

Resolution 20-_____

WHEREAS, On June 12, 2020 the Governor of the State of New York Andrew Cuomo signed Executive Order 203 entitled the “New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative,” requiring local governments in the state to adopt police reform policies to enhance the manner in which services that are being provided to the public can be improved; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that government has a responsibility to ensure that all of its citizens are treated equally, fairly, and justly before the law; and

WHEREAS, Chemung County, in coordination local municipal governments and the five law enforcement agencies (Chemung County Sheriff’s Office, Elmira Police Department, Elmira Heights Police Department, Horseheads Village Police Department, and the Town of Elmira Police Department) has identified ways to increase the effectiveness of the criminal justice system by ensuring that the local police agencies within this county by locally-approved plans for the strategies, policies and procedures of local police agencies; and

WHEREAS, Chemung County Executive and all the local municipal elected officials had created a diverse group “Police Reinvention Committee” (herein referred as “Committee”) to discuss, review, and make recommendations to our law enforcement agencies as a collaborative consensus on several important issues currently facing law enforcement on topics such as implicit bias, diversity and inclusion training; and

WHEREAS, the Committee consulted with stakeholders, including stakeholders identified in the Governor’s guidance document, to adopt and implement the recommendations resulting from its review and consultation, including any changes to its policing deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, tailored to the specific needs to Chemung County’s community and general promotion of improved police agency and community relationships based on trust, fairness, accountability, and transparency, and which seek to reduce any racial disparities in policing; and

WHEREAS, the committee discussed and reviewed the use of force policies, services provided to citizens requiring mental health and drug addiction, as well as other currently relevant topics involving the deployment of services and community policing; and

WHEREAS, the committee developed and “Plan” attached as Appendix “A” after a review of all five police agency’s relevant policies and practices of the department to foster trust, fairness, transparency, accountability, and legitimacy, so that police would effectively and safely perform their duties; and

WHEREAS, the Chemung County has created a Human Relations Director and a Human Relations Specialist position within the county who will be responsible for a variety of tasks, including oversight of standardized training for all law enforcement agencies in Chemung County pertaining to diversity, implicit bias, and de-escalation; and whereas, these positions will also be responsible for conducting annual verification with each law enforcement agency outlined in the

Plan that they have met the training criteria, and monitor the overall goals and assist in facilitating any steps within the Plan to foster its success; and

WHEREAS, recommendations in the Plan are based on evidence-based policing strategies described in the Governor’s Guidance Document; and

WHEREAS, such Plan has been offered for public comment to all citizens in the County, and after consideration of such comments; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED the Chemung County Legislature hereby ratifies and adopts the Plan by resolution attached as Appendix “A;” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Committee’s recommendations within the Plan to accomplish the goals set forth in Executive Order 203 and the Guidance Document, may include provisions to:

- Enhance our current law enforcement relationship with school districts throughout Chemung County by collaborating with our local Police Academy.
- Examine the possibility of a mobile crisis team with a specific skillset to assist law enforcement with issues involving mental health-type complaints.
- Establish a plan for our local law enforcement agencies can be assigned to various worship houses to regularly work alongside faith-based leaders whereupon multiple issues related to police and the community can be discussed periodically.
- Establish a plan for our local law enforcement agencies in consultation with various businesses, not-for-profit organization leaders to address policing within our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Executive will continue to monitor and respond to community concerns related to the police reform and reinvention collaboration until the goals of the Plan have been accomplished; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Executive will facilitate the process of forwarding the Plan, as well as other mandated documentation to the New York State Director of Budget to meet the requirement of Executive Order 203.