



VAN BUREN

CHARTER TOWNSHIP

For Immediate Release

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VBT JOINS PARTNERSHIP FOR PROGRESS: A LISTENING TOUR OF WESTERN WAYNE COMMUNITIES

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, Mich., June 19, 2020- The Township joins the NAACP and more than a dozen other Wayne County Communities and Police Departments to host listening tours following weeks of protests, since the death of George Floyd.

"This is an important time in our community and transparency is paramount. We're dedicated to hearing our community and doing everything we can to keep our community safe," said Supervisor Kevin McNamara.

On Tuesday, June 16, 2020 the Conference of Western Wayne (CWW) hosted a press conference with chief elected officials from each of the 18 member communities. Van Buren Township's Public Safety Director, Greg Laurin said, "The action we saw in Minnesota from the officers were grotesque, inhuman and just wrong. This is not how we conduct ourselves in Van Buren Township. We treat everyone, who comes into contact with our staff, all equally with dignity and respect."

The first Listening Tour event will be held at Clarenceville High School: 20155 Middlebelt Rd Livonia, MI 48152 on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 6 p.m.

During the event community members to be able to ask police and elected officials questions, share stories and offer ideas for solutions and change. Community members who register can submit proposed questions and/or statements in advance. The Listening Tour meetings are an extension of ongoing discussions that recently began between Western Wayne police chiefs and the Western Wayne County NAACP.

“We realized that for far too long, many members of the community felt like they have not been heard by the elected officials and law enforcement in their communities. The recent killing of unarmed Black people and the resulting global protest says it is time to do something different,” said Gina Wilson Steward, Western Wayne County NAACP President.

The event will be moderated by Daicia Price, LMSW, a member of the Detroit-Wayne County Crisis Intervention Team, which supports collaborative efforts to sustain more effective interactions between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

To accommodate social distancing required due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the event is limited to 100 people attending in-person, and PPE will be provided. There are no restrictions on who can attend, but in order to ensure COVID-19 safety and compliance, you must be pre-registered at www.c-w-w.org

This CWW bi-partisan Board works collectively to discuss mutual issues, share information and generally improve the quality of life for the nearly 700,000 residents who live in the area. Communities include Cities of Belleville, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Romulus, Wayne & Westland, the Townships of Canton, Huron, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Sumpter & Van Buren. These communities have been working together regionally to enhance Wayne County for over 35 years.

The Van Buren Township Listening Tour Events is to be determined. For more information visit www.c-w-w.org.

You can find images of the press conference online here:

<https://mivanburentwp.smugmug.com/WWC-Listening-Tour-Announcement/>

Please credit all images to Van Buren Township and/or tag @mivanburen-mi.org on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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