

Bloomington Common Council Deliberation Session

Packet Addendum #1

Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Council Chambers, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street, Bloomington, IN 47404

The meeting may also be accessed [remotely via Zoom](#)¹.

1. Attendee Handout for Deliberation Session
2. Councilmember Table Partner Guide
3. Public Safety Priority Area Map

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

- [Community Access Television Services \(CATS\)](#)²
- [City's YouTube Channel](#)³

[Materials for this meeting](#)⁴ are available on Council's website.

¹<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/86169920334?pwd=jWobRQKggupMy6xr4jNZls2ivaML8k.1> Meeting ID: 861 6992 0334 Passcode: 631040

² <https://catstv.net/>

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

⁴ <https://bloomington.in.gov/council/meetings/2026>

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Bloomington City Council Dialogue & Deliberation

Session 2 Participant Information

From What We Heard to What We Can Do

During our first community conversation on September 9, participants shared what helps them feel safe, what creates concerns, and what they believe contributes to a safer Bloomington.

From those conversations, four priority areas emerged to help guide our next discussion. These areas reflect common themes and different perspectives shared by participants.

A. Safe, Accessible, and Welcoming Public Spaces

Participants discussed how lighting, sidewalks, traffic safety, parks, trails, and shared spaces influence their sense of safety. They also described the importance of feeling comfortable, connected, and welcome in public spaces.

B. Community Care, Crisis Response, and Supportive Services

Participants connected public safety to mental health, housing stability, substance use, and access to community support. Conversations highlighted both concerns about crises in public spaces and the importance of caring for vulnerable community members.

C. Public Safety Response, Prevention, and Accountability

Participants shared different perspectives on policing, emergency response, prevention, and community-based alternatives. Some emphasized visible police presence, while others advocated for approaches that reduce reliance on policing.

D. Communication, Transparency, and Community Trust

Participants emphasized the importance of clear public information, transparency in City decisions, and meaningful community engagement. They also raised concerns about misinformation, public safety alerts, and whose voices are included in decision-making.

Session 2 Deliberation

Today, you will join a facilitated small-group conversation focused on one of the four priority areas. Each group will include one or two City Council Members, a CJAM note-taker, and a CJAM facilitator. Together, we will explore community needs, brainstorm possible solutions, and consider what the City Council should keep in mind as it plans for the future. Our goal is to explore ideas and understand different perspectives, **not to reach agreement on a single solution**. You are encouraged to think creatively, listen to others, and consider how different approaches might affect members of our community.

Our Guiding Questions

1. Understanding Community Needs

Looking at what we heard from the community, what do you see as the most important needs or concerns within this priority area?

2. Exploring Possible Solutions

What are some ways Bloomington could respond to these concerns or improve safety in this area?

3. Considering Benefits and Trade-offs

Looking at the approaches we've identified, what benefits, challenges, or trade-offs should the City consider?

4. Reflecting on Our Conversation

Looking back at our conversation, what are the most important ideas, considerations, or differences in perspective that we want the City Council to understand?

What Happens Next?

At the end of our conversation, each group will share a brief summary of the ideas, potential solutions, and important considerations discussed. CJAM will compile the conversations into a report to help inform the City Council's future planning.

Remember: Every perspective matters. You do not need to agree, have all the answers, or develop a fully formed proposal. Our goal is to better understand what is possible and what the City should consider moving forward.

**Thank you to the Community Justice and Mediation Center (CJAM)
for their essential role in this process!**

Session Two: City Council Table Partner Guide

October 21, 2026 | 6:30–8:30 PM

Your Role: Listener, Thought Partner, and Connection to City Government

Thank you for participating in the second community engagement session!

During Session One, residents shared their experiences and concerns about public safety in Bloomington. Tonight, we will build on those conversations by exploring potential solutions, considering their benefits and challenges, and identifying ideas for future planning.

As a City Council Table Partner, your role is to **listen, learn, and support community problem-solving**. You bring valuable knowledge about City government, its responsibilities, and its opportunities for action. We encourage you to share that knowledge when helpful, while allowing community members to lead the development of ideas.

Each table will have a CJAM facilitator to guide the conversation and a notetaker to document community input. See “Small Group Topics,” below.

Session Agenda

Time	Activity
6:30–6:40	Welcome & Check-In
6:40–6:50	Opening Presentation: Session One Findings & Priority Areas
6:50–6:55	Community Agreements & Process Overview
6:55–8:10	Small-Group Deliberation
8:10–8:25	Group Report-Outs
8:25–8:30	Closing & Exit Survey

Small-Group Topics & Table Partners

Please see the attendee handout for more details on each of the following topics.

A	Safe, Accessible, Welcoming Public Spaces	Asare, Daily
B	Community Care, Crisis Response, Supportive Services	Piedmont-Smith
C	Public Safety Response, Prevention, Accountability	Stosberg, Ruff
D	Communication, Transparency, Community Trust	Zulich
E	(Online group - choice of one of the above topics)	Rollo

Small-Group Discussion Flow

The 75-minute small-group conversation will move through four interconnected phases. These are **guides for the conversation, not rigidly timed activities**.

Phase 1: Understanding Community Needs

Looking at what we heard from the community, what do you see as the most important needs or concerns within this priority area?

Phase 2: Brainstorming Potential Solutions

What are some ways Bloomington could respond to these concerns or improve safety in this area?

Phase 3: Collaborative Problem-Solving & Deliberation

Looking at the approaches we've identified, what benefits, challenges, or trade-offs should the City consider?

Phase 4: Reflection & Key Takeaways

Looking back at our conversation, what are the most important ideas, considerations, or differences in perspective that we want the Common Council to understand?

How to Engage in the Conversation

Listen first and make room for community voices. Your primary responsibility is to understand what residents are suggesting, why those ideas matter to them, and what they hope to accomplish. Allow participants to explore their ideas before offering your own perspectives.

Be a thought partner, not a decision-maker. Ask questions that help residents develop their ideas, consider different approaches, and think through potential opportunities or challenges. You do not need to evaluate proposals or indicate whether the Council would support them.

Share your knowledge of City government when useful. It is appropriate to explain what the City Council can do, where its authority may be limited, or what other City departments and partners may be involved. Offer this information as context to support problem-solving rather than as a reason to end the discussion.

Keep possibilities open, even beyond Council authority. Some suggestions may fall outside the City Council's direct responsibilities or powers. These ideas are still valuable. They may identify community needs, opportunities for partnerships, or concerns that can be shared with City staff, other departments, community organizations, or relevant experts. The Council can serve as a connection point for those conversations.

Preserve different perspectives. Participants may disagree about which approaches would improve safety. Your role is not to resolve those differences but to understand the reasoning and concerns behind them.

Helpful Questions to Ask

Use these questions when they can help deepen the discussion without taking over the facilitator's role.

- What would you hope this approach accomplishes?
- What might that idea look like in practice?
- What would need to happen for this to work?
- Are there other ways we could address the same concern?
- What barriers or challenges should we consider?
- Who else might need to be involved?
- How might this approach affect different members of the community?
- What would you want the City Council to understand about this idea?

What to Listen For

As you participate, pay particular attention to:

Community Needs: What are residents trying to improve? What concerns or experiences are driving their suggestions?

Potential Solutions: What actions, improvements, programs, partnerships, or approaches are participants proposing?

Opportunities for City Action: What ideas might fall within the Council's responsibilities? What might require coordination with the Mayor's administration, City departments, community partners, or other levels of government?

Benefits and Trade-offs: What positive outcomes, challenges, resource needs, or unintended consequences are participants identifying?

Different Perspectives: Where do residents see issues or potential solutions differently? What should the Council understand about those differences?

Unanswered Questions: What information, expertise, or additional conversations might help the City explore these ideas further?

Report-Out (Council Member)

At the end of the small-group conversation, the facilitator and notetaker will help prepare a brief report-out, which (one of) the Council Table Partner(s) should deliver to the whole group.

The report-out should communicate:

1. **Potential Approaches:** What suggestions or solutions did community members explore?
2. **Important Considerations:** What benefits, challenges, trade-offs, or different perspectives emerged?
3. **Opportunities and Questions:** What might the Council explore directly, and what ideas or questions may need to be shared with other City partners or experts?

Focus on accurately representing the discussion rather than offering your own conclusions. Avoid implying that the group reached consensus unless participants explicitly expressed agreement.

Instead, consider using phrases like:

- “Several approaches were discussed, including...”
- “Participants identified potential benefits such as...”
- “Different perspectives emerged regarding...”
- “An important unanswered question was...”

A Final Reminder

We are not asking community members to develop fully formed policy proposals or limit their thinking to what the City Council can accomplish independently.

The purpose of this session is to understand community-generated approaches and explore how they might improve public safety. Your knowledge of City government can help make those conversations more informed and productive, while your role as a Council member can help ensure ideas reach the people and institutions best positioned to consider them.

The goal is to listen with curiosity, support thoughtful problem-solving, and carry forward the full range of community perspectives.

Public Safety Priority Areas

- Pedestrian and Traffic Safety
- Accessible Infrastructure and Transportation
- Welcoming Parks and Shared Spaces

- Mental Health and Crisis Support
- Housing and Basic Needs
- Accessible Supportive Services



- Policing
- Effective Emergency Response
- Prevention/Alternative Responses
- Fair and Accountable Practices

- Clear and Accessible Information
- Transparent Decision-Making
- Community Voice and Responsiveness