



Bill Federice &lt;federicebill@gmail.com&gt;

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**Law Enforcement Review comment**

2 messages

**stinson** <stinson@midtel.net>

Sun, Dec 6, 2020 at 7:59 AM

To: "federicebill@gmail.com" &lt;federicebill@gmail.com&gt;

The following will likely be published in Times Journal this week:

1 December 2020

To the Editor

The Times Journal

The Schoharie County Board of Supervisors (BOS) and County Sheriff are two months on into an effort to review law enforcement policies and procedures in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order #203.\*

BOS Chairman Bill Federice assembled a Law Enforcement Review Committee (LERC) which includes Sheriff Ron Stevens and some of his staff, BOS Law Oversight Committee members, and representatives of other agencies which interact with law enforcement. There are eleven LERC members only one of which does not directly interact with the law enforcement community and who presumably is expected to represent the community.\*

Therein is the flaw of this committee structure. Individuals who are part of the law enforcement community, or regularly interact with that community, have an unavoidable conflict of interest. They are being asked to develop policies and procedures which will result in their activities being more transparent and open to scrutiny, and which could result in their being held accountable for what the public perceives as misconduct. They will be reluctant to do this, but it is precisely what the community, law enforcement and county government need.

More appropriately, the review committee should include a majority of community representatives, not law enforcement associated, and with formalized ability to effect the committee's output. In that way the interests of the community would be better represented. Issues such as transparency and accountability would be more likely to receive the attention they deserve with such a committee structure.

Wayne Stinson

Summit, NY

\* Readers can find more information about Executive Order #203 and the Law Enforcement Review Committee at <https://www4.schohariecounty-ny.gov/departments/supervisors/law-enforcement-review/>

**Bill Federice** <federicebill@gmail.com>

Sun, Dec 6, 2020 at 12:12 PM

To: Bruce Baker <bruce.baker@co.schoharie.ny.us>, Candace Ellis <candacee@ccalbany.org>, Dick Lape <lapepspc@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@co.schoharie.ny.us>  
Cc: Patricia Hults <Hultsp@outlook.com>, Wendy Cook <wcook001@luthersem.edu>, Peter Harrison <kingdomnoyze@verizon.net>

Obviously, I beg to differ with Mr. Stinson. We have opened our meetings to the public and have engaged in meaningful dialog which of course is part of the record and the public will be part of the discussion for changes. As stated multiple times, the public is welcomed and encouraged to participate and join in the discussion on potential changes. We are committed to that.

However, to state the community should have the final word on any changes, as stated, is contrary to Governors Cuomo's Executive Order 203 which clearly states any recommendations *after public comment and after consideration of such comments, shall be presented to the local legislative body in such political subdivision, which shall ratify or or adopt such plan by local law or resolution, as appropriate, no later than April 1, 2021.....*

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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/>



Bill Federice &lt;federicebill@gmail.com&gt;

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**Law Enforcement Review comment**

2 messages

**stinson** <stinson@midtel.net>

Sun, Dec 6, 2020 at 8:07 AM

To: "federicebill@gmail.com" &lt;federicebill@gmail.com&gt;

The following letter to the editor was not published but I believe the observations could be useful to the committee.

Wayne Stinson

7 October 2020

To the Editor

The Mountain Eagle/Schoharie News

A recent report concerning a meeting of the Schoharie County Law Enforcement Review Committee (LERC) (Times Journal 9/9/2020 "County promises transparency in cop review") Schoharie County Sheriff Ron Stevens is quoted "*I don't watch the news at night because I can't stand the news. We don't live in those communities.*" I am assuming the quote is accurate.

I am not sure what Sheriff Stevens' words "We don't live in those communities." mean to him...or us. It might be as simple as we don't have gatherings of angry citizens protesting police abuse. Does he mean we don't have a significant people of color demographic which might protest for some reason? Or, does he believe his Deputies would never do anything wrong? Yes we do, yes we do, and yes they do.

Sheriff Stevens is wrong, Schoharie County is one of "those communities." His deputies display the same damaged-brand-blue-uniform as the police in Kenosha and New Orleans. Certainly there are citizens hereabouts who fear mistreatment by police officers. And, our recent history has shown that the hand of justice falls less heavily, if at all, on police than on ordinary citizens. There is a great deal of repair to be accomplished before the Sheriff, District Attorney, Judicial actors, or the LERC can be exonerated.

The Governor's Executive Order #203 directs localities to review law enforcement policies and practices to "...promote community engagement to foster trust, fairness, and legitimacy..." We must deal honestly with police transparency and accountability issues to accomplish these goals. Failing this we will have accomplished nothing.

Wayne Stinson

Summit, NY

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**Bill Federice** <federicebill@gmail.com>

Sun, Dec 6, 2020 at 12:14 PM

To: 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 <jeffersonwnsup@gmail.com>, Ron Stevens <ronald.stevens@co.schoharie.ny.us>, Steve Weinhofer <stephen.weinhofer@co.schoharie.ny.us>

12/6/2020

Gmail - Law Enforcement Review comment

Cc: Patricia Hults <Hultsp@outlook.com>, Wendy Cook <wcook001@luthersem.edu>, Peter Harrison <kingdomnoyze@verizon.net>

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