

1/23/2023 Memorandum of Discussion (prepared by council staff)

Note: A quorum of members was present to conduct business, but less than 50% of members appeared in person, as required under the Indiana Open Door Law, so a meeting of the CAPS Commission was not held; and instead a brief discussion of matters on the agenda occurred by individual CAPS Commission members. Because a quorum was still present, the discussion remained available to the public, was recorded, and a summary of the discussion follows.

Present:

in person: Miller, Michalek
Zoom: Ford, Carey, Brown-Sparks

Absent:

Conyer, Routsong

Cmr. Ford confirmed she would go through the agenda to see if any individual Commissioner wanted to make a report but that nothing would be approved at tonight's discussion since it would require a vote of the full CAPS Commission.

Cmr. Miller proposed new meeting dates/times for regular sessions to be first Mondays at 12:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m., with the exception of September due to Labor Day. Individual members present agreed this time worked.

There was a discussion about the list of questions to be sent to the Bloomington Police Department (BPD) and whether the questions should also be addressed to the Monroe County Sheriff. Members discussed what additional questions were added to the list, including two additional questions from Cmr. Ford: (1) How does BPD feel about another organization initiating alternatives to public safety? and (2) What would BPD like to change about current policy or practices and how could CAPS help facilitate those changes? Cmr. Ford wanted to ask these questions to determine the potential for future connections, should CAPS propose alternatives to public safety. Cmr. Michalek added that those questions would determine BPD's willingness to consider different ways of functioning. Members agreed the questions were ready to send to council staff to be forwarded to the appropriate person at BPD.

There was a discussion about recent events concerning racially motivated violence, mental health issues, and poverty.

Cmr. Ford asked for informal reports.

Cmr. Ford reported on possible lapse in participation on Commission due to issues with her online application for reappointment.

Cmr. Miller reached out to possible guest speaker and did not hear back.

Cmr. Michalek reported attending constituent meetings and other City meetings to spread community conversations about increasing safety.

Cmr. Carey had no report but discussed issues with the availability of low-income housing in the City.

Cmr. Brown-Sparks had no report (she stepped away during reports).

Reparations and Atonement had no report (Cmr. Brown-Sparks stepped away during reports).

Research Cmtee – Cmr. Michalek reported on START program application progress and what issues the Commission can focus on. Cmr. Miller stated that regular Research Committee meetings will now be first Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. with one exception in April.

Cmr. Miller asked about other calendar events to be reported. Deputy attorney Kulak confirmed they would send a follow-up email to members with the suggested Regular Session meeting times and confirmed that the next meeting will be scheduled for 2/6/2023 at 12:30 p.m., with the intent that the full Commission approve the official 2023 Regular Session schedule at the next meeting.

Staff reported generally about the regular meeting schedule and the seat terms expiring for several members, as well as acknowledging Cmr. Miller's request for name plates and that council staff will work on getting those.

No reports from the public.

Response to HB 1041 – Cmr. Miller is holding discussion of that topic until the full Commission meets.

Deaf Club – Cmr. Brown-Sparks was unavailable to discuss. Cmr. Ford suggested moving item to the agenda for the next Regular Session for discussion of the full Commission.

Other business – Cmr. Miller wanted to brainstorm guest speakers. Cmr. Michalek suggested to invite speakers in relation to important topics like housing. Cmr. Ford suggested community organizing as a topic idea for a guest speaker to attend.

Other business – Cmr. Ford suggested members think about creating or updating a guide for what Commission is going to look like in the future, considering the Commission's core goals and purpose.

Other business – Cmr. Michalek discussed the need to recruit new members to the Commission, especially those who represent marginalized communities.

No new business or topics for future agendas.

Cmr. Ford thanked Cmr. Carey for her service on Commission. Cmr. Carey expressed gratitude for participation on the Commission.