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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rockland Citizens Announce People's Panel on Policing Aimed to Create a Truly Public Review on Policing in Rockland County, N.Y.

- People's Panel on Policing was formed as a response to the murder of George Floyd and the issuance of Governor Cuomo's Executive Order #203, promising to give voice to those most affected by police abuse of power and misconduct.
- People's Panel on Policing will hold hearings and issue a report to the Rockland County Legislature with the intent to influence recommendations required by the Governor by April 1, 2021.
- First hearing (virtual) is set for December 9; details to follow

ROCKLAND COUNTY, NY –Rockland County citizens have created Rockland People's Panel on Policing (RPPP) – a group formed in response to New York State Executive Order #203 to provide independent oversight of the county police departments' strategies, policies, procedures and practices.

The group aims to give a voice to those most affected by police misconduct. This diverse, volunteer committee is committed to centering the voices of the community that has borne the brunt of racial animus in the United States for the preceding 401 years. There is a six-person Steering Committee, including Bill Batson, Nikki Hines, Hon. Michael Lockett, Reverend Everett Newton, Sherry McGill, and Father Owen C. Thompson.

"We are a self-appointed civilian oversight panel looking to hear from a diverse mix of voices about their experiences with the police in Rockland County," says Rockland People's Panel of Policing (RPPP) Steering Committee member Nikki Hines. "By putting ourselves forward as an alternative to the panels selected behind closed doors by the Rockland County Sheriff and District Attorney, we plan to gather information that will lead to more transparency into the true practices and policies of the Rockland County police departments."

The Panel seeks to influence the proceedings outlined in Governor Cuomo's Executive Order #203 by educating the public and advocating for positive policy changes by conducting two fact-finding hearings and issuing a public report prior to April 1, 2021.

The first hearing is scheduled to take place virtually on December 9, 2020 at 7:00 PM and will feature testimony from Michael Sussman, one of the attorneys for the family of Tina Davis, who was killed by police in Rockland County, and Kenneth Chamberlain, Jr., a former Rockland County resident, whose father was killed by the police in White Plains, NY. There will also be a short film presented by *Voices of Rockland*.

"Our goal is to provide a true public forum for the people of Rockland County concerned about negative interactions with law enforcement," says RPPP Steering Committee member Bill Batson. "For this reason, we will conduct our hearings in accordance with the spirit of public meeting laws, giving ample public notice of our sessions and treating all participants with courtesy and respect. We will also be providing a phone number, with an option to block your caller ID, so the public, or members of law enforcement aware of misconduct or abuses of power, can provide anonymous information." Batson continued.

The Rockland People's Panel on Policing will be working with local, state and national experts in police reform, including the Hudson Valley Chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union.

For more information and regular updates, please visit:

Website: rocklandppp.org

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/RocklandPPP/

Instagram: www.instagram.com/rocklandpeoplespanel

[Steering Committee photo for download](#)

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