



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Andreas Bisbikos, First Selectman

Public Safety Subcommittee Agenda
Thursday, June 23rd, 2022, at 7 PM

Members: B. Bernier, T. Joseph, B. Dennler, K. Hall, S. Shoemaker, I. Hawes, J. O'Meara

Members Absent: R. Peruta, B. Kowalsky

Alternate: T. Szoka **Alternate Absent:** A. Ewing

Others Present: A Bisbikos (First Selectman), R. Coyle (Board of Selectmen)

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM

2. Citizens Comments - None

3. Election of Officers

A. Chairman

- B. Dennler motioned that B. Bernier be appointed Chairman of the Public Safety Subcommittee. 2nd by T. Joseph. *Motioned carried unanimously 7-0*
- R. Coyle suggested adding seating of alternates as part of future agendas

4. New Business

A. Public Safety Committee Charge

- B. Bernier discussed the informational with Simsbury Fire Chief Jim Baldis and the charge of the Board of Selectmen to develop and structure for the Public Safety Committee.
 - A. Review outline of the CORE Commission Process
 - B. Review Public Safety Committee charge statements of other communities
 - C. Drafting a Public Safety Committee charge statement
- A discussion began discussing the role of the Police Commission in relation to the Public Safety Committee. A. Bisbikos envisions the Public Safety Committee as a separate entity that would bring first responders together, a platform for the community to engage with first responders, an avenue to increase transparency and information to the public and facilitate an overall collaborative approach between the public and our first responders. R. Coyle agreed with A. Bisbikos and encouraged the Public Safety Committee to start out at ground zero and develop it collaboratively.
- K. Hall discussed the importance of releasing reports to increase transparency. T. Joseph wanted to understand how timely the information would have to be presented. I. Hawes discussed that

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information from the Colchester Police would have to go through the state police. A. Bisbikos discussed the importance of releasing information – including understanding the narrative of a particular department and potentially encouraging their growth.

- B. Bernier suggested that the First Selectman could reach out to CCM for information. B. Bernier discussed three key potential roles of the Public Safety Committee including: planning & coordination, oversight, and public relations. A. Bisbikos stated that oversight aspect should be left to the experts. T. Joseph and B. Bernier agreed with A. Bisbikos regarding oversight. T. Joseph and B. Bernier both supported the collaborative approach with the public.
- B. Dennler discussed the importance of understanding how data is reported. B. Bernier encouraged to conduct research on reporting and how other public safety committees are structured. B. Bernier also wants the Subcommittee to determine what the level of oversight should be at the next meeting. J. O'Meara discussed her perspective on gathering sensitive information from school administrators. T. Szoka discussed potentially bringing in a representative from public works or planning for infrastructure safety concerns.

B. Next Steps

A. Timeline

5. Adjourn – B. Dennler made a motion to adjourn. 2nd by T. Joseph. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.