



**DRAFT PLAN: 2/9/2021**

## **BROOME COUNTY POLICE REFORM & REINVENTION COLLABORATIVE PLAN 2021**

### **BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

#### **BROOME COUNTY, NY**

In June New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo signed an Executive Order requiring local governments to perform a comprehensive review of current police force deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, and develop a plan to improve them. Per the Governor's Executive Order, every locality must adopt a plan for reform by April 1, 2021 to be eligible for future state funding.

Below is Broome County's plan for the Broome County Sheriff's Office.

#### **Process for the Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative:**

- Review the needs of the community served by the Broome County Sheriff's Office and evaluate the department's current policies and practices.
- Establish and evaluate policies that allow police to safely perform their duties.
- Involve the entire community in the discussion by way of a Zoom public listening session and online submission of comments/recommendations.
- Develop policy recommendations resulting from this review.
- Present the plan to the local legislative body to ratify or adopt it.
- Certify adoption of the plan to the State Budget Director on or before April 1, 2021.

#### **Information on Population of Broome County and Broome County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division:**

Broome County is a county in the Southern Tier Region of New York State with a population of 190,000 people (July 1, 2019 Census track) and a total of 78,549 households. The poverty rate for the county is 17.8%. The five largest ethnic groups in Broome County are White (Non-Hispanic) (85.8%), Black (6.4%) (Hispanic) (4.4%), Asian (4.4%).

The Broome County Sheriff’s Office is accredited through New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. It is comprised of highly trained members who are prepared to respond to any incident that happens in any of the sixteen towns, seven villages, or the City of Binghamton, which make up the County of Broome.”. The Broome County Sheriff’s Office Patrol Division is the primary Law Enforcement agency for 48% of the residents in Broome County. The Patrol Division serves the residents of Broome County as they attend school, go to work and shop outside the city and village limits within the county. The Patrol Division also provides law enforcement services to the other six municipal police agencies within the county and answers calls for service in their respective jurisdiction when the need arises. The Patrol Division enforces the laws of the State of New York and does so while proactively patrolling 1,008 miles of State Highways, 350 miles of county roadways and 927 miles of town roads on a twenty-four hour a day, seven day a week basis. The Patrol Division is also equipped to handle specialized calls for service by deploying Marine Units, Motor Units, K-9 units and a SWAT Special Weapons and Tactic Team when the need arises.

**Demographic Breakdown of the Broome County Sheriff’s Office Law Enforcement Division:**

Total:	55
White Males	83.6%
Females	5.5%
Asian	5.5%
Black	3.6%
Amer Indian	1.8%
Hispanic/Latino	0

**Broome County Police Review Taskforce Members:**

- Kevin McManus - Broome County Deputy County Executive
- Colleen Wagner - Broome County Executive's Office
- Captain Kathleen Newcomb - Broome County Sheriff's Office
- Sergeant Sam Davis - Broome County Sheriff's Office
- Mike Korchak - Broome County District Attorney
- Michael Baker - Broome County Public Defender
- Scott Baker - Broome County Legislator
- Kim Myers - Broome County Legislator
- Sandra Felton - Community Liaison
- Amber Jennings - Community Liaison
- Pastor Mario Williams - Faith Community
- Nancy Williams - Broome County Department of Social Services and Mental Health Commissioner

## **Reform and Reinvention of Police Initiative Process:**

- 11/16/20: Initial meeting for the Broome County Initiative was a Zoom call with Robert Duffy, former Lt. Gov., Mayor of Rochester, N.Y. and Police Chief of Rochester, N.Y. and the staff of the Broome County Executive's Office.
- 11/17/20 Follow up organizational meeting held with the Broome County Sheriff's Office.
- Zoom Meetings with taskforce organized for December, January and February
- Meeting Information
  - December 8, 2020
  - December 15, 2020
  - December 22, 2020
  - December 29, 2020
  - January 12, 2021
  - January 13, 2021 Zoom Public Listening Session
  - January 19, 2021
  - January 26, 2021
  - February 2, 2021
  - February 10, 2021 Draft Plan Completed
  - February 16, 2021 Public Hearing via Zoom
    - The plan was posted to the Broome County Website for the public to view
  - In March 2021 the plan will be voted on by the Broome County Legislature
  - By April 1, 2021 the plan will be sent to the State of New York

## **Taskforce Recommendations: Broome County Police Reform & Reinvention Collaborative Plan 2021:**

1. In consultation with community groups, the Broome County Sheriff's Office will create and maintain a plan to recruit minority candidates for the law enforcement profession at the Broome County Sheriff's Office
2. Expand mental health programs in our community, like the Mental Health Association of the Southern Tier's Crisis Intervention Team
3. Find additional ways to assist individuals who are arrested, but not incarcerated, in receiving treatment for substance use disorders if necessary
4. Implement a program to provide Civil Service Testing Educational and Physical Fitness Training Opportunities in Broome County
5. Strategize ways to promote community engagement and educate the public about programs the Broome County Sheriff's Office provides to the community
6. By April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 the Broome County Sheriff's Office will provide an update on recommendations and implementation

## **Broome County Sheriff's Office Notable Community Programs:**

**School Resource Officer** – The School Resource Officer program is a collaborative effort by certified law enforcement officers, educators, students, parents and the community to offer educational programs in the schools to reduce crime, drug abuse, and violence and provide a safe environment. It is the responsibility of the deputy to focus on the needs of the schools and assist the administration in accomplishing their goals. The School Resource Officer is committed to promoting a concept of school-based law enforcement. This TRIAD concept allows the School Resource Officer to act as a teacher, counselor and law enforcement officer. School Resource Officers work with students, parents and school staff daily. The deputy is required to develop and teach lessons to students on numerous subjects. Officers also assist students, parents, and staff as counselors. Counseling sessions may be for behavioral problems or for persons in crisis. The deputy talks to students regarding careers in law enforcement. The deputy also assists the school in their disaster planning issues. They conduct investigations of incidents in and around the school. They also make any arrests as a result of these investigations. The Broome County Sheriff's School Resource Officer works in the Maine-Endwell Central School District, as well as the Chenango Valley Central School District. The Deputy is available to all school districts in the county and often assists districts without an SRO. This partnership of law enforcement, school district, parents and the community, provides a safe and successful learning environment.

### **School Resource Officer & Community Policing – Activities for 2020:**

- Total Complaints (in & out of schools): **842**
- School specific complaints: **58**
- Total school related arrests: **0**
- Problem solving/students: **72**
- Problem Solving/parents: **42**
- Meetings in schools: **31**
- School Safety Presentations: **7**
- Classroom Presentations: **14**
- School Safety Drills: **12**
- Public Relations: **79**

**Social Media Outreach** – The Broome County Sheriff's Office started its Facebook page in 2012, and it has evolved into a vital part of community outreach. The page has allowed the Sheriff's Office to post press releases, recent arrests, motor vehicle accidents, missing persons, road closures, home and personal safety tips, as well as other law enforcement topics and information. The Facebook page has allowed the Sheriff's Office to interact with the community on a more personal level, and often updates them faster than the newspaper or television. The Facebook page has aided in numerous cases, resulting in identifying suspects of crimes to assisting in finding missing persons.

In 2015, the Sheriff's Office also created an official Twitter page (@BroomeSheriff). Numerous investigations have been assisted with the help from the public, based on social media posts. Weekly, the Warrant Unit disseminates outstanding warrants in a press release. That

information is uploaded to the Facebook page. Numerous wanted individuals have been apprehended utilizing social media platforms proving its value.

**Neighborhood Watch Programs** – The Broome County Sheriff’s Office continues to work with residents within the County, helping them establish Neighborhood Watch groups. This program encourages citizens to be active within their neighborhood in preventing crime and assisting the police by being good observers in the community. The Broome County Sheriff’s Office is still at a total of 29 Neighborhood Watch groups. The Sheriff’s Office is directly linked to the National Neighborhood Watch, which is associated with the National Sheriff’s Association. The Sheriff’s Office also participates in National Night Out, which promotes neighborhood safety with and emphasizes on anti-crime issues.

**Safe Senior and Yellow DOT Program** – The community policing division educates senior groups on the issues of telemarketing fraud, investment scams, auto safety and theft prevention. Programs are offered at local senior centers and housing and area churches. Many donations from area businesses provided the opportunity for the Sheriff’s Office to purchase several hundred “Senior Safe” pamphlets that were distributed to various seniors in Broome County. The Sheriff’s Office paired up with the New York State Sheriffs’ Association and started the Yellow DOT Program in Broome County. Working hand in hand with the Office for Aging, Department of Health and the NYS Sheriff’s Association, the Sheriff’s Office was able to distribute several thousand Yellow DOT stickers/packets to Broome County residents. The Yellow DOT is a decal that is placed on a driver’s vehicle, and within the glove compartment a yellow folder contains the driver’s vital medical information in the event of an emergency. The Yellow DOT Program is 100% free.

**Business Safety & Security** – The community policing division has established a detailed Safety & Security checklist for local businesses within Broome County. This checklist was made available on the website and is free to all businesses in the county. The community policing division personally delivered nine of these checklists in 2020.

**Project Lifesaver** – In 2020, The Broome County Sheriff’s Office continued the Project Lifesaver Program. The program consists of members of the Sheriff’s Office and the Vestal Police Department, who are specially trained in equipment utilized to help find missing people with certain ailments, such as, Alzheimer’s, Dementia, Traumatic Brain Injury, Downs Syndrome, and Autism. These ailments can cause people inflicted by them to have an elevated risk of wandering, increasing their risk of injury or illness. Family members or caregivers of “Clients” apply to the Sheriff’s Office, and, if approved, receive a bracelet imbedded with a radio transmitter. The transmitter has a specific frequency for each client which can be traced by a receiver, operated by a deputy sheriff. Each family receives training on how to use the bracelet and instructions on what to do if their loved one goes missing. As of 12/31/2020 – the Sheriff’s Office had 24 Project Lifesaver Clients; 5 adults and 19 children.