

Cheryl Hayward

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To: Hercules, Hazeldene A., cedric.alexander@cityofrochester.gov, Chief Michael Ciminelli, adam.mcfadden@cityofrochester.gov, Carolee Conklin, Dana Miller, Elaine Spaul, Jacklyn Ortiz, Loretta Scott, Matt Haag, Michael Patterson, Molly Clifford

Cc: Lt. Henry Favor, Grace O'Neil, Frank Liberti

CDS's response to The Force Institute Training of RPD officers

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor, City Council Members and Chief Ciminelli,

It is the Center For Dispute Settlement's hope that any training offered to RPD officers will enhance their ability to become *less dependent* on use of force techniques (in all situations) when interacting with citizens. That is why we have recommended training that lends to the development of de-escalation techniques along with improved communication and decision making skills for all local law enforcement officials. We recognize that officers are held to a higher standard and we work to insure accountability for their actions – whether justified or unjustified. The proposed Force Science Institute training being offered to local law enforcement officers raises concern that the focus of the training may lessen an officer's reliance on de-escalation skills by providing explanations for justifying the use of excessive force.

The Center continues to encourage all local, county, and state-level law enforcement agencies in the 8 county NY State 7th Judicial District to adopt policies, procedures and practices that: are consistent with fair and professional law enforcement; support effective and constitutional policing; promote increasingly respectful police and community relations; and are responsive to community needs.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Hayward

Program Director, Police & Community Relations

The Center for Dispute Settlement

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...peace it together...