

Work Session  
Public Informational Meeting  
Community Police Advisory Committee  
Wednesday, March 3, 2021

A Public Informational Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at 7:00 pm by way of video-conference and/or teleconference only: Topic -Floral Park Police Reform Collaborative Public Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87177516886?pwd=Y1VKZkFHZU45V3MvR25UL1BQRtIjZz09> Meeting ID: 871 7751 6886, Passcode: 639969, One tap mobile 16465588656.

In attendance remotely were Mayor Dominick Longobardi, Trustees Kevin Fitzgerald, Lynn Pombonyo, Archie Cheng and Frank Chiara, Village Administrator Gerry Bambrick, Village Clerk Susan Walsh, Police Commissioner Stephen McAllister and Darlene Lanza, Administrative Assistant - Meeting Coordinator.

The purpose of the work session was to discuss the Floral Park Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative draft document that was prepared by the Community Police Advisory Committee. All members of the committee were in attendance remotely: Arthur Walsh, Esq., Fr. Tom Fusco, Heather McClintock, Esq., Louis LeBlanc, Marc Mullen, Esq., Mary Ann Cuite, Pastor Evan Peet, Richard Provost, Tom Kubler and Lieutenants McCarthy and Doherty.

Trustee Frank Chiara, Chairman of the Committee, opened the meeting and provided a background on how the police reform collaborative developed. Trustee Chiara stated that in accordance with Governor's Executive Order signed on June 12, 2020 all municipalities with law enforcement agencies are required to submit a Police Reform & Reinventive Report by April 1, 2021. The purpose of the report is to have members of the community have input on how to build community relations while providing public safety and to envision the appropriate role of the police in our community. Trustee Chiara noted that there were several email comments received and will be responded to accordingly. A comment was made by Jen Stewart, a resident, who thanked the committee for their hard work in the development of the comprehensive draft report. There were approximately 35-40 residents that logged on.

Mayor Longobardi then thanked members of the committee and the public for their participation. The meeting ended at 7:30 pm.

A copy of the transcript is attached and made a part of these minutes.

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Susan Walsh, Village Clerk

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M I N U T E S  
OF THE  
POLICE REFORM MEETING  
(HELD THROUGH ZOOM)  
INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF FLORAL PARK

March 3, 2021  
7:00 p.m.

P R E S E N T:

- DOMINICK LONGOBARDI, MAYOR
- KEVIN M. FITZGERALD, DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEE
- ARCHIE T. CHENG, TRUSTEE
- DR. LYNN POMBONYO, TRUSTEE
- FRANK J. CHIARA, TRUSTEE/CHAIRMAN  
VFP POLICE REFORM and  
REINVENTION COLLABORATIVE

ALSO PRESENT:

- GERARD M. BAMBRICK, Village Administrator
- SUSAN E. WALSH, Village Clerk
- STEPHEN MCALLISTER, Police Commissioner
- LT. WILLIAM DOHERTY, F.P. Police Department
- DARLENE LANZA, Village of F.P.

Catherine P. Murphy  
Court Reporter

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1 TRUSTEE FRANK CHIARA: Good evening  
2 everybody. My name is Frank Chiara and I'm the  
3 Chairman of the Village of Floral Park Police  
4 Reform and Reinvention Collaborative. We are  
5 here tonight to discuss this draft document  
6 that we produced.

7 Before we do so, I would like to give you  
8 a little background as to how we came to this  
9 and put the document together. The reason why  
10 we put this document together is a requirement  
11 from the Governor's Executive Order signed on  
12 June 12, 2020. State aid is contingent upon  
13 five hundred law enforcement agencies who  
14 participated in this created plan. The  
15 Governor noted there's no one size fits all  
16 solution. He further went on to say that to  
17 build police community relationships, each  
18 local government must convene state holders for  
19 fact based, honest dialogue about public safety  
20 that's in their community. Each community must  
21 envision for itself the appropriate role of the  
22 police. Policies must be developed to allow  
23 the police to do their jobs, to protect the  
24 public and these policies must be what the  
25 communities accept.

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1           With that in mind, our village community  
2 put this draft document together. The  
3 committee members represent our Village in a  
4 number of ways. Representatives of our police  
5 department, local government, religious,  
6 business community leaders and residents of our  
7 Village. The committee met on several  
8 occasions and with the assistance of the state  
9 guide, discussed questions presented in the  
10 guide and granted this Police Reform and  
11 Reinvention Collaborative document. It  
12 describes the current policies and practices of  
13 our police department and how it meets with the  
14 needs of the villages.

15           We embrace this opportunity to highlight  
16 how well our officers are trained and the  
17 professional way our police department conducts  
18 itself. It gives our community the ability to  
19 learn more about the department and offering  
20 comments or questions, recommendations on how  
21 to embrace its performance within the Village.  
22 Community engagement is a key element of this  
23 process.

24           Although the document is very  
25 comprehensive and informative, it is important

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1 to know this is still a draft document, subject  
2 to public comment and questions. We published  
3 the document on-line and have hard copies  
4 available at the library, Village Hall and pool  
5 building. Comments can still be submitted  
6 through e-mail at [policereform@fpvillage.org](mailto:policereform@fpvillage.org)  
7 To reach out to our residents, we sent out an  
8 email blast to our community organization,  
9 posted on our website Facebook page and  
10 robo-calls informing and request the residents  
11 of this process.

12 Tonight, we will take questions orally by  
13 zoom for those of you who feel more comfortable  
14 expressing their views in this matter. After  
15 you give your comments, they will be noted and  
16 presented to the committee for review. Since  
17 we are using a committee format, questions will  
18 not be answered tonight but rather answered  
19 later to give the committee members an  
20 opportunity to meet and review and answer all  
21 the questions. Written responses will be  
22 prepared also to answer any questions.

23 The remaining steps of this process will  
24 be for the committee to meet, review all that's  
25 been submitted by the residents and incorporate

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1           whatever is needed for the document.

2           The completed document will be presented  
3           to the Village Board for review and ratified.  
4           The plans will then be submitted to Albany by  
5           April 1st. Completed plans will be published  
6           and made available to our residents. Even  
7           after this plan is submitted, the process  
8           continues because we have questions of living  
9           in our small village with our own police where  
10          residents can raise questions and concerns to  
11          the village board, police directly or at civic  
12          meetings.

13          To date, we have received several comments  
14          from our residents, most of which recognize the  
15          value of having our own department and offering  
16          suggestions about how to enhance enforcement in  
17          some areas. Questions were also submitted with  
18          regards to police practices and answered by the  
19          committee.

20          As Mayor Longobardi correctly pointed out,  
21          it is always good to take a look at what we are  
22          doing and to look towards improvements on  
23          everything that you are doing.

24          So, at this time now, we will open up the  
25          meeting to all that want to make their

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1           comments.  If you want to make a comment, by  
2           doing so, just go into the chat section and  
3           raise your hand and we will address you.

4           Just a note, too, please be advised that  
5           this meeting is being recorded on the zoom  
6           platform.

7           And also present in the Village Hall, we  
8           have the Mayor and the Members of the Village  
9           Board and some members of the police department  
10          and most of the members of our community are on  
11          zoom also and we are looking forward to your  
12          comments.

13          MS. LANZA:  Nobody is raising their hand  
14          and there are no comments in the chat.

15          TRUSTEE FRANK CHIARA:  Once again, if  
16          anybody wants to make a statement --

17          MS. LANZA:  They're not going to be able  
18          to mute themselves.  I have to unmute them so  
19          they need to put it in the chat.

20          TRUSTEE FRANK CHIARA:  Put it in the chat.  
21          Raise your hand so you will be unmuted.

22          MS. LANZA:  Here we go, Jennifer Stewart.  
23          Jennifer Stewart has a comment in the chat.

24          TRUSTEE FRANK CHIARA:  Thank you, Jennifer  
25          Stewart.

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1 MS. LANZA: Do you see the chat?

2 TRUSTEE FRANK CHIARA: Thank you to the  
3 committee for all their hard work. We are  
4 pleased to have our own police department.  
5 Thank you, Jennifer. I appreciate that.

6 MS. LANZA: Nadia is confused as to what  
7 is going to happen. She thought there was  
8 going to be a presentation.

9 TRUSTEE FRANK CHIARA: Okay, Nadia. So,  
10 what we did was we sent the document to all our  
11 residents. Gave them an opportunity to read  
12 it, absorb it and come to the meeting to  
13 discuss it with us and make comments on it. I  
14 see her. Were my questions received? Nadia,  
15 your questions were received and will be  
16 reviewed by the committee and answered for you  
17 at a later date.

18 Comments can still be submitted tonight,  
19 and by Friday, March 5th, giving us the  
20 opportunity to present it to the committee and  
21 answer all the questions and comments.

22 MS. LANZA: Trustee Chiara, a couple of  
23 people just joined if you want to comment, if  
24 you want to let them know if they have any  
25 questions.

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1 TRUSTEE FRANK CHIARA: To those who  
2 recently joined us tonight, we're here to  
3 discuss this plan that we presented to the  
4 Village on police reform. You're welcome to  
5 your oral comments tonight on the plan and also  
6 offer questions. We will take the questions  
7 back to the committee. The committee will  
8 review the questions and answer them at a later  
9 date. Thank you. So, if anybody wants to make  
10 any comments tonight who just joined us, go to  
11 the chat room and raise your hand and we will  
12 allow you in to make your comments.

13 ARTHUR WALSH: I just wanted to add that,  
14 I raised the issue before the public was  
15 invited, with regards to the Village looking  
16 into whether or not this plan still has to be  
17 submitted because it was pursuant to an  
18 executive order that the Governor is being  
19 stripped of. So, I guess before the Village  
20 exercises anymore evidence into this, we should  
21 make sure that it will still be valid because  
22 it's probably going to expire now. So that was  
23 my only comment I wanted to add to the public  
24 know that this might not be necessary.

25 TRUSTEE FRANK CHIARA: Thank you, Arthur.

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1 We have until April 1st before we submit it, so  
2 we will definitely look to that that before we  
3 submit it.

4 Once again, thank you everybody. It will  
5 be a couple more minutes and we will close down  
6 the meeting. Once again, if you've given the  
7 comments orally, you submit it through the  
8 Floral Park policereform@fpvillage.org.

9 Comments could received up to this Friday and  
10 all the comments will go back to the committee  
11 to review and answer all the questions. Thank  
12 you.

13 Okay. If there's anybody else that wants  
14 to make a comment, please feel free to do so in  
15 the chat section. Once again, use our e-mail  
16 address at policereform@fpvillage.org Comments  
17 are being accepted to this Friday. Those  
18 questions and comments will be reviewed by the  
19 committee and they will address them.

20 And I just want to thank everybody who's  
21 here tonight. I especially want to thank the  
22 committee reform for all your their time and  
23 effort. The police department for their really  
24 hard work who contributed to this document  
25 together and so it is a document describing how

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1 local police departments operates, giving out  
2 any -- not only protects us, but serves the  
3 community. So once again, thank you everybody  
4 for participating and especially our committee.  
5 Thank you.

6 MAYOR LONGOBARDI: I just wanted to take  
7 this opportunity again to thank everyone. I  
8 want to echo Trustee Chiara's comments. We  
9 have the best police department anywhere. You  
10 know, it takes time to plan and takes time to  
11 make changes. It take time to really do  
12 things. But again, we have the best police  
13 department, I can tell you in the country. I  
14 know I can brag a little bit and I will. We  
15 have -- it is also basically the fact that we  
16 have one of the safest places to live in the  
17 country. It's just a testament to that fact  
18 and how great our police department is. All  
19 the work and effort and time that they put in  
20 is amazing. I want to thank them for all that  
21 they do.

22 At this point, too, I also want to thank  
23 this committee. You know, a lot of time and  
24 effort was put in to looking at this document  
25 and preparing it, taking the time to see what

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1 the state was looking for and looking what our  
2 police department does and all of the things we  
3 are putting into this document not only  
4 reflects how great our police department is and  
5 all the effort and time the police department  
6 puts in to creating a safe place for our  
7 residents and business owners.

8 But the people who volunteered to be on  
9 this committee, when we called and asked, they  
10 said, yes, I will do this. They said okay, we  
11 will do it. This wasn't something we said  
12 we'll do this by name. This is people that  
13 took a lot of time to learn about the police  
14 department, look what our police department can  
15 do in the future. I really want to thank them  
16 for everything that they did. I want to  
17 recognize each one of them. They're members of  
18 our community who not only did this for us, but  
19 do other things in our community.

20 I want thank Trustee Frank Chiara as our  
21 Chairman. Trustee Chiara has a lot of other  
22 responsibilities here and he took this on and  
23 thank you so much Frank for everything you did.

24 I would like to also thank our Village  
25 Administrator, Jerry Bambrick and how much

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1 Jerry does day in and day out. You can drive  
2 by here late at night at 10:00, 11:00 and see  
3 his light on and you know Jerry is working. I  
4 want to thank him for that work.

5 I would also like to thank Fr. Tom Fusco  
6 from Our Lady of Victory. Fr. Tom, thank you  
7 so much. We know you have a lot of things on  
8 your plate and I thank you so much for doing  
9 this and being part of this for us.

10 Arthur Walsh. Arthur is not only one of  
11 our village prosecutors but Arthur is also  
12 running around all over the place with his work  
13 and things that he does. And so Arthur, thank  
14 you for what you've done.

15 Pastor Evan Peet, thank you very much.  
16 Pastor Evan Peet not only does this work but is  
17 the President of our Chamber of Commerce and  
18 all kinds of other volunteer work he does in  
19 addition to running his church. Pastor Evan  
20 Peet, thank you for all that you do.

21 Mary Anne Cuite is on the line. Mary  
22 Anne, thank you. I know you have a lot of  
23 things on your plate as well.

24 Heather McClintock was able to fit this in  
25 between working and doing all the volunteer

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1 work around the village as well as Our Lady of  
2 Victory and other committees that she's on.

3 Marc Mullen. Marc, I think you're on the  
4 call. I'm not sure. I saw you before. But  
5 Marc, thank you so much. I know you have,  
6 between your work at the restaurant and  
7 everything else, thank you again for all that  
8 you do.

9 Rich Provost, President of our little  
10 league. Rich is on other committees in this  
11 village as well as doing kind of, you know, his  
12 day job and taking care and every one of these  
13 people has a family to take care of.

14 Tom Kubler is the only one that doesn't do  
15 anything. Just kidding, Tom. Tom, you know  
16 that. Tom is a member of many things  
17 committees in our village, recreation, Zoning  
18 Board -- Architectural Review Board, I believe  
19 and a couple of other committees. Tom, thank  
20 you so much for everything you do.

21 And our own, Lou Leblanc, I know he is on  
22 the call too. Thank you for everything, not  
23 only is he involved in our little league, but  
24 thank you for all the other things you do.

25 It is people that do all kinds of things,

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1 took the time out to be part of this.

2 We have on this call as well, and I thank  
3 them for joining us, members of the police  
4 force, including the President of the PBA, Bob  
5 Bedley. We are very lucky to have such  
6 dedicated and wonderful members of our police  
7 force here with us tonight. Not only tonight,  
8 but also for everything they do day in and day  
9 out. Thank you so much. Lead by our own  
10 Police Commissioner, Steve McAllister. Steve,  
11 thank you for all that you do day in and day  
12 out.

13 Lieutenant William Doherty and Lieutenant  
14 Tom McCarthy who spent a lot of time  
15 researching and doing everything in addition to  
16 all that they have to do. So, their work,  
17 providing all kinds of information, not only  
18 for the committee, but all the Village Board,  
19 for everybody who's a part of this and I want  
20 to thank them not only for their daily work but  
21 for getting this off the ground.

22 This was something that was thrust upon us  
23 by New York State. It was not something we  
24 asked to do. But it is something that will be  
25 good going forward at our village police force

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1 and things we can do to improve it.

2 If you have comments, again, as Frank  
3 said, please get them to us in written form by  
4 the 5th, which is Friday by 5:00 and the  
5 committee will continue their work and respond  
6 to those questions and comments, as well as  
7 update document accordingly. The Village Board  
8 will be looking at this document and hope to  
9 adopt it at the next village board meeting and  
10 send it on to the state.

11 Again, thank you so much for being with us  
12 tonight. I urge you all to be please be safe.  
13 Please continue to follow the rules of Covid.  
14 Again, have a great night and will be ending  
15 the call now, so just enjoy yourselves and look  
16 forward to enjoying the nice weather coming.  
17 Thank you all again. Have a good night.

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19 Certified to be a true and  
20 accurate transcript of the proceedings  
21 through Zoom.

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CATHERINE P. MURPHY  
24 Court Reporter  
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