



Bill Federice <federicebill@gmail.com>

LERC comment

4 messages

stinson <stinson@midtel.net>
To: "federicebill@gmail.com" <federicebill@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 20, 2020 at 8:50 AM

20 October 2020

Law Enforcement Review Committee,

The listing published on the County web page indicates that the Law Enforcement Review Committee is responding to some of the specific areas identified by the Governor's Executive Order #203. I note however that another important requirement has been overlooked. See the following few lines from page two of the Executive Order:

"...review of current police force deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices. ...promote community engagement to *foster trust, fairness, and legitimacy*... shall consider evidence-based policing strategies, including but *not limited to, use of force*..." And, "...must consult with stakeholders, including but not limited to...members of the community...promotion of improved police agency and community relationships based on *trust, fairness, accountability and transparency*..." (*emphasis added*)

Those last two words, accountability and transparency, are my interest and the subject of this communication. I offer the following for your consideration:

Report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing (2015 recommended reading)

Pillar 1. Building Trust & Legitimacy:

1.3 Recommendation: Law enforcement agencies should establish a culture of transparency and accountability in order to build public trust and legitimacy. This will help ensure decision making is understood and in accord with stated policy.

1.3.1 Action Item: To embrace a culture of transparency, law enforcement agencies should make all department policies available for public review and regularly post on the department's website information about stops, summonses, arrests, reported crime, and other law enforcement data aggregated by demographics.

1.3.2 Action Item: When serious incidents occur, including those involving alleged police misconduct, agencies should communicate with citizens and the media swiftly, openly, and neutrally, respecting areas where the law requires confidentiality.

1.5.1 Action Item: In order to achieve external legitimacy, law enforcement agencies should involve the community in the process of developing and evaluating policies and procedures.

My specific recommendations:

The Law Enforcement Review Committee (LERC) must include a significant number of community representatives with responsibility to contribute to the committee's findings. This is necessary in order for citizens to accept its legitimacy and to respect its recommendations.

The LERC must deal honestly with transparency and accountability issues throughout county government including: the Board of Supervisors, relevant sub-committees, Sheriff's Department, and District Attorney's office.

The New York State Attorney General's Special Investigations and Prosecutions Unit as well as the State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit, proffered as "independent" investigators in police involved incidents, have failed us in recent years. LERC's findings should take note of these failures and communicate to the Governor a demand for greater oversight of these agencies.

LERC must consider how citizen participation in police conduct oversight might be accomplished. There are several models in other jurisdictions which can provide guidance. Lacking a formal system of community police oversight, whatever reforms might be imagined will be negated. Without such oversight community trust, belief of fairness, and legitimacy will be difficult to achieve.

Wayne Stinson

Summit, NY

Bill Federice <federicebill@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 20, 2020 at 10:10 AM

To: stinson <stinson@midtel.net>

Cc: Bruce Baker <bruce.baker@co.schoharie.ny.us>, Candace Ellis <candacee@ccalbany.org>, Dick Lape <lape@midtel.net>, Duane Tillapaugh <duane.tillapaugh@co.schoharie.ny.us>, Harold Vroman <haroldvroman@aol.com>, John Leavitt <john.leavitt@co.schoharie.ny.us>, Pastor Ray Richards <pastorray@cagcobleskill.org>, Peggy Hait <jeffersontwnsup@gmail.com>, Ron Stevens <ronald.stevens@co.schoharie.ny.us>, Steve Weinhofer <stephen.weinhofer@middleburghcsd.org>, Becky Stanton <mayor@cobleskill.org>

Mr. Stinson, I am well aware of the contents of Executive Order 203. I can assure you we will be listening to our community and we will address any comments, questions and/or concerns that fall within the assignment given us by the Governor.

However, to engage in those discussions, it is imperative all parties first have the opportunity to hear and hopefully understand, not necessarily agree with, the processes, policies and/or practices of the Schoharie County Sheriff's Department and those areas that are involved in the criminal justice system. That initial portion of the process is near completion. I anticipate we will begin addressing very soon some or all the items, as well as others, you bring up in your email. The process will be thoughtful, deliberate, and thorough and no one in our community will be denied the opportunity to voice their concerns, questions and suggestions. Anyone making that assertion is uninformed.

Lastly, we are committed to the mission given us by the Governor. The completion date specified by Executive Order 203 is March 31st. The Committee will complete our assignment by that time.

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Bill Federice
Supervisor, Town of Conesville
Chairman, Schoharie County Board of Supervisors

607-353-2110

Check out the official Town of Conesville Website at:
<http://www4.schohariecounty-ny.gov/government/town-of-conesville/>

Stephen Weinhofer <Stephen.Weinhofer@middleburghcsd.org>

Tue, Oct 20, 2020 at
11:28 AM

To: Bill Federice <federicebill@gmail.com>

Bill,

Somehow I'm receiving your emails on my school email. Can you please check the address and use my County email.

Thanks,

Steve

From: Bill Federice <federicebill@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 10:10 AM

To: stinson <stinson@midtel.net>

Cc: Bruce Baker <bruce.baker@co.schoharie.ny.us>; Candace Ellis <candacee@ccalbany.org>; Dick Lape <lapelspc@midtel.net>; Duane Tillapaugh <duane.tillapaugh@co.schoharie.ny.us>; Harold Vroman <haroldvroman@aol.com>; John Leavitt <john.leavitt@co.schoharie.ny.us>; Pastor Ray Richards <pastorray@cagcobleskill.org>; Peggy Hait <jeffersontownsup@gmail.com>; Ron Stevens <ronald.stevens@co.schoharie.ny.us>; Stephen Weinhofer <Stephen.Weinhofer@MiddleburghCSD.org>; Becky Stanton <mayor@cobleskill.org>

Subject: Re: LERC comment

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Bill Federice <federicebill@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 20, 2020 at 11:55 AM

To: Stephen Weinhofer <Stephen.Weinhofer@middleburghcsd.org>

No problem at all.

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