

MEMORANDUM

**Community Advisory on Public Safety (CAPS) Commission
Monday, February 6, 2023, 12:30 p.m. – Hooker Conference Room (#245),
401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana**

The Regular Session meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m.

Commission members present via Zoom: Kamala Brown-Sparks

Commission members present in person: Shelby Ford, Jason Michálek, Renée Miller, Nejla Routsong

Commission members absent: None

City staff present: Ash Kulak

Public present: via Zoom: Jim Shelton

12:35 pm – INTRODUCTION AND ROLL CALL

12:37 pm – APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Cm. Miller moved and it was seconded to approve the agenda. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

12:39 pm – APPROVAL OF MEMORANDA/MINUTES: Cm. Brown-Sparked moved and it was seconded to approve the minutes from October 24, 2022. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent. The memorandum from January 23, 2023 was approved informally with no objections.

12:40 pm – REPORTS

Co-Chair

- No report from Cm. Ford acting as co-chair.

Cm. Routsong

- Cm. Routsong reported individual members have begun community outreach, arranging meetings with key operational stakeholders in public safety in the community including police, fire, and health.
- Cm. Routsong reported postponing a public safety event until April.
- Cm. Routsong would like to discuss how to pass along the list of questions to BPD and who should be the main contact instead of council staff.

Reparations & Atonement Committee

- Cm. Brown-Sparks reported that the committee has been asked to put on an event with the Monroe County History Center regarding African American genealogy.
- Cm. Brown-Sparks proposed making Reparations Committee into an informal study group rather than a formal committee.

- Cm. Miller moved and it was seconded to dissolve the Reparations & Atonement Committee. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent at 12:46 pm.

Research Committee (START Program Update)

- Cm. Michálek reported the START Program was meeting to review applicants, with its first project focusing on housing.
- Cm. Routsong requested to bring the task of the START Program forward to the entire Commission rather than just the task of the Research Committee. Cms. Brown-Sparks and Ford agreed that the START Program task was best for the entire Commission to work on.
- Cm. Miller moved to dissolve the Research Committee. There was no second. The motion failed and Cm. Miller also withdrew the motion.

Other individual Reports

- Cm. Michálek reported that the next Monroe County Criminal Justice Response Committee (CJRC) meeting was 4:30 p.m. February 6, 2023, to discuss rehabilitating the current jail or building a new jail. Cm. Michálek encouraged public comment from CAPS Commissioners as stakeholders in the greater county area.
- Cm. Ford reported on individual research on witnessing police interactions. Cm. Ford is filing for IRB approval to share this research with the rest of the Commission.

Staff

- Staff liaison Kulak reported sending the list of questions to BPD Chief Diekhoff on behalf of individuals, as Kulak was unaware in formal minutes where Commission as a whole approved them.
- Kulak reported on several anti-trans bills in current legislative cycle in Indiana General Assembly (IGA) relevant to Commission's agenda item on its response to HB 1041 and offered assistance in legal research if so requested by the Commission.

Public

- Jim Shelton commented on the Monroe County CJRC meeting to occur and discussed CJRC membership.
- Cm. Miller replied with comments related to judicial appointments to CJRC.
- Cm. Brown-Sparks replied with comments about jail conditions and the general discussions that occurred at the last CJRC meeting.

At 1:07 p.m., Cm. Brown-Sparks indicated that she had to leave the meeting for a CHIPS meeting. Cm. Miller proposed discussing new business ahead of unfinished business so that Cm. Brown-Sparks could vote on co-chairs and the proposed schedule. Cm. Ford as co-chair agreed to discuss new business ahead of unfinished business.

1:08 pm – NEW BUSINESS

Election of Co-chairs

- Cms. Miller & Brown-Sparks volunteered to be co-chairs.

- Cm. Michálek moved and it was seconded to appoint Cms. Miller & Brown-Sparks as co-chairs. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

Approval of CAPS Commission Schedule

- Cm. Miller moved and it was seconded to approve the tentative CAPS Commission Regular Session schedule, with Regular Session meetings set for the first Monday of the month, with the exception of September, at 12:30 p.m. in the Hooker Conference Room at City Hall. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

[Commissioner Brown-Sparks left the meeting at 1:11 p.m.]

1:11 pm – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

START Program

- Cm. Michálek had no additional update other than what was provided in the Research Committee's Report (above).

Guest Speakers

- Cm. Ford stated that it usually takes about two months for guest speakers to get approved.
- Cm. Miller reported reaching out to a possible guest speaker that a former commissioner had suggested, with no response. Cm. Miller indicated they would follow up.
- Cm. Miller proposed inviting Mary Morgan to come to a meeting to discuss the topic of housing.

Response to IN HB 1041

- Cm. Miller discussed some of the new anti-trans legislation proposed by the Indiana General Assembly (IGA), specifically impacting transgender students in public schools.
- Cm. Miller had a meeting with Dr. Winston and Director Rose with Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC) and reported to the full Commission on what they learned from these discussions.
- Cm. Miller reported the following findings:
 - o There has never been a policy to not allow students to perform in sports based on their gender identity, but MCCSC is required to follow the law as HB 1041 (now PL 177) requires.
 - o MCCSC has social workers to help students work through issues when there are students who want to be on sports teams that are not of their assigned sex at birth but cannot due to PL 177's mandate.
 - o MCCSC also is aware of several new items of legislation in IGA's current cycle affecting transgender students.
- Cm. Miller requested council staff assistance with this item.
- Cm. Ford asked if there are current students affected by HB 1041 (PL 177). Cm. Miller stated MCCSC could not answer.

Deaf Club

- Cm. Ford noted that due to Cm. Brown-Sparks's absence that this item would be saved for next month's agenda.

1:20 pm – OTHER BUSINESS

None discussed by Cms.

Jim Shelton gave a supplemental public comment that council staff liaison Kulak read to the full Commission during this time regarding membership on the Monroe County CJRC.

1:22 pm – TOPIC SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

START Program

- Cm. Routsong proposed a future agenda item shifting the responsibility of this task to the full Commission.

Housing & People Experiencing Homelessness

- Cm. Miller proposed Commission action on how to assist reducing the stigma of homelessness and brainstorming ways to get involved in issues of housing and people experiencing homelessness in the community.
- Cm. Ford proposed an open dialogue on what the local government can do, possibly creating an event, and afterward writing a recommendation on the next CAPS Commission Report.

Parking Hang-Tags for All Members of City Boards/Commissions

- Cm. Miller requested assistance from council staff in putting together a formal proposal requesting the City supply parking hang-tags for all members of City Boards and Commissions.

Procedures & Bylaws: Refocusing Work & Purpose

- Cm. Ford proposed devoting time to considering the work the full Commission will be doing, including procedures, bylaws, and its purpose. Cm. Ford suggested waiting until more members were appointed to begin these discussions.

1:29 pm – Cm. Miller moved and it was seconded to adjourn. No objections. Meeting adjourned.

Memorandum prepared by:
Ash Kulak, Staff