

Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission

AGENDA

Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.
Allison Conference Room (#225), City Hall
401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, IN 47404

The meeting may also be accessed at the following [link via Zoom](#)¹

1. Roll Call

2. Approval Of Agenda

3. Reports (If Any)

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

4. Old Business

5. New Business

- A. Strategy and Planning for Common Council Deliberation Sessions on Public Safety – Councilmember Piedmont-Smith
 - Deliberation Session 1: What is Public Safety on September 9 at 6:30 p.m.
 - Deliberation Session 2: How Can the City Advance Public Safety on October 21 at 6:30 p.m.

6. Topic Suggestions For Future Agendas

7. Adjournment

¹<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/82433252101?pwd=B3a4BFrgNYUmQ8DC0CpJSbkh6EtmC.1>

Meeting ID: 824 3325 2101 Passcode: 829142

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.
- 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 Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission meetings can be watched on the following websites:

- [Community Action Television Services \(CATS\)](https://catstv.net/)²
- [City's YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/@citybloomington)³

[Materials for this meeting](https://bloomington.in.gov/council/public-safety-advisory/meetings?year=2026)⁴ are available on Council's website.

² <https://catstv.net/>

³ <https://www.youtube.com/@citybloomington>

⁴ <https://bloomington.in.gov/council/public-safety-advisory/meetings?year=2026>

Pursuant to Indiana Code 5-14-9-6, the following details are provided regarding the officers serving on this committee:

Committee Member	Appointed By	Appointment Date	Term
Kamala Brown-Sparks (Co-Chair)	Common Council	2/1/2025	2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027
Cale Ulery (Co-Chair)	Common Council	4/2/2025	2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027
Michael Burton	Common Council	2/4/2026	2/1/2024 - 1/31/2028
Karshin Nair	Common Council	2/1/2026	2/1/2026 - 1/31/2028
Birgit Newman	Common Council	4/2/2025	2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027
Sharon Wainshilbaum	Common Council	2/1/2026	2/1/2026 - 1/31/2028
Vacant - Seat C-1	Common Council		2/1/2026 - 1/31/2028
Vacant - Seat C-4	Common Council		2/1/2026 - 1/31/2028
Vacant - Seat C-9	Common Council		2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027

The City is committed to providing equal access to information. If you encounter difficulties accessing material in this packet, 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: August 17, 2026

City Council Deliberation Sessions on Public Safety

Sept. 9 and Oct. 21, 2026

Purpose of the Engagement

The purpose of this public engagement process is to provide Bloomington residents with an opportunity to explore and discuss the concept of public safety, identify community priorities, and consider opportunities for improvement that are within the city government's capacity to influence. We envision these sessions to be the starting point for the development of a public safety plan for our community.

This engagement is intended to inform future discussions by the Bloomington Common Council and within the Mayor's administration. It is not intended to produce policy recommendations, advocate for particular positions, or build consensus around specific solutions. Rather, the process is designed to gather, organize, and synthesize community perspectives in a way that supports thoughtful and informed decisions by the Bloomington Common Council.

Facilitation by Community Justice & Mediation Center (CJAM)

DRAFT Structure and Format of Session 1

Introduction by Council Member(s):

- Ways of thinking about public safety
- Broad overview of current city public safety resources
- Mayor's welcome

Introduction by CJAM:

- Community agreements
- Instructions for group discussions

Small group conversations: (up to 9 groups, one Spanish-speaking) ***CAPS help with questions***

- Goal is to have people share their personal experiences in regard to public safety in Bloomington

Report back to full group:

- One member of each group reports some of themes that came up on their group

Participants complete survey

CAPS help with questions

Closing remarks by Council Member(s)

- How we will follow up
- Focus of October session

DRAFT Structure and Format of Session 2

- Summarize themes that came up in Session 1 (possible draft definition of Public Safety)
- Explain how the public safety concerns that came up in Session 1 are currently handled
- Small group conversations about what the City can do to better address public safety concerns
- Report back to full group
- Participants complete survey
- Closing remarks by Council Member(s)