



SPCP COUNCIL

STRENGTHENING POLICE COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

• Lucy Gerold – **Facilitator**

• Andi Bryant – **Logistics Coordinator**

• Timothy Carr

Krish Sharma

• Susan Puddester

Barbara Carr

• Jeanne Marklin

Eric Sullivan

• Charles Chandler

Michael Sussman

• Tania Hernandez

Brian O'Grady

• Dan Bryant

Kerri Nicholl

• Jacob Schutz

Barbara Rosenthal

TIMELINE – HOW WE GOT HERE

- In the summer of 2021, with the approval of Interim Town Manager Charlie Blanchard, Interim Chief Ziemba reached out to the Department of Justice and asked to be part of the SPCP program.
- Interim Chief Ziemba reached out to 12 community members, critics and supporters alike, and created the SPCP Planning Committee. The first meeting was August 10, 2021.
- SPCP facilitated dialog event occurred on March 12, 2022 at Mt. Greylock Regional High School from 8am to 3pm. The SPCP Council was formed at this event.
- The DOJ compiled a final report from the March 12th event and the Council's first meeting was April 28th.

SUMMARY OF OUR CHARTER

- Oversee and ensure implementation of the recommendations and solutions from the community event 3/12/22.

OUR CHARTER

Strengthening Police Community Partnership Council

Adopted July 21, 2022



Authorization

At the recommendation of Interim Police Chief Michael Ziembra and as approved by the Interim Town Manager Charlie Blanchard, and in partnership with the Department of Justice Community Relations Service, a facilitated community gathering was held on March 12, 2022 (SPCP event) which resulted in the formation of this Council.



Purpose

The charge of the Council is to ensure that prioritized solutions from the SPCP event are addressed in a timely manner. It is also the charge of the Council to collaborate with law enforcement leadership to follow up on the recommendations, and solutions developed by community participants of the SPCP event.



Goals

The Council will prioritize recommendations. By summer of 2022, the Council will introduce itself to the community and present its Charter. Prioritized recommendations directed at improving the relationship between the police and community will be finalized by summer of 2022. Action plans will be developed for implementing top priorities throughout 2022 and 2023 with quarterly progress reports beginning in the fall of 2022. These reports will be made public and distributed to the Police Chief, Town Manager and Select Board.

Approach

The Council will schedule regular meetings to engage and collaborate with those who are responsible for implementing action plans (facilitating the concerns that were identified in the SPCP Meeting), receive updates, review progress on plans, and report progress to the community.

Council Membership

The Council consists of volunteers identified at the SPCP event. These Council members live or work in Williamstown or work for an organization that serves the Williamstown community. The council may add new members as they see fit. The Council may make such rules for membership as it sees necessary and may change those rules from time to time as it sees fit.

The structure of the Council includes a Facilitator/Chair and a Logistics Coordinator (agendas, schedules, communications, etc.) Both positions are selected by the Council body and serve at the pleasure of the Council.

Confidentiality

All members must maintain confidentiality of proceedings and personnel data they may become aware of. This must be strictly adhered to and any violation will result in removal from the Council.

Council's Authority

The authority of the Council is to provide oversight and advocacy on behalf of the community, as established at the SPCP event. It is also to prioritize recommendations and solutions in collaboration with Interim Police Chief Ziemba or the Chief of Police for Williamstown.

Processes

The Council will operate on the principle of consensus decisions for all action items that are not internal to the workings of the Council or that directly impact outside organizations or the general public. The Council may operate on a majority vote basis for any internal actions that, in general, only impact the internal operations of the Council.

Support

The Council may accept the use of Town resources in order to accomplish its goals. These may include, but are not limited to, use of town-owned facilities space, technology or other resources for communication needs and scheduling meetings.

Prohibited Areas

The Council will not engage in any decisions relating to police staffing, policies or practices, nor will it replace the existing lines of authority within the Town of Williamstown or the Williamstown Police Department. The Council will not mediate disagreements between individual community members and the police department. The Council will not replace direct communication between the police and the community, nor does it replace any other community processes, resources and/or committees.

FOUR PRIORITIES

- Rebuild trust between the police and community and the community and police
- Need for an HR professional for the police department
- Engage an outside entity to complete a full assessment of the WPD to both identify areas needing to be addressed and shine a light on everything done well
- Officer Wellness

NEXT STEPS

- Action steps for each priority
- Recommendations to the Town Manager
- Report to the community
- Presentations and updates to community groups

STRENGTHENING POLICE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM REPORT

- Found on the Police website at williamstownmapolice.com
- Found under the NEWS tab.