The Center for Law and Justice sincerely appreciates the many hours of volunteer service dedicated to the production of recommendations related to policies, standard operating procedures and general orders in transforming policing in the City of Albany. The short time frame provided for submission of public comment on all five working groups’ drafts (less than one week) precludes a policy-specific review of the very comprehensive draft produced by this working group.

However, the Center would like to offer a recommendation that speaks to future policy implementation activities. While the working group’s efforts produced a thorough examination of the current Albany Police Department policies, there should be a new process for the development, implementation, and monitoring of policies produced or modified in the future. The Center reiterates the suggestion in our November 23, 2020 letter to the working group that the reinvented policing plan should include a provision that all such policies or modifications be reviewed and approved by the Albany Community Policing Advisory Committee (ACPAC), or some other community-based body.

Additionally, the Center has long advocated for the requirement that each new APD policy be accompanied by a racial impact statement, and suggests to the working group that this requirement be included among its recommendations.

Once again, the Center expresses its appreciation to all of the volunteers who so generously contributed their time and effort in the production of recommendations. We look forward to seeing the final plan --- complete with goals, strategies, implementation dates, resources, and a proposed tentative budget --- that the Collaborative submits to the Common Council.