

11/22/20 9:00PM – Corrected

November 22, 2020

To the Citizens of Delaware County,

I would like to correct some misinformation and misconceptions regarding the Police Review currently in progress as mandated by Governor Cuomo's Executive order 203.

I, Sheriff Craig DuMond, am not the chair of the committee. The Chairman of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors, Tina Molé, is the chair of the committee.

The questions included on the initial community survey were created by the county's independent contractor. The questions were sent out to the entire committee on two occasions for comment and input prior to release to the public, however it has since been brought to my attention that at least one member of the committee was inadvertently left off of these emails, as noted below. The current survey period has been extended until 11/30.

I do not have control or command of the committee or process, and every committee member is encouraged to be an active participant and contribute their views accordingly.

These are the committee members as of today:

Tina Molé – Chairman, Delaware County Board of Supervisors

Craig DuMond – Sheriff, Delaware County

John Hubbard – Delaware County District Attorney

Joseph Ermeti – Delaware County Public Defender

Scott Glueckert – Delaware County Probation Director

Bud Gladstone – Supervisor, Town of Andes

Mary Rosenthal – Executive Director, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council of Delaware County

Cindy Heaney – Director, Community Services of Delaware County

Debra Mierop – Clinic Director, Delaware County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services

Joyce St. George - Catskills Addiction Coalition

Reverend John Grenier – Oneonta Assembly of God Church / Delaware County Correctional Facility Chaplain

Erdem Kâhyaoglu – Member of Osmanli Dergah, Sidney Center / Owner, Hamden Filling Station

Simon Purdy – Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice SUNY Delhi (Committee member Purdy did not receive the community survey for review and thus did not, nor would not have, approved of its release.)

In addition to these members, we are reaching out to additional county residents to join the committee and will make announcements as they are confirmed.

We are utilizing social media for releasing information, as well as press releases to the media. In the future we will add advertising in various local newspapers. We will explore other avenues for distributing the next survey but must note that the county's resources are limited.

The initial meeting was a "meet and greet" for the committee, and an opportunity for me to present my department to the committee so that they would have a basis for input. Unfortunately, several of the committee members were unable to attend that day as can be noted by watching the video we released online.

We will not have live audiences in the conference rooms due to social distancing requirements, but we will offer a Zoom link for future meetings for the public to view the proceedings live. Each meeting will be recorded and released via social media. At least one, and possibly two, new surveys will be released for public comment. We foresee the additional surveys being created entirely by the committee members.

In addition, there seems to be some confusion as to which county agencies are mandated to review by Executive Order 203. Neither the County Government nor the Sheriff's Office are responsible for the local law enforcement agencies in Walton, Delhi, Colchester, Hancock and Sidney, or their plans in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order. That responsibility lies entirely with those municipalities and their local governmental bodies. It should be noted that the New York State Police is exempted from this executive order, requirement, and associated plan.

I consider the Sheriff's Office to be completely transparent and very community focused. The Sheriff's Office is the only local law enforcement agency in Delaware County that is accredited by the State of New York. Furthermore, since 2019 we are the only law enforcement agency in Delaware County that mandates body cameras for all our officers, which digitally capture and securely store every interaction with the public, ensuring integrity in the service we provide as well as complete transparency.

In closing, I have seen the word "sham" associated with this review process. I pride myself on integrity and the inclusion of ideas from all backgrounds and perspectives and I welcome this process of law enforcement review. As Sheriff, I feel I have an excellent track record concerning this. Because the Sheriff's Office is an elected position, I am always aware that I represent the entire community. I do not answer to a governmental body, but rather to the citizens of Delaware County. I am honored and consider it a privilege to serve you all regardless of background, race, sex, or political affiliation. Again, I truly feel that my track record proves my statements.

Sincerely,
Craig DuMond, Sheriff
Delaware County, New York

Delaware County residents are encouraged to submit a completed survey and public comment form via this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W33LYRG>.