

City of Saratoga Springs - Restorative Justice Panel

Meeting Date: November 1, 2023

Board Members present: Camille Daniels, Heather Williams, Heather Reynolds, Larry Jorgenson, Holly Hammond

Absent: Dan Mullan, Staff: Deputy Mayor Angela Rella, City Attorney Tony Izzo, Communications Coordinator Jessie House

****Please fill in! I missed some discussion, looking for email/updating mins****

We affirmed that our meeting minutes will be sent out and have an approval time of 48 hours. After that they will be published on the city's website within 48 hours.

Camille Daniels welcomes the group, speaks on the absence of members, mins, introductions

Camille Daniels opens the floor for sharing

Suggestion to put RJP meeting schedule announcement earlier in city council meetings

Community members reflect on the unfavorable Oct. 17 city council meeting public comment

Community members spoke at length about their experience at the last city council meeting. They noted the difference in how both the city council and the public respond when white people "break the rules" (e.g. speaking over time limit, interrupting other speakers) vs when people from Saratogs BLM do the same. They emphasized feeling unsafe for SBLM members as well as themselves due to the abusive comments made (some by a local candidate who, after speaking, turned to a SBLM member and stated (paraphrasing) "that would have gotten you a misdemeanor), flyers being distributed (by someone in the audience) that were racist and promoting violence against people of color. They also informed us of known hate groups targeting some of the local activists on social media. Asked: How can this RI panel expect people to come forward, talk about their concerns, participate in RJ circle when they are not safe.

According to the Restorative Justice documents, addressing the issues should be multifaceted. The economic aspects are outlined in the Restorative Justice Document on page 31 in community needs including housing, in the Wellbeing Document pages 3 and 4 on financial security, and the Resolution Document, "Saratoga Springs has supported and allowed racism and hate in areas in housing, employment, law enforcement..." Our country should be ashamed that people can not afford to feed themselves. This small city can afford to make bold changes. Saratoga Springs has a low crime rate, and median income of 90 thousand dollars per year. The listed amount of police training appears overwhelming. Policing as it is now should be phased out by dividing the job into different roles to address community needs such as the medical field.

Kendall Hicks speaks on peaceful meetings, behavior on both sides of the table

Power differential, RJP is more of a discussion between community members rather than between people with a difference of power

Experienced members from the restorative practice field

Camille Daniels reiterates main objectives from Oct.18 meeting

Q's posed to Deputy Mayor Angela about the money available for the panel, Deputy Mayor Angela Rella explains the purchasing policy, \$30,000 requires an RFQ, send out to three people, prepare contract, approved from City Council

Need a scope of work from panel to include in RFQ, confusion over scope of work

Not confusion over scope of work - question re how detailed description on RFQ needs to be. Camille and Heather already had this info. Additionally, one of the three RJ facilitators who were present offered that when they respond to RFQ's they supply the details of scope of work.

Deputy Mayor explains that once scope of work is sent, RFQ will be created and sent out 11.2, ask assessment about time deadline. RJ panel members Emphasized importance to expedite this with hopes of getting on agenda for next council meeting.

Tony Izzo suggests having a variety of individuals, insurance requirements

Meeting adjourned