

MEMORANDUM

**Community Advisory on Public Safety (CAPS) Commission
Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. – Allison Conference Room (#225),
401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana**

The Regular Session meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m.

Commission members present in person: Jason Michalek, Todd Mullins, Nejla Routsong, Adrienne Weber, Jenna Buckner

Commission members present over Zoom: Kamala Brown-Sparks, Patty Moon

Commission members absent: Tyler Shaffer, Sophia Amos

Public present: Hemayatullah Shahrani

City staff present: Ash Kulak

I. ROLL CALL (4:35 p.m.)

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (4:39 p.m.)

- Cm. Routsong moved and it was seconded to move item VII(a) to after III (Approval of Minutes) and before IV (Reports). Motion passed 7-0.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (4:41 p.m.)

- Cm. Routsong moved and it was seconded to approve the minutes from January 24, 2024. Motion passed 7-0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (4:42 p.m.) - *Item moved by earlier Motion -*

a. CAPS Letter In Support of BPAC's Ceasefire Resolution

- Cm. Routsong introduced this item and the guest speaker to present on it.
- Guest Hemayatullah Shahrani was invited to speak from Coalition for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel.
- Shahrani gave a brief summary of this item for consideration, which is requesting city representatives consider and pass a resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza.
- Shahrani gave a brief overview of current events of the humanitarian crisis and catastrophe in Gaza and stated that all human life is precious and should be respected and protected, and that rules of engagement must be followed, especially with civilians.
- Shahrani stated that this item would ask the city to also hold the view that it condemns any form of bigotry and discrimination and that it wants to be on the right side of history and have in the historical record proof that the city tried to do what it could to protect humanity.

- Shahrani emphasized this request is specifically from a humanitarian perspective, requesting a permanent and immediate end to fighting, an opening of humanitarian aid channels, and release of all hostages.
- No commissioner questions on the letter.
- Co-chair Brown-Sparks called the matter to a vote. Passed 6-0-1.

IV. REPORTS (4:57 p.m.)

a. Co-chairs:

- Co-chair Brown-Sparks commended the screenshare and panel event put on by the Outreach Committee.

b. Individuals:

- Cm. Weber also commended the event and commented on notable aspects of the film.
- Cm. Moon also commended the event and the expert panel, noting that she heard a lot of positive feedback.

c. Committees:

- Reparations Committee: Co-chair Brown-Sparks reported that the committee is hoping to meet at the end of March and that it is looking for additional members.
- Outreach Committee: Cm. Routsong gave an update on further outreach to Liz Grenat of the Community Justice and Mediation Center (CJAM), involved in some previous Commission events, in order to coordinate coaching or consulting folks on the Outreach committee willing to facilitate future events and conversations in the Community Safety Roundtable which has seven people signed up so far. Cm. Routsong also commended the weekend's events and gave an update on the committee's next steps, specifically building relationships with the community, university, and city administration. Cm. Routsong also stated that the committee is accepting new members.

d. Staff:

- Staff liaison Kulak first paused the camera in order to change the layout of the OWL (camera) in the room. Then they gave several updates: (1) the video recording of the Outreach committee's panel from the weekend was still processing; (2) the City Council's Special Committee on Council Processes would like suggestions on what, if any, changes to make to the Bloomington Municipal Code governing the CAPS Commission; (3) the Seventh Circuit issued an order staying an injunction that made the state's affirming health care ban for transgender youth go into immediate effect, which was relevant to the CAPS Commission's resolution calling for the City to be a sanctuary city for transgender youth; and (4) the ceasefire discussions coming to the City Council were, at this time, during public comment and not on their meeting agenda.

V. REPORTS FROM PUBLIC (5:15 p.m.) – None.

- The Brief Recess was cancelled without objections -

VI. OTHER BUSINESS (5:15 p.m.)

a. Request for Feedback from Common Council Special Committee on Council Processes

- Staff liaison Kulak summarized this item, noting that the Special Committee on Council Processes is asking this of all city boards and commissions to determine what, if any, code updates are needed, and staff liaison Kulak then gave suggestions on the types of procedural changes to suggest to the Special Committee, including the number of members, the number of required meetings to be held, and the types of officers that are to be elected.
- Cm. Routsong requested an official process or mechanism by which the city prefers boards and commissions to do outreach with other city boards and commissions. Cm. Routsong explained the reason behind this request in detail to new members who were unaware of the events last fall in which CAPS members ran into obstacles attempting to get on other city board and commission agendas to conduct outreach about the Alternative Public Safety Report and its recommendations.
- Cm. Routsong did not have other suggestions to change the code provisions governing the CAPS Commission, noting that it matches what the Commission is working on.
- Cm. Moon responded to a suggested procedural change with regard to the number of members on the commission, noting that a larger capacity even without all seats filled is still a good thing to try to get as many people involved as possible.
- Cm. Moon also stated that it is worthwhile to let the Special Committee know that it is aware that the CAPS Commission does not elect officers annually and to inform it of the Commission's co-chair procedures.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (5:33 p.m.)

a. - *This Item was moved by earlier Motion -*

b. Letter on Consideration for Reappointment of CAPS Member

- Co-chair Brown-Sparks explained the purpose of this item, in that a CAPS member's term was ending and they were worried about the reappointment process due to their previous outreach efforts.
- Cm. Moon and Cm. Mullins asked several questions about the purpose of the letter and incidents surrounding the reason for writing the letter.
- Co-chair Brown-Sparks explained that this commissioner was conducting outreach to other city boards and commissions and wanted to make sure the city knew it was done on behalf of the commission as a whole and not on their own and that the commission had knowledge of it before it was done.
- Staff liaison Kulak noted that Interview Committee Team B had already met and made a recommendation to reappoint the person in question.
- Co-chair Brown-Sparks wanted to bring the item to a vote because the letter itself said that the commission was going to vote on it. Cm. Moon moved and it was seconded to recommend and endorse what the letter says. Motion passed 6-0-1.

c. Good Communication Practices

- Cm. Michalek explained this item, Ten Thoughts on Working Together, borrowed from the city council office. Cm. Michalek recommended using this document as a non-binding working document or guide on working with each other.
- Cm. Buckner thought it was good for the Outreach Committee to use as a guide as well. Cm. Buckner moved and it was seconded that the Outreach Committee uses this as a working document in the future. No opposition. Motion passed.

d. City Council Addresses Public Safety at its First Meeting of the Year

- Cm. Routsong explained the articles in the packet including the City Council discussing safety and the Mayor's plans to no longer move BPD to Showers West. Cm. Routsong stated that the Outreach Committee plans to do outreach based on statements made by Councilmembers discussing non-policing alternatives.
- Cm. Routsong also discussed the Herald Times article about rising crime rates that was published on the same day as the panel discussion. Cm. Routsong stated that these articles all affirm that the work the commission is doing is shaping the conversation in the local community and the work still needing to be done.
- Cm. Routsong suggested doing outreach to the Herald Times about the sensationalism of its article. Cm. Routsong asked other commissioners to keep an eye out for additional local news items on crime and public safety.

VIII. TOPIC SESSIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS (5:59 p.m.)

- None

Co-chair Brown-Sparks adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Memorandum prepared by:
Ash Kulak, Staff