

The Procedural Justice Committee held a meeting in the Community Room of the Public Safety Building on December 1, 2022. Attending were Isis Benitez, Ivan Braxton, Carisma Collins, Cecilia McPeck, Jenna Salmonese, John Zeltmann, Sean McCarthy, and John Penney.

The committee talked about recruitment efforts, saying that more citizens are needed at meetings considering the gradual drop off of committee members this year. The committee also will need a new co-chair as Van Riley has announced he will be stepping down as co-chair but would be staying on the committee. McCarthy, who also serves as co-chair, said he wanted to have a conversation with Van Riley.

McCarthy also suggested the committee could change the date and time of the meeting if the committee gets feedback from potential new members that such a change would help with meeting attendance.

McCarthy also addressed recent shots fired in the Harrison and Lent streets area, saying the police are investigating these matters. He and Zeltmann said there also have been an uptick in car break-in and catalytic converter thefts. They explained that car break-ins tend to increase during the holidays, as people are more apt to leave packages and gifts in their vehicles. They said the uptick in the catalytic converter thefts is not only happening in Poughkeepsie. These car parts are valuable, and teams of criminals can steal them relatively quickly.

McCarthy also reported there have been three police officer suicides in the Hudson Valley area in recent weeks, pointing out that police wellness is something addressed the city's Poughkeepsie Police Reform & Modernization Collaborative Report. He wanted to make sure the committee was aware of these suicides.

Committee members also talked about upcoming events, including the Celebration of Lights event set for Friday, December 2, the Poughkeepsie Awesome Event set for December 6, and the "Winter Wonderland" event set for the Public Safety Building on December 15 and 16.

The Procedural Justice Committee will meet again on January 5, 2023.