

SCHUYLER COUNTY

POLICE REFORM & REINVENTION COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE

COMMUNITY PRESENTATION

JANUARY 12, 2021

GROUND RULES

BACKGROUND

On June 12, 2020 Governor Cuomo signed Executive Order No. 203. The Executive Order states this was created in response to “...the police-involved death of George Floyd in Minnesota, protests have taken place daily throughout the nation and in communities across New York State in response to police-involved deaths and racially-biased law enforcement to demand change, action, and accountability.”

The purpose of EO 203 is to create changes in local law enforcement policies and strategies to mitigate police-involved deaths and racially biased law enforcement.

EO 203 Overview

1. A review of current local government, not State, policing policies;
2. Subsequent or in coordination with the review, developed a plan to meet the goals of mitigating police-involved deaths and racially biased law enforcement. This plan development must be done with the involvement of multiple interested parties (listed below);
3. This plan is to be ratified by local government legislative body after such plan is offered to the public for comment;
4. The ratified plan must be submitted to the State Budget Director. The police policy review, the new plan development, and the ratification of such plan each have involvement from different entities.

STAKEHOLDERS COMMITTEE

Tim O'Hearn — County Administrator (CHAIR)

Sheriff William Yessman

Undersheriff Breck Spaulding

Lieutenant Todd Day

Lieutenant Matt Maloney

Joe Fazzary — District Attorney

Wesley Roe — Public Defender

JoAnn Fratarcangelo — DSS

Shawn Rosno — Community Services/Mental Health

Chris Rosno — Probation

Steven Getman — County Attorney

Kristin VanHorn — Planning

Carl Blowers — Chair, Schuyler County Legislature

Gary Gray — Schuyler County Legislature

Mark Rondinaro - Schuyler County Legislature

Peggy Scott — United Way

Tony Vickio — Spirit of Schuyler

Michael Hartney — Faith-Based Community

WEBSITE: <http://www.schuylercounty.us/1046/Schuyler-County-Police-Reform-Initiative>

SCHUYLER COUNTY CRIME STATISTICS

CRIME RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION (COUNT)

	2016	2017	2018
Index Crimes	654.0 (118) 2 nd Lowest in NYS	386.6 (70) Lowest in NYS	340.5 (60) Lowest in NYS
Violent Crimes	72.1(13) 3 rd Lowest in NYS	82.8 (15) 2 nd Lowest in NYS	85.1 (15) 4 th Lowest in NYS
Property Crimes	582.0 (105) 2 nd Lowest in NYS	303.8 (55) Lowest in NYS	255.4 (45) Lowest in NYS

SCHUYLER COUNTY CRIME STATISTICS

2019 ADULT ARREST AND SENTENCES BY RACE/ ETHNICITY

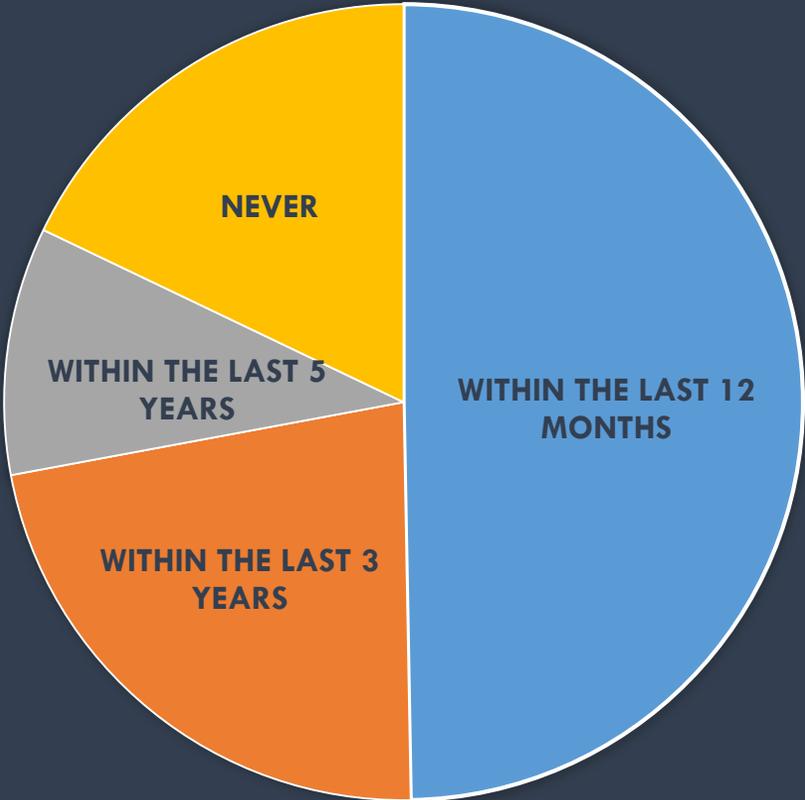
Race/ Ethnicity	Population (18+)		Arrest		Felony Arrest		Prison Sentences	
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total
White	13,899	96%	239	91%	71	92%	10	83%
Black	182	1%	13	5%	2	3%	0	0%
Hispanic	274	2%	8	3%	3	4%	2	17%
Asian	102	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Other/ Unknown	46	<1%	3	1%	1	1%	0	0%
Total	14,503	100%	263	100%	77	100%	12	100%

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

180 TOTAL RESPONDENTS

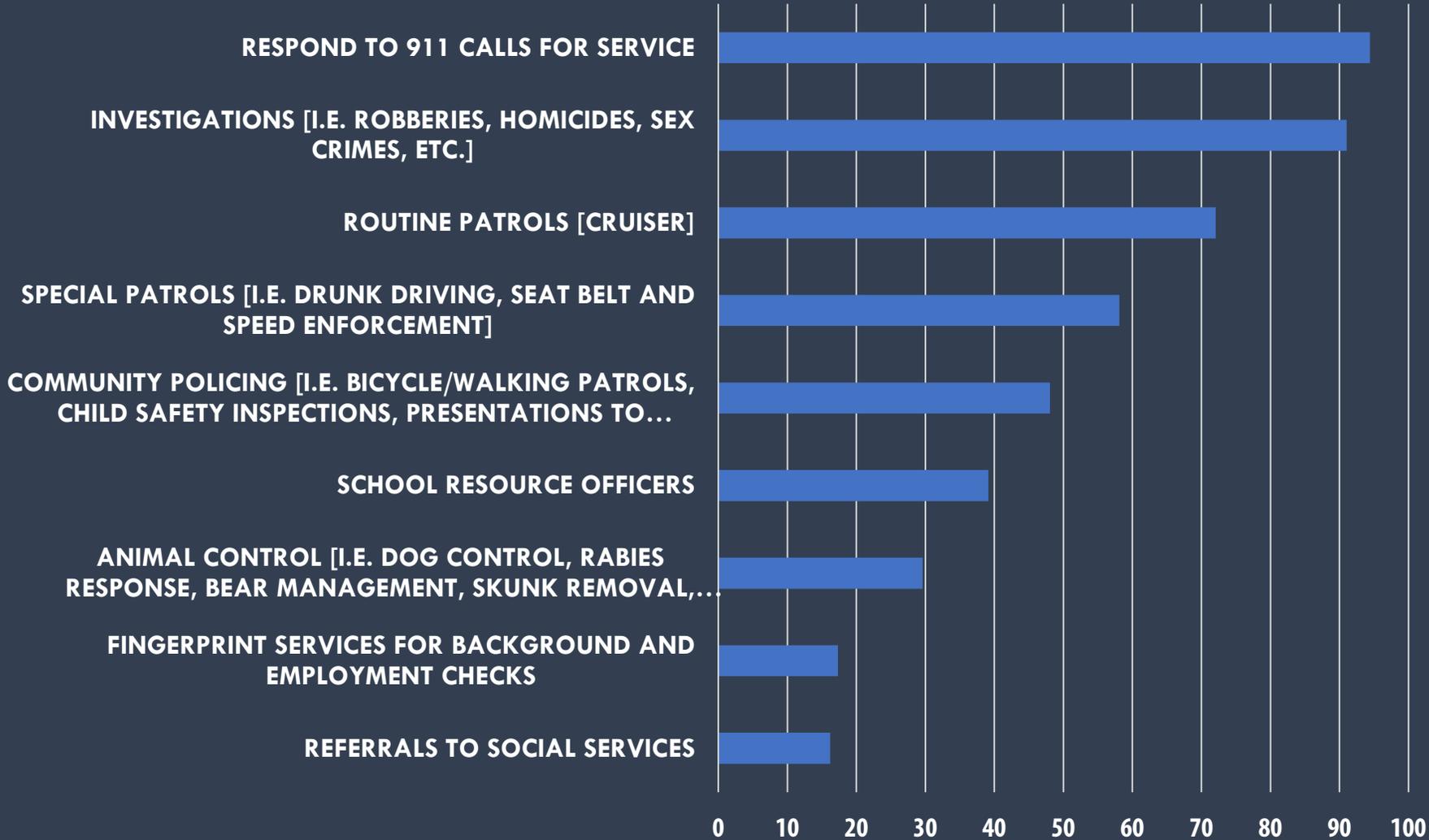
- Town of Catharine: 8.3%
- Town Of Cayuta: 0.6%
- Town of Dix: 15.6%
- Town of Hector: 24.4%
- Town of Montour: 7.8%
- Town of Orange: 2.2%
- Town of Reading: 8.9%
- Town of Tyrone: 5.0%
- Village of Burdett: 2.2%
- Village of Montour Falls: 5.0%
- Village of Odessa: 5.0%
- Village of Watkins Glen: 11.7%
- I do not live or own property in Schuyler County: 3.3%*

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU HAD DIRECT INTERACTION WITH THE SCHUYLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT?



COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

TOP 5 SERVICES THAT YOU THINK ARE MOST IMPORTANT FOR YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE

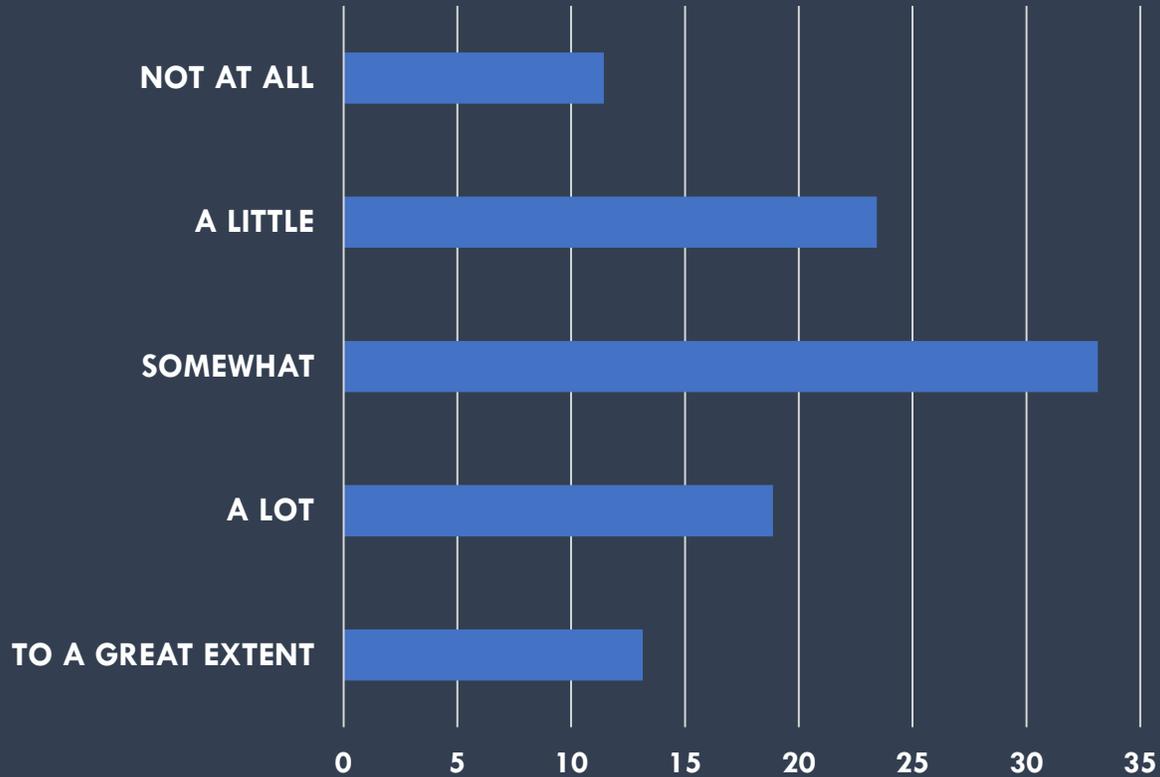


OTHER IMPORTANT SERVICES

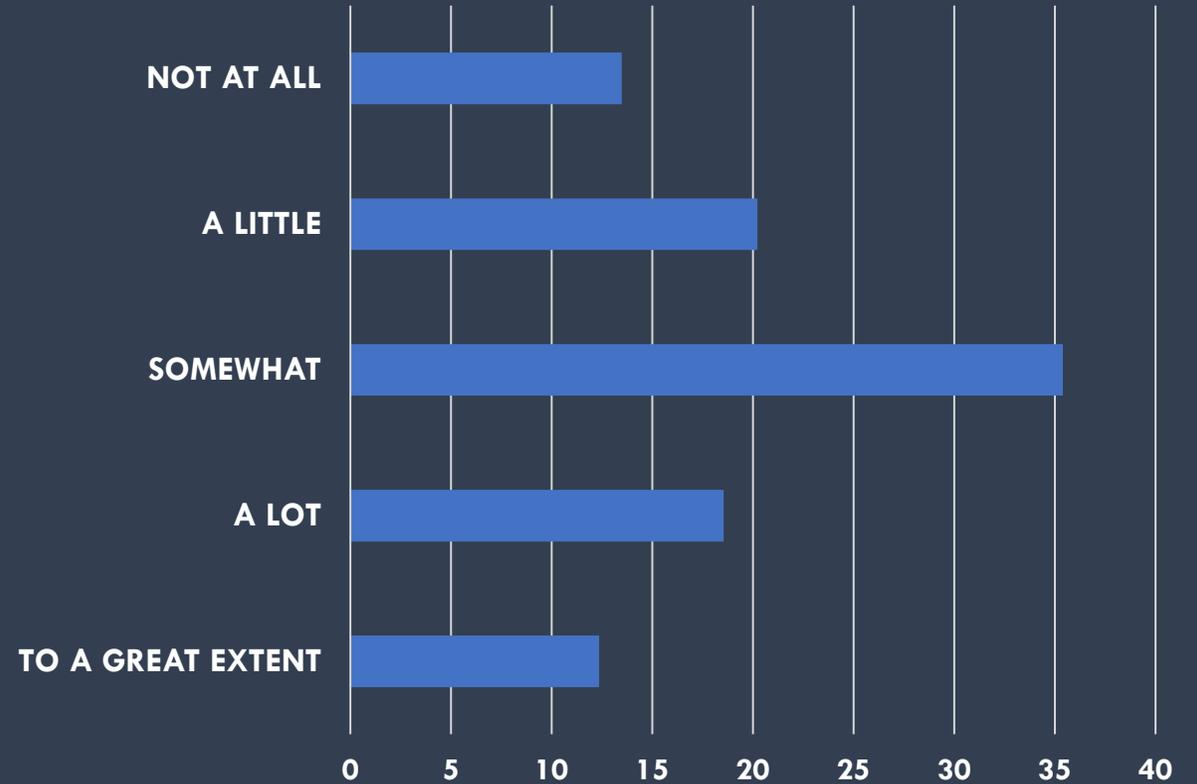
COMMUNITY OUTREACH
PATROL SCHOOL ZONES
NARCOTICS

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

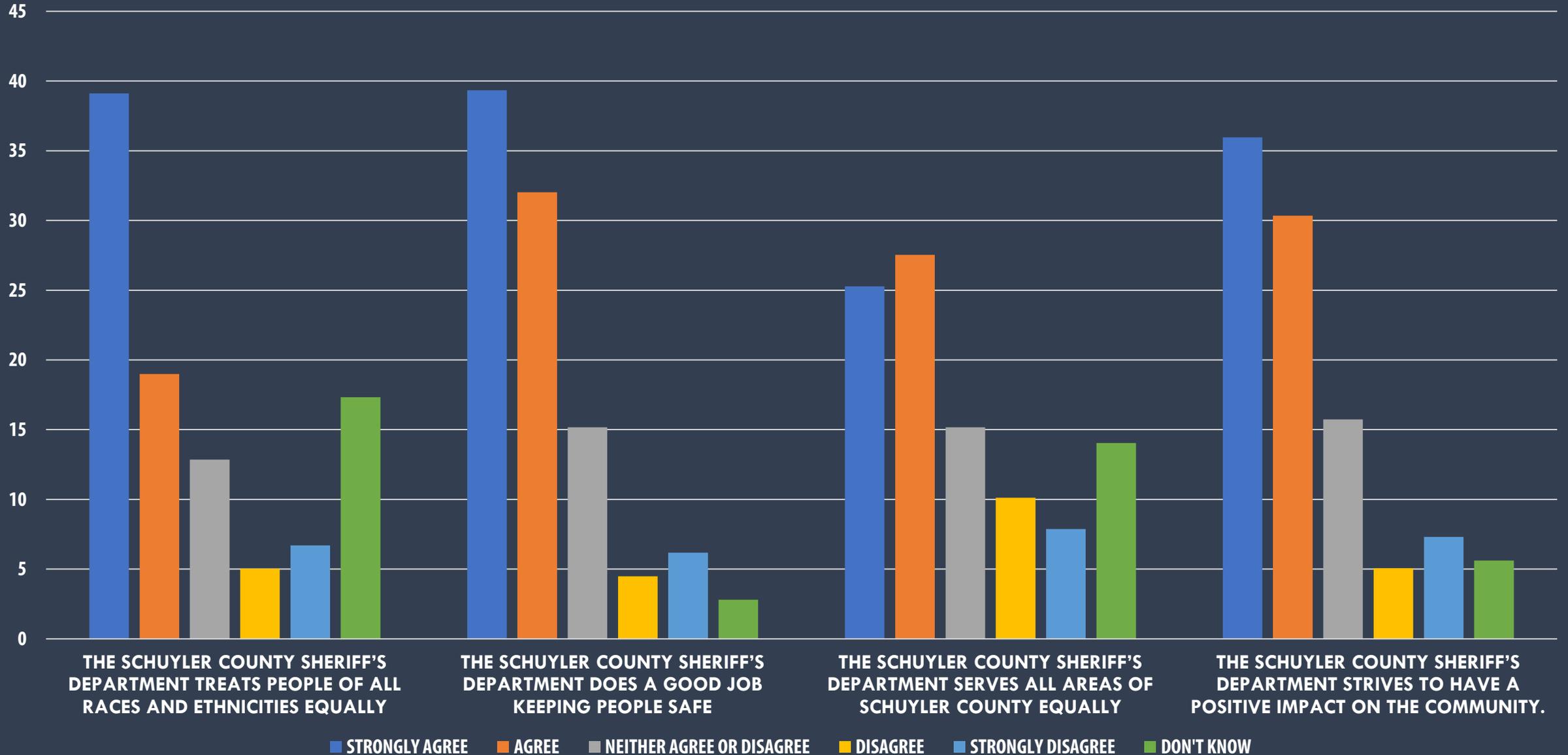
TO WHAT EXTENT DOES THE SCHUYLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REGULARLY COMMUNICATE WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS



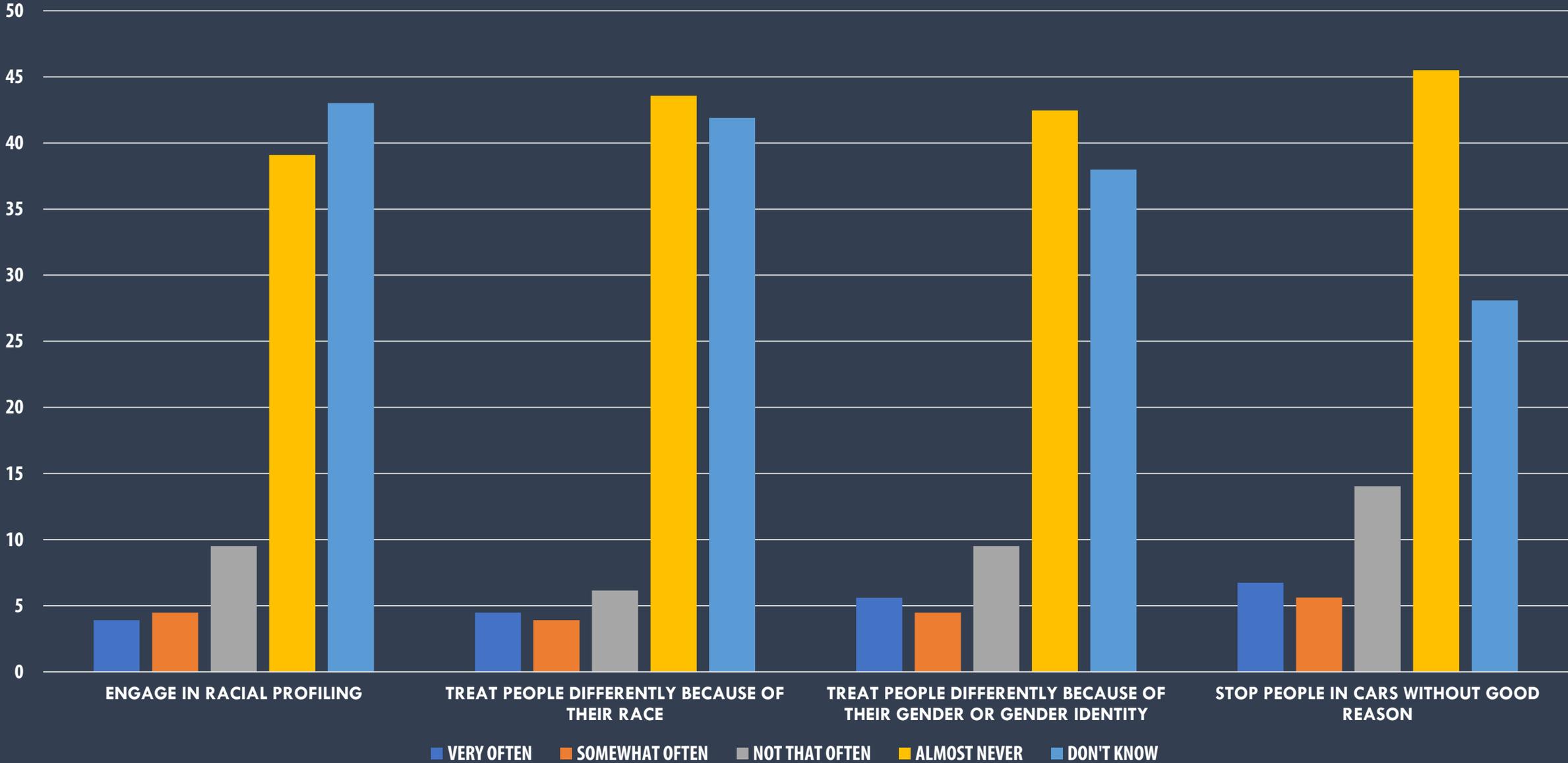
TO WHAT EXTENT DOES THE SCHUYLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT MAKE IT EASY FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO PROVIDE INPUT?



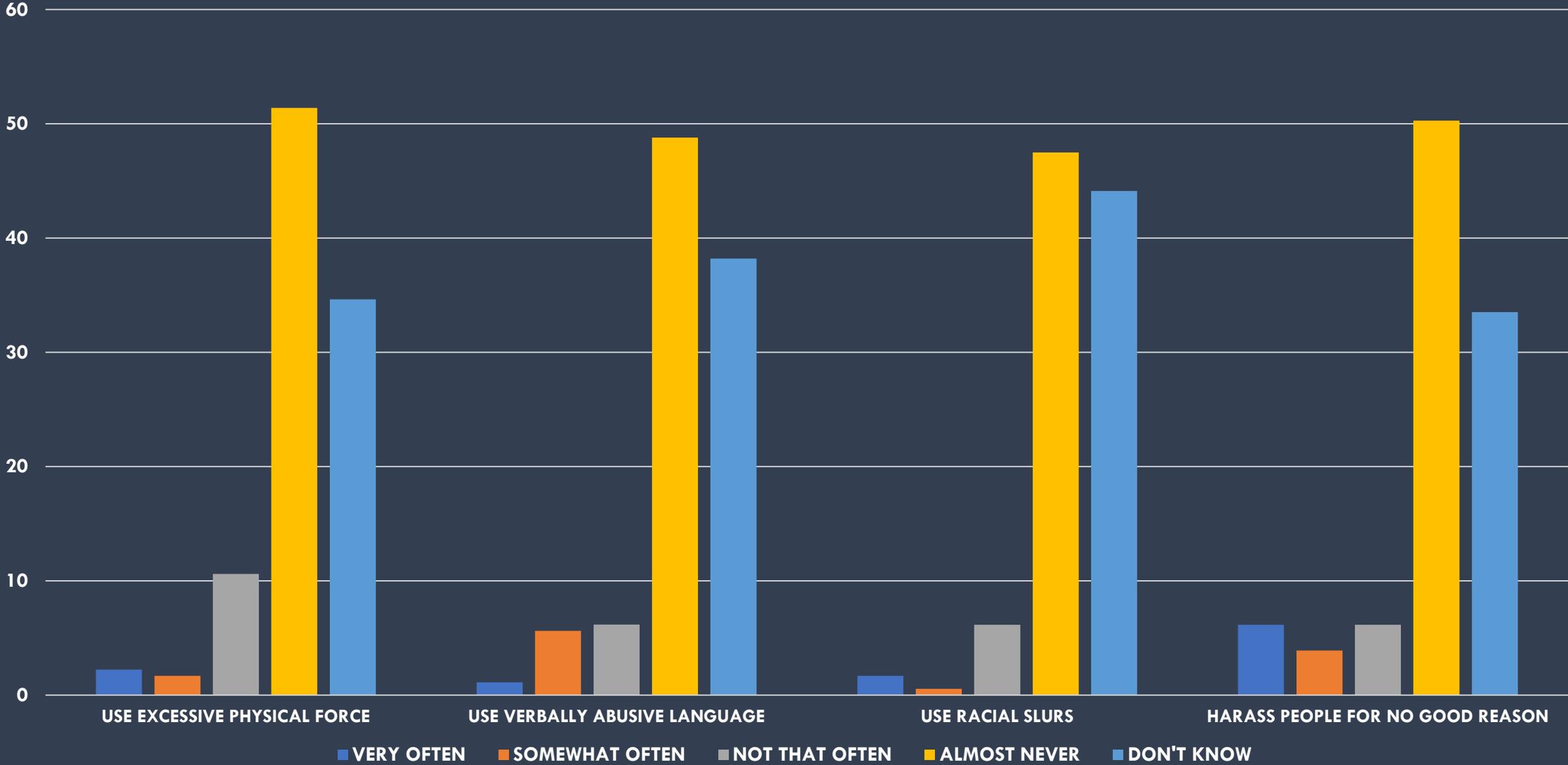
COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS



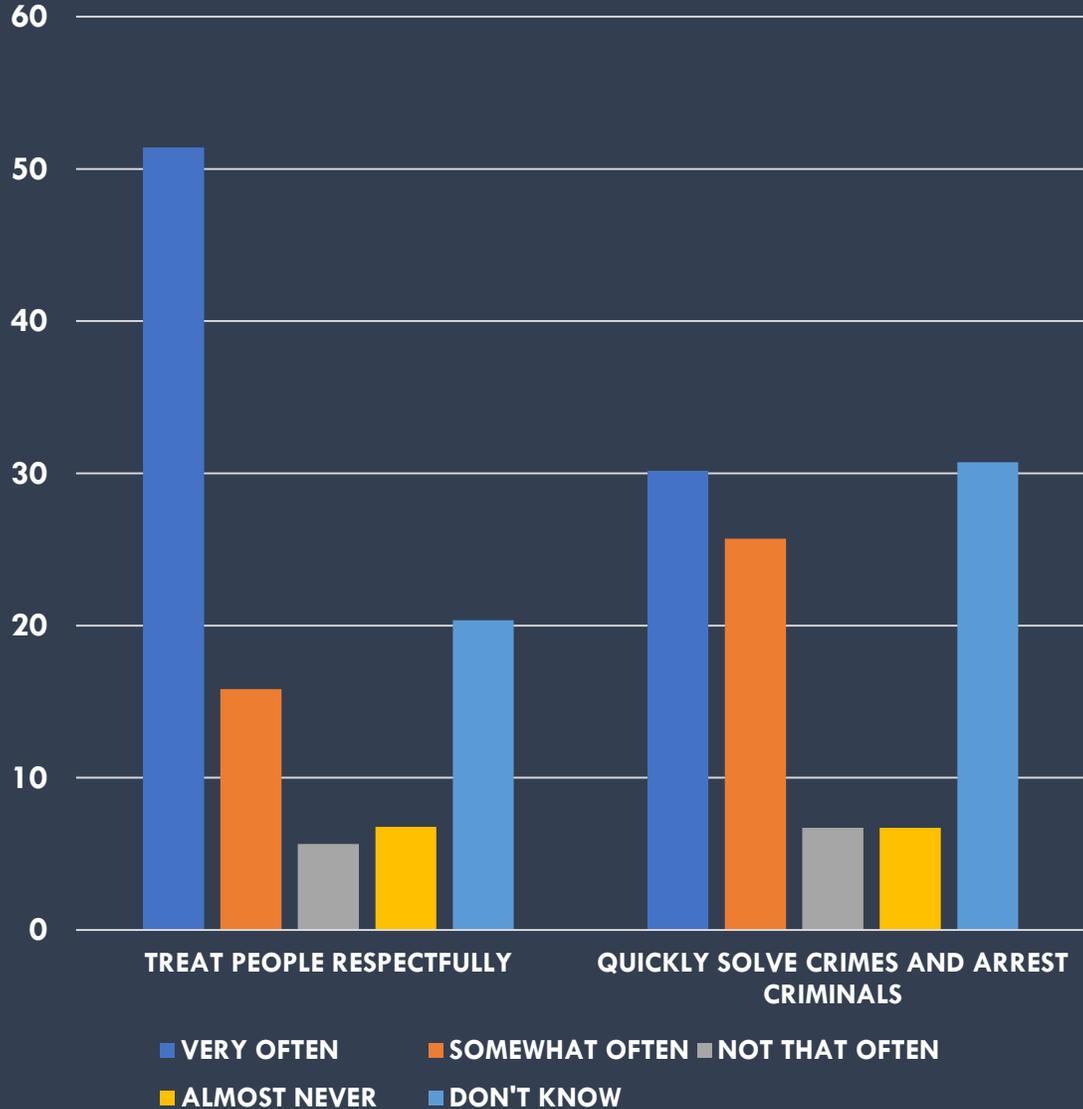
COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS



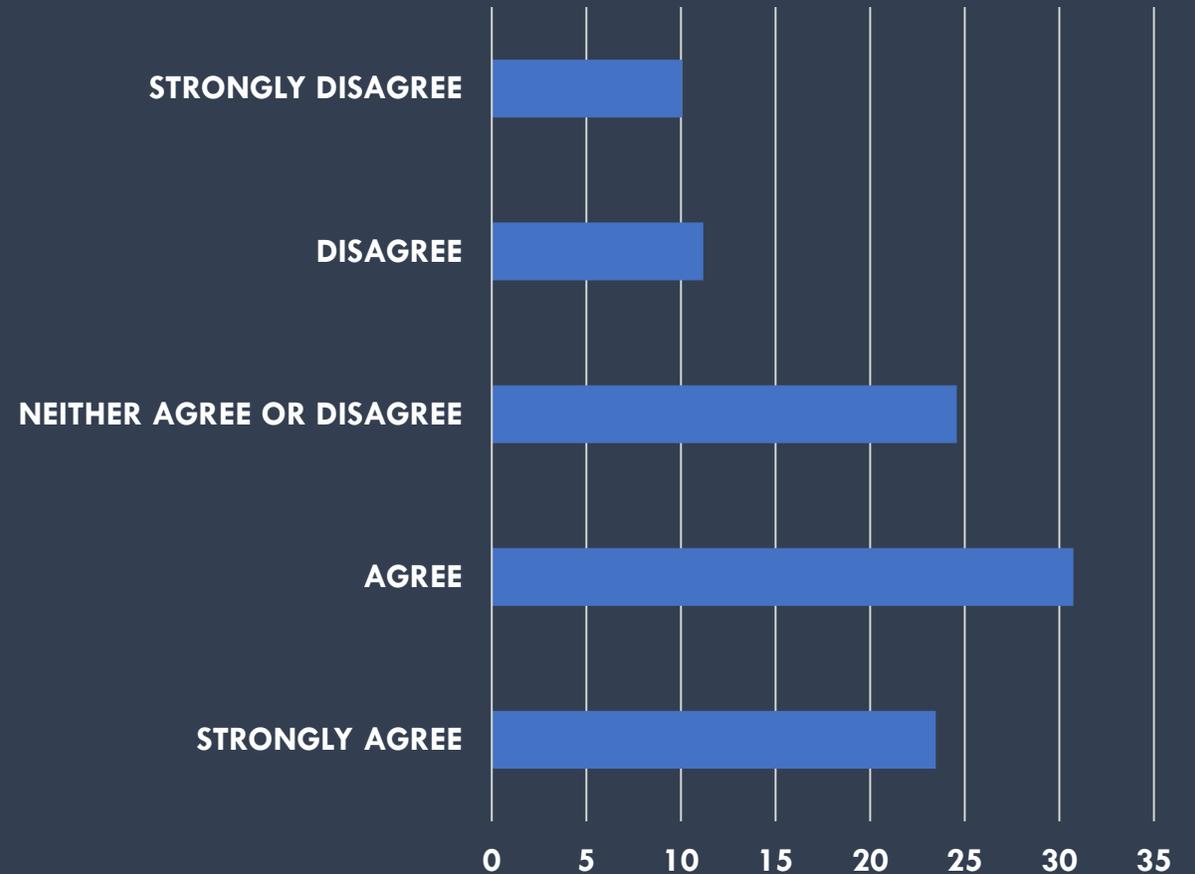
COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS



COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

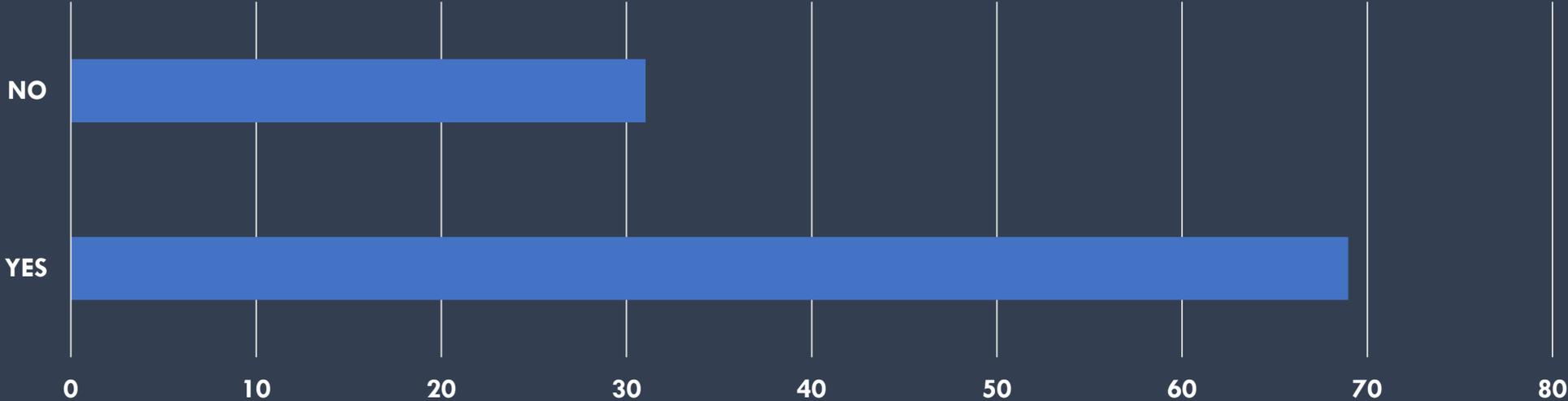


IF YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT AGAINST YOUR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT OR AN OFFICER, YOU ARE CONFIDENT IT WILL BE HEARD AND REVIEWED OBJECTIVELY?



COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

DO YOU THINK THE SCHUYLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE NEEDS MORE EDUCATION, AWARENESS, AND/OR TRAINING? THIS COULD INCLUDE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF PEOPLE'S CULTURE, PERSONAL IDENTITY, OR BACKGROUNDS; COMMUNICATION SKILLS; ETC.



COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT POLICE BEING SENT TO RESPOND TO PEOPLE IN EMOTIONAL DISTRESS OR IN A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS?

165 RESPONSES

POSITIVE (73%)

“ I feel much safer knowing that the police will be present to keep not only the person in distress safe, but also other people who might be hurt if the police were not there.”

“I think they have done a fantastic job responding to people in crisis. They have been respectful and incredibly responsive. I do think that they should continue responding.”

“Yes quick response is needed along with additional fee sponsor from appropriate county agency”

NEUTRAL (8%)

“I think it's probably a mistake as officers aren't trained to provide the kind of assistance in these situations that a mental health professional could provide.”

“Police are not trained and generally do not have the disposition to respond appropriately as evidenced by many recent events. Responses need more focus on mental health and substance abuse help, and less on punishment.”

“Police need additional ongoing training if this service is to be provided. Currently, I feel that police are absolutely not qualified to effectively and safely provide this service.”

NEGATIVE (19%)

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT POLICE BEING SENT TO RESPOND TO PEOPLE WITH DRUG OR ALCOHOL USE PROBLEMS OR WHO HAVE OVERDOSED?

166 RESPONSES

POSITIVE (75%)

“With proper training it can save lives. But with the increase in both usage and overdose, it could easily become overwhelming.”

“Good, It could save a life and give that person a second chance to get help.”

“I think they are needed for the safety of other first responders”

“Yes they should be to have the information on file incase it corresponds to something else they may be working on.”

NEUTRAL (10%)

NEGATIVE (15%)

“Having grown up in a household with drug abusers, police interactions were never constructive. They're a hammer, we were nails.”

“Need medical people there, not cops.”

“Mental health workers and substance abuse professionals are what is needed, not police.”

“It is a training issue and I am not sure all police are trained properly for this.”

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

WHAT ARE YOUR IDEAS FOR ENHANCING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN THE LOCAL POLICE/SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND THE SCHUYLER COUNTY COMMUNITY?

“Community meetings to discuss concerns and problems in the area.”

“None. I feel they are very engaged. They are visible /accessible during the many local events such as the concerts and races. They also hold several benefits a year for local citizens that involve a large portion of our community. Our force is very well grounded and dedicated to the people they serve.”

“Have more forums with the community and let them know what is going on, what the plans are, how many officers are working at one time, let people ask questions”

“Holding something like a town hall event on an annual or semi-annual basis to get direct input from residents and community partners.”

“Show us more on what Your K-9 does with their partner. I think many would be interested.”

“Hosting events that allow for the community to provide direct feedback.”

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

WHAT RESOURCES DO YOU THINK ARE NEEDED TO ADDRESS SYSTEMIC CHALLENGES AND INEQUITIES WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN SCHUYLER COUNTY?

“More diverse hiring and training”

“More funding for police, not defunding”

“Continued education regarding social and cultural shifts affecting marginal and underserved communities, i.e., poor, people of color, drug activity affecting rural communities nationwide.”

“As always money and training to implement any change,”

“More training.... In order to keep everyone in the know of the most recent protocols and procedures, we all need to be aware of what is going on. There is nothing wrong with learning new and better ways to benefit everyone in the community.”

“More mental health and addiction resources instead of police response. You can't arrest a mental health crisis away.”

“None. I believe the police/sheriffs dept and the District Attorney treat everyone equally!”

PROCEDURAL OVERVIEW

SHERIFF

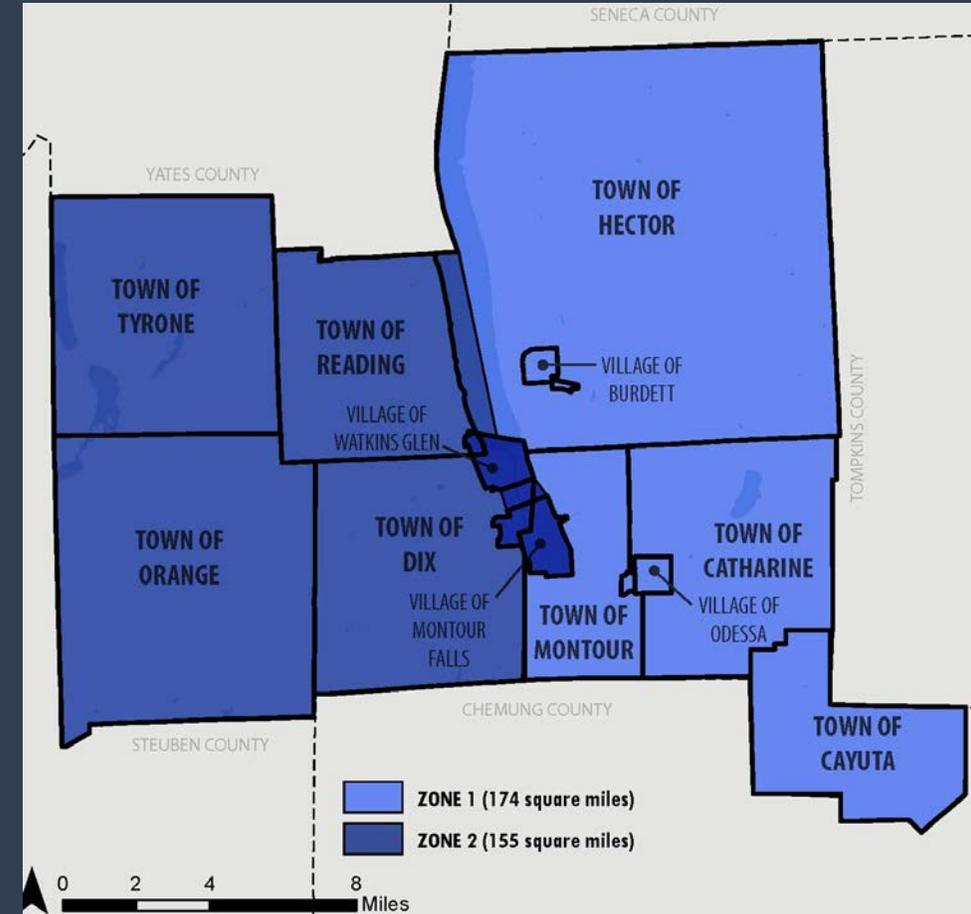
DEPLOYMENT

HOW/WHERE OUR DEPUTIES ARE CURRENTLY DEPLOYED

TYPICAL PRACTICE:

Normal everyday deployment involves generally 2 patrol units on each shift.

- One unit is assigned a patrol area East of State Route 14
- One unit is assigned to a patrol area West of State Route 14.
- Should there be a third or fourth patrol unit on a shift, that unit will be assigned to the entire county as a patrol area.



USE OF FORCE

POLICY:

Our Use of Force Policy follows NYS Accreditation Standards and Municipal Police Training Council model policies. Our agency also mandates annual refresher training on NYS Penal Law Article 35 Use of Force.

PROCEDURAL JUSTICE

“Procedural Justice” is the idea that the methods for resolving disputes should be fair. Procedural Justice focuses on the way police and other legal authorities interact with the public and how the characteristics of those interactions shape the public’s views of the police, their willingness to obey the law, cooperation with the police in fighting crime, and actual crime rates. For individual Sheriff’s Offices, the idea of procedural justice could be born out in a policy stressing the treatment of individual cases in a uniform transparent manner.

Our policies that promote procedural justice are: Rules of Conduct, Constitutional Safeguards and Community Policing. Deputy Sheriff’s also receive training in Ethics and Professionalism and Professional Communication in the Police Academy.

BIAS

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office that members of the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office shall not violate the constitutional rights of a person, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic status, age or cultural background. Members of the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office shall not violate citizen's equal protection rights.

DE-ESCALATION

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office that when all the reasonably known circumstances indicate it is safe, prudent, and feasible to do so, a Deputy will attempt to slow down, reduce the intensity, or stabilize the situation so that more time, options and/or resources may become available for incident resolution.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTED DIVERSIONS PROGRAMS

In appropriate cases we refer people to alcohol/substance abuse counseling and mental health counseling. In some cases, we also refer people to the Department of Social Services, Youth Court, Veterans Affairs and Catholic Charities for assistance.

COMMUNITY BASED OUTREACH AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The concept of *"community-based outreach"* works best in cities and smaller municipalities, where an officer can be regularly assigned to the same neighborhood. With larger geographic jurisdictions, it is more difficult. However, we do foster community-based outreach and non-arrest conflict resolution by:

- Encouraging our Deputies to periodically stop into businesses and schools
- We utilize a School Resource Officer in the Bradford Central School
- Provide D.A.R.E. instruction in the Odessa Montour and Bradford School Districts
- Provide speakers to community groups on topics such as active shooters and crime prevention and drug abuse.
- Finger Lakes Wine Festival -courtesy sobriety check point
- Operation Safe Child Events
- Child Safety Seat Inspections
- Provide Alcohol Server training F.A.I.R. free of charge to local businesses.
- Utilize social media to inform the public of our activity.

PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING AND HOT SPOT POLICING

“Problem oriented policing and hot spot policing” are similar concepts, involving identifying and analyzing specific crime problems and locations and targeting resources toward solving those problems. We employ those concepts, in effect, when we look at complaint frequency regarding crimes or vehicle and traffic complaints to assign patrols.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION INTERVENTIONS

“Violence prevention” refers to the reduction in the frequency of new cases of violent victimization or perpetration through direct efforts to remove or reduce underlying causes and risk factors, such as alcohol abuse, drug abuse, gang activity, illegal weapons possession, domestic conflicts etc.. Our agency regularly provides training to businesses and organizations regarding active shooter trainings and building assessments to possibly deter these types of crimes. We teach D.A.R.E. in our schools to provide the best practices to our children on the dangers of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and to have respect for themselves and others.

MODEL POLICIES PROMULGATED BY MUNICIPAL POLICE TRAINING COUNCIL

The State MPTC from time to time develops a model policy on one or another aspect of police operations, which it offers to police agencies for consideration or adoption. Other organizations also develop model policies. Not every model policy is suited for adoption by every agency. Many agencies develop their policies and procedures by studying model policies from many sources, and by studying actual policies being successfully used by other law enforcement agencies around the country. Many of our policies and procedures are modeled after accredited law enforcement agencies in New York State, and other agencies from around the country based on best practices.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

Q & A

NEXT STEPS

- January 2021: Stakeholders Committee will review all public comment received and draft plan
- February 2021: Publish Draft Plan for Public Comment
- February 2021: Committee will finalize draft plan for submission to the legislature
- End of February 2021: Present proposed plan to the Schuyler County Legislature at the Public Safety/Criminal Justice Committee
- March 2021: Adoption of Plan by Schuyler County Legislature — Submission to NYS

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