

Criminal Justice Task Force Bi-Monthly Meeting (Zoom)
UU CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINISTRY
Monday, August 10, 2020
5-6 PM

Present: Penny, Roberta, Mike, Dr. Gayle, Mark, Ellen, John, Shirl and friend Janine, Shanique, Betty, Louise, Cheryl, Kathleen

1. **Introductions and check in**
2. **Minutes** from 7/27/20 meeting: Accepted.
3. **Position Paper and Summary on Police Reallocation/Defunding:** Updated versions attached: Shanique and Kathleen: This paper is an effort to present the position of the CJTF/CJM on the issue of "defunding" or reallocation of resources for police, specifically with regard to the potential impact on Rochester, within the framework of Bring the HEAT, Faith in Action's recommended approach to local news outlets and possibly a press conference. We continue to attend UCLM meetings on police funding, body worn cameras and the Sheriff's Association proposals in reaction to 50a and calls for reallocations of funds. Several of us attended UCLM's press conference on the Sheriff's Assoc. proposal, press release attached. Links to interview videos:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=iHxAHG-hmqY> (Dr Irshad Altheimer)

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=zY9X6q4WiqU> (Rev. Lewis Stewart)

4. **#HALT:** Penny: Update, anything new on development of an accountability board for corrections officers. HALT was not passed. The Legislature may meet again before the end of the year, so there is some hope. There are new legislators coming in the next session so there may be more support. This is not just NYS, there are people attending the HALT town hall from all over the country and developing a national movement. Who voted against it? Sen. Skoufis from Hudson Valley, who is toxic on this issue.
5. **PAB: Betty:** Please see the D&C article on the fired RPD officer blaming the Mayor for the loss of his position, byline: Brian Sharp: <https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2020/07/27/lawsuit-fired-rpd-officer-blames-mayor-warren-his-termination/5510113002/>. We also need to pay attention to the police contract as it is negotiated. PABA still undergoing website and email reconstruction. A retreat is planned to gather input about focus. They are meeting with the Buffalo PAB that wants to expand and build on how Rochester built community support. They just sent out a piece from the ACLU Know Your Rights brochure. Mark mentions that the PAB efforts in Geneva appear to be slow-walked. Betty describes how Klan members were encouraged to move to northern areas to infiltrate systems across the country to perpetuate the control methods used in the south, historically. Cheryl notes that when she got her house built, about a year later the KKK blew up the mailbox and spray painted the neighbor's house in Rush-Henrietta in 1978. Be aware that the KKK is still around, even if people think they are gone.

6. Connections with community: Penny: SURJ, Showing Up for Racial Justice: Keep up with them on Facebook and get their newsletter. This group is sophisticated and active. It's a national organization with an elaborate phone banking set up to get out the vote. Shanique: County legislator Flagler: Aware of Sabrina LaMar and Joe Morelle situation? Discussed with him, asking for Morelle's resignation, but Morelle did not come to a meeting with the leaders. Flagler spoke with her about a plan called Diversity Action Plan, \$1.2B to diversify Monroe County, there will be a press conference at City Hall tomorrow. Met with the Mayor today regarding the Racial Equity Commission. There were over 500 applications, interviewed 60 people, selected 13, and Shanique will be reviewing this group from the diversity standpoint. During this discussion, we considered whether there might be a citizen's commission organized among people who are more affected by the issues being considered, and we may follow up with this idea after we get more information from Shanique's review of the process. Betty notes that We should be attending City Council meetings on Zoom and signing with RocACTS attached to our names. Write letters to the editor and to representatives of all sorts on these issues, as citizens, particularly as an immediate response when there is an incident.

7. Communication: We have found that our communication with each other needs to be more clear and effective. For example, when we mention "white privilege," it means different things to us, depending on our perception. Let's discuss "white privilege." This was a good conversation that needed more time. The term "white privilege" can be felt as insulting, implying that a black person is seen as a victim or "less than" and that the white person sees themselves as "better than" or having had a much better life. Black people have seen white privilege and racial discrimination all along, but white people seem to be realizing these things much more lately. White privilege can also be considered as identifying the institutionalized way in our society that being white confers benefits that are almost always unidentified by white people. White people may mention the concept of white privilege as a way of identifying to themselves in the conversation that this is a way we realize we may benefit from this system. There was much more to this discussion than captured here. We could continue this discussion online and at the next meeting and hear more from the white people.

8. Announcements: Facebook live stream on Thursday August 13 at 6:30pm, "Defund the Police in Rochester? With Irshad Altheimer, Ph.D., Danielle Ponder, Esq., Ashley Gantt, Ret. Deputy Chief Wayne Harris, livestreamed from the Baber AME Church Facebook page.

Resource: The 1619 Project, New York Times: [1619](#) and the update: [1619 update](#)

Resource: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/colorado-passes-sweeping-police-reform-bill/?ftag=CNM-00-10aab6a&linkId=91310060&fbclid=IwAR2EjjQl-EzbYjUqKz8382EmCLYe23A9i18OSCmuQ28T7AclqjB8uh7mc>

Resource: <https://www.cnn.com/videos/entertainment/2020/07/31/tyler-perry-intv-anderson-cooper-vpx.cnn>

9. Evaluation: one word. Would someone please remind me to record next time?

Next Meeting dates: Please note the following schedule changes: CJTF meeting led by Shanique and Kathleen continues on the second Monday of the month but starts at 5:00 so that Penny can attend the HALT meeting immediately following. The other Monday meeting held in 2 weeks led by Penny and Roberta starts at 6:00. Both meetings are scheduled for one hour.