

Procedural Justice Committee Meeting: May 5, 2022

The Procedural Justice Committee held a meeting in the Community Room of the Public Safety Building on May 5, 2022. Attending were Jenna Salmonese, Cecilia McPeck, Carmen McGill, Van Riley, Bishop Debra Gause, Sean McCarthy, Van Riley, Marina Tarkos, and John Penney. Penney asked the members for their views on the Dutchess County proposal to build a homeless shelter on Oakley Street in the city. McGill said she opposes the project, adding that it is being forced on the city by the county. She said that part of the city is already an industrial area and that the city, as the county seat, shouldn't be a "dumping ground." Tarkos expressed concerns with staffing issues and said this is another example of certain parts of the city being forced to accept certain facilities while other areas don't have to.

Committee members expressed concerns about the lack of transparency as this deal has been worked on and wondered why county and other elected officials didn't know or speak up about it. Committee members also wondered why homeless shelters couldn't be created in other parts of the county. Penney said the county does have other facilities, and there are people who identify as city residents staying in those facilities.

Committee members agreed the public needs more information about the project.

McCarthy asked members to provide feedback on the implicit bias training they recently received. This training addresses the automatic association people now make between groups of people and stereotypes about those groups. The members largely spoke in favor of the training but wanted to know how effective it is. McCarthy said research is split on that issue, but he added that he believes the training is helpful and that many officers have spoken favorably to him about it.

Committee members also discussed some upcoming events, including New York Attorney General Letitia James holding another gun buyback program in conjunction with the City of Poughkeepsie Police. That event took place on May 14 at Beulah Baptist Church and resulted in 48 weapons being turned in.

The Procedural Justice Committee will meet again on June 2.