

TO: HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

Your Committee recommends adoption of “An Act adopting the Westchester County Police Reform Plan developed by the Westchester County Police Reform and Reimaging Task Force.”

Your Committee is advised that on June 12, 2020, the Governor of New York issued Executive Order No. 203 entitled the New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative. According to the Executive Order, the Governor concluded that “urgent and immediate action is needed to eliminate racial inequities in policing, to modify and modernize policing strategies, policies, procedures, and to develop practices to better address the particular needs of communities of color to promote public safety, improve community engagement, and foster trust.” The Governor’s Executive Order created a collaborative process requiring all local governments and police departments in New York State to develop plans to modernize their policing strategies and strengthen relationships with their communities. These plans must be completed and certified by April 1, 2021 and failure to complete this process will result in loss of State funding.

Your Committee is further advised that, the Executive Order required the County to perform a comprehensive review of current County police policies, procedures, and practices, and develop a plan to improve such police policies, procedures, and practices, and promote community engagement to foster trust and fairness, and address any racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color. The County Executive was further mandated by the Executive Order to convene the Commissioner of Public Safety, and stakeholders in the community to develop such plan, and consider such 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.”

Your Committee notes that the Executive Order further required the County including the Department of Public Safety to consult with stakeholders, including members of the County Department of Public Safety, members of the community, interested non-profit and faith based community groups; the County District Attorney’s Office and local elected officials, to create a plan to adopt and implement the recommendations resulting from such plan. Such plan was to include any modifications, modernizations, and innovations to County policing deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, tailored to the specific needs of the Westchester community and seek to promote improved police agency and community relationships based on trust, fairness, accountability, and transparency, to reduce any racial disparities in policing in the County.

Your Committee further notes that as required by Executive Order No. 203, in addition to meetings of the Task Force and stakeholders in the County, a series of public forums were conducted to solicit comments from County residents regarding policing and reform. Comments from the community were also able to be submitted through email. The Task Force

received comments from over 80 participants. Based upon consideration of such comments, the Westchester Police Reform Plan is now presented to this Honorable Board for adoption which must be accomplished by April 1, 2021. The Westchester County Police Reform Plan contains fifty-one (51) recommendations developed by the Westchester County Police Reform and Reimagining Task Force following meetings and discussions of the Task Force, information sessions, and public forums, which if implemented, will promote equitable policing in Westchester County.

Your Committee has held nine public meetings to properly review the report with members of the Police Reform Task Force and the Department of Public Safety. Your Committee has held a public input session to receive additional comments from the public. The minutes of the Committee meetings as well as the comments received by members of the public have been added to the report.

Your Committee also notes that additional information has been received by the Department of Public Safety which details the recommendations made by the Task Force that the Department has already implemented. The document received by the Department of Public Safety has been added to the report to reflect that the County is already working to implement change.

Your Committee has also included one additional recommendation made by the Board of Legislators to implement a more stringent and stated policy of screening police officers during recruitment and continued throughout their employment, to prevent members of white supremacist and other hate groups to become or remain members of our law enforcement.

As you know, this Honorable Board must comply with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA"). Your Committee is advised that the Department of Planning has reviewed the applicable SEQRA regulations, and has concluded that this proposed Act is not an action which requires any environmental review. Your Committee concurs with that conclusion.

Your Committee, after careful consideration, recommends the adoption of this Act.

Dated: March , 2021  
White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

MAM-3/17/21



**ACT NO.**

**-2021**

An Act adopting the Westchester County Police Reform Plan developed by the Westchester County Police Reform and Reimaging Task Force.

BE IT ENACTED by the County Board of the County of Westchester as follows:

**Section 1.** Pursuant to Executive Order No. 203 issued by Governor Cuomo on June 12, 2020, the Westchester County Police Reform Plan issued in January of 2021, and created by the Westchester County Police Reform and Reimaging Task Force, a thirty-eight (38) member panel appointed by the County Executive in June of 2020, is hereby adopted.

**Section 2.** The Westchester County Police Reform Plan contains fifty-one (51) recommendations developed by the Westchester County Police Reform and Reimaging Task Force following a comprehensive review of current police practices including Task Force meetings and discussions, information sessions, and public forums to solicit comment from members of the Westchester community regarding policing and reform. The Plan also includes significant input from the County Board of Legislators including minutes of the nine (9) Public Safety Committee meetings held reviewing the report, comments received by the County Board of Legislators from members of the public and additional information from County Legislators and members of the County Department of Public Safety. The recommendations contained in the Plan, if implemented, will promote equitable policing in Westchester County.

**Section 3.** This Act shall take effect immediately.