

PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY SURVEY ON POLICING

About this Survey

The goals of this survey are as follows:

- To offer all adults in Plainfield the opportunity to provide their input to the Select Board on matters relating to policing in Plainfield;
- To provide the Police Department with information that can help form specific goals and objectives for addressing the policing needs of the community;
- To provide the Select Board with information to help hold the Police Chief accountable to the needs and concerns of the community.

This survey will likely take you less than 10 minutes to complete. The survey seeks your opinions about: 1) the overall safety and quality of life in Plainfield; 2) the overall performance of our police department; 3) your contact and satisfaction with the police department; and 4) effectiveness of the police department's engagement with the community. We also invite you to provide demographic information to assist with analysis (doing so is optional). There is space at the end of each section, and at the end of the survey to add any other input about policing in Plainfield that you would like to share.

Online survey responses are strongly encouraged. If you prefer to complete the survey via paper form, you may download the form from the town website, or pick up a survey form at the Library or Town Offices. Completed paper survey forms can be returned via mail to Plainfield Town Offices 304 Main Street, Plainfield MA 01070, or put in the drop box there.

The deadline for survey responses is February 28, 2022. A summary of the survey responses will be shared with all townspeople. Thank you for taking the time to provide your input!

One Response per Plainfield Adult (18 years or older)

We encourage input from all Plainfield residents who are 18 years or older. We discourage multiple responses from any one individual. For these reasons we have developed a method to randomly assign numbers to survey respondents so as to validate the response and prohibit duplication of response.

1. Please provide the 4 digit number included in the USPS mailing you received about this survey here: _____

Note: This is a randomly assigned number. The number is not matched to your name or address, it was randomly included in the info you received about this survey. We will match all numbers provided in all survey responses to the master list of numbers (which does not include names or addresses). This method ensures your response will remain anonymous, and also ensures that only one response per adult member of a Plainfield household will be validated.

Our Community: Safety and Quality of Life

Please provide your perspectives on safety, crime and quality of life in Plainfield.

2. Please select at least one (1) and up to three (3) issues you think are the biggest challenges affecting your safety and quality of life in Plainfield. Select from this list or add "other" (if choosing "other" provide a brief description). *Check at least one and up to three:*

- Burglary/theft
- Children in emotional/physical danger
- Elders in emotional/physical danger
- Domestic violence
- Physical assault
- Unlawful weapons possession or use
- Unlawful drug use (manufacture, transport or sale of controlled or unlawful substances)
- Underage drinking
- Trespassing
- Stray/barking dogs
- Livestock problems
- Wildlife problems
- Unlawful dumping
- Unlawful burning
- Random sounds of gunfire
- Speeding motor vehicles or other traffic problems
- Credit card/bank/computer fraud or identity theft
- Harassing or suspicious phone calls
- Noisy neighbors
- Other: _____

3. Over the last 36 months, to what extent have your feelings of safety in our Plainfield community increased, decreased, or stayed the same? *Check one:*

- Decreased a lot
- Decreased some
- Stayed the same
- Increased some
- Increased a lot

4. To what extent do you feel safe in Plainfield when you are outside alone?

Check one:

- Not at all
- A little
- Somewhat
- A lot
- To a great extent
- Not applicable, I'm never outside alone

5. Have you limited, changed, or curtailed your activities in Plainfield because you are concerned about crime or your own safety? *Check one answer per row:*

	Yes	No	Don't Know/Unsure
Crime	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Do you feel that crime is such an issue in Plainfield that you would consider moving away from Plainfield? *Check one:*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know/Unsure

7. Please provide anything else you'd like us to know regarding your perspectives of Safety and Quality of Life in Plainfield.

Overall Performance of Plainfield Police Department

The Plainfield Police Department employs one full time chief, one full time sergeant and two part time patrol officers. Chief Litchfield and Sgt. Miazga are on duty Monday through Friday, covering the hours from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. The police station is staffed Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment. Police coverage outside of this schedule is provided by Massachusetts State Police. The current fiscal year police salaries and operating expenses, which are part of the public safety section of the annual town budget, are \$142,423 (costs for police employee benefits, police station expenses and acquisition of police vehicles are included in separate line items in the town budget). The Plainfield Select Board oversees the police department.

Please provide your perspectives on the overall performance of the Plainfield Police Department.

8. Considering your responses in the previous section, please indicate if our Plainfield Police Department is addressing the top 1 to 3 problems/concerns YOU have about safety and quality of life in town. *Check one:*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion/Don't Know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

9. Should police coverage in Plainfield change? *Check one:*

- Keep at current levels
- Increase coverage
- Decrease coverage
- No Opinion/Don't Know

10. Plainfield Police have sufficient funding to provide adequate protection for the town. *Check one:*

- Agree, sufficient funding
- Disagree, not enough funding
- Disagree, too much funding
- No opinion/Don't know

11. The Plainfield Police (see work schedule above) respond to emergency calls in a timely manner. *Check one:*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion/Don't Know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

12. The State Police (providing coverage outside of Plainfield Police work schedule) respond to emergency calls in a timely manner. *Check one:*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion/Don't Know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

13. Telephone calls to the Plainfield Police station are handled professionally and efficiently. *Check one:*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion/Don't Know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

14. Plainfield Police Officers respect the rights of individuals and treat people with dignity and respect. *Check one:*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion/Don't Know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

15. A complaint brought against a Plainfield Police Officer will receive a fair, objective and timely response. *Check one:*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion/Don't Know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

16. Please provide anything else you'd like us to know regarding your perspectives of the Overall Performance of the Plainfield Police Department.

Contact and Satisfaction with Plainfield Police Department

Chief Litchfield and Sgt. Miazga are on duty Monday through Friday, covering the hours from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. The police station is staffed Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment. Police coverage outside of this schedule is provided by Massachusetts State Police. Please provide your perspectives on interactions you have had with **Plainfield Police** (not State Police).

17. Please indicate your satisfaction with the following interactions with the Plainfield Police Department in the last 36 months. *Mark only one box per row:*

	Satisfied	No Opinion/Neutral	Dissatisfied	Not Applicable
Traffic Situations (warning, citation disabled vehicle)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police involvement in Medical 911 Response	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police involvement in Fire 911 Response	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Non-Emergency Call
(report a crime, suspicious activity)

Fire Arms Permit
(new application or renewal)

18. In the past 36 months, if you called **911** specifically for Plainfield police services (NOT fire dept, NOT ambulance service) to assist with your personal safety or a crime how quickly did they respond? *Check one:*

- They responded faster than I expected
- The time it took to respond was about right
- They responded too slowly
- They never responded
- Not applicable, I have not called for Plainfield Police services in the last 3 years

19. In the past 36 months, if you called the **police station** for Plainfield police services (NOT fire dept, NOT ambulance service) to assist with your personal safety or a crime how quickly did they respond? *Check one:*

- They responded faster than I expected
- The time it took to respond was about right
- They responded too slowly
- They never responded
- Not applicable, I have not called for Plainfield Police services in the last 3 years

20. Please provide anything else you'd like us to know regarding your Contact and Interactions with the Plainfield Police (not State Police).

Community Engagement

Please indicate the effectiveness of Plainfield Police Department's community information and engagement.

21. Community policing involves officers in your law enforcement agency working with the community to address the causes of crime in an effort to reduce the problems themselves through a range of activities. Based on this definition, do you think the Plainfield Police Department is effectively practicing community policing? *Check one:*

- Yes
- No
- Unsure/Don't know

22. The Plainfield Police Department makes it easy for community members to provide input about the department's activities (suggestions, praise or complaints). *Check one:*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion/Don't Know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

23. The presence of the Police Chief at the Select Board meeting on the 4th Tuesday of each month provides me with an adequate forum to address questions, concerns, suggestions or complaints about policing in Plainfield. *Check one:*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion/Don't Know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

24. The information Plainfield Police Department provides to the community is useful for me to understand the goals, objectives, activities and accomplishments of the department.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral/ No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable/ Don't Receive
On the Police Dept. Webpage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In the Plainfield Post	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At the 4th Tuesday Select Board Meeting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

25. Please provide anything else you'd like us to know regarding Plainfield Police Department's Community Engagement.

Any Other Feedback

This is the place to provide any additional feedback you would like the Plainfield Select Board to have related to the Plainfield Police Department.

26. Please provide anything else you'd like us to know regarding Plainfield Police Department's Community Engagement.

Demographics

This section is optional. providing information about how long you've lived in Plainfield, your gender, age and race will assist with survey response analysis.

27. How many years have you lived in Plainfield? *Check one:*

- Less than 3
- 3-9
- 10-20
- More than 20
- Prefer not to say

28. What is your gender identity? *Check one:*

- Female
- Male
- Non-Binary
- Prefer not to Say

29. What is your age range? *Check one:*

- 18-29
- 30-49
- 50-69
- 70-89
- 90-more than 100
- Prefer not to Say

30. What is your race identity? *Check one:*

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Multi-racial
- White
- Prefer not to answer

Thank You!