

ADVOCATES PITCH 'PEOPLE'S PLAN' NASSAU PD REFORM

A group of civil rights advocates presented their plans for “reimagining policing and public safety on Long Island” to the Nassau County Legislature on Feb. 24, 36 days before the county must submit its final police reform plan to New York State.

Members of three advocacy coalitions — Long Island Advocates for Police Accountability (LIAFPA), Long Island United to Transform Policing & Community Safety (LI United), and United for Justice in Policing Long Island (UJPLI) — authored the 310-page document called “The People’s Plan” based on input from experts and the community, they said. More than 30 Long Island organizations and 200 individuals have endorsed the plan.

“The differential treatments and disparities that exist in Nassau County are things that we were not afraid to address in

“The People’s Plan,” said Fred Brewington, a Hempstead-based civil rights attorney and member of LIAFPA. “The document that was provided by the county executive, which was not based on collaboration ... is not one which addresses that issue forthrightly.”

“The People’s Plan” first offers the organizations’ response to Nassau’s police reform plan, which Nassau Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder presented to the legislature in January. Nassau’s plan includes use of body cameras, more police officer training, a mentorship program to increase diversity in the ranks, collection of data, and an emphasis on transparency.

“The People’s Plan” includes 12 sections that address policies in different areas of policing, including crisis response, traffic enforcement, transparency and accountability issues, and handling complaints. It also covers handling of hate crimes, treatment of transgender, intersex, and nonbinary people, and language access, as well as officer wellness and education.

-Briana Bonfiglio