

Village of Avon – Police Reform Plan

The Village of Avon is complying with New York State Executive Law No. 203, New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaboration, signed by Governor Andrew Cuomo on June 12, 2020. Executive Law No. 203 states that immediate action is needed to eliminate racial inequities in policing, to modify and modernize policing strategies, policies, procedures and practices, and to develop practices to better address the particular needs of communities of color, to promote public safety, to improve community engagement and foster greater trust.

The Village of Avon established a stakeholders group using guidelines from the executive order. Stakeholders held meetings and established a community survey which was posted for unrestricted public comment over greater than fourteen days. Based on those meetings and data from the public survey, the plan below is being offered by the Village Board at a public hearing. The purpose of the public hearing is to gather further community input and comments prior to adoption of the police reform plan.

1. The Village of Avon will have a policy explicitly prohibiting racial profiling by its police officers.
2. The Village of Avon will have an evidence-based police policy to address use of force by its police officers and that use of force incidents shall be documented. The police chief or his designee will inform the Avon Village Board of any use of force incidents within 24 hours of occurrence.
3. The Village of Avon will provide annual training to its police officers, specifically consisting of anti-bias police training, de-escalation training and use of force trainings.
4. The Village of Avon will use evidence-based police policies, strategies and guidelines promulgated by the New York Municipal Police Training Council.
5. The Village of Avon will annually review its police force policies, procedures and practices to make adjustments as needed.
6. The Village of Avon will continue to meet with members of the community to address policing concerns to foster greater trust, fairness, accountability and transparency through a commitment to making police policies accessible to the community.
7. The stakeholders group established for this reform plan will meet on an annual basis, at minimum, to review this plan and address further matters that fall within the scope of the group.
8. Through our community stakeholder meetings and input gathered from the community survey, it is evident that there is a tremendous need to have mental health counselors immediately available to respond with our local law enforcement when individuals are having a mental health crisis. This non-law enforcement burden is currently being placed on our local law enforcement officers. Due to our limited financial resources, the Village of Avon cannot hire full-time counselors ourselves and seeks assistance from New York State to help accomplish this goal. The Village of Avon is committed to finding opportunities to work with other municipalities in Livingston County to provide this service to our wider community.