



Town of Wallkill Police Department

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
January 13, 2017

Incident: Implicit Bias Training – Media Briefing
Location: Town of Wallkill Police Station, Office of Emergency Management, 99 Tower Drive, Building B, Town of Wallkill, N.Y.
Date/Time: January 12, 2017 / 5:00 pm

On Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 5:00 pm, Chief Robert C. Hertman of the Town of Wallkill Police Department hosted a media conference at the Police Department's Office of Emergency Management. The well attended conference included, among others, Town of Wallkill Supervisor Dan Depew, Deputy Chief Antonino Spano, Dr. Bryant Marks, and Town of Wallkill Police Department Community Council President Barbara Alvarez.

During the media conference Chief Hertman and Supervisor Depew announced that the Police Department has implemented Implicit Bias training. The Department became aware of this training when Chief Hertman attended an August 16, 2016 White House briefing on the Final Report of The President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. In the course of this briefing, Implicit Bias training was presented as one way law enforcement agencies can develop specialized knowledge and understanding that enable fair and procedurally just policing.

Recent research has shown that everyone experiences some degree of implicit bias. Implicit Bias is the unconscious associations we make between groups of people and stereotypes about those groups. Additionally, research has revealed that potential effects of implicit bias may be mitigated after officers are trained to identify any biases they have and recognize when it may be creeping into their situational awareness. Accordingly, we enlisted Dr. Bryant Marks Sr., a nationally recognized expert, to provide this training. Beginning on January 12, 2017, each of the Department's uniformed officers and supervisors will attend the 8 hour training over the course of 2 days.

Implicit Bias training is critical to the mission of this Department because it reaffirms our commitment to police our community in a manner that is fair, impartial and procedurally just. Additionally, as our community becomes more diverse, it has become increasingly important that our officers be sensitive to and tolerant of differences.

Robert C. Hertman
Chief of Police

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