

**Meeting:**                   **Town Hall –  
Bridging the Gap Between Law Enforcement and the Community**

**Date:**                        Tuesday, June 11, 2019 – 6:30-8:55PM

**Location:**                Trinity Faith Christian Center, 15516 New Road, Lewes, DE 19958

**Chairperson:**            Charlotte King

**Moderator:**             Drew McKay

**Speakers:**                Commissioner Perry Phelps, Delaware Department of Corrections  
Chief R. L. Hughes, Police Department, Georgetown, DE  
Chief Michael F. Hertzfeld, Delaware Capitol Police  
Colonel Nathaniel McQueen, Jr., Delaware State Police

**Recorder:**                Ann Loar Brooks

### Introduction & Opening

Charlotte King opened the meeting and welcomed a diverse audience of about 50 the law enforcement officers and community members. She encouraged attendance at a number of upcoming events/happenings, the first three of which were announced by Heidi Evans, Chief Curator of the Milton Historical Society and the second two announced by Don Peterson:

- Bryan Stevenson Exhibit – Walking Into Greatness  
Now through December 2019  
Milton Historical Society, Milton, DE
- Bus Trip to Lynching Memorial of George White  
June 23, 9:30AM – 6:30PM  
Milton, Odessa UGRR Stop, Wilmington, DE, and return
- Discussions of *Just Mercy* led by Christy Taylor (Bryan Stevenson’s sister)  
July 2 and July 30 – 6:30-8:00PM (both evenings)  
Milton Historical Society, Milton, DE

- *Changing the Narrative* Display  
Now through next two weeks  
Lewes Public Library, Lewes, DE  
(Other Future Locations TBD)
- Annual Juneteenth Celebration Parade & Festival  
June 15, 10:00AM Parade; Booth Following  
Richard Allen School, Georgetown, DE

### Program

Captain Sherri Tull-Hubbard, Retired, introduced the panel and asked them to mention their current primary issues.

Commissioner Phelps – the re-entry commission; leadership training with the goal of culture change; bring staffing levels up

Chief Hughes – recruiting; keeping officers on the force

Chief Hertzfeld – ensuring the safety of the legislative, executive, & judicial offices; efficient bomb detection; safeguard the transit of domestic violence parties in and out of court

Colonel McQueen – oversee the eight patrol troops in the state; focus on engaging with the community and outreach; recruiting for Camp Barnes for youth aged 10-13

Drew McKay asked the panelists to comment on community policing as it relates to their work.

Hughes – wants the Georgetown police to “look and sound” like the community, e.g., there are now eight Spanish speaking officers on the force; focus on foot patrol and cars with windows down; developing cadet programs; addressing the needs of the growing Hispanic and senior communities.

McQueen – educate communities how to be safer via crime watches and safe community programs; use of CrimeView.com – a crime mapping program to understand crime patterns; wants to make citizens feel understood and heard; using social media to improve community contact – now reaching over 100,000 Delawareans in this way.

Phelps – to enhance community policing he is: working with a cadet youth academy for youth 12-18 and a citizens' correction academy; using social media; encouraging Operation Safe Streets; holding town halls and community events; and organizing sports teams and Special Olympics events.

Hertzfeld – has contact with the public through jury services, social media, and workplace violence training.

McKay asked whether panelists see officers as social workers, law enforcers, or both.

Phelps – while officer can't be all things to all people, he does see them playing both roles, at times. At the same time, prison is not the place for rehabilitation or mental health treatment – alternatives to incarceration are needed for these offerings.

Hughes – sees officers often playing both roles but to do so well requires training, especially in relation to drug abuse.

Hertzfeld – believes that “police are the people and people are the police.”

McQueen – said police work is “in the people business.” He felt this so strongly that he earned a master's degree in social work. Police are often the first call made or resource sought in emergencies – but officers must be trained on how to make appropriate connections between public and actual social workers.

McKay brought up the problem of drug abuse and how to address it.

Hertzfeld – mentioned “see something – say something.” Wants to connect community members so that this issue can begin to be solved within the community itself.

Hughes – believes there are root issue causes that need to be addressed, e.g., improved public education, especially for early childhood and Pre-K children so that all children are able to read. Also, support systems need to be bolstered, especially as too many children are growing up in fatherless households.

McQueen – all his officers now carry Narcan. Delaware laws have created silos so that different entities cannot communicate with one another. These walls must be broken down. More resources for treatment are needed so that Narcan use and arrests are less prevalent.

Phelps – most prisoners are poor; as technology advances, those at the bottom levels of the economic ladder find their ability to compete declines, making drugs appealing options. The fatherless households that Hughes mentioned are a consequence of the 1980's War on Drugs. This may take a few generations to reverse. We need more clinicians who know how to deal with drug-related issues.

McKay opened the floor to questions from the audience.

- Human trafficking

Phelps – State Police are receiving good training in order to recognize signs of trafficking.

- Body Cameras

Some departments have/use them. Some don't, primarily due to expense.

- Training for youth on how to interact with police  
Joe Bryant of NOBLE (National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives) responded that his organization meets with middle and high school students to educate them about how to interact with officers.  
A later questioner suggested a “What to do when you’re stopped” link be placed on the departments’ websites” and asked about working with social workers. Hughes said Georgetown now has a social worker on staff who even sometimes rides in patrol cars.
- Citizen Review Boards  
McQueen has seen mixed results with these boards. Instead, the State Police work with external agencies and the Delaware Attorney General’s office to investigate police behavior. Hughes works with the Georgetown Police Advisory Council for guidance.
- Keeping contraband from entering schools  
Phelps feared there are no clear answers to this problem. Hertzfeld believes that the best way to keep contraband out is to build stronger relationships with students in order to stop items from coming in.
- Ideas for how SDARJ can work with the agencies  
Phelps would like us to aid in re-entry programs. Hughes would like support with Georgetown’s citizens police academy and awareness council. Hertzfeld suggested getting involved with the Access to Justice program. McQueen asked for involvement with Camp Barnes, support for the Sussex County Citizens Police Academy, and help to reach underserved and minority citizens.

The audience joined Drew McKay in a strong show of appreciation for the panelists and the law enforcement officers in attendance.

### Closing

The meeting ended at approximately 8:55PM.