CITY OF YONKERS
POLICE REFORM AND REINVENTION COLLABORATIVE
Part I: YPD Information & Data
Dear Yonkers Police Reform Committee Members,

Thank you for playing a key role in the New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative. The part you serve on the Yonkers Police Reform Committee is one I know you will thrive in because of the communities you represent, coupled with your unique perspectives.

As stated in the Governor’s resource guide, communities across the country are working to overcome issues concerning their police departments. We share in a common objective to improve police-community relations by reinventing law enforcement for the 21st century.

Since the beginning of my administration, the Yonkers Police Department has enacted over 100 different reforms to reimagine how local law enforcement interacts with the community. I am proud to say that the Yonkers Police Department has become a model for other law enforcement agencies to follow.

The recent incidents involving excessive force by police officers in cities across America speaks to the need to continue along a path of evolution. The Yonkers Police Department is committed to working hand-in-hand with this committee to help bring about recommendations and reforms that reflect both the needs of our communities and those of the men and women who serve and protect our city.

This initial report references Part 1, Section I of the New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Guidebook and serves as a resource for you to understand the department better. I hope that you use this initial report as a guide to suggest further improvements to the Yonkers Police Department.

Together we will continue to lead by example.

MIKE SPANO
Mayor
INTRODUCTION

Over the last decade New York State has enacted measures aimed at reforming the criminal justice system and ending mass incarceration in New York. As cited in the New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Resources & Guide for Public Officials and Citizens (“the Guidebook”), these statewide measures have included the repeal of Section 50-a of Civil Rights Law, banning chokeholds, prohibiting race-based 911 calls, appointing the Attorney General as Independent Prosecutor for police involved deaths, measures to reduce prison population, bail reform, discovery reform, speedy trial reform, raising the age of criminal responsibility to 18-years-old, requiring videotaping of interrogations and permitting photo identification into evidence.

The following initial report presented to the Yonkers Police Reform Committee does not offer an opinion on the effectiveness of these measures nor any others. Instead, the information and data presented in this report describes the current functions and operations of the Yonkers Police Department in alignment with the topics and questions stated in Part 1, Section I, of the Guidebook. It is the intent of the City of Yonkers to provide unbiased, factual information to the committee to assist members in their formulation and submission of effective recommendations that will serve to improve police-community relations and public safety.
PART 1: KEY QUESTIONS AND INSIGHTS FOR CONSIDERATION

SECTION I.

WHAT FUNCTIONS SHOULD THE POLICE PERFORM?

1. Police/Community Engagement – Adopting Procedural Justice

The Yonkers Police Department utilizes a New York State Department of Criminal Justice endorsed Procedural Justice training curriculum to provide training in two (2) eight-hour training modules. The first module is Procedural Justice 1 (PJ1). The curriculum focuses on the four tenets of procedural justice – treating individuals with dignity and respect; giving individuals a voice during law enforcement interactions; being neutral and transparent in decision making; and conveying trustworthy motives. Procedural Justice 2 (PJ2) focuses on implicit bias.

The Yonkers Police Department embraces Procedural Justice with the recognition that while highly publicized abuses of authority by police officers fuel distrust and erode legitimacy, less publicized, day-to-day interactions between community members and law enforcement are also influential in shaping people’s long-term attitudes toward the police. Procedural Justice training for police officers has been found to be effective in lowering incidences of excessive force, overall number of complaints and substantiated complaints.

2. What role do the police currently play in your community?

a) What are the primary activities of police officers in your community?

The YPD Crime Control Strategies Division meets weekly to discuss crime trends, offender status, resource deployment, etc. Members of the Yonkers Public Schools security team and representatives from Probation and Parole are also present. Through intelligence sharing and dialogue, strategies are developed for best focusing the YPD’s precision policing model with respect to top offenders and active crime trends. The result of each meeting is a strategy for the most effective deployment of resources for the upcoming week.
The graphs below break down crime stats for 2018, 2019, and 2020 year-to-date which demonstrate the types of criminal activities YPD are responding:
b) Why are people calling 911?

The graphs below show the number of 911 Dispatcher Calls for 2018, 2019 and 2020, as well as the reasons for the 911 call. The types of calls depicted are categorized by the public safety dispatcher. The outcome of the event may differ from the reason for dispatch.
(Service Calls: general calls responded to by YPD; Part 1 Crimes: categorized by the FBI as murder, manslaughter, sex offenses, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, and arson; Aided Calls: EMS responded; misc. various complaints; P.S.D. Calls: public safety dispatcher was able to satisfy the caller)
c) In what situations do police self-initiate interventions with the community?
YPD officers do not generally self-initiate interventions with the community. Exceptions include community policing initiatives and homeless outreach.

d) How often are complaints made about the police?

![Community Complaints about YPD]

![Complaints by Precinct from 2012-2020]

e) Do particular units or assignments draw an outsized share of complaints?
f) Do complaints come from a particular portion or portions of the community?

Complaints by Ethnicity

- Black: 181
- Hispanic: 118
- White: 101
- Asian: 9
- Unidentified: 44

---

g) What type of conduct is commonly complained about?

Type of Complaints about YPD

- Rudeness: 103
- Lack of Service: 99
- Improper Police Conduct: 80
- Excessive Force: 68
- Harassment: 34
- Missing/Damaged Property: 24
- False Arrest: 22
3. Should you deploy social service personnel instead of or in addition to police officers in some situations?

YPD’s Homeless Outreach is currently staffed by a P.O. and a Sgt. with assistance from 2 additional P.O.s who are assigned to Getty Square. The current duties include:

- Daily response to calls for service relating to the large homeless presence in Getty Square. During these encounters they offer assistance with various available services including placement in shelters, medical care, psychiatric care or substance abuse counseling.

- Proactively approach homeless individuals and again offer the above mentioned services. Homeless Outreach P.O. conducts a 3 hour ride-along during his tour with Lamont Brown Sr. who is a Case Manager, Mobile Mental Health Team for the Westchester Department of Social Services. Again, they attempt to locate homeless individuals and encourage them to take the services provided by the Department of Health. At times they are assisted by substance abuse counselors and mental health specialists who also work for the Department of Health. During some of these encounters, YPD Homeless Outreach is able to provide care packages that include snacks, water, socks and other hygienic sanitary items.

- Weekly patrol of known spots where the homeless tend to sleep overnight, including the train station, parks, parking garages, business vestibules and other areas where complaints of homeless people sleeping overnight are received. Officers offer services and attempt to get the individuals to make use of the shelters that are located in the City of Yonkers.

4. Can your community reduce violence more effectively by redeploying resources from policing to other programs?

   a) Community Based Outreach and Violence Interruption

   The Guidebook suggests implementing SNUG, a program that uses an evidence-based model to identify individuals with a high risk of engaging in gun violence. As noted in the Guidebook, Yonkers has a robust SNUG program that has effectively assisted with community based outreach with regard to violence interruption.
b) Parent Support

The Yonkers Police Department has developed, offers and promotes information on programs available for parents/caregivers needing assistance with guiding a wayward child. Examples of programs include:

**SUPPORTING A CHILD’S MENTAL WELLNESS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER!**

- Reassure children they are in a safe environment. Home should be a NO judgment zone to talk about their current feelings.
- Keep daily structure and routine. Promoting mental wellness starts with appropriate sleep, physical activity and a healthy diet.
- Limit Media Exposure. Provide current information in an age appropriate and easy way to understand.
- Be a Role Model. Practice healthy coping skills and stress related reactions.
- Trust your gut!

Quarantine is tough for all but if you notice your child is having extreme difficulty, there is support. Supportive Resources are available thru the Yonkers Police Department.

Contact our Youth Advisor Alison Licht
914-803-2479
Alison.Licht@ypd.yonkersny.gov

---

**Surviving Quarantine with a Teenager?**

As Adults we’re more prepared to face this temporary lifestyle but adolescents thrive on being social, mobile and pushing their independence!

**THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND**

1. Frustrated Adolescents can be very vocal and say hurtful things but don’t take it personal! Acknowledge its stemming from their sense of confinement and current disappointments. Validate their emotions but be clear about your expectations during this time.
2. Avoid unnecessary conflicts. Confrontations with adolescents are unavoidable and even more these days. Allow adolescents privacy at times in their own space to cool down. Walking away in order to keep the peace may be today’s best alternative!
3. Create daily routines, clear responsibilities and acknowledge each day. Routines are important during unknown times and are the one thing adolescents can depend on. Differentiating between school time, meals and virtual socializing can help fulfill each day with a purpose.
4. Listen to your adolescents and be present. Express empathy put yourself in their shoes. Encourage daily conversation. Check-ins are essential and can avoid built up emotions and stress.

Additional Support and Connective Resources are available through the Yonkers Police Department.

Contact our Youth Advisor Alison Licht
914.803.2479 – Alison.Licht@ypd.yonkersny.gov

---

**IS YOUR CHILD STRUGGLING EMOTIONALLY?**

THE YONKERS POLICE CAN HELP
CALL YOUTH ADVISOR ALISON LICHT
914-803-2479
c) Youth Development & Addressing Trauma & Preventing Violence at Home

The Yonkers Police Department has created various programs in support of youth development and supporting a strong and healthy home:

• **Youth Court Membership**
  Offered to Yonkers youth between the ages of thirteen (13) and eighteen (18) years-old with an interest in the juvenile criminal justice system and law. Members must be students in good standing and complete an in-house training program prior to participating. The Yonkers Youth Court are provided opportunities to speak with professionals in the judicial field.

• **Youth Court Community Service**
  Youth Court participants complete community service assignments with a focus on building their skills for future employment and their resume. YPD partners with organizations such as the AFYA Foundation and Groundwork Hudson Valley to offer these opportunities to youth.

• **Youth Community Service**
  Volunteer placement for local youth in search of community service opportunities and experience is provided. This program provides for positive interaction between local youth and police and aims to counter the stigma of community service only being a punishment for criminals.

• **Police Athletic League (PAL) Programs**
  - **Boxing:** Since the mid 1970’s, the PAL has offered free training in boxing for all Yonkers youth. Participants are given intensive diet and exercise regimens and trained daily in fundamentals. Eventually, after gaining enough experience they are given the opportunity to spar and then participate in actual matches. The Yonkers PAL Boxing Program has produced multiple world champions and Olympic medalists, not to mention several Golden Gloves Champions. It is and always has been free of charge and is currently run by retired Yonkers Police Officer Sal Corrente.
  
  - **Baseball:** The PAL Baseball Program is another free program that has produced dozens of scholarship-winning players from the City of Yonkers and currently has multiple former members playing at the college level. Players are introduced to the basics of the game and are provided the opportunity to learn and practice year-round inside the facility’s large gym which includes a batting cage, a pitcher’s mound, a mixed-use turf area for ground balls and hitting, and a weight room. This comprehensive baseball program is as much about mentorship and creating outstanding individuals as it is about learning the game. The program is currently run by retired Yonkers Police Officer Victor Mendez.
  
  - **Karate:** The PAL’s low-cost Karate Program, offered in the facility’s Dojo Room, teaches discipline and martial arts and is currently run by former PAL karate graduate Eric Camacho who is a Sergeant with the NYPD. This program does have a fee, but is substantially lower in cost than most private programs.
– Basketball: The PAL Open Gym Basketball Program has been run continuously since the PAL took over the armory building on North Broadway roughly 20 years ago. Open gym basketball provides youth a safe, warm, and free place to play after school between the hours of 2:45 PM – 7 PM. There are six hoops which host continual games and youth are free to play wherever they feel most comfortable with no restrictions on time, skill level or age. Youth as young as 10-years-old and as old as 18-years-old can play and are expected to conduct themselves responsibly. All youth voluntarily comply with a dress code and respect the rules and rights of all others. Open gym basketball is a year-round program that is free for all Yonkers youth and fosters structure and safety; the program is administered by the PAL police officers assigned to the Community Affairs Division.

– Food Distribution: The PAL, in collaboration with Feeding Westchester, has created a large scale, monthly produce distribution program. The PAL also became a “Backpack” location, meaning that every month the PAL receives and distributes non-perishable items in individually packed bags.

d) Design of Public Spaces - Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) examines how environmental features create opportunities for crime and how those features can be adjusted to eliminate those opportunities. Adjustments can be implemented to:

1) Control or make access more difficult
2) Deter offenders by increasing the risk of apprehension
3) Increase visibility
4) Increase or encourage guardianship
5) Regulate or adjust behaviors and routines; or
6) Reduce the rewards for crime.

Examples of environmental features that could create opportunities for crime include trees and shrubbery that block visibility; lack of lighting; traffic direction or lack of signaling; abandoned buildings; alleyways or cuts in between buildings; and empty lots hidden from the street. Adjustments that address these features may include cutting down shrubs to increase visibility; adding lighting to a dark alley; boarding up abandoned homes; or improving traffic conditions by adding signage, signals and speed bumps.

CPTED has been implemented in Ella Fitzgerald Park and Mill Street Courtyard.

5. What functions should 911 Call Centers play in your community?

a) Who currently staffs your 911 call centers?

Trained City of Yonkers Public Service Dispatchers who are provided approximately four months of training.

b) Are all calls routed to law enforcement, fire, or EMS?

Yes, all calls are routed to Police, Fire, or EMS.
c) Are there other social services that should be more fully integrated into 911 call centers and the triage process? Would call-takers need new training if your community wanted to shift response functions toward social services?

New call-takers would require additional training and resources in a shift towards integrating social services into 911 call centers.

d) Should 911 call centers be operated by law enforcement, other social service agencies, or a combination of agencies?

Call centers maintain focus on emergency services. In the past, YPD has coordinated services for emotionally disturbed persons with the Westchester County Mobile Crisis Team. The team would be accompanied by police officers while performing welfare checks based on requests from family members and mental health professionals. If an individual needed emergency treatment, it would be so ordered at the direction of a psychiatrist under the guidelines of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and under the authority of NYS Mental Hygiene Law.

6. Should Law Enforcement Have a Presence in Schools?

Both the DARE and School Resource Officer programs were dissolved in 2009 due to budget constraints. Since that time, local patrol officers have built relationships with school administrators in the various schools in their sectors. Oftentimes school security or administrators will call for assistance or mediation with a student that is exhibiting concerning behavior. Patrol Officers will often mediate and resolve issues without any further assistance required.

Patrol officers are sometimes called to make arrests when students are found in possession of weapons, drugs, or otherwise break the law on school grounds. In these cases, the student is brought to the Community Affairs Division for arrest processing. It is in this area that the Yonkers Police Department has made tremendous strides in its efforts to break the “school to prison pipeline.” In late 2019, the Yonkers Police Department integrated the Youth Division with the Community Affairs Unit and brought a new civilian youth advisor into the division. This allowed for reinvention of how youth arrests are handled. Beginning in 2020 all youth arrested for misdemeanors are interviewed by Community Affairs staff for eligibility in the Youth Court Diversion Program. If a youth meets the parameters and volunteers to be in the program, they are diverted from the Family Court System into the YPD Youth Court program, thereby keeping them out of the juvenile justice system. Arrested youth are then tried by a group of their peers and sentenced to serve time working in various programs run by the members of the Community Affairs Division. The benefit of this program is not only that of keeping youth out of the court system, but also engaging them in completing community service and positive interaction with police officers and community groups. These interactions build mentorships and job skills that serve to build character and perhaps change their perception of law enforcement officers.

In addition to the above, many of the YPD’s community outreach programs are designed to specifically engage youth and young adults in the local school district (i.e. Cops & Kids, Youth Police Initiative, Yonkers Police Cadets, etc.). These engagements place Yonkers Police officers and local youth in a non-enforcement environment, leading to positive communication opportunities for all parties. Both officers and kids get the opportunity to exchange ideas and information freely and learn from each other by sharing perspectives. For an in-depth look at these outreach programs, please see the 2020 Community Outreach Program book.
STAFFING, BUDGETING, AND EQUIPPING YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. What are the staffing needs of the Police Department the community wants? Should components of the Police Department be civilianized?

The Yonkers Police Department currently uses civilians for job functions that do not call for an arrest or potential use of force.

2. Police Department engagement in crowd control

This past June, the City of Yonkers Police Department responded to three large protests within the same week in response to nationwide incidents of police brutality. The involved command staff worked diligently to evaluate police response following each event and quickly implemented improvements for the next.

Some of the key provisions of YPD’s response are presented here:

Utilization of a Mobile Field Force

Prior to the first event on May 31, a plan was formulated to create a mobile field force of six officers and one supervisor utilizing four vehicles. This was conducted in lieu of an on-foot or stationary field force. Several considerations were taken into account in the planning stages to arrive at this particular plan.

It was noticed that most demonstrations started as a stationary protest and then became a march. Often the targets of these marches were police and government facilities. However, police departments in those cities that deployed a traditional field force, predominately on foot, often became the target of the protests and resulted in hostile confrontation. Utilizing a vehicle-based, mobile force instead served to provide safe escort to peaceful marchers while protecting officers from thrown objects by anyone seeking to instigate violent confrontation. The mobility of YPD’s field force provided movable pieces to command so that potential targets and routes could be quickly covered. Disorder control equipment was issued at turn out and kept in each individual vehicle. A method of deploying said equipment was established with the command ‘mobilize,’ which provided a systematic transition, by squad, to a more assertive posture without inciting the crowd.

Adequate Resources Without a ‘Show of Force’

It was also critical to have enough resources on hand to respond to any condition, without showing a large police presence. Instead, the command staff deployed personnel in small groups (squads) to strategic locations – just enough to show a reasonable presence and to provide security. A larger field force was pre-deployed to a formal staging area, as well as forward staging areas closer to the event and out of sight. This included officer down rescue teams, EMS, arrest teams and immediate action squads. YPD deployed, at times, over 100 officers, most of whom were never seen by a participant.
In August, NYPD Deputy Chief John Hart stated to the Police Executive Research Forum, that after several nights of stationary officers being targeted in Union Square Park, “... we decided to monitor protests, but not make the cops the show. We want to make sure we have a good fix on the protest and where it’s going, but avoid that line of confrontation when we can. That takes away the visual and de-escalates the violence.” These concepts were utilized by YPD from the very first event.

**Utilizing Specialized Units**

Another key component of the response to protests in Yonkers was the work done by the Community Affairs Division, Public Information Office and Special Investigations Unit in achieving effective communication with organizers and participants in an effort to keep the crowds peaceful. While doing so, these officers also gathered intelligence that the command staff could use for planning.

**Proper Utilization of Outside Resources**

Finally, the utilization and coordination of available resources was crucial to the command staff in deploying the field force. Additional manpower from mutual aid agencies, support structure and staff from the Office of Emergency Management and communications support from the Westchester County Department of Emergency Services were all important pieces in this mission.

### 3. Training & Equipment

In 2017, approximately 7 members of the Training Division attended a FEMA sponsored course called Field Force Operations which is the newer version of Disorder Control. A training course has since been developed for YPD officers, however the department has yet to implement it.

The Yonkers Police Department is equipped with shields, riot batons and duffle bags containing chest, shoulder, elbow and shin pads (these belonged to individual officers that were part of the old Emergency Response Team). YPD also owns specialty emergency response vehicles that are used for rescue operation and assistance, as well as surveillance equipment, including drones, used for investigative purposes.

Equipment and vehicles described above are funded almost entirely through Federal Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) funding.
SECTION II.

EMPLOYING SMART AND EFFECTIVE POLICING STANDARDS AND STRATEGIES

1. Procedural Justice and Community Policing
   a) Create a comprehensive community policing strategic plan
      The Yonkers Police Department engages in strategic community policing practices both with its dedicated Community Affairs Unit, which oversees over 40 different outreach programs (see Supplemental Community Outreach Programs Guidebook), and through officers’ daily interactions with the public and all Yonkers Police Officers are trained in the Police Academy and in-service with the Training Division to approach every public contact and engagement as an opportunity for building positive relationships and trust. YPD also has over a dozen police officers assigned to steady neighborhood patrol to focus of neighborhood issues while developing lasting relationships with residents and business owners. The Community Affairs Division is tasked with building those relationships with youth and adults citywide; having a dedicated unit enables the Yonkers Police to have an opportunity to engage with every neighborhood and community in the City.
   b) Train all personnel on community policing – including overcoming distrust.
      All YPD members go through comprehensive training in the police academy as well as the Yonkers Police Department which incorporates community policing components and instruction by the Community Affairs Division and Public Information Officer. Additionally, major components of procedural justice training integrate community policing and developing community trust in the program.
   c) Foster an atmosphere of openness and transparency.
      YPD seeks to foster an atmosphere of openness and transparency through community policing initiatives, programs and training as well as through engagement with local community based organizations and media outlets. The Police Commissioner and Public Information Officer routinely communicate with the media and hold meetings with community groups to discuss current events, incidents, initiatives, training, and guiding principles. YPD also has a presence on social media and communicates police news and events through these outlets with an approximate outreach of about 50,000 people. The Yonkers Police Department recognizes accountability and transparency as core components of building community trust.
   d) Adopt procedural justice as a guiding principle
      The Yonkers Police Department’s mission statement parallels the principles of procedural justice and all members are currently scheduled to go through a procedural justice training program – including implicit bias training – sponsored by Yale University.
e) Prioritize law enforcement personnel safety and wellness.

Health and Wellness – Members Assistance Program Coordinator (MAP)

The Yonkers Police Department has a dedicated officer to ensure health and safety of their members. Detective Autumn Edwards serves as an internal Employee Assistance Professional. The foundation of Det. Edwards’ work is relationship building. She invests in building relationships that are rooted in care, concern, integrity, and authenticity. Det. Edwards addresses the physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional health and wellness of the membership and their families. These needs look different for each member depending on the circumstance and severity of the crisis or situation. Her duties are a direct response to what the individual member needs at the time.

Det. Edwards has facilitated interventions and transported members to detox and rehabilitation facilities. She serves as a meeting buddy attending AA meetings, with those new to recovery – making appropriate referrals when necessary. She acts as a liaison between treatment facilities and YPD and serves as a coach for those actively trying to live sober lives.

Det. Edwards oversees the Department’s Peer Support Team and Police Chaplains. She facilitates bi-monthly team meetings with the peer team during which she provides training and support to the team. She is in close contact with police chaplains and relies on them to provide spiritual and practical support to YPD membership.

When called upon, Det. Edwards coordinates critical incident debriefings and facilitates group and individual crisis interventions. She responds to the scenes of major incidents and serves as a resource for the officers involved. She activates the peer support team when appropriate and visits each command to ensure the health and healing of each member impacted.

f) Engage the community in a true partnership to address crime and disorder issues.

Yonkers Police Precinct commanders meet on a monthly basis with local community leaders and stakeholders to discuss crime topics and strategies. These public meetings are organized by the local Precinct Community Council and provide an opportunity for police and residents to work together in addressing public safety issues and quality of life complaints. Meeting dates, times and locations are published online: https://www.yonkersny.gov/live/public-safety/police-department/pct-community-meetings

g) Treat every contact as an opportunity to engage positively with a community member.

Treating every contact with a community member as an opportunity for positive engagement is a concept addressed in the YPD’s training curriculum and emphasized with its members.

h) Measure social cohesion and work to develop relationships and reevaluate metrics of community policing success

YPD compiles and reports on crime statistics and crime data and measures trends to determine the success and need for reallocating resources. Most recently the Department has been measuring community satisfaction through public opinion polls (see supplemental handout).
i) **Incorporate community policing measures into the performance evaluation process.**

Performance evaluations would be a negotiated item within the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

2. **Policing Strategies of Concern to the Public**

   a) **“Broken Windows” and “Stop & Frisk”**

   **Broken Windows:**

   YPD does not regularly engage in a Broken Windows theory unless it is to the benefit of community outreach. YPD is now working with local leaders in locations that have on-going quality of life complaints in an effort to get compliance through cooperation, rather than through enforcement. The four pillars of Procedural Justice play a key role in this effort.

   **Stop and Frisk:**

   YPD uses the Precision Policing Model which is built around the theory that a very small subset of repeat offenders are responsible for the majority of crime. YPD is aware of its persistent offenders and their custody stats. This has allowed the YPD to maintain low crime levels while at the same time keeping stops at an extreme minimum and does not engage in stop, question and frisk.

   b) **Discriminatory or Bias-Based Stops, Searches and Arrests**

   YPD does not engage in discriminatory or bias-based stops, searches and arrests. The Department does engage in criminal profiling – for example, following-up on a description provided by a victim or witness.

3. **Chokeholds and Other Restrictions on Breathing**

   Chokeholds were banned by the Yonkers Police Department in 2012. Neck control holds are limited to deadly physical force situations (i.e. life and death struggle necessary to save the life of an officer or other).

4. **Use of Force for Punitive or Retaliatory Reasons**

   YPD has a Use of Force policy and internal review procedure (see supplemental handout). In any case of force being used by an officer, the situation and circumstances are automatically investigated by a police supervisor (regardless of whether or not a civilian complaint is filed). Force is never used for retaliatory or punitive reasons.

5. **Pretextual Stops**

   There is no specific policy on pretextual stops.

6. **Informal Quotas for Summonses, Tickets or Arrests**

   There are no quotas, formal or informal, for summonses, tickets, or arrests.

7. **Shooting at Moving Vehicles and High Speed Pursuits**

   There are policies that cover both instances (see supplemental handout).
h) Use of SWAT Teams and No-Knock Warrants

No Knock Warrant services:
While YPD’s common practice is to knock prior to executing a search warrant, YPD does usually get a “No Knock” endorsement mainly for the following reasons listed in the Criminal Procedure Law (CPL):
• The property sought may be easily and quickly destroyed or disposed of.
• The giving of such notice may endanger the life or safety of the executing officer or another person.

Detectives indicate their reasoning for the no-knock endorsement in their application for a search warrant. The vast majority of search warrants that the Narcotics Unit applies for have no-knock endorsements mainly to prevent the destruction of evidence which can occur if they announce their purpose and authority. Additionally, the drug trade frequently involves the use of firearms and knocking may endanger the officers executing the search warrant.

Use of Emergency Services Unit (ESU):
In the planning portion of a search warrant YPD completes an Operational Plan which is reviewed and approved by the Deputy Chief of the Investigations Bureau. This Operational Plan includes a Special Considerations/Risk Assessment portion that will be used to determine if the warrant is executed by the Narcotics/Gang Units or in conjunction with the Emergency Services Unit. Reasons for using ESU to execute a search warrant are as follows:
• If there is confirmed intelligence that a firearm is inside of the premise.
• If multiple search warrants are being executed in one location or simultaneously.
• If it is confirmed that there is a dangerous dog on the premise.
• If a suspect has a history of extremely violent acts.
• Any other reason that it is deemed that ESU will be needed i.e. steel doors, multiple locks, etc.
• ESU also considers the presence of children and vulnerable people.

ESU (SWAT) Warrant “Hits” since 2012:
The Yonkers Police executed forty six (46) warrants involving ESU since 2012, the majority being “no-knock” warrants.

i) Less-Than-Lethal Weaponry such as Tasers and Pepper Spray
All officers undergo DCJS approved training from the device manufacturer and the Yonkers Police Training Unit for proper application and proper utilization in the use-of-force continuum.

j) Facial Recognition Technology
The Yonkers Police Investigations Bureau is currently operating several Facial Recognition software platforms through New York State and Westchester County: HIDTA PIMS, Cleaview AI, and Vigilant. Facial recognition software is limited to assisting in identifying suspects and perpetrators of crimes; the identification procedures must still be reviewed by a court as a matter of process. The Yonkers Police Department does not utilize Facial Recognition for any non-criminal investigation purposes, nor is facial recognition used solely for effecting arrest.
3. Law Enforcement Strategies to Reduce Racial Disparities and Build Trust
   a) Using Summonses Rather than Warrantless Arrests for Specified Offenses
      Summonses are utilized when legally applicable. Due to recent changes in state law most arrested
      offenders are released with desk appearance tickets.
   b) Diversion Programs
      The Yonkers Police Department does have a youth diversion program for first time, non-violent
      youth offenders. At the direction of a Community Affairs officer, an impacted youth may be
      diverted away from the Family Court (Criminal Justice System) into one of our outreach programs
      and Youth Court for community service, resulting in no arrest record. See the Community
      Outreach Programs guidebook for details.
   c) Restorative Justice Programs
      Not a current function of the Yonkers Police Department.
   d) Community-Based Outreach and Violence Interruption Programs
      The Yonkers Police Department does participate in community-based outreach and violence
      interruption programs. Details on programs are included in the YPD Community Outreach
      Programs guidebook.
   e) Hot-Spot Policing and Focused Deterrence
      The Yonkers Police Department engages in the strategy of precision policing, where top offenders
      are targeted for enforcement. This moves away from hot-spot policing and “over-policing” of
      neighborhoods.
   f) De-Escalation Strategies
      All officers undergo de-escalation training in the police academy and by the Yonkers Police Training
      unit (i.e. verbal judo, dealing with emotionally disturbed persons, etc.)
   g) Can Your Community Effectively Identify, Investigate and Prosecute Hate Crimes?
      The Yonkers Police Department has policies and procedures in place for dealing with bias incidents.
      Subsequent to a report, members of the Community Affairs Division will respond to the scene and
      engage the community to determine if the incident is isolated or indicative of a larger issue, and
      report back to the Police Commissioner’s Office for appropriate review and response.

4. Community Engagement
   a) Community Outreach Plans
      YPD has a Community Outreach Programs guidebook detailing all available programs.
   b) Citizen Advisory Boards and Committees
      Precinct Community Councils are in place to advise local precinct commanders as to current issues
      and events and make recommendations. Additionally, the Police Professional Standards Review
      Committee meets on a monthly basis to review Internal Complaints and make recommendations.
c) Partnership with Community Organizations and Faith Communities

YPD partners with many community based organizations through community outreach programs. YPD’s Health and Wellness coordinator maintains active relationships with local clergy. YPD also regularly engages with Mayor’s Faith-Based meetings.

d) Partnering with Students and Schools

The Yonkers Police Department has multiple community outreach programs designed for youth and schools. See the Community Outreach Programs guidebook.

e) Police-Community Reconciliation

For Committee discussion

f) Attention to Marginalized Communities

- Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Citizens
  When there is a police/community member interaction or engagement involving a language barrier, officers will attempt to locate an officer who speaks the preferred language to facilitate communications. If none can be located, alternate translation services will attempt to be sought if the situation allows.

- Citizens with communication disabilities:
  In the Police Academy and Yonkers Police Training Division, new officers are trained in interacting with those with disabilities. The Community Affairs Division manages the First Responder Disability Registry, an outreach program designed to allow special needs community members to register their address with the police for advanced information sharing prior to a response.

- The LGBTQIA+ Community:
  The Yonkers Police Department has a police officer committee member on the Mayor’s LGBTQIA+ Advisory Board who serves as a liaison between the police and LGBTQIA+ community.

- Immigrant Communities
  The Department partners with many community based organizations that represent immigrant communities (Catholic Charities, Mexican-American Chamber of Commerce, etc.) and work together to address local concerns and issues. The Yonkers Police Department has a policy of not inquiring as to an immigration status to ensure immigrant population feels safe contacting the police and foster trust.

g) Involving Youth in Discussions on the Role of Law Enforcement Agencies

Refer back to the Community Outreach Programs guidebook designed for youth engagement which presents opportunities for relationship building.