



**Village of Bolivar Police Department**

**Police Reform and Reinvention Plan**

The formation of the Bolivar Police Reform and Reinvention Collaboration was in part to meet the requirements and aid our municipality in meeting the requirements of the Executive Order Number 203 issued by Governor Andrew Cuomo on June 12. The order required local governments with police agencies to engage the community in a reform effort to eliminate racial inequalities by reforming and modernizing the police procedures, strategies, and tactics to meet those ends. At the end of this process, the pertinent local governments would be required to submit a plan to New York State or risk losing State funding. The purpose of the Bolivar Police Reform and Reinvention was to create a plan to help guide our municipality with our police agency in our efforts and to create a framework for the Bolivar Police Department. Throughout that discussion a number of things became evident.

- Building a law enforcement workforce that is representative of the community it serves.
- Connecting law enforcement to the community.
- Increasing the lines of communication between the police and the community.
- Ensuring law enforcement officers are held accountable for their actions

### **Most Common Responses from Online Survey**

- Mental Health
- Ongoing drug complaints
- More Coverage
- How to contact an officer

### **Banning of Choke Holds**

Anti-Choke Hold Act creates the crime of aggravated strangulation (a Class C Felony) and establishes criminal penalties for police officers or peace officers who use chokeholds that cause serious physical injury or death.

Bolivar Police Department policy and procedure. Choke holds have never been authorized as an acceptable use of force under the Bolivar Police policy and training

### **Require Medical Response for Arrestees**

Requires an individual right to medical and mental health attention while they are under arrest or in custody by a police officer or peace officer. Failure to provide a reasonable and good faith medical assistance could result in a cause of action against the officer and or department.

### **Training**

New Guidelines for use of force training to include topics such as banning choke holds and other means of use of force. (Will forgo Department trainings)

-Bolivar Police Department expand use of force training to include de-escalation in service training and improve upon our use of force tactics. Bolivar Police Department has implemented training tactics such

as, Taser units, OC spray, and batons

New Guidelines for de-escalation tactics and training. (Will forgo trainings)

- The Bolivar Police Department will be certified in de-escalation training and tactics by January 2022. Following this certification, a yearly in service will be conducted in de-escalation for all officers.

## **Transparency and Accountability**

### **Review Board**

The Village of Bolivar currently and has always had a police committee comprised of the Village Board Members for the purpose of reviewing any issues that may come to light as it pertains to Village and police employees.

### **Police Activities**

To ensure that citizens have access to police data and arrest activities.

- At this time all police reports are submitted to the Village board on a monthly basis as well as posted on our local media outlet.

### **Police Personnel Complaint Process**

Establish a process so that members of the public have an outlet to officially file justified police complaints with the Bolivar Village Board.

### **Use of Force incidents**

Show transparency on use of force incidents with the Village board

-updated use of force forms and reports will be made available through the normal F.O.I.L process

### **Body Camera Program**

Ensure our agency has adequate funding for body camera equipment.

- Our agency has had a police body camera program in place for the past nine months and every officer has been issued a body camera for that time frame and has had it on per Department Policy

## **Reform Agreement**

This plan, which shall be deemed to be dated as of the date the Village Board executes this Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Plan, by and between the Village of Bolivar Police Department, a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, having its offices located at 252 Main Street, Bolivar, NY 14715 which will be referred to as Village of Bolivar Board and the Bolivar Police Reform Committee organized and existing under the Governor of the State of New York's Executive Order Number 203.

Witnesseth:

**Whereas**, The Village, through its Police Department, is willing, able and qualified to perform such services to the community; and

**Whereas**, The Community and the Village recognize the benefits of the Reform Program to the Village and the citizens of the Village Community; and

**Whereas**, in view of the forgoing, the parties deem it in the best interests of the Village, and the citizens of Bolivar to establish this reform; and

**Whereas**; The Village Chief Executive Officer is authorized to execute this reform pursuant to the resolution, adopted by the Village of Bolivar on April 1, 2021

**NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual promises contained, the Village of Bolivar Board and Village of Bolivar Police Department hereby agree:

**Policy Placement.** The policy and procedure of the Village of Bolivar Police Department is designed to provide clear and legal guidelines to the officers of the police department.

**Implicit Bias Training.** The Village shall employ and properly train all current and newly hired police officers in implicit bias and trauma involved care.

**Outreach.** The Bolivar Police department will continue to look into scheduling outreach events yearly in an effort to bring the police department and the community together.

## New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Plan Certification Form

I, Robert Mitchell, as Chief Executive of the Village of Bolivar, hereby certify the following pursuant to executive order Number 203 issued by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo on June 12, 2020;

The Local Government has performed a comprehensive review of current police force Deployments, Strategies, Policies, Procedures, and Practices;

The Local Government has developed a plan, attached hereto, to improve such Deployments, Strategies, Policies, Procedures, and Practices;

The Local Government has consulted with membership and leadership of the Local Police Department; members of the community, as well as emphasis in areas with high numbers of police and community interactions.

And the Local Government has considered the comments submitted

The Local Government has adopted the plan by Local Law or Resolution

Robert Mitchell

Name



Signature

Mayor

Title

3-25-21

Date