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CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 23, 2021

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

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



1           MAYOR KELLY: Good evening. Welcome  
2 to a special city council meeting,  
3 Tuesday, March 23rd. It is 7 p.m.

4           There are no public hearings this  
5 evening. We have one item on our agenda.  
6 So I would request roll, please, from the  
7 secretary.

8           SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:  
9 Commissioner Franck?

10           Commissioner Madigan?

11           Commissioner Scirocco?

12           Commissioner Dalton?

13           Mayor Kelly?

14           MAYOR KELLY: Here.

15           SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:  
16 Supervisor Veitch?

17           Supervisor Gaston?

18           MAYOR KELLY: Thank you. Please  
19 rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. I  
20 pledge allegiance to the Flag of the  
21 United States of America. And to the  
22 Republic for which it stands, one nation  
23 under God, indivisible, with liberty and  
24 justice for all.

25           Next on the agenda is the public



1 comment period. A revised draft of the  
2 council resolution to address police  
3 reform was uploaded yesterday with this  
4 agenda and to the city website.

5 At -- at present time, we have over  
6 160 people registered for tonight's  
7 meeting. However, our Zoom account only  
8 allows for 100 participants to be in the  
9 meeting at a given time. Therefore, once  
10 you have finished your comments, you will  
11 be released from the meeting to allow  
12 others in the waiting room to be  
13 admitted. Remember, if you are just  
14 watching the meeting, you can switch over  
15 to our website and watch it live. That  
16 would open up spots for those who wish to  
17 comment.

18 I ask that you keep your comments  
19 brief, up to two minutes. There will be  
20 a timer and -- when your time is up. As  
21 a reminder, public comment is not a  
22 dialogue for discussion with council  
23 members. However, at the end of public  
24 comment, any council member may respond  
25 or comment.



1           Please raise your hand -- your hand  
2           in Zoom to address the council. Look for  
3           it under the participants or reactions  
4           area of the toolbar at the bottom of your  
5           Zoom window.

6           We will call your name and unmute  
7           you and ask you to start your video. You  
8           will state your name and your city or  
9           municipality where you reside.

10          So if you're interested in speaking,  
11          please raise your hand via Zoom.

12          Otis Maxwell, please unmute and put  
13          your video on and state your name and  
14          municipality.

15          OTIS MAXWELL: I am -- I am unmuted,  
16          but I can't start my video. It says  
17          unable to start video.

18          MAYOR KELLY: Okay. I'll take  
19          you -- I see it --

20          OTIS MAXWELL: Okay --

21          MAYOR KELLY: -- I see it working.  
22          So just go ahead and give your  
23          statement --

24          OTIS MAXWELL: Now it's working --

25          MAYOR KELLY: -- there you go.



1           Okay.

2           OTIS MAXWELL:   There we go.

3           MAYOR KELLY:   Great.

4           OTIS MAXWELL:   Okay, thank you very  
5           much.  I am -- I am not going to  
6           comment -- I think they'll be a lot of  
7           people that'll comment on the specifics  
8           of the -- both of the -- the proposal  
9           from the -- the recommendation resolution  
10          from the task force and the two drafts  
11          that have been put forward by the -- by  
12          the city council.

13          I just want to make a comment as we  
14          review these.  Saratoga Springs ends up  
15          in a lot of best of lists, like -- like  
16          best small town in America, best main  
17          street in America.  I think these are  
18          good for business and tourism.  I don't  
19          think we want to end up on the -- the  
20          list or the city's that lost our police  
21          funding because we did not follow the  
22          dictates of Executive Order 203.  So I  
23          would like you to consider that, keep  
24          that in mind as you -- as you -- you  
25          consider the discussion tonight.



1 I should have said -- I'm sorry --  
2 my name is Otis Maxwell. I live in  
3 Saratoga Springs, 158 Lake Avenue.

4 Thank you very much, Mayor Kelly.

5 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

6 Let's see, Lezlie Dana, please  
7 unmute and put your video on.

8 We can't hear you. You need to  
9 unmute.

10 LEZLIE DANA: There we go.

11 MAYOR KELLY: Yep, go ahead.

12 LEZLIE DANA: Hi. Thank you, Mayor  
13 Kelly.

14 Good evening. I'm Lezlie Dana, co-  
15 chair and acting president of MLK  
16 Saratoga.

17 This council is to be commended on  
18 the exceptional group of people that you  
19 chose to take on this massive re-  
20 envisioning and community-based  
21 realignment set forth by the Governor's  
22 executive order.

23 This task force is the very first  
24 black citizen led commission of this  
25 city. They have produced, in the midst



1 of a global pandemic, and under a crazy  
2 deadline, a remarkably well researched,  
3 evidence-based, grounded report, with  
4 doable recommendations that are already  
5 implemented successfully in many places  
6 around our country.

7 You should be very proud. You chose  
8 very well.

9 These reforms are coming. That is  
10 the moral arch-bending toward justice  
11 that Dr. King so often spoke of. So how  
12 will you choose now? Saratoga Springs  
13 has the opportunity to lead the way. And  
14 you, the council, you have the  
15 opportunity to leave a legacy of real  
16 change, to be remembered for your bold  
17 courage and leadership or not.

18 MLK Saratoga asks you to  
19 courageously choose to approve these  
20 recommendations as is, securing a safer,  
21 healthier future for all people,  
22 including the men and women who serve our  
23 communities as officers. Fearful or  
24 courageous, this is your defining moment,  
25 council.



1           In order to comply with Executive  
2           Order 203, the language in the council's  
3           resolution must be changed from accepts  
4           for consideration to adopts for  
5           implementation.

6           Be courageous. Thank you.

7           MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

8           Lale Davidson, can you unmute,  
9           please?

10          LALE DAVIDSON: Hi there, this is  
11          Lale Davidson.

12          I want to thank the task force for  
13          their many, many months of work and for  
14          this incredible document, which was not  
15          only very detailed but also really  
16          readable. I really appreciated that,  
17          enjoyed reading it a great deal.

18          I also am taking a look at your  
19          resolution and I'm very happy to see that  
20          it closely parallels the task force  
21          recommendation. However, there are some  
22          changes that I would like to recommend,  
23          and that is that there be dates and  
24          timelines included in this document. I  
25          am a little worried about language that





1           says things like, the SSPD culture and --  
2           will, you know, will consider engaging in  
3           external, and they will plan to train and  
4           implement, and they will increase  
5           accountability -- there's a -- there's a  
6           kind of a -- I'd like to see a deadline.  
7           And see that at the very end, you have  
8           some deadlines which is good. I'm really  
9           glad to see that.

10                   But you know -- and -- and -- and  
11           fairly soon, I like the fact that -- that  
12           there shall be established some kind of  
13           committee by June 1, that's excellent.  
14           But I really am concerned about the  
15           manner in -- by which they're appointed.  
16           And we would really like to see a very  
17           democratic appointment system that would  
18           include community input. So instead of,  
19           say, you know, each commissioner appoints  
20           a person, or the public safety  
21           commissioner appoints people, I would  
22           like to see that the nomination process  
23           comes from the community so that there's  
24           buy-in. Because if you don't do that,  
25           you're going to end up with a scenario



1           where that -- the people on that  
2           committee is going to be kind of like  
3           dependent on who is in that position.  
4           And a good government isn't dependent on  
5           personalities. It has a system that is  
6           kind of transcends personalities.

7                         And so you need a -- a system of  
8           nomination. And I would suggest that you  
9           seek nominations, a certain number of  
10          nominations from vested -- from the --  
11          the communities that have a vested  
12          interest in this issue --

13                        MAYOR KELLY: Thank you. Your  
14          time -- your time is up, I'm sorry.  
15          Thank you.

16                        LEZLIE DANA: All right. Thank you.

17                        MAYOR KELLY: Yep.

18                        LEZLIE DANA: Just deadlines and  
19          appointment.

20                        MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

21                        Next up is Judy Harris. Please  
22          unmute and turn your video on. State  
23          your name and municipality.

24                        JUDY HARRIS: Hi. My name is Judy  
25          Harris and I live in the city of Saratoga



1 Springs.

2 I just moved here in June so I'm not  
3 familiar with the police. But I was an  
4 accountant before I retired. I always  
5 had my work reviewed. We have hospitals  
6 get accredited, colleges get accredited.  
7 I think it just makes sense to have a  
8 review of -- of any department that does  
9 anything important.

10 And I would feel more comfortable  
11 living here knowing that these things  
12 that I read in the report would be --  
13 would be adopted.

14 Thank you.

15 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you. Thank you.

16 Next up is Maeve Wood. Please  
17 state -- unmute and put your video on and  
18 state your name and municipality.

19 MAEVE WOOD-ASHCROFT: Hi, my name is  
20 Maeve Wood-Ashcroft. I used to live in  
21 Saratoga Springs. I now live in  
22 Stillwater, but I visit Saratoga Springs  
23 frequently.

24 And I've been following the meetings  
25 of the task force for the last few



1 months. It is so important to me as a  
2 visitor and former resident to Saratoga  
3 Springs that the council adopt and ratify  
4 these recommendations proposed by the  
5 task force.

6 They worked tirelessly for months to  
7 create them, relying on extensive  
8 research, examples from other cities, and  
9 especially input from the community. So  
10 I strongly urge the council to listen to  
11 its residents and adopt these  
12 recommendations as they're intended and  
13 to implement a civilian review board.

14 I think it's a vital step in moving  
15 towards building trust and transparency  
16 between this community and the police.

17 Thank you.

18 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

19 Commissioner Dalton?

20 MALE SPEAKER: Is it okay if I go,  
21 it seems like --

22 MAYOR KELLY: Nope, just hang on,  
23 please. Please hang on.

24 Commissioner Dalton?

25 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Sorry. Thank



1           you. I'm just getting a bunch of  
2           questions from people for after they make  
3           their public comment how they can watch  
4           this.

5           So just a reminder --

6           MAYOR KELLY: It's on the -- it's on  
7           the web -- they go to our website  
8           saratoga-springs.org and there's a live  
9           stream button they can hit.

10          COMMISSIONER DALTON: If you scroll  
11          to the bottom, you'll see a blue, like,  
12          video camera icon. And if you hit there,  
13          you can watch the meeting live.

14          So if people could log off so that  
15          the remaining people who are in the  
16          waiting room could log in, that would be  
17          great.

18          MAYOR KELLY: Yes, thank you.

19          COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you.

20          MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

21          Okay. Andrew Beatty, you're on.  
22          Please turn your video on and unmute.  
23          And state your name and municipality.

24          Andrew?

25          ANDREW BEATTY: Yep, hi. I'm



1 getting my notifications now. Hi, I'm  
2 Andrew Beatty, I live at 21 Michael  
3 Drive.

4 I too think that it's extremely  
5 important that the city adopt and ratify  
6 these findings from the task force.

7 One thing that I have always found  
8 to be very objectionable about the -- the  
9 way Saratoga does business regarding  
10 accountability is I know of several  
11 incidents that occurred within the city  
12 that resulted in sizeable judgments or --  
13 or settlements related to the conduct of  
14 the police department.

15 Most recently, I think it was 2016,  
16 one of the officers maced a man for  
17 essentially no reason and was let go from  
18 the force. But at the same time as  
19 someone who also has a job, I don't just  
20 get fired if I mace someone for no  
21 reason. So the fact that there was  
22 seemingly never any legal action taken  
23 against a man who apparently committed  
24 felony assault as a officer of the law in  
25 our city, is very troubling to me.



1 I think that the content of this --  
2 these things that we're asking to be  
3 adopted and ratified are a good first  
4 step. But I think actually this is going  
5 to be an ongoing process and I think we  
6 need to go farther with this to make sure  
7 that these kinds of things aren't  
8 happening with impunity.

9 So, thanks a lot.

10 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

11 Molly Dunn, please unmute and turn  
12 your video on.

13 MOLLY DUNN: I'm Molly Dunn. I live  
14 in Saratoga Springs.

15 So let me remind city council why we  
16 are all here. A black man named George  
17 Floyd was murdered by the police. In  
18 addition to Executive Order 203, New York  
19 State passed the Reform agenda titled,  
20 Say Their Name.

21 Daryl Mount's name has been  
22 mentioned in the Times Union, the  
23 Skidmore News, the Daily Gazette, and the  
24 New York Times. Daryl Mount's name has  
25 been shouted on the streets by hundreds



1 of city residents. Over 50,000 people  
2 signed a petition demanding justice for  
3 Daryl Mount. Daryl Mount's name was  
4 mentioned thirty-nine times by city  
5 residents who completed the police reform  
6 survey. Daryl Mount's name was mentioned  
7 in every police reform task force meeting  
8 that occurred over the past seven months.  
9 And finally, Daryl Mount's name was  
10 mentioned four times in the police reform  
11 plan presented to you.

12 Yet Daryl Mount's name does not  
13 appear once in the city council's  
14 proposed resolution. And not only that,  
15 city council still won't commit to  
16 implementing a civilian review board.  
17 The CRB sounds like common business sense  
18 for a city that has been in years of  
19 litigation and is at risk of using  
20 millions of dollars because of the  
21 police's mishandling of the investigation  
22 involving Daryl Mount.

23 You should all, with the exception  
24 of Commissioner Franck, be ashamed of  
25 yourselves. Ashamed. The only job you





1 are doing well is exemplifying  
2 institutional racism at work. It seems  
3 city council has forgotten the reason why  
4 we are all here.

5 In order to comply with Executive  
6 Order 203, the language in the council's  
7 resolution must be changed from accepts  
8 for consideration to adopts for  
9 implementation.

10 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

11 Let's see. Anybody else want to  
12 comment? Claire Burnett, please unmute  
13 and turn your video on.

14 CLAIRE BURNETT: Hello, my name is  
15 Claire Burnett. I am a student at U  
16 Albany. I recently moved to Saratoga. I  
17 live at 48 Union Avenue.

18 And I just wanted to say as a  
19 student, especially being involved in --  
20 in, you know, the protests and what's  
21 going on, I think that it's very  
22 important that we do adopt this policy.  
23 And I also think it's important as -- as  
24 certain people have said, that there be a  
25 civilian review board as it is the



1           locality that really knows what to  
2           implement and what do to.

3           So I just wanted to put my two cents  
4           in and say that I think that this is  
5           important, especially as -- being the  
6           younger generation in Saratoga, I want to  
7           see a better future for my generation and  
8           the generation that comes after me, as  
9           well.

10          So, thank you.

11          MAYOR KELLY: Thank you. Thank you.

12          Norah Brennan, please unmute and  
13          turn your video on.

14          NORAH BRENNAN: Hello? Hi. Norah  
15          Brennan, 20 Andrews Street.

16          I just want to reiterate the  
17          comments that have already been shared,  
18          that we really should adopt and ratify  
19          the task force proposal. They did  
20          amazing work over several months.

21          There's nothing in there that I  
22          think should be considered objectionable.  
23          It may be hard, it may require additional  
24          work, it may require consideration of  
25          what we need to do to make it happen.



1 I think it's more than just  
2 consideration. I think it's adopting and  
3 working out the details of what it's  
4 going to take to make it happen.

5 Thank you.

6 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

7 Suzanne Kwasniewski, please unmute  
8 and turn your video on.

9 SUZANNE KWASNIEWSKI: Suzanne  
10 Kwasniewski, longtime city resident,  
11 longtime activist.

12 It's incredible to me, I guess I  
13 shouldn't be surprised, that the group,  
14 primarily people of color, labored for  
15 free for a long time and this city  
16 council deigns to say that they will  
17 consider what should be. It's just --  
18 we're beyond time of considering. It  
19 needs to take -- you need to take action.

20 And I would ask the city council if  
21 your boss is the police union or if the  
22 boss is the taxpayers. Because as a  
23 taxpayer, I want these things  
24 implemented. As a woman of -- of faith,  
25 I want these things implemented. As a



1 person of conscience, I want these 50  
2 points implemented.

3 Yes, there are difficulties that we  
4 need to work through. The city charter  
5 will need to be changed. These things  
6 need to happen. It's incumbent upon you  
7 in these -- in these difficult times to  
8 be leaders, and not followers.

9 Thank you.

10 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

11 Sergia Coffey, please unmute and  
12 turn your video on.

13 SERGIA COFFEY: Hello. I live in --  
14 my name is Sergia Coffey, I live in the  
15 town of Milton. Saratoga Schools District  
16 is the school district I'm living in.  
17 Saratoga Springs is the place I shop and  
18 literally one block from my house.

19 And I am here to say that I want you  
20 to implement the recommendations, have a  
21 civilian review board. Racism has been  
22 evident in Saratoga Springs for a very  
23 long time. When my sons were in high  
24 school, they would get picked up, when  
25 they went out with their African-American



1 friends, by the Saratoga Springs Police.  
2 No reason, had to pick them up at the  
3 police station. So things have to  
4 change. Things have to change.

5 Daryl Mount's death haunts us all.  
6 And we need a civilian review board. We  
7 have seen how the -- Daryl Mount's life  
8 was thrown away and the police  
9 investigation mishandled. And you know,  
10 like the lady said earlier, we need to  
11 say his name, but we need to implement  
12 change for everyone who lives in Saratoga  
13 Springs and who lives in the communities  
14 around it.

15 Thank you very much.

16 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

17 Kimberley Fredrick, I can't see the  
18 rest of your name, I'm sorry. Kimberley,  
19 can you unmute -- Frederick?

20 KIMBERLEY FREDRICK: It's all --  
21 it's all good.

22 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

23 KIMBERLEY FREDRICK: For some  
24 reason, it won't let me start my video so  
25 I'll just -- you guys probably don't need



1 to see me. Oh, there we go.

2 I am honored today to be able to  
3 come before you and just want to echo  
4 some of the comments that have been made  
5 about the wisdom of this council and  
6 these superintendents in choosing such a  
7 thoughtful and reflective and diligent  
8 commission to look at the police reform  
9 issues.

10 They did great work. Their report  
11 is incredibly readable and very common  
12 sense.

13 Having read through all of the  
14 feedback to the public survey, I'm sure  
15 that each of you has reflected on the  
16 hard reality of what you read there.  
17 That there's a number of our citizens who  
18 have had very unfortunate experiences  
19 with our police.

20 And at this moment, you can be bold  
21 leaders. You can listen to your  
22 citizens. We're speaking with one voice.  
23 Please, please, please change your  
24 language to adopt and come up with very  
25 clear timelines on putting in place a



1           civilian review board.

2           The people who responded to that  
3           public comment spoke with pain and we  
4           need to hear, they need to hear that  
5           there's an opportunity for change and  
6           justice in Saratoga Springs.

7           I apologize, I'm a resident of  
8           Saratoga Springs. I meant to say that  
9           earlier.

10          I also would like to strongly  
11          encourage you to rather than focusing on  
12          the difficulties, such as how to get  
13          around the police unions, many districts  
14          and cities and towns across the country  
15          have implemented very similar reforms to  
16          what are being requested, the 50 points.  
17          And they have figured out how to make  
18          this work.

19          I am confident that this -- this  
20          intelligent group with some searching and  
21          some consulting with other municipalities  
22          can similarly find solutions.

23          Thank you for your time.

24          MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

25          Marcella Hammer? Go ahead --



1 MARCELLA HAMMER: Hi there --

2 MAYOR KELLY: -- Marcella. Yeah.

3 MARCELLA HAMMER: Hi, Marcella  
4 Hammer. I am from Saratoga Springs.

5 And you know I am here to ask the  
6 council to continue the work that has  
7 been begun and to continue the work that  
8 the constituents are asking for. The  
9 people of Saratoga are asking for these  
10 changes to happen.

11 I'm asking that we implement a  
12 civilian review board. This is what we  
13 want as a city. This is the progress  
14 that we need as a city.

15 And I'm asking that we change the  
16 language in the council's resolution to  
17 adopts for implementation.

18 This is continuing the work. And I  
19 believe in you. And I believe it should  
20 be done.

21 Thank you.

22 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

23 Reverend Joe Cleveland, please  
24 unmute and turn your video on.

25 Can you -- thank you.





1           MALE SPEAKER: Thanks. I am the  
2 Reverend Joe Cleveland. I serve the  
3 Unitarian Universalist Congregation of  
4 Saratoga Springs on North Broadway.

5           The Unitarian Universalist  
6 Congregation of Saratoga Springs issued a  
7 public statement in support of  
8 instituting a civilian review board last  
9 August.

10           The city and the police department  
11 need to develop trust with the -- with  
12 the town. They can't operate without  
13 that. Trust was fundamentally violated  
14 when it was -- when it came out that the  
15 department, that the police chief at the  
16 time, lied about the conduct of a review  
17 regarding the circumstances around what  
18 happened when Daryl Mount died as a  
19 result of an encounter with our police  
20 department.

21           That trust has not been rebuilt or  
22 repaired. To take any step toward that,  
23 instead of simply agreeing in principle  
24 to a CRB, and calling for an evaluation  
25 of things that could impact the ability



1 to adequately develop a CRB, we urge you  
2 to commit to implementing a civilian  
3 review board. This is something that has  
4 been done in many cities all over the  
5 country, all over our state. And we --  
6 we need to do this in order to build back  
7 the trust that we need in order to have  
8 confidence in our -- our police and our  
9 city.

10 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

11 Adam Tinkle?

12 ADAM TINKLE: Hi there, my name's  
13 Adam Tinkle, Saratoga Springs postal  
14 code, technically a resident of the town  
15 of Greenfield.

16 And I just wanted to speak in strong  
17 support of the plan, the 50-point plan,  
18 that the task force produced. I was at  
19 the first meeting, I was at the last  
20 meeting. This is a moderate plan. I  
21 saw task force members who at the first  
22 task force meeting say that they were  
23 unaware of any instances of racism within  
24 the city of Saratoga Springs. And over  
25 the course of seven months, I saw those



1 same task force members come around to  
2 understanding the needs for these very  
3 moderate, reasonable reforms.

4 So this is a consensus document.  
5 And in -- in certain cases, it's true  
6 that Chief Crooks voted against the will  
7 of the other -- all of the other members  
8 of the task force. And it happens to be  
9 the case that some of the recommendations  
10 with which the council's current  
11 resolution, which we're all requesting be  
12 amended further, the -- the  
13 recommendations 32, 39, 40, the one about  
14 the civil -- civilian review board, these  
15 elements of the 50-point plan that the  
16 council's current resolution continues to  
17 raise objections to, these are the same  
18 ones that the police chief has raised  
19 objections to despite the fact that the  
20 rest of this task force, encompassing  
21 those across this political spectrum, and  
22 across identities in our community, have  
23 come together on a lot of these things.

24 So you know I was really pleased  
25 when I saw that the statewide finding of



1 non-compliance by stakeholders, a  
2 petition that's circulating around the  
3 state, didn't mention Saratoga Springs.  
4 This is people across the state asking  
5 Governor Cuomo to appoint regional  
6 compliance officers --

7 MAYOR KELLY: Excuse me, that's --  
8 that's your -- that's your time.

9 ADAM TINKLE: Okay.

10 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

11 ADAM TINKLE: Thank you.

12 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

13 Yeah, I would like to ask people to  
14 sign off. I -- we have people waiting to  
15 get in. So if you had your public  
16 comment, if you could log off, so we can  
17 get more people in to public comment.  
18 You can watch it on our website,  
19 saratogasprings -- saratoga-springs.org,  
20 and hit the live button. But we need to  
21 have some of you log off. Thank you.

22 Okay. Sarah Marlin, please, unmute  
23 and turn your video on.

24 SARAH MARLIN: Hi. Yeah, my name is  
25 Sarah Marlin, resident of Saratoga, 4



1           Mystic Lane.

2                     First, I wanted to thank the task  
3           force for all of their work and energy  
4           over the past seven months and their  
5           commitment to bettering this community.

6                     Having been selected by the council,  
7           they then worked to follow the order  
8           which stipulates among many other things  
9           that the city must research a number of  
10          alternatives to current policing  
11          strategies.

12                    Now just as the task force followed  
13          the order through research, analysis of  
14          existing policy, outreach to the  
15          community, so too does the city council  
16          need to follow through with what the  
17          executive order asks.

18                    This new language in the draft --  
19          draft resolution says the city council  
20          accepts for consideration the task  
21          force's 50-point plan. This is not  
22          acceptable. The order does not ask the  
23          council to pass the resolution that  
24          simply considers the work of the task  
25          force. It asks the council to adopt or



1 ratify.

2 The task force -- the task force  
3 included a ban on no-knock warrants for a  
4 reason. It urges for demilitarization  
5 for a reason. It asked for clear and  
6 concise language involving outside agency  
7 cooperation for a reason. And it asks  
8 for a civilian review -- review board for  
9 a reason.

10 In February, the city council  
11 unanimously voted and vowed to promote  
12 racial equity and fairness and to  
13 eliminate discriminatory systems and  
14 practices. Dismissing and largely  
15 ignoring this work of a black-led task  
16 force and merely accepting for  
17 consideration this 50-point plan, does  
18 not follow the stipulations of the  
19 executive order nor does it hold up this  
20 vow in the slightest.

21 Turn your resolution into action.  
22 In order to comply with EO 203, the  
23 language in the council's resolution must  
24 be changed from accepts for consideration  
25 to adopts for implementation.



1 Thank you.

2 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

3 Matt Kopans?

4 MATT KOPANS: Hi, my name is Matt  
5 Kopans. I am a Saratoga Springs resident.

6 And I just want to echo what the  
7 last speaker just said. It is critical  
8 that the city council --

9 MAYOR KELLY: Can you turn your  
10 video on, please? Thank --

11 MATT KOPANS: Is my video -- is my  
12 video on?

13 MAYOR KELLY: There we go, now it  
14 is. Yep.

15 MATT KOPANS: Did you lose it  
16 before?

17 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah.

18 MATT KOPANS: It's critical that the  
19 council change their language and  
20 implement the recommendations of the task  
21 force and not just accept for  
22 consideration.

23 I strongly support this 50-point  
24 resolution and I urge the council to do  
25 the same.



1           MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

2           Steven Allen (ph.)? Steven Allen,  
3 can you turn your video on and unmute.

4           Okay, let's go on to Elizabeth Zack.

5           ELIZABETH ZACK: Hi, my name is Liz  
6 Zack. I live on Phila Street here in  
7 Saratoga Springs.

8           I have participated in a number of  
9 the task force meetings as just a  
10 community member giving my feedback.

11          I want to thank the task force for  
12 their hard work. It -- they put in a lot  
13 of effort. And I think they did a -- a  
14 great job bringing a resolution to you --  
15 to city council.

16          I would like to note that I -- I  
17 realize that the -- there were a couple  
18 revisions to the city council final --  
19 final revision. And it only went so far  
20 as to -- in regards to the civilian  
21 review board, a -- approve the task  
22 force -- task force recommendations to  
23 develop a civilian review board in  
24 principle.

25          And I would like to think that the





1 city council would work just as hard as  
2 the task force to actually implement the  
3 steps laid out that would be required to  
4 give clearance to a civilian review  
5 board.

6 I'm a citizen here, I've lived here  
7 for five years. I live downtown. This  
8 is something that I would like to see. I  
9 think it's important. It's worked in  
10 other places. We can get it -- we can  
11 make it work for us.

12 Thank you.

13 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

14 Ed Lindner, please, unmute and turn  
15 your video on.

16 ED LINDNER: Good evening. Thank  
17 you, Mayor. Good evening, members of the  
18 council. Ed Lindner, Saratoga Springs.

19 I've already submitted written  
20 comments so I'm not going to rehash those  
21 all tonight. But since I wrote those  
22 comments, you have amended your draft  
23 resolution, so I just wanted to make a  
24 couple of quick points.

25 I am among those people who are



1 concerned and, frankly, puzzled a little  
2 bit about the language in the new amended  
3 draft that says accept for consideration.  
4 Because frankly I -- I don't know quite  
5 what you mean by it. The task force has  
6 sent you their recommendations. They  
7 don't need you to formally accept them  
8 for them to be considered. They need you  
9 to consider them and then accept them.

10 I see in the next steps that there  
11 are provisions for implementation of the  
12 accepted resolutions. And again, I'm --  
13 I'm not trying to be difficult. I  
14 honestly don't understand which  
15 resolutions now have been accepted. And  
16 I think there needs to be clarity on  
17 that.

18 If you are accepting these  
19 recommendations as I hope that you will,  
20 then you need to clearly state that. If  
21 you are putting them off for another day,  
22 for consideration by the council, then I  
23 think you need to talk in more detail  
24 about how that process will work.

25 I don't think that putting them all



1 to a committee that doesn't answer to the  
2 public is an acceptable way to go about  
3 that.

4 I do see that in the amended draft,  
5 the council is now accepting in principle  
6 the idea of a CRB. I welcome that.  
7 That's a good and it's a necessary next  
8 step.

9 But really it's only a first step.  
10 I know that there is going to be an  
11 implementation committee. I hope they  
12 take this resolution as evidence that the  
13 city council wants this to happen. And  
14 that they should be working together in  
15 good faith to resolve problems and -- and  
16 not to create obstacles.

17 So I'm looking forward to next  
18 steps.

19 Thank you.

20 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

21 Anyone else want to public comment,  
22 please raise your hand.

23 Hollyday Hammond?

24 HOLLYDAY HAMMOND: Hi. I'm Hollyday  
25 Hammond. Can you hear me okay?



1           MAYOR KELLY: Yes.

2           HOLLYDAY HAMMOND: All right. And I  
3 live in Saratoga Springs on Lefferts  
4 Street.

5           And I'm trying to find my notes.  
6 The task force, among the things they  
7 were asked to look at, were trust,  
8 fairness, accountability, transparency,  
9 and racial disparities. And the task  
10 force heard and received many personal  
11 accounts through public forums, meetings  
12 with various groups, public comments, and  
13 the survey that received 1500 response.

14           All these public comments and  
15 testimonies prove that trust, fairness,  
16 accountability, and transparency are not  
17 consistent experiences with the Saratoga  
18 Springs Police Department, especially  
19 among black and brown people and other  
20 historically marginalized members of our  
21 community.

22           A lot of people feel like police  
23 reform is anti-police, and I don't see it  
24 that way as all -- at all. I feel like  
25 when we talk about trust and



1 transparency, fairness, legitimacy, all  
2 those things, they benefit everyone.

3 And -- and that there's so many  
4 things that work well in our community,  
5 they just don't work equally well for  
6 everyone. And they actually do harm to  
7 some.

8 And at the heart of dismantling  
9 racism is a willingness to share power  
10 and decision making. It takes a lot of  
11 courage to make people unhappy, to take a  
12 stand where some people are not happy.  
13 But it's the right thing to do.

14 So I really hope you will be ask  
15 courageous as our task force has been and  
16 both adopt and implement --

17 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

18 HOLLYDAY HAMMOND: -- the 50-point  
19 plan.

20 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

21 Anybody else want to comment, please  
22 raise your hand.

23 Jacquelyn Pardon?

24 JACQUELYN PARDON: Thank you, Mayor  
25 Kelly. I also --



1           MAYOR KELLY: Can you state your  
2 name and municipality first, please.

3           JACQUELYN PARDON: Oh, Saratoga  
4 Springs. I've lived here for over forty  
5 years. And I'm Jackie Pardon.

6           And I -- I support the task force's  
7 50-point plan. And I also see a need for  
8 a community review board. I'd also like  
9 to add that I would like to see a  
10 checklist on the website, city website,  
11 and -- with dates and progress in each --  
12 and maybe not all fifty points, but for  
13 whatever is pertinent.

14           And also encourage, even after this  
15 point, of community members perhaps  
16 sitting down in small groups with police  
17 officers. The police -- chief of police  
18 was on the task force, but I think some  
19 discussion, small groups, with you know  
20 maybe a moderator or someone -- I think  
21 that kind of thing can be valuable.

22           It's just -- it's an ongoing  
23 process, as someone else said.

24           Thank you very much.

25           MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.



1           Anyone else?

2           Okay. If nobody's going to raise  
3 their hand, I'm going to close the public  
4 comment period. Okay. Please raise your  
5 hand if you want to speak. I don't want  
6 to keep asking time and time again.

7           Heather Williams?

8           HEATHER WILLIAMS: Hello, I am  
9 Heather Williams and I live in Saratoga  
10 Springs. I also am the lead pastor at  
11 Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church.

12           And I would like to affirm and  
13 support the 50-point plan and ask for the  
14 council to seek to implement such a plan.

15           As a person of faith, my faith story  
16 tells me that there are pockets of time  
17 where courageous people dared to step in  
18 to implement change. And as Holly said  
19 earlier about giving power to others and  
20 sharing that willingly, transparency will  
21 build trust between the police department  
22 and the community.

23           Will we as leaders be courageous  
24 enough to step into that space and be the  
25 conduit for change.



1           MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

2           Okay. Let's see. Thomas Dragon  
3           (ph.), I don't know if your name is  
4           longer than that so can you unmute,  
5           please?

6           THOMAS DRAGONETTE: Yeah, it's --  
7           can you hear me?

8           MAYOR KELLY: Yes.

9           THOMAS DRAGONETTE: It's Dragonette

10          MAYOR KELLY: Oh, I can't -- it only  
11          says Dragon. I didn't -- I'm -- I didn't  
12          mean any offense by that. So yeah --

13          THOMAS DRAGONETTE: No --

14          MAYOR KELLY: -- I can't see your --

15          THOMAS DRAGONETTE: -- it's cool.

16          MAYOR KELLY: -- whole name. So --

17          THOMAS DRAGONETTE: It won't -- oh,  
18          here we go. Can you see me now?

19          MAYOR KELLY: I can't see you yet.

20          THOMAS DRAGONETTE: It's not -- I'm  
21          on my phone so it's not letting my video.  
22          Can I just talk?

23          MAYOR KELLY: Yes, go ahead, sir.

24          THOMAS DRAGONETTE: Cool, thank you.  
25          One second.





1           Okay, first I'd like to thank the  
2           task force for their tireless work that  
3           they did for free to help make this city  
4           a better a place for all of its people.  
5           I'll hold my thanks to the city council  
6           until you guys come to your senses to do  
7           the right thing, which we're all asking  
8           for.

9           I'm not going to -- I'm basically  
10          just going to quote from the executive  
11          order, for the record, and for those who  
12          have not read it, on what is supposed to  
13          take place.

14          Whereas government has a  
15          responsibility to ensure that all of its  
16          citizens are treated equally, fairly, and  
17          justly before the law. And whereas  
18          recent outpourings of protests and  
19          demonstrations which have been manifested  
20          in every area of the state have  
21          illustrated the depth and breadth of the  
22          concerned. And whereas black lives  
23          matter. And whereas the foregoing  
24          compels me to conclude that urgent and  
25          immediate action is needed to eliminate



1 racial inequities in policing to the  
2 particular needs of communities of color  
3 to promote public safety, improve  
4 community engagement, and foster trust.

5 It then goes on to say that they  
6 must work to create a plan to adopt and  
7 implement the recommendations resulting  
8 from its review and consultation,  
9 including any modifications,  
10 modernizations, and innovations to its  
11 police deployments, strategies, policies,  
12 procedures, and practices tailored to the  
13 specific needs of the community in  
14 general promotion of improved police  
15 agency and community relationships based  
16 on trust, fairness, accountability, and  
17 transparency in which seek to reduce any  
18 racial disparities in policing whether  
19 that's one person or one million people.

20 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

21 THOMAS DRAGONETTE: So --

22 MAYOR KELLY: That -- that's your  
23 time.

24 THOMAS DRAGONETTE: -- I'm -- I'm --  
25 I'm not done. So this --



1           MAYOR KELLY: That's your time.  
2           Sorry, that's your two minutes, sir.  
3           Everybody's getting two minutes. We have  
4           a lot of people --

5           THOMAS DRAGONETTE: Okay, so accept  
6           for consideration --

7           MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

8           THOMAS DRAGONETTE: -- switch to  
9           adopt for implementation.

10          MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

11          THOMAS DRAGONETTE: Yep.

12          MAYOR KELLY: Really?

13          THOMAS DRAGONETTE: No.

14          MAYOR KELLY: Okay.

15          Katherine Iglar -- Iglar?

16          KATHERINE IGLER: Hi. It is Iglar,  
17          thank you.

18          MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

19          KATHERINE IGLER: I am a lifelong  
20          resident of Saratoga Springs, born and  
21          raised here, and raising my two children.

22                 I am the director of children's  
23          ministries at Saratoga Springs United  
24          Methodist Church, as well as the director  
25          of Small Wonders Christian Preschool.



1           I hold a lot of lives of children in  
2 my hands, and I want them to feel safe.  
3 I feel like I voted for most of you and  
4 thought that when I voted for you, you  
5 were representing my interests and the  
6 interests of the lives of those children.  
7 And I feel like that's not true today.

8           This task force was put together  
9 very well by -- and includes a lot of  
10 awesome people who worked really hard to  
11 come up with some reforms that are  
12 necessary. And to keep those children in  
13 my care safe, this plan needs to be  
14 adopted by the council.

15           Thank you.

16           MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

17           Kristen Dart?

18           COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Hold on a  
19 second, Meg. I'm --

20           MAYOR KELLY: Yes?

21           COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- you know,  
22 I'm -- I am trying to listen to the  
23 public comment, I missed one or two. I'm  
24 hearing, I'm receiving text messages that  
25 say that -- and I don't even know what



1           this means, people are on the phone and  
2           can't raise their hand. I -- I don't  
3           know what that means exactly, so I do not  
4           know how to offer technical support.

5           MAYOR KELLY: Well, I -- I don't  
6           know how to do that either. So maybe  
7           I -- I'll just read through the names. I  
8           could do it that way and say if you want  
9           to comment, you can comment. How's that?  
10          Okay.

11          Robin, do you have something? Can  
12          you unmute, Robin, please? It's off,  
13          please. Just relax.

14          COMMISSIONER DALTON: Hey, sorry. I  
15          was just going to say if people are on  
16          their phones, if they just turn on their  
17          video and wave their hand, then we will  
18          know. If they don't have the -- the  
19          button to wave their -- to wave their  
20          hand, like to raise their hand on -- on  
21          Zoom, you can just physically turn on  
22          your video and raise your hand. And then  
23          we'll see you and know that you want to  
24          talk.

25          MAYOR KELLY: Okay, thank you.



1           COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you.

2           MAYOR KELLY: So if you can't get  
3 the raise your hand button, just keep  
4 your -- your video on and give me a wave.  
5 You don't have to continually wave at me,  
6 just once will do it, and I'll get to  
7 you.

8           So let's go back to Kristen Dart,  
9 please.

10          KRISTEN DART: Hello. I'm Kristen  
11 Dart and I reside in the City of Saratoga  
12 Springs.

13          As many of you know, I am a multi-  
14 generational Saratogian, and it was my  
15 honor to serve on this task force. I  
16 thought it was work that was needed and  
17 it was my pleasure to serve the  
18 community.

19          We as a task force, myself, spent  
20 hours outside of meetings making sure  
21 that we researched and had good reason  
22 for making recommendations. I know many  
23 folks on this call have spoken about the  
24 community review board and will probably  
25 continue to.



1           I'd like to raise two other points  
2           that I am -- hope that the city council  
3           will continue to work to move to broader  
4           acceptance of the task force  
5           recommendations.

6           First being militarized vehicles and  
7           weapons in the city. By the words in  
8           your own resolution, we -- the body  
9           requesting assistance maintains control  
10          of that incident. That means we were in  
11          control of the July 30th incident. And  
12          that means that if we are in control of  
13          the incident, we can command how officers  
14          are spending their time or what vehicles  
15          they are using. If that is the case, by  
16          the words in our resolution, we need to  
17          take responsibility for that and have  
18          clear plans about how that does not  
19          happen in the future.

20          The second piece that I'd like to  
21          raise is the no-knock warrants. They  
22          rose to prominence and awareness in our  
23          country after Breonna Taylor was killed.  
24          It is insulting to see the city council's  
25          response to that is if there's a federal



1 law in place -- that goes into play, then  
2 we will tell the police chief that he has  
3 to comply with federal law. I had many  
4 conversations with Chief Crooks. I have  
5 no doubt that he will comply with federal  
6 law.

7 We have the ability to do that in  
8 our city. When I had a conversation  
9 about this at the task force meeting, the  
10 Chief described what it takes in order to  
11 implement a no-knock warrant. It did not  
12 give me the confidence that it makes our  
13 community members or our citizens any  
14 more safe.

15 MAYOR KELLY: I have --

16 KRISTEN DART: In Texas --

17 MAYOR KELLY: -- I have -- I have to  
18 cut you off there.

19 KRISTEN DART: Sure.

20 MAYOR KELLY: You've went over your  
21 time.

22 KRISTEN DART: Yep. Thank you.

23 MAYOR KELLY: Okay.

24 Rabbi, go ahead. Can you unmute,  
25 Linda, please. Yep. Just a minute. It





1 takes a while to find you all. There you  
2 go.

3 JOHNATHAN RUBENSTEIN: There you go.  
4 Thank you.

5 MAYOR KELLY: You're on, yes.

6 JOHNATHAN RUBENSTEIN: Thank you.  
7 And thanks to the council for considering  
8 this and thanks to great work of the task  
9 force committee.

10 I'm Johnathan Rubenstein, rabbi of  
11 Temple Sinai. Live in Wilton and worked  
12 in -- co-rabbi. And work -- work in  
13 Saratoga Springs.

14 There's no question that many  
15 individuals and institutions and segments  
16 of the Saratoga Community enjoy an  
17 excellent collaborative relationship with  
18 the law enforcement, particularly the  
19 Saratoga Springs Police Department.

20 And we -- we feel that adopting the  
21 recommendations of the committee would go  
22 a long way towards bringing that level of  
23 trust and collaboration to all segments  
24 of the community.

25 Thank you.



1           MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

2           John Kaufmann? There you go.

3           JOHN KAUFMANN: Thank you, Mayor.

4           Let me start by applauding the work  
5 of the task force --

6           MAYOR KELLY: Can you state your  
7 name and municipality?

8           JOHN KAUFMANN: I'm sorry. It's  
9 John Kaufmann. I live at 44 White  
10 Street, Saratoga Springs, New York.

11          Let me start by applauding the work  
12 of the task force. They took on a  
13 challenging mission with little resources  
14 and limited time in order to address  
15 issues with policy -- policing policy for  
16 Saratoga Springs.

17          I support the Mayor's most recent  
18 draft that would adopt the task force  
19 recommendations.

20          I would, however, like to say that  
21 Chief Shane Crooks has done an  
22 exceptional job in 2020 in protecting  
23 both the public and the demonstrators.  
24 The people in our city owe him a debt of  
25 gratitude for his patience and dedication



1 to service.

2 I think it's important to put all  
3 this in context. Not a single person,  
4 either demonstrator, counter-  
5 demonstration, or the public at large has  
6 been injured under his management and  
7 under Commissioner Dalton's.

8 I just think that I'm all for  
9 reform, but I think some of the  
10 statements are a little on the harsh  
11 side. And really it would be nice to  
12 balance in terms of the fact we have some  
13 very, very dedicated people at the top of  
14 the police department who really maintain  
15 discipline and have ensured the safety of  
16 people in this city.

17 I'd just like to offer that. Thank  
18 you.

19 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

20 Lexis Figuereo?

21 LEXIS FIGUEREO: Yes, Lexis  
22 Figuereo, Saratoga Springs, 61 Henry  
23 Street.

24 I just have to say that for one we  
25 are happy that the resolution got



1 changed. It is unfortunate that the only  
2 reason why the resolution changed in the  
3 beginning is because we organized as a  
4 community together and we came together  
5 as one, me, and the task force, MLK, and  
6 other groups, as well, in the community.

7 It's been said a lot of times that  
8 there's no problems in Saratoga Springs.  
9 We have over a thousand comments right  
10 there from people in Saratoga Springs who  
11 have their wives here, kids here, as  
12 well, and it's a plain show that there is  
13 a problem in Saratoga Springs.

14 We need a civil review board, plain  
15 and simple. We need you guys to adopt  
16 and ratify the 50 points of the plan.  
17 And the task force and community members,  
18 as well, put a lot of work into this and  
19 a lot of dedication.

20 In order for us to have some kind of  
21 accountability and transparency inside  
22 Saratoga Springs, we have to have a  
23 civilian review board and we can't just  
24 think about maybe doing it or how we're  
25 going to do it. We just have to do it,



1 plain and simple.

2 And we're going to continue to fight  
3 for justice for Daryl Mount, as well,  
4 plain and simple. No justice, no peace.  
5 And if we want to have a good summer and  
6 we want to have a good track time, we got  
7 to have -- come together and make  
8 changes. If we don't have any changes,  
9 then protests will continue.

10 And also off of that guy saying  
11 off -- Shane Crooks, we can say July  
12 30th, that they did not keep protesters  
13 safe by shooting pepper bullets at them,  
14 doing unlawful arrests, and bringing out  
15 military vehicles.

16 Thank you.

17 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

18 John Schroeder?

19 JOHN SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mayor  
20 Kelly.

21 John Schroeder, I'm a resident of  
22 the City of Saratoga Springs.

23 First, I'd like to thank the police  
24 reform task force members for their seven  
25 months of tireless work to create a plan



1 to improve our community's police.

2 And I appreciate the fact that the  
3 city council's new draft resolution at  
4 least acknowledges all 50 points in that  
5 plan.

6 However, the language in the new  
7 draft resolution says the city council  
8 accepts for consideration the task force  
9 plan. That language is meaningless.  
10 Accepting the civilian review board in  
11 principle is also meaningless.

12 Furthermore, the new resolution  
13 raises serious doubts about other  
14 specific plan points Chief Crooks  
15 objected to in voting on the plan as part  
16 of the task force.

17 The city council's role is to adopt  
18 and implement, not to give the police  
19 department a line item veto on plan  
20 points. The resolution also calls for a  
21 new committee to be established by the  
22 Commissioner of Public Safety, to assume  
23 ownership over the implementation  
24 process.

25 Why not instead ask our task force



1 members who've just spent seven months  
2 studying these very issues if they'd be  
3 willing to continue on to manage the  
4 implementation.

5 Lastly, the resolution would  
6 establish a second, separate committee to  
7 further study and review the obstacles to  
8 implementing a civilian review board.  
9 The resolution reads, at the end of the  
10 review period and based on the totality  
11 of the findings, the city council with  
12 input from the community will make a  
13 final determination considering the  
14 implementation of a civilian review  
15 board.

16 The task force has already done that  
17 work and made that determination. The  
18 city council's role is to implement the  
19 civilian review board according to the  
20 task force's specifications. The  
21 alternative is to risk losing the two  
22 million the city receives from the state  
23 as well as any pandemic relief funds that  
24 will also flow through the state.

25 I urge the city council to follow



1 the mandate of Executive Order 203 and  
2 adopt and implement the plan.

3 Thank you.

4 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

5 Chandler Hicken -- something --  
6 Hickenbottom. I don't -- I don't see all  
7 names. I see dot, dot, dot. I have  
8 Hicken (ph.).

9 CHANDLER HICKENBOTTOM: Okay, yeah,  
10 I'm sure. I think you know me, but I'll  
11 introduce myself again.

12 MAYOR KELLY: Can you turn your  
13 video on, please?

14 CHANDLER HICKENBOTTOM: My video is  
15 on.

16 MAYOR KELLY: We're not seeing you  
17 yet. There you go, thank you.

18 CHANDLER HICKENBOTTOM: Yep, you're  
19 welcome.

20 My name is Chandler Hickenbottom.  
21 I'm a local activist and lifelong  
22 Saratoga Spring resident.

23 For the past ten months, I've been  
24 in the streets of Saratoga Springs along  
25 with other concerned Saratoga residents





1           demanding change. I've organized, I've  
2           protested, attended multiple city council  
3           and police task force reform meetings.

4           As community -- as a community  
5           member, my voice has been silenced on  
6           numerous occasions by several of our city  
7           council members. It dates back to the  
8           first conversations in June about  
9           systemic racism and then comes to a head  
10          on July 30th when Robin Dalton made the  
11          conscience decision of allowing the  
12          sheriff's department to assault myself  
13          and other residents.

14          This mostly black-led task force put  
15          together a 50-point plan that has been  
16          watered down and uses language that is  
17          vague and unclear, specifically, about  
18          the civil public review board. Many  
19          residents are very familiar with Daryl  
20          Mount -- with the Daryl Mount case and  
21          feel that if we already had a civil  
22          public review board like other towns,  
23          specifically Albany, who has already  
24          implemented their civil public review  
25          board, maybe we would have gotten the



1           accountability and transparency we needed  
2           seven years ago. Maybe Daryl Mount's  
3           family would have gotten the necessary  
4           apology that is yet to come. Maybe the  
5           mistrust between the community and the  
6           Saratoga Police Department wouldn't be so  
7           high.

8                     If we were in the age of  
9           accountability and transparency, why not  
10          pass the 50-point plan which includes the  
11          CPRB. Let's not drag our feet waiting  
12          for you to evaluate, which means you're  
13          really just going to sit there and drag  
14          your feet until we give up. Which you  
15          know we will not. Why not help us help  
16          you, because in the end the CPRB not only  
17          gives the public a voice, but it also  
18          starts to mend the bridges between  
19          residents and the police.

20                    Adopt and ratify the 50-point plan.  
21          And remember that in order to comply with  
22          EO 203, the council's resolution must be  
23          changed from accepts for consideration to  
24          adopts for implementation.

25                    MAYOR KELLY: Thank you. That's



1 time. Thank you.

2 Samira Sangare?

3 SAMIRA SANGARE: Samira Sangare, I'm  
4 a local activist and resident of Clifton  
5 Park.

6 The council needs to adopt and  
7 ratify the 50-point plan that the task  
8 force came up with for months, especially  
9 with implementing the CRB.

10 These changes needs to be  
11 implemented with dates and deadlines, and  
12 considering it is not enough.  
13 Considering's not enough when community  
14 members on the surveys and public  
15 comments on this very call are telling  
16 you that there's a problem in Saratoga  
17 Springs just like every other town in  
18 America.

19 Daryl Mount embodies the mistrust in  
20 police. And like said earlier, his death  
21 is haunting on this town. We're still  
22 going to be screaming his name. And  
23 we're not safe in a town that shot pepper  
24 bullets at us, period.

25 So adopt and ratify the changes and



1           implement the CRB.

2           MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

3           Beverly Lazar?

4           BEVERLY LAZAR: I can't do my video.

5           Oh, okay, there we go.

6           MAYOR KELLY: There you go.

7           BEVERLY LAZAR: All right, there we

8           go.

9           Thank you, Mayor.

10          My name is Beverly Lazar. I've been

11          a resident of Saratoga Springs for over

12          forty-five years.

13          As a long time mental health

14          professional in this community, over

15          thirty years, I believe that improving

16          our listening skills, improving our

17          community skills, improving our de-

18          escalation skills and trust building

19          skills, can only help a community. It

20          will help us all.

21          Reflection of good governance will

22          include the adoption and the ratification

23          of all 50 points made by the task force

24          in their detailed and thorough work.

25          So I really ask you to have this be



1 passed.

2 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

3 Anyone else?

4 Gabrielle Elliott, please, unmute  
5 and turn your video on.

6 GABRIELLE ELLIOTT: Yes, my name is  
7 Gabrielle Elliott. I reside in Ballston  
8 Spa, but Saratoga County.

9 I just wanted to also back up what  
10 everyone else is saying on this call by  
11 changing the language, by adopt and  
12 ratify the 50-point.

13 But I do also want to start off by  
14 saying from the beginning, from the first  
15 task force -- well, from the first  
16 meeting presented by Robin Dalton and the  
17 Saratoga Police, we presented the problem  
18 with only a hundred people allowed on the  
19 meeting. I think a free Zoom call is not  
20 valid for a public community meeting. At  
21 this point, we're already far into things  
22 and I think there should be a paid Zoom  
23 meeting call that everyone could be a  
24 part of and sit in and not just a hundred  
25 people take turns talking. But that's



1 just my opinion.

2 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

3 Anyone else, please raise your hand.

4 Okay. Rebecca Krefting?

5 REBECCA KREFTING: Yes, thank you.

6 I'm Beck Krefting and I reside in

7 Saratoga Springs.

8 I just wanted to reinforce some of  
9 the things that folks have said before.

10 I am in awe of the recommendations that  
11 have been formulated and I support them.

12 I just want to reinforce that we  
13 have the opportunity to be in full  
14 compliance here if we move to ask the  
15 implementation group to implement all  
16 recommendations.

17 For instance, there are four  
18 quibbles that Chief Crooks voted no for,  
19 like the recommendation number 32, to ban  
20 no-knock warrants, banning military  
21 weapons and vehicles, diversion of seized  
22 assets, and the civilian review board.

23 If we do not adopt those, we will  
24 not be in full compliance. But if we do,  
25 we will be in full compliance.



1           I also want to say that as a queer  
2 woman living in Saratoga Springs that  
3 this is -- these are recommendations that  
4 we adopt to not only benefit our black  
5 and Asian and Latinx populations, but are  
6 queer populations, as well, as it  
7 intersects with race.

8           Thank you.

9           MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

10          COMMISSIONER DALTON: I just want to  
11 say, I'm seeing a lot of people on the  
12 screen who have already commented and who  
13 aren't logging off. By not logging off  
14 and watching live, you're preventing  
15 other people from coming in from the  
16 waiting room and commenting.

17          MAYOR KELLY: Right.

18          COMMISSIONER DALTON: So I'm seeing  
19 at least ten people on my screen who have  
20 already commented. Please, please log  
21 off so everyone has an opportunity to  
22 speak up in this public comment period.

23          FEMALE SPEAKER: After I just said,  
24 though, we shouldn't even be doing.

25          MAYOR KELLY: So is anybody else



1 here to public comment? Raise your hand.

2 Winston Grady?

3 WINSTON GRADY: Yes, thank you.

4 Thank you, Mayor Kelly. Thank you  
5 members of the city council. We -- we  
6 appreciate your time.

7 As a former task force member, I,  
8 one, just wanted to follow up quickly  
9 with what fellow former task force member  
10 Kristen Dart had began to say with  
11 respect to no-knock warrants. Certainly,  
12 I respect Chief Crooks' take on the  
13 matter, but would like for -- for you  
14 folks to reconsider that often the no-  
15 knock warrant when seen in a racialized  
16 context, takes on an -- an added  
17 dimension. We know it's complicated, but  
18 we really, really urge you to do that.

19 Also, I'd like to just say this in  
20 the brief time that I -- that I have  
21 left. Just a sincere thanks to all of  
22 the community members, including fellow  
23 members of the Skidmore community -- I  
24 live in Clifton Park, but I'm a professor  
25 at Skidmore -- for your support. And





1 would really strongly urge you folks  
2 with -- with all due respect, for the  
3 resolutions that you folks passed at the  
4 end of February, in which you took a  
5 principled position around acknowledging  
6 the realities of -- of -- of racism,  
7 systemically, one concrete way to live  
8 the rhetoric around that resolution is to  
9 adopt the 50-point plan that the task  
10 force has brought before you.

11 Thank you, folks.

12 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

13 Daesha Harris?

14 DAESHA HARRIS: Hi. I'm a task  
15 force member and I reside in Saratoga.

16 I think it's --

17 MAYOR KELLY: Can you state your  
18 name, please?

19 DAESHA HARRIS: Daesha Harris.

20 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

21 DAESHA HARRIS: I think it's  
22 important for the council and the  
23 community to know that each point in our  
24 50-point reinvention plan represents an  
25 unseen amount of reading, research,



1           deliberation, compromise, and more  
2           deliberation.

3           Our plan does not tackle all of what  
4           we or the community would have liked.  
5           But it's a good starting point. And  
6           honestly, it's the bare minimum of what  
7           any agency should be doing.

8           We are very concerned about the  
9           language of the council's resolution  
10          which says multiple times, accept to  
11          consider. We want to see action words as  
12          stated in the EO, adopt for  
13          implementation.

14          The task force foregrounded our  
15          report with the words of Dr. Martin  
16          Luther King and Frederick Douglass for a  
17          reason. As a representative of MLK  
18          Saratoga, I'd like to lift up the words  
19          of Dr. King which not only apply to our  
20          nation, but to our city, as well.

21          We as a nation must undergo a  
22          radical revolution of values. We must  
23          rapidly begin the shift from a thing-  
24          oriented society to a person-oriented  
25          society. When machines and computers,



1 profit motives, and property rights are  
2 considered more important than people,  
3 the giant triplets of racism,  
4 materialism, and militarism are incapable  
5 of being conquered.

6 A true revelation -- revolution of  
7 values will soon cause us to question the  
8 fairness and justice of many of our past  
9 and present policies. True compassion is  
10 more than flip -- flinging a coin to a  
11 beggar. It is not haphazard and  
12 superficial. It comes to see that an  
13 edifice which produces beggars needs  
14 restructure -- restructuring.

15 A true revelation -- revolution of  
16 values will soon look uneasily on the  
17 glaring contrast of poverty and wealth.  
18 A nation that continues year after year  
19 to spend more money on military defense  
20 than on programs of social uplift is  
21 approaching a spiritual death.

22 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

23 JANETTE KADDO MARINO? Janette --  
24 Janette, go ahead and unmute. I can't  
25 see your last name.



1           JANETTE KADDO MARINO: Okay. Hi, my  
2           name's Janette Kaddo Marino. I'm a  
3           resident and taxpayer of Saratoga  
4           Springs --

5           MAYOR KELLY: Can you turn your  
6           video on, please?

7           Thank you. Go ahead.

8           JANETTE KADDO MARINO: Thank you to  
9           our task force for your hard work. The  
10          recommendation and implementation -- can  
11          you hear me?

12          MAYOR KELLY: Yes.

13          JANETTE KADDO MARINO: Okay. The  
14          recommendation and implementation of the  
15          citizen review board is long overdue. To  
16          our city council, it is important that  
17          you commit now to adopt and -- and  
18          implement the recommendation on the list.  
19          To not find excuses why you can't, but to  
20          find the courage to say, yes, we can.

21          Please listen to the will of the  
22          people and stand with this task force.  
23          And please help build trust and help heal  
24          this community.

25          This is long overdue. I'm asking



1           that you act for every single citizen in  
2           this community and not just a select few.

3           Thank you.

4           MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

5           Anyone else? Public comment, does  
6           anyone else want to speak up before we  
7           switch over?

8           Chris Mathiesen? Chris Mathiesen?

9           CHRISTIAN MATHIESEN: Can you hear  
10          me?

11          MAYOR KELLY: Yes, I can, sir.

12          CHRISTIAN MATHIESEN: Oh thank --  
13          thank you, Mayor.

14          I'm Chris Mathiesen. I live in  
15          Saratoga Springs. I'm the former  
16          commissioner of public safety from 2012  
17          through 2017.

18          I -- I do want to compliment the  
19          task force for all their hard work. And  
20          obviously they brought up a lot of very  
21          good ideas that I think should be looked  
22          at very carefully.

23          However, I -- as -- as I was going  
24          through their recommendations, I had  
25          problems because I did -- a lot of what I



1 was seeing, I didn't really recognize.  
2 And a lot of the comments I heard tonight  
3 are very foreign to me.

4 The comment about bad experiences  
5 with police, in the six years that I was  
6 commissioner, we reached out to the  
7 community frequently to try to get input  
8 regarding any kind of problems with the  
9 fire, police, any of our departments in  
10 public safety.

11 Surprisingly, we -- we had very few  
12 complaints about the police. Going door  
13 to door, running for election year after  
14 year, I get -- I got a lot of input from  
15 public that was very, very positive about  
16 the Saratoga Springs Police Department.

17 And I would like to touch upon the  
18 issue of -- of Daryl Mount. We need to  
19 remember the Daryl Mount incident was not  
20 an incident of racism, it was an incident  
21 of -- of domestic violence that took  
22 place in the presence of two police  
23 officers on Caroline Street on August  
24 31st, 2013 at 3:02 in the morning. And  
25 at 3:08 in the morning, the same morning,



1 Daryl Mount was found at the -- at the  
2 base of the scaffolding behind the what  
3 is now the Washington building, and  
4 nobody knows exactly what happened in  
5 those -- in those six minutes. But to  
6 assume that the police did something to  
7 cause his demise or cause his injury is  
8 very unfair to the police.

9 And the explanation that there was  
10 no -- no investigation done is absolutely  
11 wrong. And on June 20th, 2014, there was  
12 a press conference held, Chief Veitch and  
13 I held a press conference. The press was  
14 there listening to all the evidence we  
15 presented about the Daryl Mount case. It  
16 was extensive, it included video, it  
17 included affidavits from many people,  
18 pages and pages of information. There  
19 was a very thorough investigation.

20 So that really needs to be made  
21 known. There's a lot of misinformation  
22 out there --

23 MAYOR KELLY: Your time -- thank  
24 you --

25 CHRISTIAN MATHIESEN: Thank you.



1           MAYOR KELLY: -- Chris. I -- I have  
2 to cut you off here. Thank you.

3           CHRISTIAN MATHIESEN: Thank you.

4           MAYOR KELLY: Um-hum.

5           Anyone else?

6           You want to speak, Camille? Okay.

7           CAMILLE DANIELS: Oh great.

8           MAYOR KELLY: Go ahead, Camille.

9           CAMILLE DANIELS: Okay, great.

10 Thank you. Camille Daniels, Saratoga  
11 Springs resident, born and raised,  
12 longtime.

13           So I -- I want to have story time  
14 today too. And it goes like -- a little  
15 something like this.

16           Midnight is the hour when men  
17 desperately seek to obey 11th  
18 Commandment, thou shalt not get caught.  
19 According to the ethic of midnight, the  
20 cardinal sin is to be caught. And the  
21 cardinal virtue is to get by.

22           It is all right to lie, but one must  
23 lie with real finesse. It is all right  
24 to steal if one is so dignified that if  
25 caught, the charge becomes embezzlement,





1 not robbery. It is permissible even to  
2 hate if one so dresses his hating in the  
3 garments of love, that hating appears to  
4 be loving. The Darwinian concept of the  
5 survival of the fittest has been  
6 substituted by a philosophy of the  
7 survival of the slickest.

8 This mentality has brought a tragic  
9 breakdown of moral standards and the  
10 midnight of moral degeneration deepens.

11 It was warm outside today here in  
12 Saratoga Springs, but it isn't June 5th,  
13 1963. And I'm not Martin Luther King,  
14 Jr. But those are his words, which still  
15 today ring very true in particular in  
16 this situation.

17 Can you imagine any society trying  
18 to sustain itself in a democratic mode in  
19 which the elevation of its heroes are the  
20 slickest, the smartest in getting around  
21 the law, the smartest in dominating  
22 others, that's a sick society. Do not do  
23 that.

24 Why? Why don't do that? Because  
25 don't do that.



1           MAYOR KELLY: Thank you. Are --  
2           are --

3           CAMILLE DANIELS: Adopt --

4           MAYOR KELLY: -- you done?

5           CAMILLE DANIELS: -- or ratify.  
6           Thank you.

7           MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

8           CAMILLE DANIELS: God bless.

9           MAYOR KELLY: Robert Lawrentz?  
10          Robert, are you there?

11          JOAN STERLING: Yes, I'm here. This  
12          is Joan Sterling (ph.). I'm a Saratoga  
13          resident.

14          MAYOR KELLY: Can you put your video  
15          on, please?

16          JOAN STERLING: Yep, sure.

17          I'm a Saratoga resident. And I'd  
18          like to say that if any of our elected  
19          officials are undecided about what the  
20          residents of Saratoga support, you have  
21          not been paying attention for the last  
22          hour nor for the last six months.

23          You have a choice to implement the  
24          mandate in the executive order as legally  
25          required and expected by residents or you



1 can ignore your responsibilities.

2 The resistance clearly demonstrates  
3 that you are more concerned with keeping  
4 police employees happy with the status  
5 quo rather than hearing what residents  
6 and voters expect.

7 Further, lack of compliance with  
8 Executive Order 203 will result certainly  
9 in multiple lawsuits that will impact the  
10 tax payers.

11 So I implore you all to find some  
12 courage and do what the residents and  
13 voters of Saratoga are demanding.

14 Thank you.

15 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

16 D. Ferro? D. Ferro, I -- I don't  
17 have a first name. I have D, the letter  
18 D, Ferro.

19 MALE SPEAKER: Can you hear me?

20 MAYOR KELLY: I can. Can you -- I  
21 can't see you, though.

22 MALE SPEAKER: Yes, I am -- Your  
23 Honor, I'm yielding my time to Christian  
24 Mathiesen. Go ahead --

25 MAYOR KELLY: What's that?



1 MALE SPEAKER: -- Christian.

2 MAYOR KELLY: What?

3 MALE SPEAKER: I am yielding my time  
4 to --

5 MAYOR KELLY: No, there's not --

6 MALE SPEAKER: -- Christian  
7 Mathiesen.

8 MAYOR KELLY: -- there's no --  
9 there's no yielding. I got enough people  
10 to speak. We're not going to yield  
11 anything. This is -- you have your two  
12 minutes if you want it, sir.

13 MALE SPEAKER: I'd like to give it  
14 to him. I want to hear what he has to  
15 say.

16 MAYOR KELLY: You're not -- we're  
17 not yielding any time. He had his two  
18 minutes. That's it. We're not yielding.  
19 So if you want two minutes, you're on.  
20 You're on the clock.

21 MALE SPEAKER: Thank you, Mayor.

22 MAYOR KELLY: Samantha, yes,  
23 Samantha Engel -- Engelmyer, sorry.

24 SAMANTHA ENGELMY: Hi, my name is  
25 Samantha. I live in Saratoga. I'm not



1 going to give my address as a young woman  
2 who lives alone, but Congress Park is out  
3 my window right there, very close.

4 There's little left to be said that  
5 my neighbors, friends, and colleagues  
6 haven't said tonight. That the city  
7 council really needs to more seriously  
8 consider the recommendations set forth by  
9 the task force. Nearly 2000 community  
10 members completed the survey and gave  
11 their input.

12 But a new kind of perspective I'd  
13 like to add is Saratoga does not have a  
14 ton of young professionals. We don't  
15 have as many people in their early  
16 twenties, graduating colleges, starting  
17 their career here. And I think that  
18 that's something that would make Saratoga  
19 a lot more attractive to a lot of young  
20 professionals and a lot of young families  
21 to continue to kind of grow our economy  
22 and our neighborhood.

23 And a lot of people my age are very  
24 focused on police reform and making sure  
25 that the communities are safe for their



1 kids to grow up in. So I think that  
2 that's just another angle to look at this  
3 through is the more reform and work we  
4 put into our communities, the better  
5 quality of people we attract to our  
6 community.

7 Thank you.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

9 Anyone else? Please if you can't  
10 put your hand up to wave, turn your video  
11 on and wave at me if you want to talk.

12 Do you see anybody, Lisa?

13 DEPUTY MAYOR LISA SHIELDS: I don't.

14 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Then we are  
15 going to close the public comment period  
16 at this time. And I will bring in our  
17 city attorney, Vince DeLeonardis, to give  
18 a brief overview of the draft resolution.

19 Thank you, Vince.

20 Can you hear me, Vince?

21 MR. DELEONARDIS: Yes, can you hear  
22 me?

23 MAYOR KELLY: Yes.

24 MR. DELEONARDIS: Is my video on?

25 MAYOR KELLY: Yes, it is. Yep.



1           MR. DELEONARDIS: All right. Thank  
2 you, Mayor.

3           So last week, a draft resolution was  
4 presented for public review and comment.  
5 The resolution was drafted with guidance  
6 and input from every member of the city  
7 council and in consultation with the  
8 chief of police.

9           The resolution acknowledged the  
10 extensive work of the task force and the  
11 recommendations that were submitted for  
12 the council's consideration. It also  
13 acknowledged the efforts of the police  
14 department and the fact that many of the  
15 recommendations have already been or are  
16 in the process of being implemented and  
17 then directed the chief of police to  
18 further implement the vast majority of  
19 the task force recommendations.

20           The draft resolution before you this  
21 evening goes further. It accepts for  
22 consideration all of the task force  
23 recommendations and lists them  
24 numerically, including those already  
25 implemented by the Department in order to



1 ensure accountability, progress, and  
2 transparency. And it sets forth the  
3 requirements of an advisory committee  
4 which will assist in the implementation  
5 of the directives contained in the  
6 resolution and will provide, together  
7 with the commissioner of public safety,  
8 and the chief of police, periodic  
9 progress reporting to both the community  
10 and the city council.

11 I understand from the comments this  
12 evening that there's some consternation  
13 with the use of the words accept for  
14 consideration. The use of those words  
15 was not intended to cause any  
16 consternation, and I apologize for that.  
17 The resolution does use that language.  
18 It then lists all of the 50 task force  
19 recommendations in -- in the section  
20 titled, next steps, directs the police of  
21 chief to review those recommendations  
22 that are accepted and to provide for  
23 their implementation.

24 There are just two recommendations  
25 that the council is simply unable to





1 provide for. One of those is with regard  
2 to the DOD 1033 program, and the council  
3 just simply does not have the legal  
4 authority to preclude the county, the  
5 state, or federal law enforcement, who  
6 does happen to participate in a 1033  
7 program from entering the city.

8 The other component of a  
9 recommendation that the council does not  
10 have the ability to implement is with  
11 regard to the proposal to divert seized  
12 assets. Because of the regulations in  
13 place, we simply do not have the ability  
14 to do that.

15 There are two recommendations that  
16 the council does call out in the  
17 resolution that requires further review.  
18 And one of those includes the one that  
19 was a large topic this evening with  
20 regard to the civilian review board. And  
21 I do want to just discuss that briefly  
22 for a moment if I may.

23 It should be noted that there could  
24 in theory be a civilian review board  
25 established right now, not by the mayor



1 as proposed by the taskforce, but by the  
2 commissioner of public safety. That  
3 board, though, would have no teeth. It  
4 would have no authority and could not  
5 exercise the subpoena power proposed by  
6 the task force or conduct what is  
7 referred to as an administrative due  
8 process hearing. And it would be  
9 inconsistent and subject to the  
10 discretion of every new commissioner of  
11 public safety that would be elected every  
12 two years.

13 If on the other hand, we want a  
14 civilian review board that does have  
15 authority over matters relating to  
16 discipline or potential discipline of  
17 police officers, then we will almost  
18 certainly need to amend our city charter.  
19 Because the powers which would be  
20 afforded to a civilian review board are  
21 currently afforded to an elected  
22 official, any amendment to the city  
23 charter would likely be subject to a  
24 mandatory referendum under Section 23 of  
25 the Municipal Rule Law.



1           In other words, it would be up to  
2           the voters to ultimately decide. If  
3           there is going to be a question on the  
4           ballot for voters, then we have an  
5           obligation to very clearly define the  
6           purpose, scope, and function of a  
7           civilian review board so that the voters  
8           have a true understanding of exactly what  
9           they are voting for and can therefore  
10          make an informed decision.

11          We also have an obligation to inform  
12          the voters of the potential costs  
13          associated with implementing such a board  
14          as they will ultimately bear the costs as  
15          taxpayers.

16          They will also likely be required to  
17          bear the costs to defend any litigation  
18          which may arise in the implementation of  
19          a civilian review board. And before we  
20          expose them to that, shouldn't we ensure  
21          that we have made every effort to confirm  
22          that such a board does not want a foul of  
23          state law or contractual obligations.

24          The resolution before you this  
25          evening does not abandon or dismiss the



1 idea of a civilian review as some are  
2 suggesting. It fully accepts the task  
3 force recommendation in principle and  
4 calls for an evaluation of the potential  
5 legal issues, union issues, and city  
6 charter issues, and to further assess the  
7 process, scope, and funding requirements  
8 of implementing a civilian review board.  
9 Such a call for further evaluation is not  
10 dismissive, it's responsive and  
11 appropriate.

12 The civilian review board as  
13 proposed by the task force does leave  
14 certain questions that warrant and  
15 deserve clarification. And we can get  
16 into that further if you would like, but  
17 I do want to give you the opportunity as  
18 council to discuss the resolution. And I  
19 am happy to answer any questions you may  
20 have.

21 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you -- thank  
22 you, Vince.

23 Does the council have any comments  
24 or questions about the resolution?

25 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Mayor, I just



1 have one comment. And Mayor Kelly, I  
2 apologize if this is something you were  
3 going to bring up.

4 I received well over a hundred  
5 emails of people who were in support of  
6 the police department and against the  
7 idea of a civilian review board. And  
8 although they did not speak up in public  
9 comment tonight, I would hope that as a  
10 council those are submitted and put on  
11 the public record so that they can be  
12 viewed by everyone because --

13 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah.

14 COMMISSIONER DALTON: -- I mean --

15 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah, Commissioner,  
16 they -- they went through a public  
17 comment record so our secretary on this  
18 call will attach those -- all of those  
19 emails to the record. Yep.

20 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Excellent.  
21 Thank you. I just think it's important  
22 that all voices be heard.

23 MAYOR KELLY: Yes, I agree with you.  
24 Thank you.

25 Any other comments?



1           COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Mayor, I'd  
2 bring up that we just pass it as is. I  
3 know you and I totally disagree on this.  
4 I did -- I did meet with Vince, as all of  
5 us did, and with the -- with the police  
6 chief. I don't know if Vince and the  
7 police chief also met with the co-chair  
8 people of the task force before either  
9 resolution was brought out to go through  
10 some of these items.

11           You know, you got two Ivy League  
12 graduates, people of color, we have  
13 thirteen members on the board, twelve of  
14 which who could vote, nine of them are of  
15 color. I think we're missing the point  
16 here. I think we pass it as is and if  
17 there's legal ramifications, we'll figure  
18 that out. We have an ethics board that  
19 when I was -- that had been around  
20 forever, but we had strengthened and gave  
21 them subpoena powers back in 2006. And  
22 then a couple of years back, I think Skip  
23 and Michele were here, we -- we did some  
24 additional powers to the ethics board.

25           So I -- I believe this is happening



1 all through the state and all through the  
2 United States. So I don't think this  
3 needs to be hold -- held up for a  
4 referendum at the end of the day. And I  
5 think it's going to cause more problem  
6 than it's worth.

7 To me -- and I did receive a bunch  
8 of those emails, most of the people  
9 didn't live in the city, or they were  
10 relatives of police officers, because I  
11 know many of the people because I grew up  
12 with them. I saw some of -- I saw the  
13 letter from the chief today and from the  
14 district attorney an all that.

15 But I think it's pretty clear --  
16 I -- I don't know if we're living in a  
17 vacuum here, but I think it's pretty  
18 clear to me, at least, that people want  
19 this. Maybe -- maybe I'm viewing this  
20 the wrong way, but this is not -- this is  
21 not brain surgery. It's obviously things  
22 are going to change, they'll get updated,  
23 laws will be out there. But I think  
24 you're going to see this throughout the  
25 United States and throughout most cities



1           throughout New York State. And I would  
2           rather be in the forefront of moving  
3           forward on this because I do think we  
4           have a great police department. And I  
5           think this will work out very, very well  
6           at the end of the day.

7                         And you know when I look at the  
8           members of the task force, because we  
9           talk about team, and I'm not a team  
10          member I've been told, this is the team  
11          that we put out on the field, we all had  
12          choices here of who we put here. And I'm  
13          very proud of the two members I put here.  
14          And I -- unless there's a city council  
15          member who's not happy with their choice,  
16          I'd like to hear about it because -- and  
17          I -- and I -- actually I think it's a  
18          very moderate proposal compared to other  
19          ones I have looked at.

20                        So I think that's where I am. I had  
21          asked to have the two chair people sort  
22          of do a presentation so they could give  
23          their point of view. I was denied that,  
24          that's fine. One of them did speak  
25          tonight.





1           But I'm very proud of this group, as  
2           I know all of you should be and are. And  
3           I -- I -- I think if we're going to get  
4           in legal wrangling of -- of item number  
5           32 and item number this and item number  
6           that, I think we're missing the point.  
7           This -- this -- this can be cleaned up as  
8           we go. It's -- but I don't think we --  
9           we -- we wait on this. I think we move  
10          forward next week when we vote on it.

11          But again, I'm only twenty percent  
12          of this council. Thank you.

13          MAYOR KELLY: So Commissioner, I  
14          just want to comment that I did send an  
15          email to both chairs, and I only heard  
16          back from Jason Golub. So I was told  
17          that Camille Daniels did not want to help  
18          out with questions on this call. So if  
19          anybody has any questions, Jason Golub is  
20          available. If -- if anybody has  
21          questions.

22          So I did reach out. I know who was  
23          in this task force. They've done a great  
24          job. We have one of the best task force  
25          put together in the state. So I'm going



1 to tell you we didn't do it like other  
2 municipalities.

3 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Okay.

4 MAYOR KELLY: So I don't need to be  
5 told about who's on the task force. I  
6 think we all put the best people on that  
7 we thought.

8 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Well then you  
9 made my argument for me for just the vote  
10 as is. Because I agree with you. This  
11 is --

12 MAYOR KELLY: No, it's not the  
13 argument.

14 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: -- the best.  
15 I believe it's --

16 MAYOR KELLY: It's just you're  
17 trying to tell me, Commissioner, about  
18 who was on the task force. It's a little  
19 late. I mean, you sat in a meeting with  
20 our city attorney, sir, and --

21 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Yes, and  
22 did --

23 MAYOR KELLY: -- you didn't have  
24 anything to say about the resolution.

25 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: I --



1           MAYOR KELLY: You said you're fine  
2 with it. So that is -- that's where we  
3 had -- the rub -- the rubber hits the  
4 road.

5           COMMISSIONER FRANCK: No, the  
6 rubber --

7           MAYOR KELLY: I mean, you sit there  
8 and now you're --

9           COMMISSIONER FRANCK: The rub with  
10 the road --

11          MAYOR KELLY: -- gonna talk to the  
12 newspapers and you don't even talk to the  
13 council. So we have some big issues  
14 here.

15          COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Yes, we do.

16          MAYOR KELLY: And you can sit there  
17 all you want, and you can just keep  
18 interrupting me, but I'm going to tell  
19 you, John Franck, that you have not  
20 talked to me at all about this. You go  
21 to Wendy Liberatore and you -- you spew  
22 off in the paper.

23                 So let -- let's try to be a team  
24 player. Yeah, you're on the -- you're on  
25 your own team.



1 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: I -- I --

2 MAYOR KELLY: You know, the rest of  
3 this council has been working on this.

4 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: You done yet?

5 MAYOR KELLY: I am done, thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: So what you  
7 should have done --

8 MAYOR KELLY: Okay, tell me what I  
9 should have done. Really? Really, John?  
10 Tell me what I should have done. What  
11 have you done?

12 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Can I speak or  
13 are you just going to keep cutting me  
14 off?

15 COMMISSIONER DALTON: I'd like to  
16 respond as well.

17 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Let me just --  
18 let me finish and you guys can all yell  
19 and scream after. But let me just --

20 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Hold on, let  
21 me speak. I'm going to speak now too.

22 You went through the first draft  
23 resolution and sat with the city attorney  
24 and the chief of police and you agreed  
25 with everything in the first draft of the



1 resolution --

2 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: No, I did not.

3 I listened to them --

4 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Yes, you did.

5 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: -- I didn't

6 agree --

7 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Yes, you did.

8 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: -- no, you

9 weren't there. Don't tell me what I  
10 said.

11 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Let me finish.

12 Let me finish. You also had an  
13 opportunity for -- there were text  
14 messages, there were emails, you had an  
15 opportunity to speak up about draft  
16 number two. You said nothing. You said  
17 nothing.

18 All you're doing is talking to the  
19 press and that is detrimental to this  
20 entire process. If you had negative  
21 feedback, critical feedback, if you  
22 wanted things to be differently, you had  
23 multiple opportunities to address this  
24 council. And instead you spring it on us  
25 tonight.



1           And I also find it beyond ridiculous  
2           to hear anyone say that Commissioner  
3           Franck is, you know, exempt from all this  
4           criticism because I've been here since  
5           January 2020. You were here when the  
6           Daryl Mount incident happened. I don't  
7           recall you making any effort to put  
8           together a civilian review board or  
9           address police reform in the last, what,  
10          seven or eight years since that happened.

11          So I -- I find it incredibly ironic  
12          to hear those kind of statements. You've  
13          had every opportunity to work on any one  
14          of these issues over the last many, many  
15          years that you've been in this position  
16          or in the last two or three weeks. And  
17          I've heard nothing.

18          COMMISSIONER FRANCK: I got a call  
19          from --

20          COMMISSIONER DALTON: Nothing.

21          COMMISSIONER FRANCK: -- I got a  
22          call from Wendy Liberatore before I even  
23          had the second resolution in my hands,  
24          just so you know. Because I didn't -- it  
25          was a text sent out early in the morning.



1 I put my kids on the bus and she gave me  
2 a call. And I explained -- and you can  
3 call Wendy Liberatore. I know you won't,  
4 Mayor, but you can call her.

5 MAYOR KELLY: I -- I hope --

6 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: And I had --  
7 and I was very clear --

8 MAYOR KELLY: -- I won't for good  
9 reason --

10 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: -- and I was  
11 very --

12 MAYOR KELLY: I won't for good  
13 reason --

14 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: -- I have the  
15 floor now.

16 MAYOR KELLY: I won't for good  
17 reason.

18 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: I was very --

19 MAYOR KELLY: There's a big reason  
20 why I won't talk to Wendy Liberatore.

21 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: I was very --

22 MAYOR KELLY: So -- so you can say  
23 what you want, John, I --

24 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: I can't say  
25 what I want --



1           MAYOR KELLY:  -- I really don't  
2           care.

3           COMMISSIONER FRANCK:  -- you won't  
4           let me speak for God's sake.

5           MAYOR KELLY:  You have nothing to  
6           say.

7           COMMISSIONER FRANCK:  Okay.  So  
8           the -- I had -- I was very clear to her I  
9           had not read the -- it was just sent out.  
10          I had not even read the second  
11          resolution.  And she said are you going  
12          to support the -- would you have  
13          supported the first one.  I said, well,  
14          obviously there must have been an issue  
15          if the second one has come out, so, no, I  
16          could not have supported the first one,  
17          is what I said.  But I said I have not  
18          read the second resolution yet, so,  
19          Wendy, I can't give you a comment on that  
20          because I don't have it in hand.

21          After I read it, it was a dog with  
22          different fleas.  It's still the same  
23          thing --

24          COMMISSIONER DALTON:  Well this is  
25          the priority of the council --





1           COMMISSIONER FRANCK:  -- and now  
2           that I'm speaking about it, you're  
3           telling me that I can't speak about it.

4           COMMISSIONER DALTON:  You should  
5           prioritize --

6           COMMISSIONER FRANCK:  You can yell  
7           and scream and send emails and do  
8           whatever you want.  I'm just giving you  
9           my point of view.  And my point -- I --  
10          I'm still allowed to vote.  I don't need  
11          your permission how I vote.  And I'm  
12          going to vote to pass what this -- what  
13          they put through.  I don't think we need  
14          to make changes.  I think it's a simple  
15          resolution.  And that's just me.  If  
16          other people don't vote, I'm not going to  
17          yell and scream and threaten you.  Vote  
18          however you want.  That's how --

19          MAYOR KELLY:  Great.  Thank you,  
20          Commissioner.

21          Anybody -- any other comments?

22          COMMISSIONER DALTON:  Yeah, I would  
23          like to say one -- one quick thing.  
24          Which is I think that if you don't know  
25          Saratoga and you don't know our police



1 department and you've heard the comments  
2 here tonight, the police department that  
3 we have has been really maligned by a lot  
4 of this at first glance. And I just want  
5 to say since I've been serving this  
6 position since January 2020, I have seen  
7 some of the finest men and women you  
8 could imagine working in our police  
9 department. I am incredibly proud to  
10 represent them.

11 Every group, every agency, every  
12 business has room for improvement. Of  
13 course we always want to strive to do  
14 better. But I think we have one of the  
15 best police departments in the region, if  
16 not the state. And there is plenty of  
17 evidence to back that up.

18 Just looking at the use of our body  
19 cameras alone, we have had a body camera  
20 policy in place since 2012. We have been  
21 so ahead of the curve on so many of these  
22 issues. And I know this isn't a moment  
23 to compliment the police department and  
24 sing their praises, but in light of all  
25 the negativity that has been spoken about



1           them and said tonight, I think someone  
2           has to. And if that person is me, it  
3           should -- it should be me. I'm elected  
4           to represent them in my department.

5                     And I just have to say I am  
6           incredibly proud of the men and women of  
7           this police department, how they've  
8           handled these conversations, how they've  
9           been able to manage listening to all of  
10          this negativity over the last several  
11          months, and still they're willing to  
12          embrace change and do better.

13                    And I want to give them credit for  
14          that and let the community know that you  
15          have men and women who are devoted to  
16          your safety and being the best they can  
17          for this community. And I thank them for  
18          that every single day.

19                    MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,  
20          Commissioner.

21                    Any other comments?

22                    MR. DELEONARDIS: Mayor, if -- if I  
23          may, just for one quick second.

24                    Commissioner, the only -- just on  
25          the substance of what you were referring



1 to a moment ago with regard to the ethics  
2 board and the council giving them the  
3 ability to subpoena. You -- you -- you  
4 are absolutely correct in that, in that  
5 the city council did give the ethics  
6 board the power to issue subpoenas.

7 That's -- that's a different issue  
8 than what we're dealing with here for a  
9 proposed civilian review board. In the  
10 instance of an ethics board, the council  
11 didn't abolish, transfer, or curtail the  
12 power that's otherwise afforded to an  
13 elected official in order to give that  
14 power to the ethics board. In a civilian  
15 review board, it would, in so far as the  
16 commissioner of public safety does have  
17 jurisdiction and authority over all  
18 matters relating to the discipline of  
19 officers.

20 So in order to give a civilian  
21 review board the powers that you equate  
22 to the ethics board, you would  
23 necessarily have to take those powers  
24 from the commissioner of public safety.  
25 And in order to take those powers from



1 the commissioner of public safety, the  
2 city council would have to pass a local  
3 law. And under Section 23, that local  
4 law would be subject to a mandatory  
5 referendum.

6 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Vince, I've  
7 got to believe with other, right, because  
8 we have an odd form of government, as we  
9 know --

10 MR. DELEONARDIS: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: -- right. So  
12 there's only Mechanicville, two cities in  
13 the state.

14 I have to believe -- and a matter of  
15 fact, in Mechanicville, I think the  
16 mayor's in charge of the -- of the  
17 police. It's not -- it's not public  
18 safety with my review on it years ago.  
19 That other charters very clearly state  
20 that the mayor or somebody elected is in  
21 charge.

22 I'm -- I would be shocked if every  
23 one of these municipalities, all the ones  
24 in New York City, all the way around, are  
25 now saying this has to go to referendum.



1           It just doesn't make any sense to me.  
2           Now if I'm wrong, then that's fine. I  
3           still don't know why we can't put the  
4           civilian review board ahead, get it  
5           started. And so maybe they don't have  
6           civilian powers, maybe they're just a  
7           paper tiger to start, but why do we not  
8           just get this forum going and -- and then  
9           you can always put this up to referendum  
10          if we find out from guidance, you know,  
11          from -- from the mayors through the state  
12          that we can't do it, then that -- that's  
13          cool, I get it. I'm not trying to -- you  
14          know, I don't think the charter police  
15          are going to come after us.

16                 But I do think to do it the other  
17          way around is just going to take a year  
18          or years to do such. And that -- that  
19          was -- even when I met with you because  
20          Robin was not in the meeting, and I did  
21          agree with most of the things that you  
22          stated. And -- and -- and I told you the  
23          issues that I was concerned about,  
24          including this because we talked about  
25          referendums, permissive referendums, and



1           whatever.

2                   And when I did get called -- like I  
3           said, called from Wendy Liberatore, I  
4           didn't -- hadn't even read the second one  
5           yet. I got a text at like 8 o'clock in  
6           the morning --

7                   COMMISSIONER DALTON: That's so  
8           embarrassing to admit --

9                   COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Can I finish,  
10          please?

11                  COMMISSIONER DALTON: Go ahead,  
12          finish.

13                  COMMISSIONER FRANCK: You can go on  
14          forever once I -- just let me finish.

15                  So what I'm saying is why don't we  
16          take this as it is. You can put subject  
17          to federal, state, local laws, you know,  
18          or something like that because I -- I  
19          don't -- that -- that's just my whole  
20          point.

21                  It seems clear to me that overall  
22          this is what people -- I didn't hear  
23          anybody -- maybe one or two people say  
24          anything negative about the police. This  
25          is -- I think the lady said it best, who



1           says, I'm an accountant, I still get  
2           reviewed by this, I get reviewed by that,  
3           I get reviewed by this. That -- you  
4           know -- and it may not be used very much  
5           because I do think the police do a great  
6           job here.

7                     But that's -- I just -- if this is  
8           the case, I don't know how they could  
9           even put this order out, 203, because  
10          there's charter for every city. And I  
11          got to think there's somebody in charge  
12          of public safety that's elected in many  
13          of those cities. Some of them probably  
14          not because they have, like, police  
15          officials and stuff like that. So, I  
16          mean --

17                    COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Right.

18                    COMMISSIONER FRANCK: -- that --  
19          that's what I'm saying.

20                    MR. DELEONARDIS: You are seeing --  
21          you are seeing different municipalities  
22          that have already implemented a civilian  
23          review board. Some of them, in fact, go  
24          through charter changes or amendments to  
25          allow for this. And some of them, in





1 fact, going through referendums.

2 And I know -- and I reviewed Ed --  
3 Ed Lindner's letter that he submitted  
4 making reference to, for example, the  
5 City of Schenectady that's gone through  
6 this. And you know, they -- they -- you  
7 know, not to overstate the obvious, but  
8 the City of Schenectady and the City of  
9 Saratoga Springs are very different. And  
10 we are unique, for better or for worse,  
11 in our form of government, our commission  
12 form of government. Schenectady, their  
13 commissioner of public safety, is simply  
14 appointed by the mayor. So the  
15 legislative body has greater ability to  
16 direct that department.

17 Here, the commissioner of public  
18 safety is a duly elected official, and  
19 their powers are -- are vested in the  
20 charter. So you know, again, the --  
21 we -- the resolution does not dismiss the  
22 idea of a civilian review board and it  
23 does accept it in principle. It just  
24 calls out, we have to -- we have to make  
25 sure that we adequately review all of



1           these things and that we also clarify a  
2           lot of the issues, a lot of the questions  
3           that are raised in the civilian -- in the  
4           task force's proposal for a civilian  
5           review board before that submission goes  
6           forward on a ballot. You know, there's  
7           questions that need to be answered and  
8           there are determinations that need to be  
9           made on funding. You can't just say  
10          you're going to implement something  
11          without answering those questions.

12                    COMMISSIONER DALTON: I just -- I  
13           have a question. Do we know how many  
14           people came -- when there was a citizen's  
15           advisory board, do we know how many  
16           complaints they handled in the year plus  
17           that they were created? Because I've  
18           spoken to some of the members of that  
19           citizen's advisory board and -- and to my  
20           knowledge, no one came before them with a  
21           complaint.

22                    I also just want to point out that  
23           I, as opposed to other commissioners,  
24           have done a lot of research into this  
25           issue of a civilian review board. And



1 I'm not speaking for or against, but I  
2 just think it's important to point out  
3 that throughout the state, the  
4 overwhelming majority of civilian review  
5 boards have disbanded or fallen apart or  
6 been failures.

7 And I think that we really need to  
8 look at what's worked throughout the  
9 state and what hasn't worked if we are  
10 going to implement this in a way that we  
11 want to be successful for the entire  
12 community.

13 I also just have to say that I'm  
14 embarrassed to hear that someone would  
15 treat a resolution and an issue like this  
16 and be so lackadaisical about it they  
17 they'd be willing to talk to the media  
18 before actually reading the email that  
19 has been presented to them with a  
20 resolution of this significance. I'm  
21 truly embarrassed to hear that from  
22 another city council member. And I hope  
23 that we -- we can do better as a group  
24 and prioritize things like this that are  
25 incredibly important to the entire



1 community.

2 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: I --

3 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you --

4 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: -- it's not  
5 hard --

6 MAYOR KELLY: -- Commissioner.

7 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: -- it's not  
8 difficult.

9 MAYOR KELLY: Commissioner Madigan,  
10 would you like to speak?

11 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah.

12 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: So anyway, I  
14 am just not sure what we are all  
15 disagreeing on. If there is some  
16 confusion around accept for  
17 consideration, I had -- I heard that  
18 comment come up from public comment, and  
19 I heard Vince address what he means by  
20 accept for consideration and  
21 implementation.

22 I think we are all saying we want to  
23 address -- implement, take, accept, look  
24 over the 50 recommendations that were  
25 sent to us from the task force. I like



1 the first resolution, and I like the  
2 second resolution. I -- I can't figure  
3 out what we're disagreeing on.

4 We were -- we said in the first one,  
5 maybe a little too broadly, like, here's  
6 all the things that we do right now, and  
7 here are the -- we -- we zoned -- we kind  
8 of zoned in on the four that we busted  
9 out here in the second resolution with  
10 the -- the -- the 50 recommendations  
11 outlined. You know, now we're being a  
12 little bit more specific and saying we --  
13 we want to accept and implement these.  
14 But it is going to be based on certain  
15 state laws, county law, local laws.

16 We may indeed be able to amend a  
17 local law to say we don't want to have  
18 no-knock warrants here in the City of  
19 Saratoga Springs. And things are done  
20 based on appropriation. And I want to  
21 make sure that if we're asking our police  
22 department to do something, that we are  
23 indeed going to make sure they have the  
24 funds to do it.

25 And I don't think that's a big,



1 heavy lift. This is just about  
2 priorities, right. If this is a document  
3 that we prioritize and we want to accept  
4 for implementation, then we're going to  
5 have to put the money behind it to make  
6 sure that they're able to do their job.

7 And in terms of the community -- the  
8 citizen's review board, I think we're  
9 saying we want to do this, you know. I'm  
10 sorry to the 100 people who emailed us  
11 today, but we're saying it needs a  
12 further review. And we haven't figured  
13 out what that further review is going to  
14 look like.

15 I've heard from one attorney we  
16 shouldn't have to go to referendum. I've  
17 heard from another attorney that says we  
18 may indeed have to go through referendum.  
19 There may be a way around it, there may  
20 be a paper tiger that the commissioner of  
21 public safety could set up while we're  
22 looking at a timeline if it has to indeed  
23 go to referendum.

24 But I just can't figure out what  
25 we're all disagreeing about. Like, how



1 is it that Commissioner Franck, you're --  
2 is some out -- out on an island all by  
3 himself, and I guess the four of us have  
4 been sort of put on an island over here.  
5 The four of us, I guess, we're not alone  
6 on our island, but I just -- I'm not  
7 understanding -- I think we're all in  
8 agreement that we want to accept the --  
9 these recommendations from the task force  
10 that did their job.

11 I don't know what else to say. I --  
12 I need more thought. This got a little  
13 heated tonight, and I'm not really  
14 prepared to present the way maybe I would  
15 have normally wanted to present by  
16 thoughts and comments on this.

17 MR. DELEONARDIS: If I may,  
18 Commissioner? I --

19 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah.

20 MR. DELEONARDIS: -- I wait -- you  
21 know, I -- following this meeting and  
22 based on what we heard from the public  
23 and what I'm hearing from council, I will  
24 provide clarifying language with regard  
25 to that accept for consideration.



1           At the end of the day, you're making  
2           a valid point in that the council really  
3           is accepting all 50 of these  
4           recommendations subject to the  
5           limitations that have been identified.  
6           If you appreciate in the next steps  
7           section, that the implementation is still  
8           subject to compliance with applicable  
9           laws, rules, and regulations, and budget  
10          appropriations, in theory, there would be  
11          no issue with accepting the -- the -- the  
12          1033 DOD ban because it wouldn't be  
13          alternately implemented. There is no  
14          issue with accepting the recommendation  
15          with regard to the diversion of seized  
16          assets because in the implementation  
17          part, the rules and regulations would  
18          ultimately prevent it from being  
19          implemented.

20                 So --

21                 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Exactly.

22                 MR. DELEONARDIS: -- at the end of  
23                 the day, you can, of course, accept all  
24                 of the recommendations as written. Just  
25                 understand that you'll be addressing





1           these very same issues that were called  
2           out in resolution in the implementation  
3           stage.

4           So at the end of the day, the issue  
5           is still there. It's just when are you  
6           going to address it, now in the  
7           resolution, or subsequently when we're  
8           dealing with the implementation.

9           But you're making a valid point and  
10          I will, for the council's consideration,  
11          change the language with regard to accept  
12          for consideration to accept.

13          MAYOR KELLY: Thank -- thank you.  
14          I'd like to ask Commissioner Scirocco if  
15          you have anything that you want to add to  
16          this.

17          You -- you have to unmute, sir.

18          COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: I -- I know.  
19          Sorry. Okay, we're good.

20          MAYOR KELLY: Yeah.

21          COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Okay, good.  
22          Thank you. Yeah.

23          Listen, this has been a real -- real  
24          good discussion tonight, real good  
25          comments from -- from the public. No



1           surprises, I guess, you know, I mean in  
2           regards to, you know, what people  
3           really -- what they want, what -- I think  
4           what they're asking the council for.

5                     But I'm a firm believer in, you  
6           know, measure twice, cut once. I mean,  
7           this is something that I think we can --  
8           no council member should -- should  
9           obviously take lightly. And I think  
10          everybody's put a lot of thought into it.

11                    I think -- you know, I've worked for  
12          public safety for -- for thirty-two years  
13          and I can tell you, it's an exemplary  
14          police department. I mean, yes, there  
15          are some people in -- in the -- you know,  
16          in the law enforcement field that  
17          probably shouldn't be there. But I can  
18          tell you from my experience with -- with  
19          the Saratoga Springs Police Department,  
20          they're the best. They're the best. And  
21          that's why people come to this city.  
22          That's why people, you know, want to move  
23          here. It's -- it's safe. It's -- it's a  
24          clean city.

25                    And I mean this -- this resolution,



1 I'm going to say, probably longtime  
2 coming. I mean, systemic racism, there's  
3 no place for that in -- in any community  
4 anywhere in the world. It exists, I know  
5 it exists. And I think this is a real  
6 good step, you know, forward to -- to  
7 eliminate that sort of situation.

8 Again, I applaud the -- the task  
9 force for doing what they did. It's --  
10 it was a tough job. They got into it,  
11 basically with -- you know, with no  
12 resources as one of the speakers spoke  
13 about. But it -- it's a good resolution.

14 I think it's, you know, the other  
15 part is a journey of a million miles  
16 starts with a single step. This is  
17 someplace that we need to start. We got  
18 to have a starting point. And I think  
19 this is a good starting point.

20 It was put together, not by the city  
21 council, it was put together by an  
22 independent group thinking independently.  
23 And again, I applaud -- I applaud  
24 everything that they did. And I think  
25 moving forward, I think we'll -- we'll



1 probably come to the right decision here.

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

4 I think, you know, Vince will kind  
5 of rework it again, right? And we'll --  
6 we'll see if we can get another draft  
7 out. And we'll circulate that to the  
8 council. And then if the council can get  
9 back to us and let us know your thoughts,  
10 then we'll post it for the public and  
11 then we'll have one more meeting next  
12 week. And we'll have public comment  
13 again. And we'll go from there.

14 Any other questions or comments from  
15 the council?

16 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Yeah, I just  
17 want to bring -- Vince, would it make  
18 sense, because you're an attorney, to  
19 reach out maybe -- I think Jason Golub is  
20 an attorney also, Kim Galvin's an  
21 attorney on there. Wouldn't it make  
22 sense as you're going through this  
23 just -- because if they agree with you  
24 that this can't be done without a  
25 referendum, if they're in the same



1           legal -- they both have legal backgrounds  
2           in this. Then I think it just makes it a  
3           lot easier to then pass a resolution that  
4           has this type of wording in it. By  
5           reaching -- instead of us doing this  
6           inside a bubble here, with just the city  
7           council and sitting with the police  
8           chief, I just think it makes a lot more  
9           sense because, hey, I've been through  
10          enough lawsuits since I've been in City  
11          Hall, and there's always two points of  
12          view. And two attorneys -- it's like the  
13          weather, neither side's right, but  
14          everybody gets paid.

15                 Would it make sense to -- to -- to  
16          reach out to Jason, if he's willing, and  
17          I've never met the gentleman, I've never  
18          spoke to him, to reach out to him and say  
19          this is how I'm reading it, this is our  
20          interpretation, you know, with legal at  
21          City Hall and -- and see if there's a  
22          mechanism to get them to be in agreement  
23          with that or not. Because I just think  
24          it makes it a lot easier for everybody.

25                         MAYOR KELLY: Well, I --



1           COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Do you  
2 think --

3           MAYOR KELLY: -- I think that that  
4 can happen, Commissioner. I think that  
5 we can ask Kim Galvin, who's an attorney,  
6 and Jason Golub, who is an attorney, to  
7 sit down with Vince and --

8           COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Yeah.

9           MAYOR KELLY: -- see if they could  
10 work through it. Yep.

11          MR. DELEONARDIS: Yeah, you're  
12 not --

13          COMMISSIONER DALTON: Just to point  
14 out, though, that if anyone -- if you had  
15 been at the task force meetings, both Kim  
16 Galvin and Jason weighed in extensively  
17 on all these issues. So I'm not sure why  
18 we're asking them to do that again.

19          So Commissioner Franck, I would  
20 recommend that you go back and watch some  
21 of those meetings because --

22          COMMISSIONER FRANCK: I -- I had  
23 been watching them, Commissioner. And  
24 with all due respect, they put forth a  
25 plan and they did all their homework.



1 And I'm saying go with their plan.

2 We as a council, apparently, are  
3 saying not to go exactly with their plan.

4 So --

5 COMMISSIONER DALTON: No one --

6 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: -- I'm going  
7 based on your recommendations, so I would  
8 say you go back and watch it.

9 COMMISSIONER DALTON: I just --

10 MAYOR KELLY: Let's -- let's --  
11 let's just stop --

12 MR. DELEONARDIS: If I can --

13 MAYOR KELLY: -- at this point  
14 because I think that -- you know, I  
15 think, Vince, you have a plan going  
16 forward --

17 MR. DELEONARDIS: Yeah, I do.

18 MAYOR KELLY: -- you can meet with  
19 all the Commissioners and myself and  
20 we'll discuss this.

21 MR. DELEONARDIS: Okay.

22 MAYOR KELLY: I see Commissioner  
23 Madigan with a hand up, yes?

24 MR. DELEONARDIS: And just if I  
25 can -- I'll try --



1           COMMISSIONER MADIGAN:  Vince, you  
2           know, I'm happy to help reach out -- am I  
3           on mute?

4           You know, we can talk to a number of  
5           lawyers if we need to, you know, we will  
6           get an answer to this question.

7           MAYOR KELLY:  Right.

8           COMMISSIONER MADIGAN:  There's  
9           plenty of legal minds that we can consult  
10          and figure out, like, how we can move  
11          forward the best way we --

12          MAYOR KELLY:  Right.

13          COMMISSIONER MADIGAN:  -- you know,  
14          through referendum, through not  
15          referendum.

16          MR. DELEONARDIS:  Okay.

17          COMMISSIONER MADIGAN:  I -- I did  
18          want to pick up on something Commissioner  
19          Scirocco said, actually, because --  
20          because it just touched a nerve with me  
21          in a positive way.

22          It's true, we live in a good city.  
23          We've got good schools, it's a safe city.  
24          We've got great water, we've got a very  
25          good hospital.  There are -- you know,





1 we've got great arts, education,  
2 entertainment, culture here. And one of  
3 the things that does make it work is that  
4 we really are a safe city. And so with  
5 that, I know -- I -- you know, I want to  
6 say thank you to our police and fire  
7 department also for, you know, keeping us  
8 so safe.

9 I think it would be wrong to leave  
10 this meeting and not point out that they  
11 do do a great job. But we have a big job  
12 in front of us and that is to accept the  
13 recommendations that we're given to us  
14 from the task force and figure out how we  
15 are going to go about implementing them.

16 And I think that that -- we are all  
17 in agreement on that, so I'm not sure,  
18 you know, why we have some much  
19 consternation.

20 MAYOR KELLY: All right.

21 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: But we do, so  
22 we'll get --

23 MAYOR KELLY: I think --

24 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- we'll go  
25 forward, so --



1           MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,  
2           Commissioner. I think that at -- at this  
3           point, I'm going to turn it over to  
4           Vince, your last comments. And then I'll  
5           wrap it up.

6           MR. DELEONARDIS: Yeah, thank you.

7           I -- I just want to say that, you  
8           know, the -- the task force, I'm very  
9           proud of them, as well. I was very proud  
10          to be a part of that even as a non-voting  
11          member.

12          On the issue of the civilian review  
13          board, they did do an extensive amount of  
14          work. The depth of the analysis did not  
15          go into comparing the proposed civilian  
16          review board with the city charter.  
17          There are other issues that just need to  
18          be confirmed.

19          Again, I'm not taking a position one  
20          way or the other with regard to civil  
21          service law. And make sure that we are  
22          proposing something that does -- not  
23          necessarily doesn't conflict with the  
24          union contracts, but just identifies the  
25          areas of the union contracts that we



1 ultimately are going to have to  
2 renegotiate.

3 You know, those issues are going to  
4 have to be addressed. And those things  
5 are called out in the period of further  
6 review that will be provided for when the  
7 Mayor on or before June 1st, so there is  
8 a deadline which this -- this will occur,  
9 but she will appoint a committee to  
10 undertake this particular evaluation and  
11 to review the specific civilian review  
12 board proposal to address the issues that  
13 are contained in their -- in their  
14 language, as well.

15 MAYOR KELLY: Thank -- thank you,  
16 Vince.

17 At this time, I don't -- I don't  
18 think we need to discuss any more. We  
19 have a plan.

20 Vince will, you know, do some  
21 rewrite and then we'll circulate that and  
22 meet with the -- the council. And then  
23 we'll meet again next Wednesday, the  
24 31st. And we are voting that night, so  
25 that is going to happen because we have



1 to get this submitted in April 1. Okay?

2 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you.

3 MAYOR KELLY: All right. Thank you  
4 all and have a good night.

5 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.

6 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you for all your  
7 input.

8 MR. DELEONARDIS: Good night.

9 (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.



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Amanda M. Oliver

eScribers

352 Seventh Avenue, Suite #604

New York, NY 10001

Date: March 29, 2021

Approved: 4/6/2021

Vote: 5 - 0

