



LEAP members (from left) Geri Tyrell, Julie Hendricks and Ken Knepper

## OUR HISTORY

In 2006, Newton recognized the importance of launching an effort to ensure that racial justice was a priority of its police policy. As a result, LEAP was officially established under City Ordinance 4597-06.

LEAP works with the Police Department and Newton community. As a sign of the Police Department's commitment to that effort, local officers and leaders regularly participate in anti-racism training.

In 2019, LEAP launched a new level of engagement with the City as they furthered their commitment to making the Newton Police Department a model for Kansas.

*"The truth is that teamwork is at the heart of great achievement."*

*– John C. Maxwell*



**City of Newton**

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**CULTURE**  
**DIVERSITY**  
**SAFETY**  
**RESPECT**

*BUILDING BRIDGES between  
communities and police*





## OUR GOALS

As authorized by ordinance 4597-06, LEAP:

- Advises and assists the Police Department in development, education, and community outreach, along with communications related to bias-based policy or racial profiling by law enforcement.
- Aids in other issues related to law enforcement, including use of force, community relations, and police operations.
- Provides comments and recommendations to the chief of police about departmental policies and procedures for investigating formal citizen complaints. The panel may also involve the city manager for further recommendation.

## WHO WE ARE

LEAP is composed of community members appointed by the Mayor with consent of the City Commission majority. The panel reflects racial and ethnic composition within the community, and members serve three-year terms.

## NEED HELP?

If you have a concern, we are here as your advocate. Perhaps you have a question or comment but don't feel comfortable making a formal complaint. You can talk about it with LEAP. We can meet with you privately or as a group to discuss your questions.

Healthy and safe communities must handle questions, comments, and concerns constructively. That is the purpose of LEAP, to act as a bridge between the community and law enforcement, which ultimately brings the groups together.

Contact us at: [leap@newtonkansas.com](mailto:leap@newtonkansas.com)

## FORMAL COMPLAINTS

The Newton Police Department strives to work in partnership with the community by building confidence and respect with citizens. If you believe some police action has fallen short of that goal or feel you have been subjected to racial or other bias-based police practices, you may file a formal complaint at the Newton Police Department and/or the Kansas Attorney General.

Complaints may be made online. However, written complaints are also acceptable, and documents outlining the process may be found at the Newton Public Library. All written complaint forms should be dropped off at City Hall in the utility bill night drop or delivered directly to the Police Department. You may also present a form to any member of LEAP.

No person will be discriminated against or subjected to retribution because he or she filed a complaint.

For more information, visit:  
[www.newtonkansas.com/leap](http://www.newtonkansas.com/leap)