

The Procedural Justice Committee met on Oct. 20, 2020 at the Public Safety Building.

Co-Chair Yvonne Flowers continued the discussion regarding the committee's role in helping the city address Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order 203 pertaining to policing and enhanced training and policies. She introduced two members of the committee – Detective Chris Libolt, Vice President of the Poughkeepsie Police Benevolent Association, and Erick Vasquez, Poughkeepsie High School Student Government Liaison. Flowers went over the format of the Oct. 27 public meeting to get feedback on the governor's executive order.

Flowers and Bishop Debra Gause, also co-chair of the Procedural Justice Committee, will facilitate the discussion, along with Mayor Rob Rolison. The committee also discussed the possibility of holding a youth forum on policing and are looking to hold another public meeting in Spanish.

Committee members noted the constraints of doing public meetings during the pandemic, but are working to do as much outreach as possible during this process. The committee wants to more develop a deeper timeline, not only for its work through the end of this year, but also for the beginning of 2021.

The committee discussed the proposed creation of a Civilian Review Board being considered by the Common Council and expressed concerns regarding how it would work and what the costs would be. The committee wants to obtain more information about the proposal and have questions answered. Committee members said they are not against some type of public oversight of the Police Department, but believe the police department and other facets of the city have to be more involved in the creation of such a board. Committee members are being asked to listen in on the Oct. 27 public meeting and take any relevant notes so the committee can discuss what the community has to say.