

# OUTLINE FOR POLICE REFORM

## TOWN OF SOMERS

335 Route 202, Somers, NY 10589 • [www.somersny.com](http://www.somersny.com)

Governor Cuomo's executive order #203 requires that every New York State community that has a police department undertake a review of its police services and develop recommendations for reform by April 1, 2020. For background, relevant sections of the executive order are included below. The full text of the order is attached, and guidance from the NY State about the process is available at [www.governor.ny.gov](http://www.governor.ny.gov) (search on "police reform").

The Town of Somers has established a preliminary outline for this process, as shown below. We're having a planning meeting with the Somers Community Council on December 16, 2020.

Links for on-line meetings, and further information developed during this process, will be posted at [www.somersny.com](http://www.somersny.com)

### Excerpts from Gov. Cuomo's Executive Order 203

Each local government entity which has a police agency operating with police officers as defined under 1.20 of the criminal procedure law must 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.

Each chief executive of such local government shall convene the head of the local police agency, and stakeholders in the community to develop such plan, which shall consider evidence-based policing strategies, including

but not limited to, use of force policies, procedural justice; any studies addressing systemic racial bias or racial justice in policing; implicit bias awareness training; de-escalation training and practices; law enforcement assisted diversion programs; restorative justice practices; community-based outreach and conflict resolution; problem-oriented policing; hot spots policing; focused deterrence; crime prevention through environmental design; violence prevention and reduction interventions; model policies and guidelines promulgated by the New York State Municipal Police Training Council; and standards promulgated by the New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Program.

The political subdivision, in coordination with its police agency, must consult 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 numbers 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, and create a plan to adopt and implement the recommendations resulting from its review and consultation, including any modifications, modernizations, and innovations to its policing deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, tailored to the specific needs of the community and general promotion of improved police agency and community relationships based on trust, fairness, accountability, and transparency, and which seek to reduce any racial disparities in policing.

Such plan shall be offered for public comment to all citizens in the locality, and after consideration of such comments, shall be presented to the local legislative body in such political subdivision, which shall ratify or adopt such plan by local law or resolution, as appropriate, no later than April 1, 2021...

*(See attached for full text of Exec. Order 203)*

## Police Reform Steering Committee

Somers Community Council

Police Chief

Town Supervisor

### Primary Areas of Focus

- 1) Use of Force Policy/De-Escalation Guidelines
- 2) Police Training: Diversity/Inclusion/Racial Bias
- 3) Police Complaint + Review Procedures
- 4) Community Policing Practices
- 5) General Outreach + Communication
- 6) Outreach to Specific Communities

### Stakeholders

- Somers Town Board
- Somers Police
- Somers Community Council
- Somers Residents (seeking age/ethnic/religious diversity)

### Schools + Community Organizations

- Places of Worship + Clergy
- Diversity + Inclusion Groups
- Chamber of Commerce

12/10/2020