

Bennington Citizen Survey 2021 - Question 20

		<b>Over the past year the Bennington Police Department has made numerous changes to its policies and procedures as part of its effort to move towards a community policing model. What suggestions would you like to share to help us further this effort?</b>		
<b>Answered</b>	<b>325</b>			
<b>Skipped</b>	<b>313</b>			
1	Nov 15 2021 08:46 AM	All ok with Police Dept.		
2	Nov 15 2021 08:39 AM	Police Doing OK		
3	Nov 05 2021 11:11 AM	continue with trainings on mental health-drug abuse and racial equity		
4	Nov 05 2021 10:17 AM	Oversight committee		
5	Nov 04 2021 05:28 PM	More foot/cycle patrols downtown and high density areas. Get out of cars and get to know residents and neighborhoods.		
6	Nov 04 2021 03:36 PM	The woman police are on a power trip! Not approachable, not nice.		
7	Nov 04 2021 03:20 PM	This police force needs an attitude adjustment. They never seem to care about anything. A smile or two to non-criminal citizens would be nice.		
8	Nov 04 2021 01:44 PM	I strongly suggest--urge--the Select Board to stop interfering with the work of our award-winning Police Department (individuals and the Department). The men and women of the Department are "Bennington's Finest", and I am grateful for their presence, professionalism, and outstanding community-minded spirit. I believe the Select Board has been unfairly critical of the Department when it should be applauding its considerable successes. Chief Doucette is the ultimate professional; a true leader and a role model for his officers and staff. He and the Department deserve the Board's support, not criticism.		
9	Nov 04 2021 01:26 PM	publicize changes using all useful media platforms		
10	Nov 03 2021 05:31 PM	put the cops on the streets to patrol. If the police are around, crimes are low, simple as that.		
11	Nov 03 2021 10:44 AM	We have a WONDERFUL Police Dept.! Leave them alone! We don't need a Citizens oversight Comm.; we need a Select Board Oversight Comm.!		
12	Nov 02 2021 10:49 PM	Strong citizen review board. Needs power to independently investigate conolaints		
13	Nov 02 2021 10:44 PM	Better timeliness		
14	Nov 02 2021 08:22 PM	More community involvement. Go back to old school police walking the beat & interacting with kids/teenagers.		
15	Nov 02 2021 08:15 PM	We have a wonderful police department and having been doing a great job for years And have been using a community policing model for YEARS.		
16	Nov 02 2021 08:14 PM	Allow members of the police department to create policies and procedures.		
17	Nov 02 2021 08:00 PM	Officers could start with treating residents and visitors with dignity and respect regardless of whether they are a business owner or a homeless person.		
18	Nov 02 2021 05:53 PM	I think the Bennington Police Dept,has done an exceptional job handling policing with the trying times we are in.		
19	Nov 02 2021 05:25 PM	Keep working toward more transparency		
20	Nov 02 2021 04:26 PM	Have a citizen "Ride Along" program so that we can better understand what they do.		
21	Nov 02 2021 02:35 PM	I think they are doing a wonderful job, no need for task force, waste of money		
22	Nov 02 2021 01:51 PM	continue to keep the public informed		
23	Nov 02 2021 11:41 AM	Let the Police do their jobs and not have the Town Board trying to do their job for them		
24	Nov 02 2021 10:41 AM	Nothing at this time.		
25	Nov 01 2021 07:54 PM	The BPD exceeds my expectations. They are devoted to our Town. I am proud of our department		
26	Nov 01 2021 05:46 PM	Do what you say you are going to do.		
27	Nov 01 2021 02:25 PM	Believe they are effective		
28	Nov 01 2021 09:35 AM	Increased emphasis on emerging community policing approaches.		
29	Nov 01 2021 08:38 AM	New chief to start. He's not community friendly and has lost the faith of most of the community.		
30	Nov 01 2021 12:47 AM	let them do their job and the select board and anyone under their rule to back off		
31	Oct 31 2021 09:47 PM	Better response time.		
32	Oct 31 2021 09:22 PM	Fire them all, start over. Too much corruption.		
33	Oct 31 2021 08:41 PM	More reporting about changes		
34	Oct 31 2021 06:43 PM	The Police department is very effective. Stop making changes due to pressure from certain organizations		
35	Oct 31 2021 04:29 PM	Bike patrol and more visible presence at school sports		
36	Oct 31 2021 11:04 AM	Keep doing what there doing there great		
37	Oct 31 2021 09:53 AM	Hire more officers so more patrolling can be done. More security cameras that actually work on pathways for safety purposes		
38	Oct 31 2021 09:38 AM	More police presence on Pleasant, Gage, School street		
39	Oct 31 2021 06:46 AM	More friendly		
40	Oct 30 2021 11:32 PM	To always remain as authoritative leadership and not as the common person.		
41	Oct 30 2021 10:55 PM	Keep an open dialogue with community.		
42	Oct 30 2021 07:23 PM	Keep up the good work.		
43	Oct 30 2021 02:27 PM	The BPD is working hard to fight the drug epidemic in our community. I would like to see them receive more support.		
44	Oct 30 2021 02:00 PM	Increase the number of officers per shift. See more on foot.		
45	Oct 30 2021 06:29 AM	Each member of the select board should be required to complete 3 ride alongs with BPD. Different days and shifts How can you modify what you haven't experienced 1st hand?		
46	Oct 30 2021 06:21 AM	Would like to see a more visual presence downtown. Maybe a foot patrol.		
47	Oct 30 2021 12:07 AM	If I see anything I have no problem calling . But Bennington is infested with heroin addicts and dealer need to be run out of town or sent to prison!!!		
48	Oct 29 2021 10:59 PM	Don't tell 16 year olds it's okay if they drink and steal as long as they don't get caught. Yes, this happens, and no it doesn't help to improve the community.		
49	Oct 29 2021 07:49 PM	None.		
50	Oct 29 2021 07:31 PM	There is still evident racism within, even when dealing with children		
51	Oct 29 2021 06:41 PM	Mental health awareness also special needs adults and children awareness		
52	Oct 29 2021 06:19 PM	I see drug deals on an almost daily basis and I live rural and work in town. I see them at Stewart's, martins, Walmart, buckstop. I'd like to see more police out and about in those areas. I would also like to see our police spend less time with od's and more time cleaning up three streets because our town has become a wasteland of addiction		
53	Oct 29 2021 06:13 PM	I would like to see them out and about more, years ago the BPD were on the streets more.		
54	Oct 29 2021 12:18 PM	More transparency in how the police are run and hiring policies.		

55	Oct 29 2021 07:56 AM	When I was hit by the drunk driver in a crosswalk as a pedestrian they did an excellent job going after the person that hit me . I've always found the police to be helpful, I believe in our police departments		
56	Oct 29 2021 06:29 AM	learn the law		
57	Oct 29 2021 12:33 AM	Stop pulling people over for stupid things like a loud exhaust. Start patrolling trailer parks and other places. Do the speed limit when posted.		
58	Oct 28 2021 09:51 PM	Let them do there jobs. Focus on police seems politically motivated.		
59	Oct 28 2021 09:24 PM	Try to spend more time in the local elementary schools		
60	Oct 28 2021 08:48 PM	Stronger policies and procedures on not allowing people who are clearly under the influence of drugs to wander our streets.		
61	Oct 28 2021 08:39 PM	I feel that the Pd does a good job but they are not backed by the town or the justice system		
62	Oct 28 2021 08:37 PM	Be stricter and not bound by political activists		
63	Oct 28 2021 08:35 PM	To do something about the crime in Bennington. When a call is made to show up and do something. When a bike is stolen with camera footage, to actually do some investigating to make an arrest. If kids are in trouble, talk to the parents. Patrol more in the parks.		
64	Oct 28 2021 06:15 PM	Stop being bias when I have been a victim of a crime for example my property was damaged by car going off the road taking my fence down and trees I was never called and Evey time I called or stopped down I was sent away another time I was driving home from work people in front of me were throwing beer bottles out at my car stopped in the middle of the road hit my vehicle and was never notified of a follow-up which to me that is bias that complaints get ignored I am an upright citizen that pays taxes here own my home has never been in trouble and have never dealt with the law and still I get treated this way like they have better things to do		
65	Oct 28 2021 01:33 PM	Still very racial motivated		
66	Oct 28 2021 06:41 AM	I am not familiar with anything with the Bennington Police Department		
67	Oct 28 2021 06:12 AM	We need the Police department to have more training in mental illness etc.		
68	Oct 28 2021 12:56 AM	I know they try to do their best. There are no suggestions I can think of.		
69	Oct 27 2021 09:49 PM	I believe it will take more than a year to repair trust between public and law enforcement. But I will give credit in the efforts that they are doing		
70	Oct 27 2021 08:57 PM	Dont threaten the public when you make a call for safety and concern. Issue orders when delivered not wait 2 years to serve them. I think people who live in rental apartments shouldnt have to deal with drug dealers and addicts endangering their lives, of health and safety, and their childrens. They should be more friendly and openky connected to the community. Be more involved. Listen to who they are speaking with instead of passing judgements. Help the public not just walk away and let a person be a danger to themselves if under the influence. Dont rip people off that go for copies of reports. Its like the police department is robbing you. Dispatchers can be more kind n let you speak to an officer instead of making the decisions for you. Dont let dispatchers give an attitude to the public. Freely allow open communication. More officers on duty. Ride on bikes or walk. Not always a police cruiser to waste gas in.		
71	Oct 27 2021 08:31 PM	Don't let the public keep your officers from protecting our community		
72	Oct 27 2021 08:28 PM	I am more than happy with our police force		
73	Oct 27 2021 08:02 PM	I don't know.		
74	Oct 27 2021 07:22 PM	Foot patrol in random areas - get out where people are, be more visible		
75	Oct 27 2021 04:45 PM	More strict training and psychological evaluations for officers possessing firearms, Removal of Officers with firearms from our public schools and investments into social case workers to be utilized instead of officers for non violent domestic cases.		
76	Oct 27 2021 04:35 PM	Accountability, personal liability insurance for all officers, for them to stand up as a union and advocate for the abolishment of qualified immunity, and following that a complete removal of their union.		
77	Oct 27 2021 04:17 PM	2 officers together walking the beat in down town all in all they do an okay job given the laws		
78	Oct 27 2021 03:57 PM	Let them do their jobs. They are effective and professional. The idea of an overview committee (that has no practical policing experience) offering suggestions is political and absurd.		
79	Oct 27 2021 03:54 PM	more visable downtown. "Walk a beat"		
80	Oct 27 2021 03:28 PM	I would like to suggest not letting neighbors harass others by using the police. One neighbor in particular frequently calls the police on surrounding neighbors even when the noise is not above the noise ordinance. He does this to harass others without any consequences to himself. He uses the police to harass others frequently. He should not be allowed to continue to make bogus calls without a consequence to himself. It is a waste of time and money to continue to allow him to do this.		
81	Oct 27 2021 03:26 PM	BACK THE BLUE!		
82	Oct 27 2021 03:26 PM	At times the community activities seems like they are just for the photo op and PR. Seems very surface level. We need more genuine interactions that don't feel forced.		
83	Oct 27 2021 03:07 PM	Extensive psychological assessment, more training. The younger ones especially are dicks. The sex ring they all got caught up in with each other got swept under the rug really quick. Ruined a lot of families in this town. Disgusting.		
84	Oct 27 2021 02:08 PM	Get rid of Silvestro and Faden		
85	Oct 27 2021 02:00 PM	N/A		
86	Oct 27 2021 12:55 PM	None		
87	Oct 27 2021 11:42 AM	Charge Perps with the Crime they Commit. My Car was Stolen & Damaged. I discovered the Car at a Convenience store. Called the Police, waited for them to arrive. The thief, thieves were still in the car. One exited and attacked my other car and subsequently the Police. Still waiting for retribution through Victim's Advocate for Damages. Nobody charged with Grand Theft Auto. Officer didn't stated because He wasn't Told to???		
88	Oct 27 2021 11:30 AM	I would like to see the police department connecting with the locals and getting involved in community events		
89	Oct 27 2021 11:29 AM	We need independent oversight to increase transparency and accountability in order to rebuild trust and move towards a community policing model		
90	Oct 27 2021 11:27 AM	body cameras		
91	Oct 27 2021 09:15 AM	Concentrait on the crime and not on wokeness A community based oversight committee		
92	Oct 27 2021 08:06 AM			
93	Oct 27 2021 08:03 AM	More officers on foot and bike patrols.		
94	Oct 27 2021 06:42 AM	The select board should stop wasting the PD's time on woke nonsense and let them do their job. Officer Doucette has training and experience, the select board does not know what they are doing.		
95	Oct 27 2021 12:45 AM	Anti-racism training, de-escalation training, awareness of mental illness		
96	Oct 26 2021 07:47 PM	A good idea to hire some minorities.		
97	Oct 26 2021 05:09 PM	Communicate to citizens what these changes are and be visible in all neighborhoods to build confidence of citizens		
98	Oct 26 2021 04:46 PM	I've noticed the police at fun school events and handing out free ice cream or water. I think that helps to build trust and respect within the community. Anything more like that would be beneficial. More of a friendly police presence.		
99	Oct 26 2021 03:51 PM	Be more visible in different parts of town. Very rarely do I see police in my area.		
100	Oct 26 2021 01:55 PM	Over all I think they are doing a great job. People need to understand they are doing the best they can because they still have rules to follow and they are trying to do better always.		
101	Oct 26 2021 12:16 PM	Need a new police chief		
102	Oct 26 2021 11:43 AM	Arrest the drug dealers and keep them in jail instead of letting them go free		

103	Oct 26 2021 08:47 AM	I stay in safe areas, alert, and usually go with someone else, never felt precautions were needed years ago.		
104	Oct 26 2021 08:12 AM	not familiar enough		
105	Oct 26 2021 07:50 AM	control speeding		
106	Oct 26 2021 05:33 AM	More community interactions		
107	Oct 26 2021 01:30 AM	I think it would help if Bennington Police found a way to be more public so we could get to know them. My only experience with police in over 40 years of a connection to this town is seeing them parked in Old Bennington, or on Northside Drive, to catch speeders. As a result, I see a police car and I slow down and that's it. I do not know the local police and I've never seen anyone casually patrol downtown or be in a position to say a friendly hello. Knowing they are there to meet and protect rather than to park and catch speeders would be nice and an improvement to my experience of a homey town.		
108	Oct 25 2021 10:16 PM	Patrolling for speeding in residential neighborhoods rather than on the highway. Vehicles traveling at high rates of speed past residence where there are children is more a risk than someone speeding on the highway.		
109	Oct 25 2021 10:08 PM	The Chief of Police should not be the one to decide if a parking ticket is dismissed or not. It should be someone not directly connected to the police.		
110	Oct 25 2021 09:22 PM	Let the police, police. Keep the politics out of policing the town. Since the town has become so political with the police department, crime has gotten worse in the town.		
111	Oct 25 2021 09:14 PM	Get mental health trainings		
112	Oct 25 2021 05:27 PM	none		
113	Oct 25 2021 10:16 AM	Continue focusing on the entire community, transparent reports coming from the actual chief, more improvement regarding racial discrimination. It's great to see them support community events and become more approachable but there's still work to be done behind the scenes.		
114	Oct 24 2021 04:51 PM	Treat all ethnic people and genders equally.		
115	Oct 24 2021 01:05 PM	Many of the questions are difficult to answer if you've not had any reason for interaction with law enforcement. Approachable 😊, as I rarely see them interacting with people within the community; other than traffic control. It'd be nice to learn/see/ get to know more about our local police department personnel. Keep up the good work		
116	Oct 24 2021 07:32 AM			
117	Oct 23 2021 05:43 PM	More training and collaboration with PDs who use this model		
118	Oct 23 2021 05:41 PM	Include more mental health crisis/substance abuse response services		
119	Oct 23 2021 03:55 PM	Keep offering training like first aid, emergency response etc.		
120	Oct 23 2021 02:00 PM	Be sure to communicate with the public		
121	Oct 23 2021 01:33 PM	Get arrogant officers off the force such as Stemp and Fadden. They are not helpful, they look to elevate situations instead of diffuse them. They believe they're above the law and do not care about this community.		
122	Oct 23 2021 01:29 PM	The issue is the Judges that keep letting repeat drug offenders out of jail. They come out and continue to ruin our small town. Get rid of the shopping carts the homeless are walking around with. They are obviously stolen.		
123	Oct 23 2021 12:27 PM	more with department pictures. All we ever see is grande, doucette in pictures. how about meet the officers? be nice to actually meet them? feel like they are part of our community if we need them		
124	Oct 23 2021 09:22 AM	do not want to answer now		
125	Oct 23 2021 08:45 AM	Patrol more, especially the areas where there have been multiple past incidents and calls made because suspicious activity continues and never stops!		
126	Oct 23 2021 08:11 AM	None		
127	Oct 23 2021 07:44 AM	Continue to build relationships and trust with community members ; decrease the persona of military presence while maintaining professionalism., order of law.		
128	Oct 22 2021 04:07 PM	That Paul Retires and stops getting away with everything he does. Continual resignations from officers due to the toxicity of Paul and the select board.		
129	Oct 22 2021 03:20 PM	I think the effort needs to be made at the state level/prosecutor. The police should get out of their cruisers and walk a beat sometimes, but I don't think it's their fault that they arrest serious criminals yet nobody goes to jail.		
130	Oct 22 2021 12:09 PM	Unlock building doors. I will not vote for current Board members until present Chief is gone! Get a new chief/administrator(Manager) current chief is Arrogant, micro Manager! Has cost the town hundreds of thousands of dollars, racially bigoted. Town has very poor rating/safety record state wide.		
131	Oct 22 2021 10:08 AM	More Staffing needed longevity needed		
132	Oct 22 2021 07:20 AM	None. They are doing an exceptional job. have the officers be more freindly and not feel they are better than non polic personnel		
133	Oct 22 2021 05:01 AM	have dispatchers more friendly		
134	Oct 21 2021 07:23 PM	I force rfa orders Less bad press		
135	Oct 21 2021 07:21 PM			
136	Oct 21 2021 06:59 PM	They are exceptional I don't have any suggestions but just want to acknowledge how wonderful they are dry run a business in town and they are so helpful I appreciate them more than I can express.		
137	Oct 21 2021 06:21 PM	Let the police do their job, keep those that we arrested for a crime spend some.time.in jail		
138	Oct 21 2021 05:55 PM	It would be beneficial to see more involvements with the schools as far activities between officers and students. Sports competitions, etc		
139	Oct 21 2021 03:52 PM	Keep working on relationships with community. Especially our youth		
140	Oct 21 2021 03:32 PM	Continue its current efforts to improve.		
141	Oct 21 2021 03:25 PM	No		
142	Oct 21 2021 01:05 PM	Continued & sustained training on de-escalation with the new use of force law		
143	Oct 21 2021 12:29 PM	Hire more officers		
144	Oct 21 2021 12:28 PM	Keep up the amazing work		
145	Oct 21 2021 11:54 AM	They are perfect no changes need to be made		
146	Oct 21 2021 11:49 AM	Keep up the great job. You are the best, only criminals complain about you		
147	Oct 21 2021 11:45 AM	I believe that it's painfully obvious what efforts need to change just by taking a look at this community that was one a great place to grow up in and raise a family.		
148	Oct 21 2021 11:41 AM	Nothing at this time		
149	Oct 21 2021 11:32 AM	Let them do their job		
150	Oct 21 2021 11:05 AM	Need a ebike unit to run the streets especially at night. Would be way more efficient		
151	Oct 21 2021 10:27 AM	None		
152	Oct 21 2021 10:02 AM	I truly think the BPD Leadership and officers strive to support the community in the most positive manner.		
153	Oct 21 2021 09:53 AM	give them more resources		
154	Oct 21 2021 08:27 AM	Lock up the junkies		
155	Oct 21 2021 06:13 AM	More organized activities with youth.		

156	Oct 20 2021 08:30 PM	I think they do a great job,...but all professions are hurting right now. I would love to see "feet on the street"....they use to....but again numbers are a problem.		
157	Oct 20 2021 07:53 PM	On call mental healthcare professional		
158	Oct 20 2021 06:54 PM	Engage more social workers and psychologists to address calls for mental or emotional breakdowns and the homeless. People who approach with food and blankets and understanding. If necessary, the police could be present but in the background if needed. Engage persons of color in this effort and on the force.		
159	Oct 20 2021 03:56 PM	Over the past year it appears that the Police Dept. has attempted to makeover it's look but it doesn't appear to authentic.		
160	Oct 20 2021 09:05 AM	More visible speed enforcement. Enforcement of no parking areas. Patrol community parks.		
161	Oct 20 2021 07:15 AM	Hire mental health professionals as part of the department, require continuing education on social issues for active duty officers, reduce the militaristic appearance and conduct of All officers.		
162	Oct 20 2021 05:25 AM	Get more drug dealers off the streets.		
163	Oct 19 2021 11:11 PM	Focus on combating drugs and the drug culture		
164	Oct 19 2021 09:54 PM	When someone calls to report a possible crime or incident happening to not make them feel like they are the criminal, you get grilled by dispatch and feel guilty for calling		
165	Oct 19 2021 09:54 PM	New Management. More youth involvement		
166	Oct 19 2021 09:23 PM	More Less Lethal tools		
167	Oct 19 2021 08:54 PM	Addressing gender bias, move away from male dominated interactions.		
168	Oct 19 2021 08:39 PM	Give the Bennington Police Dept. the encouragement they deserve to continue the exceptional job they do on a daily basis keeping the community safe. They have exhibited their commitment to being a "community first" group of devoted individuals as they participate in many town wide events on a weekly basis. They are visually active all the time in programs and events with a wide variety of community groups; working to make themselves a visual part of the community. They need to be given the credit and respect they deserve as professionals that put their lives on the line every day to keep Bennington safe. They have followed a "community policing model" for years and need to be given more credit for the exceptional job they do daily. They do not need to be micro-managed by a board that is not trained to make the decisions that law enforcement needs to make on a daily basis. They have done an exemplary job for years on a limited budget; with minimum numbers of officers available on rotating shifts. Bennington residents are fortunate to have a department of professionals that are so community minded and have such devoted leadership within their officers that commit themselves to the town. They scan for problems, analyze the problem and respond to problems (community model policing) each time they are called out within our community. Good practice policing done each day. They need to be commended and supported by all community leaders.		
169	Oct 19 2021 08:11 PM	Educate the public about the duties and responsibilities of members of the Bennington Police Department. Have the police department give themselves a pat on the back about how they engage with the community.		
170	Oct 19 2021 07:59 PM	N/A		
171	Oct 19 2021 07:10 PM	First off, although policy's are necessary for the effectiveness of an agency, they need to be followed from the top down. Secondly, changing policy will not help with relations with the town residents. It's simply something to advertise showing that something it's trying to be done without any real change. Changing words on paper will not change how the officers themselves are treated with in the walls of the police department by the chief and town manager. If an officer is disrespected before they even change for shift, that disrespect will carry over to their duties on the road. The chief has made comments to employees about wanting to shoot himself after walking out of a remote select board meeting, he has smashed cakes that had been delivered by grateful citizen's for it not being placed down stairs in a timely manner, he has yelled and belittled employees and it has now gotten to the point where employees are now leaving for outside employment for reason that only begin with the chief himself. Change needs to start with the top and if the town manager will not start asking the question I am asking the select board to start. Speak with the officers that will talk. Many of them are afraid of the targets that get placed in their backs, but I'm sure some will talk. The town is going to go in a very bad direction if this does not happen. Send an anonymous survey to the officers them self. You will likely be surprised on what you find out. The working environment at the Bennington police department is substandard and that has everything to do with the working conditions that chief Paul Doucett himself created. So again, I ask the select board to ask the questions to all the officers and not just the ones the chief send.		
172	Oct 19 2021 06:58 PM	Get the select Board out of the police business and hold criminals responsible and accountable for their actions		
173	Oct 19 2021 06:15 PM	I think the police officers in this community do an amazing job and the select board who has no law enforcement background should stay out of police business. If you've never walked a mile in their shoes I don't know how you can harass them the way you do. It's getting ridiculous and the people of the community are getting tired of it.		
174	Oct 19 2021 05:49 PM	Keep up the progress		
175	Oct 19 2021 04:57 PM	The department has to get out of the vehicles and walk a beat on Main Street...be noticed on the other streets of town.		
176	Oct 19 2021 04:45 PM	Maybe some exercise would not hurt!@		
177	Oct 19 2021 04:38 PM	Get the courts to lock up repeat offenders		
178	Oct 19 2021 04:23 PM	Nicer dispatch, when I have called they always seem annoyed		
179	Oct 19 2021 03:56 PM	Make public what the policies are, beyond that I can't really tell you what policies need Improvement		
180	Oct 19 2021 01:54 PM	Be more present in areas of downtown with known problems		
181	Oct 19 2021 11:27 AM	A more sincere commitment to equity and inclusivity, not just hollow statements and actions.		
182	Oct 19 2021 11:20 AM	keep going		
183	Oct 19 2021 11:20 AM	*Continue w/the superb work*!		
184	Oct 19 2021 10:16 AM	Giving away hot dogs and cotton candy seemed like a very cynical way to build trust - like paying people to like you. Steady effort, a better attitude and maybe an occasional officer walking a beat might help.		
185	Oct 18 2021 02:06 PM	Allow police to focus on making Bennington an undesirable place for criminals and drug dealers to "work".		
186	Oct 17 2021 09:14 PM	Allow the police department to review and make changes to policies and procedures. They know best.		
187	Oct 16 2021 07:23 PM	Nothing. Activists in our community are making an issue out of nothing and are narcissistic self serving fools, like Kiah Morris. Good riddance.		
187	Oct 16 2021 06:07 PM	First of all the select board can't make a decision to save their lives. Always creating a sub committee to find an answer. Step up and make a decision. That's why you were voted in. No need for this oversite committee either. Are we going to look into every complaint that arises? Someone says the officer handcuffed me and it hurt. Well, they weren't made for comfort and you probably shouldn't have been breaking the law. Maybe a few of the select board members should ride around a few shifts. Night shifts and see exactly what these officers have to deal with. It will open your eyes and maybe you'll realize that doing this job is a thankless one. I find it insulting that there is a board of people that will be "judging" the officers on their performance. No, they are not perfect. But there are policies and laws in place to deal with an incident in which an officer "screwed up". BPD does an excellent job in trying to keep us safe. Every officer I have every dealt with is kind and professional. They have several hours of training at the academy and even more once they are on the road. So until a few of the select board members (3) have walked a mile in an Officer's shoes, take it easy on them.		

188	Oct 16 2021 05:44 PM	Let them do their jobs. There is no need for a Community Oversight Committee. They have policies in place within the dept. next step is VSP investigate. Next, SA's, then AG's. There is also the Academy that can discipline. We don't need people judging every complaint. We don't need people from POWNAL on this board or people married to members of the Select Board. It's a waste of time. These people of NO IDEA what LE officers have to do in situations. It is one of the toughest jobs and they do an excellent job. Yes, they do make mistakes and are human. Every dept/career has a few bad apples. But I wouldn't go into a dentist office and tell them how to do their job. Or look back on a bad job they did and tell them what they "should have done". Finally, a few members of the Select board NEED to go.		
		Don't stop evolving, don't get defensive, don't take it personally, but do continue to embrace a more multi-cultural America and do continue to keep town civil.		
189	Oct 16 2021 07:44 AM	Also, let's get homelessness, drug addiction, and mental health off your plate over the coming years. Can this		
190	Oct 15 2021 09:56 PM	I don't know		
191	Oct 15 2021 08:11 PM	No comment		
192	Oct 15 2021 03:03 PM	No other suggestions at this time		
193	Oct 15 2021 02:20 PM	More regular presence in neighborhoods, respond to calls, be approachable, not be biased to people they serve		
194	Oct 15 2021 09:42 AM	I feel they look down on certain residents and when I called do to my family being asthmatic and neighbors filling the area with smoke from a fire pit the man rushed me off the phone like it didn't matter		
195	Oct 15 2021 09:28 AM	Police are still bias to people they have served prior. Police often belittle people who are experiencing mental health crises. They should also respond in a timely manner.		
196	Oct 15 2021 09:25 AM	Better management skills for your leaders in higher positions.		
197	Oct 15 2021 09:07 AM	Have officers be on the streets more in neighborhoods where safety is an issue.		
198	Oct 15 2021 08:50 AM	Remove prejudice, increase inclusivity, eliminate disconnect between police and community members.		
199	Oct 15 2021 08:48 AM	I see the progress, especially with their outreach to kids, and that is great. I would still like to see more, especially in terms of providing equitable policing for minorities.		
200	Oct 15 2021 07:17 AM	Get rid of the toxic leadership there and inquire why so many great officers have left that hell hole. BPD was a great place at one time and now it's so toxic and the public does not trust any of them. Mostly the Chief and Deputy Chief. Chef Duck		
201	Oct 15 2021 06:53 AM	Focus on cleaning up the drug dealers that have poisoned our town.		
202	Oct 14 2021 10:15 PM	How about less promotional pictures of chief delete and Lt grande. What about the other members that make up the department. Are there more? We know about Gracie and handler because of the high school.		
203	Oct 14 2021 08:24 PM	Have captain and co-captain. Have lieutenant and co-Lieutenant. Have better shared responsibilities for the department. Feature officers and not always chief diecette and lieutenant grande all the time. Nice to see it featured as a department. Nice to see Gracie and handler featured once in awhile.		
204	Oct 14 2021 06:37 PM	We need to take better care of the officers so they will stay. They are the lowest paid and have the worst benefits right now of all the other departments around us. I checked on this and found that we are lacking in this area. Please fix this so that we can get and keep good officers.		
205	Oct 14 2021 04:13 PM	Improve anti-racial communication		
206	Oct 14 2021 03:19 PM	Always bring other professionals such as social workers to respond to calls if mental health and/or substance use is a factor. Even if it isn't the main reason for the call. Always work with the lens of equity and intersectionality.		
207	Oct 14 2021 02:21 PM	Let them do their job		
208	Oct 14 2021 11:51 AM	No police to intervene with mental illness family situations		
209	Oct 14 2021 09:11 AM	stop sending officers to situations that are not within the scope of their enforceable power		
210	Oct 14 2021 07:34 AM	Get more officers, they all have left		
211	Oct 14 2021 04:00 AM	Respond to calls for fireworks, drug use, family violence, theft...		
212	Oct 13 2021 09:27 PM	Increase diversity and reduce racism. Improve community relationships with mental health, DV orgs		
213	Oct 13 2021 08:27 PM	Let them do their job		
214	Oct 13 2021 07:52 PM	Respond to crime tips when phone numbers are left. Just recently lost a great opportunity to get more heroin off the streets.		
215	Oct 13 2021 06:48 PM	Everything needs to be published.		
216	Oct 13 2021 06:36 PM	Those that are on the community policing board or committee should be required to do some observation time to know what the Police Department deals with both on the front side and the back side. Ride with an officer, sit in the dispatch center, etc., just to get a 360 view of what the police department does and has to deal with.		
217	Oct 13 2021 03:06 PM	If you find a rolled over car in the winter time, find the driver or notify family that you couldn't find him. Don't give lame excuses why you discontinued your search.		
218	Oct 13 2021 02:50 PM	Let the Police do their job , why is the selectboard experts at law enforcement?		
219	Oct 13 2021 02:49 PM	Being a police officer is a difficult job and its tough finding the "right" person. Being an effective police officer is not difficult. An effective police officer can talk to people and control any situation through communication and how they react to someone acting out. I would suggest continuing education with regards to how to actually community police on a day to day level. It seems today's police are not prepared on how to handle people.		
220	Oct 13 2021 02:02 PM	I think the police department is being too heavily criticized and does a great job with community policing and outreach. I don't support a community policing board and especially having out-of-town residents involved in overseeing our police department		
221	Oct 13 2021 01:39 PM	Defund and allocate resources to community organizations such as PAVE, ACT, and other social justice orgs that can make preventative changes to the community		
222	Oct 13 2021 01:09 PM	The Bennington PD does an excellent job.		
223	Oct 13 2021 12:16 PM	They are doing a fine job.		
224	Oct 13 2021 12:15 PM	Establish a Community Policing Oversight Board. Establish regular neighborhood nights where police host community members for a soft drink and conversation.		
225	Oct 13 2021 12:07 PM	Keep up the good work.		
226	Oct 13 2021 11:22 AM	Still protect and defend, perhaps with a "softer" touch. Be careful with biases.		
227	Oct 13 2021 10:53 AM	I have not once seen a police car when I've been out. Would like to see a policeman walking "a beat" like they used to.		
228	Oct 13 2021 10:20 AM	Consider having mental health professionals become a more integral part of the Department		
229	Oct 13 2021 09:54 AM	Work more closely with social workers, counselors, and mental health professionals when responding to crises.		
230	Oct 13 2021 09:21 AM	Focus on the drug problem more		
231	Oct 13 2021 08:52 AM	More police visibility on Main Street		
232	Oct 13 2021 08:41 AM	N/a		
233	Oct 13 2021 07:48 AM	keep making those changes. I fully support the BLM-related changes. And Keep watching Max Misch and other white nationalists		
234	Oct 13 2021 07:47 AM	Get away from the "SWAT" look.		

		change the name from Police to "Community Service"		
235	Oct 13 2021 06:51 AM	It is a service for the community, to help the community,		
236	Oct 13 2021 06:51 AM	I would like to see more"foot" patrols that interact with the public. I know that is old fashioned but is known to be effective		
237	Oct 12 2021 09:51 PM	More officers on duty to patrol the streets at all hrs, visibility will and should help reduce crime.		
238	Oct 12 2021 09:30 PM	Let the police department have some independence in deciding which suggestions make sense for the police and will help them do their jobs.		
239	Oct 12 2021 09:19 PM	If staffing allows get out and walk around / ride bikes for more personal interaction with citizens.		
240	Oct 12 2021 08:21 PM	citizen oversight		
241	Oct 12 2021 08:15 PM	I hardly see them around. Maybe they should walk around or bike especially on Main Street. It's getting creepy walking around.		
242	Oct 12 2021 07:44 PM	Less use of guns; fewer traffic stops; more collaboration with mental health personnel.		
243	Oct 12 2021 06:27 PM	The changes in polices with citizen participation have been good so far. I eagerly await the BPD's revised procedures and then to see whether the procedures are applied and progress is made on a community policing model! I applaud the Select Board's appointment of the 10 member Safety and Equity Task Force that will make recommendations for the establishment of Citizens' Oversight for the BPD to be established in Spring 2022.		
244	Oct 12 2021 05:57 PM	All that and they still violated my son and family civil rights. When I mentioned it they hung up the phone		
245	Oct 12 2021 05:36 PM	Focus on pedestrian safety. Better protection of assault victims/abuse survivors. Better DE&I practices. Cost the town less money.		
246	Oct 12 2021 05:34 PM	I would like to see officers on foot on Main st. Interacting with residents		
247	Oct 12 2021 05:24 PM	Control the cars that have faulty mufflers causing loud noise.		
248	Oct 12 2021 05:18 PM	All police should be educated beyond months at the police academy. It should be at the very least 2 yr degree with mental health evaluation and training. Also. If they have no Integrity in their personal lives. They should be let go.		
249	Oct 12 2021 05:17 PM	I think you are doing a great job in this area		
250	Oct 12 2021 05:12 PM	None		
251	Oct 12 2021 03:33 PM	I am afraid of strangers and police officers are strangers with weapons. Be patient with those who are nervous.		
252	Oct 12 2021 03:27 PM	Change if culture to improve meaningful..n o t just.posicles.interaction with community		
253	Oct 12 2021 02:55 PM	idk		
254	Oct 12 2021 02:49 PM	Would like more "Transparency" and details regarding why taxpayers needed to hire professional person and have committees to revamp ,so to speak, the BPD. What events specifically, in Bennington, triggered the need for all this civilian oversight?		
255	Oct 12 2021 02:34 PM	Don't know what changes have been made		
256	Oct 12 2021 02:02 PM	Continue to move forward with Community Policing. Have officers walk a beat like the old days.		
257	Oct 12 2021 01:34 PM	stop pandering to "marxist", "fascist", or "communist" organizations.		
258	Oct 12 2021 12:15 PM	The police are not the problem		
259	Oct 12 2021 12:05 PM	Cultural changes. The behaviors of some officers are outright rude.		
260	Oct 12 2021 11:49 AM	Being as open and transparent as you possibly can.		
261	Oct 12 2021 11:40 AM	Its just eye candy!		
262	Oct 12 2021 10:00 AM	The changes have been horrendously bad. The Police Department has become ineffective and emasculated. We need public order, not validating the "lifestyles" of criminals. These changes are awful.		
263	Oct 12 2021 09:35 AM	Incorporate neighborhood watch programs to deter the Drug epidemic . I have seen drug deals in the middle of the day across the street from Dr. Sleemans office, where small children were present. I did report this to the police who said they were aware of this... why were the children not removed at minimum		
264	Oct 12 2021 09:19 AM	We must understand and implement generally accepted "best practices." We may need to go farther afield to harvest expertise than we have done in the past 18 months. Town and BPD responded to serious complaints. Both should have been on the lookout for changes and best practices before the complaints surfaced.		
265	Oct 12 2021 09:15 AM	Community training, show us your skills. Make the community confident in your abilities		
266	Oct 12 2021 09:09 AM	Start cracking down on the people who sell and or OD with drugs! People need to be held accountable for their actions		
267	Oct 12 2021 08:51 AM	Active listenting to those who have suggestions.		
268	Oct 12 2021 08:49 AM	Continue yo be visible and active in the community		
269	Oct 12 2021 08:45 AM	New police chief!!!!!!		
270	Oct 12 2021 08:25 AM	Don't know		
271	Oct 12 2021 08:23 AM	I have grave concerns about the lack of protection offered to kids who are in unsafe homes. I don't think this necessarily falls on the Bennington Police, but as a state we are trying to hard to keep children in unsafe homes. Contact with parents is important, but it must be safe, and it is not. This is tearing apart our schools and our community. We as a community should be pushing our state to re-examine the role of DCF (they have very limited power to enforce when they have sever concerns about the safety of children, and the courts don't necessarily back them up). Family Time is an important service in town, and although it may not be affiliated with the town (I'm not sure), we need to support programs like that due to our current populations. The court system is also absurd right now. We are known as being one of the worst in the state in terms of scheduling for hearings.		
272	Oct 12 2021 08:12 AM	Population has remained the same and the police force has gotten much larger. Less police officers and a zero tolerance policy towards racism. prejudice, mistreatment due to colour, religion (or lack thereof), gender identity/sexual preference, country of origin. Facilitate and train officers to deal with issues such as drug abuse, in a non-punitive constructive way.		
273	Oct 11 2021 09:18 PM	Crack down on the drug problems in our neighborhoods, too many people see it, witness strung out people leaving these homes daily and nothing is done. Arrest them and hold those accountable. As I stated, this town knows there's a problem and only see it getting worse as many homes are turning into a drug stops. Sad, do something with tips given and please arrest these individuals responsible, maybe that will restore some safe feelings in many neighborhoods. It's happening even in the well respectable neighborhoods not just the ones you can tell are run down and harboring those addicts!		
274	Oct 11 2021 09:16 PM	Keep up the good work		
275	Oct 11 2021 09:04 PM	A complete overhaul of personnel. From the chief down they judge who you are by your last name, who your friends were as a teenager and or if they just don't like you they will harass you. They will pull you over any given chance and treat you like you are scum. Because we are such a small community it's impossible for them to not know everyone and everything about their lives, families, upbringing or think they know and again in their eyes your guilty by association even if it wasn't by choice. The chief himself plays a huge role in this. All while if they know you, like you, and you have a "good" family name you will get away with absolutely everything. This has nothing to do with the color of your skin either! Black or white to them they don't care you will be treated like pure trash if you're not considered good enough.		
276	Oct 11 2021 07:46 PM	Keep up the good work!		
277	Oct 11 2021 07:06 PM	Continue training with minorities including LGBTQ		
278	Oct 11 2021 06:21 PM	What changes? Remove Paul Doucette.		

279	Oct 11 2021 06:15 PM	Bennington PD does great things for this community and have been unfairly treated.		
280	Oct 11 2021 05:58 PM	There are bigger problems in this town to worry about then the police department		
281	Oct 11 2021 04:55 PM	N/A		
282	Oct 11 2021 04:53 PM	Required anti-bias training		
283	Oct 11 2021 04:51 PM	Please help the Police Department partner with social workers and mental health professionals. Not everything needs to be dealt with via brute force. I would like to see more of my tax dollars spent on programs that give folks a different option than calling the police.		
284	Oct 11 2021 04:30 PM	No new ideas. However, I think the P.D. deserves a lot of credit for its efforts.		
285	Oct 11 2021 04:09 PM	More focus and training on inclusivity and mental health. Trainings on dealing with those in mental health crisis situations and working effectively with the LGBTQIA+ community.		
286	Oct 11 2021 04:01 PM	HAVE A COP ON WALKS AT NIHT ON MAIN STREET.		
287	Oct 11 2021 03:44 PM	Monitor drug popular areas		
288	Oct 11 2021 03:25 PM	More police patrolling on Pleasant, Park and School Streets. The drug dealing is rampant.		
289	Oct 11 2021 03:24 PM	The Police Department as a whole puts on a professional facade for the community. My experience having worked alongside officers through different organizations and having conversations with them is that most of these individuals lack good character and are or have become jaded towards their community they have said they would serve and protect. I am not sure if this is something that can be fixed without new officers hired and rearranging management. This culture will not be fixed by establishing new policies with the same faces serving the public and the same leadership. New policies without leadership change and new officers will only create a much larger facade and even more jaded officers then currently exist.		
290	Oct 11 2021 03:12 PM	Arrest the criminals and keep them off the street		
291	Oct 11 2021 03:09 PM	Allow members of the police department to perform their duties without so much criticism.		
292	Oct 11 2021 02:47 PM	I think the BPD and Select Board were incredibly slow to adopt policy changes. I continue to see the BPD cause harm in our community and then try to smooth things over with publicity stunts. I don't like the copsicle stunt and their social media is a train wreck. Two women have been killed in the last year that the BPD could have prevented. We need mental health experts with them at all times or available for calls. I recently witnessed someone who was very impaired drive into a parked car, total both cars and the following day he killed his wife. When we asked the police what was going to be done (the day of the car accident) they told us this was baseline for him and this is how he always is. He was clearly unwell and this resulted in the murder of a woman the following day. I don't trust the police's judgement and I don't think a community policing model with police involved in meetings is beneficial to anyone.		
293	Oct 11 2021 02:29 PM	I don't feel qualified. This should be left to those with expertise and training in the difficult task of protecting our citizenry. Our police are already well trained at the Vermont a criminal Justice Training Council with our tax dollars.		
294	Oct 11 2021 01:19 PM	Engage the community in policing such bas Neighborhood Watch program		
295	Oct 11 2021 01:15 PM	Police do not respond and follow through with cases.  Telephone calls do not get returned. Unwilling to discuss progress on cases. Victims are left with little or no information. Expectations are other agencies should pick up the pieces. Cases are not promptly followed up on, no one can answer questions. It may be due to the inexperience of a lot of the officers. Need more communications with complainants and victims. Need more communication with community members outside of the normal calls. Needs to		
296	Oct 11 2021 12:12 PM	Stop beating residents and speaking to residents in a sarcastic way. Stop hiding body cam videos.		
297	Oct 11 2021 11:53 AM	Don't know		
298	Oct 11 2021 10:49 AM	Listen to community. Actively look for ways to listen to people in the community.		
299	Oct 11 2021 10:41 AM	More transparency and more professionalism		
300	Oct 11 2021 10:37 AM	GET RID OF THE POLICE CHIEF. Why is the station locked? We can't keep officers...morale problems? Chief is arrogant, costs town tax dollars (law suits) and seems to be racist/supremist.  Why is doesn't Stuart Hurd/Select Board do something about him. If it wasn't for the Chief's policies/lack thereof, we wouldn't be needing a citizen committee to correct all of the community/police department problems/conflicts. GET A NEW		
301	Oct 11 2021 10:25 AM	A meet and greet with the public		
302	Oct 11 2021 09:59 AM	All I know is what I read in the papers, and there appear to be a large number of property crimes, vandalism, hate crime, etc., for which there is no resolution. Personally, I have a problem with noise in my residential area: loud cars, including excessive exhaust noise loud music often late at night, barking dogs (continuously in some cases, day and night), and loud people on the stree late at night or very early in the morning, and sometimes alarms in homes or nearby businesses that are ignored by police and others. After calling police in the past, with no resolution, I have given up. These are nuisance issues, but they affect the quality of life in Bennington. Even worse is the apparent high level of racist and intolerant behavior, presumably by a vocal few (but who really knows?) All of this combines make Bennington appear to be a hostile and unpleasant environment to many. It saddens me that this appears to be tolerated by police -- and many citizens as well. I know we can do better. I moved to Bennington 6 years ago and there have been a number of incidents that have made me question that choice. I hope things can get better, but I see no signs of improvement.		
303	Oct 11 2021 09:49 AM	Improve access to mental health and substance abuse treatment programs		
304	Oct 11 2021 09:20 AM	More walking/biking presence on Main Street and surrounding streets especially on weekends summer and fall		
305	Oct 11 2021 09:14 AM	not sure		
306	Oct 11 2021 09:02 AM	Continue the efforts, it is going well.		
307	Oct 11 2021 08:59 AM	Cops need to stop having affairs that interfere with marriages more drug arrests		
308	Oct 11 2021 08:53 AM	loitering		
309	Oct 11 2021 08:48 AM	We need a new chief.		
310	Oct 11 2021 08:42 AM	lock up more criminals		
311	Oct 11 2021 08:36 AM	They need more help with the drug problem in this town		
312	Oct 11 2021 08:29 AM	Cite people who use the police to harass their neighbors. We have a neighbor who constantly calls cops to harass neighbors he doesn't like and he has never been charged with filing a false complaint because he has buddies on the police force. The guy is unhinged and dangerous but we just put up with it because obviously nothing is going to be done.		
313	Oct 11 2021 08:22 AM	Have more minority representation. I see the same faces behind the wheel every day and they don't represent the many facets of the community. (they could also wave back when acknowledged)		
314	Oct 11 2021 08:08 AM	New police chief		
315	Oct 11 2021 07:34 AM	Keep up the great work! You have very difficult jobs, and we as a community cannot thank you enough.		
316	Oct 11 2021 07:18 AM	They need to be backed up rather than beat up for doing real police work... the town is rapidly being infested with drugs and overdoses... shelters and looking the other way is not working.		
317	Oct 11 2021 06:59 AM	Change in town leadership - the PD was exceedingly great in handling the camp on SVC grounds but Select board was ineffective along with Town management. PD was not empowered.		

318	Oct 11 2021 06:51 AM	I've called the Bennington PD several times and they have ALWAYS responded in a professional and timely manner. I also LOVE their involvement with the youth in our community.		
319	Oct 11 2021 06:39 AM	None. They are doing good.		
320	Oct 11 2021 06:28 AM	Vandalism is a huge issue.		
321	Oct 11 2021 06:24 AM	The police should walk the neighborhoods on a regular basis. Many people are afraid of police and maybe if they are a part of the neighborhood that would help.		
322	Oct 11 2021 05:33 AM	None		
323	Oct 11 2021 04:18 AM	Get rid of current select board		
324	Oct 11 2021 12:33 AM	New chief		
325	Oct 10 2021 08:05 PM	Project a positive image and engagement with residents.		
Respondents	Response Date	Responses	Tags	