



Gary R. McCarthy
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF SCHENECTADY
NEW YORK

City Hall, 105 Jay Street, Rm 111
Schenectady, N.Y. 12305-1938
Office: (518) 382-5000
Cell: (518) 424-0483
Fax: (518) 382-5272
gmccarthy@schenectadyny.gov

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PRESS RELEASE

Schenectady Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Announce Schedule for Virtual Panel Discussions

SCHENECTADY – The Schenectady Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative announced a series of community meetings to review and improve police strategies, policies, procedures, and practices in accordance with New York Governor Andrew Cuomo’s [Executive Order 203](#).

These Collaborative meetings will be structured as panel discussions among a wide range of community organizations and local stakeholders such as neighborhood associations, faith-based organizations, non-profits, community groups, businesses leaders, and public safety officials.

The virtual panel discussions will be moderated by Jason Benitez, Vice President of Talent and Inclusion at the Capital Region Chamber, and recorded by Open Stage Media (OSM). OSM broadcasts are available on Spectrum channels 1301, 1302, 1303, Verizon FiOS channels 36, 37, 38, and also posted on the OSM YouTube page: www.youtube.com/openstagemedia.

The meetings will be organized into specific groups and will explore a broad range of topics, including but not limited to, use of force policies, procedural justice, systemic racial bias, de-escalation training and practices, and community-based outreach.

The meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday, October 21, 6:00pm: Kick Off Meeting
- Thursday, October 22, 6:00pm: Community Groups
- Tuesday, October 27, 6:00pm: The Finn Institute for Public Safety Presentation
- Thursday, October 29, 6:00pm: Faith-Based Groups
- Wednesday, November 4, 6:00pm: Neighborhood Associations
- Thursday, November 5, 12:00pm: Public Safety Organizations
- Thursday, November 5, 6:00pm: Business Associations
- Tuesday, November 10, 6:00pm: Youth and Education Groups
- Thursday, November 12, 6:00pm: Closing Meeting

Members of the public can submit testimony to the Schenectady Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative at any time at the following email address: spdcollaborative@schenectadypd.com.

The Finn Institute for Public Safety will serve as an independent research partner, collecting and tracking input, themes, and surveying of participants. After the initial series of community meetings, a draft report will be released for public comment and presented to the Schenectady City Council for adoption by April 1, 2021.