

# How would you characterize the relationship between the police and the community?

The Bethlehem Gadfly George Floyd killing, Police June 14, 2020

 *Latest in a series of posts on the George Floyd killing* 

In announcing his “New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative,” Governor Cuomo **said**, “*There is no trust between the community and the police.*”

How would you characterize the relationship between our police and our community?

Use specific examples, the prof says.

Gadfly wants to think of Bethlehem as “Capra-esque.” He wants to look at our town through the fantasy lens of Norman Rockwell paintings. You’ve heard him say that. And probably laughed.

But he sometimes hears dark mutterings, especially about the doings on the Southside.

Stories that are shadowy not sunlit. They don’t feel to him like “data.”

At Council last time we heard of **messages** flooding official in-boxes.

But those messages he saw seemed related to the wider issues of racism and violence and/or without concrete hometown situations, incidents, problems.

Frankly, Gadfly doesn’t know how to think about the relationship between our police and our community.

He needs help.

The Reynolds/Crampsie Smith **memo** says “many residents feel that the level of trust is still lacking.”

Who? Why? How?

Gadfly has a hard time judging the basis and depth of the mis-trust without stories.

Use specific examples, please, the prof says.

Gadfly does know that **the one recent incident** he did hear details about, the September 2019 traffic stop at 6th and Hayes involving an Hispanic operator, sounded precisely like an incident that could blow up and might just be the tip of an iceberg. Thus, his dissatisfaction at the City's response.

How would you characterize the relationship between our police and our community?

And on what basis do you do so?

The prof needs specific examples.

*Follower Deni Thurman-Eyer suggests we read **this story**.*

**The Bethlehem Gadfly**