

MEMORANDUM

**Community Advisory on Public Safety (CAPS) Commission
Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. – Kelly Conference Room (#155),
401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana**

The Regular Session meeting was called to order at 4:41 p.m.

Commission members present in person: Jason Michalek, Patty Moon, Todd Mullins, Nejla Routsong, Sophia Amos

Commission members present over Zoom: Adrienne Weber, Kamala Brown-Sparks

Commission members absent: Tyler Shaffer, Jenna Buckner

Public present: Mark Haggerty (briefly, left before roll call), Sam Dove (Zoom)

City staff present: Ash Kulak

Before the meeting began, member of the public Mark Haggerty made a brief comment calling for the Commission to consider addressing and discussing gun safety in light of the recent escalations of gun violence at the encampments of unhoused residents.

ROLL CALL (4:41 p.m.)

ELECTION OF NEW CO-CHAIRS (4:42 p.m.)

- Cm. Routsong suggested an election of one newer member and one more established member as co-chairs.
- Cm. Amos and Cm. Routsong volunteered to be co-chairs. No objections. Due to virtual attendance of two members, Cm. Moon called for a vote. Passed 7-0.

At this time, Cm. Brown-Sparks and Cm. Amos assumed responsibility as co-chairs.

- Cm. Routsong moved and it was seconded to change the co-chair rotation to six months instead of three months. Discussion followed. Motion passed 7-0.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (4:54 p.m.)

- Cm. Routsong moved and it was seconded to delete items (a) and (b) under “New Business” and to table these items to the next meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (4:58 p.m.)

- Cm. Moon moved and it was seconded to approve the minutes from November 1, 2023. Motion passed 7-0.

REPORTS (4:59 p.m.)

Co-chairs: none

Individuals:

- Cm. Routsong reminded commissioners of conflict resolution procedures and gave the Commission an update on her advocacy efforts to share with city staff that general procedures are not consistent among the different City commissions.

Committees:

- Outreach Committee
 - Cm. Routsong articulated the three committee goals for the year; explained that the committee was the “communications wing” of the Commission; gave updates on the events in late February including approval of the marketing materials, community safety roundtable, and letter to the Mayor; and stated that they are planning a detailed budget.
 - Group exercise (5:12 – 5:51 p.m.) – Cm. Routsong led a detailed group exercise or “problem tree” on the conference room white board for around 40 minutes. This problem tree provided a mental model outlining current problems with the public safety systems and what changes to make:
 - First question: what problems or harms were identified in the public safety report in Bloomington?
 - Commissioners were asked to categorize these problems or harms into groups: Are they symptoms or causes of the problem? Are they social or economic problems? Are they institutional problems? Are they problems related to accessibility and overall needs?
 - Commissioners were asked to further categorize these problems into the three general categories summarized in the report: (1) obstacles and getting access or barriers to access of resources, (2) conflicting goals within government’s approach to public safety, and (3) the institutional gap that prevents a responsive approach.
 - Second question: what are the solutions to these problems, to remove the obstacles or barriers, close the institutional gap, and resolve conflicting goals in favor of human safety?
 - Commissioners were asked to engage in solution mapping and think of the tree no longer as a “problem tree” but as a “solution tree” – rather than “cut down the tree,” the solution proposed was to “fix the tree” instead.
 - The suggested solution addressed in the report that would attempt to resolve the three problems was the proposed Department of Community Safety & Resilience (DCSR).
 - Third question: what changes to the system would be done if the City had a DCSR?

- Commissioners were encouraged to think of health benefits, economic benefits, and institutional benefits including transparency and accountability.
- Reparations Committee – Cm. Routsong explained the purpose of the committee, reported on the success of Black Ancestry Day, and encouraged CAPS members to go to CAPS hosted or sponsored events.

Staff: No report.

Public:

- No additional public comment. Commissioners discussed substance of comments made before the meeting started. Cm. Moon gave the gist of current events. Cm. Amos asked about active shooter training.

Other:

- Cm. Routsong gave a brief update to the Commission that she and Cm. Brown-Sparks plan to sponsor a ceasefire resolution.

NEW BUSINESS

- “Discussion of materials for Commission-sponsored events” item stricken by earlier motion
- “Good Communication Practices” item stricken by earlier motion

OTHER BUSINESS

- None

TOPIC SESSIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- None

Cm. Brown-Sparks asked if there was any other business. No response. Cm. Brown-Sparks adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Memorandum prepared by:
Ash Kulak, Staff