



Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission

AGENDA

Thursday, 4:00 PM, January 22, 2026

Allison Conference Room (#225), Showers Building

401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, IN 47404

The meeting may also be accessed by [Zoom](#)

1. Roll Call

2. Approval of Agenda and Memoranda/Minutes

3. Reports (if any)

- A. Co-Chairs
- B. Individual Members
- C. Staff
- D. Public/Public Comment

4. Old Business

- A. Report on response from Mayor's Office on 911 call assessment and next steps

5. New Business

- A. Election of Officers
- B. Commission Appointments and 2026 Business

6. Topic Suggestions for Future Agendas

7. Adjournment

CAPS Commission Goals and Purpose:

- Perform research and gather data on the perceptions and preferences about public safety from community members, with specific focus on perceptions and preference data gathered from minority community members, individuals who are disabled, and other often marginalized community members
- Research evidence-based alternatives to traditional policing
- Identify best practices in public safety globally and evaluate the efficacy of such practices for implementation in Bloomington

Posted: January 21, 2026

- Make recommendations to the Common Council, the Board of Public Safety, and/or the Mayor or the Mayor's designee on policies and programs that enhance public safety for all community members

Bloomington City Committee on Council Processes meetings can be watched on the following websites:

- [Community Action Television Services \(CATS\)](#)
- [City's YouTube Channel](#)

[Materials for this meeting](#) are available on Council's website.

Pursuant to applicable law and policy, the following details are provided regarding the officers serving on this committee:

Committee Member	Appointed By	Appointment Date	Term
Kamala Brown-Sparks	Common Council	2/1/2025	2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027
Robert Freeman-Day (Co-chair)	Common Council	10/17/2024	2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026
Erin McNeil	Common Council	10/16/2024	2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026
Jason Michálek (Co-chair)	Common Council	2/1/2024	2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026
Karshin Nair	Common Council	4/2/2025	2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026
Birgit Newman	Common Council	4/2/2025	2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027
Cale Ulery	Common Council	4/2/2025	2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027
Vacant	Common Council		
Sharon Wainshilbaum	Common Council	10/16/2024	2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026

The City of Bloomington is committed to providing equal access to information. If you encounter difficulties accessing city materials, please contact the Office of the Common Council at council.bloomington.in.gov or 812-349-3409 and provide your name, contact information, and a link to or description of the document or web page you are having problems with.

Posted: January 21, 2026

Memorandum

Community Advisory on Public Safety (CAPS) Commission

Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 4:00 pm

Allison Conference Room (#225), Showers Building, 401 N. Morton Street

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:23 p.m.

Commission members present in person: Robert Freeman-Day, Erin McNeil, Karshin Nair, Birgit Newman, Cale Ulery

Commission members present over Zoom: Kamala Brown-Sparks, Jason Michálek

Commission members absent: Sharon Wainshilbaum

City staff and elected officials present: Kari Bennett, Christine Chang, City Councilmember Isabel Piedmont-Smith.

Members of the public present: none

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda and Approval of Memoranda/Minutes

Cm. Freeman-Day moved and it was seconded to amend the agenda order to move new business before old business. Passed 7-0.

Agenda for the next meeting discussed: elect new co-chairs.

Reports

Co-chairs Cm. Freeman-Day and Cm. Michálek announced they will not be renewing their appointments.

Cm. Brown-Sparks moved and Cm. Freeman-Day seconded to cancel the December 18, 2025 meeting and hold the next meeting on January 22, 2026. Passed 7-0.

There were no other reports or public comment.

New Business

Councilmember Piedmont-Smith presented on Community Responder Programs, including benefits, common features, Bloomington's current options, and examples of programs in other cities. Commission members asked questions and had discussion on the information presented.

Councilmember Piedmont-Smith also brought up a line item in the City's 2025 budget: \$10,000 for a 911 call study.

Commission members discussed sending an email to the Mayor's Office to ask about the status of that study. They drafted the e-mail. Cm. Michálek moved and Cm. McNeil seconded to approve the message to be sent by Cm. Freeman-Day. Passed 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:34 p.m.

From: City of Bloomington Office of the Mayor <mayor@bloomington.in.gov>
Date: On Wednesday, December 17th, 2025 at 2:12 PM
Subject: Re: Update request for budget allotment of 911 call study for CAPS
To: Robert Freeman-Day <robertfreemanday@pm.me>

> Good Afternoon Mr. Freeman-Day,

>

>

> The Office of the Mayor is administering the project and will be encumbering the funds before the end of year deadline. The 2025 encumbrance will allow for the funds to be allocated specifically to the 2026 study.

>

>

>

> All best,

>

> Kerry

>

>

>

> Kerry Thomson • Mayor, City of Bloomington • bloomington.in.gov

> mayor@bloomington.in.gov • 812-349-3406 • 401 North Morton Street

>

>

> On Tue, Dec 16, 2025 at 8:11 AM Robert Freeman-Day <robertfreemanday@pm.me> wrote:

>

> > -----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----

> > Hash: SHA512

> >

> > Hello, Mayor Thompson.

> >

> > Thank you for your reply. Just for reporting back to the commission, are you saying that the funds will definitely be encumbered with a provider?

> >

> > If not, and if a contract is not signed, what happens to the allotted funds; do they roll over into 2026?

> >

> > Finally, is there a possibility to get a list of the providers in the running?

> >

> > I really appreciate the time, and talk soon!

> > Robert Freeman-Day

> > (He/Him/E/Em)

> > <https://en.pronouns.page/are/he%26e>

> >

> >

> > On Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025 at 12:42 PM, City of Bloomington Office of the Mayor
<mayor@bloomington.in.gov> wrote:

> >

> > > Mr. Freeman-Day,

> > >

> > >

> > >

> > > Thank you so much for taking the time to write. In response to your questions on behalf of the commission, yes funds were allotted for a study of dispatch calls, in the Office of the Mayor's budget. We intend to encumber the funds before the end of year deadline. We have been in discussion with several providers over the last two months and are continuing to negotiate scope and costs.

> > >

> > >

> > >

> > > The project will be administered through the Office of the Mayor.

> > >

> > >

> > >

> > > Thank you for your service.

> > >

> > >

> > >

> > > All best,

> > >

> > > Kerry

> > >

> > >

> > >

> > > Kerry Thomson • Mayor, City of Bloomington • bloomington.in.gov

> > > mayor@bloomington.in.gov • 812-349-3406 • 401 North Morton Street

> > >

> > >

> > > On Mon, Nov 24, 2025 at 8:33 PM Robert Freeman-Day <robertfreemanday@pm.me>
wrote:

> > >

> > > > -----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----

> > > > Hash: SHA256

> > > >

> > > > Hello,

> > > >

> > > > My name is Robert Freeman-Day and I am writing you as a member of the

> > > Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission.

> > >

> > > It is our understanding that the 2025 budget allotted money to perform a
> > > study of the City's 911 calls. We are hoping to get a follow up or
> > > update on this process in light of the end of year approaching. We would
> > > appreciate any update you could give. Will this funding be able to be
> > > moved forward to next year if a contract isn't executed by end of year?

> > >

> > > This study would be critical for our mission per our 2023 report and
> > > special meetings members of our commission had with the mayor's office,
> > > so we would appreciate your assistance.

> > >

> > > Thank you very much for your service and I look forward to hearing from you.

> > >

> > > Robert Freeman-Day

> > >

> > > --

> > > _____

> > >

> > > Robert Freeman-Day (He/Him/E/Em - <https://en.pronouns.page/are/he%26e>)