

Shandaken Police Reform Commission

Public Survey (collected 12/22/2020 to 1/14/2021)

Listening Session (1/14/2021)

SUMMARY

The Shandaken Police Reform Commission elicited public feedback on interactions with the Shandaken Police (SP). The goals of the survey were to find out how the public thinks the police are doing, provide a way to give feedback anonymously, and identify race-based issues.

- The average rating for interactions with the Shandaken Police was 4.14 out of 5.
- There was no statistically significant difference in ratings of police interactions between white respondents (average rating 4.51) and People of Color (POC rating 4.27).
- Of 407 respondents, 14 reported seeing or experiencing racial bias or discrimination.

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Shandaken Police Reform Commission
Survey Results

Total Responses: 407
 As of: January 31, 2021

Demographics

How long in Shandaken?		%
11+	306	75.2%
4-10	67	16.5%
0-3	27	6.6%
Passed through	5	1.2%
No response	2	0.5%
Age		%
65+	144	35.4%
45-64	169	41.5%
25-44	90	22.1%
18-24	3	0.7%
No response	1	0.2%
Gender		%
Female	218	53.8%
Male	173	42.2%
Non-binary	6	1.5%
No response	10	2.5%
Race & Ethnicity		%
White	318	78.1%
Prefer not to say	46	11.3%
Persons of Color (POC):	29	7.1%
No response	14	3.4%

POC Breakdown	
Hispanic / Latinx	7
Asian, White	5
Black / African American	4
Asian	4
Mixed Family	2
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2
American Indian or Alaskan Native, White	2
Asian, White, Hispanic / Latinx	1
American Indian or Alaskan Native, Black, White, Hispanic / Latinx	1
American Indian or Alaskan Native, Black, White	1

Rating

Interaction with Police		%
Yes	355	87.2%
No	48	11.8%
Unsure	4	1.0%
Rating (1 neg - 5 pos)		%
5	255	62.7%
4	68	16.8%
3	40	9.8%
2	7	1.7%
1	4	1.0%
No response	33	8.1%
Average	4.14	
Comfortable calling 911		%
Yes	380	93.4%
No	8	2.0%
Maybe	15	3.7%
No response	4	1.0%

Ratings Breakdown					
	5	4	3	2	1
# of Responses	255	68	40	7	4
% of Total Ratings	68%	18%	11%	2%	1%
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>					
White	192	58	29	6	2
Prefer not to say	37	3	4	1	0
POC	20	5	5	0	1
No response	6	2	2	0	1
<u>Age</u>					
65+	101	20	10	2	0
45-64	97	32	17	4	1
25-44	57	15	12	1	2
18-24	0	1	1	0	1
<u>Gender</u>					
Female	141	33	18	5	3
Male	106	35	18	0	1
Non-binary	3	0	2	1	0
No response	5	0	2	1	0
<u>Resident/Visiting</u>					
11+	207	50	25	6	3
4-10	33	15	8	1	1
0-3	11	3	6	0	0
Passing through	4	0	0	0	0
No response	0	0	1	0	0

Experienced / Seen Racism by S.P.?

No	392
Yes	14
Unsure	1

Other Comments (added as Yes):

Judgement/stereotyping

Yes, unwarranted stops. see below

I have heard of bias from a neighbor.

(Added as No)

I haven't ever seen a member of the Shandaken Police interact with anyone who wasn't white.

Since I am an older, middle-class white, it's hard to address this subject. Most of my friends look like me.

Have not encountered Shandaken Police

I have never interacted with them

hell no!

I haven't ever seen a member of the Shandaken Police interact with anyone who wasn't white.

Not racial bias. Other kind of bias.

not really enough empirical data to answer accurately

I haven't had enough contact with them to answer this in a functionally useful way

I'm white so I really won't expect racial bias

If yes, please describe your experience of racial bias or discrimination.

**Includes all responses to this question, regardless if it relates to racial bias or discrimination.*

If I describe the incident I may no longer be anonymous.

I was discriminated against as a female reporting a crime by a male. 1 officer apologized to me about a year later.

Pulled over after slightly irregular driving (driving while trying to find my purse or something stupid like that). Officer looked surprised when he saw me. I wondered if he hadn't seen my African-American husband in passenger seat, then was surprised to see White woman driver. But this could all be my imagination.

Rather not comment

Mother in law was driving and I was in the passenger seat. Got pulled over for a wellness check for my elderly white mother in law. Police officer treated me like I wasn't there even though I waved and said hi. PO continued to asked my driver if everything was ok and if she was ok. Eventually we left that awkward stop.

Not racial bias, but I was cyber-bullied on facebook by a Shandaken policeman for my being outspoken about the proposed Belleayre Resort. He was told to stop harassing me and to refrain from expressing nasty personal opinions about residents. He stopped insulting me online and we get along fine now. A very successful outcome!

We have very few people of color here, but tensions run between local residents and city weekenders. In order to make our community safe and welcoming for tourists and new families, the Police must be trained to quickly and peacefully resolve neighborhood problems with noise and trash. Short Term Rentals are the tradition of Shandaken. If Police do a good job of discouraging offending "party houses" (both full -time and STR), our tourism economy can flourish. We can be a safe haven for families escaping NYC, and local residents can feel protected from disturbance.

Sometime around 2003 (give or take) myself and tenants of mine were the subject of a voting fraud investigation by a Shandaken detective. As it turns out, this was an illegal investigation as only the County Board of Elections may carry out such investigations. It was latter revealed, that the investigation was initiated by a politically partisan friend of the detective who was spreading untrue rumors around town.

I believe I was discriminated against for being female but I'm also Jewish and I was the subject of a racial hate crime and the police didn't believe me

I heard--so, this is hearsay--that a woman officer experiences gender harassment.

1. I was stopped on the way home from skiing at Belleayre for having "my brakes lights go on and off too much." The officer shined a bright flashlight in the faces of the children 7-10 years-old sitting in back seat and asked "are you all behaving?" Confusing interaction, but no tickets were issued. 2. I was stopped on the way home from Phoenicia Main Street and informed that one of my my brake lights was not working. I asked to check it out for myself, and noted that they were working. 3. The same thing happened twice with the license plate light. The first time I was stopped I assumed the light was not working, but when I went to have it fixed, they said it was working. The second time I was stopped for this I asked to check the light, and it was working. The officer said he couldn't see it lit with the snow, but was obvious working.

Not sure if it was Shandaken or state police, but I felt like I was being invited to surveil non-white neighbor.

Homophobic statements

Officer abrasive, rude and unprofessional

Phone call report from a Commission member: A resident for last 11 years has been having a neighbor dispute for several years and feels that the Shandaken Police did not do anything, and that the reason for this was because of her race, commenter is a person of color. She says the SP are "not keeping the peace." There were threats to her life, use of racial epithets. She called 3-4 times the SP and nothing was done except finally they each got tickets. Her suggestion is that the police take her complaints seriously in spite of her race, verify her complaints of harassment and property damage.

What changes would you suggest? / Other Concerns / Comments / Feedback:

**Names and locations have been removed to maintain anonymity. An unredacted version has been reviewed by the Commission. Responses are otherwise included without edits.*

Training / Bias / Race-Related / Transparency Suggestions and Comments:

More community out reach / more divers police force
Add racial diversity. Continuing education--de-escalation, outreach, etc. / Thank you for conducting this survey. I am very concerned about policing policy in general: systemic racism, sexism, and militarization nation wide and more locally. That said, I am also thankful for the work of Shandaken PD and, in my experience, they are doing a good job in our community.
Greater diversity including race, gender, sexual orientation, and politics. The Shandaken Police should be apolitical, yet my experience is otherwise. / Would like to see an increase in traffic enforcement, our roads have become more dangerous with the recent increase in full time residents and visitors.
I think all police departments need training on autism spectrum. Look what happened in Miami. Learn from it, do and be better. I would like to see Police interact more with the public to build trust and counter the negative effects of news outlets. Why not start with programs like coffee/chat with an officer? / Police are usually first to arrive and really need to start carrying Epinephrine pens. It could save someone's life. One for adults and one for a child. Each pack contains two pens and could be split between two officers. Narcan is always available but no police ever carry Epi-pens.
Human decency class 101 / [Officer X] Rocks! The world needs more of her.
I believe all community leaders and government officials - including the Shandaken Police - should be informed of their implicit biases (https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/selectatest.html) and, specifically for police departments, it's important to understand the history of policing in America (https://plsonline.eku.edu/insidelook/history-policing-united-states-part-1 ; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPu6-1yy8-o) / Thank you for organizing this survey. I look forward to the follow up.
I firmly believe that the Shandaken police, and all police departments, would benefit from diversity and trauma-informed training, and de-escalation training, as well as a community policing approach to protecting citizens. / Thank you for providing this opportunity to the citizens of Shandaken. Our police should not be ignorant of their own biases, and should treat all citizens equally with regard to the use of force, application of the law, etc. This is especially important because we live in a pluralistic society, and Shandaken, being increasingly diverse, is no exception. Since our rural area values community, the police have an opportunity and an obligation to uphold the value of community, which implies inclusivity, in its relationships with community members. Police departments should avoid a militaristic approach to policing, and citizens should demand that our police conduct themselves as peace officers, not as a paramilitary.
I would highly suggest investigating the possibility of merging the department with another town or with the county. I believe our town is too small to maintain a police department with the standards the public now expects. / The idea that this survey would in any reliable way capture the extent/or lack of racial bias in our police force feels highly suspect. If there's a real desire to see what's going on, we could require the officers to keep records of their interactions to include demographic data and outcomes. Then we could require them to wear cameras so we could randomly audit the accuracy of those records. This

<p>would then allow us to truly analyze the data and see if there are any disparate outcomes one way or the other. An online survey to capture racial bias in a town as small and rural as ours, when most interactions are probably with out-of-towners, cannot be reasonably expected to reflect the truth. This survey could be very easily manipulated by either side of this heated and serious national debate, and I just wish we could see a strong effort to bring forward reliable data. I imagine a force confident in it's practices would be happy to go through with this to illustrate their successes.</p>
<p>I would suggest that every officer from the chief to detectives to patrol officers be screened to identify any tendencies of bias towards race, or sexual orientation.</p> <p>I would also like to see that every officer enforces the masking social distancing mandates during the current pandemic. / I think the Shandaken Police on the whole are doing a terrific job keeping our community safe. They deserve credit for keeping the peace in Shandaken and also involving themselves in community events. Thank you.</p>
<p>Make sure to seek and encourage black and brown people to apply. / Training for how to treat people of color</p>
<p>More diversity on the police force.</p>
<p>More inclusive hiring to reflect the community</p>
<p>More training in professional conduct and interactions with the public. More diversity in the force, in particular more female officers. Holding officers to the same standard of driving that regular motorists are held ie not blowing through stop signs, failing to signal etc when they are on regular patrol duties and not attending an emergency. / It's disconcerting seeing members of law enforcement fist bumping guys in traffic court who are shackled and in orange jumpsuits. It's also concerning seeing squad cars tailgating drivers who are doing nothing wrong. I have witnessed this kind of intimidation and feel that it endangers the lives of motorists, particularly elderly drivers.</p>
<p>None / We need to make sure that we support the officers and give them more training.</p>
<p>Outreach to people of color, compassion toward all residents, old and new, black and white, gay and straight.</p>
<p>Reach out to undocumented workers</p>
<p>Sensitivity training, female staff</p>
<p>Sensitivity training, new staff except for [Officer X] who is a kind and professional officer. [Officer Y] once talked about putting furry handcuffs on me and that's because he's a totally inappropriate creep, When I bought my house here 20 years ago people told me that he was called "[Officer Y] Casanova" it's really disgusting</p>
<p>Stop assuming that people of color in the wrong place are automatically at fault for something. / More meet with officers for positive social events before they are needed for bad things that happens.</p>
<p>Stop buying black on black "stealth" cars. Police uniforms and cars must be very clearly identifiable to deter crime and deter abuse of power. / Thank you for creating this commission. Beef up the training for domestic violence intervention. Good luck!</p>
<p>Support them with updated equipment and training / Keep politics out of their duties, use facts as a guide to keep the Police Officers and Shandaken residents safe.</p>
<p>That people the police interact with get treated decently no matter what they have done in the past or in the present unless the person the police are inacting with is uncooperative .</p>
<p>This is not based on experience with the Shandaken Police, but in general I think periodic anti-bias</p>

trainings addressing race, gender, LGBTQ issues as well as a system of civilian interaction and maybe oversight is important for a healthy relationship with the whole community.

To stop believing that they do not say or do racially bias or discriminatory things because they are nice people and have good intensions.

There seems to be a "Good ol'Boy" policy in place where long time locals can commit serious and petty crimes and face no consequences, to the point where they are willing to criminalize the victims (often female victims of domestic violence and harassment, etc.) Also, the drunk/drugged driving in the area is out of control. If "Good ol' [Officer X]" catches someone in a drunk driving accident she always lets them go. Not ok.

We can all be more open to our biases and create a more inclusive community. / Thank you for taking this up!

I support bias training and body cameras for all police throughout our country including our community

I'm curious about the data around traffic stops, tickets and arrests made by Shandaken Police. How many traffic stops are there? Who is getting stopped the most or the least? What are the most typical infractions in our area and how are they handled? Would love to have some transparency or sharing of this data as a result of this commission/meeting. Thank you so much for hosting this!

Since moving to SHANDAKEN in 2005 my family have had nothing but great interaction with the SHANDAKEN Police Dept. I think most people don't realize the difficulty they face in such a large jurisdiction and also dealing with so many vehicles that are just passing through our town, usually at a high rate of speed. In today's crazy world though I would like to see every police agency in America receive de-escalation training for their own safety and the public's.

We admire and support our community's police and respectfully ask that members of law enforcement encourage their more ardent friends in the community remove the blue-line flags in our town that are nothing more than divisive. We ALL rely on our officers of the peace; please don't let yourselves be defined by or aligned with those who feel the need to display some special affection or connection.

We should pass the Right to Know Act in Shandaken. We should also form a Civilian Review Board.

The Police Dept is doing a very difficult and important job. It is reassuring this commission exists to elicit feedback from the community for which they provide service.

Meet and Greet / Community:

Be more eager to meet people-say hello, try to get to know diff. people/ages/income etc. maybe even leave a business card under peoples' doors/mailbox. / Advocate for safety! Why no flashing light or something at dangerous intersections (Rt. 28 Main St. by Eagle!!)
Community event
Emphasis on community policing
Ensure training for community oriented mediation is up to date
Higher visibility in the community. More patrolling on the street.
Hold more community events / Keep up the great work
I don't know enough about their methods of operating now to suggest any changes. / After COVID, some kind of Meet The Police Day, or Community Connection Forum, where police and residents can meet, chat, learn.
I'm relatively new to Shandaken (3+ years) and I know the Chief, and [Officer X], and [Officer Y], but I don't know the others. Perhaps they might be on the town Facebook page every now and then introducing themselves? I understand there are part timers (?) but I don't know who they are or how many. They're all good guys and deserve to be KNOWN to newer residents. / I've encountered Shandaken Police as a firefighter, and as a citizen. Nothing but praise for them.
More community events, i.e.-meet your police, zoom get togethers
More interaction with the community for new hires
More interaction with the locals
More opportunities to meet our local police officers
More programs like "Coffee with a Cop".
More visibility / There is one who should be more willing to take a report and not 'Pooh pooping' out of a complaint.
More visibility. Enforcing uses of mask with store owners.
Smile more
Town web page should show photos with (first) names. No need for last names. / Police should advocate for better cell coverage as public safety need on Rte 28/Phoenicia
Wear suits and/ or sports jackets, get rid of military look. In fact, get rid of military organization and organize as a non-profit business. Start emphasizing, training those job tasks that get the most calls, social work type. Continuing Ed with role playing on desired social interaction. Go over policy and up date. Have police education assemblies which include other law enforcement professionals in the county. Have visible officers walking in town, being part of the town. Hire me to implement ideas.
Would be nice to know their names and faces

More Officers / Pay:

Add more officers to your force. / It's good to know there's a presence on 28 where people might otherwise speed on the two lane highway.
Due to the increase of full-time residents and diverse opinions in the community, the police dept should be enlarged and receive more funding.
Expand the department so not to have to deal with the State Police / Overall a good job for a small town.
Give more funding
Hire more
Hire more / They are Professional and Reliable- Good Group
Increase budget and manpower
Maybe more
More full time officers
More funding
More officers / They do a great job and we're lucky to have each of them...
More officers working
Pay them better
Pay them more
Suggest they get a higher pay scale. This will retain the great officers and reduce the turnover.
They are under paid / Very dangerous in any areas
Upgrade to 24/7 coverage if possible
A big raise they are underpaid, they are protecting us and they make less than most of our town officials
We need more on staff

Less Policing:

I believe we are paying too much for services we don't need. Too many police for a small town. [Officer X] has a Full Time job in Kingston. Shandaken pays him \$20,000/yr for what? Our money would be put to better use with a paid Fire Dept.
Only the same general changes I'd suggest made to all police organizations, we very much respect the work that they do, but maybe shift to a slightly less-funded model that encourages community engagement and help over scare tactics and financial and/or legal burdens. I dream of a world where seeing a police officer makes me smile, not grip the steering wheel nervously or wonder what's on me.
Fewer full time officers and increase coordination with DEP and Ulster Cty police / Very nice to see women officers and officers who are people of color

Positive Feedback:

i find the the shandaken police to be dedicated and caring individuals with good working knowledge of their community. heroes on a daily basis. i am glad to count myself as a friend and supporter of our local police force.
Everyone is sharp and professional. Coming from NYC - I am impressed... NO complaints. I was lucky enough to work with NYPD and the Feds in some capacity over the years - and your team is just as good. Keep safe and THANKS for serving the Community. Happy Holidays. When I retire perhaps I can help out in some way...
Honestly I don't have any changes. Have always respected the Shandaken Police!
I am sure there are things that could help, but I do have experiences with them that have been anything but positive - caring, calm and on it!
I think the Police do a magnificent job . They are professional and fair while upholding the law. I want the Police to be safe ! I feel in this time our Police are wrongfully attacked by certain individuals or groups. I support the Police! I am very thankful to them for their Service!
I'm glad that you are even considering these questions. Great first step.
Keep safe
Keep up the good work / We are all in it together
No changes. / Keep up the great work. And thank you.
none , they're the best in our area. / Thank you , for all you do.
None are needed. Keep up the good work!
none at the moment / We had a very positive experience with [Officer X], who quickly diffused our fears over a potential break-in/trespass. She was very professional, thorough, calm, and used her common sense and local knowledge to solve the case very quickly.
None at this time / I find the majority of the police in shandaken very pleasant
None they are well trained and professional / I support the Police
None, The police are great and are very fair
none, they are great!
None. They are a great organization. [Officer X] is a pillar of professionalism and dedication. The town is fortunate to have him and his staff.
None. They do a really good job, in my opinion, going above and beyond in our case. There was a break-in (several, actually, over the years) and officers tracked me down by an internet search to tell me about it. / I hope you all provide the officers with back up help in the office to answer non-urgent calls.
None. Shandaken PD does a great job. / My interactions with the police in Shandaken are always positive. In a lot of other little mountain towns, that might not be the case. I've never been known to particularly love law enforcement in general, due to experiences with the NYPD, but you guys (and gals) do a really great job.
None. They are perfect
None.. / I'm Concerned with widespread anti-police rhetoric. In general it's not the police who need reform, it's those who don't follow police instructions that are at the root of the majority of "police" issues

of late. I also regret our town even feels the need for such a survey.
Not enough interaction to be able to make a recommendation / My husband in early stage of dementia came up from city on the bus, but his bus only went to Kingston. Couldn't figure out where he was, feared he was walking along the highways. Turned out he had gotten a second bus to Phca, just not the bus we expected. Police were totally fabulous getting ready to mount a search — completely professional, engaged, concerned. I was then and remain now profoundly grateful.
Thank you for their service in backing up their neighbors / Keep it. Hold up your heads.
They are doing awesome job ! / Few years ago I live by American Legion post 950 guy had broke in I heard alarm called and they responded and later got the guy down route 28 they where right here ! They also check on our older citizens do a amazing job glad they are here for us all! They help our community also with outreach programs they are well needed thank for your service !!
THEY ARE FINE AS IS
They have a great team / Keep up that great work
They seem great to me / Officers have always been courteous and friendly. They're helpful instead of a "gotcha" mentality. Seem to truly care about the community and the residents.
comment strongly praising police department for diversity and quality
I am not a person of color, and I have not had many interactions with the police, so I cannot vouch for how they have responded in situations where racism might be an issue. My impression is generally positive. But I am glad the town is inquiring into the subject.
I have had only positive interactions with Shandaken police.
I like when I see them driving on my street, Silver Hollow.
I live with the privilege of being being a white male so I can't speak much to experiencing personal racial bias. With that being said, I miss a lot of the bias that could be directed at those with less social privilege. Unless I've personally witnessed an experience - my opinion doesn't really count in speaking towards the racial bias of a police department. But, in all my years in Phoenicia, and through all my experiences, the Shandaken police officers I've dealt with have been wonderfully respectful and seemingly upstanding community members.
I think they are doing great.
Love that you are doing this survey!
Ours is a small, mostly white community, and I haven't witnessed any racial problem with the police here. But then since I'm white, I don't know if my experience with the police would be different here if I was a person of color. I hope not! The few interactions I have had with the Shandaken police, all officers have been respectful and professional.
Over the course of living here 37 years, any interaction I've had with Shandaken police has been positive and helpful.
Over the years I have had to request the services of the Shandaken Police on a handful of occasions ranging from help with a medical situation to assistance with stopping trespassers. In all instances, the officers I dealt with acted with utmost respect and professionalism and were immensely helpful in the execution of their duties. We are fortunate to have such a great group looking out for the safety and security of our small town home.
Part-time resident since 2017, full-time resident since 2020. To date, overall satisfied. Thank you for your

service.
Shandaken PD is the best there is. [Officer X] is amazing! [Officer Y] is amazing!
Thank you-Heroes
The police are not perfect they are human
The Shandaken Police do care for the community and the people they serve. They all go far beyond the call of duty to take care of us. I would not hesitate for one second to call upon them if they were needed. All first responders are in my thoughts and prayers and I am very grateful for their service.
They do a great job
They have been friendly and helpful, though I wish the rules on trespassing by my neighbor's firewood business were clearer to him. He also continues to put wood refuse in the public drain. A LOT OF IT.
They seem like good guys to me.

Police Duties / Other Concerns:

Be nicer to people generally. Don't have an attitude. / In one instance, where I believe someone had damaged by water line, [Officer X] was really a pro and really nice. In the circumstance in which I got a ticket (blinking my lights to a swerving driver in front of me), the traffic officer was a real jerk.
Do routine patrols to check on areas where people congregate, such as parks, swimming holes or other public areas, to show a concerned but neutral presence. Advise on noise, garbage removal and other public nuisance concerns, as appropriate. / No indication of any issues with police performance or policies has come to my attention.
Great question, but hard to answer. Would like an open forum with the police department to talk about their experiences and ask them questions - like this one. / It's not about changes for the sake of changing, It's about creating positive change that builds relationships, provides options for difficult or volatile situations (like hostage negotiator types in lieu of banging through a door, or some kind of learned restraint tactics in lieu of kneeling on someone's neck), and understanding that we are all created equal and have the right to enjoy liberty and justice for all. Hard to talk about treating all suspects or wrongdoers equally or fairly, but how about carefully and situationally. Assess the threat and decide (quickly) what you can do before you pull your gun.
Monitor Air B and B and/or short term rental houses, apartments, rooms, etc. Address related quality of life matters. For example, garbage, health and fire code violations, animals (bears, raccoons, rodents, unleashed pets, noise, traffic violations, alcohol, drug use, privacy, trespassing/snooping.....
More drug and DWI enforcement / Great group of men and women,the town should be proud of them !
More police patrol in the pine hill area on weekends
Patrolling around the Onteora High School side streets 7-9 am 3-4 pm could be increased.
Work better getting drugs off Phoenicia Streets
would like to see an occasional police presence patrol around Stony Clove lane as there are many AirB and B rentals and too many speeding cars and trucks
When [Officer X] was police chief, he allowed his night shift cops to park behind the town garage and nap and they depended on the radio calls if needed. But cops didn't really patrol much except to stop and visit friends for an hour here and there. Do they patrol now? Do they still sleep at night behind the town garage? Speaking of vehicles, why do the town police ignore the fact that the [town elected official] uses the town vehicle to travel to his watering holes, sportsmans, [Location A] and [Location B]. And allow him to drive on the road, after drinking? Does [Officer Y] still tell the cops, to 'leave him alone'? It's a big joke in town but as a taxpayer, I am not laughing. I have no respect for this police force. The law should be enforced.
I received a speeding ticket on Route 47, doing 55 in a 45, 8 a.m. heading to work. The Officer was a complete jerk, yelled in my car and asked if I was drinking (it was 8am). Gave me ticket and said don't involve a lawyer or ticket gets more expensive. The night I went to court he was there and continued to act like a jerk, not just to me, and thankfully [the Judge] called him down.
It's so hard with bail reform, but they need to be making arrests to protect seniors. / It's so bad, I had to move.
Lose the all-black cars. Folks can't easily recognize officers for help and they do not serve a role in crime deterrence.
lower fines / lower surcharge

More community friendly, officer was rude to me when I returned the purse insinuating that I had taken it but half jokingly / Also I feel that at times they would rather not be involved or bothered. There were awful neighbors on my street at one point. Police were called because of drunken fighting in front yard. Did nothing to resolve issue
More professionalism from certain female officers.
One unmarked car is enough...
our officers are doing a fine job, our community depends on them and we know they will be there. / I feel the offices in our area, are doing a great job, but they need more protection, camera's need to be where you can see not only the police officers but also the people they interact with, this would be a benefit so that you can see where the trouble lies. I realize that they have bullet proof vests but what protects they back's and there heads, isn't there some kind of light weight bullet proof material that can go on there heads and backs to prevent stabbings and head shots.
Rookie cops badge goes to their heads
Stop showing favoritism to friends and family of friends.
Term limit on chief
The possible use of citations for lesser crimes like possession of marijuana / The possible use of citations for lesser crimes like possession of marijuana
Treat your Delaware County neighbor's with respect. / Love the Town. Merry Christmas!
When you leave a message for a police man to call you back and you still never hear from them / There been great with all the stuff that happen at my apartment building
A few officers were gathered in the Phoenicia Plaza, standing about 3 ft from one another with no masks on. I think they could set a better example for the community by wearing masks
Calling 911 is hard with no cell service in most of the town.
don't like black lettering on black car, too stealth
I was unable to get to the survey because I don't have internet where I am only comment I need to make is that for people who are hard of hearing whatever phone system the police dispatch uses. It's really really difficult to hear what they're saying because it's not magnified properly if you have more questions or need more detail. Again, [Phone number]. I am hard of hearing and I had a difficult time understanding the one of the officers I spoke to in even when he tried to speak up. It didn't work. Thank you very much, bye-bye.
Lack of cell service in the area remains a concern.
new car - don't like it, we already have an unmarked SUV, why do we need a second one to make traffic stops. Police should be visible, rather than invisible presence in community, sends wrong message
Put stop to squatters
When we had jury duty for the Town trial, not too long ago all of us were sent to deliberate, in the small room across from the meeting room. There were only 3 chairs. One of the other jurors asked [Officer X] if we could get more chairs. He said, "it's Not in the budget" and walked away. We never got chairs, we were in there a few hours. All of us except 3 had to sit on floor or desk. We knew there were chairs in the building. It was shocking. I have no respect for him or the court system in this town now.
Give them a pay increase. Stop graffiti in Ulster County.

Stop graffiti now in area

Traffic:

Based on feedback from friends and neighbors, I suggest that patrols should not focus on pulling over people for broken taillights, failure to signal in situations where there are no other vehicles in sight, or similar minor infractions. Instead, there is a need for better enforcement of illegal or reckless passing on Route 28. I personally have witnessed such behavior, including experiencing situations where oncoming drivers were passing in my lane without allowing sufficient time to return to the opposite lane. Additionally, the town should work with the NYS DOT to increase no passing zones on Route 28. / Thank you for this opportunity to provide community input. However, the proof will be in the pudding, so I fully expect action on the key recommendations provided by me and my neighbors.

Be on the road more checking speeders especially on main street Phoenicia

Don't use the state police to help direct end-of-day traffic coming out of the Belleayre ski area during the Winter ski season.

Enforce the speed limit on Rt. 42 by the post office

I would not know / I would like speed limits to be enforced also on backroads, where people live, and not only on rt 28

It's quite unnerving to be stopped by any police. Over the decades that I've lived here it's still hard to tell which police department is pulling drivers over on Rt. 28. Is it Shandaken, Kingston, Woodstock, DEP, Olive? It seems threatening to see all the various police cars poised between vegetation, bushes and trees on Rt. 28, on-the-ready to pull people over and issue violations. / I've had other interactions but other than a few incidents listed above, I have no complaints. I know it's challenging work.

More of a presence on 28. Tourists have been passing over the yellow more and more. This is from tourists to new residents. This also includes moving trucks. / Thank you for your service. Please stop enforcing orders on local businesses. It's going to kill our food industry. Don't let Cuomo turn you against the people. He wants to defund you and then use you to hurt us. Please do not allow him to do this to our community.

More patrolling on rt 214 to many speeders and illegal passing / They are an asset to our community

More patrols for speeders. speed traps.

more patrols, more vehicle checks (registration/inspections), more speed checks between Big Indian and Highmount

More stringent and frequent enforcement of speeders leaving/approaching Phoenicia on Main Street/Plank Road where virtually every car passing through the residential zone there is speeding and many of which speed at more than twice the limit.

On New Years Eve: I understand & support wanting to keep people safe from drunk drivers. I think it would be better to just set up a road block & test everyone, rather than pulling people over for very thin reasons ("driving with highbeams on").

Somehow better reckless and speeding driver control / Ditto above and possibly roadside trash follow up, although I know that's a very difficult thing to accomplish

Our problem is out of control state troopers using Rte 28 as training site for automobile driver harassment

There needs to be more speed traps on roads on weekends. Creekside, Oliverea Rd., Old 28 (Plank Rd). There also needs to be more of a police presence in Phoenicia on weekends. The only officer we ever see sitting in town on weekends is [Officer X].

Survey/Commission Issues:

Who drafted these questions? They appear to be biased on several levels.
The survey questions are flawed.
Who designed this survey? / Who is on the Shandaken Police Reform Commission ?
There is no need for a police reform commission in a small town such as Shandaken. NYS's initiative to foster collaboration between police and community was a governor initiated political reaction to make him look good. It is an overreaction to police action in other areas and states.
None / 911 center is a county emergency center and is independent of Shandaken police. There is no need for a Police Reform Commission in a small town such as Shandaken.

Notes

Respondents vs. Census Data

While the survey was open to non-residents and visitors, two data points were compared to Census data (data.census.gov 2019 ACS Survey 5-Year Estimates). Census estimates total Shandaken population at 2,846; 8.9% People of Color (POC); 32.3% 65 years and older. This survey had 407 respondents; 7.1% POC; 35.4% 65 and older. 14.7% of respondents did not indicate their race/ethnicity.

Methodology

Distribution: The survey was distributed primarily through the Town of Shandaken alert channels. Hard copies were distributed to post office bulletin boards, and mailed upon request. Additional outreach included Facebook posts by Phoenicia Library, emails to large employers, hard copies at the Phoenicia Market, one-on-one engagement through Commission members.

Data Collection: Data was tabulated in Google Sheets through Google Polls. Mail-in and drop-off surveys to Shandaken Court and Phoenicia Library were added manually.

Data Analysis: Data was analyzed by Commission member Crystal Wei. Duplicate entries were identified through duplicate text only, flagged, and omitted. Data was analyzed for statistical significance via Sofa software, using t-tests for 1-category differences, using alpha p value = 0.05; null hypothesis that there are no statistically significant differences.

Comments were additionally recorded by Commission members via email, text, and phone, and manually compiled. Demographics were not collected through these forms of feedback.

Limitations of Survey

Survey participation was voluntary. Given limited outreach tools and efforts, the Commission acknowledges that the respondents may not include at-risk populations, especially those who do not receive town alerts or have digital access, those passing through, or those who may fear retaliation or do not otherwise feel comfortable giving feedback.

The Commission further acknowledges that while all feedback from the public is invaluable, conclusions cannot be drawn from this survey alone, especially with regards to racial differences in policing in our community.

Shandaken Police Reform Commission

January 14, 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

Public Listening Session

9 Commission members in attendance

21 Public members in attendance

2 members of the Shandaken Police were present at the beginning of the meeting, and left after introductory statements.

This is an abbreviated summary of public comments by topic. Names and locations have been removed.

Abbreviations: SP Shandaken Police; POC People of Color

Concern about racial bias

-Call for transparency of data, especially arrests and race. Concern as a full-time resident about inviting/hosting POC friends. Is it safe?

-Not much experience with the SP, police were sensitive and supportive of the Black Lives Matter vigil. Glad racial bias is being looked into, and that if there is any bias it can be brought forward and discussed freely.

-Would SP be interested and willing to take an implicit bias test (example [Harvard Implicit Bias Test](#)) and make results public, as we all hold biases and need to be aware of them. Would SP be educated in the history of policing in America, and a system built over hundreds of years with relationship to racism. Happy to share resources.

-Do police have political biases that will make them feel affinity for white people against Black people, or otherwise not fulfill their duties to the Constitution?

-Relying on POC to come forward with their experiences, however welcoming and well-intentioned the committee is, might not be likely.

-We need to be asking ourselves why more POC don't feel safe moving here.

-Wonder if I were not a young white woman and instead a POC, would a police officer have apologized after pulling me over; have never received a ticket in 7 times.

-There are immigrant populations here. How are the SP going to intervene in these situations / work with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) or not? It could be a community in danger right now because they're afraid to get kicked out.

-Caution against over-generalizing [referring to a prior statement]; there are many non-white people here.

Commission Questions

-Question about the process of the Commission.

-The Commission should be focused more on POC and what their interactions are, if any, with the SP.

General Concerns

-Called SP about gunfire; they came quickly, spoke with them, determined there wasn't any danger and they couldn't take any further action. There is no mechanism in place to take action if noise is excessive like gunfire or snowmobiles.

-SP helped in resolving noise issues from shooting. There are other issues involving noisy neighbors, plus escalation of complaints, can the police issue tickets in addition to quieting down noise situations.

-Good experience over 20 years resolving neighbor disputes. General concern (not SP specific) that people with guns and emotional issues get help before they inflict violence, especially with violence in Washington and strong political allegiances in our area.

-There are many police departments doing traffic stops, don't always pay attention to which.

Positive Comments

-Police came after a 911 call for issues with former neighbors, they did the best they could do. Supportive, helpful. Caring group, wish them to be safe.

-More than positive experience, no hesitation to call the police, feel comfortable and safe, would support them, would try to give them a raise. They're responsive, fair, and regardless of political leaning, looking at the matter at hand.

-Comfortable to bring the police into any interaction that I might expect to have here. Value to taking the implicit bias test. I hope they might consider it.