



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Gary R. McCarthy  
Mayor

**For Release: Immediate**  
**Date: March 5, 2021**

### PRESS RELEASE

# Schenectady Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Release Draft Report

*Virtual public hearing on SPRRC draft report scheduled for March 8th*

**SCHENECTADY** – The City of Schenectady’s Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative (SPRRC) have released a [draft report](#) for public comment in accordance with Governor Andrew Cuomo’s Executive Order 203. The Schenectady City Council will host a virtual public hearing on the SPRRC draft report during their regular meeting at 5:30pm on Monday, March 8, 2021.

The collaborative process reviewed current police deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices to better address the needs of the community, promote community engagement to foster trust, fairness, and legitimacy, and to address any racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color.

The SPRRC hosted a series of virtual community meetings and discussions moderated by Jason Benitez, Vice President of Talent and Inclusion at the Capital Region Chamber, and broadcast by Open Stage Media (OSM).

“I am proud of how our community has come together during these extraordinarily challenging times,” **Mayor McCarthy said**. “This report offers a window into how our police department and local service agencies can build confidence, strengthen trust and legitimacy, and better serve our city’s diverse community.”

Recommendations within the draft report include topics such as: the use of force; harm reduction; community health; de-escalation and training; diversity, inclusion and recruitment; officer wellness; community engagement; and technology.

“I would like to thank every member of our community who participated in this process and provided insightful feedback on our policies and practices,” **said Police Chief Eric Clifford**. “I remain committed to community conversations regarding the policing of our community. The foundation that has been established through conversations will provide structure to reinforce changes.”

The collaborative also partnered with The John F. Finn Institute for Public Safety to serve as an independent research partner, collecting and tracking input, themes, and surveying of participants. The Finn Institute report, “Schenectady Police Reform and Reinvention: Current Practice, Empirical Evidence, and Community Input”, authored by Dr. Sarah J. McLean and Dr. Robert E. Worden, is available [here](#).

The City Council meeting at 5:30pm on Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> can be accessed via WebEx using the following link and information:

<https://schenectadyny.webex.com/schenectadyny/onstage/g.php?MTID=e890ab14ef98f2ce57049eccc2ca12ece>

**Event number:** 185 766 9495  
**Event password:** CityCouncil  
**Phone:** 1-415-655-0001

Public hearing comments can also be submitted to the City Clerk’s Office via email at [SMykoo@schenectadyny.gov](mailto:SMykoo@schenectadyny.gov). The draft report, supporting documentation, and recordings of community conversations are available on the Schenectady Police Department website: [www.cityofschenectady.com/665/SPD-Reform-Reinvention-Collaborative](http://www.cityofschenectady.com/665/SPD-Reform-Reinvention-Collaborative)