

The NCC Social Justice and Peace conference schedule today

[The Bethlehem Gadfly](#) [George Floyd killing](#) October 14, 2020

 *Latest in a series of posts in the wake of the George Floyd murder* 

The 2020 NCC Social Justice and Peace Conference October 13-15

[Wednesday schedule](#)

Gadfly attended three sessions of the conference yesterday with interest and profit. Sorry, he hasn't had time to cull a few clips for you yet.

Here are the sessions I'm going to try to attend today. I'm just picking the ones that look like they will be helpful if we start into any reimagining of the way we do public safety here in Bethlehem. You may be interested in others.

I know I can't make the first one below. If anyone can record the 9:30 session, it would be much appreciated. For I am especially interested in this first one. I really don't get how abolishing the police is going to work. That's a steep climb. That's a big stretch. So I'm particularly interested in how that gets pitched. Isn't that the big one? The one that almost everybody has a hard time getting their mind around. I get the idea of defunding, though I'd need to see a way that it works. But abolishing the police doesn't compute at all.

9:30-10:45 PANEL: Towards a Police Free Future: Peter VanKoughnett (MPD 150), LVSU – Lehigh Valley Stands Up):In this session, Peter will present an overview of MPD150's work – a history of the Minneapolis Police department's oppressions, theories of abolition, and tools to practice abolitionist thinking. Ashleigh will present on Lehigh Valley Stands Up and particular policies which bring us closer to a police free future.”

11:00-12:15: Black Lives Matter: Black Lives Matter (BLM) Lehigh Valley will be covering issues such as our fight against systemic and oppressive racism within multiple channels, how to make change at the local level, and what defunding the police really means. Justan Parker (LV BLM)

3:30-4:45: The unspoken emotional effect of “surviving the skin we’re in:” As Black Americans we live under a constant threat in America. And the burden of imparting and interpreting this to our children is unfair. Nah-tarsha Cherry, Mary Elizabeth O’Connor (Bethlehem NAACP)