

City of Newburgh

PRESS RELEASE

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City Council Names Members of Police Community Relations Advisory Council

At their July 16 meeting, the City Council appointed the members of the Police Community Relations Advisory Council.

Twenty applications were received, and after careful consideration by a committee consisting of several community volunteers, members of the Police Department and Council members Cracolici and Bowles, the following candidates were recommended for Council approval:

Lauren Accomando
Armando Aguilar
Rev. Harry L. Brown, Jr.
Janelle Cleary
Inez Jackson
Charles Kimbrough
Jarrell O'Neal
Fr. John Vondras

Genie Abrams was also identified as an alternate non-voting member.

The Police Community Relations Advisory Council will provide a forum for the exchange of ideas between members of the public, through their representatives, and the Police Department. It will be a way to encourage open discussion of crime-related, public safety, or other quality of life issues in the City, and a mechanism for the public to request particular services and recommend legislation or other means to deal with their concerns.

Rev. Byron Williams, who serves as President of the local chapter of the NAACP and the Black Ministerial Fellowship commented, "I am very pleased with the selection- this is a good cross-section of our citizens. The committee comes at a very good time. It will give City residents an opportunity to have input and feedback on how matters are handled."

Rev. Williams added, “This has been a lengthy process- it began last winter when the City Manager, Police, members of the Clergy, representatives from the School District and other community leaders met in an attempt to create a better Newburgh. This committee is one of the key pieces that came out of those discussions.”

“The City of Newburgh has been pro-active from the beginning in trying to involve the community in many ways, and especially in police-community relations,” said Mayor Nicholas J. Valentine. “I ask the residents of the City of Newburgh to offer their support to this committee as they undertake this important work.”