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CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 31, 2021

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

- Meg Kelly, Mayor
- Lisa Ribis, Secretary to the City Council
- Robin Dalton, Commissioner
- Anthony Scirocco, Commissioner
- John P. Franck, Commissioner
- Michele Madigan, Commissioner
- Vincent DeLeonardis, City Attorney
- Matthew Veitch, Supervisor
- Tara N. Gaston, Supervisor



1 MAYOR KELLY: Good evening. Welcome
2 to Wednesday, March 31st special City
3 Council meeting.

4 There are no public hearings this
5 evening.

6 Roll call, please.

7 SECRETARY RIBIS: Commissioner
8 Franck?

9 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Present.

10 SECRETARY RIBIS: Commissioner
11 Madigan?

12 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Present.

13 SECRETARY RIBIS: Commissioner
14 Scirocco?

15 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Here.

16 SECRETARY RIBIS: Commissioner
17 Dalton?

18 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Present.

19 SECRETARY RIBIS: Mayor Kelly?

20 MAYOR KELLY: Here.

21 SECRETARY RIBIS: Supervisor Veitch?

22 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Here.

23 SECRETARY RIBIS: And Supervisor
24 Gaston?

25 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Here.



1 MAYOR KELLY: Please rise for the
2 Pledge of Allegiance.

3 I pledge allegiance to the Flag of
4 the United States of America, and to the
5 Republic for which it stands, one Nation
6 under God, indivisible, with liberty and
7 justice for all.

8 Next on the agenda is our public
9 comment period. The council's resolution
10 to address police reform was uploaded to
11 this agenda on Monday.

12 Remember if you are watching the
13 meeting, please watch it over -- go over
14 to our website to watch this, that we can
15 only have 100 participants in the meeting
16 at a given time. Therefore, once you
17 have finished your comments, you will be
18 removed from the meeting if others are in
19 the waiting room.

20 Please keep your comments brief, up
21 to two minutes. No one is allowed to
22 yield their time to anyone else. Please
23 be respectful and address the council as
24 a whole.

25 As a reminder, public comment is



1 a -- is not a dialogue or discussion with
2 the council members. However, at the end
3 of this public comment period, any member
4 of the council may respond.

5 Please raise your hand in Zoom if
6 you would like to address the council.
7 Look for it in the participants or
8 reactions area of the toolbar on the
9 bottom of your Zoom window.

10 We will call your name, ask you to
11 unmute, and turn your video on. Before
12 you begin, state your name and the city
13 or town where you reside.

14 We'll open up public comment. The
15 first person I see is Terry Diggory.
16 Please unmute and turn your video on.

17 TERRY DIGGORY: Thank you, Mayor.
18 My name is Terry Diggory. I'm a
19 resident of Saratoga Springs. And I was
20 a member of the police reform task force.

21 Statements by city council members
22 and the city attorney have created public
23 understanding that the intention of the
24 city council resolution is to accept all
25 fifty recommendations of the police



1 reform task force. If this understanding
2 is not correct, it is the duty of the
3 city council to clarify its intention
4 before voting on the resolution.

5 Unfortunately, the wording of the
6 resolution itself is ambiguous. Certain
7 task force recommendations, notably
8 number 32, 39, and 40 are hedged in the
9 resolution with such negative language
10 that a reader might assume they are not
11 being accepted. However, what it means
12 to accept is given such a broad
13 interpretation in the resolution that
14 there should be no obstacle to moving all
15 fifty recommendations forward to the
16 stage of review and implementation
17 specified in Section 5 of the resolution
18 entitled next steps.

19 Again, if that is not the intention
20 of the city council, they have a duty to
21 make that clear to the public before
22 voting on the resolution. A favorable
23 vote should mean that all fifty
24 recommendations have been accepted.

25 Thank you.



1 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

2 Molly Dunn, please unmute and turn
3 your video on.

4 MOLLY DUNN: Molly Dunn, Saratoga
5 Springs.

6 The people of Saratoga Springs
7 deserve better than this. We deserve to
8 be listened to and we deserve to be
9 heard. We deserve the truth. A mother
10 deserves to know what happened to her son
11 who died from the injuries he received
12 after being chased into an alleyway by
13 four police officers. She deserves an
14 investigation. And Daryl Mount deserves
15 justice.

16 As a community, we deserve a
17 civilian review board now. But instead,
18 what do the people of Saratoga Springs
19 get? Instead, we are lied to by the
20 former police chief saying an
21 investigation looking into the police
22 officers surrounding Daryl Mount's case
23 had occurred when no investigation,
24 internal or external, ever took place.

25 Instead, when we demand a civilian



1 review board, city council refuses to
2 commit to implementing one. Instead, we
3 have a city attorney who misled the
4 public by saying we would need to change
5 the city charter in order to have a CRB
6 when in fact that is not true at all.

7 Instead, we have the current police
8 chief who was also a member of the task
9 force have his officers write their own
10 80-page report on the state of their own
11 policing, a report that has nothing to do
12 with racial justice. And worse, he
13 compiled this report without the
14 knowledge of the task force, a task force
15 that he was on.

16 Instead of discussing racial justice
17 in our city, we have city council
18 commissioners sitting here in these
19 meetings touting how great the water is
20 here and how clean the streets are.

21 The people of Saratoga Springs
22 deserve better than this. Daryl Mount
23 and his family deserve better than this.
24 And I'm not sure why you're not listening
25 to us. Our voices will only get louder



1 because we all know that we deserve
2 better than this.

3 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

4 Elizabeth Zack?

5 ELIZABETH ZACK: Hi. I hadn't
6 prepared any remarks, but I would like to
7 say it -- it occurred to me today that
8 one of two things have taken place here.

9 One is that the city council has not
10 shown interest or been in tune with
11 what's been happening with the police
12 task force committee. I as a citizen
13 have been attending all -- most of the
14 meetings and the civilian task force --
15 or the civilian review board has been an
16 issue that has been brought up for -- for
17 months now. And to see a final
18 resolution from the city council that
19 says I don't know if we can, here's what
20 we face -- here are the challenges we
21 face in -- in implementing that, without
22 really for -- having a firm stance on
23 whether or not they will actually rise to
24 the challenge of -- of doing so is --
25 that -- that's startling to me.



1 And the second thing that I will
2 note is if -- if -- if -- if they -- if
3 you weren't in tune with that, if you
4 hadn't been -- which I mean, if -- if you
5 hadn't been aware of that being an issue
6 or something that was brought to light,
7 the second thing I could note is that --
8 that you just were -- were deaf to this
9 and didn't really take this seriously.
10 And are using your last couple of days
11 and weeks -- I mean, we've had three
12 draft resolutions from the city council
13 in the last week about how to deal with
14 primarily the civilian review board, and
15 I -- I just feel like it's a lot of stall
16 tactics on your end to -- to see that
17 this not get implemented.

18 And that's a shame. That's a shame
19 on you as the city council. And I'd like
20 to think that I -- I will reiterate what
21 Molly said a hundred percent, I stand by
22 everything she said. Shame on you.
23 And -- and I -- this is what -- these are
24 our voices. I'm -- I'm a citizen here
25 and I would like to see a civilian review



1 board part of the --

2 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you. Thank you.

3 You're --

4 ELIZABETH ZACK: -- resolution --

5 MAYOR KELLY: -- time is up. Thank
6 you.

7 Michael McQueen?

8 MICHAEL MCQUEEN: Hello. Can you
9 see me?

10 MAYOR KELLY: I can. Thank you,
11 sir.

12 MICHAEL MCQUEEN: Thank you. I'm a
13 student at Skidmore even though I'm
14 currently not on semester right now, I'm
15 not on campus.

16 Saratoga Springs is one of the few
17 places that means the most to me in my
18 life. I was in Tennessee, I have
19 relatives there, and I was part of the
20 George Floyd movement there.

21 When I came back to Saratoga, I was
22 proud to see that people are now speaking
23 up about the Daryl Mount case because we
24 know the SSPD is censoring information.
25 We also know that there are three



1 recordings they have refused to make
2 public which is embarrassing.

3 Molly is right, I -- I congratulate
4 the prior people who spoke on that
5 because it is a joke. We deserve to know
6 what happened. We know what happened,
7 but they're not making it public because
8 it doesn't take eight years to make it
9 public. We know their stalling the
10 commission because a conspiracy happened.
11 If you take it to a court, that would be
12 conspiracy.

13 That is it.

14 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

15 Alice Smith, please turn your video
16 on and unmute.

17 ALICE SMITH: Thank you. My name is
18 Alice Smith. I live in the City of
19 Saratoga Springs.

20 First, I would like to commend
21 Commissioner John Franck for speaking --

22 MAYOR KELLY: Can I stop you right
23 there. If anybody wants to talk to the
24 council, please address the council as a
25 whole.



1 Thank you.

2 ALICE SMITH: Okay. I am addressing
3 it to the council --

4 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you. Address
5 everyone as a whole. Thank you.

6 ALICE SMITH: As a whole, I would
7 like to commend whatever commissioner
8 spoke in favor of this -- establishing a
9 citizens review board. I won't say any
10 names.

11 Research shows that a CRB in some
12 cities have failed, as another
13 commissioner mentioned. However, the
14 research also shows a great success in
15 other cities when it is done correctly.

16 The citizens review board is not
17 meant to be an anti-police agency. In
18 fact, there were a lot of positive
19 comments about our police force. A
20 citizens review board also has another
21 important function, which is to give
22 residents a voice in government.
23 Residents in Saratoga Springs have no
24 voice in government. They can speak for
25 a whole two minutes at a city council



1 meeting, then the comment is as good as a
2 little wrinkled piece of paper in the
3 garbage bin.

4 During the last meeting, we all
5 listened to an elaborate garbled
6 explanation about our unique city
7 government and the reasons why it cannot
8 be approved.

9 I'm sure our city attorney could
10 also come up with a lot of good arguments
11 in support of the citizens review board
12 if our mayor requested him to do so.

13 This message I was getting from
14 those opposed during the last message --
15 during the last meeting was, yes, we
16 would like a citizens review board, but
17 we will be in charge of anything you do,
18 which defeats the whole purpose of the
19 citizens review board.

20 This is never going to go anywhere
21 if you do not take the first step and
22 form the citizens review board. As
23 suggested, the details can be worked out.
24 Saratoga has to move forward. Hopefully
25 for those who do not care to have a



1 citizens review board, the incentive of
2 funding of might make a difference in
3 their decision.

4 Thank you.

5 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

6 Adam Tinkle?

7 ADAM TINKLE: Hello. Adam Tinkle,
8 Saratoga Springs postal code, town of
9 Greenfield.

10 Last week, well over forty-five
11 community members spoke to this body with
12 a unanimous message to adopt and
13 implement the whole 50-point plan the
14 task force produced.

15 We said that's what the Governor's
16 Executive Order 203 demands of the
17 council, and we said that that is what is
18 right. Adopting and implementing, not
19 giving line item vetoes to the police or
20 accepting for consideration or attempting
21 to wriggle out of even giving the
22 implementation body the chance to work
23 through any issues that might arise with
24 the -- in relation to the law which was
25 the proposal of once council member.



1 I heard a different commissioner
2 acknowledge after that public comment
3 period the unanimous discomfort with the
4 weak language of consideration rather
5 than implementation. And yet a third
6 commissioner say that reform was a
7 longtime coming.

8 And I heard the Mayor charge the
9 city attorney with revising the
10 resolution. But given the miniscule and
11 cosmetic changes to this new resolution
12 draft, you would think the tone of public
13 comment was actually the last resolution
14 draft was perfect, when we know that, in
15 fact, the last public comment period
16 forty-five people said exactly the
17 opposite.

18 As the last four commenters, Molly,
19 Elizabeth, Michael, and Alice said, this
20 new resolution draft represents a failure
21 of accountability, a failure of
22 transparency, and a failure of
23 imagination about how we might get to
24 implementation of the forty -- of the
25 four points from the 50-point plan that



1 the current resolution still hedges on.

2 A ban on military weapons and
3 vehicles, recommendation 39, was a direct
4 response to the tragic events of July 30,
5 2020. The spirit of recommendation 39 is
6 to ensure that militarized tactics are
7 never again employed on peaceful
8 demonstrators. But the council's current
9 resolution shows that they have no
10 problem with inviting an armored tank to
11 a peaceful protest.

12 The resolution notes that the
13 council doesn't have the authority to ban
14 the sheriff's department from entering
15 the municipal boundaries of the city.
16 Here, as elsewhere, the resolution
17 willfully distorts and misunderstands the
18 modest, moderate, and research-backed 50-
19 point plan.

20 On July 30th, Chief Crooks and
21 Commissioner Dalton authorized and
22 invited the sheriff's department to bring
23 their riot gear, their pepper bullets,
24 and their tank to use against peaceful
25 protesters. The county's own police



1 reform report acknowledges they did so.

2 And I encourage everyone here --

3 I appear to have been muted. Nope,

4 I'm unmuted now.

5 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Meg, we can't

6 hear you.

7 ADAM TINKLE: I just --

8 MAYOR KELLY: Lisa, can you unmute

9 and turn your video on.

10 Adam, you're done. Thank you.

11 LISA BARBARINO: Hi.

12 MAYOR KELLY: Can I have Adam and

13 Michael turn your videos off. And -- and

14 we need to make more room so if people

15 can sign out because we have people in

16 the waiting room. So please sign out

17 once you're done with your comments so we

18 can get other people in the waiting room.

19 Thank you.

20 Lisa, I'm sorry, go ahead.

21 Lisa Bar -- Barbarino? Can you

22 unmute and turn your video on. Lisa?

23 LISA BARBARINO: Hi. Can you hear

24 me now?

25 MAYOR KELLY: I can. I can't see



1 you, though.

2 LISA BARBARINO: Yeah. Let me see.
3 It wasn't allowing me to start my video.
4 It is now.

5 Hi, I'm a resident of Saratoga
6 Springs. I'm also a teacher and a public
7 servant. So I really relate to the -- to
8 police officers on many levels. We -- we
9 operate -- I'm a high school. We operate
10 in -- in some similar circumstances. We
11 are public servants, we're paid by the
12 tax payers.

13 And I'm so disheartened that this
14 council has not recognized that you
15 couldn't operate a school without school
16 board or certainly wouldn't want you.
17 And why would you want to operate a --
18 a -- a police force that doesn't have any
19 oversight, or certainly doesn't have
20 oversight from the -- the community. I
21 mean it just reeks of trying to hide
22 practices that the community might not be
23 in favor with.

24 And you know in my experience of
25 many, many decades as a teacher, a school



1 board doesn't -- doesn't operate --
2 doesn't get involved in day-to-day
3 operations, they don't really interfere.
4 But they're there when we -- we need --
5 when there are crises in the community,
6 the school community, they -- they
7 oversee budgets and hiring and firing,
8 and they look at data. And -- and they
9 serve to protect the community.

10 And -- and I can't imagine why
11 you're not -- why this council has had
12 such a callous response to a task force
13 that has worked for weeks, possible
14 months, I'm not sure, to -- to put in a
15 better -- better oversight for our
16 community, just to make it a better place
17 to live, a safer place for all.

18 And -- and I'm sorry you haven't
19 adopted this plan in full, especially the
20 community review board. It -- it's --
21 it's really disheartening.

22 Thank you.

23 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

24 Claire Burnett, please turn on your
25 video and unmute. Thank you.



1 CLAIRE BURNETT: Hi. My name is
2 Claire Burnett and I live in Saratoga
3 Springs.

4 I would just like to add to the
5 comments as to why we should implement a
6 civil review board.

7 On October 3rd, 2013, Daryl Mount
8 was taken to the intensive care unit of
9 Ellis Hospital after he supposedly fell
10 from a nineteen-foot platform after a
11 police chase.

12 A noted forensic pathologist
13 reviewed photographs, x-rays, and Albany
14 Medical Center records that concluded
15 that Mount's injuries, which were
16 primarily limited to severe facial wounds
17 to one side of his face, were
18 characteristics of one -- what one would
19 suffer from an assault and not from a
20 fall.

21 Veitch, himself, the police chief
22 who got to retire in 2019, admitted that
23 he lied to a reporter about conducting an
24 internal investigation. There was no
25 apology to Mount's family, no



1 acknowledgements of the prior evidence of
2 assault, and quite frankly, it could
3 happen again without a civil review
4 board.

5 Please put aside politics and think
6 about the people who you were elected to
7 serve. And I know that it must be so
8 tiring to hear that over and over and
9 over again. But we are begging you. We
10 have a chance to make some major changes.
11 And please let it be now. Please approve
12 the civil review board.

13 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

14 CLAIRE BURNETT: Thank you.

15 MAYOR KELLY: John Schroeder, please
16 unmute and turn your video on.

17 JOHN SCHROEDER: John Schroeder,
18 Saratoga Springs.

19 I urge the city council tonight to
20 adopt and implement all 50-points of the
21 task force's plan. We have heard and
22 seen our community demand a civilian
23 review board. And no amount of
24 obfuscation, delay, or excuses will
25 prevent that from happening.



1 I comment John Franck's courageous
2 position on passing --

3 MAYOR KELLY: Can you please -- I'm
4 going to stop you there.

5 JOHN SCHROEDER: And I can only hope
6 that --

7 MAYOR KELLY: Sir -- sir -- sir --
8 sir, can you stop for a minute? You're
9 going to use your time up with me talking
10 over you. So do you want to stop for a
11 minute and listen to me?

12 I'm going to say it again to
13 everybody on here. Please address the
14 council as a whole.

15 JOHN SCHROEDER: Okay.

16 FEMALE SPEAKER: That's bullshit.

17 JOHN SCHROEDER: I would be happy to
18 do that.

19 I would like to address my comments
20 to the council as a whole.

21 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

22 JOHN SCHROEDER: I commend John
23 Franck's courageous position on passing
24 the entire plan. And I can only hope
25 that at least two other commissioners

1 show the same integrity tonight.

2 Thank you, Mayor Kelly.

3 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you for your
4 comments.

5 Sarah Marlin?

6 SARAH MARLIN: Hi, my name is Sarah
7 Marlin.

8 Last week, over forty people spoke
9 nearly unanimously on the want for the
10 50-point plan to be adopted and
11 implemented.

12 This past weekend, there was a call
13 to action in Congress Park that was also
14 met with a significant turnout from
15 people across the Saratoga community in
16 support of adopting and implementing all
17 fifty points of the task force's plan.

18 This third draft resolution is not
19 sufficient. What is sufficient is
20 following the executive order and
21 adopting and implementing all fifty --
22 all of the 50-point plan.

23 Civilian review boards are found
24 throughout New York State and across the
25 country. They are for the betterment for



1 the community as a whole. It's ill-
2 informed to see them as a mechanism that
3 situates the police versus the community.
4 Instead, CRBs build trust, transparency,
5 and accountability between all members of
6 the community and the police force. If
7 the police are doing their jobs to
8 protect and serve all people, then great,
9 the CRB maintains the transparency. But
10 if they aren't doing their jobs
11 correctly, the community must be able to
12 hold them accountable.

13 Again, this third resolution
14 importantly and to huge concern ignores
15 the demands of abandoning no-knock
16 warrants, the diversion of seized assets
17 from law enforcement budgets to social
18 services and ban on military weapons and
19 vehicles.

20 Why are you so unwilling and unable
21 to commit to the community that the
22 militarized tactics used on peaceful
23 protesters as seen on July 30th, an
24 exemplary evening of over policing and
25 excessive use of force, will never happen



1 again.

2 None of these asks, CRB included,
3 are radical ideas. It is no longer a
4 demand to put Saratoga as a leader of
5 police reform, but to catch up with the
6 work of many cities and towns across the
7 country in the fight for racial justice.

8 As stated by other folks, the
9 tremendous seven-month plus work of the
10 task force has been well researched,
11 thought out, and well organized. The
12 community has been organized in demanding
13 you, the city council, adopt and
14 implement the 50-point plan.

15 Now, I am demanding you, city
16 council, elected by the people to serve
17 the people, not the police, to be
18 organized, follow the executive order,
19 and adopt and implement all fifty points
20 of this plan.

21 Thank you.

22 MAYOR KELLY: Thank -- thank you.

23 Samantha, please unmute and start
24 your video.

25 SAMANTHA ENGELMY: Hi, my name is



1 Samantha Engelmy and I live in the City
2 of Saratoga Springs.

3 If I do recall last week, one of the
4 commissioners shared with us -- or
5 multiple commissioners shared that they
6 had something to the effect of inboxes
7 full of emails opposed to civilian
8 review -- review board, and that these
9 emails would be admitted into public
10 comment.

11 I'm concerned that the commissioner
12 or commissioners who mentioned this were
13 giving the same weight, if not more
14 weight, to these emails, than the voices
15 of the community members who have been
16 showing up and giving comments for
17 months.

18 This is the second week in a row
19 that the city's Zoom account could not
20 even hold the number of people hoping to
21 log on to speak in favor of the civilian
22 review board, while those opposed could
23 not be bothered to even attend a single
24 meeting or formally submit a public
25 comment in the proper form as listed on



1 the city website.

2 Thank you.

3 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

4 Mel Boxer, please unmute and turn
5 your video on.

6 MEL BOXER: Hi there. Mel Boxer
7 from Clifton Park. Thanks so much for
8 calling me onto the call.

9 And I just wanted to reiterate
10 pretty much what everyone else is saying,
11 is that it is imperative that we adopt
12 and implement all fifty points across the
13 board. And don't -- do so in such a way
14 that it's not so ambiguous as to how
15 we're going to implement them.

16 And I -- I wanted to make it know
17 that there -- I personally am very
18 passionate about the civilian review
19 board, specifically because I served as a
20 juror on an attempted murder case, and I
21 saw a lot of camera footage from body
22 cams from the different officers. And I
23 can tell you from those cameras, there
24 are people that are on our force that
25 have not handled cases appropriately.



1 And it is imperative that we make sure
2 that if we have anybody on the force that
3 is not doing their job the way they are
4 supposed to, that we can review it and
5 therefore address it.

6 Not only will that help protect the
7 community, but it will also help protect
8 the other officers.

9 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

10 MEL BOXER: That's it.

11 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

12 Ron Kim, please turn your video on
13 and unmute.

14 Ron Kim, are you there?

15 RON KIM: I am. My video is
16 somewhere -- thank you, Mayor.

17 My name is Ron Kim. I live at 9
18 Martin Avenue.

19 First, thank you, city council
20 members, for your service. I also want
21 to particularly thank the police reform
22 task force, they I know spent countless
23 hours.

24 I -- I just ask the city council to
25 pay attention to Executive Order 203



1 which started this process. It says that
2 you were to charge a -- committee, which
3 you did, to adopt an implement
4 recommendations.

5 And then it says, the -- the plan
6 that they come up with shall be offered
7 for public comment which is what we're
8 doing here now.

9 And then it says that the
10 legislative body, the city council, shall
11 ratify or adopt. There is no conditional
12 language. Shall ratify. If the city
13 council doesn't ratify all fifty, here's
14 what's going to happen. We're going to
15 get sued, the city's going to get sued.
16 Lawyers are going to be -- we're going to
17 have to hire lawyers and taxpayers are
18 going to be essentially on the hook for
19 essentially not following the law. We
20 need to follow the law here.

21 And it's very clear, liberal judges,
22 conservative judges of every stripe, will
23 tell you, shall doesn't give you
24 conditional discretion. It says you do
25 something.



1 So it says you shall ratify or
2 adopt, and I'd encourage you to do that
3 and -- and essentially follow the law.

4 Thank you, Mayor.

5 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

6 Suzanne, please unmute and turn your
7 video on.

8 You're -- you have to unmute.

9 SUZANNE KWASNIEWSKI: Thank you,
10 Mayor. Thank you, Ron Kim. I'd like to
11 note that Kim served as public safety
12 commissioner and served the city well.

13 I believe it is morally
14 reprehensible and fiscally irresponsible
15 for this council to not ratify this.
16 State aid and federal aid is at risk.

17 In 2019, municipalities paid over
18 300 million dollars out for police
19 misconduct. New York City paid 175.9
20 million.

21 To continue to not have a civilian
22 review board opens the city up to further
23 liability. And it's just wrong.

24 Thank you.

25 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.



1 Hollyday Hammond, please turn your
2 video on.

3 HOLLYDAY HAMMOND: Hi everyone.

4 After somebody referenced the number
5 of emails that were received about, you
6 know, opposing some of the recommended
7 reforms. So MLK Saratoga ask people to
8 email city council and as of this
9 morning -- or as of tonight, over 220
10 emails were sent through our website.

11 And in addition to that, the task
12 force held fifteen meetings all of which
13 included public comment. They had
14 community forums, they established twelve
15 subcommittees that met endless hours.
16 They had meetings with various groups,
17 stakeholders. They did a survey that
18 1,450 people -- no, sorry -- 1,450
19 people, yeah, responded to in full. And
20 of those, over 300 included testimonials
21 about negative experiences they had with
22 law enforcement, many of which was
23 Saratoga Springs Police Department.

24 But the point is not to emphasize
25 what Saratoga Springs Police Department



1 has done wrong, it's that there's a
2 history that leaves people feeling
3 distrustful. And the people who oppose
4 reform and oppose a civilian review board
5 have not been harmed so their -- their
6 letters should not carry as much weight
7 as those who have been harmed.

8 The only way we're going to begin to
9 rectify past harm and prevent future harm
10 is to listen to the people.

11 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, that's
12 time. Thank you.

13 Anybody else want to public comment,
14 please raise your hand.

15 MALE SPEAKER: Yes, please.

16 MAYOR KELLY: Charlie Samuels, is
17 that you?

18 CHARLIE SAMUELS: Yes, it is.

19 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Please turn
20 your video on and you're unmuted already
21 so I -- I don't know where you are,
22 though.

23 CHARLIE SAMUELS: I should be coming
24 in soon.

25 MAYOR KELLY: Okay.



1 CHARLIE SAMUELS: Start my video,
2 all right. Sorry for the delay.

3 MAYOR KELLY: There you go. Nope,
4 no worries. Go ahead.

5 CHARLIE SAMUELS: So thank you so
6 much for having this meeting and holding
7 this meeting. And thanks for your
8 service, everybody.

9 Well the main -- my memory about a
10 year ago really sort of is analogous to
11 what's happening now. And that is I
12 covered the police covering the Black
13 Lives Matters in front of the post
14 office. And the police, all of them,
15 including Shane Crooks, took a knee. And
16 I saw solidarity there and I thought that
17 was awesome, what a great start to the
18 new, you know, police chief.

19 Now what I just want to say about --
20 about this police reform plan is it is
21 not the community versus SSPD. This plan
22 is the exact opposite. If you adopt all
23 fifty of the recommendations, then the
24 community and the police will -- will
25 make -- you know, will be much more



1 cooperative together and closer to each
2 other and we will all benefit, not just
3 in the community, but financially as
4 well.

5 So thank you.

6 MAYOR KELLY: Thank -- thank you.

7 Can I ask people to sign off and
8 watch us on the website, again, because
9 we have people in the waiting room that
10 we cannot get in.

11 So I see a couple of you are just
12 hanging on after you spoke. If you could
13 sign off and just sign on to the website.
14 Thank you.

15 Lale Davidson?

16 LALE DAVIDSON: Hi there. I'd like
17 to thank the council for their work.

18 And I did look at the resolution and
19 I thank you for some of the changes,
20 like, you know I like that you changed
21 that the implementation committee would
22 be appointed by the Mayor instead of the
23 public safety commissioner. Although, I
24 would be more comfortable if it was, you
25 know, two recommendations from each



1 commissioner, you know, and that the
2 recommendations were taken from, you
3 know, came from nominations that came
4 from the community. That would make me
5 feel that it was a much more democratic
6 process that would transcend personality.

7 But I wanted to make a point, you
8 know, I -- you know, I agree with
9 everybody that really, you know, it's a
10 little confusing because on the one hand,
11 your -- your resolution says we are
12 accepting the -- and identifying the task
13 force recommendations. But then, you
14 know, you've changed some of the things,
15 like number 1, the very, very first thing
16 on this list of the original
17 recommendations was to acknowledge,
18 apologize, reconcile, and review.

19 And I -- I just want to say, you
20 know, an apology doesn't cost any money
21 at all. There's no law that would get in
22 the way of that. And it would go a long
23 way towards establishing trust.

24 And so the removal of that, and then
25 a resolution that says, yeah, we --



1 we're -- we're -- we accept this -- these
2 recommendations, but we're going to
3 change the language, you know, it's
4 just -- it's not doing that really
5 important job that we need of
6 establishing trust.

7 So you know, I want to thank you
8 for, you know, the care you've taken and
9 the movement that you've come -- like, I
10 think you're coming towards us and that's
11 really great. I just wish that you would
12 come the rest of the way.

13 Thank you.

14 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

15 Ed Mitzen, please unmute and turn
16 your video on.

17 MALE SPEAKER: Yes, I'd like to say
18 something.

19 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

20 EDMITZEN: Hi everybody. Really
21 quickly. I just -- first of all, I want
22 to thank the commission. You guys have a
23 thankless job and you put in a ton of
24 hours for very little money and -- and --
25 and get yelled at a lot, so I emphasize



1 with what you're trying to do.

2 And you know I'm one of those people
3 that feels if black lives matter and blue
4 lives matter aren't mutually exclusive --
5 and I -- I agree wholeheartedly with what
6 Charlie said recently, who I don't know,
7 but I thought it was great what he said
8 about a partnership between the community
9 and the police.

10 Just really quickly, I recruit a lot
11 of people of color to this area and --
12 for business. And many of them -- pretty
13 much all of them have had the same
14 reaction, that this is a very inclusive
15 community. They're very aware that while
16 they're in the minority, that they are
17 welcome, they don't feel like they stand
18 out. And I think we have a tremendous
19 leg up on a lot of other communities our
20 size around the country. You know, we
21 have good people that want to do the
22 right thing.

23 I -- I've read the 50-point plan
24 and -- and you know I can't argue with
25 it. My only comment would be that



1 because we've got such a good standing
2 right now, for the most part, anything
3 that we can do to -- provides full
4 transparency to the community is only
5 going to make it easier for me to recruit
6 people here and for people to feel
7 welcome here.

8 And I don't think that that's anti-
9 police. I have many friends in the
10 police department, they're great people.
11 But any time you're providing full
12 transparency to -- to -- to people, I
13 think it's a good thing.

14 So thanks for all you're doing. And
15 I'll shut up. Bye.

16 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

17 Rhianna Stallard, please unmute and
18 turn your video on.

19 Rhianna, are you there?

20 RHIANNA STALLARD: Yeah, I'm trying
21 to get my video.

22 MAYOR KELLY: There you go.

23 RHIANNA STALLARD: Hi.

24 MAYOR KELLY: All right.

25 RHIANNA STALLARD: I thank you all



1 for your time.

2 And I guess I want to -- I just
3 really question what -- what the future
4 will bring and the decisions that -- what
5 the resistance is, right? Like, why
6 actually is there resistance to this?
7 Why is -- why is this such a -- why is
8 this such an issue? Why is this such a
9 battle. Why is not every single
10 commissioner just excited about reform
11 and making this place, this community,
12 safer and more transparent for everyone
13 and more inclusive and more inviting.

14 And I -- I -- I guess I just feel
15 really saddened that -- that there's such
16 pushback. Or that there's even need for
17 all -- all of this energy and all of
18 these meetings and all the rallies.

19 And I would just love to see --
20 yeah, I think that if there's -- if there
21 is interpersonal resistance that that
22 might mean more education is needed and
23 more curiosity and open-mindedness.

24 So thank you and I hope that you can
25 all approach with, yeah, more curiosity.



1 Thanks.

2 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

3 Andrew Beatty? Andrew, please
4 unmute and turn your video on.

5 ANDREW BEATTY: Hi, thank you.

6 I've spoken here before so I'm not
7 going to rehash the old comments that
8 I've -- I've made in the past regarding
9 issues that I've identified with the
10 city's previous settlements on police
11 misconduct and -- and the fact that at
12 various times, those crimes have gone
13 unpunished.

14 I would like to ask where the city
15 and -- and the police department found
16 the budget to produce an eighty-page
17 document apparently arguing why we
18 shouldn't follow the executive order or
19 argue in counter to the content of the
20 task force's report that there's -- under
21 the executive order, there's no option to
22 not adopt or ratify.

23 Just something that occurred to me.
24 Food for thought. So thank you very much
25 for your time.



1 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

2 Eric Lawson, please unmute and turn
3 your video on. Thank you.

4 ERIC LAWSON: My name's Eric Lawson.
5 I live in Saratoga Springs. And I was
6 the one who was responsible for drafting
7 the original civilian review board
8 proposal that Commissioner Martin (ph.)
9 was presented with. And I've followed it
10 fairly closely ever since then.

11 And during this journey, I've
12 reached out to city officials, including
13 Commissioner Dalton and the city
14 attorney. But so far these gestures have
15 not produced any serious conversations.
16 But I think I know what has happened.

17 I like many others in the community
18 view the civilian review board as
19 representing a significant benefit to the
20 residents, visitors, and employees of the
21 city including its police force. It's
22 nonsectarian or should be.

23 Unfortunately, some have adopted an
24 adversarial view of the civilian review
25 board. Rather than a consensus forming



1 to adopt the civilian review board and
2 make it work for the benefit of everyone,
3 strategies have developed to delay its
4 implementation, misconstrue its
5 provisions, and deliberately cast it in a
6 negative light.

7 For example, at the present time,
8 the last resolution proposed creating yet
9 another committee to study the civilian
10 review board in spite of the extensive
11 vetting it received at the hands of the
12 task force.

13 Then there are specific questions
14 being raised about the legality of the
15 civilian review board, questions that
16 could be resolved by joint conversations
17 occurring after the adoption of the CRB
18 model.

19 In a recent communication I sent to
20 the city attorney and to Commissioner
21 Dalton, I went into some detail as to how
22 those matters could be addressed. And --
23 but they should not be used a reason to
24 delay the adoption of the civilian review
25 board.



1 So I urge that that happens without
2 further delay.

3 Thank you.

4 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

5 Lexis Figuerero, turn your video on,
6 please, and unmute.

7 LEXIS FIGUERO: Yep, Lexis
8 Figuerero, Saratoga Springs.

9 For one, I want to say that this
10 whole thing is supposed to be about
11 reimagining police -- policing in New
12 York State. Without a civilian review
13 board, you cannot reimagine anything,
14 you're just adding a few little policies
15 and that's it. Little tweaks here, tweaks
16 there.

17 And also let me say, as a black
18 person who's been in Saratoga Springs
19 since I was seven years old, thirty-four
20 years old right now, I've had many
21 dealings with the police officers that
22 were not good whatsoever since I was
23 eleven years old. And those aren't made
24 up lies. And I personally did not -- I
25 did not put in any complaints either



1 because I wasn't -- I didn't feel safe
2 enough to put complaints in. So I never
3 put a complaint in either.

4 Nowadays people are putting comments
5 in now because people are feeling a
6 little more safe to do things. A
7 civilian review board would have a place
8 for people to be able to come, to be able
9 to speak, to be able to view anything
10 that they have any problems with. They
11 also would do nothing but provide
12 transparency for the people.

13 And once again, we will say that you
14 cannot say that we can trust this police
15 and that this police force is so good
16 when once again you have a murder of a
17 boy that is still uninvestigated, and
18 nobody knows anything about it. And
19 everybody knows that's what you guys did.
20 Plain and simple. And we are going to
21 call it out.

22 And also as far as this meeting,
23 this meeting is of the people. This is
24 not a Meg Kelly's meeting. I don't know
25 why you think that you can tell people



1 not to call commissioners out --

2 MAYOR KELLY: Sir -- sir --

3 LEXIS FIGUERO: -- commissioners --

4 MAYOR KELLY: -- sir, you need to --
5 you need to stop, okay?

6 LEXIS FIGUERO: What's that?

7 MAYOR KELLY: You know the rules.

8 You've been here before. So just stop.

9 LEXIS FIGUERO: It would --

10 MAYOR KELLY: You don't call anybody
11 out.

12 LEXIS FIGUERO: That was never the
13 rule before --

14 MAYOR KELLY: And you don't call
15 anybody out.

16 LEXIS FIGUERO: That was never the
17 rule before.

18 MAYOR KELLY: Okay, so you're done.
19 Thank you for your comment.

20 LEXIS FIGUERO: Cool, thank you.
21 Bullshit.

22 MAYOR KELLY: Pam Jacobs, please
23 unmute and turn your video on.

24 PAM JACOBS: Hi there. My name is
25 Pam, I live in the Bronx. I'm speaking



1 on behalf of my best friends tonight who
2 are multigeneration Saratoga Springs
3 residents, both white people and black
4 people.

5 This is not the police -- this is
6 not the people versus police. This is
7 the people versus racism. Any act that
8 thwarts, subverts, contravenes, or -- or
9 contravenes the will of the people set
10 forth in the 50-point plan is racist.
11 Placing limitations on the hot button
12 points is powerplay, immoral, and racist,
13 and should be subject to review by the
14 civil liberties union.

15 Not only have you not met your
16 obligation as a body in service to the
17 public, you've insulted the people. By
18 your language -- and by your language and
19 action have cemented the probability of
20 further harm to your communities of
21 color.

22 Thank you, very much.

23 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

24 Martel Catalano, please unmute and
25 turn your video on.



1 MARTEL CATALANO: Hi, I'm Martel
2 Catalano, Saratoga Springs --

3 MAYOR KELLY: Can you -- can you
4 speak up? I can hardly hear you.

5 MARTEL CATALANO: How's that?

6 MAYOR KELLY: A little bit better.
7 Just use a -- your outside voice.

8 MARTEL CATALANO: Yeah. Saratoga
9 Springs -- downtown Saratoga Springs.

10 I just really want to echo what
11 everybody's been saying so far. This is
12 my first one of these meetings, I haven't
13 been able to make past meetings. And as
14 somebody who lived in Saratoga from 2007
15 to 2011 as a Skidmore student, and then
16 chose to return to Saratoga in 2015 as a
17 place where I wanted to live and work and
18 raise a family, I'm just so disappointed
19 in this city in the -- within the last
20 year, what I've been seeing, what I've
21 been hearing.

22 I've read the fifty points and I've
23 heard multiple people in this
24 conversation say that there were, like,
25 something -- a bunch of emails about



1 resistance to these points or this --
2 this task force. But like where are
3 those people? If there's so much
4 resistance, where are they tonight?

5 I haven't heard -- I mean, I had to
6 leave the room for a minute, but I
7 haven't heard any. And it just seems
8 like -- it just doesn't look good for you
9 guys. And it doesn't look -- it seems
10 like there's something to -- to cover up.

11 I just don't see any resistance. So
12 that -- I -- I just wanted to echo that
13 and really, you know, what Mr. --
14 somebody said earlier about this being a
15 thankless job, I do commend you for
16 taking this job, but you know, it is the
17 job. So that's all I'll say.

18 Thanks.

19 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

20 Davia MalcolM, please unmute and
21 start your video.

22 DAVIA MALCOLM: Hello, my name is
23 Davia Malcolm. I was born and raised in
24 Saratoga. I currently live in Albany.

25 And I'm not understanding what is so



1 hard about the fifty -- just accepting
2 it. Like, I don't get it -- the 50-point
3 plan.

4 I mean, growing up in Saratoga, we
5 saw it every day. There was only three
6 of us in elementary school. Being a
7 brown kid in Saratoga is not easy. I
8 would love to move back to Saratoga, but
9 I have a little boy. I don't want him to
10 be a statistic because we're profiled all
11 the time. And then -- I don't know.

12 I'm just really disappointed. I
13 love my hometown, but it's just really
14 sad that you guys aren't seeing it.

15 That's all.

16 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

17 Chandler Hickenbottom, please unmute
18 and turn your video on.

19 CHANDLER HICKENBOTTOM: Hi. My name
20 is Chandler Hickenbottom.

21 I just would like to say that -- I'm
22 going to start off by saying that this
23 entire time I've seen that people of
24 color have been silenced.

25 It starts off with, again, I'm going



1 to go back to the first talk about racism
2 and systemic racism in June. It's
3 happening today. It's happening with the
4 fact that you have a 50-point plan that
5 was created with eight black people on
6 your task force and you're now silencing
7 them.

8 You've continuously silenced people
9 of color that are your citizens. You
10 just did it a few moments ago when you
11 silenced my brother and you deleted -- or
12 you decided to take him off the call.
13 And you're continuously doing it now.
14 And I just don't understand that.

15 Why can we -- I don't understand
16 what is the point of doing anything like
17 this, having public comment in any sort
18 of way, when we can't even speak. You're
19 dictating what we can and can't say.
20 That makes no sense.

21 We are here to adopt and implement
22 the 50-point plan, which is what you
23 should be doing because that is what
24 these people did for seven months. They
25 worked seven months to give you a plan



1 that was flawless, a hail Mary. And you
2 don't even know how to take it
3 gracefully.

4 It's disgusting, honestly. It's
5 despicable, honestly. And the fact that
6 Daryl Mount to this day, nothing, there's
7 been no apology, is disgusting.

8 So just know that after this, you
9 have just -- you've -- you've set
10 yourself -- you've set yourself up
11 because we will be --

12 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you. Thank you,
13 that's your time.

14 CHANDLER HICKENBOTTOM: -- you will
15 remember my name. You will say it
16 correctly --

17 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

18 CHANDLER HICKENBOTTOM: -- every
19 single time.

20 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

21 CHANDLER HICKENBOTTOM: So I'll see
22 you all this summer --

23 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

24 CHANDLER HICKENBOTTOM: -- while
25 fucking up your economy. Have fun.



1 MAYOR KELLY: Can you please --

2 CHANDLER HICKENBOTTOM: Yep.

3 MAYOR KELLY: -- take Chandler off
4 of the call, please?

5 CHANDLER HICKENBOTTOM: Thank you.

6 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

7 SAMIRA SANGARE: Hi, Samira Sangare,
8 Clifton Park.

9 It's really disappointing that we're
10 here today as a community trying to
11 convince elected officials to listen to
12 our voice and the voices that they
13 themselves put in place.

14 Every single fifty point needs not
15 only to be considered but implemented and
16 carried out.

17 I don't see why Saratoga can easily
18 shoot rubber bullets and pepper bullets
19 at their community and then not give them
20 what they're asking for. Like how is it
21 easier to harm your community than help
22 it.

23 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you. Are you
24 done?

25 SAMIRA SANGARE: As shown in Albany,



1 it was only take -- it only takes less
2 than one percent to make the CPRB work.
3 And not doing this is purposefully
4 showing your unwillingness to even look
5 at your community. It shows that our
6 city officials are not really here for
7 the people, but for their paychecks that
8 they receive and the community's dime.

9 It's sad that the family of Daryl
10 Mount have to continually, every single
11 day, with -- go without justice and due
12 process for their loved one. But the
13 mayor and police chief continue to cash
14 in their paychecks, instead of launch a
15 simple investigation for the murder of
16 Daryl Mount.

17 And finally, thank you to Jon Franck
18 for being the only member on the city
19 council to speak up --

20 MAYOR KELLY: We're done. Thank
21 you.

22 SAMIRA SANGARE: -- and stand
23 behind --

24 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you for your
25 comments.



1 SAMIRA SANGARE: -- what the people
2 want. And that's it.

3 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

4 Okay, we're going to wrap this up in
5 about ten minutes. So if you want to
6 comment, I -- I -- you need to jump in
7 here now.

8 I'll turn it over to Kevin Scott,
9 please unmute.

10 ROBERT REED: I have something to
11 say. This is Robert Reed, can you hear
12 me?

13 MAYOR KELLY: Robert, you're not on
14 yet. I have Kevin Scott, please. I'll
15 get you next, Robert. Thank you.

16 ROBERT REED: Bob Reed to you, thank
17 you.

18 KEVIN SCOTT: Well, this is Kevin
19 Scott, currently in New York City. And
20 I've had about four to six years of
21 experience living and staying in Saratoga
22 as a student and just as a plain
23 resident.

24 One of the things that I kind of
25 wanted to bring up and just discuss is



1 the police's own statistics on
2 essentially stopping and policing. We
3 know that for a fact the population of
4 Saratoga, it's black and minority
5 population is no more than maybe ten,
6 fifteen percent. But from 2013
7 continuing onward to 2018/2020 and so
8 forth, they make up more than half of all
9 stops and arrests by the police in the
10 Saratoga community.

11 I don't understand logistically how
12 with those numbers we haven't actually
13 moved to implement a 50-step plan.

14 Furthermore, we have to think long
15 term and economically about why we should
16 be doing this. And one of the big
17 reasons is we need people to come -- more
18 people to come into Saratoga. And
19 ultimately, we're not going to have that
20 if people are uncomfortable coming in to
21 Saratoga and the existing young
22 population is leaving at a record pace.

23 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

24 KEVIN SCOTT: Thank you.

25 MAYOR KELLY: Robert Reed, you're



1 on.

2 ROBERT REED: What I need to say is
3 a couple of things to all of you --

4 MAYOR KELLY: Can you -- do you have
5 video, Robert?

6 ROBERT REED: Do you?

7 MAYOR KELLY: Do you have video?

8 ROBERT REED: No, I can't see -- can
9 you see me?

10 MAYOR KELLY: I cannot see you.
11 That's okay. We can hear you. But I
12 can't hear you now, you're muted.

13 ROBERT REED: What about now?

14 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. I can hear you
15 now, Robert. Go ahead.

16 ROBERT REED: Okay. Bob Reed to
17 you -- to everybody who knows me, after
18 signing their way.

19 This is what -- the plan in order
20 to -- let's keep one thing in mind.
21 There's four of you being on the city
22 council it's not going to be here in
23 November.

24 MAYOR KELLY: Robert, you keep
25 cutting in and out and -- and I lost you.



1 So --

2 ROBERT REED: Can you hear me now?

3 MAYOR KELLY: You're -- you're just
4 cutting in and out. I don't know.

5 ROBERT REED: Now? Now? Now? Now?
6 Now?

7 MAYOR KELLY: Yep, I hear you now,
8 Bob. Yep.

9 ROBERT REED: Okay. The bottom
10 line, what I'm saying, four of you not
11 going to run for reelection in November.
12 And the two people that's on the council
13 that may be. But this is going to be a
14 landmark decision that's going to follow
15 you as to what action you took and how
16 you affect the -- the charter, the
17 Saratoga Springs, and everything in
18 general.

19 You need to look at that because
20 once you the last -- you going to leave a
21 legacy to whoever's the incumbent, if
22 those are not reelected, to be able to
23 face the very same thing that everyone is
24 saying.

25 I'm a resident here for almost ten



1 years. I don't have the same input that
2 those who's been here longer. But I have
3 seen what Saratoga's capable of and I
4 respect the people that I've had a chance
5 to work with that's in the position that
6 you're all in.

7 But think about that. You're going
8 to be the last person for this resolution
9 203. If you don't -- if you -- excuse
10 me. When you're not going to come back,
11 and whoever else take your place, you
12 not --

13 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

14 ROBERT REED: You got it?

15 MAYOR KELLY: Yep, we're good, Bob.
16 Thank you.

17 ROBERT REED: All right. Thank you.

18 MAYOR KELLY: Yep.

19 Jane Weihe, please turn your video
20 on.

21 JANE WEIHE: Oops, I can't start the
22 video. Oops, sorry. There we go.

23 MAYOR KELLY: It's up, yeah.

24 JANE WEIHE: Okay. So I -- I want
25 to thank the task force. They didn't



1 have an easy job doing this in seven
2 months without any budget to speak of and
3 working during a pandemic.

4 I want to thank the city council.
5 You could have done the politically easy
6 thing and just passed all these
7 recommendations as is. But this would
8 also have been the dishonest thing to do.
9 So I want to thank you for taking your
10 job seriously and taking these
11 recommendations seriously with -- and --
12 and being straight with all of us as to
13 which recommendations are not doable due
14 to legal conflicts with existing law, for
15 instance, and which may have
16 complications down the road.

17 Also, I want to thank Chief Shane
18 Crooks for his work gathering additional
19 information. I feel strongly you can
20 never have too much information, you can
21 only have too little. And I'm sorry some
22 have reacted negatively to his efforts.

23 Thank you.

24 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

25 Winston Grady?



1 WINSTON GRADY: Thank you. Thank
2 you, very much, Mayor Kelly, members of
3 the city council.

4 It's good for me to follow the --
5 the community member who just spoke.
6 I'll be pretty brief. The -- I think the
7 community for the most part has spoken
8 with respect to -- the position with
9 respect to the fifty recommendations.

10 But I do want to raise an issue that
11 some folks have -- have raised and that's
12 with regard to the -- the report, the
13 document, that's referred to as Community
14 Stakeholder Responses, which has a
15 prominent place on the -- the website
16 under the Saratoga Springs Police Reform
17 Task Force.

18 Several of us former task force
19 members signed a -- a letter asking why
20 that document was placed on the website,
21 why it has the prominence that it has,
22 particularly given the fact that it could
23 be read, particularly in a cursory
24 glance, as almost a parallel or
25 adversarial report. Even though we all



1 agreed as task force members that should
2 someone feel strongly enough that they
3 could formally submit a minority report.

4 So I just have two questions for you
5 folks, and I thank you for your time.

6 Can you someone share for the record
7 who's responsible for -- for getting that
8 document on the website. And also share
9 with us the thinking in terms of keeping
10 the document on the website despite the
11 concerns that several of us have raised.

12 Thank you, very much.

13 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

14 Anyone else?

15 KEVIN BENCKENDORF: Yes, Mayor, I
16 would like to speak?

17 MAYOR KELLY: Oh, who is that? Is
18 this Kevin?

19 KEVIN BENCKENDORF: Yes.

20 MAYOR KELLY: Okay, Kevin, go ahead.

21 KEVIN BENCKENDORF: Let me get my
22 video going here.

23 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you. There you
24 go.

25 KEVIN BENCKENDORF: First of all,



1 Mayor, and city council, I appreciate you
2 guys very much.

3 We meet regularly every Tuesday
4 night praying for you guys. We know that
5 you have a very hard job, and we pray for
6 God's wisdom upon you every week that you
7 meet.

8 I would also like to say that I am
9 so appreciative of the police force in
10 this city. I have lived here for seven
11 years, they are the kindest, nicest
12 people. We interact with them all the
13 time. And I think the problem is with
14 the citizens not understanding the law of
15 the land. And many are breaking it,
16 expecting the police to turn and ignore
17 when they do something wrong, just as
18 we've seen with the way protests happen
19 in areas in the city that are not
20 allowed.

21 And -- and so I commend you guys and
22 I ask that you do not ratify this
23 referendum.

24 Thank you.

25 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.



1 Angela McGovern, please unmute and
2 turn your video on.

3 ANGELA MCGOVERN: Good evening. I'm
4 speaking tonight on behalf of members of
5 the Saratoga Springs PBA in regards to
6 the proposed resolutions put forth by the
7 police reform task force.

8 While we understand that a lot of
9 time and effort was put into creating
10 this product, we believe that there is a
11 serious lack of effort to understand or
12 obtain any insight as to what our
13 dedicated officers do on a daily basis,
14 how they do their job, or to learn how
15 the policies, practices, and case law
16 precedent govern how we perform our
17 duties.

18 It is our understanding that task
19 force members were invited by the police
20 department's leadership to attend
21 department trainings and scenario-based
22 drills, and each and every one of them
23 declined. They were also invited by our
24 union to do the same, and we too were met
25 with no response.



1 This lack of care to get an
2 intricate well -- well-informed look into
3 the roles and responsibilities of the
4 police department does not reflect a
5 desire to foster a community where
6 everyone's voices are heard.

7 We are asking that you make more of
8 a serious attempt to work together with
9 us to understand how we fulfill our
10 responsibilities. One aspect of policing
11 will never change. That aspect is that
12 we cannot be effective in maintaining the
13 highest level of safety without the
14 community's cooperation and support.

15 Our members desire both. And we
16 look forward to a day that that becomes a
17 reality. We care not about color, but
18 about protecting the people in the City
19 of Saratoga Springs and -- and protecting
20 them from the evil that we so surely know
21 exists.

22 As long as this evil continues to
23 exist, policing will remain. We have a
24 job to do, and we intend to continue to
25 protect the people.



1 As a PBA, our door will always be
2 open. Instead of hurling insults and
3 racial slurs at our members in the middle
4 of a city street, let's find a way to
5 move forward while making sure all
6 parties are heard and understood. Let's
7 become one of the first and few cities in
8 the nation to work together, government
9 officials, law enforcement, and the
10 public, to ensure that the law continues
11 to be upheld and that our beautiful City
12 of Saratoga Springs is a safe place for
13 everyone.

14 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you. Thank you.
15 Kristin Dart? Can you unmute --
16 there you go. Thank you.

17 KRISTIN DART: Hi. Kristin Dart,
18 Saratoga Springs, member of the Saratoga
19 Springs police reform task force.

20 I actually wasn't going to speak
21 tonight because I think you all have
22 heard a lot from us, and I spoke the last
23 time.

24 But I did want to uplift both what
25 Winston raised and also just respond that



1 the police chief, as you all know, did
2 sit on the task force. We were not made
3 aware of that survey, the responses to
4 it. The only way in which that survey
5 that the police chief conducted that we
6 were made aware of, he told us it was
7 being sent out. We were not informed of
8 the questions, and once we asked for
9 input, the survey was already in
10 progress.

11 Members of our task force did meet
12 with the PBA president. And every single
13 one of our meetings was open to the
14 public. In fact, we had the majority of
15 one of our meetings with officers -- with
16 an officer from the Saratoga Police
17 Department talk about their training and
18 the practices. And I sat on the training
19 subcommittee and actually applauded our
20 police department for the work that they
21 had done in getting our officers trained
22 beyond what is required of them.

23 Any single police officer was
24 welcome to talk to task force members. I
25 set up an individual meeting with the



1 chief to have further conversation. We
2 asked questions and were inquisitive
3 about what the police department did.

4 And it's really disappointing to
5 hear that the police department did not
6 feel engaged, especially with their
7 leader sitting at the table. And that
8 seems like maybe something that should
9 have come up and that the police chief
10 should have been more vocal about his
11 concerns at the task force level so we
12 could have addressed them.

13 We did our darndest to work in a
14 collaborative manner. And to be called
15 out in this way just seems really
16 unfortunate, especially at the last
17 minute.

18 And again it cannot be stated
19 enough. For the first time, we have a
20 majority members of black people leading
21 a movement in Saratoga and --

22 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you. Thank you,
23 that's your time. Thank you

24 KRISTIN DART: -- that's really sad.

25 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.



1 Kevin Scott, did you speak already?

2 KEVIN SCOTT: Yes, I did. I
3 understand if I can't again.

4 MAYOR KELLY: Right. You can't. I
5 have other people ahead, so we've got to
6 move on.

7 Daesha Harris, please unmute and
8 turn your video on.

9 DAESHA HARRIS: Hi, Daesha Harris,
10 Saratoga Springs, New York. I am also a
11 member of the task force.

12 It never ceases to amaze me how
13 white people continue to center
14 themselves in a conversation that is not
15 about them.

16 The reason for Executive Order 203
17 is the murder and abuse of black people.
18 The police are not the center of this.
19 The police are also not alone in having
20 to reform the institution that they work
21 for. The city council has to -- has to
22 do the reform. The library has to do the
23 reform. Every single institution in this
24 city, in this nation, has to do the
25 reform. The difference is police have



1 weapons that can hurt people.

2 So please stop centering yourself.

3 We had a task force of eight black people
4 who worked through a pandemic, and a
5 pandemic of racism. You cannot imagine
6 the amount of grief we had to bear
7 watching people die on a weekly basis and
8 then work on police reform.

9 Just stop. I can't say anymore.

10 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you. Thank you.
11 Brielle?

12 BRIELLE MASTROIANNI: Hi, good
13 evening. My name is Brielle, I live in
14 Albany, but have very, very dear loved
15 ones who live in Saratoga Springs,
16 Ballston Spa, and Clifton Park.

17 So I kind of have, like, one
18 question to all of you, except one of
19 you. One of you is all right, hey, J.F.,
20 you good. How does it feel to suck so
21 much? Like, suck --

22 MAYOR KELLY: Oh okay -- if -- if --

23 BRIELLE MASTROIANNI: -- a lot.

24 MAYOR KELLY: -- if this is going to
25 be -- go this route --



1 BRIELLE MASTROIANNI: -- you're
2 kicking people off of the meetings --

3 MAYOR KELLY: -- we're going to end
4 it right now. Okay, so --

5 BRIELLE MASTROIANNI: -- you're
6 talking shit --

7 MAYOR KELLY: Okay, can you mute
8 and --

9 FEMALE SPEAKER: Like, girl, I can
10 see you sitting there and talking --

11 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

12 FEMALE SPEAKER: -- and you're not
13 even listening --

14 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. At this time,
15 we're closing public comment. Thank you
16 for all your comments. And I will --

17 FEMALE SPEAKER: Mayor Kelly?

18 MAYOR KELLY: -- I actually will go
19 right --

20 FEMALE SPEAKER: Mayor Kelly?

21 MAYOR KELLY: -- to my agenda. And
22 my first item on my agenda is discussion
23 for the resolution regarding New York
24 State Police Reform and Reinvention
25 Collaborative Plan.



1 I move that the city council approve
2 the resolution regarding the New York
3 State Police Reform and Reinvention
4 Collaborative Plan.

5 This is a motion; is there a second?

6 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Second.

7 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion? I'd
8 like to turn it over to Vince DeLeonardis
9 at this time to just go over the changes
10 that we did update with.

11 Go ahead, Vince.

12 MR. DELEONARDIS: Thank you, Mayor.

13 So before you this evening is the
14 third and final resolution regarding the
15 New York State Police Reform and
16 Reinvention Collaborative Plan. The
17 resolution is similar to the one
18 discussed at last week's special city
19 council meeting with certain changes,
20 including the removal of the words "for
21 consideration" in the second to last
22 whereas paragraph and in the therefore
23 paragraph, adding references to
24 collective bargaining agreements and
25 contractual obligations in section 5, and

1 indicating that the independent advisory
2 committee will be appointed by the mayor
3 to provide advice and input on the
4 implementation of the accepted
5 recommendations and to also review the
6 issues identified for a civilian review
7 board.

8 The resolution now up for a
9 discussion and vote is in conformance
10 with Governor Cuomo's Executive Order
11 203. I know that there has been some
12 discussion, and I think some confusion,
13 as to what the executive order requires
14 and what it does not.

15 It should be emphasized at the
16 outset that the clear intent of the order
17 was for local governments to engage
18 community members and stakeholders in an
19 overall effort to improve the policies
20 and practices of the police department
21 and to establish a plan that provides for
22 such improvements. And we have done
23 that.

24 The order very clearly places the
25 burden and responsibility upon the local



1 government to develop this plan and to
2 adopt it by local law or resolution after
3 offering it for public comment to all
4 citizens in the city and after
5 consideration of such comments. The task
6 force established by the mayor and the
7 city council was part of the process.
8 And they worked diligently to establish a
9 list of fifty recommendations for the
10 city council to consider.

11 To suggest, though, as some have,
12 that the recommendations are actually not
13 recommendations at all, but are instead
14 somehow demands that must be followed, is
15 to misread and misinterpret the executive
16 order and to misconstrue the very intent
17 of that order.

18 To be clear, the council is not
19 under any type of directive or mandate to
20 accept every single recommendation
21 provided by the task force. And I have
22 personally confirmed this fact with the
23 deputy secretary of public safety under
24 Governor Cuomo's administration.

25 Of the fifty --



1 MALE SPEAKER: Open mic up. Pure
2 racist.

3 MAYOR KELLY: Can we -- can we --

4 MALE SPEAKER: Yep.

5 MAYOR KELLY: Yep. Thank you.

6 Sorry, Vince.

7 I'm going to take everybody off the
8 call if we get another interruption. So
9 let's continue on, Vince, thank you.

10 MR. DELEONARDIS: Of the fifty
11 recommendations, there are only two which
12 have been identified as items that the
13 city council simply does not have the
14 authority to implement. And they include
15 the recommendation to divert seized
16 assets and the recommendation to somehow
17 ban county, state, and federal law
18 enforcement from entering the city if
19 they happen to participate in the DOD
20 1033 program.

21 Does anyone really believe that we
22 would not be in compliance with Executive
23 Order 203 if we do not accept
24 recommendations which we have no legal
25 ability to accept?



1 Of the fifty recommendations, there
2 were also only two which were identified
3 as simply requiring further review. And
4 they include the recommendation to ban
5 no-knock warrants and to implement a
6 civilian review board. These
7 recommendations have not been rejected,
8 but instead called out for further
9 evaluation.

10 At previous city council meetings, I
11 have discussed the need --

12 MALE SPEAKER: Further evaluation by
13 you white mother fuckers, huh?

14 MAYOR KELLY: Oh, okay --

15 MALE SPEAKER: You're not black,
16 you're not black. Black lives matter.

17 MAYOR KELLY: Okay, Lisa. Can we
18 take most of these people off, please?
19 Thank you.

20 I'm sorry, we're -- give this a
21 minute. We're going to clear the --

22 MALE SPEAKER: Yes, silence the
23 people who care.

24 MAYOR KELLY: -- and limit to the
25 council --



1 MALE SPEAKER: Racist policies don't
2 do --

3 FEMALE SPEAKER: Don't be racist,
4 don't be racist.

5 MALE SPEAKER: You can't silence us.
6 You can't silence us. Do what's right.
7 Do what's morally right of --

8 MR. DELEONARDIS: Shall I proceed,
9 Mayor?

10 MAYOR KELLY: Wait -- wait a second,
11 Vince, please.

12 MALE SPEAKER: You cowards, you guys
13 are cowards.

14 MAYOR KELLY: Okay, everybody just
15 breath.

16 Okay. Go ahead, Vince, please
17 continue.

18 MR. DELEONARDIS: At previous city
19 council meetings, I have discussed the
20 need to evaluate a civilian review board
21 to ensure compliance with our city
22 charter and to determine whether an
23 amendment to the charter would be
24 required.

25 I have also indicated that we will



1 need to identify any components which may
2 run afoul of existing collective
3 bargaining agreements and New York civil
4 service law.

5 The components of a civilian review
6 board will need to be determined by the
7 city council including the purpose,
8 scope, and function of such a board. It
9 is only once these components are fully
10 established that we will know the extent
11 to which the charter, union contracts,
12 and state law would be affected.

13 There are issues with the civilian
14 review board proposed by the task force
15 that the city council will ultimately
16 have to address and evaluate before
17 moving forward, including due
18 consideration of any possible
19 alternatives where appropriate.

20 For example, the task force has
21 proposed that only a resident of the city
22 can file a complaint with the civilian
23 review board. Why? As we all know,
24 there are times during the year when we
25 have more nonresidents in the city than



1 residents. Why not allow them the
2 ability to file a complaint? What about
3 the department itself or other
4 departments? If the chief or the
5 commissioner has an issue with an officer
6 and wishes to pursue discipline, should
7 they not utilize the civilian review
8 board prior to imposing such discipline.
9 If not, why not? Is the conduct of some
10 officers really going to be reviewed by
11 an independent board while others are
12 reviewed by the department. What about
13 the ability of a civilian review board to
14 investigate police conduct even in the
15 absence of a complaint?

16 The city council has an obligation
17 to consider these and other alternatives
18 to a civilian review board.

19 What about complaints that involve
20 or relate to an ongoing criminal
21 investigation, a prosecution, or a civil
22 lawsuit. How does the civilian review
23 board operate in a manner which does not
24 interfere in those matters? The proposal
25 submitted by the task force makes

1 reference to "parallel legal proceedings"
2 and indicates that it will be cognizant
3 of such proceedings but is completely
4 silent on how they will actually conduct
5 their factfinding during those
6 situations. Will they be allowed to
7 subpoena a witness who is already
8 involved in a criminal investigation, a
9 prosecution, or an ongoing lawsuit?
10 These matters need to be addressed and
11 resolved.

12 The task force has also proposed
13 that the civilian review board will only
14 accept complaints that have been reduced
15 to writing and apparently only on the
16 form referenced in their proposal. Why?
17 What about complaints that are not
18 reduced to writing? There are in fact
19 occasions where the department receives
20 verbal complaints. Should the department
21 investigate those internally while the
22 civilian review board investigates those
23 that have been reduced to writing? What
24 about anonymous complaints?

25 The task force has proposed that the



1 civilian review board receive and process
2 grievances regarding the conduct of
3 employees of the police department. What
4 type of grievances are they referring to?
5 Do they mean that any and all conduct
6 will be subject to civilian review and,
7 if so, why? Should the civilian review
8 board be responsible at taxpayer expense
9 for investigating relatively minor
10 infractions or deviations from city
11 policies when we already have HR? Why
12 should other employees of the city go
13 through human resources, while members of
14 the police department go through a
15 civilian review board for the very same
16 conduct?

17 Other municipalities that have
18 implemented a civilian review board have
19 limited their review to use of force or
20 similar type complaints, recognizing that
21 the police are unlike other municipal
22 employees in that they have the authority
23 to use and exert force. Is this type of
24 limitation appropriate? Has it been
25 considered?



1 Regarding the board itself, the task
2 force has proposed that it be made up of
3 five members with only one required to
4 have adjudicatory experience. How is
5 that defined? What if the only
6 individual with adjudicatory experience
7 is required to recuse? Then there is no
8 one to assist the board in seeing that
9 matter through to completion.

10 The proposed civilian review board
11 also calls for the members to engage in
12 mediation. But how are we ensuring that
13 the members are in fact qualified to
14 mediate? What training are we requiring?

15 MAYOR KELLY: Vince, can you hold up
16 a second.

17 Commissioner Dalton: You're muted.

18 COMMISSIONER DALTON: She needs to
19 hit the unmute button.

20 MAYOR KELLY: I got it.

21 COMMISSIONER DALTON: I have a
22 little disturbance outside my office.
23 Can you give me one quick second to see
24 what's going on so I can secure the
25 office and continue.



1 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. All right.

2 Let -- let us know. Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you.

4 Sorry. One of our officers is addressing

5 it. We're all set. Thank you.

6 MR. DELEONARDIS: Go ahead, Mayor?

7 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you. Continue,

8 Vince. Than you.

9 MR. DELEONARDIS: The task force --
10 the task force proposal also provides
11 that if there is a recusal, then the
12 chair must also refrain from voting so as
13 to maintain an uneven number of voting
14 members. Why would there need to be a
15 reduction in voting members? Normally,
16 and as it is with the city council, if
17 there is a five-member board, three votes
18 are required to pass a matter. If one
19 member recuses, three votes are still
20 required. Even if two members recuse,
21 three votes are required.

22 But under the task force proposal,
23 there could be a scenario where the
24 conduct of an officer could result in a
25 recommendation for discipline based on



1 three affirmative votes, while the very
2 same conduct of another officer could
3 result in a recommendation based only on
4 two affirmative votes. Does that make
5 sense? Is that fair? Why not consider
6 having alternates serve on the board to
7 address possible recusals.

8 The task force provides for an
9 administrative due process hearing. But
10 it is unclear exactly what this means and
11 whether this hearing is somehow meant to
12 replace or supplement the hearing
13 required by Section 75 of the Civil
14 Service Law before certain discipline can
15 be imposed. If it is meant to
16 supplement, then the question is why. In
17 other words, why would there be a need
18 for a civilian review board to conduct an
19 administrative due process hearing where
20 they would recommend discipline or
21 removal only to then require an entirely
22 separate due process hearing in order to
23 actually accept their recommendation. Is
24 that necessary?

25 On the other hand, the task force



1 proposal -- on the other hand, if the
2 task force proposal is somehow intended
3 to replace the hearing required under
4 Section 75, then it clearly fails to
5 provide for the due process required
6 under that section of the Civil Service
7 Law.

8 And I could go on. These are just
9 some of the issues that need to be
10 addressed. And none of this is to
11 suggest that a civilian review board is
12 either a good idea or a bad idea. It is
13 simply to point out that there remain
14 many issues that need to be evaluated and
15 clarified before moving forward with such
16 a proposal.

17 The council has a responsibility to
18 provide for such evaluation and to
19 consider all appropriate alternatives
20 prior to acting in a legislative manner.
21 This is why the resolution before you
22 proposes the establishment of an
23 independent advisory committee who will
24 assist in conducting this review and
25 report back to the city council and the



1 public.

2 As set forth in the resolution, this
3 committee will be established by the
4 mayor on or before June 1st and will be
5 provided with clear instructions and an
6 appropriate time frame in which to
7 perform their work.

8 The council will then be in a better
9 position to act on the proposed
10 recommendation of a civilian review
11 board. Again, this is not a rejection of
12 the task force's recommendation. It's
13 simply a recommend -- a recognition that
14 further evaluation is required. And
15 calling for further evaluation, we're
16 saying is needed, does not mean that we
17 are somehow not in compliance with the
18 Governor's executive order.

19 We are all in pursuit of the same
20 goal here. And I would be proud to
21 compare what we've done with any other
22 municipality, just as I would be proud to
23 compare our police department, the men
24 and women who serve in it, and the work
25 that they do, with any other department



1 anywhere.

2 MAYOR KELLY: Thank -- thank you,
3 Vince.

4 MR. DELEONARDIS: I don't know if
5 there are questions, Mayor, but if there
6 are, I'd be happy --

7 MAYOR KELLY: So at this time, I'd
8 like to open it up to the council. If
9 anybody has any comments?

10 Commissioner Franck, do you have
11 anything? No.

12 Commissioner Madigan?

13 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I do. I
14 have -- I have spent some time preparing
15 some comments. I -- I think it's
16 important.

17 I know the last couple of meetings
18 were really primarily for me to listen.
19 I didn't have a whole lot to say at the
20 last meeting. I'm confused, I feel like
21 the message has gotten away from us, so I
22 wanted my comments to be short. They're
23 not as short as I'd like, so bear with
24 me. I'd like to read through them.

25 So I will be supporting our



1 resolution before us this evening. It's
2 well done, and it directly responds to
3 the recommendations made by the Saratoga
4 Springs police reform task force. And
5 frankly, does exactly what has been
6 requested by the task force to move their
7 recommendations along for action.

8 I cannot understand all the
9 divisiveness and contrariness or,
10 frankly, why we are being so berated by
11 the public commenters. But I do want to
12 thank the entire task force for your work
13 bringing forward this reinvention plan
14 toward a community-centered justice
15 initiative for the City of Saratoga
16 Springs.

17 And I want to give special thanks to
18 my appointees, Kristen Dart and Daesha
19 Harris. They have been -- they have my
20 sincere appreciation and they certainly
21 did their job.

22 I am well-versed with the
23 undertaking before the city council in
24 accepting this plan and the
25 recommendations contained within the



1 plan. And the resolution before us this
2 evening does just as described by the
3 Governor's Executive Order 203. And it
4 does not put us at risk for future state
5 funding or being sued. I mean, sure, we
6 can be sued, we get sued all the time,
7 but I think we're on very solid -- solid
8 ground.

9 And we are taking this very
10 seriously. The city council finds that
11 the inclusion and acceptance of the fifty
12 recommendations are required in order to
13 ensure accountability, progress, and
14 transparency of the task force's
15 recommended action items. The resolution
16 outlines at a high level a plan to move
17 forward on said recommendations in our
18 Section No. 5.

19 It is my firm belief that each of
20 the fifty recommended action items
21 requires further details and a further
22 response. I mean, some of them are going
23 to be very straightforward and will have
24 a very easy response. Some of them are
25 already completed and we will get back to



1 you with a plan. We tried to outline
2 some of those details in our first draft
3 resolution and we were criticized by many
4 members of the public.

5 The city council has been working
6 diligently to respond to the
7 recommendations, but I will admit I have
8 found it quite difficult to work in this
9 draft mode. Every time we print
10 something for your review, we're berated,
11 we're attacked, there's protests. You
12 know, we are trying to take the public
13 input in, we're trying to read your
14 comments, we are reading through your
15 emails.

16 Most of the emails that were sent
17 this past week were form emails, which is
18 fine, I read them, I took note of them.
19 But some of them were just excellent,
20 excellent comments that deserved a great
21 deal of attention. I thank those people
22 and let them know that each of their
23 emails were read by me.

24 But there are so many people
25 threatening us and demanding, making



1 demands of the city, threatening our
2 racing season, and the city council
3 itself. You know, I'm coming to ruin
4 your economy, I'm coming to ruin your
5 racing season. That doesn't hurt me
6 personally, that hurts everyone. And it
7 does not allow us to open dialogue and
8 move your recommendations forward.

9 I think words matter and making
10 demands and threats is not listening or
11 collaborating. It's taking a very rigid,
12 adversarial stance. Controversial
13 topics, new ways of conducting business,
14 reinventing policing in our society,
15 require comprehensive analysis,
16 productive dialogue, and realistic
17 deadlines. No-knock warrants and
18 civilian review boards are being
19 discussed on a national level, a state
20 level, and we're discussing them right
21 here. This city council is discussing
22 this, and we are taking these things
23 seriously. And we are moving the
24 recommendation forward to determine the
25 most appropriate civilian review board



1 for our city at the local level. It's
2 right there in the resolution with a
3 deadline, we're going to get back to you
4 with how we are going to move this
5 forward. And it will include a review of
6 what you have presented to us, the task
7 force, in your recommendations.

8 This council is being courageous.
9 And with their careful consideration of
10 all fifty recommendations and their
11 willingness to listen and construct
12 multiple drafts to reach some consensus,
13 we are doing exactly what we are elected
14 to do, in addition to all of the other
15 duties this job requires. And there are
16 many.

17 We are not taking an easy way out.
18 We didn't cave to any one group. We are
19 not afraid. We are not rubber stamping
20 anything. And we're not kicking
21 recommendations down the road.
22 Recommendations, by the way, that came
23 from the committee the council created by
24 appointing two people each.

25 The city's attorney has spent



1 endless hours working with us and trying
2 to get this resolution to reflect this
3 progress. It is not perfect, and it does
4 not please everyone, clearly, because
5 nothing is ever perfect and nor does
6 anything ever please everyone.

7 The task force spent months
8 analyzing, interpreting, debating,
9 amending the recommendation. The council
10 has had it less than a month. And yes,
11 we were following the meetings, I was.
12 But still to have a final document given
13 to us on May (sic) 5th, we -- we've done
14 a lot of work between May 5th and May
15 31st. Reform takes time and the Saratoga
16 Springs Police Department is well on its
17 way.

18 The timing is so interesting given
19 that we're all watching the George Floyd
20 trial and it's incredibly upsetting. And
21 we just came up on the one year
22 anniversary of the tragic death of
23 Breonna Taylor, who was shot dead in her
24 home by white plainclothes police
25 officers. As a result of these horrific



1 acts, we're in the midst of a real wave
2 of change and I think we are witnessing a
3 rising tide raising all boats when it
4 comes to police reform throughout our
5 country and here locally.

6 This is a resolution that should be
7 soundly supported by all members of our
8 community because it leads us down a real
9 pathway of dialogue, consensus, and
10 change.

11 I expect the police department and
12 the committee that will be appointed by
13 the major will further develop each of
14 fifty items listed in the resolution and
15 the plan. I believe we will be
16 referencing this document for years to
17 come because it is excellent. I
18 believe -- I -- the document, the
19 resolution, it covers so much, there's a
20 section on police policy changes, culture
21 and training for police, community-
22 centered reinvention pilot program ideas,
23 and a whole lot of data analysis,
24 transparency, and accountability
25 recommendations.



1 And each item now needs further
2 review and that is what this resolution
3 states. We need to ensure a proper plan,
4 a proper accounting to the community, and
5 to the police department, so that we're
6 setting them up for success and not
7 failure. And that we're setting our city
8 up for successes and not failure.

9 I meant what I said at our last
10 meeting. I don't see where we are in any
11 disagreement. But there are four of us
12 on this council who understand just
13 saying making so does not make it so.

14 And so as a result, we have built
15 into this fine resolution a section 5,
16 called next steps. There will be
17 accountability, there will be action, and
18 it would be best to work with us and stop
19 threatening us. We want to work
20 together. Look to the next city council
21 to support this too. As someone
22 mentioned, many of us are coming off this
23 council and we're coming off fairly soon.
24 Many of us will be gone in just a few
25 short months, but I plan to do what I am



1 able to lay the groundwork and foundation
2 for a successful implementation of the
3 task force plan.

4 But it's a plan that requires
5 resources and further analysis, and those
6 accommodations are included in our next
7 steps. If you do not like what we are
8 doing, and want to threaten and demand,
9 well then I'll be planning for budget
10 transfers for police overtime services to
11 handle all the protesting. Each one can
12 cost anywhere between eight to fifteen to
13 \$20,000. I for one would prefer to put
14 those funds toward the recommendations
15 that you've made in our -- in our -- in
16 your plan. But I can't do that because I
17 have to ensure, it's my fiduciary
18 responsibility to the taxpayers and
19 residents of the City of Saratoga
20 Springs, to ensure their safety and
21 ensure your safety if you come
22 protesting.

23 So I prefer open dialogue. That's
24 what I want to say. And collaboration.

25 Finally, I would like to send this



1 along to the Governor for comment and
2 recommendation because I think our task
3 force did an amazing job and has
4 presented us a model that can be used
5 throughout our great state. And I'd like
6 to know what comes next from the Governor
7 and his Executive Order 203.

8 And thank you, very much. I hope my
9 words meant something. And I -- I hope
10 they were heard because I'm still baffled
11 by all -- all the divisiveness. This
12 council has worked hard to get to this
13 point this evening.

14 Thank you, Mayor --

15 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- for that
17 time.

18 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,
19 Commissioner.

20 Any other comments from the counsel
21 at this time?

22 Okay, then I'd like to say, all
23 those in favor, say aye.

24 You have to unmute, you guys. Let's
25 see. Unmute.



1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. I have
3 Commissioner Dalton, aye, Commissioner
4 Madigan, aye, Skip, aye -- okay.

5 All those opposed?

6 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: No.

7 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

8 Any abstentions?

9 The matter passes.

10 Thank you all for the meeting and
11 have a good night.

12 We're adjourned.

13 (Meeting adjourned.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Amanda M. Oliver, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Amanda M. Oliver

Amanda M. Oliver

eScribers

352 Seventh Avenue, Suite #604

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Date: April 9, 2021

