Bloomington Common Council Deliberation Session Packet Addendum

Tuesday, November 10, 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. Deliberation Session Agenda - November 10, 2026
2. *Community Justice and Mediation Center (CJAM)*. *(2026, November)*. Public Safety Deliberation Sessions: Visual Report of Findings and Community Input (September 9 and October 21, 2026).

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/86328523461?pwd=Xd1IP6FK0poes4VjZucDOyqjML4Eoa.1
Meeting ID: 863 2852 3461 Passcode: 356804
[2] https://catstv.net/
[3] https://www.youtube.com/@citybloomington
[4] https://bloomington.in.gov/council/meetings/2026

Posted: November 10, 2026

City of Bloomington, Indiana Common Council

Deliberation Session Agenda

Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
Council Chambers (Room 115), City Hall
401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, IN 47404

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

1. City Council Roll Call and Welcome
2. Review of Findings from September 9 and October 21 Deliberation Sessions
3. Council Member Discussion on Housing Development Fund
4. Adjournment

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The City is committed to providing equal access to information. If you encounter difficulties accessing material in this packet, please contact the Bloomington Common Council Office 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 with which you are having problems.

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WHAT WE HEARD

PUBLIC SAFETY IN BLOOMINGTON



SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER 2026

Prepared by

THE COMMUNITY JUSTICE AND MEDIATION CENTER

Prepared for

BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL

In September and October 2026, Bloomington residents came together to share their experiences of public safety and explore ideas for making our community safer, more accessible, and more welcoming. This report highlights what residents shared, the potential solutions they discussed, and the questions that emerged.

UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC SAFETY IN BLOOMINGTON

The Bloomington City Council partnered with the Community Justice & Mediation Center (CJAM) to better understand how residents experience public safety and what changes they believe could improve it. CJAM facilitated a two-session community engagement process, with an additional online survey between sessions.

SEPTEMBER 9 : LISTENING TO COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES

Residents discussed what helps them feel safe, what creates concerns, and what they would like to see change.

BETWEEN SESSIONS: COMMUNITY SURVEY

An online survey provided another opportunity for residents, including those unable to attend in person, to share their experiences, concerns, and ideas.

OCTOBER 21: EXPLORING POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

Participants joined discussions around four priority areas informed by the first session and community survey. They brainstormed potential solutions and considered benefits, challenges, and unanswered questions.

What We Heard About Safety

Across the first session, five themes emerged:



Connection and Belonging
Knowing neighbors, participating in community activities, and feeling welcome in shared spaces can contribute to a sense of safety.



Public Spaces and Everyday Experiences
Lighting, sidewalks, traffic safety, street harassment, and unpredictable situations affect how residents experience Bloomington.



Firearms and Personal Safety
Some residents expressed concerns about firearms in public spaces, while others connected personal protection to feeling safe.



Different Approaches to Safety
Residents shared different views about the roles of policing, prevention, crisis response, and community-based services.



Infromation and Trust
Clear communication, transparency, and opportunities to participate in decisions can influence how residents experience safety and trust local institutions.

A central finding: Public safety is about more than crime and emergency response. Residents also connected safety to their relationships, physical surroundings, access to support, and confidence in community institutions.

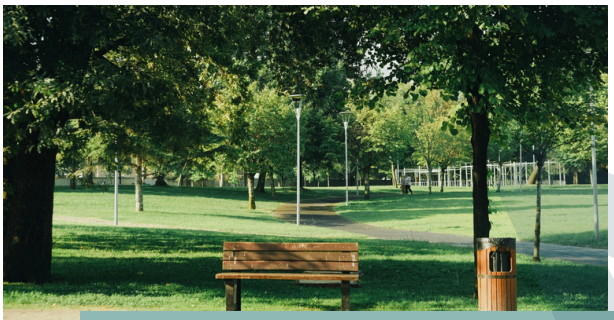
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IDEAS FOR A SAFER BLOOMINGTON

During the second session, residents explored potential approaches across four priority areas. These ideas reflect suggestions raised during the conversations, not ranked recommendations or proposals endorsed by every participant.

SAFE, ACCESSIBLE, AND WELCOMING PUBLIC SPACES

Community needs: Safer streets, accessible infrastructure, reliable transportation, and welcoming public spaces.



Ideas residents shared:

- Improve sidewalk, trail, and bike lane maintenance, including lighting, repairs, signage and snow removal.
- Create safer playgrounds and more accessible recreational spaces for different ages and abilities.
- Make community information, events, and public meetings more accessible across neighborhoods.

Considerations: How should Bloomington balance maintaining existing infrastructure with new improvements, while considering accessibility and needs across neighborhoods?

COMMUNITY CARE, CRISIS RESPONSE, AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Community needs: Better access to housing, mental health care, crisis support, and essential services.

Ideas residents shared:

- Expand supportive housing, case management, recovery services, and other community supports.
- Explore ways to reduce barriers to emergency shelter, including restrictions affecting pets, couples, and residents with complex needs.
- Improve coordination and referrals among community service providers.
- Expand language access through interpretation, bilingual staff incentives, and translated information.



Considerations: How can services become more accessible while addressing limited resources, staffing, provider responsibilities, and client privacy?

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PUBLIC SAFETY RESPONSE, PREVENTION, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Community needs: Effective responses to different situations, better information, and connections to appropriate support.



Ideas residents shared:

- Explore expanded roles for civilian Community Service Specialists and non-police crisis response.
- Improve coordination among law enforcement, emergency responders, mental health professionals, and service providers.
- Create more accessible information about crisis services, shelter, food assistance, and other resources.

  Strengthen emergency communication, follow-up support, and resources for people affected by critical incidents.

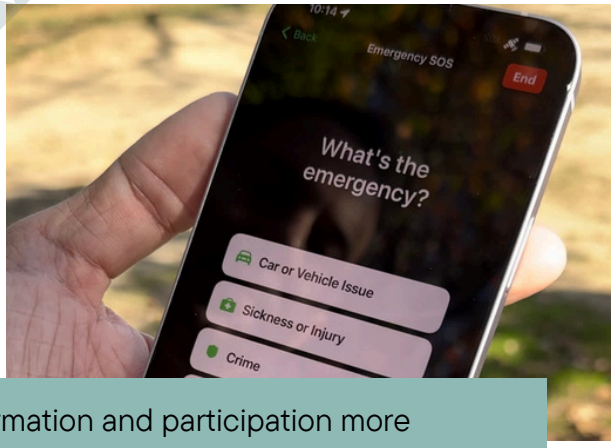
Considerations: How can Bloomington provide appropriate responses to different situations while recognizing that residents experience policing and alternative responses differently?

COMMUNICATION, TRANSPARENCY, AND COMMUNITY TRUST

Community needs: Accessible information, responsive government, and meaningful opportunities for community participation.

Ideas residents shared:

- Make it easier to report non-emergency concerns and receive updates.
- Provide clearer information about City-funded social service grants and program outcomes.
- Strengthen communication among the City Council, City administration, departments, and community partners.
- Expand neighborhood-based engagement and involve residents earlier in planning.



Considerations: How can the City make information and participation more accessible while ensuring community input is meaningfully considered?

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DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES AND WHAT COMES NEXT

DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES. SHARED QUESTIONS.

Residents did not always agree on which approaches would improve public safety. These differences are an important part of the findings.

POLICING AND COMMUNITY-BASED RESPONSES

Some residents feel reassured by visible police presence. Others described feeling safer with civilian responders, mental health support, and approaches that reduce reliance on enforcement.

PUBLIC SPACES AND HOUSING NEEDS

Participants raised concerns about cleanliness, unpredictable behavior, and the experiences of businesses and other residents. Others emphasized the safety needs of unhoused residents and barriers to accessing shelter and support.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Residents want timely, reliable information during public safety incidents, while also expressing concerns about frequent alerts, limited context, and misinformation.

MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING SERVICES

Participants identified needs involving existing infrastructure and services alongside suggestions for new investments, raising questions about funding, capacity, and priorities.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The findings from these conversations have been shared with the Bloomington City Council to help inform future discussions about planning, budgeting, public safety approaches, and community partnerships.

Some suggestions may require additional information, further community engagement, or collaboration with other City departments and organizations.

**About the findings: Participation was voluntary, and the discussions and survey were not designed to represent all Bloomington residents. Participants did not vote on or rank proposed solutions. The suggestions are community-generated ideas, not formal recommendations endorsed by CJAM or all participants.*

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THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE CONVERSATION

Public safety affects everyone in Bloomington, and we recognize that not every voice or experience was represented in these conversations.

Thank you to the residents, volunteer facilitators and notetakers, City Council members, and City staff who helped make this community engagement process possible.

THE CONVERSATION DOESN'T END HERE.

We want to hear from you.

Whether you participated in one of the sessions or are learning about this work for the first time, we invite you to review the findings and share your thoughts.

Does this report reflect your experiences of public safety in Bloomington? Are there perspectives, concerns, or ideas that are missing?

Your feedback can help us better understand how well this report reflects community experiences and identify areas that may need additional attention.

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

Scan the QR code to share your thoughts about the report.

QR CODE