

Bloomington Common Council Deliberation Session Packet Addendum #2

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. Presentation Slides for Deliberation Session on Public Safety

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>

Posted: October 21, 2026

Deliberation Session on Public Safety

Bloomington City Council
Wednesday, October 21, 2026



Agenda Overview

- Opening presentation (Councilmembers Piedmont-Smith and Stosberg)
- Community agreements and process overview (Wyatt Lawson, CJAM)
- Facilitated group discussions (75 minutes)
- Reports from each group (15 minutes)
- Exit survey
- Next steps

Stay until the end
and get cookies!



Overall Process

- Sept. 9th session: What makes you feel safe and unsafe in Bloomington?
- Sept. 9th exit survey
- Oct. 8-14 follow-up survey
- CJAM report on Session 1
- Oct. 21st session: How can the City government improve safety in Bloomington?
- CJAM report on Session 2
- City Council will use info to guide our decision making

Four Focal Points

- A. Safe, Accessible, and Welcoming Public Spaces
- B. Community Care, Crisis Response, and Supportive Services
- C. Public Safety Response, Prevention, and Accountability
- D. Communication, Transparency, and Community Trust

Overall, a sense of belonging was key in all group discussions on Sept. 9th

A. Safe, Accessible, and Welcoming Public Spaces

- Physical safety including lighting, transportation infrastructure, ADA ramps
- Predictable surroundings
- Safety to be oneself without discrimination
- Availability of public spaces that are welcoming to a diversity of people



B. Community Care, Crisis Response, and Supportive Services

- Healthcare and housing for the most vulnerable people in the community
- Knowing what to do when you encounter someone in crisis
- Addressing root causes of lack of safety among certain populations
- Community stability



C. Public Safety Response, Prevention, and Accountability

- Police (response to crime and community outreach)
- Non-police community response (mental health and substance use emergencies, outreach)
- Prevention of crime and emergency situations
- Accountability of individuals and emergency responders



D. Communication, Transparency, and Community Trust

- Participation in local decision-making that impacts, directly or indirectly, public safety
- Targeted communication of imminent threats
- Full transparency about public safety incidents and responses
- Making sure all populations are represented



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

**Safe,
Accessible &
Welcoming
Public Spaces**

**Community
Care, Crisis
Response &
Supportive
Services**

**Public
Safety**

**Public Safety
Response,
Prevention &
Accountability**

**Communication,
Transparency &
Community Trust**

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

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

Group Deliberation

Step 1: Choose a focus area

Step 2: Each group will work to

- Understand community needs
- Brainstorm potential solutions
- Consider benefits and trade-offs of these solutions
- Reflect and summarize your conversation

Step 3: Council Member will report back to the full group



Meet our deliberation facilitator: CJAM Community Justice & Mediation Center



Wyatt Lawson,
Executive Director

Community Justice & Mediation Center (CJAM)

- **Serving Monroe County since 1995**
- **Our Mission:**
 - **Our mission is to promote a civil and just community through mediation, education, and restorative justice. We envision a fair community that learns from conflict, prevents harm, and grows in understanding**
- **Services Offered:**
 - **Conflict Resolution, Mediation, Court-Based Mediation, Restorative Justice, Training, and Facilitation**
- **All Mediators/Facilitators are volunteer community members**

Community Agreements

- **Speak from your own experience.**
 - Share what you have experienced, noticed, or believe. You are always welcome to pass.
- **Listen to understand.**
 - Be curious about experiences and perspectives that may be different from your own.
- **Make room for one another.**
 - Be mindful of how much space you are taking so everyone has an opportunity to participate.
- **It is okay to disagree, but do so with curiosity not hostility**
 - Different perspectives are welcome. Engage differences with curiosity and respect.

Community Agreements, pt. 2

- **Respect what others share.**
 - Take the lessons and ideas from the conversation with you, but leave other people's personal stories for them to share.
- **Understanding before problem-solving.**
 - Tonight, we are here to explore experiences and perspectives. We do not need to agree or solve the issue together.

- **Speak from your own experience.**
 - Share what you have experienced, noticed, or believe. You are always welcome to pass.
- **Listen to understand.**
 - Be curious about experiences and perspectives that may be different from your own.
- **Make room for one another.**
 - Be mindful of how much space you are taking so everyone has an opportunity to participate.
- **It is okay to disagree, but do so with curiosity not hostility**
 - Different perspectives are welcome. Engage differences with curiosity and respect.
- **Respect what others share.**
 - Take the lessons and ideas from the conversation with you, but leave other people's personal stories for them to share.
- **Understanding before problem-solving.**
 - Tonight, we are here to explore experiences and perspectives. We do not need to agree or solve the issue together.

Shared Consideration from Session 1

Belonging, Inclusion, and Diversity

Every group will consider how potential approaches might affect residents with different experiences, identities, and needs, including those who experience discrimination, harassment, or exclusion.

Report Out From Small Groups

Exit Survey

SCAN ME

