

# COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

## REFORM AND REINVENTION OF POLICING IN WARREN COUNTY

The Warren County Sheriffs' Office serves the law enforcement needs of all citizens and guests of Warren County. We strive to do so in a professional manner, respecting the rights of all our citizens without regard to race, color, gender, religion, religious creed, sex, familial or marital status, age, national origin or ancestry, physical or mental disability, genetic information/predisposition, military or veteran status, sexual orientation, self-identified or perceived sex, gender expression, gender identity and the status of being transgender, citizenship, domestic violence victim status or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state or local law. Our policies and procedures are developed and carried out with that goal in mind and members are selected, trained and supervised based upon these principles.

We use our collective knowledge, experience, training and professional judgment, combined with data, statistics and available information to develop policing strategies, policies, procedures and protocols that govern our day-to-day operations.

Some of our current strategies, policies and procedures are provided below for community discussion and comment. Our goal for these community discussions is to foster trust, fairness and legitimacy within our County and to address any biases or disproportionate policing that may exist.

Please review the points below and use the addresses at the end to respond with questions, comments, concerns, recommendations and/or suggestions. It is our hope that these police reform and reinvention discussions are an opportunity for us to strengthen our connection with the community and improve our operations. We look forward to your feedback.

- 1. PATROL OFFICER DEPLOYMENT:** Warren County covers an area of approximately 932 square miles with a population of roughly 64,000 residents, but our population increases significantly during the tourist season.

Our agency assigns Patrol Officers to designated Zones and Sectors throughout the County to maximize community engagement and we establish minimum staffing standards to ensure adequate police coverage. The minimum number of Patrol Officers required for each shift is as follows:

A-LINE (7pm - 7am) - 5 Patrol Officers

B-LINE (7am - 7pm) - 7 Patrol Officers

Our strategy is to assign Patrol Officers to specific areas based on call volume, which fluctuates throughout the year, and to ensure the most efficient response times.

QUESTION: Do you believe our deployment strategy, 5 to 7 Patrol Officers for the entire County, is sufficient to serve your needs?

QUESTION: Do you have concerns or recommendations to improve our deployment practices?

QUESTION: Do you believe our deployment practices strategies are unfair, promote bias, or are in any way deficient?

- 2. USE OF PHYSICAL FORCE/REVIEW/ACCOUNTABILITY:** The New York State Municipal Police Training Council model policy serves as the framework for our comprehensive policy on the use of physical force uses. The MPTC policy was developed and is founded in the basic premise of objective reasonableness under the circumstances. The Warren County Sheriff's Office use of physical force policy requires all officers receive training and demonstrate and understanding of de-escalation techniques and conflict resolution strategies. Our use of physical force policy is available for review on our website at: <https://warrencountysheriffny.us>.

Every incident involving the use of physical force is documented with a New York State Incident Report and Warren County Sheriff's Office Use of Physical Force report. Each incident is reviewed by a supervisor and a member of Administration to ensure the use of physical force was necessary, reasonable and appropriate under the circumstances.

As well as mandatory reporting within our agency, all use of physical force incidents are reported to the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, in accordance with NYS Executive Law §837-t.

QUESTION: Do you have questions or suggestions for improvement of our use of physical force policies and procedures?

- 3. DE-ESCALATION:** All officers receive training and demonstrate their understanding on the proper application of physical force.

Training topics include conflict prevention, conflict resolution & negotiation, and de-escalation techniques and strategies. These strategies shall include, but not be limited to, interacting with persons presenting in an agitated condition, as well as duty to intervene when prohibited conduct is observed.

QUESTION: Do you have questions or suggestions for improvement of our de-escalation practices?

- 4. PROCEDURAL JUSTICE:** It is the policy of the Warren County Sheriff's Office to provide services free from harassment or discrimination. Members are required by policy to perform their duties promptly, efficiently, courteously and fairly with the highest degree of integrity and principle. Our goal is to obtain and nurture the respect, confidence, and support of the public.

QUESTION: Are there any additional steps that you believe we could take to reinforce public confidence in our fair and equal treatment of all people?

5. **LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTED DIVERSION PROGRAMS:** Under certain circumstances, law enforcement may divert persons out of the normal criminal justice system and into specialized programs or services. In Warren County this type of diversion generally occurs subsequent to the initial interactions with law enforcement through Probation, District Attorney's Office, etc.

QUESTION: Do you believe diversion assistance should be a function of a law enforcement agency, or is it most appropriate to remain with Probation, the District Attorney's Office, or other non-governmental entities?

6. **COMMUNITY BASED OUTREACH:** The concept of community based outreach generally works best in smaller municipalities. The Warren County Sheriff's Office works very hard to foster outreach through the use of strategic Patrol assignments, sub-stations, daily school checks by Patrol Officers, School Resource Officers, child safety seat checks, and programs such as Project Lifesaver, Operation Safe Child, OffenderWatch, Yellow Dot, Coffee with a Cop, as well as partnerships with numerous organizations that provide services for persons with addiction, and post incarceration resources.

QUESTION: Do you have any suggestions for resources or programs that would allow the Warren County Sheriff's Office to expand and improve our community outreach?

7. **PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING:** This involves identifying specific crime problems and locations to target resources toward addressing the issues, ideally before they occur. We review calls for service, utilize statistics, and complaints from the public to make specific assignments, allocate resources and proactively police trouble areas within our County.

QUESTION: Do you have suggestions for additional ways we can identify, target and address crime trends and trouble areas?

8. **CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN:** Attention to environmental design can help increase the probability that an offender will be caught. Examples of environment design include exterior & interior lighting, conspicuous placement of security cameras, and use of home security systems. Law enforcement can play a role in identifying possible improvements in a home, business or community for effective environmental crime deterrence plans.

QUESTION: Would you have any suggestions for ways the Warren County Sheriff's Office can work with our community to enhance and improve crime deterrence through these methods?

9. **MODEL POLICIES PROMULGATED BY THE MUNICIPAL POLICE TRAINING COUNCIL:** The NYS MPTC develops model policies relating to various aspects of police operations that are offered to police agencies for consideration and adoption. The Warren County Sheriff's Office has utilized a number of MPTC policies that have served as guides and the framework for our policies and procedures.

QUESTION: Would you have any suggestions resources or methods we could utilize to improve our methods for developing and implementing policies and procedures?

**10. THE NEW YORK STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION PROGRAM STANDARDS:** The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Law Enforcement Accreditation Program has established 110 standards that relate to operations, training, performance evaluation, discipline and administrative oversight that were developed to enhance the performance and capabilities of a police agency.

Law Enforcement Accreditation is a progressive and contemporary way of helping police agencies evaluate and improve their overall performance. It provides formal recognition that an organization meets or exceeds expectations of quality and excellence in their field. Accreditation acknowledges the implementation of policies that are conceptually sound and operationally effective.

Law Enforcement Accreditation is not mandatory for police agencies in New York State and many agencies are unable to attain accreditation through this program. In New York State only 160 law enforcement agencies, roughly 29%, are accredited and of the 58 Sheriff's Offices only 32 are accredited. The Warren County Sheriff's Office is proud of the fact that we have been accredited in all four disciplines; Law Enforcement, Corrections, Communications and Civil Law Enforcement operations since 1990.

NYS Law Enforcement Accreditation Program: <https://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/ops/accred/>

We appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts on how we can improve our operations and provide the best possible service to our community. Thank you!

Please send all comments via email to [Reinvention@WarrenCountySheriffNY.us](mailto:Reinvention@WarrenCountySheriffNY.us) or by U.S. mail to the address below. Include a telephone number with your correspondence if you wish to speak in person.

Warren County Sheriff's Office  
Attn: Police Reform & Reinvention  
1400 State Route 9  
Lake George NY 12845