



## 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@schenectadynv.gov](mailto:gmccarthy@schenectadynv.gov)

Gary R. McCarthy  
Mayor

**For Release: Immediate**  
**Date: January 11, 2021**

### PRESS RELEASE

# Schenectady Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Recognized in Governor Cuomo's State of the State Address

*New community member panel interviewing Schenectady Police recruits*

**SCHENECTADY** – The City of Schenectady's Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative (SPRRC) was recognized in Governor Andrew Cuomo's 2021 State of the State Address. Specifically, the Governor referenced a newly formed panel of community members meeting with potential new recruits as part of the Schenectady Police Department hiring process.

"Schenectady has created a diverse citizen advisory panel to help evaluate new applicants for the police force," **Governor Cuomo said**.

"This panel is an example of real substantive change that is occurring as a result of our conversations with the community," **Police Chief Eric Clifford said**. "The idea was generated by a member of the community, and the formation of the panel has been accomplished with the help of the community."

"A meeting between candidates and this advisory panel will potentially be the candidates first introduction to engaging with members of the community in which they seek to serve," **Mayor Gary McCarthy said**. "We appreciate Governor Cuomo's recognition of our collaborative initiative that will better serve our city's diverse community, build confidence, strengthen trust and legitimacy, and address disparities that exist in communities of color."

The SPRRC hosted a series of community meetings and discussions to review and improve police strategies, policies, procedures, and practices in accordance with New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order 203.

The virtual panel discussions were moderated by Jason Benitez, Vice President of Talent and Inclusion at the Capital Region Chamber, and broadcast by Open Stage Media (OSM). Recordings of the community discussions are available on the OSM YouTube page: [www.youtube.com/openstagemedia](http://www.youtube.com/openstagemedia).

The SPRRC has partnered with the Finn Institute for Public Safety to serve as an independent research partner, collecting and tracking input, themes, and surveying of participants. The draft report will be released for public comment in the coming weeks and presented to the City Council for adoption by April 1, 2021.