

We have compiled the comments received from the survey, emails, and community meetings. The survey and email comments have been grouped into categories of positive, neutral, and negative. Positive comments were those from individuals who supported the local police department. Neutral comments are those with questions or requests for more information without specifically supporting or having critical comments of the Croton police department. Negative comments are classified as those with either specific criticisms of the department or generalized anger or antipathy towards the department. Within these categories specific issues were identified which are summarized here.

Positive

Regarding the officers themselves: professional, responsive, dedicated, friendly, respectful, courteous.

Safety: There were many positive comments regarding feeling safe within the village.

Croton Police Department not reflective of other police forces nationwide. There were a number of comments averring that the Croton Police department should not be viewed in the same light as the departments that have recently come under scrutiny for their actions. Other pro-police comments centered around the Executive Order and the feeling that this is not appropriate in Croton and a waste of time and resources.

Positive Personal Experiences: Many comments revolved around positive experiences when needing help with a sick family member or when in a vehicle accident.

Support for local police department: There were a number of comments in support of keeping the police department local and not outsourcing to a multi-jurisdictional agency. Also regarding supporting the department while it dealt with COVID.

Community Interaction: Other specific positive comments included appreciation of their interaction with the girl scouts, their role in DARE, the Cadet program, and association with the Croton Caring Committee.

There were quite a few comments in support of the new and younger officers as well as the new Police Chief.

Positive with Caveats

Need for Increased Enforcement: Speeding, noise, parks, COVID-related including mask wearing and crowds.

Need for more training: especially in the areas of anti-bias, de-escalation, mental health, and developmentally disabled.

Need for more community engagement, publicity, social media, communication, and transparency:

Neutral comments

Questions, requests for more information:

Are any of the officers fluent in Spanish

Supportive of Executive Order:

Diversity, reform, sensitivity training, body cameras, bias training

Concern about size of force and expense

Concern about Safety: Upper Village, Grand Street, low-income housing, Half Moon Bay, car break-ins, not enough COVID enforcement

Concern about officers in the schools

Concern about racial profiling

Request for more communication, social media, weekly reports

Negative Comments

Should not respond to neighbor complaints – should use discretion instead of responding to every call

Not enough interaction and communication with youth and community

Vindictive, harassment, corruption

Unpleasant experience while arrested – sadistic, bullying, rude, disrespectful

Disproportionately favor residents over non-residents

Not enough enforcement , speeding, graffiti, crimes, littering, enforcement

Too many speeding and parking tickets issued

Racial profiling - racist

Targeting of teens

Should be abolished

Overabundance of law enforcement and weapons

Eliminate the police patch

Comments – Verbatim

Positive

Every time I interact with Croton Police, the experience exceeds my expectations. I will always be grateful to have them around. I had three emergencies in the last 20 years. I never had to wait more than 10 minutes.

I appreciate the work they do and am sorry they are collectively facing a public backlash

Croton police department are best in USA. Additional training is never wasted especially in conflict resolution.

I think the Croton police forces does an excellent job. I would argue many people chose to live in Croton because it is a safe community and that is in part due to a good police force. The minority anti police group cannot force its agenda on this community. I believe it is a disgrace how police have been treated recently both in this community and nationwide.

I find them to be very concerned for the village citizens and the activities going on in town. I believe they are all conscientious, very easy to talk to and very helpful.

"Top admin, patrol officers and dept response always Best of the best"

I'm very pleased with our police department

The police will stop and answer questions and are knowledgeable of the resident concerns. Very helpful with 2 different officer interactions

Over the years I have needed the help, intervention or protection from our local PD. They were there...acted quickly, professionally and as the situation warranted. When I needed someone domestically to "stand down" it was handled on point. I would hate for a wishy washy approach at a time like that. I rely on them for safety and protection and to be vigilant against crime

I believe the CPD is doing a great job and should not be lumped into the pool as a portion of the public are screaming. Maybe there should be a public committee and they can meet with CPD to go over concerns and bring the two sides together better and the CPD need to uphold our laws and not the ones that are not hurting feelings.

I truly believe the CPD is an amazing agency with great people. I have worked alongside CPD officers for a long time and have nothing but good things to say. I hope the public anti-cop mentality does not infect our small village. The CPD is not in any way an aggressive or racist agency and is made up of some of the kindest people I have ever met. I hope we allow sane and level-headed community members into the new Advisory board so that we do not become apart of the modern anti-cop rhetoric that so many other places have.

I feel very safe in and around Croton. Although there is often police presence (cruisers driving around, parked) they are not intimidating, and most interaction I see seems to be emergencies and speed stops. I can only assume they are doing exactly what they should, being present, monitoring, and assisting when

they are needed. It seems like they are appropriately passive, i.e., not out hunting for people who make minor mistakes.

I think our police officers are good at what they do. I feel very safe inside outside my residence due to them. I see them constantly patrolling.

The department has always been a fair and effective arm of the local government. Seeking involvement of youth and attending to the needs of the citizens within the parameters of the local ordinances and state laws.

The Croton Police Department is irreplaceable!

Anytime I have dealt with an officer from the Croton Police, they are nothing but wonderful. I have had many interactions with them from being pulled over (and even getting a ticket because well ...we are accountable for our actions) to them assisting on a call for EMS. Each time was a pleasant experience and I am proud to say that I live in a community with such a wonderful Police Department.

I was a victim of a car hit and run at the Croton Harmon train station. The Croton police were very proactive. An officer (female officer I do not have her name) was on the scene with an incident report for my insurance company completed as I arrived at the car in the parking lot. She assisted me in confirming the car was drivable and remove the damaged and hanging bumper. She also shared they tried to see if any cameras caught footage of the incident and spent a couple of days scanning other cars in the lot for related damage in trying to find the perpetrator.

"The Croton Police Department spoke with my daughter's Girl Scout Troop and were extremely informative. They were extremely knowledgeable, had a wonderful repore with the girls, and showed a genuine concern for the welfare of all our community members. I was very impressed. When I was in an accident, the police officers were extremely kind and compassionate. I was blown away by their concern for my welfare and by their handling of the situation. I couldn't have been prouder of our police force in Croton. They seem like an ideal Police Force. Growing up in NYC, I had a different impression of police officers. "

Always very respectful. I feel safe here night and day!

We are very fortunate to have an excellent department. I feel extremely safe and secure in my town because of them.

The department has always been a fair and effective arm of the local government. Seeking involvement of youth and attending to the needs of the citizens within the parameters of the local ordinances and state laws.

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All officers in the Croton Police Department act with integrity and care. All are very approachable with a police or community matter. This is what makes out town great!

Officers conduct business with passion and care.

police are doing an excellent job

Keep up the great job

Policing in Croton on Hudson is excellent. It is a very safe place to live and I wouldn't change a thing.

I have learned a great deal and feel that my family has benefitted from the department. Problems are quickly dealt with and advice is clear and understanding.

I live and work in Croton. The police do a very good job of trying to keep people safe, in a respectful way. The main problem I see is when young people (ages 9-17) commit a crime or do something wrong, and THE PARENTS refuse to admit their child could possibly be guilty of wrong-doing. This is not the fault of the police department. I have occasion to call the police on a fairly regular basis while at work. Their response is always timely, and they always treat me with respect. They always treat the suspect with respect (that I have personally seen) also, even when that person is rude or nasty to the officers. Police departments should not be de-funded based on the poor behavior of a few officers.

The CPD has been amazing during my 15 years living here. They are needed and are underfunded. They do a tremendous job, day in and day out.

They have always been respectful and professional.

we have a really good Police department. Officers are polite and respectful.

The Croton Police Department contributes to the sense of community and safety my wife and I have.

I have had little interaction with the police, but am a firm supporter of our police department and see them as a critical part of the community.

The Croton PD is very professional. The officers are smart and personable. They treat the community with respect.

"Croton police officers have always been courteous, friendly and very approachable. Our Police force is fair and intrepid. They always make me feel secure.

Over the years, the Croton PD has assisted my household and responded to emergencies in a most professional, compassionate and courteous way. I have had young police officers in my home to deliver the news of the death of a child and they have also responded to medical emergencies. They have also patiently listened to my noise complaints during this pandemic. As a resident, I feel that they are extremely capable and professional on many levels. I really couldn't answer some of the survey questions because I work outside of the community and don't know the extent of all that they do.

I think our police force does a great job of keeping the village safe.

The Croton Police Department has earned the gratitude of all residents who live here for their outstanding efforts to provide public safety for our community. We live in times that require constant attention to growth and improvement as the role of policing evolves in our society. I look forward to working with CPD to ensure that its very high standard of service to Croton is continued into the future.

I grew up and lived in Brooklyn & NYC my whole life. I moved up to Croton to start a family and have my children grow up in a safe environment. 15 years later, I am happy with my decision. We love living here and I feel the police do an excellent job of balancing safety and community involvement. I have been impressed with the dialogue and interactions I have had throughout the years. I would recommend not taking one penny from their budget as they do an a GREAT job at keeping us safe in these challenging times.

Great job, keep up the great work. We love and support you.

I'm totally satisfied with the departments choice on the new police chief. Outstanding person, great choice!!!

I feel its important to support our local law enforcement

The Croton Police Department has showed nothing but respect to myself and other community members that I have witnessed first hand. I have always felt safe in the village and continue to do so knowing that we have a professional and respectful police department.

The croton police are a valuable asset to our community

As a member with the Croton Fire Department, I have been a top 10 responder for many years. My interaction with the Croton Police Department members have been numerous, and typically as a n objective observer. Witnessing the Police Officers interact with homeowners, tenants, Business owners, and accident victims. I can only say that they were helpful, profession, and courteous to the Individual(s), regardless of the issue.

Our society has changed since we moved to Croton. I believed that the Croton Police Department, and its members have also adjusted to provide one of the best Department to protect, and serve our fellow Croton residents.

They are professional courteous and interact great with the community and a major need for our community if it's not broke don't fix

My feeling is that while CPD is a fine organization there is always room for improvement. I appreciate the nature of a local agency strictly dedicated and responsive to our community, rather than a multi jurisdictional agency such as the County Police.

The Croton on Hudson police department is excellent. I still remember how well they treated my late mother with tremendous professionalism and respect after she was physically assaulted by a worker in our home.

we can always count on a police presence at our park areas to keep them protected for all

Positive – angry about anti-police sentiment in Village

The more limited police capacities are made, the more im considering leaving this village and putting my property tax in an area where the village has full faith in the members they hire to serve their community. I see "thank you for your service ____ police" on the front lawns of houses in yorktown and somers, not here though. the more anti police this village gets. the less safer I feel here. left or right wing, i pay a lot to live here because its safe, the current politics of the day shouldn't have any affect on that. if we defund the police, do my taxes lowered?

The Croton Police Department doesn't need "reform." Perhaps if people in society stopped acting like idiots, then their interactions with Police, in general, wouldn't be as controversial. Virtue signaling with a plan to "reform" a police department that needs no such "reform" is ridiculous. I grew up in the Bronx in the 80s and 90s and watched first hand what happens when the government caters to criminals. You can see it happening once again at present in the City. Leave the Croton PD alone, let them do their jobs the way that they've been doing them all along, and you'll keep Croton from becoming the next NYC. I'm also a former law enforcement officer, so I have specific insight into what happens when politicians, who know literally nothing about policework, start interfering in the administration of said policework. Feel free to contact me if you'd like to discuss.

"We are lucky to have such a great group of dedicated officers. They are the unsung heroes that I believe the Village takes for granted and does not show enough of public appreciation.

For example, other communities put up signs during the worst part of the pandemic thanking their first responders and specifically their police

What did the Croton do?they debated a proposal to disband the Village police department while in the safety of their homes while our officers faithfully performed their duties risking their own lives and safety, continuing to patrol our community to assure our safety. It's no accident that none of our police

have contracted COVID-19. Other departments had a substantial number of officers out sick because of the virus-not the case with our police

In short, they need OUR support, as much if not more than we need their support. We should be sensitive to their needs, and ask THEM what we can do to help them. They risk their lives every day for us. Public and visible acknowledgment of their sacrifices has been truly lacking

Instead we continue to look for ways to criticize how and what they do, rather than visibly show them that we truly are grateful to have them as part of our community and seek to provide them with much more support, that's what is severely lacking now.

"The Croton on Hudson Police Department is an essential and valued ""member"" of our community. As to the officers of the COH PD... their level of professionalism is Unmatched... dedication Unparalleled... in all respects they are Supreme.

Moreover, we are fortunate to have them. Any ""re-imagining"" modifications to our community Police Department is as misguided as it is destructive and as it is magical thinking."

the police are doing a good job they don't need reform.let's stop giving criminals priority over the police and let's prosecute people who attack police officers

Positive – angry about Executive Order being waste of time and money

I do not deal with the police department very often to answer the final questions in my opinion. I like the police and we need the police. I think it is a crazy that we are wasting our village time and I can only guess money on this reform. I do believe it came from the governor so we have to do it. Maybe he or the village should do the same survey for our school district so our residents can give their input on what is going on or needing improvement there. The Police and school work closely I would guess but I doesn't seem fair to pick on one and not the other. We need both of them. Good luck

"My family has felt safe & secure our entire time here.

Should that change, the village will have failed miserably in its most basic responsibilities.

YOU, and only you-not the governor- will forever own that failure.

"Regarding Safety, many of those issues are things that are not widespread or publicized. Many of those issues are restricted to the parties involved and without first hand knowledge would thankfully go largely unknown. People are entitled to their privacy regarding some of the issues. So as such I can't speak to any glaring recurring problematic behaviors within the town

Unfortunately police department's are often used as revenue earning tools (summonses) rather than actual policing (I know the next argument, summonses are policing, but that's purely secondary to the primary focus of making money, unless the summonses are Criminal Court summonses which can sometimes lead to warrants and such). Effective policing is much more about balance and proper utilization of resources The attack on policing and police training is sadly a hot button topic and Department's are feeling like they need to overhaul all their procedures to cater to the recent public outcry when in truth, police officers are extremely well trained and do nothing to warrant these such attacks other than do a tough job trying to make our lives safer

Positive – Croton PD not reflective of other police forces nationwide

I have some experience with the Croton police, mainly in summoning medical help for my mother. They have always been friendly and helpful.

More generally, I collect from the news that many police forces in the nation are manned by nervy children playing Cowboys and Indians with real guns; this is atop racial biases. From the Croton blotter, which I read in the local Gazette, it seems that our police know and practice firearm safety. The reports lack indication of danger to anyone. By implication, our local police conduct themselves calmly and

professionally. I suspect that our officers should be dispensing lessons in safety and community relations, not receiving them from outside.

Positive – DARE

My daughter participated in the DARE program at PVC last school year and it was the highlight of the year for her. She learned the importance of community safety and the effects of drugs & alcohol. She also developed a trusting relationship with our police officers and will always go out of her way to speak with them when she sees them in the community or waves hello when they drive past her. Developing a trusting relationship with youth and officers is important to me and my family. Our police officers should always be seen as trusting adults who protect & serve us and they will work with us if we are breaking the law. I would hate to see the DARE program taken away from our community. Croton PD does a fine job working with all members of our community from young to old. I also respect their level of patience and support provided to our elderly members. When my elder neighbor was in jeopardy and I was able to assist they worked with me to best meet her needs. I have nothing but positive reports about our police department.

Positive – girl scouts As a leader of a Girl Scout troop here in Croton and as a former preschool educator, I have witnessed the Croton Police Department play an active role in educating our little ones on safety. They have always been professional, caring, and attentive to the questions and concerns of our youngest citizens through school visits and police department tours (preCOVID).

Positive – noise – loud music at the Grandstand

The Croton Police Department does a great job of responding to issues and questions. Regarding loud music, there is a serious problem with the Grandstand Bar. They have played very loud amplified music outdoors way over the decibels needed for their occupants, which sit a few feet away. That music has played for several hours, last weekend for three days of the week (Fri,Sat,Sun) for many hours and is heard loudly, interrupting conversation several blocks away. They do what they can but it continues unabated. THEY NEED A LAW ON THE BOOKS TO PREVENT THIS KIND OF LOUD INTRUSION INTO SO MANY FAMILIES ENJOYMENT OF THEIR OUTDOOR SPACES.

Positive – not enough enforcement at parks

It seems as if the Croton Police have been told NOT to enforce the parks safety regulations. There are for the first time large groups of nonresident men/families fishing and congregating in the parks all day and after dark. Why is there no enforcement of the local regulations? The Police are terrific, generally, but there is now trash strewn about the parks, no police presence, and large numbers of no-mask people, not maintaining social distancing or considerate of the Croton residents who are trying to continue to use the parks we love but which are now dominated by others.

Positive – not enough enforcement regarding no wearing masks and not dispersing groups

any responses re: less than satisfied is because current law prohibits addressing certain crimes especially when it comes to juveniles and the use of and the crime associated with drug use. However, what is occurring is groups of middle school children exceeding 10 in number and congregating without masks. I'm not observing any effort to dispel the groups. By far and in large we have a great PD.

Positive – looking for increased communication and training

"My interactions with the Croton PD has been overall, good. I think, like many others, I would love to have more interactions with the CPD officers. Seeing them engage in the more challenging community discussions and concerns. Engaging out of uniform for non-typical community engagement, and overall support of all people within the community. My personal relationships with the CPD are excellent. I would like to see additional funds put towards overall training, deescalation training, community outreach amongst the BIPOC, and even engagement with elderly and people with developmental challenges. When I was a kid, there was a community T-ball event we would do every Sunday with students with developmental challenges and handicaps. There were officers who brought their families, and it was just a thing we did as a community. It would be great to see our CPD lead something like this. Please note, I support our CPD. I think this is a great opportunity for our CPD to get out in front of the community to continue to win hearts and minds."

The village has always been safe. Any public group or job can use extra training/refreshing, however our small village should not be put in the same category as larger city issues. I'm thankful for Croton Police.

Positive – supportive of new police chief

I think the Croton police are doing a great job keeping us safe and dealing with local issues. I also feel your recent promotion of the police chief was a great choice.

I am extremely happy that the Mayor and board of trustees had the same confidence in the police department that I do, and never considered an outside police department. I further believe the department is now in good leadership.

Croton police department is doing a great job. They have a Chief that is capable of being a great leader for the department. It was good to see him and the police officers out today for the antique car show.

Positive – should be showing support to CPD

I think we are fortunate to have such an inclusive and welcoming group of officers patrolling our village. You see them interacting in a friendly manner whether they meet you in the local deli, directing traffic at Blaze and other community activities

We seem to have attracted a great group of relatively new officers who need our support and need us to visibly show our appreciation for the sacrifices they make to protect us. I hope that the task force that is formed addresses the need for Croton to publicly and visibly show support for all of them and get their input.

Well deserved praise and recognition for the outstanding service they have provided with an unblemished record during an unprecedented challenging time has been missing and is long overdue. T

Thank you Mayor for not selling out the village and having an outside agency take over our police department. Great job to the boys in blue.

The Croton Police are great. They are both pleasant and professional. There is an old saying. "If it is not broke, don't fix it".

The croton police do a great job. The hell with police reform. Leave thing alone!!! If it's not broke don't attempt to fix it.

Wonderful professional organization and personnel. Those who knock their efforts wouldn't last one tour in their shoes...

In general, the Croton Police has only gotten better with time. It is obvious that the newer police officers especially are positive, diverse and really try their best to serve the community and at the same time they all do their job which these days appears to be thankless. I have yet to hear publicized all the good things they do for our community and these days it is easy to point the finger and criticize them. I hope that that this survey and whatever group is formed takes that into consideration and provides more community support to our police who just seem to be there for us daily performing their duties to the best of their abilities with little fanfare.

One final comment that I hope you distribute to the Village Trustees:
Shame on the village trustees for even considering and raising the proposal eliminating our valued Police Dept. at the worst of the pandemic. Didn't they realize or care about the the message that would send to our officers and how that would adversely effect the morale of all of the department officers who were risking their lives daily while the Trustees were safe at home on Zoom?.."

Positive – supports antibias training I believe that our town stays safe because of our police department. During the 12 years our family has been living in Croton, we have seen the police everywhere - responding to many incidents both big and small, as well as present at the many social events our town sponsors. Every officer we have spoken to has been responsive, kind, supportive, and helpful. I KNOW all police officers(and adults!) in this country are in need of excellent Anti-Bias training and it should be not only mandatory but an ANNUAL expectation. It is 2020 and time to wake up, understand and acknowledge systemic bias exists and continues to hold some people down and allow others to thrive. If law enforcement in this country has any hope to be seen as a part of the solution this is where we BEGIN.

Positive – increased community involvement

Generally, our police are very courteous, effective and responsive. We're not exactly a high-crime area, so most of their calls are probably pretty tame. They can always benefit from more positive exposure to the community and vice versa. How that is achieved is a challenge.

Positive – little interaction

I have had almost no occasion to interact with the Croton Police Department. I do know that they are very considerate and attentive to my son's daycare - for example, checking on them during the blackout (Isaias) and providing protection at the temple when there was concern around terrorism. My impression overall is positive, though so limited that it was hard to answer the questions above in any meaningful way.

Increased Training

Croton police department are best in USA. Additional training is never wasted especially in conflict resolution.

Positive – increased enforcement of speeding – why so few black residents

I am grateful for the Croton Police dealing with code enforcement, helping me report a downed power line, what to do about unexpected wildlife. I don't know of any child abuse or domestic violence in Croton but I put these down as big problems because they are typically under-identified and under-resourced. I put down "hate crimes" as a problem because I figure there must be something very unwelcoming about Croton that it has so few Black residents. I live on Cleveland at Olcott and I wish speeding tickets would be issued to help kids stay safer on the street. I don't know of any illegal dumping but with all this watershed and natural area, I value efforts to keep the environment clean.

I love having our own police dept. I appreciate all they're doing to slow traffic down but I do feel more can be done.

Positive – engages with the community

I personally think CPD is doing a great job, and engages with the community -- examples being their involvement with youth police cadets and the Croton caring Committee, as well as the DARE program.

Nice to see officers connecting with the community on the street, in the Black Cow, promoting Halloween safety in the schools, etc. Add more friendly officers on bikes.

Positive – experienced positive circumstance re: autistic child

I would like to let the Village Board know that during the NY State COVID shutdown in April a little boy **with autism, who lives in one of Randy Swan's apartment buildings, ran into my neighbor's house.**

The boy then started running in the middle of our street. We called the Croton Police for assistance as we could not locate the mother and the child did not respond to any of our verbal questions. The Croton Police were incredibly helpful in working with the child to keep him off the street and safe from any oncoming cars. We were able to locate the frantic mother who was looking for her child. The Croton Police were helpful in uniting mother and child. Please do not vilify the Croton Police due to police violence in other communities.

Positive but distant and not engaged in local issues

I think the PD does a good job and have appreciated almost all of my interactions with them. But to an extent it feels like they are a separate entity from the community. I'd love to see them out playing with kids, chatting with citizens, and asking regular people the same questions you've asked above. I'd like to see more smiling and waving, or engaging in local issues and events. I'd love to see them respond to the issues of today in a similar way that the Ossining PD does; publicly or on social media, to denounce violence and affirm that the PD IS a part of the community here.

Neutral – Executive Order seems to imply police have malicious intentions

It seems as though the Governor's Executive Order is intended to imply the Police have malicious intentions. In 100 percent of interactions with the Police where the person listens to and complies with the Police officer's request there no reason for concern or possibility of situation escalation, which could become problematic. The demographic questions below if they are even answered accurately is likely intended to and hopes to create some sort of false narrative.

Neutral

we are new to the community so have had little exposure to the police. we moved from ossining...and like in ossining we feel safe in our village and home.

We moved to Croton-on-Hudson two years ago and have had no contact with the police department either in person or on the internet. I can't really answer many of the above questions because we haven't received any community crime reports.

Except for two 911 calls due to illness/ambulance, really don't have contact with the police, nor am I informed about their community activities. Other than seeing patrol cars about, and checking on people coming to Silver Lake, they are invisible. Which I suppose is good.

I always thought that is was good to not have to worry amount a crime ridden neighborhood. I am please that when my daughter is outside riding her bike I do not have to worry about a mugger on my corner. I know anything can happen God forbid. I thought that is why I moved to a suburban community and not a small city, for example New Rochelle. No place is perfect but I prefer the Village of Croton Police to be

dealing with small crimes then some of the list you have above. I am sure I do not know everything that is going on in our Village but I do not see any gang bangers walking our streets and drug dealers on the corner.

The Village has been, and to some extent has remained, a tight community. Croton is lucky to have a local sitting at the head of the Department.

Neutral – looking for more communication

"It would be good to know what the Police Departments priorities are. And, get regular reports about their progress towards those priorities/ outcomes. It would be good to have a well-publicized, easy access, way to contact them about quality of life and safety/risk concerns - hate signs, speeding, etc.

ALSO - why can I only pick one race? I/We are a mixed race family... classic problem with forms and society. "

For context, I moved back to Croton after not living here for 12 years (I did grow up here). I am a big proponent of police reform in a general sense, especially the departments of large cities I've lived in previously. I don't really know enough about the Croton PD to say much. I had a couple of interactions when I was a teen growing up here that were neither positive or negative. I know my mother and a friend had considerable trouble with an officer regarding traffic stuff a few years ago, but that guy isn't on the force anymore.

In reviewing my responses I realize that I know very little about what is going on in the police department. I do not subscribe to the Gazette, and do not frequent socia media. I do get emails from the Village. Perhaps there can be some email communication from the police department to keep us informed.

I don't hear much about the police except in the newsletters when there is a retirement or a promotion.

Would liked to see the Croton Community Blotter from the PD more readily available on the internet or in the Croton Gazette paper.

I have not had any interactions with the police department since moving to Croton. I would like to see more data added to the monthly/annual reports so that we as a community may see how police interactions breakdown across race. I would also like to see more of the past reporting and current reporting made available online, as there is currently nothing for 2020.

Neutral – more communication – need mental health professionals

"My answers tell me that the police department does not provide enough information to the community about its activities. Community policing means that the police need to take responsibility for ensuring that members of the community know what the police does, how they do it, and how well they do it. One topic I would very much like to see this review address is the need for a non-emergency agency to respond to minor issues in the community. There are always issues that need some governmental response, but don't rise to the level that a police officer with a gun is the right solution. The police simply do not have the right training and priorities for such situations, and the potential for escalation is always real. "

Neutral – should be trained in dealing with individuals with developmental disabilities – autism

I hope that the Croton Police Department has/is/will ensure officer training for individuals with developmental disabilities (i.e. autism). Too many interactions across our country result in physical or

emotional harm to the individual (even death) because the officer was not trained sufficiently to identify, interact with, or protect individuals with communication, behavioral, and sensory challenges.

Since I wasn't sure of many answers I would say some greater communication might be a good thing to look at, for example, a social media program similar to Ossining, but with Crotons own spin on it.

Croton is one of the most peaceful places in the world, so it is difficult to do a critique of the police department. A person would have to start committing crimes to get a realistic impression of the reaction of the police. I did have a garbage can top stolen once.

I'd like to see weekly reports of police activity in the community in the Gazette and online.

Neutral – communication with Spanish speaking community

I am curious to know if anyone on the Croton Police Department speaks Spanish (fluently - not high school Spanish) and what outreach is conducted to the Spanish-speaking community. Croton has a sizeable Hispanic population who contribute to the broader community, and I believe police outreach is important to ensure their inclusivity. I speak Spanish and would be happy to volunteer as part of any outreach effort.

Neutral – hire more women officers

I wish the police force had more diversity.

Neutral – expenditures too high

Not bad people - just unnecessary in terms of expenditures

I am generally happy with the overall performance of the police force insofar as we do not have unreasonable crime issues in the village. However, the size of the force and resources dedicated to it are out of proportion to the needs of the community and there is very little ability to easily express this and influence the investment/expenditures on the force.

Neutral – concerned about car break-ins

overall Croton seems to be a pretty safe place. However there were several cases among Croton community related to the cars break-ins and this is a concern.

Neutral – concerned about safety at HMB

"I live in Half Moon Bay condos, which is a gated community. However, the fact that there are two walking/biking paths open to the public going through this community on both ends makes me concerned. We have had break-ins and vandalism at both of our clubhouses over this past year. I have had only one interaction with Croton Police, which was when they called me to try to return my lost credit card. The officer was very nice."

Neutral – looking for more presence at Grand Street

"I live on Grand Street, near the Upper Village, an area that suffers from a reputation of disruption, rowdiness, drug issues (late night youths parking at houses near the Chemical engine firehouse). If possible, a police presence near the traffic light, or the fire house would help control the situation and provide a sense of vigilance."

Neutral – more patrols by lower income housing

If the new lower income housing proceeds on Katz property and South Riverside, I would ask for more patrols in the Village to deter crime.

Neutral – too many officers, should not have police officer in schools

"I am an elderly woman living up on Mt. Airy and have virtually no contact with the police. I have often wondered why we need so many policemen in this village. I was a teacher in the Croton schools at one time. The one thing I felt was inappropriate was the suggestion that the police should have a regular presence in the schools. They are n

My interactions have been satisfactory although I have often wondered why we need such a large force when there is so little crime.

I was a teacher in Croton and was critical of the suggestion that was made in the past that we should have a police officer in the schools playing the role of friend and advisor, a job better done by a trained social worker or guidance staff. "

Neutral - reimagine

Please do not defund, "reimagine" police services

Neutral – supports reform, body cameras, more racial justice and sensitivity training

I hope the CPD supports police reform for more transparency (such as when there are complaints against officers). I support body cameras on at all times. I support mandatory racial justice and sensitivity training for police.

These are new times and many social justice and race issues are arising across the country within and without police departments. I believe that EVERY police office in every department across the country must take the responsibility to acknowledge these issues, and should take required and vigorous training in antiracist and socially aware practices. These problems are individual AND systemic, and the sooner was as a nation address this, the sooner we heal the divide and the continued hurt and senseless killings. Education and awareness, and the same training for all. I hope that our Croton Police Department takes a lead and sets a positive example by proactively establishing system-wide critical social justice and race training.

Neutral – need wildlife officer – may be racially profiling, DARE not useful, speeding, familiar with community

"I think we need a wildlife officer rather than calling the police for injured or threatening animals. This is my number one reason for calling the police and they have been of limited use, shooting a rabid raccoon. Otherwise they can not offer any help with the animals.

As for race, since I have lived here (20 years) and read the police blotter in the Gazette, I have been concerned about which cars are stopped on Rt 9 and why. They are rarely seem to be the BMWs, Audi's, or Porsche's driving at ridiculously excessive speeds. They driver's also seem to have Hispanic surnames. From just reading the blotter, it looks like racial profiling.

Police should never be called for mental health crisis unless there is imminent violence threatened. And even then, there should be someone with experience in mental health crises on the scene.

I think the DARE program in the school is well intended, but I think it is of limited value, if any. The kids looking to do drugs and inclined that way are not impressed and the kids who wouldn't be doing them anyway are the only ones really paying attention. I would look to see what the efficacy of that

program really is. I don't think police should be in the schools and if there is to be anti-drug campaign in the schools I think it should come from the medical, therapeutic community. Drug use at that age is more a health issue than a legal issue.

I appreciate the Croton Police and I like having police who know the community. Years ago when I called about someone driving down our road at excessive speeds and doing donuts at the end, the responding officer knew exactly who it was, went and spoke with this teenager and his family, and it never happened again. I appreciate this kind of local knowledge and problem solving.

I am frustrated that the village officials and police have not adequately addressed the speeding on our section of road and their refusal to consider speed humps. Children, pets, runners, walkers, and my family members are at risk every day. I don't want a tragedy to make you finally take effective action. I want to express my gratitude to the police department for when they have had to respond to gruesome and tragic crimes and accidents. I can't imagine what that has been like and hope that your well-being has not been negatively affected.

I am unaware of the daily work done to address domestic violence, burglaries, assaults, etc. I don't even know the statistics."

Neutral – Negative – too distant

They appear to be somewhat distant.....like being above us all!

Neutral – not enough enforcement of COVID rules

During COVID, we've not seen any officers. In the past we used to see them regularly circling the blocks in their cars. We've seen pre-teens and teens (and some adults) regularly flouting the Governor's COVID rules since the beginning of the pandemic, and had hoped to see the police helping, but never did. Also, Croton is a very walkable community; once COVID is over, you might consider having some tours with the police on foot so they can interact more with the community, rather than only in their cars.

Neutral – enforced seat belt law

I do not know what the police department does specially to patrol our streets. I them out there which leads me to believe they are doing their job. And see them at summer fest for example. I have had an interaction in over the 12 month span. I received a ticket for a seat belt. I was not happy because I wear my seatbelt. There was not much talking between us. He told me why asked for my license went to the radio car came back with a ticket and told me what to do. As unhappy as I was he was correct I did not have my seatbelt on. My fault my problem. It took me some time to realize that he was just doing his job. I can't say I learned my lesson because I still wear it but I drive and put it on when driving. Write more tickets nobody knows how to drive!!!

Neutral – seem fair

I don't know if they treat anyone unfairly but they did treat me fairly. Quick frankly my dealing with them was a minor vehicle accident. The driver of the other car was black. I am not black. I feel they were more considerate to him than me(not that I was treated poorly). It may have been because he was yelling and screaming but there was no violence. Then I heard the driver say the police were talking to me because I am white. True I am white but they were talking to him longer than they were talking to me. I don't remember them(police) raising their voices but that guy was yelling.

Negative – respond to too many neighbor complaints – harassment – need facebook – need public blotter

CPD needs to show some discretion when responding to community communications. We are being harassed by neighbors by using police to knock on our door in response to made up issues. If proper discretion were used, this waste of resources would end. Other departments would have stopped

responding after 2 fake calls. Ossining PD communicates with community via Facebook. Where can Croton community see police blotter online?

Negative/Neutral

too many police for such a small town

Negative – not enough interaction and communication

The Croton Police Department should do a better job reaching out to, and interacting with, the public at large. It should consider hiring or training an officer for a communications/public relations role.

Negative

The cops in Croton are known for flirting with the young women in this town, harassing kids when they have a chance, and doing as little as possible. Mostly I see them getting coffee for food or parked window-to-window chatting with each other. They are considered to be a joke. But they are vindictive and scary when called out for not doing their jobs. I am a 50+ year old white woman who raised her daughters here over the past 20+ years. I will call the state police if every I have another emergency. I do not feel safe with the Croton Police and I have gone on record with the local government with my complaints. Reform is tremendously overdue in this small town. (PS Despite my concern over retribution for my comments, I am providing my name and information. I'm not giving into the fear)

Negative – bad experience while charged – relic of white supremacy – should be abolished

I was arrested about 3 years ago by the Croton PD, for a charge that was later acquitted. The officer who arrested me made prying, predatory comments throughout the encounter, including asking if the boy I had been in the car with at the time he'd picked me up was my boyfriend, and saying "never say never" when I said I didn't have any piercings he couldn't see (when he asked me during my write-up). He then ended the arrest by showed me a comedy bit on YouTube. I was nineteen years old at the time, and felt totally preyed on. Beyond my own personal encounter though, police departments are a relic of the white supremacist foundations of our country, that value property over life. In order for me to feel truly safe in this town, Croton needs to abolish the police force.

Negative – bad experience

"I was arrested by the Croton Police for a crime I did not commit. There was no proof that I committed a crime. I needed to hire a criminal lawyer who said that I had every right to sue the Croton Police. I could not afford such a trial and figure they are protected by their own local judge, anyway. The experience caused me great trauma for which I needed mental health counseling."

Negative - Peterman

Glad you got rid of Peterman.... saw him verbally assault and threaten and 18 year old while he was in uniform before... 3 years later after numerous complaints for other things he was still here.

I think it is a bastion of sadism. I think sadists gravitate to this kind of work. It's not just for people of color, though it is worse for them. If they suspect you of a crime, they put you in a small room where they can see you but you cannot see them. Then, a group of them gather just outside the room and make fun of you and taunt you. They don't just do this to one person. I have spoken with others that had a similar experience. It appears to be part of their standard operating procedure. They purposely put your cuffs on too tight, especially if you tell them you have bad wrists, and leave them on for hours, telling you "oh I won't make them too tight" with a smile on their face. Then, the one who does this is promoted, even after you have told 2 chiefs about your experience. They stick together, like a "blue wall". They think it is their job to punish the suspects when they think the courts might let them go. (If they become aware of this

letter, they will know who I am, and will initiate a vendetta against me that I cannot win, and I will have to move.) ... and our politicians put their heads in the sand and think everything's fine, cause the cops know who to suck-up to.

"I filled out this form yesterday, but wanted to add the following letter that I sent (via a retired policeman mutual friend) to 2 previous police chiefs in Croton. I have not sent it to the current chief, who just began his tenure. Once again, I am very concerned about maintaining my anonymity, because I fear a police vendetta against me.

Dear Chief Tramaglini:

My wife, Sara Tykol, always said you were a good, fair-minded person. My daughter Jana agrees.

On Wednesday 2/22/17, at about 3:50 pm, I was caught by one policeman with less than 1/3rd of 1 pipe full of marijuana at a pizza-place parking-lot in Croton, with my deceased sister's 26 year old grandson Ben.

He frisked us (by patting us down) right away. We were both completely cooperative. We were separated from the start and not allowed to see each other 'till the end. Ben immediately told him that he had a small pocket knife in his back pocket, and I told him I had the weed in my front pocket. I had no weapons. I haven't touched a weapon since the 7th grade. My last arrest was in 1972. Ben had no prior arrests.

Still, the officer felt it necessary to call in 2 more policemen for assistance. One of the officers, John Roper, treated us respectfully and professionally throughout. The actions of the others are questionable. They had to thoroughly search my pickup truck with all my tools, which I understood. They all liked my truck and my zippo lighter. The clean-shaven one seemed to dislike me from the moment he arrived, though we had never met. Did he know who I was? Does he dislike my political letters to the editor?

Judge, jury, and executioner, he was gonna make sure I suffered for my crime, one way or another, no matter what happened in court. He was quick to threaten me with handcuffs, without provocation. This was before we knew that we were going to be put in handcuffs, anyway, no matter what. They knew, but they didn't tell us. Remember: this was all for less than 1/3rd of a pipe full of weed. When the original officer with the well-trimmed dark-beard saw how little I actually had, he was clearly disappointed. He even remarked on it. When I said (to the clean-shaven one) that I thought small amounts like this were no longer considered major crimes, he responded, screaming that ""yes, but people like you don't understand. It still is a crime."" I did not argue, and repeatedly admitted that I had done a dumb thing.

Nevertheless, they decided that they needed to put us in handcuffs (in front of a crowd) and take us to the station for booking. Officer Roper put the 'cuffs on Ben, who said they didn't hurt. When the clean-shaven one went to put the cuffs on me, I told him I had arthritis in my both of my 70 year old wrists (that is clearly visible) and asked him not to make them too tight and he said ""oh ... don't worry ... I won't make them too tight"" and then proceeded to pull them very tight with a smile on his face: stickin' it to me, I suspect. I believe he thinks he's administering justice. What he was administering was pain that grew with time.

They put us in the back seats of separate police cars. If your cuffs are too tight with your hands behind your back in the back seat of a police car without much leg-room, and you have arthritis, it can hurt. The officers then stood around schmoozing and laughing for more than 20 minutes, as my pain grew, before finally getting in and driving us to the station.

When we got to the station, the clean-shaven one told me the cuffs would come off soon, but they didn't. They repeatedly lied to us, to advance their agenda without resistance. Instead, he locked me in a small room with the cuffs on for at least 30 or 40 minutes. I couldn't look at my watch because my hands were 'cuffed behind my back. As time went on, the pain increased. I could hear a number of officers (again) schmoozing and laughing right outside my locked room. They could see me but I couldn't see them ... When I could no longer tolerate the pain, I called out that I was in pain. Through the door I was assured that help would come soon. I waited between 10 and 15 more minutes before the help arrived. By this time, the cuffs had been on my arthritic wrists, too tight, for more than an hour. They left deep groove marks on my arthritic wrists, witnessed by Officer Roper. Why?

Brown-beard told me I looked good for 70, and I told him I didn't drink. Officer Roper told me he knew 2 of my children from school, asked what they were doing, where they were living, and told me to say hello to them. Could anyone have said anything better at that moment? Could anyone have done that job any better? (If you wanted me to remain calm, you would act like Officer Roper. If you wanted me to grow agitated, you would act like Clean-shave.) He asked my height, and I told him it used to be 5'11 but now it was more like 5'9, and I hated that. When he asked if I had any tattoos, I had to look to remember which arm had my rose, and I told him that when I was young, good Jewish boys didn't get tattoos, so I just had to have one. I told him a guy named ""Spider Webb"" did my tattoo. When he asked about my education, I told him master of computer science from Pace, and we shared a laugh about how the same person could be very smart sometimes and very dumb other times. We also joked about me telling the family about this, and how they would repeat the story for generations to come. The irony of wanting to help Ben and getting him busted did not escape us. I was OK with them laughing at me, and I am OK with them busting me with an appropriate punishment for doing such a dumb little crime, but I'm not OK with them torturing me, for any reason. Sadism is a dangerous trait in a police department.

I was kept in a small locked room for about an hour and a half. I must have paced back and forth thousands of times. I was caged. It was all I could do. Officer Roper asked if I wanted some water. When he brought it, I could barely drink it, with my hands shaking even more than usual.

I am 70 years old and, at a certain point, I had to pee. I told them I had to pee. They told me through the door that they would take me to the bathroom soon ... After more than 15 minutes, which can be critical at my age, Officer Roper returned to put me back in the cuffs (in front, this time), added a leather constraint belt to assure I wouldn't try to run away and escape, took me to the bathroom, and watched me pee through the door he held open, as I'm sure is department policy. He turned on the faucet trying to help. I told him how crazy I thought the policy was. I was the 70 year old father of his school friends, and I wasn't going to try to escape, for God's sake. He let me know he understood my point of view, which is about as much as you'll ever get from a cop. Flies and underpants are not that easy to negotiate in handcuffs, and time is critical with aging prostates, but I did it without wetting my pants, and for that I'm grateful. That was good. That was good.

Then it was on to mug shots and fingerprints, just like with real criminals.

They repeatedly administered systematic ""waiting torture"" throughout the ordeal: First, at the little ""crime scene"", in the back of the police car, with the cuffs on too tight. Then, in the locked room at the station, with the cuffs still on and the pain growing. Then with the peeing. Did someone teach them this? It doesn't seem haphazard. I can tell you that.

They did all this to a 70 year old man, for less than 1/3rd of a pipe-full of grass. What if I had a stroke or something? My right eye was bloodshot for 8 days after. Check my picture. I think I must have burst a blood vessel in there. I know this wasn't anyone's intent, but it happened, and they should be more careful in the future. What if that blood vessel was in my brain? A life could have been ruined.

Even young defendants shouldn't be treated like this.

After almost 3 hours, we were released, and warned to pick up my pickup truck from the pizza-place parking-lot before it got towed.

I was charged with 2 crimes for this: ""CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF"" and ""UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIHUANA"".

I swear all of this information is true.

Who should be more embarrassed? Keep in mind, they're ""professionals"".

As ""professionals"", are they supposed to read us our rights? They never did. Are they supposed to treat us like this? Am I the only one, or is this their modus operandi?

What's different this time is that I like to write. I went straight home and wrote down everything I could remember. Eight days later, I was still remembering and writing details.

Who's more guilty?

I understand about good-cop/bad-cop, but someone should have recognized, right away, that there was no need for bad-cop here. Their job is to apprehend; not punish. I think Officer Roper did understand that, but I think that in the police hierarchy, clean-shave tells him what to do, and not the other way around.

I can't help but think that my Croton Police friends Pat Calcutti, Dennis Coxen, and John Barirde would not approve of the way the clean-shaven officer did his job ... but they would approve of Officer Roper. This is how your officers act when you're not around. If you already knew, and approved, then I hope you might reconsider: surely you wouldn't want to give a 70 year old man a stroke over 1/3rd of a pipe-full of weed.

By submitting this letter to you, Chief Tramaglini, I hope you will address this situation quietly, in-house. I hope the good guy gets a pat on the back, and the bad guy a lesson in treating people with dignity and respect.

I am not interested in attaining personal gain from this. I just want the next defendant, next time, no matter his or her age, be treated more appropriately.

I fear I am going to become a target for a vendetta of ongoing police harassment, and am trusting you to protect me.

Thank you for your attention.

"I apologize. This is my 3rd input, trying to tell my complete story. I'm the guy who was busted for a small amount of weed in Croton. I should have had it all organized in 1 input statement. I promise not to contact you again.

This time, I have included my name and email, though I really hope to maintain anonymity from the Croton police, who I fear will wage a vendetta against me. I love Croton. I want to leave my house in Croton to my children. I don't want to move.

A while after the chief received my letter, I asked what had been done, and was told that they were putting in new protocols for old suspects, but that they couldn't figure out who the clean-shaven officer was. This makes no sense, since they had records, and since all they had to do was ask Officer Roper, who they knew was part of the arrest-team.

Since then, I believe, the clean shaven officer has been promoted to sergeant. Eventually, he will probably be chief. That's the way it works in Croton.

Negative – disproportionately favor residents over non-residents

"Law enforcement in Croton disproportionately favors local residents with Croton addresses. I have interacted with a police officer and a park ranger who both approached me dismissively and curtly until they realized I was a resident and then treated me much more kindly. It is an open secret that Croton Police and Park Rangers rarely if ever penalize local residents for traffic and, in my case, dog permitting violations.

Negative – do not enforce laws fairly

The Croton Police department are enormously hypocritical. Their townies, they are partiers, they are irresponsible with drugs and alcohol. We cannot trust them to enforce laws that they themselves break. They do not apply laws consistently, sometimes letting off football players who party simply because they are star players. They consistently pull over black and brown people and ignore speeding white people. We do not need them.

Your survey does not ask if we feel the police are racially profiling community members. Addressing systemic racism. Expressing favoritism for white community members

Negative – corruption

Based upon the PD's interaction with certain members of the Village, it appears that there is corruption within the Department. I have seen officers arrive in marked cars to villagers' homes and leave with pizza

boxes. They also persistently lie about why they are on a scene. Worse, when called out about the lie, they take an angry tone.

Negative – don't control vandalism of political signs

I don't like when the all posters for Trump are vandalized the same day but posters for Biden and BLM remains forever. Police shall do something.

Negative – theft not followed up

I had a theft in my home a number of years ago that they did not bother to pursue in any way even when I advised them of potential individuals responsible.

Negative – disproportionate people of color receiving tickets

Why is it that there are disproportionately people of color who receive tickets by police and park police?

Negative – too many – racial profiling

I feel that there are too many police officers for the size of the village. I also feel that they tend to use racial profiling while performing their jobs.

I will not slander any individuals on the force today, but I grew up in Croton and have witnessed racial profiling and bias repeatedly over 40 years - in traffic stops or house calls with strangers and friends. People do not feel safe making complaints for fear of retribution against themselves and their children. I am now a lawyer, and do not have much professional need to interact with the local PD, but do occasionally do so for a rare client or to help a friend. I have found them to be helpful on a few occasion (with a stalking and harassment incident, and a 911 call for a gas leak), yet in another domestic harassment case aggressively and inappropriately pursued the victim of such a situation. Said victim was too scared to file any complaints about the incidents with the officers involved. Similarly, when I have presented myself as an attorney, I have been given general misinformation, and personally menaced, with officers following me out into the parking lot to try to listen to my private calls and make threatening and untrue statements about procedural issues. They did not rise to the level that would cause me to make a formal complaint, but that is largely because there is no independent, transparent, and trustworthy complaint process in place.

The only thing that the croton Police department are good at is arresting black and brown people on route 9.

Everytime I've been pulled over they have been very rude and intimidating. I know that one of the cops flirt with younger girls and has pulled girls over that we're smoking and said "I'm just going to ignore the smell" then proceeded to flirt with them.

Negative – too many, not educated, unresponsive, and inconsistent

Croton deserves an educated, community-service minded, and sufficient force of peace officers. At present, the Croton Police Department meets none of this criteria. First, it is one of the only departments that do not require an college degree. I recommend raising the education qualifications for joining the police department to a Bachelor's Degree thereby ensuring an educated work force. Next, there is over-policing in Croton. We deserve a small, but focused force, but there are far too many members of the police department than are needed. For example, the Croton Police Department has 35 members for a population of 7606 while Pleasantville NY has a similar population but half the number in their department 17. Over-policing means higher taxes, and less focus. Next, they are insufficient or oppressive in their policing. I've found them unresponsive when I've had issues, and then watched them

treat my children and their friends oppressively. I call for a wholesale reevaluation of the force. Offload some duties to the County. Focus efforts on peace-keeping and community building instead of policing.

Negative – lack of positive interaction with youth and community

"As a student, I do not know the police department very well. I wish the police department made more of an effort to have the youth aware of who they are, although not by an increased presence in school, as that would be very uncomfortable.

The only interactions between youth and police in this town is when police bust parties. It would be nice if youth knew them in another way. It would be nice if officers were able to recognize kids or know their names, so they were more connected to children in our community. It would be nice if the community overall had a deeper connection so that we felt the officers who enforce the law here care deeply for the community and its members.

That is not to say they don't, but I feel there is a major disconnect between the community and the department."

Negative

We should get rid of the CPD and we should have NYS Troopers be our PD. Works for Cortlandt. Also, Officer Bernhart (spelling?) is a disgrace to the uniform.

Abolish the croton police department. They are nothing more than a bunch of people who got bullied in high school and are looking to take out their insecurities on innocent civilians. Replace them with people who can actually handle the small amount of incidents that occur in croton with therapists and social workers. The croton police spends their days driving around looking for trouble and ways they can start problems. They are bad for the environment and do not have a positive impact on the community.

Negative – target teens

Croton police are dicks and useless, they catch and abuse (of power not sexually) underage kids driving fast or smoking some weed. They are generally useless and only service to give people traffic tickets. Literally a huge group of asshole. Specifically Peterman.

Although I've had very little contact with the croton police recently, as a student who went through CHHS I felt they were actively looking for ways they get us in trouble. Patrolling areas that students hang out and overall attempting to intimidate us when we'd be doing something as casual as meeting up at a park. I never felt they were around to protect us, I felt like we were just part of their game.

Croton on Hudson does not need law enforcement. The police here only serve to intimidate and contribute violence.

I don't find them useful. Their budget should go towards the school instead.

Negative – target teens – too much funding – create a community safety team

The police department doesn't act when they're needed and seemingly only exist to police young people doing close to nothing. While living and growing up in Croton, I experienced and heard of countless acts of community violence from members of the police department. Croton police department does not need the excess funding we provide it and our tax dollars should be going literally anywhere else. If we establish community accountability through a community safety team we call abolish our police force and engage with our community more effectively.

Negative – bad experiences and bad interactions

"Once got a pain-in-neck parking ticket for ""snow"" street-parking, when cop put ""rain"" on ticket as the ""current weather condition,"" which was correct. Very stupid waste of my time for what? Quota? Once got a call that front bumper of my parked car was touching the back bumper of another car on the street. Young cop chewed me out angrily in front of young complainant. Turns out they were friends and young prick cop was showing off for his buddy. Really turned me off to cops. Kid would be toast in NYC with that attitude. Buddy was a drunk who moved out of county soon afterward. I'm in COH for life."

in encounter during a traffic violation was given wrong information"

Negative – bad experience with detective division

Twenty years ago, my late wife was arrested and charged with a crime that she did not commit by a detective who conducted no investigation of the facts of the case. Even twenty years later, although she was not convicted, this case leaves a bad case in my mouth regarding the diligence of the detective staff. I have never had any issues with the rank and file officers who have always appeared commendable.

Negative – bully women people of color – too much resources

The croton police department uses too many resources and money that would be better used elsewhere for our village. They have a macho, "tough guy" culture that allows them to bully residents and make women and people of color feel especially endangered. They are not a resource, but rather a strain on our community. The CPD should be heavily defunded.

Negative – bullying

Horribly inflated police force for such a small town. Even at times when I was taking a stance of being a good Samaritan have seen unfair bullying like tactics from officers. Seems like a very expensive clubhouse that the taxpayers are forced to support. In my opinion the entire municipality in Croton needs to be re-evaluated/reformed.

CPD sucks, never have they done anything helpful. Rude and arrogant, power hungry men who love to abuse power

The Croton Police Department acts like they are above the law. They park in no parking zones instead of using a parking space, idle their cars when parked, run personal errands when on duty using the towns police cars. They go out of their way to harass and intimidate our youth and show no respect. They escalate a situation when they should be diffusing it. So dissatisfied and disappointed in the Croton Police and feel we would be better off without them as they don't ingratiate themselves in this small, close knit community.

They take hand outs from people and are very buddy buddy with them. Seems unethical. One officer in particular was a complete jerk.

Negative – not wearing masks

I see many members of the police department not wearing masks when speaking with people (their friend?) who knows. Either way, it is a horrible example to set for anyone witnessing your actions. When in uniform - WEAR A MASK

"police officers not wearing masks during Covid is not acceptable

Negative – not enough enforcement at HMB

There were large gatherings of teenagers for the past several months behind the south end of half moon bay along the river. The bike/walking trail has been vandalized and I presume there is under age drinking

going on based on the litter left behind. There is constant illegal parking in this same area. At times bikers/walkers are forced to be in the road because cars are parked on and completely blocking the bike/walk path. We would like to see increased patrolling in this area and ticketing as necessary to ensure a safe area for the community walkers/bikers.

Negative – abolish immediately

The Croton Police Department should be abolished immediately. Croton is a very safe town and as a result, the police roam around the town, looking for "trouble" that they won't end up finding unless they make it for themselves. All the while, they are wasting our money, polluting our environment by wasting gas and driving around aimlessly, wasting their time, and not doing a single thing to improve our community. If anything they do the opposite and divide our community. They sit around in their cars, with the engine on, doing literally nothing besides make people anxious by their autocratic presence, and look for someone to pick on because they are insecure about themselves. They are a complete and utter waste of everyones resources. This police force needs to be dismantled immediately, and we need to reallocate the funds they are wasting and put them toward things that will help our community progress, not digress. Things that will support the people of our community, and uplift them. We need to put this money toward social services, education, and equality. This is serious. This must happen immediately.

Graffiti Litter

There is graffiti at the bus stop at five corners and on the side of a building in the village. I'd like to have that cleaned up and to have the crimes investigated. There is far too much litter along Old Post Road near the high school. What can we do to address that?

Speeding

My biggest concern is with speeding and people parking on double yellows, creating dangerous driving conditions. An example of this is heading down Morningside/Truesdale towards the round-about by the church. It's a heavily trafficked/high speed area and I am often forced into the opposite lane. Also, there are blind curves where due to parked cars you are forced to drive blindly into oncoming traffic. This occurs on Old Post South, east of five-corners. It can be terrifying.

I want to be assured that the license plate readers on the police cars are all in working order. I would like to see a crack down on speeding, in particular 129 going to Grand and 129 going towards Dobbs Park.

I wish more traffic patrol on Beekman, Wells and olcott. We have so many people flying through hete it's unacceptable .

Police department should be stopping those who speed. It's been out of control in the village and on Grand st through 129. Don't feel safe driving lately.

Police seem to be mostly involved in traffic ticket situations in this town.

I mostly see the Croton PD giving out parking tickets.

Speeding through the Village is not being addressed. With so many people riding their bikes and crossing the street, sections of the Village - particularly the Upper Village - feel unsafe.

The speeding on Mt Airy Rd is constant, noisy and a danger to other drivers and pedestrians. Yet in all the years I have lived here, there has never been a speed trap or really any enforcement of the speed limit at all. You'd think we were a road race.

I live on Maple Street, between the entrance to the elementary school and the high school. There's a 30 MPH sign right in front of my home. With the pandemic, I've been working from home. During that time, I've watched cars, eighteen-wheelers, motorcycles, ice cream trucks all fly past my living room window, doing at least 40 mph - often more. And I've never seen a single person stopped by Croton PD. People are flagrantly disregarding the speed limit, on a stretch of road between two schools, and I'd like to know why there seems to be no traffic enforcement.

Speeding is a HUGE problem in Harmon, especially on Cleveland, Benedict and Oneida. It is dangerous for pedestrians and bikers. Many residents, including myself, have called and informed the police. They take note of it, but we never see the police out.

"My only concerns are auto speeding and running red lights. Motorists are not behaving well. Much of this is around the train station (before COVID) and there was little or no enforcement. Otherwise I fully support our wonderful department and its officers.

One cannot attribute our village's low crime rate to the presence of the police. However, one must also recognize their value and contribution to the public order and safety. We need them to be ready for the big stuff, but also to be willing to handle the little everyday stuff. The biggest safety risk by far to residents is car speeding - we need police to help change the village driving culture with consistent (but lenient) enforcement.

Negative – not enough enforcement

I never see the police patrol in my area. I never see the police on foot patrol in the Upper Village. I never see the police at CVS plaza enforcing the no-parking in front of the stores or enforcing the no-idling law. Several times the policeman at Silver Lake was sitting in his car with motor running in violation of no-idling law. Kids and teens routinely play in the street in our neighborhood making a mockery of Slow Down Croton. One neighbor always parks in an intersection causing folks to make a turn into the wrong lane to avoid the parked car. No patrol ever in our hood.

Negative – too many speeding tickets issued

I honestly don't see the Croton Police doing anything but waiting around to give speeding tickets. If they do anything, I certainly don't see it.

Unprofessional comment

I had one interaction with a Croton Police Officer during 2020 and he made a comment that was unnecessary and untrue. I went to report that a young girl had rode her bike into my car as I drove through a green light. As I provided the details he made an off-the-cuff comment that I was more concerned with my car than whether the child was OK. There was no basis for this unprofessional comment.

Immigration, over-abundance of weapons, lack of training, Logo, women?

I am a legal immigrant (Green Card), have always been in legal status, and for the most part "blend in" as a white, middle class resident of the community (except when I speak and my accent comes out). However given the issues with ICE and the immigration system, I prefer to avoid any type of interaction

with any police authorities at any level, and have an immigration lawyer on retainer for the same reason. For the most part US police authorities scare me because they carry guns. The one time I did have to call the Croton Police as my door blew shut, they were quick to respond and helped me get back into my house with no fuss. It does seem to be a waste of resources to have someone stationed at Silver Lake all summer, but I understand that was done out of community concern that "outsiders" were accessing the parks. Having come from a country with way fewer police and weapons, there seems to be an over abundance of "law enforcement" officers in this country at all levels; an over abundance of violent weapons and military grade weapons in use; and from what I've seen reported in other communities, a lack of suitable training on how to engage with communities in a positive way and to limit harmful outcomes to communities. However, it does not appear that this is a huge issue in Croton, but I've not had direct engagement with the Croton Police to be able to assess this first hand. It also seems that many people are very reluctant to engage in any discussion about how police may be performing - that any comments on the way police behave/respond is considered criticism and anti-police, and a direct attack on individual officers vs a systemic review of the systems they work in. It's also not clear to me how women/gender is considered in US policing (since internationally, involvement of women tends to enhance community safety and increase "peace" outcomes). Also it's a little odd the Croton Police logo is of a Native American, but not one from this area. It seems this should also be reviewed as to whether it is an appropriate use of a Native America image. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Negative – openly endorsing racist candidates

Convince your union to stop openly endorsing racist candidates like the current potus and then have the audacity to ask for donations. No, seriously, it's shameful and it is probably how most people feel.
