

**ADOPTED**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-63**

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**A Resolution Stating Tompkins County's Reimagining Public Safety Plan to be Submitted in Response to New York State Executive Order 203**

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2020, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo issued Executive Order 203, calling upon local governments that operate police agencies to study their current operations and develop a plan to address “the particular needs of the communities served by such police agency and promote community engagement to foster trust, fairness, and legitimacy, and to address any racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color,” with a directive to respond to the Governor by April 1, 2021, and

WHEREAS, the City of Ithaca and Tompkins County conferred and saw a favorable moment for significant positive changes in policing practices, and determined that a joint investigation of this issue would provide an optimal opportunity to apply resources to the project and to reach consistent recommendations in a joint plan that would apply to the two largest policing agencies in the County, being the Tompkins County Sheriff's Department and the Ithaca Police Department, and

WHEREAS, beginning in September, 2020, the City and County appointed nearly forty individuals, based upon their content expertise, role within the system, and the ability to address and implement solutions, to participate on five Working Groups (Leadership/Administration/Budget, Communications/Community, Law Enforcement/Public Safety, Data Analysis, and Academic/Research), with each Working Group charged to gather information and examine specific functional areas within local law enforcement in a project that came to be called the Reimagining Public Safety Collaborative, and

WHEREAS, the City of Ithaca and Tompkins County engaged the services of a consultant, The Center for Policing Equity, to assist with the administration and organization of the study of these policing issues, including examination of police force deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, and to provide informational resources to the Working Groups, and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the formation of the Working Groups, the Collaborative consulted with the Tompkins County Sheriff and the City Police Chief, and other members of the local law enforcement community, and made an extensive effort to receive public comment from as broad a range of community members as possible, using various tools, including issuing calls for comments, question and answer sessions with community leaders, surveys, interviews, and the use of focus groups to target specific segments of the populations such as people experiencing homelessness, people of color, and those who have been involved within the criminal justice system, with the goal of obtaining as clear a view as possible of the current state of policing, and the community perceptions of policing, and

WHEREAS, beyond complying with the requirements of the Governor's Executive Order 203, the intention of this project has been to make a good faith local effort to begin a long-term process of making substantive improvements in our criminal justice system, recognizing that this will be a lengthy undertaking requiring time, resources, investigation, and commitment to implement the Collaborative's recommendations to affect positive change, and

WHEREAS, recognizing the benefit to be achieved by developing a joint plan that reflected a consistent and coherent set of recommendations across the City and County, staff from the City and County worked collaboratively to prepare a Draft Report entitled “Public Safety Reimagined. Recommendations report following a collaborative effort between the City of Ithaca & Tompkins County, N.Y.”, which contains a description of the process followed and a draft list of proposed City, County, and joint recommendations made in response to the Governor's Executive Order 203, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature having received the Draft Report, and having conducted town halls, public forums, and public hearings after publication of the Draft Report, and having considered the recommendations contained in the Draft Report in response to the information received from the public, and having determined that an opportunity for meaningful action is possible through development of a joint plan, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the Draft Report entitled “Public Safety Reimagined. Recommendations report following a collaborative effort between the City of Ithaca & Tompkins County, N.Y.” as amended by the Tompkins County Legislature and as reconciled with the City of Ithaca, be accepted, with the gratitude of the Legislature for the effort of the consultants at the Center for Policing Equity, all those individuals who participated on the Working Groups, members of law enforcement, including Tompkins County Sheriff Derek Osborne and Ithaca Police Chief Dennis Naylor, the Tompkins County District Attorney Matt Van Houten, the Director of Assigned Counsel Lance Salisbury, the City and County staff who provided support in the preparation of the Draft Report, and those community members who offered their opinions, viewpoints, ideas, and hope for positive change,

RESOLVED, further, That based upon consideration of the recommendations contained in the Draft Report, the Tompkins County Legislature ratifies the following plans, being the separate undertakings of Tompkins County together with those made in concert with the City of Ithaca Common Council, as stated herein:

1. County: Better align available resources with emergency response needs by establishing a pilot program for non-emergency calls.
2. County: Require public disclosure of District Attorney and Assigned Counsel Office statistics on a quarterly and annual basis.
3. County: Evaluate the Creation of a Tompkins County Public Safety Review Board.
4. County: Evaluate existing models and implement an alternative to law enforcement response system for crisis intervention and wraparound health and human services delivery.
5. County: Develop a comprehensive community policing and outreach plan to connect law enforcement and residents.
6. County & City: Collect and evaluate the results of officer-initiated traffic stop enforcement.
7. County & City: Identify new curriculum, redesign and implement a culturally responsive training program that incorporates de-escalation and mental health components into a comprehensive response for law enforcement.
8. County & City: Develop a comprehensive community healing plan to address trauma in the relationship between residents and law enforcement.
9. County & City: Standardize data entry and review existing data sets for more actionable insights and allocation of public safety resources.
10. County & City: Develop a real-time public safety community dashboard.
11. County & City: Develop a comprehensive, inclusive, and innovative recruitment and retention strategy for law enforcement and corrections officers.
12. County & City: Develop a County-wide program to promote and support holistic officer Wellness.
13. County & City: Seek ongoing and responsive collaboration from New York State Troopers operating in Tompkins County.
14. County & City: Conduct a Review of SWAT Callouts to Determine Appropriate Use of Service and Equipment.
15. County & City: Revise the Civil Service exam process to diversify law enforcement Personnel.
16. County & City: Advocate for New York State to grant local civil service authorities the authority to enact “continuous recruitment” of eligible candidates for law enforcement personnel.
17. County & City: Urge Governor Cuomo and/or the New York State Legislature to reform disciplinary procedures for law enforcement personnel under Civil Service Law Section 75.

with such recommendations constituting its plan,

