



“THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK”  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

THOMAS M. ROACH  
MAYOR

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**For Immediate Release:**

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**CITY OF WHITE PLAINS ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF POLICE REFORM COMMITTEE**

**CITY & WHITE PLAINS / GREENBURGH NAACP BRANCH PARTNER TO CO-SPONSOR COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS**

**White Plains, NY – September 18, 2020.** White Plains Mayor Tom Roach today announced the formation of the City of White Plains Police Reform Committee. This committee will review the needs of the White Plains community served by its police department, evaluate the department’s current policies and practices; involve the full White Plains community in the discussion; develop policy recommendations resulting from this review; offer a plan for public comment; and present that plan to the White Plains Common Council.

As part of this comprehensive review process, the City of White Plains and the White Plains / Greenburgh NAACP Branch will co-sponsor a series of public listening sessions for members of the Police Reform Committee and the White Plains community as a whole. The purpose of the sessions is to obtain feedback in responding to Governor Cuomo’s “New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative” Executive Order 203.

**Mayor Tom Roach** said, “I am pleased to be working in collaboration with the White Plains / Greenburgh NAACP on this important initiative and I am also pleased to announce that the President of the White Plains / Greenburgh NAACP Branch, Ms. Janice Griffith, will be chairing our Police Reform Committee. The White Plains / Greenburgh NAACP is a respected partner and well-qualified to help White Plains in this endeavor.”

(More)



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The Committee led by Ms. Griffith will convene several community listening sessions this fall. The listening sessions will give residents the opportunity to voice their opinions, share experiences, and submit questions to the Committee in a public forum.

The listening sessions and the subsequent work of the Committee will focus on topic areas including, but not limited to:

- Community Policing
- Anti-Bias Training
- Transparency, Data Collection and Reporting
- Mental Health Crisis Management
- Civilian Complaint Review Board

For those who do not wish to speak during the public listening sessions, questions and comments may be submitted in writing to: [policereform@whiteplainsny.gov](mailto:policereform@whiteplainsny.gov). A public meeting schedule with additional details will be announced shortly.

**Janice Griffith, President of the White Plains / Greenburgh NAACP Branch** said, “Entering into a partnership with the City of White Plains is a terrific opportunity to work with our communities to strengthen the positive elements of the policing culture, while working on those areas where constructive modifications or additions are necessary.”

**Council President Nadine Hunt Robinson** said, “This is a very important issue and I look forward to the feedback from the City of White Plains Police Reform Committee. To me, 21st Century Policing involves a process of continual improvement.”

**Mayor Roach** added, “We value the importance of obtaining feedback directly from the White Plains community as we build our plan in response to the Governor’s Executive Order. “This is an opportunity to step back and review our policing policies, enhance the lines of communication between our police department and the community, and make White Plains an even better place for all those who live, work, and visit here.”

*Note:* The full Committee membership list is attached.

# # #



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## **City of White Plains Police Reform Committee**

Janice Griffith, **Chair**  
President, NAACP - White Plains/Greenburgh Branch

Joseph Castelli  
Police Chief, White Plains Police Department

Rosemarie Eller  
President, White Plains Board of Education

Keyla Garcia  
Resident

Cheryl Greenberg  
My Sister's Place

Wade Hardy  
Westchester-Rockland Guardians Association

Katrina Jackson  
Resident

Brian Johnson  
White Plains PBA

Michelle Jones  
Student, White Plains High School



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Nada Khader  
Director, WESPAC

Harriet Lowell  
Chair, Mayor’s Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities

Patrick Macarchuk  
Westchester County District Attorney’s Office

Patrick Schelle  
Westchester Coalition for Police Reform

Captain James Spencer  
Community Advocacy & Strategic Initiatives Division,  
White Plains Police Department

Minister Donald Stevens  
Resident & Deacon, Little Mt. Zion Holy Church

Bernie Thombs  
Security Consultant for WP Housing Authority

Judy Troilo  
Executive Director  
The LOFT: LGBT Community Services Center

Reverend Erwin Lee Trollinger  
Calvary Baptist Church



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Isabel Villar / Judith Aucar  
Executive Director / Deputy Director, El Centro Hispano

Marie Vitale  
Resident & Local Attorney

Frank Williams  
Director, White Plains Youth Bureau

Laurette Young  
Resident