

June 8, 2020

Peachy Rentenbach  
Leelanau County Commissioner  
3961 W. Cheney Woods Trl.  
Maple City, MI 49664

Dear Peachy,

Given the recent horrific events of police brutality in our nation, state, and, quite frankly, here in our community, many of us are concerned for the safety of our friends and neighbors. We are concerned about our police/Sheriff practices.

Also outlined on [www.8cantwait.org](http://www.8cantwait.org), as concerned citizens we need to be assured that the following police/sheriff policy and practice are currently in place at the Leelanau County Sheriff's Department::

- 1) **Create written anti- profiling policy and practices:** These should include the following points:
  - a) Responding to a 911 call with community resource referrals rather than weapons. Train your 911 callers and officers to promote community and mental health resources rather than responding with weapons.
  - b) Require de-escalation tactics. Require officers to de-escalate situations, where possible, by communicating with subjects, maintaining distance, and otherwise eliminating the need to use force.

Our black, brown, and indigenous persons of color (as well as those who are low income/homeless) need to be able to be on the street/in their homes and not feel scared and afraid at all times.
- 2) **Require that body cameras and dash cameras be installed and of mandatory use.** If body or desk cameras are turned off for any reason, there should be immediate disciplinary action take and an investigation launched.
- 3) **Require Implicit Bias training** immediately (within the next 90 days) and annually for your entire staff, if not currently in place. The training should be provided by black, brown, or indigenous people of color from our community.
- 4) **Immediately end the use Choke and Strangle holds, if that practice/policy is currently acceptable..** Allowing officers to choke or strangle civilians results in the unnecessary death or serious injury of civilians. Both chokeholds and all other neck restraints must be banned in all cases.
- 5) **Create Duty-To-Intervene policies and practices, if that practice/policy is not currently in place.** Require officers to intervene and stop excessive force used by other officers and report these incidents immediately to a supervisor.

- 6) **Require comprehensive reporting:** Require officers to report each time they use force or threaten to use force against civilians. Comprehensive reporting includes requiring officers to report whenever they point a firearm at someone, in addition to all other types of force.
- 7) **Divert existing funds in your department to establish these policies and procedures, if they are not currently in place.**
- 8) **Acquaint yourself with non-violent police practices websites such as:**  
[www.8cantwait.org](http://www.8cantwait.org) and [www.campaignzero.org](http://www.campaignzero.org)

We want to be assured that all populations in our community are treated with the same non-violent policies and procedures regardless of race or income or situation. Although Leelanau County may seem isolated from the rest of the world, we need to be assured that there is no chance of violent police acts in our county. We would appreciate a response to our letter outlining how the Board of Commissioners is moving forward in assuring these non-violent procedures and practices. Outlining your actions to promote non-violent response and sharing it widely in the community would indicate that the Board of Commissioners and the Sheriff's Department are taking this seriously and are appropriately concerned about the safety of all members of our community.

Sincerely,



Jenifer and Claire Murray  
13575 S. Beaver Pond Road  
Empire, MI 49630  
231-633-9543