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Department of Public Safety
Vermont State Police
45 State Drive, Waterbury VT 05671

July 21, 2020

Dear Community Partners,

As you know, recent events across the country have prompted the most fundamental reexamination of American policing in generations. The newest phase of the long-running national conversation that began after George Floyd's murder in Minneapolis has grown rapidly to encompass all aspects of policing, its implication in systemic racism and how law enforcement can and should evolve to meet these modern challenges.

We write today to invite you to participate in shaping our approach to policing across Vermont and in your community. As law enforcement changes, it is of fundamental importance that we make changes that reflect the desires and goals of the people we serve. We want to hear directly from you and the people you represent about your priorities, your concerns, and how we can ensure that policing in your town keeps Vermont a safe, just and welcoming place for everyone. Your input will have a direct impact on the policing in your community.

The Vermont State Police has been a leader in this regard for years and is committed to remaining at the forefront of reforms that are necessary to ensure that all people in our communities are treated fairly, equally and with dignity and respect. You can learn more about our ongoing efforts at the webpage for VSP's Office of Fair & Impartial Policing and Community Affairs (<https://vsp.vermont.gov/communityaffairs>), which is believed to be the only office of its kind at any state police agency in the country.

To this end, state police commanders are connecting with municipal leaders and community organizations throughout Vermont to begin — and in some cases, to continue — a discussion about how police services can and should evolve to meet the demands of 21st century policing.

Across Vermont, there are 200 towns where the Vermont State Police is the primary law enforcement agency. Even beyond that, our troopers are community members too. They are your neighbors. You see them at the grocery store, at the bank, at restaurants, and when dropping off their children at school. Troopers coach little league and volunteer at community organizations. As community members, troopers share the same investment in ensuring that public safety is assured with fairness and equity. We want to move forward in partnership with you.

Please respond with a written response to Lieutenant Anthony French (anthony.french@vermont.gov), at your earliest convenience. If necessary, we can schedule a meeting at a later date.

Very respectfully,

Lt. Anthony French
anthony.french@vermont.gov
802-722-4600