

GEDDES TOWN BOARD
RESOLUTION IMPLEMENTING EXECUTIVE ORDER 203

WHEREAS, on June 12th, 2020, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed Executive Order 203, creating the New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 203 requires all local governments with a police agency to perform a comprehensive review of current police operations, including police policies and practices, for the purpose of addressing and assessing community needs, promoting community engagement, fostering trust and fairness between our police and community, and addressing any racial bias which may exist; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Geddes maintains a Police Department consisting of 23 sworn officers plus civilian employees, ably led by Police Chief John R. Fall Jr. along with a complement of sergeants and officers; and

WHEREAS, we are justifiably proud of the Geddes Police Department, and its record of New York State Accreditation, strong community relations, service, community policing, and modern and progressive policies and practices; and

WHEREAS, we know that we cannot be satisfied with our history of success in community law enforcement, and, to avoid complacency and replicating any past mistakes, we must constantly strive to assess our strengths and weaknesses, and to improve accountability and trust between our police department and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, as public servants and representatives of the Town of Geddes, the Geddes Town Council has an obligation and responsibility to protect both the public safety of the town and the civil rights, civil liberties, and dignity of all of its residents and visitors;

NOW, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Geddes Town Council hereby commits to undertaking a process of review and assessment of its police department and police operations, which will include engaging with community stakeholders, holding public forums in the Town to obtain input from community members and others; reviewing our current policies and practices, and assessing the extent to which they adequately meet the current needs of the Town, the Police Department, and the community we serve; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town Council hereby will implement a Chief's Advisory Board to conduct the review and assessment of the Geddes Police Department, to collect and consider public comments and input, and to consider, among other things, current use of force policies and deadly force, de-escalation and crisis intervention training, implicit bias awareness, body-worn camera policy, community-based outreach and policing, assessing and any racial disparities in policing; and the overall promotion of improved police-community relationships, based on trust, fairness, accountability and transparency; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Chief's Advisory Board will be made up of members of the community, from different aspects of the community: consisting of five citizens (not-elected) and two Town Councilors assigned by the Town Supervisor: The Police Chief will chair this Chief's Advisory Board. The Chief's Advisory Board will be able to provide input, but will not have voting power, or the right to implement policies within the police department. The Chief's Advisory Board will meet a minimum of three times a calendar year: and be it further

RESOLVED, that after considering the aforementioned elements, the Chief's Advisory Board should develop a recommended plan, including any proposed modifications, innovations and modernizations to our police practices, policies and procedures, which will be tailored to the specific needs of our community; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the recommended plan shall be made available for public input and comment by Geddes residents, after which it will be submitted back to the Town Council for its consideration and adoption no later than April 1, 2021: and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Council adopt RESOLUTION IMPLEMENTING EXECUTIVE ORDER 203 on March 9th, 2021 and ratification of the Town's compliance with Executive Order 203 be signed by the Town's Chief Executive Officer/Supervisor.

(DRAFT)