

Dear Quogue Residents,

Several of my emails in the months since last June have referred to Executive Order No. 203, the edict by which Governor Andrew Cuomo ordered each of the more than 500 jurisdictions in the State of New York that has a police department to conduct a comprehensive review of its police department and develop a plan to improve it and address “any racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color.” The stick to compel this process was a threat to withhold State aid from any jurisdiction that fails to comply. A number of your fellow residents agreed to serve with me and the leadership of the Police Department on a committee to conduct the review: Joe King, a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice (and a Quogue Firefighter), Rev. Gale Williams, pastor of St. Paul’s AME Zion Church in Quogue, Mary Malhotra, a Quogue part-time resident and former Senior Warden and an officer of the Vestry at St. James’ Church in New York City, David Rowe, Convener of the Executive Committee at Church of the Atonement in Quogue, and Lynn Lomas, president of the Quogue Association. Sincere thanks are due to each of them.

A draft of the plan is posted on the Announcements page of the Village website: <http://www.villageofquogueny.gov/polAnnouncements.cfm>. Public input is invited. Please feel free to read the Plan and submit any comments or observations regarding our Police Department to contact@villageofquogueny.gov. In addition, the Board of Trustees of the Village will hold a Special Meeting (via Zoom) at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 5th at which people are invited to participate and provide comments. You will need to call or email the Village Office on or after March 3 in order to have the Zoom link information sent to you.

I received a reminder from a resident that this is the time of year when the need for food pantries increases because outdoor workers are often without work in the winter. I think that most of us living in Quogue can feel pretty fortunate about our lot in life. Now would be a good time to look through your pantries and kitchen cupboards to find food items you are not going to eat before they expire. *Please note that food pantries by law cannot distribute expired foods, and generally do not have the refrigerator space to keep perishables like dairy or produce or meat.* Canned goods like veggies, beans and soups, peanut butter, oils, flour, sugar, pasta and cereal are always needed and greatly appreciated.

There are a number of food pantries in our area. I do not know all of them. You can, however, bring food donations to the Immaculate Conception Church rectory (the little house next to the church on Meetinghouse Road in Quogue). The door is always open to leave donations of food (no clothes or toys, please!). Also, for the month of February only, the Quogue Library is taking food donations at its temporary location next to the Quogue Post Office. It will take your donation and transport it to a food bank.

We are past the mid-point of February—so we are getting there. Hang-in.

Peter Sartorius
Mayor