

I am sorry to be submitting this so late, but I wanted to be clear about the way in which I first feel somewhat disrespected by the speed with which those of us in the community have been half-offered the opportunity to actually participate in this process. Having little to no notice to me is like being offered to opportunity to vote as long as I am able to cram for a citizenship test 3 hours after I wake in the morning. It feels like an affirmation of structural racism, intentional or not. Hurrying to pass something by Friday just seems like virtue signaling and not a serious attempt to hear the community and what we need. However, I will provide this list of things I do believe will help:

- Criminalize false, racially- or identity-related calls to the authorities and make those actions civil rights violations
- Allow the public to see the disciplinary records of policeman and establish a publicly accessible website to monitor patterns of behavior
- Remove the loopholes which currently allow police to escape prosecution for the unlawful death of suspects
- Do not prosecute protesters who are protesting peacefully
- Stop prosecuting crimes directly related to housing/food insecurity, mental health and substance abuse and refer them to social services and community resources to address those issues
- Give the Racial Equity Task Force the power to independently investigate police with subpoena power and the ability to provide evidence to district attorneys for prosecution
- Remove accreditation from officers found culpable in brutality cases
- Body cams and access to camera footage by the public in investigations of police misconduct

These are the beginnings of things that need to be addressed. Trying to pass something now is not what I want. I want this to be the beginning of a continuing conversation that reconvenes in the fall. It's a journey, not a destination. My challenge to you all is this: Check yourselves for how your white privilege is informing how quickly you want to make yourselves look good.

In service to the Community,

Christophre Woods  
Executive Director,  
Vermont Psychiatric Survivors  
128 Merchant Row, Suite 606  
Rutland, VT 05701-5912  
Phone: 802-566-0519  
Fax: 802-775-6823

[www.vermontpsychiatricsurvivors.org](http://www.vermontpsychiatricsurvivors.org)

"I have learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." --Maya Angelou