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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northport Village Seeks Public's Collaboration in Carrying out the Governor's Executive Order on Policing in New York State

Northport, NY- Damon McMullan, Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Northport has advised that in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 203 ([EO 203](#))-*NYS Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative*-the village has scheduled two public meetings that are essential to shaping the Village's final plan that will be utilized by the Northport Village Police Department to enhance and improve services. The purpose of the meetings is to create opportunities for the public and policymakers to collaborate within the framework of EO 203 while fostering greater trust and respect between the police department and the community.

On **Tuesday, January 19th, 2021, at 6 pm**, a Northport Village workshop will be held in order for the Northport Village Police Review Committee to present to the Village Board the findings of a recent survey they conducted. The purpose of the survey was to determine the community's attitudes about the Northport Village Police Force and to specifically identify areas of concern. The survey, developed on a pro-bono basis, was led by local Northport resident Joe Schramm, a marketing and communications executive and member of the committee. The presentation will include the methodology used in forming the survey, the results, and their analysis. The survey and its findings will be used as a tool to inform the committee as they develop relevant recommendations. After the presentation, the Board trustees will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide the committee with feedback.

As a follow-up to the January 19th workshop, the Village has scheduled a **Public Listening Session** on **Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 6 pm**. The evening will provide a dedicated forum for the public to comment on the findings and to voice their valuable insights, concerns, and suggestions regarding policing in Northport Village. The public is strongly encouraged to attend both meetings.

The Northport Village Police Review Committee was formed by Mayor McMullen in accordance with EO 203, issued on June 12, 2020. Governor Cuomo issued the EO to address the tensions and lack of trust between communities throughout the state and the law enforcement that serves them. The order requires each local government in the State to adopt a plan by April 1, 2021, to be eligible for future state funding.

When forming the committee, Mayor McMullen's expressed intent was to ensure that the committee reflected gender balance and reflected the cultural make-up of the community. The committee is comprised of residents and stakeholders in the Northport community including representatives from a local elected official's office and the Suffolk County District Attorney's office, clergy, representatives of the LGBT and multicultural communities, League of Women Voters, as well as local business owners, a licensed social worker, a retired NYPD officer, a retired government administrator, and the Chief of the Village Police.

Mayor McMullen appointed the volunteer committee early last summer. The committee conducted its first meeting on July 7, 2020, when Police Chief Chris Hughes provided members with an overview of EO 203 and police operations in Northport. The committee met biweekly and collaborated on developing a process, researched successful policing strategies in similar communities, consulted with experts and, created a timeline to comply with the EO 203.

The first step in engaging the greater community led to the creation of a sub-committee tasked with crafting and distributing the survey. "The data we have collected from the survey has provided us with a baseline for evaluating police operations in the Village. We are now looking forward to hearing from the public and receiving their comments, concerns and suggestions during the Public Listening Session. Resident participation will be integral in crafting our final plan but, more importantly, in helping the Village and the Police Department best serve and protect the community," stated Mayor Damon McMullen.

In an effort to protect the public from COVID-19 transmission, both meetings will be conducted virtually via Zoom. The following link can be used to register for the January 19th

workshop: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYodeuqrTkjE92IkW9upA-T2DjSEh1y6Gaw>. For updated information on the proceedings of the Northport Village Police Review Committee, access to the survey (to be posted shortly before the beginning of the January 19th workshop), and the Zoom meeting information for the February 2nd, please check the Northport Village's website at www.northportny.gov as well as the Northport Village Police Department's website- <https://www.northportvillagepolice.com/> .

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About Northport, NY. The incorporated village of Northport is an historic maritime community of nearly 8000 residents on the north shore of Long Island, within the Town of Huntington in Suffolk County, New York. Settled by English colonists in the 17th Century, it was initially designated Great Cow Harbor and was officially renamed as Northport in 1837. The community incorporated as a village in 1894 and has an elected government comprised of a mayor and four trustees