



TOWN OF STRATFORD  
**MAYOR LAURA HOYDICK**

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## **Police Chief, Officer, and NAACP Officials Connect for Dialogue in Wake of Social Media Post**

STRATFORD – Stratford Police Chief Joe McNeil and Sergeant Jamie Rivera met this afternoon with Greater Bridgeport NAACP President Rev. Stanley Lord and Executive Committee members Nicola Hall, John Marshall Lee and Stratford citizen Emma Brooks to initiate a dialogue after a controversial and personal social media post initiated by Rivera aimed at the Black Lives Matter movement was shared on Facebook yesterday.

Chief McNeil and NAACP leaders reached out to each other to bring themselves and Rivera together for a dialogue over the content of the message face-to-face, and to work together on a way forward that promotes mutual understanding and tolerance. The meeting lasted approximately 90 minutes.

“The sentiments expressed by Sgt. Rivera specific to the Black Lives Matter movement do not reflect our thinking at the Stratford Police Department. I thank Rev. Lord and his executive team for taking the time to sit down with Sgt. Rivera and I, so we could jointly confront the issues surrounding this incident and try to use it as an opportunity that breeds better understanding and cooperation in our community, and with our law enforcement personnel,” said **Chief McNeil**. “I feel that this was a productive meeting. Being able to listen to one another is always the first step in making progress.”

“We thank Chief McNeil, and yes, Sgt. Jamie Rivera for meeting with the Greater Bridgeport Branch NAACP Executive Committee today,” said **Rev. Lord**. “The meeting was tough, honest, and insightful. We look forward to continuing our open dialogue and fostering this must needed relationship.”

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“The remarks made by Sgt. Rivera on his personal Facebook page are disappointing, showed terrible judgment, and do not represent the thinking of our Police Department, its leadership, or this administration,” said **Stratford Mayor Laura Hoydick**. “Police officers occupy a unique position of public trust, and incidents such as this can understandably compromise that standing. When something unfortunate like this takes place, it is essential to take quick and meaningful action, and use the event as an important teaching moment. I am proud of the Police Chief for collaborating with the NAACP to make this meeting happen, and I am thankful to Rev. Stanley Lord and the members of the NAACP who were willing to come together today for this critical dialogue.”

Chief McNeil joined with Rev. Lord to announce that they would collaborate for discussion sessions to be scheduled at future dates with all Stratford Police Department personnel. No administrative action has been taken concerning Sgt. Rivera’s social media post, and Chief McNeil stated that the event remains under active investigation.

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