



TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON

SELECTBOARD RESOLUTION

Adoption of [Trust Policy 2.0 Amendment](#) & Procedural Annex to the 2017 Trust Policy (2026)

WHEREAS, the Town of Great Barrington adopted a Trust Policy in 2017 affirming its commitment to civil rights, lawful governance, and community trust; and

WHEREAS, public safety, effective policing, and municipal operations function best when residents trust local government and are not deterred from seeking assistance; and

WHEREAS, evolving community conditions, intergovernmental coordination complexities, and operational realities necessitate clarification of governance structures, procedures, communication standards, and care pathways; and

WHEREAS, the Selectboard seeks to strengthen transparency, preparedness, lawful boundaries, and interdepartmental coordination without expanding or limiting state or federal authority;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Selectboard hereby adopts Trust Policy 2.0 as the official Implementation & Procedural Annex to the Town's 2017 Trust Policy.

SECTION I: PURPOSE

This Amendment, Trust Policy 2.0, operationalizes the Town's existing Trust Policy by establishing clear governance, procedures, documentation standards, care coordination mechanisms, communication protocols, and annual review requirements.

Together, the 2017 Trust Policy, the 2026 Amendment, and this Annex form the Town's Trust Policy framework.

This Annex:

- reflects operational clarity for the Police Department;
- maintains lawful authority without limitation;
- reinforces shared priorities of public safety, transparency, and accountability; and
- establishes a forward-looking framework for coordination among the Chief of Police, Town Manager, and Community Care Team (CCT).
- does not replace the 2017 Trust Policy;
- does not expand or limit state or federal law;
- does not designate the Town as a sanctuary jurisdiction; and
- does not expand police authority.

While advisory in structure, Trust Policy 2.0 shall carry operational effect through integration into departmental procedures, training, budget alignment, implementation practices, and annual review.

SECTION II: FIVE PILLARS OF TRUST POLICY 2.0

PILLAR 1: GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

Trust Policy 2.0 shall be reviewed annually by the Selectboard.

The Town Manager shall:

- oversee administrative implementation of Trust Policy 2.0;
- ensure coordination among Town departments;
- maintain implementation materials and procedures consistent with this Annex;
- support budget alignment and strategic integration; and
- present an annual implementation summary to the Selectboard.

The Chief of Police shall:

- integrate relevant Trust Policy procedures into departmental General Orders and training;
- interact with federal authorities, including ICE, in alignment with the guidelines in Pillar 2, with a focus on public safety, transparency, stewardship of Town resources, and community trust and accountability, particularly as these interactions affect protected and vulnerable populations;

- ensure officer training reflects applicable documentation standards;
- ensure that mutual aid partners are informed of Trust Policy 2.0 principles and relevant procedures to support consistency during joint operations;
- ensure compliance with applicable state and federal law;
- activate community care coordination with Trust Policy partners when appropriate; and
- support coordination between the Police Department and the Community Care Team when appropriate;
- incorporate best practices from professional policing organizations, state training standards, and applicable Massachusetts policies.

The Public Health Department may collaborate and support implementation through:

- trauma-informed and prevention-oriented coordination;
- alignment of community care pathways; and
- collaboration with community-based service providers.

A Town-authorized Community Advisory Body shall:

- provide systems-level review of implementation;
- review trends and training impacts;
- recommend procedural refinements;
- not investigate or adjudicate individual cases; and
- not direct operational decisions.

PILLAR 2: LAWFUL BOUNDARIES & INTERGOVERNMENTAL CLARITY

Town departments shall not voluntarily participate in civil immigration enforcement. Nothing in this policy limits cooperation with federal agencies on criminal investigations, criminal warrants, court orders, public safety threats, or where otherwise authorized by law.

Officers shall:

- verify credentials and legal authority;
- document the date, agency, nature of the request, legal authority presented, and action taken; and
- document custody transfers when applicable;
- not detain individuals solely for the purpose of civil immigration enforcement or extend detention beyond lawful authority.

The Town acknowledges that certain data systems and reporting mechanisms operate automatically under Massachusetts and federal law and are outside local authority. This policy does not alter or expand any data-sharing obligations required under Massachusetts or federal law.

The Town, through coordination among the Chief of Police, the Town Manager, and the Community Care Team, will continue to develop and refine approaches to these interactions over time, informed by operational experience, training, and community input.

PILLAR 3: PROACTIVE PROCEDURES & COMMUNICATION STANDARDS

In events reasonably impacting community trust, safety, or perceived vulnerability, the Town shall utilize predefined procedures including:

- documentation and supervisory review;
- internal coordination between the Chief of Police and the Town Manager;
- activation of appropriate care pathways;
- timely, accurate, and lawful public communication when appropriate; and
- post-event evaluation for operational refinement.

These procedures are intended to support transparency and preparedness while respecting ongoing investigations and applicable law.

Communication may include multilingual outreach, coordination with community partners, and aggregate reporting where appropriate. Where appropriate, the Town will communicate policies and procedures in a manner that is accessible, multilingual, and responsive to community needs.

Preparedness is intended to protect residents, officers, staff, and the Town.

The Town recognizes that public safety is strengthened when all residents feel safe seeking assistance, reporting concerns, and engaging with local government.

PILLAR 4: COMMUNITY CARE COORDINATION

The Community Care Team shall operate in close coordination with the Town Manager and the Chief of Police, who share responsibility for the oversight, coordination, and continuous improvement of Trust Policy 2.0 implementation.

This coordination is intended to support alignment, communication, and service access while maintaining the operational authority of the Police Department.

Charter: The Community Care Team (CCT) is established as a one-year pilot advisory working group to support coordination among municipal leadership, the Police Department, and community-based partners.

The Town Manager, in coordination with the Chief of Police and relevant departments, shall guide the implementation of Community Care Coordination to ensure alignment with Town operations, public safety, and community partnership goals.

The CCT is intended to strengthen the Town's ability to respond to community needs through non-enforcement pathways, improve access to services, and support trust-building efforts.

The CCT shall operate in close coordination with the Town Manager and the Chief of Police, who share responsibility for the oversight, coordination, and continuous improvement of Trust Policy 2.0 implementation.

The CCT shall remain advisory in nature and shall not:

- direct Town staff or Police Department operations;
- participate in active incidents or enforcement actions;
- access or review confidential or personally identifiable information;
- investigate or adjudicate individual matters.

Members serve in an advisory and coordination capacity only, are not enforcement agents, and shall not participate in operational or case-specific law enforcement decisions.

All activities of the CCT shall remain consistent with applicable law and the operational authority of the Police Department.

The Town Manager shall provide an aggregate report at the conclusion of the pilot period summarizing participation, coordination effectiveness, service gaps, and recommendations. No personally identifiable information shall be included.

PILLAR 5: TRAINING, INFRASTRUCTURE & STRATEGIC RESOURCE ALIGNMENT

The Town shall align staffing, training, infrastructure, and budget decisions to support:

- community-engaged policing, including an annual Community Police Academy or community training and engagement opportunities;
- justice-related public education events;
- language access capacity;
- care coordination mechanisms, including co-response models where feasible;
- technology and body-worn camera infrastructure, including translation, transcription, redaction, and secure storage;
- efficient, transparent documentation and reporting systems; and
- maintenance of an active Trust Policy Partnership (TPP) resource list of community-based organizations.

Training shall reinforce:

- lawful boundaries;
- procedural justice;
- documentation standards;
- coordination roles; and
- distinctions between advisory and operational authority.

Departments shall incorporate Trust Policy 2.0 into training, onboarding, and ongoing professional development as appropriate.

Trust-building and equity-centered infrastructure shall be resourced proactively year-round.

The Town shall explore joint grant opportunities for community policing, behavioral health co-response, victim services, violence prevention, and youth diversion programs.

Trust Policy 2.0 shall be integrated into the Town's annual strategic agenda and budget process.

SECTION III: TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING

As part of annual review, the Selectboard will receive aggregate reporting including:

- federal intergovernmental contact summaries;
- care pathway activations and coordination activity;
- bias-related incident trends;
- training hours completed;
- Community Police Academy participation;
- community engagement efforts; and
- infrastructure and documentation improvements.

No personally identifiable information shall be included.

SECTION IV: CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Trust Policy 2.0 is a living governance framework.

The Selectboard shall:

- conduct annual review;
- consider community and departmental feedback;
- consider implementation experience;
- align policy goals with Town strategic priorities; and
- amend this Annex through a formal governance process as necessary.

Contact lists, referral protocols, and similar implementation materials may be updated administratively so long as such updates remain consistent with this Annex.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Resolution and Trust Policy 2.0 Amendment & Procedural Annex shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this ___ day of _____, 2026

by the Great Barrington Selectboard.

CLOSING STATEMENT

Trust Policy 2.0 reflects the Town's commitment to lawful procedural governance, community trust, and a shared, coordinated approach to public safety grounded in transparency, accountability, and equitable access for all residents.