participate. As you know, Ms. Hines is now a member of the RPPP. I was disappointed with her decision not to participate because I really thought her voice was very much needed and would be helpful to our committee, and I told her as much in a private chat during the December meeting when I heard she was not going to participate.

In addition, after attending the virtual meeting in December, I reached out to Michael Lockett to see how our respective committees could work together, or how we would be able to incorporate your findings into what we were doing. A conference call was scheduled for me to speak with the steering members of the RPPP, but on the day of the call, I received a call from Michael cancelling the call. I was again disappointed because I wanted to hear more about the RPPP and what it was doing and, more importantly, to discuss how we could help one another. At a minimum, I would have been happy to answer the questions you present in your e-mail, and any others, during the phone call.

As far as your request for information, most, if not all, can be found on the Town website, where the minutes of the meetings are posted. The minutes identify the attendees, including the members in attendance, and are quite detailed about presentations made, who spoke, questions asked, etc. The public virtual meeting we held on December 15th can also be found there and is available to view.

The Orangetown Police Reform Committee is having a meeting this evening at 6 pm (hybrid in that some of us will be in person and other virtual) and it can be viewed by the public, although no public comment will be taken. However, we will be making a presentation to the Town Board on February 9th at 6:30 pm to update the Board on the progress and answer any questions they may have, and the public will have an opportunity to speak. The meeting will also be Facebook live streamed.

I am the Chairperson of the Committee and one of the Deputy Town Attorney's sits in on the meetings, although we have not needed legal counsel, nor do I foresee needing it in the future. My experience as an attorney for the Town for 23 years, handling personnel matters, including police discipline, grievances and contract negotiations, makes me uniquely qualified to Chair this Committee.

No money has been paid to Lexipol or any other entity in connection with the Town Police Reform Committee.

We will be scheduling another public forum for later in the month and will be notifying many organizations in the community, including all of the High Schools, the Nyack Center, the Pride Center and the GAA, just to name a few. I will be happy to share the details with you after our meeting tonight, including our target date for having the draft report ready.

I continue to ask for our respective committees to work together, as I truly see it as the way for us to move forward toward real police reform. With that said, I look forward to receiving the final report of the RPPP so that we can incorporate it in to the findings of our committee.

Teresa M. Kenny
Town Supervisor
Town of Orangetown
26 Orangeburg Road
Orangeburg, New York 10962
(845) 359-5100

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From: Michele Hamilton <michele05rockland@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 5:19 PM

To: Orangetown Supervisor <supervisor@orangetown.com>; Orangetown PD <OrangetownPD@orangetown.com>

Cc: Police Reform <policereform@orangetown.com>

Subject: Request for information re: Police Reform Committee

[External Email]



**Rockland People's Panel on Policing
PO Box 43
720 West Nyack Road
West Nyack, NY 10994-0043**

January 26, 2021

Dear Supervisor Kenny and Chief Butterworth,

I write to you as a concerned citizen and on behalf of the Rockland People's Panel on Policing (RPPP). I appreciate that the Town of Orangetown website provides information on the Police Reform Committee. I thank

you, Mayor Kenny, for attending the RPPP's public forum in December, and for answering an earlier, more brief inquiry from me.

We, the People's Panel on Policing, are requesting information about the Police Reform Committee that was established by the Town of Orangetown. Governor Cuomo's Executive Order No. 203 (The New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative) prioritizes the involvement of the community in the process of developing a reform plan. To that end, our organization was formed to provide an independent forum to represent the voices of all Rockland County residents, particularly communities of color and those who are most impacted by policing.

Therefore, we respectfully request the following information with regard to the Town of Orangetown's Police Reform Committee. Please reply by email to michele05rockland@gmail.com or mail your reply to Rockland People's Panel on Policing, PO Box 43, 720 West Nyack Road, West Nyack, NY 10994-0043.

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10. What is your schedule to make the EO 203 Committee's report public?
11. Has any money been paid to Lexipol?

Thank you very much for sharing with us this important information about the Orangetown Police Reform Committee.

Regards,

Michele Hamilton
Resident of Orangetown
Member, Rockland People's Panel on Policing
michele05rockland@gmail.com

Cc: policereform@orangetown.com