



City of Beacon, New York

Office of the Mayor
Lee Kyriacou, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 29, 2021

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MAYOR KYRIACOU APPOINTS DIVERSE POLICE REFORM PLANNING COMMITTEE

Beacon, NY: Mayor Lee Kyriacou announced the creation of a diverse and representative Police Reform Planning Committee. In accordance with Governor Cuomo's Executive Order No. 203, the committee will conduct a comprehensive review of the Police Department's policies and procedures and develop a plan to improve them in order to foster fairness and to address any racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color. Beacon's committee will be co-chaired by the Chair of the Human Relations Commission, Pastor John Perez of Faith Temple Church of God in Christ and Beacon resident Mark Ungar, a professor of political science and author of several publications on public safety.

Dutchess County completed their plan in the early Winter of 2021. Pastor Perez served as a key stakeholder on the Dutchess County Police Reform and Modernization Collaborative. The Collaborative published *A Plan to Reform, Modernize, and Reinvent Law Enforcement and Policing in Dutchess County* in December 2021. The County's plan will serve as a guidepost for Beacon's efforts. The Plan focused on the following five key areas of reform: building public trust and legitimacy by enhancing connection to the community; accountability and transparency; professionalization of law enforcement; violence prevention and modern policing strategies; diversion programs and addressing mental health, homelessness, and addiction.

The City of Beacon Police Reform Planning Committee consists of:

Co-Chairs

1. Pastor John Perez – Pastor at Faith Temple Church of God in Christ
2. Mark Ungar – Beacon resident, Political Science Professor, Author of Public Safety publications

Elected Official

3. Mayor Lee Kyriacou

Community Members

4. Justice McCray – Co-Founder of Beacon 4 Black Lives
5. Brooke Simmons - Beacon Now
6. William Cornett - Retired City of Beacon Acting Chief of Police and Police Lieutenant
7. Addison Goodson – Representative from the Human Relations Commission
8. Molly Rhodes – Yale University graduate, Director with Teach for American and former member of the City of Beacon Police Chief Search Committee
9. Giovanna Rogow – Executive Director of the nonprofit Maternal and Infant Services Network of Orange, Sullivan, Ulster County and Dutchess County and former Director of the Regional Economic and Community Action Program in Newburgh
10. Rabbi Brent Spodek – Rabbi, Beacon Hebrew Alliance
11. Deborah Felder – Former member of the Police Chief Search Committee

Representative from the Public Defender's Office

12. Kara Gerry – Senior Assistant Public Defender

Representative from the District Attorney's Office

13. Samantha Sayegh – Assistant District Attorney
14. Sara Thompson – Bureau Chief

Leadership from the Police Department

15. Sands Frost – Chief of Police
16. Tom Figlia – Lieutenant

School District Representative

17. Matthew Landahl – City of Beacon School District Superintendent and former Baltimore City School District Teacher

City Staff

18. Chris White – City Administrator
19. Gina Basile – Human Resources Director

Mayor Kyriacou said, "I have full faith in both Pastor Perez and Mark Ungar to lead this committee and I thank them for their service to the City of Beacon. The Committee will help us to craft a high level, productive document with achievable community goals."

Mark Ungar said, "I believe that the people of Beacon have the commitment and skill to create a model of community safety for New York. Let's use this opportunity to come together and forge a practical path toward a truly inclusive, transparent, and citizen-centered security reform."

Chief Frost said, "I look forward to working with the community to create a comprehensive and inclusive policing plan."

About the City of Beacon:

Beacon, New York is located on the eastern shore of the Hudson River 60 miles north of New York City, with a population of 15,000. Originally a Native American settlement, the area was purchased from the Wappinger Tribe in 1683 and settled by Dutch and other Europeans, leading to the riverfront community of Fishkill Landing on the Hudson, and the mill community of Matteawan on Fishkill Creek. The two communities were incorporated together as the City of Beacon in 1913, named for the Revolutionary War signal fires on Mount Beacon. Beacon thrived as a 19th and 20th Century factory city, but as factories closed after WWII and the local economy declined, the city went through a period of hard times. Today, Beacon has successfully reinvented itself as a 21st Century river community centered around tourism, the arts and access to the scenic Hudson River heritage area. A diverse and thriving small city, it is now home to DIA:Beacon (one of the largest exhibition spaces in the country for modern and contemporary art), a network of Hudson River parks connecting to Fishkill

Creek and Mount Beacon trails, and a vibrant historic Main Street of art galleries, shops, cultural venues and restaurants.

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