Mayor Rebecca Stanton-Terk

Deputy Mayor Howard W. Burt, Jr.

Clerk-Treasurer Sheila Wilday

Code Enforcement Mike Piccolo

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NEW YORK STATE POLICE REFORM AND REINVENTION COLLABORATIVE PLAN CERTIFICATION FORM

I, Rebecca Stanton-Terk, as the Chief Executive of the Village of Cobleskill, hereby Certify the following pursuant to Executive Order No. 203 issued by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo on June 12, 2020:

The Village of Cobleskill has performed a comprehensive review of current police force deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices;

The Village of Cobleskill has developed a plan, attached hereto, to improve such deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices;

The Village of Cobleskill has consulted with stakeholders including but not limited to: membership and leadership of the local police force; members of the community, with emphasis in areas with high members of police and community interactions; interested non-profit and faith-based community groups; the local office of the district attorney; the local public defender; and local elected officials regarding the plan;

The Village of Cobleskill has offered the plan in draft form for public comment to all citizens in the locality and, prior to adoption of the plan by the local legislative body, has considered the comments submitted; and

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Cobleskill has adopted the plan by resolution March 16, 2021.

Rebecca Stanton-Terk, Mayor

March 23, 2021

Date

RESOLUTION #5 - 2021.

ADOPTION OF THE VILLAGE OF COBLESKILL POLICE DEPARTMENT REFORM AND REINVENTION COLLABORATIVE PLAN

Trustee Rotolo introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, New York State Executive Order No. 203, directed each local government entity which has a police agency operating with police officers as defined under 1.20 of the criminal procedure law to perform a comprehensive review of current police force deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, and develop a plan to improve such deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, for the purposes of addressing the particular needs of the communities served by such police agency and promote community engagement to foster trust, fairness, and legitimacy, and to address any racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color, and

WHEREAS, the Chief Executive Officer of the Village of Cobleskill appointed a committee of stakeholders that included the Chief of Police of the Cobleskill Police Department, to develop such plan, and

WHEREAS, such committee created a plan to adopt and implement recommendations resulting from its review to the Cobleskill Police Department policing deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, tailored to the specific needs of the community of the Village of Cobleskill and general promotion of improved police agency and community relationships, and

WHEREAS, such plan has been offered for public comment to all citizens in the Village of Cobleskill, at a duly held public hearing on February 16, 2021, and extended through March 16, 2021, and

WHEREAS, after consideration of such comments, the plan is hereby presented to the Board of Trustees of the Village of Cobleskill, at a duly convened meeting, for its adoption, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Cobleskill does hereby adopt the Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Plan for the Cobleskill Police Department, as presented, this sixteenth day of March 2021.

Seconded by Trustee Burt and duly adopted, ayes all.

I Sheila Wilday, Clerk-Treasurer of the Village of Cobleskill do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and exact copy of the resolution duly passed at a regularly convened meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Cobleskill, held on the 16th of March, 2021.

Sheila Wilday, Clerk-Treasurer

Village of Cobleskill

(seal)

In response to the New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative instituted by Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order 203, the committee tasked with the review of existing policies regarding the Village of Cobleskill Police Department submits the following recommendations to the Board of Trustees of the Village of Cobleskill, providing the recommendations made therein do not conflict with New York State or Federal laws:

On the topic of Procedural Justice, the committee recommends that:

- The Cobleskill Police Department's policies and practices require transparency and equal treatment for all;
- The Cobleskill Police Department administration fosters, supports, and promotes a police culture that does not tolerate police misbehavior and holds police officers accountable for their actions;
- Persons making complaints against the Cobleskill Police Department or individual police officers have the ability to review the results of the investigation into their complaint in a timely manner;
- There is timely transparency in the release of officer disciplinary records and pertinent information when consistent with New York State and Federal law;
- The Cobleskill Police Department participate in a Citizen Advisory Board which, once formed, would meet at least annually to discuss Cobleskill Police Department policy and citizen concerns; and
- Cobleskill Police Department employees have access to high-quality mental health services and that the Cobleskill Police Department administration normalizes the use of such services.

On the topic of Studies Addressing Systemic Racial Bias or Racial Injustice Policing, the committee recommends that:

• In order to monitor if there are trends within the Cobleskill Police Department indicating bias, the Chief of Police annually reviews and analyzes data collected by the New York State Unified Court System as part of the Police Statistics and Transparency Act (The Laws of New York Article 7-A: Judicial Administration, Section 212) which requires NYS courts to compile and publish racial and other demographic data for low-level offenses.

On the topic of Implicit Bias Awareness Training, the committee recommends that:

• All Cobleskill Police Department employees receive mandatory annual anti-bias/implicit bias awareness training which is adequate and substantial.

On the topic of De-escalation Training, the committee recommends that:

• All Cobleskill Police Department officers receive mandatory annual training on deescalation and alternatives to force which is adequate and substantial.

On the topic of Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Programs, the committee recommends that:

- The Schoharie County LEAD Program be referenced in the Cobleskill Police Department's Community Relations policy;
- The Cobleskill Police Department continues to participate in the Schoharie County LEAD Program and helps to expand the program where and when possible; and
- The Cobleskill Police Department participates in the continued and enhanced collaboration of services between the Cobleskill Police Department, the Schoharie County Mental Health Department, the Schoharie County Department of Health, and legal services.

On the topic of Restorative Justice Practices, the committee recommends that:

- Such practices be referenced in the Cobleskill Police Department's Community Relations policy; and
- The Cobleskill Police Department collaborate with other entities including Catholic Charities to investigate ways to establish and/or utilize processes designed to mediate disputes, utilize victim impact panels, and explore alternatives to incarceration including community service.

On the topic of Community-Based Outreach and Conflict Resolution, the committee recommends that:

- Such practices be referenced in the Cobleskill Police Department's Community Relations policy;
- The Cobleskill Police Department advocates that, where and when possible, the Schoharie County LEAD Program expand so that it supports high-risk individuals to intervene before a crime is committed; and
- The Cobleskill Police Department collaborates with available resources to help accomplish this goal.

On the topic of Problem-Oriented Policing, the committee recommends that:

• The topic be referenced in the Cobleskill Police Department's Community Relations policy; and

 The Cobleskill Police Department works with community residents to identify problems and collaborate on implementing solutions that produce meaningful results for the community.

On the topic of Hot Spots Policing, the committee recommends that:

• The Cobleskill Police Department continues to add more frequent patrols in areas of known criminal activity.

On the topic of Focused Deterrence, the committee recommends that:

- The topic be referenced in the Cobleskill Police Department's Community Relations policy; and
- The Cobleskill Police Department collaborates with community resources to assist with intervention.

On the topic of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), the committee recommends that:

- The topic be referenced in the Cobleskill Police Department's Community Relations policy; and
- The Cobleskill Police Department works with the Village of Cobleskill Department of Planning, Environment, and Codes as well as property owners to make changes such as modifying lighting and landscaping to help deter criminal activity in a specific area.

On the topic of Violence Prevention and Reduction Interventions, the committee recommends that:

- The topic be referenced in the Cobleskill Police Department's Community Relations policy; and
- The Cobleskill Police Department collaborates with and, when appropriate, makes
 referrals to youth development programs, community mentors, family counseling,
 support programs, community outreach programs, and violence interruption programs
 as applicable.

On the topic of Model Policies and Guidelines Promulgated by the NYS Municipal Police Training Council and Standards Promulgated by the NYS Law Enforcement Accreditation Program, the committee recommends that:

- The Cobleskill Police Department makes such policies and standards available for access by the public online;
- The Cobleskill Police Department become a NYS Law Enforcement Accredited Agency;
 and

•	The Cobleskill Police Department administration reviews Cobleskill Police Department policies with the Citizen Advisory Board at least annually.

On the topic of Use of Force, the committee recommends that:

- The recently updated version of the Village of Cobleskill's use of force policy is wholly adequate and in line with all state and federal laws, regulations, and guidelines; and
- Because the committee has discussed and/or suggested edits that would require more time and exploration prior to adopting, the committee therefore recommends that the Citizen Advisory Board, once formed, investigates the intricacies and effects certain language changes might make while simultaneously striving to improve the policies in ways that help reduce harm to both police officers and the community.