

Citizens written feedback in the City of Oneonta's survey regarding its police department 2021. One comment was edited to protect anonymity. Every single comment made is below to provide transparency.

- No personal experiences with the police.
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- Need training in dealing with international residents.
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- I think the police department needs a lot more training and resources. I also think the police department should focus on crisis intervention techniques to better assist the communities needs. Providing mandated educational trainings on how to not be racist, sexist, and view the community through a white heteronormative lens would be great— with teach-backs included for hands on experience. Also some community activities for police officers to partake in where we see them on a more human level, personal connection. It feels like there's almost this wall between them and us and it's really uncomfortable— and I can't even imagine how someone of color feels.
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- I believe that there is a lack in the mental health field which has created a stress on society which then causes a call for police action. When the unwanted outcome occurs, the police are to blame and the mental health field is dismissed. I have seen cases blamed on police mishandling that they were called to by the family or friends of the subject, knowing they have mental health issues and nowhere to turn or go. Last resort, call the police and blame them for handling it improperly if it doesn't go the way they want. Difficult conversations need to reveal all difficulties and all issues and not focus or blame just one aspect for a series of events. How many situations locally or nationally that are being blamed on police conduct would NOT have occurred if the police were not requested to respond to the matter? There is a reason the police were called. Can improvements be made? Absolutely, on ALL fronts and positions. That is a difficult conversation.
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- Had multiple encounters over many years. The officers were always professional and compassionate. Great job men and women of oneonta police department. Tough job that you do, stay safe.
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- Few years ago OPD came to my daughters house multiple times when her and her friends were spending an afternoon cooking BBQ and listening to music. There were less than six people there, and the first cops showed up after driving down the street just minutes prior, saying they got a noise complaint. It was 2pm on a Sunday. So, they turned the music down. Cop came back again, 30 minutes later saying they got another complaint. At this point they had been playing cards at a table in the yard in view of the road. Everyone there was a person of color besides my daughter. They turned the music off, and kept playing cards. The cops came back shortly after saying there was another complaint. There was no music, so this time

they said everyone was being loud. I show up at this point. They tell me that it has nothing to do with me, I explain that's my daughter and asked who was making all of these complaints. They suggest that maybe they disband, and I said no, they will not. There are ridiculous house parties going on every weekend. This small BBQ isn't creating more issues in the afternoon than a late night party. I sat down to play cards with everyone and the cops left. They drove by just before dark, but didnt stop. I made sure to give them a wave. I never believed things like this happened. You hear about it, but until you see it yourself, it's hard to understand. I never felt so awkward in my life. You shouldn't need a middle aged white man as a passport in life, but it sure arose in this situation.

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- It asks about me, but what about how others are treated.
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- Hard to fill out because I know from trusted friends that they've not had good experiences, but I know mine are going to be different. Training seems to be king here.
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- All officers I have had contact with were very professional, polite, friendly and lovely people
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- I have had to call the police numerous times about problems with college students. My property was damaged several times, and the noise from across the street was deafening. I had a rapid response and the police officer who responded was friendly, caring, and considerate. I also always smile and wave to officers when they stop at a light or stop sign and they always wave and smile back.
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- I've called the PD relating to parking and late night noise issues. I'd like to see more regular patrols and warnings/citations relating to student parking. My driveway is repeatedly obstructed and students park on the wrong side of the street. In particular in the winter, students on my street have plenty of backyard parking which has not been cleared, so they still park in the street creating hazards. Perhaps the property owners should be fined for not maintaining their property. In any event, the student parking is a constant struggle.
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- I personally like and respect the Oneonta Police Department far more than the Oneonta State Police.
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- I called due to theft of mail and packages and was told I had to come to the station to file a complaint. Due to Covid safety and limited mobility in snow I could not get there. I should be able to file on the phone or online.
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- Mental Health, mental health, mental health. For cops, for those they come in contact with.
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- The police here are just eh. They aren't doing anything to be more than just average or below. They work for some people and dont for others. In my group, theres a lot of different interactions, and theres a theme of if you seem professional, they treat you differently.
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- I have had many positive interactions with officers in the Oneonta Police Department. The officers and detectives are always, professional, respectful, courteous, and they take matters seriously. I have no complaints!
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- I talked to one cop. He wasn't very professional, feeling like he had a like minded person he was talking to. I think he assumed I aligned with his statements. I should've said something, but I didn't. I just let him talk, and I wish I would've said something now. This is just one cop though. Don't know how the rest are.
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- I have had experiences with the police where they escalated the situation instead of controlled it and just made things worse instead of better.
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- I have no experience with the police
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- Would just like to see parking enforced better on East St and Woodside Ave. Other than that, im thankful for our police and love and respect them for all they do
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- Overall my experience with the Oneonta police has been good.
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- Ive heard stories from friends about these cops at bars. Not good stuff, like watch out for them stuff.
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- When do the police ride bicycles or walk anywhere??
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- The OPD is an amazing asset to this community and people need to listen to rules & laws and have respect for authority rather than have a tantrum. Take your feelings out and do the right thing. SUPPORT THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO PROTECT OUR SAFETY IN OUR CITY.
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- Years ago I was involved in an incident with police on bicycles. Myself, a friend from Africa, and a friend who was a professional working in Oneonta. They harassed us and claimed my professional friend was not who she claimed to be. She was taken into custody while I went to retrieve her I'd. We filed a harassment suit against the officers and I was extremely happy that the judicial system in oneonta actually sided with us and we won. It was obviously a racist confrontation by those bicycle police.
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- Opd is out here just trying to figure out who people are. They try to make contact with you just to figure out your name. I had a teacher say once that

we dont have to tell them if we havent done anything. We need to tell people this stuff. Im tired of the police just showing up in spaces where its not necessary, but you dont see them at anything in the community, that benefits the community other then enforcement

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- My personal experiences have been positive, but I am white and educated. I have heard many stories where this has not been the case. Same old same old. Training is required. Also, the force is in desperate need of more diversity.
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- The survey questions/ response options don't allow for me to categorize notable interactions. But hopefully this survey indicates a sincere desire to better serve the public. Thanks for trying.
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- I have found the OPD to always be respectful and helpful. Additionally, as a volunteer with a local youth organization, they have always been more than willing to accommodate our programing by providing tours, group talks, etc. I have a great deal of respect for the good that they do for our community.
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- This department is sad you should be ashamed to call yourselves officers, I've never met a more racist and immature department in my life. Your officers do coke and hang out with known drug dealers and you are racist towards black and brown community. A new chief won't cut it he's just as bad
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- I have always had positive interactions with the police department. I love seeing them around, makes everything seem safer. They are very nice, polite, considerate and seem to be genuinely interested in the safety of the community. I don't think that they get enough credit for the wonderful job they do. It's scary to be an officer today and I respect and commend them. Thank you for your service!
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- Question seemed biased. Worded negatively. Weren't neutral questions. Nothing about have you called and how did you feel they handled themselves.
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- When we first moved here in 2011, I felt officers were friendly and was nice to see them walk main st. Now they rarely are seen unless in their cars, don't engage in the community (when asked to assist downtown events, they seem almost annoyed) and no one even knows anything about the people we trust to protect us. Even the officers who watch the school crosswalk barely say hello.
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- Sometimes I've had good interactions. Sometimes I felt that the policeman I had contact with had already made up his mind without even checking on my side of the issue. Other than these times, I really have no sense of

who the police are, and what they do here in Oneonta. Oh, also given how much I hear the sirens, it makes me wonder if there isn't a little power trip with the sirens? (I'm not talking about the ambulances, I can see the police cars go by.)

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- All good thought from my side. Keep up the good work. You are very much appreciated!! Stay safe.
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- Looking forward to seeing what problems (if any) have been identified with the OPD through this process. I have the impression a lot of assumptions have been made about the department that are not true, so I am looking forward to seeing actual problems and issues identified in the department. The process seems flawed because it seems like the approach taken was that a hand-selected few made an underlying assumption that OPD and police are not doing a good job. Seems like you should identify actual issues within the department before you attempt to solve a problem. This has not been a process that followed an actual strategy or technique to solve a problem, rather this seems like a PR project (which is fine if that is the purpose). Not scientific. No transparency with the public (yet) regarding actual problems and issues in OPD. Last minute survey here so you can check that box? The work of the CAB isn't getting much acknowledgement from the community because the entire thing is flawed. It is not perceived as honest work, it is being perceived as a PR effort for people with certain views. One good thing all of this has brought about - I finally watched the documentary about the blacklist at SUCO. I note the largest institution at fault there was SUNY for violating state and federal law by disclosing confidential information of their students. OPD had a part too, to be clear, and it is never a bad idea to look back on that and remember what happened, and to prevent it from happening again. Public showings or access of that documentary might not be a bad idea, so people have a better sense about what happened right here in Oneonta.
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- I used to work for a collage rental company in Oneonta and the police were always nice
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- Awful people
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- Last time I called the police was for a noise complaint at a large college party occurring in the apartment next door to me. It was nearly midnight, there was screaming and shouting and the music sounded like it was in my living room. The cops came, yes they did treat me with respect but I feel like the situation could've been taken more serious and professionally. They buckled when questioned by the college students. "Well, did YOU hear us?" - "No" the police officer replied. It was in that moment I realized this was going to go nowhere. They did not enter the house and completely took the words of the college kids over mine, like that they're hanging out in a "common area" - yeah, private apartment buildings don't

have common areas. The second they left the noise resumed as if nothing happened. I've called the police multiple times in the past to assist with nuisance college kid behavior and almost every time I get treated as if I am the one committing the crime.

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- Thank you for doing this. My personal (white, male, cisish) interactions with OPD have been fine, but I've long been concerned for my neighbors, I've long heard complaints about lack of respect, and the department is long overdue for some real accountability and oversight. Thank you!
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- So, we have a comission of people, who have never been a Police Officer, who are going to tell our experienced Chief how to run a Police Department! How stupid are we!
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- A few years ago. I came out of our house and observed a male attempting to break into cars on our street. I went back inside and called the Oneonta Police. It wasn't Three minutes before they arrived and had the subject in custody. The response time was very comforting knowing had this been a life threatening situation help was only a couple minutes away.
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- I've been a victim of OPD several times! Years ago I was being stalked and harassed by a young officer who is my oldest daughters age, he knew me. When I called his supervisor to report the issue, I was basically called a liar. Nothing was done! I could definitely say more but I cannot due to fear of them knowing who I am, because it got much worse than I've stated! Another occasion, I wanted to report a theft of savings bonds. I was told that was a civil matter, yet on the form for stolen savings bonds, it asks for an attached POLICE REPORT! Three OPD officers came for the verbal altercation. I was then accused of punching another female family member, which I DID NOT DO! The female family member has a very unsatisfactory and lengthy criminal record. At the time I was accused of "hitting" this woman, I was actually taking my daughter's arm to leave. I was then grabbed by a large male officer, lifted off the ground by him and not put down after 25 feet and slammed into his car! The female officer's face was in bewilderment due the the male officers actions! I was placed in jail overnight! This incident had a severe emotional effect on me. I have to say that the female officers are very professional and understanding. They listen! There is one male officer that was very helpful to me also. It's hard to have respect for OPD after hearing that married officers having affairs on the job. This is a small "city" and nothing is a secret. I've also reported a theft years ago. I was told by the officer that he checked with my neighbors. Months later I asked my neighbors. 2 out of 3 apartments saw the theft. When I asked if they told the cop, they informed me that no OPD officer ever even showed up and asked! I have very little faith in OPD.
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- I have had interactions with the police at my job and at home. They have always been respectful and helpful. I have lived in Oneonta for almost 30 years and I believe in the past 20 years they have evolved with changes in culture climate well and have adjusted according when found lacking.
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- Socially, I've seen a confederate flag hanging in the home of an OPD officer. Further, I've seen the public social media accounts of OPD officers which lean very conservative and show little to no insight, empathy, or critical knowledge of contemporary issues of race, gender, and class. In addition, I know that off-duty OPD officers were directly responsible for a major outbreak of COVID-19 in Oneonta this fall, after visiting a crowded bar after international travel, which is unsurprising considering the OPD chief's refusal to wear a mask in front of the station as well as the complete lack of response toward college super spreader parties. These examples alone are concerning. Together, they are catastrophic. The Oneonta Police Dept shows little to no interest in public safety if it doesn't not reflect their direct values and I have very little confidence in their ability to assist in an emergency. This is a problem deeper than the sudden "retirement" of the chief. It reflects the hiring practices, culture, and training of Oneonta leadership which, unless addressed at the root will never be solved in a manner that reflects the best interest of Oneonta citizens and taxpayers.
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- 5 officers broke into my home without a warrant "looking for my boyfriend" completely out of nowhere. I opened my bedroom door to find a knee breaking through my front door. They broke my door into my apartment in the middle of winter that I had to pay out of pocket to fix. As they broke in I screamed that I had a dog that would try to protect me. One female officer was clearly terrified of dogs and gave me the chance to leash him- although the entire time I thought they would shoot him at any moment. Explain to me why 5 officers were needed to break into my apartment with no warrant. To find absolutely nothing. Thanks for traumatizing me and my dog for no reason whatsoever. Who do you protect exactly? Besides yourselves?
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- Officer Pondifino behaves like a clown. It's Oneonta, not an actual city and his attitude really comes across like someone trying to overcompensate.
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- Officers are always professional
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- Let's support our law enforcement officers! Give them what they need . Let's ask ourselves, how respectful are we as a community toward law enforcement? I do not believe in defunding the police, nor look upon the police as the bad person.
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- losing Doug Brenner could have effects

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- Most of the time I have had adequate to good interactions with the Oneonta police, but I believe this is because I am a white male. They have been relatively responsive when I've called to complain about noise from drunk students or report a minor crime (theft, car damage). On the other hand, I've been stopped a surprising number of times for no apparent reason or for minor traffic violations (less than 5 mph over the speed limit, burnt out tail light), and I've been ticketed so many times for being late moving my car during alternate side of the street parking. I am surprised that the police focus so much effort on traffic enforcement when there are bigger problems in this community.
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- I worked in a home for the mentally ill, and at their apts. We regularly had to ask OPD for assistance. They were arrogant & wouldn't actually assist unless it was dire, no in between. If called more than once for a particular person, they took it upon themselves to deem them a nuisance, were sarcastic, cold & arrogant. In other instances, if we felt someone was a danger to themselves or others, they would ask them if they felt that they were. If the residents said no. The police would shrug and leave. This included instances involving them starting fires, and threatening others with an axe. TBF, OPD officers had an unspoken agreement to downplay things with our supervisor as it made her look bad, and was more paperwork for them.
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- I have had several very positive contacts with OPD including a family member with mental illness and working with Lt. Brunner with NAMI several years ago. I have had police go above and beyond their their duty. Only one officer in over 20 years has been disrespectful, once during a traffic stop and twice stopping my husband as he was waiting for a bus (he is a local school professional). We did not report it but did write thank yours when officers were particularly helpful to us.
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- in all of my experiences with oneonta police i have felt like they didn't care about my concerns or well-being. I felt disrespected and ignored in the situations.
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- In 6th grade at Riverside Elementary School I remember DARE program and Officer Havens always came across as a police officer I could trust if something happened and would not be as bad as we've been seeing cops act. I still feel the Police Department could be do with more training and make sure it isn't going to get worse. Seeing the Police Lives Matter flags are upsetting but not nearly as awful as seeing the Confederate flag on a house across from Fox Hospital.
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- Enforce student gatherings during covid, enforce mask law on Main St., enforce snow emergency street clearance
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- My worst experience with OPD happened one night when a bunch of us were at greater plains, they chased us all through the woods and i had left my bag sitting by the swing set that had my phone, keys, and wallet in it. we came back to get it and saw that OPD had taken it. i went into the station and called multiple times to talk with the detectives who were “on the case” and they said they couldn’t return my things because it was part of an “ongoing investigation”. I ended up having to get our family lawyer to help with the situation and it took over a week to get my bag back. and the icing on the cake was that they must’ve tried unlocking my phone as I found a pic in my camera roll of what looked like the back of the station where they sit at their desks.
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- I deal with the police because of my grandson. There seem to always be an issue but then nothing happens. Just leave him be.
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- My biggest concern with the Oneonta Police is that they are more involved in students lives in college then the town of Oneonta. I have seen people who actually live in the area harass students just because we are students. Yet students are the majority being g hunted down by the cops. They aren’t the dangerous ones (for the most part).
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- After living in Oneonta until just recently, I can say that I have never had a good experience with Oneonta Police and I have never been in trouble with them during any interaction.
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- I believe OPD does a great job . although I personally wish west Broadway area would get more attention especially with speeding vehicles .the beer barrel bar also. Very noisy during summer and alot of activities behind the bar .drugs and crowds gathering out of sight due to covid
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- The OPD do an excellent job but should be allowed to walk the Main Street more often to stop the drug dealings. They need our full support as they are risking their lives for the safety of our community. Between the college kids and drugs around town they are very busy. They are doing a great job.
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- An officer recently came to my house inquiring about a loose dog. He was very polite, but his Blue Lives Matter mask really put me off. I think a full discussion of how strongly many residents may feel about this is in order. It made me trust him less, and has altered my feelings about the police, which is a shame.
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- I would like to recognize that my experiences with OPD as a straight, white man may not be indicative of their overall conduct. Specifically when dealing with minorities or LGBTQ+ individuals.
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- It's gross that the gorge floyd memorial was taken down.

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- If the police had better communication, better media presence, people would feel like they cared more. The only thing you hear about is them being out at the local bars and not wearing masks. If they did other things, people would be talking about better things.
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- Growing up, I thought Oneonta was a relatively safe place. Now as an adult, I realize that I felt safe because of who I was-- a white female in a well known family. I was a careless teen, and got away with more than most due to who I was and who my family is. I know others who did not have the same luxury I had, and faced harder or harsher punishment due to their financial situation or race. Literally have been in situations where nothing was happening and police approached due to "suspicious behavior", but NOTHING illegal was taking place, literally just sitting at the park. Then the officer noticed me, and either stated I should leave because "this isn't you" or the situation went from "suspicious" to "oh, you're here, well nothing bad could be taking place then." Honestly, that alone is one of the reasons I left Oneonta and have not come back. The police force is based on political and financial standings-- know the right people or pay the right price, and you can get out of it. It's bullshit. It has been years since I've called Oneonta my home, but I know not much as changed, and if anything it has gotten worse.
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- I no longer live in Oneonta, had some bad experiences in the past with OPD, I'm just hoping it's improved in the last 3 years.
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- Please don't fall into the Defund The Police hype. Our local LEOs are fantastic and they do a great service for our community.
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- I feel that there are some very good police on the OPD and that they do a great job when they come to the elementary schools for drills, etc., I have had positive interactions with some of the officers, especially the females. I also feel that there are some who have "big egos" and can be disrespectful. I was very disappointed when I heard that many officers were involved in the Copper Fox "super spreader" and were having social gatherings without masks. They need to be role models in our community. They have a tough job and I appreciate the sacrifices they (and their families) make everyday. I hope we can improve relations between the OPD and the community.
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- I work in the city of Oneonta and forgot to add that I called the police when concerned about the behavior of a customer in the business and was assisted by the person on the phone to handle the incident well.
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- They have been good to me and my family
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- Like any place we have some good, some bad & some just do the job. Most my encounters have been good. I do not think race is an issue in our City. The Chief was a great guy, what a loss for the City. The police can be seen intoxicated & acting above the law in the bars often. Oddly some police officers seem to have vanished with no public explanation, a detective Sargent (the lead on the arson/murder) and the Pondofino guy?
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- Since I am white and able-bodied I do not think the police would find reason to interact with me, so I do not have any personal experiences. However, there were several police or police related instances that I heard of happening over the past couple of months, which I found to be unprofessional. Chief Brenner's email response to the Black Lives Matter memorial that was installed for a few weeks this summer was absolutely despicable. He tried to foster division through that kind of communication. The memorial was lovely and so successful it was also installed in Cooperstown! This made him look like a partisan fool who cannot make solid, rational decisions that are best for the community and the surrounding area. Then the retired cops who engaged in online bullying of the common council member who requested that the thin blue line flag be taken down are also incredibly despicable. I would like for their retirement benefits to be taken away as a result of such terrible behavior. But I know nothing will happen to them and that disgusts me. I am also incensed that any of the police officers thought it was ok to go out in public without a mask on, during a pandemic! The fact that they had to be formally told to wear a mask is yet another despicable issue that I have seen of this police department. Due to their support of the thin blue line flag I am very concerned about their partisan allyship with Trump and can't help but to wonder how many of them agreed with (or even attended) the Capitol riot and how many believe the lies about the election spouted by Trump. How am I to feel safe seeing cops in this town whenever I suspect, due to their actions and behaviors, that they are supportive of the worst politician and anti-democratic oligarch in US history?
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- Things have improved over my 20 years of living in Oneonta. When living in the 6th Ward, I had an upsetting encounter when a police officer repeatedly yelled at an old man with dementia. I found the man wandering at 2am in the dead of winter and I called the police. One of the officers was extremely rude, disrespectful, and unreasonable. This encounter has made me hesitant to contact police, even now. However, I also had encounters that went really well both back then, and more recently. I am hoping this indicates an improved department. Some officers are extremely helpful, kind, and respectful. Thank you for your service.
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- I do not want OPD in my neighborhood
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- While I have mainly only had traffic stop interactions with police and although some of them weren't very friendly at least they behaved

professionally and in most cases I was glad they told me my tail light was out (example) which I didn't know. But I had an experience where I asked about handicapped parking at an event in Neawha park and was treated very very rudely (even their partner looked surprised.) I was only asking on behalf of a blind passenger of mine who would have had trouble navigating uneven ground, not for myself. But was told very snidely "NO, you'll just have to walk." But, in general as much as I used to feel safe seeing police patrol when I was younger, now I feel like oh no, are they looking for reasons to stop someone? Are they looking to give out tickets? Anyway, just my thoughts. I feel like officers are not as friendly as they used to be years ago and seem more intimidating.

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- Being a white, professional, privileged person I have always had good rapport with the police department. I have not walked in the shoes of a black person or a mentally ill person or a drunk person. Incidents I have witnessed of police intervention with any of the above persons has always been positive, but I have heard stories where the intervention has not always been positive. There is always room for improvement.
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- I made my ratings based on the most recent encounter. That encounter was a good experience for me. The crime wasn't solved to no fault of the officer but I feel that I was treated with respect and empathy. However, I have had other interactions that were not so good, 2 experiences that I can think of off the top of my head. Where I was treated with disrespect even though I was doing everything that the officer asked me to do. I was belittled because the officer was trying to get information out of me that wasn't true so I was treated with sarcastic remarks that were very unprofessional. I never filed a report even though I should have because it would be my word against theirs.
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- It's come to my attention recently that the Oneonta City Police want what amounts to a TANK. I think that the police should be LESS militarized, not more, and rather than playing wargames for adults and furthering an Us versus Them mentality in the community (I saw that thin blue line flag flying), I think that such funds would be better appropriated for the unhoused in this community, or those who would benefit from structural rehab services.
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- I think training is helpful and needed although it does nothing to change the individual opinions which lead to bias toward marginalized groups which I know for a fact exist among many members of OPD.
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- On duty they have only been respectful to me but I know they do not treat the colored members of our community in the same way
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- I know that me being white helps me. I know that others dont get that benefit. I just dont know how to fix it.

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- I had a conversation with a young officer over the summer about BLM. I asked a lot of questions trying to understand their point of view. It scares me that this officer has many of the opinions they do. It scares me that when I asked if they hear coworkers make jokes/comments that are off color, it was confirmed that they often make jokes that the officer was certain I would find offensive, but weren't actually offensive. It scares me that I have heard more than one officer refer to certain areas of town, or groups of people, as "trash" or "worthless". It scares me that this officer, and by proxy I assume the ones they worked with and idolized, believe that groups of people (be it race or income level) were hopeless and would certainly make calls that were a waste of officers time. It scares me that the department did nothing to stop the back the blue parade that interrupted traffic and caused many near accidents as it passed me. It scares me that when I asked for a suggestion on a book that they needed to read from their training, or one that was passed around the precinct that could help me understand where they are coming from, I was instead shown several Facebook memes and they couldn't name a single book they needed to read in order to become experts in their field. I'm scared that they told me I was lying when I told them about national statistics surrounding policing, and the origins of policing in this country (re: slave catching). How could they not know these things? Maybe I'm just scared, or maybe Oneonta will be the next place made famous through policing led by small uneducated minds.
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- All of my encounters with the OPD have been positive and professional. Ranging from traffic stop, to as a business owner dealing with loitering, or recovering stolen property, all have been good experiences.
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- Called the police because of issues with some college students. I was basically brushed off. I've never seen one off duty, but they can't be any better than when they are wearing a badge.
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- I live in the town of Oneonta but work in the city. I have only had contact with them through my work at the hospital but have never had any issues. The officers are respectful and helpful. I believe police officers get a bad reputation in this town and it is upsetting to me. I think they go above and beyond and do a great job. I feel safe in town and at work. I don't know any officers personally and have never seen them in a social situation so can't reply to those questions. In my opinion, they do great work and I respect them and the work they do. Keep up the great work! Susan Northcraft
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- Like most police departments, they need to rid the ranks of those over zealous, cowboy type officers. Officers are NOT above the law and that needs to be instilled in them. They have their own privately owned vehicles that have expired registrations and inspection stickers, to name

just a few issues and give others tickets for the same. It only takes a few bad apples to ruin the rest. There are a lot in is country right now that does not like Police and will continue to fight against them. There needs to be more acceptance of others. Small communities need a good working police department and one that the community trusts. Our police are pretty good, but like everything else there are improvements to be made.

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- this questionnaire is silly. the whole point of the governors mandate is to address police use of force issues. not if a cop said please and thankyou... silly waste of time.
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- Why cant we keep a police chief? Why are officers going around without masks on? Just curious
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- As a white middle aged upper middle class heterosexual woman I feel the officers are arrogant and behave poorly in interactions with the exception of a few officers. Jennifer Torres is the only one I would commend for behaving professionally.
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- Regarding the question about training, I answered yes to all because I feel regardless of a person's work/job, training around serving underrepresented or marginalized people is ALWAYS necessary because there is always room to learn, improve, or language is changing and we need to keep people informed!
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- I walk around town or i ride my bike a lot and i see them on their phones driving. I saw the cops try to move two homeless dudes once. The cops were just yelling at them and being mean.
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- First I would not know what to think if I saw police on patrol as they as far as I know do neither foot or bike patrol. When I have had the necessity to call the police to take care of a disturbance they usually try to not come take care of it. With comments such as what do you want us to do for two women fighting on sidewalk, folks having sex in the window with curtains wide open several times, I have also called in regards to lack of face mask on Main st with large groups of college students. Before they went home for the holidays and when they came back. I do not understand why tickets can't be issued for this offense. One question is why are the college students treated with kid gloves. The 10% (which is about 700 bodies) that do not follow city guidelines and are disrespectful to our community will continue unless there are consequences for their actions. Shame on us if we do not hold them accountable. I believe the police are being asked to be social workers and that should not be their job. There are programs in other cities which address this problem. The homeless and folks with addictions and mental illnesses need a different type of help. Finally I want to thank everyone on the force. Going to work everyday and not knowing what you will run into is very dangerous and emotionally

draining. I would love to see foot and/or bike patrols again. Knowing the people in your community would be beneficial for them and you. I think we can all be better.

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- Last Fall, OPD did a fine job of locating the person who was attempting to take neighbors' cats believing they were stray in the Center City area.
-
- How do i take the people getting drunk at the bar with me seriously? Some of them are racist. They say racist things, jokes, comments. Im not sure that they understand it is racist, but it is. They joke on women and act like the women they try to bag owe them something.
-
- OPD has a huge reputation issue, including things like the black list from decades ago, the incidents years back with officers having sex with intoxicated women in their cruisers while on duty, officers falling asleep at the wheel while on duty and crashing their cruiser (Did the same guy do that twice?), even hiring the interim chief a while back and bringing in someone from outside the community for a temporary position was a huge waste of money. And all of this while OPD are some of the highest paid city employees, many making about (or above) \$100k in 2020. They say if you need to find a cop in Oneonta, the best place to call is the Copper Fox.
-
- My only concern about the OPD is we may have more cops then we need. In the combined city/town we have OPD, SUNY police, NYS police, town constabulary, and deputy sheriff's. That's a lot of cops for a small town.
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- Extra funding should be provided for more training. Training, training, training.
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- I am disappointed in this survey. "Other" is not offered as an answer choice. This is the only opportunity for open-ended feedback. I do not think that responses to this survey, as currently constituted, should have much influence on the Commission's decision-making.
-
- Some complaints need to be taken more seriously by OPD as a whole. In general I am very happy with OPD. I would like to see more community policing again, however, if possible. I wish there was more funding for the department.
-
- Not one experience in particular, but as an older, white woman, I have always felt "fine" (respected/protected) but I DO know that other citizens do not and that is a problem. I seriously respect what an honorable police officer does for a living. It amazes me that someone would rush in when a person's instinct is to run away. However, I'm aware that people of color are afraid when they see police. I know how the police started and it has never moved far enough away from that. Police departments need to be reformed in order to be able to serve all of the citizens fairly. There are too

many things put in their basket and that is part of the reform. AS a white, older woman, *I* am not afraid. As the mother of a disabled son, however, I AM now afraid for his life if God forbid there was ever a need and I am SO THANKFUL that there has never been an instance where I felt the need to ask for assistance. I feel like, if someone came here in a law breaking capacity and I needed to call the police, MY SON, possible victim of a crime, could end up shot to death because he may not be able to comply, due to his disability, while they "get things straightened out". I am acutely aware that, no matter how afraid I am for my son's life at the hands of police, it would be much worse if we were people of color.

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- We don't give them enough credit! They are doing tremendously amazing with the resources given and the guidance from local government regulations! Which limits them to be able to do more. They could be doing so much more but laws prohibit them!
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- Thank you
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- This is tough. Im not really worried for myself but people who dont look like me. I cant believe I dont know how to file a complaint if I needed to. The City of Oneonta Police Department facebook page makes me nervous too. Youd think itd be for keeping people in the know, but really its for people to write mean comments and the department posts things that eggs them on in a way.
-
- I had something stolen from me. Went down to report it and the officer went on a rant about the poor people and "those" people on drugs. How "those" kind of people disgust him with what they're willing to do. I just let him talk, mostly because I couldn't believe my ears. I hadnt even told him yet, I knew who took it. It wasnt a poor person or someone on drugs. If thats how hes going to present our city to other citizens, and his own beliefs, they need some training. I left feeling really badly for anyone poor or on drugs that would have to deal with him.
-
- A police officer goes through rigorous testing, interviews, and background checks to get hired. They then go through approximately a year of training in order to become a full fledged officer. After that comes continuous training and seminars. After multiple successful years on the job they are again tested and interviewed to become supervisors. After many more years, tests, and interviews they move into the upper echelon positions such as Lieutenant and Chief. After years of tests, interviews, trainings, and seminars... A committee is then formed by a group of know nothing and no experience citizens using senseless surveys to try to figure out how to tell these brave men and women how to do their jobs? You should be ashamed of yourselves for your arrogance and ignorance. You want to change policing? Put on a uniform, put a badge on your chest, and be the change you want to see. If you don't have the intestinal fortitude to do

what these men and women do I suggest you sit down, shut up, and enjoy the blanket of safety and freedom they sacrifice for.

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- When there is a more minor issue - ie theft of lawn items, public safety concern - that isn't an immediate threat, it sometimes can feel like an inconvenience when speaking to the dispatchers. This is especially true if its something untraditional, and it may not fall in their normal list of duties. It would be good if they knew how to refer out vs just say they can't help.
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- I do believe that my being a, older white woman has afforded me leeway in never having to have dealt with the City of Oneonta police department. There seems to be a secession of chiefs and officers for varying issues that have nothing to do with the working conditions of our city. We have a low violence/murder rate. This should be a fairly comfortable job not worrying about going to work and being killed. Yet our force is understaffed and as Ive heard, sharing COVID with others.
- I was stopped for a dim headlight. The officer was rude and probing until I let him know where I worked. He let me leave with a warning, however the next morning I took my vehicle to the dealership to have professionald inspect the headlights and there were no issues. I carry a letter from the dealership incase this happens again.
-
- Oneonta PD has great leadership and goes above and beyond.
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- Don't go looking for trouble that doesn't exist. We are lucky to have our police force and they are wonderful. Stop trying to turn this into something it isn't and never has been. The city pays them crap, won't fill positions and argues about what flag they fly outside their own building. Yet if we call them they come. They do their job and they do it well.
-
- OPD is reckless. They're out with no masks on. They have no respect, out at the bars making women uncomfortable. They drive drunk and everyone sees it and knows it, but nothing happens. They are young and join right in with the college life environment. My husband and I have been pulled over on "fishing" expeditions when there was no reason to pull us over. They questioned our rental car once. They said they saw us driving a different car, and when we got the rental to go visit family far away and its free miles, they pulled us over, and made comments about how we could afford multiple nice cars,and we explained its a rental. They were then asking why we needed to rent a car. I don't think its any of their business. People rent cars everyday, and obviously they had been watching us though we've never been arrested.
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- Situations like seeing an off duty officer speeding down 88 in their convertible or observing many officers coming into the Copper Fox and taking unopened beer cans out of their pockets to drink at the bar makes

you question their values. It also gives an impression that they're above the law.

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- I'd like to see more patrols through the neighborhoods 10pm-6am especially Thursdays Friday and Saturdays nights 10pm-6am !
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- My only interactions with police have been calling them to break up college parties in my neighborhood - so pretty limited. I believe that as a white person in Oneonta, my experience is likely different than my neighbors who are Black or people of color. Hopefully the committee and the city of Oneonta will consider implementing a crisis response team to have more trained professionals (like social workers and counselors) respond to mental health checks instead of police. An example of Eugene, OR's program like this can be found here: <https://whitebirdclinic.org/what-is-cahoots/>
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- OPD is the best! Very concerned about their city and love their residents! GO OPD! I would like to mention 1 officer who went above and beyond the call of duty - Sgt. Chris Catapano
-
- Absolutely the best in police work, they're underpaid, unappreciated and demonized at the drop of a hat when it's convenient for the city or politics. Yet never once have they failed to protect, serve, or care for the city. I've had first hand dealings alongside and even on the business end of the police and not once did I ever feel that they weren't the best example of professionalism you could find. Simply put, oneonta is best represented by them, we could all only hope to be the kind of people worthy of their protection.
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- Given the police chief's tweets, I hope someone is checking officers for connections to the insurrection attempt.
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- Someone was murdered last year on the train tracks on river street. No one talks about it. Police didnt put anything out about it. Why is no one talking about a murder and why are police keeping it quiet when they went around questioning people in houses around the tracks? OPD acts like a fraternity. The One officer thats a minority has the worst behaviors and attitude. He makes racist jokes, makes fun of homeless people, and people with drug problems.
-
- I believe the Oneonta Police department has done good things, but there is room for improvement. I feel like since nothing crazy has happened the OPD believes that being stagnant is acceptable. OPD officers are humans and some of them do make mistakes but as a whole department when mistakes are made they need to be held accountable and at least acknowledge that there was a mistake made and at least apology and do what is right. Furthermore, it makes me uneasy when I know that our

Police Chief thought the memorial of black and brown men, women, and children who were wrongfully murdered, was “divisive.” The Police department can have memorials for fallen officers, but POC can’t. I just believe that ego and pride is getting in the way of change. Unity is possible, but it all starts with us. The OPD can do better, our community can do better, the people can do better. We need to have a unity march where the police and all the citizens of Oneonta can come together!

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- It is difficult to take OPD seriously as a department with all of the negative behavior that has occurred by Officers in the past. I know that it is unfair to judge one person by another’s actions, but covering up inappropriate behavior, or relieving officers (who should be arrested for their behavior) and letting them move on to serve in another community is just plain wrong. It reeks of covering up so that the community will not know that, once again, our community standards have been violated by an Officer of the law. There are so many hardworking LEOs in Oneonta, and it is sad that people, like myself, develop a sense of wariness over whether any can be trusted. Hoping for a better future void of rumors that are more than likely true so that the true greatness of many in OPD shines through.
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- I believe that I always get the benefit of the doubt because I am a professional, white woman. I work with many people as a Human Services worker who have not experienced the same treatment. People with mental health and substance abuse disorders need a different kind of professional approach and interventions. I have heard similar stories of how they are laughed at or dismissed. I believe there is a real expectations of inferior and rough treatment for folks with these conditions as well as for people of other races and cultures. As a community, we need to do a better job of engaging in better dialogue and holding law enforcement accountable when they abuse their authority. No one should feel belittled, ignored or fear for their safety when they reach out for help.
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- My mom got out of the car to break up a fight on Main Street in front of speedway. Cops were sitting at speedway, just watching. Never came. I was also in the car when they pulled my mom over once by ops. It was very uncomfortable. They act like bosses, but when a cop came up to the car when we were lost in Cooperstown, they really seemed like they just wanted to help. I asked my teacher and she said Cooperstown has community policing. Maybe we should do that.
-
- I have lived in Oneonta off and on from 1979- to present. My experience as a student then as a parent with the police have been a journey. Not good at all. I Don't trust the Oneonta police department. I find them to be racist and rude!
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- Thanks for your service
-

- I'm generally afraid to call the police because of demonstrated racial, class, gender, and homophobia and transphobic bias of the police so I don't want to victimize anyone further. However, when I did have to call the police once because I was worried someone was being hurt in a domestic incident with children involved, they didn't take it seriously and acted annoyed that they had to come out twice to break up what was a loud, frightening threatening exchange in front of my house (I have children too). They acted hassled and rude about the entire thing. To their credit, though, when they did finally come out and stop the belligerent man from threatening his family, they did appear to be relatively gentle and kind with the children and relatively decent with the man who was being threatening. Still, it was an overall negative experience, but what do you expect from the "brothers of the blacklist" documentary city?
- I feel that in general police in this area, Otsego and Delaware County do not have a great degree of life experience with anyone who is not white. Understandable, but also unfortunate because this can only lead to misunderstandings when interacting with non-white residents. I will also say that I would be VERY surprised if a significant number of Oneonta police officers were not sympathizers with (or even active) white-supremacists. You may wonder
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- I am not an Oneonta resident! I attend church in Oneonta and often (pre covid) shop downtown. My interaction with OPD is limited but for the most part they are doing their job!!
-
- Thank you for all you do!!
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- While I myself am white, I have witnessed multiple occasions of singling-out, for lack of a better term, of some of my POC friends. End the war on drugs; focus on rehabilitation as opposed to punishment. Stop enforcing unjust laws, particularly where minorities are disproportionately affected, which are non-violent first time offenders.
-
- Ive been in multiple situations where OPD has targeted a car ive been in. They pull us over to find nothing. Trying to get everyones names and ids. The officers act like they hate theyre job and it shows. Theyre always in the bars hitting on college aged women. In the past an opd officer had sex with one in a patrol car. They act like the own the city and we just live here.
-
- They seem to care more about parking violations and nailing people sometimes than being assimilated into the community.
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- I felt confident with the police force until the chief started making public comments about the Black Lives Matters Movement. It showed that he both didn't listen to people of color and wasn't sympathetic to our very real struggles.

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- I do not remember the last time I saw a Oneonta Police officer walking around my neighbor on patrol. But being friends with some of the officers, I know that if I need an answer to something, I can ask them and they will give me the correct answer. I was stopped and questioned about an attack on someone. They gave the description of a red truck driving away. I own a maroon truck and got stopped when I pulled into my parking lot. I never once felt like my life was in danger (I'm a mixed race guy whose about 290-300 pounds standing 6 foot), I knew one of the officers and we easily talked it out and they realized I wasn't who they were looking for. It also helped I was in Albany that particular day.
-
- Officer did not wear mask during traffic stop and gave confusing instructions that meant I missed a deadline for avoiding a fine. Also, I once witnessed multiple officers show up to respond to a call somebody made about an unhoused person peeing in a park. She was in great mental distress and kept trying to explain to the 1st officer who showed up that it was because no one was offering public restrooms because of COVID and she had nowhere to go. Others showed up to just stand there, which made the situation more tense. I couldn't hear the whole conversation, but she was clearly upset, and while they managed not to escalate things totally out of control, at least one of them was very patronizing, and the end result appeared to be that they gave her a ride somewhere and an appearance ticket. It wasn't the worst thing that could happen, but it was still shameful how little was achieved to actually resolve the situation instead of just punishing her.
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- OPD is very much appreciated
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- I know community members of color who have been repeatedly pulled over or questioned by officers in the city of Oneonta way more frequently than white residents. Similar experiences with people in addiction recovery.
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- None. Thank you.
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- I feel they could benefit immensely with training in gender and race issues and I have heard they spend a lot of time drinking at the Fox. They don't think rules apply to them - heard they drink and drive and they let friends and family get away with that too often.
-
- I've had good and bad experience with OPD. More training/education is necessary.
-
- I don't think comments should be allowed on the police Facebook page.
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- I have seen first hand specific officers target and harass people of color. On the other hand I have had very pleasant interactions with many officers. There is a need to weed out the racists and ignorant officers... Any training won't help if it hasn't already. Most are over 30, if they spent 30 years a racist, I doubt any new information can change that. With smart phones and information at our finger tips, their racism is obviously a choice not lack of knowledge
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- While I have had neutral to good experiences with police in Oneonta, I am white and look straight and female. I am not surprised that this is the case. However, when I have been with folks who are different from that interactions have varied.
- What happened to Detective Collison? What happened to officer Pondofino? Chief Brenner was a good level headed non racists Chief - huge loss! Council to involved in operations!
-
- The older police are not ethical. They are snakes. Make there own rules. They are trusted by local governments so they know they can get away with more crap. They pick and choose who they want to arrest. Always the black man. But yet the white people run free. Newer cops who have finished training are nice. Last few encounters have been nice with them. Unfortunately the fear of the older once's makes you hate them. We tell our kids they are bad. To not trust them. We need them to know the truth. Not all cops are good. Unfortunately Wittenberg is now left it charge and he's the biggest liar and snake in the department
-
- Off duty officers were seen without masks drinking in a crowded bar at the beginning of the covid outbreak after warnings had been issued. Very unprofessional.
-
- Slow to respond to calls about gatherings that are loud/breaking city laws/code. Have been told 'don't worry about it' when calling in parties and drunken people walking in the street; then not seeing any officers respond.
-
- Do more about loud/ drunk / belligerent students and bar flies downtown. Student rentals are allowed to destroy the public peace.
-
- Inappropriate comments/jokes from officers off-duty at a social event. Ex. Racist, sexist, and homophobic
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- XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX part of this comment is hidden to provide anonymity. Oneonta police department treated me, my husband, and my tenants with disrespect, complaining in writing XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX to defame people based on ethnicity and social class. Lies and false information were released by the police department related to the property and us, the owners. In February 2 of 2019, a police officer told one of my

tenants that he has to move because “ no matter what the owner does, the owner never will be okay to keep the tenants “. The police officers were treating my tenants with sarcasm, discrimination, disrespectful. Police department should never be serving the administration of the city, that was breaking the law for so many years in Oneonta,NY. Outsiders and black people are treated unfairly and that’s unacceptable. Glad to take this survey and hope that you learn something from that.

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- My last experience with OPD was when I was leaving my friends house at night after the police came due to a noise complaint. Three of my friends walked by them first, and when I did they put their flashlights in my face and started to ask me questions such as my name and age. I chose to refrain from answering any questions, and they continued to say “You really think that’s a good idea? Ignoring us” with a weird attitude when saying it. In this moment I was fearful but it only got worse. As I had continued walking I went over two streets on my way back to where I needed to go, and the patrol vehicle slowly drove by me as I was walking. The passenger in the vehicle had the window down and shined the flash light on me as they slowly strolled by. It was a really scary situation and I was unsure what was going to happen to me. Instead of feeling safe, I felt the opposite.
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- Off duty police officers have made me - a young woman, and my friends- uncomfortable at bars.
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- After seeing the social media posts of Chief Brenner I am very uncomfortable about the overall state of the police department. It makes me wonder about the viewpoints of the officers in total and brings up the insidious nature of white supremacy and white privilege. Being a white, heterosexual, cisgender female, I know for a fact these aspects have impacted my interactions with the police because I am not a minority in almost any way. I am uncomfortable for my friends and family who are of a minority and am concerned that unconscious OR conscious biases will impact their treatment. Please note that I do NOT hate the police, but I think there is ALWAYS room for improvement in any job or field, and the police and law enforcement are certainly not above reproach. I would respect them so much more if they would take responsibility and put in the work to better themselves and their relationship with the community they have sworn to protect and serve. Thank you for your time and consideration!
-
- I have had always had extremely professional and outstanding interactions, where they went above and beyond for myself personally, my friends, and my family.
-
- The culture of the OPD is filled with that of classism, racism and misogyny. Officer show little regard to the overall well-being of the

community members they are policing and prioritize emphasizing their power. Most concerning of all, officers, who may not exhibit these characteristics, idly stand by and watch as their peers, partners and superiors use methods of intimidation and abuse of power on individual requiring their services. All this coupled with the overwhelming work load require of officers is a recipe for disaster- which sadly will effect the most vulnerable members of our community.

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- The police need to remember that their actions, on duty and off duty, online and in person, are judged by people in the community. Online negative commentary on their part will only serve to sow public distrust in their ability to uphold the law in a neutral manner.