

## EO203 Public Forum Guidelines

Dates: Monday November 23, 1-3pm

Monday, November 30, 4:30-6:30pm

Thursday, December 3, 6:30-8:30pm

via Zoom, access: 892 739 1872

The purpose of these forums is to give the general public the opportunity to share their thoughts on what is desired of the city of Cortland police service. People are asked to reserve a 3-minute time frame to share their thoughts with the police department command staff, Mayor, City Council members, and general public. To reserve a time slot, please email the mayor's office. Also, comments may be submitted in writing directly to: [mayor@cortland.org](mailto:mayor@cortland.org), please place "EO203" in the subject line. Reservations may be made via phone: (607) 753-0872. When reserving a time slot, please leave your name, street address, and preferred 15-minute window of availability. Scheduling will be done with city residents first, then non-residents who are city stakeholders, if time allows.

Police Chief Mike Catalano, Deputy Chief Paul Sandy, Mayor Brian Tobin and Alderperson Bruce Tytler have been meeting with several members of the community, representatives from the Village of Homer, and representatives from SUNY Cortland to discuss ways to improve policing in our communities. We've been fortunate that Mayor McCabe of Homer was able to involve Bathabile Mthombeni as a facilitator. Public input is an invaluable portion of the process. After public input, a draft document will be put together, and shared with the public for additional comment. Comments may include (but are not limited to) the following topics and questions:

### I. What functions should police perform-

What is the value of community policing?

How valuable are School Resource Officers, the role of police in schools?

Relationship between officers, and local organizations (faith based or other)

Relationship between the police department and marginalized communities (i.e.

people with communication disabilities, LGBTQIA+, Immigrants)  
Involvement of youth in relationship building

## II. Staffing levels, budget, equipment for police

Tasers/pepper spray and their application

Use of cameras on vehicles, body cameras on officers

Should the city invest in more cameras downtown?

The police commission is made up of 3 city residents who volunteer to review police functions. In what ways can they give a stronger voice to the public?

Should there be police commission (civilian) oversight of citizen complaints?

What are some barriers to qualified candidates becoming interested in a career in law enforcement?

## III. Policing standards and strategies-

The department is accredited, meaning we meet high national standards. Is this important to maintain?

Are the department's policies/procedures easily available?

Expectations of managing crowds

City police "use of force" policy/actual use of force by city police/review

De-escalation strategies (diffusing tension in a situation)

Response to alleged hate crimes

Community engagement by officers, on duty/ off duty

Conduct of officers when off-duty, does it build confidence?

How should people be able to file a personnel complaint?

What additional types of officer trainings would benefit the community?

## IV. Leadership, Culture, and Accountability

The City Charter lays out the process for selecting a police chief.

How could the city recruit high caliber, diverse candidates?

How often should community input on police be sought?

What information about incidents/complaints/arrests should be made easily accessible to the public?

What data should be tracked (i.e. traffic stops, searches, arrests, complaints, use of force) and what should be shared, and how often?