City of Bloomington
NOTICE
Wednesday, 22 May 2024 at 4:30 p.m.
Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission
Regular Session

Agenda/Packet/Meeting Materials
https://bloomington.in.gov/council/public-safety-advisory/meetings?year=2024

This meeting will be held in the Allison Conference Room (Suite #225, City Hall, 401 N. Morton St). The public may also attend this meeting electronically by joining via Zoom:

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As a quorum of this Commission or its committees may be present, this gathering constitutes a meeting under the Indiana Open Door Law (I.C. § 5-14-1.5). For that reason, this statement provides notice that this meeting will occur and is open for the public to attend, observe, and record what transpires.

Posted May 16, 2024

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Meeting Agenda
Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm
Allison Conference Room (#225), Showers Building, 401 N. Morton Street
The public may also access the meeting at the following link:
https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/88064525074?pwd=xqME3WyZXzYbv9E42hJ21i7JjxcHVs.1

I.   ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS

II.   ELECTION OF SECOND CO-CHAIR

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF MEMORANDA/MINUTES
   A. Possible Motion to Extend Meeting by 30 Minutes to 6:30 pm
   B. Regular Session Minutes – April 24, 2024
   C. Special Session Minutes – May 1, 2024

IV.   GUEST SPEAKERS
   A. Kathleen Sobiech from IU School of Public Health - Presenting findings from class project on CAPS' APS Report

V.   REPORTS (if any)
   A. Co-Chairs
   B. Individual Members
   C. Committees
   D. Staff
   E. Public / Public Comment

VI.   *BRIEF RECESS* (may skip without objections)

VII. NEW BUSINESS
   A. Guests to discuss militarized police response to peaceful protests

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

IX.   TOPIC SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

X.   ADJOURNMENT

CAPS Commission Goals and Purpose:

Perform research and gather data on the perceptions and preferences about public safety from community members, with specific focus on perceptions and preference data gathered from minority community members, individuals who are disabled, and other often marginalized community members

Research evidence-based alternatives to traditional policing

Identify best practices in public safety globally and evaluate the efficacy of such practices for implementation in Bloomington.

Make recommendations to the Common Council, the Board of Public Safety, and/or the Mayor or the Mayor's designee on policies and programs that enhance public safety for all community members.

Community Advisory on Public Safety (CAPS) Commission
Wednesday, April 24, 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 4:34 p.m.

Commission members present in person: Jason Michalek, Todd Mullins, Nejla Routsong, Tyler Shaffer, Jenna Buckner (arrived at 4:41)

Commission members present over Zoom: Kamala Brown-Sparks

Commission members absent: None

Public present:
      Guest speakers: Aziza Khazzoom, Daniel Segal, Abdulkader Sinno
      Public commenters: David Keppel, Hemayatullah Shahrani

City staff present: Ash Kulak

Also present were Councilmembers Isabel Piedmont-Smith and Courtney Daily

I. ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS (4:35 p.m.)
- Cm. Michalek moved and it was seconded to strike item II (election of second co-chair), items IV (A) through IV (C) (reports by co-chairs, individual members, and committees), item V (A) (budget request). Motion passed 5-0 (Buckner absent).

II. ELECTION OF SECOND CO-CHAIR
- Item stricken by earlier motion

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF MEMORANDA/MINUTES (4:37 p.m.)
    A. Regular Session Minutes – February 28, 2024
        i. Correct Name of Feb 28 Agenda Item in Minutes: "CAPS Letter in Support of BPAC's Ceasefire Resolution"
        - Cm. Routsong moved and it was seconded to approve the minutes from February 28, 2024, as corrected. Minutes approved 5-0 (Buckner absent).
    B. Possible Motion to Extend Meeting by 30 Minutes to 6:30 pm
        - Cm. Brown-Sparks moved and it was seconded to extend the meeting by thirty minutes to 6:30 p.m. Motion passed 5-0 (Buckner absent).

IV. REPORTS (4:40 p.m.)
    A. Co-Chairs – stricken by earlier motion
    B. Individual Members – stricken by earlier motion
    C. Committees – stricken by earlier motion

D. Staff – staff liaison gave a brief report on the changed Commission membership and quorum and in-person numbers required to do business

V. OTHER BUSINESS (4:40 p.m.)
   A. Budget Requests – stricken by earlier motion
   B. Approval of Public Comment Procedures for This Meeting
      - Cm. Routsong requested to give a small report on this item. Cm. Routsong explained the rationale for a public comment policy at this meeting due to the recent "zoom bomb" at the Common Council meeting by online commenters who used slurs and hate speech. Cm. Routsong explained that city staff is working on the creation of a public comment form to verify that online speakers are actually city residents. Since that form could not be ready for this meeting, Cm. Routsong moved and it was seconded to only allow in-person public comments for this meeting. Motion passed 6-0.

VI. NEW BUSINESS (4:45 p.m.)
   A. Initial reading of "CAPS' Statement on the IHRA's Working Definition of Antisemitism" (4:45 p.m.)
      - Members of the CAPS Commission took turns reading the statement out loud
   B. Hearing remarks from CAPS' invited guests as well as any public comments on the topic of the IHRA definition (4:58 p.m.)
      - Members of the CAPS Commission took turns reading a statement introducing guest speakers
      - Guest speakers presented on the IHRA definition of antisemitism
         - Aziza Khazzoom (5:07 p.m.) – compared IHRA definition with Jerusalem definition, noting where definitions agree and disagree especially on whether critiques of Israel are deemed antisemitic
         - Daniel A. Segal (5:25 p.m.) – explained difference between antisemitism and anti-Zionism, stating that opposing the Israeli state is anti-colonial and not anti-Jewish
         - Abdulkader Sinno (5:40 p.m.) – explained that the IHRA definition of antisemitism limits free speech by deeming all speech critical of Israel anti-Semitic
      - Questions from CAPS Commissioners (6:03 p.m.) – none
      - Public comment (6:03 p.m.)
         - David Keppel, speaking for Bloomington Peace Action Coalition – made comments on the Common Council's resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza; the aid package Congress passed sending money to Israel, stating American citizens' free speech rights are at stake; and further commending the CAPS Commission for its vigorous and articulate response to charges of antisemitism
         - Hemayatullah Shahrani – generally thanked CAPS Commission for its work in relation to calling for a ceasefire and standing against

genocide, stating that charges of antisemitism against CAPS for doing that work is hypocritical because attacks against Palestinians are motivated by racism and ethnic cleansing, generally applauding CAPS for its courage and sticking to its principles, also appreciated each presentation, made comments on Jerusalem definition of antisemitism and who can determine what is antisemitic

- Question from Cm. Routsong (6:15 p.m.)
    - Cm. Routsong asked Prof. Khazzoom to talk more about what the Jerusalem and IHRA definitions of antisemitism would have in common about what would be acceptable speech critical of Israel, including speech critical of Israel's policies.
    - Prof. Khazzoom answered that the Jerusalem definition is not clear and stated the idea of criticizing Israel is more complicated because it implies there is only one Israel when there are Israeli Jews who fit the whole spectrum on the conflict, so it is unclear which Israel is being criticized. The Jerusalem definition specifically mentions that Palestinians have many non-antisemitic reasons to criticize Israel but the question becomes how far do you extend that boundary?

C. Discuss and Vote on Statement (6:24 p.m.)
    - Cm. Routsong moved and it was seconded to pass the CAPS Statement 2024-01 on the IHRA definition of Antisemitism. Motion passed 6-0.
    - Cm. Routsong gave a brief statement about the specific task of the Commission and the work it is doing, thanking community members for their input.
    - Cm. Buckner additionally thanked presenters and information shared.

VII. TOPIC SESSIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS
    - None

Cm. Routsong moved and it was seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Memorandum prepared by:
Ash Kulak, Staff

Community Advisory on Public Safety (CAPS) Commission
Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. – McCloskey Conference Room (#135),
401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana

The Special Session meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Commission members present in person: Kamala Brown-Sparks, Jason Michalek, Nejla Routsong, Jenna Buckner

Commission members present over Zoom: None

Commission members absent: Todd Mullins, Tyler Shaffer

Public present:
 Public commenters: David Keppel, Dennis Pak, Joshua Paschal, Quan

City staff present: Ash Kulak

I. Roll Call and Approval of Agenda (4:30 p.m.)
 - Cm. Brown-Sparks moved and it was seconded to approve the draft agenda for the special session meeting. Motion passed by a voice vote (no objections).
 - Cm. Routsong moved and it was seconded to add public comment before voting on the CAPS Resolution. Motion passed by a voice vote (no objections).

II. Special Session Business (4:32 p.m.)
 A. Discuss disproportionate militarized police response to non-violent protest at IU Dunn Meadow and First Amendment implications
  - Cm. Routsong shared that CAPS did outreach with Common Council on this matter and asked the Council to take action
 B. Discuss and Vote on "CAPS Resolution 2024-02 – Denouncing Violent Suppression of Pro-Palestinian Protests"
  - CAPS members took turns reading the Resolution out loud
  - Public comment (4:41 p.m.) – included remarks from David Keppel and IU students: Dennis Pak, Joshua Paschal, and Quan
  - Cm. Routsong moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 2024-02. (5:07 p.m.) Passed 4-0 (Mullins & Shaffer absent).

III. Other Business As Necessary (5:08 p.m.)
 A. Creation of Special Committee (5:09 p.m.)
  - Cm. Michalek moved and it was seconded to create a Special Committee on Violent Suppression of Protests. Motion passed by a voice vote (no objections). Members: Brown-Sparks, Michalek, Routsong
 B. Budget Request (5:13 p.m.)

- Cm. Routsong went over the budget request document including requests to fund the feasibility study, requests for the remainder of 2024, and requests for 2025.
- Cm. Routsong explained that this budget request was passed in the Outreach committee but had since been changed to include an additional item.
- Staff liaison explained that payment for peer liaisons as requested in the budget request on the table would need to go through several City Departments including Legal (for services contracts), HR (for employees), the Controller (for vendor approvals), and possibly more before such a request could be approved.
- Cm. Routsong moved and it was seconded to pass the budget requests. (5:23 p.m.) Passed 4-0 (Mullins & Shaffer absent).

IV. Adjourn

Cm. Brown-Sparks moved and it was seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:24 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Memorandum prepared by:
Ash Kulak, Staff

Figure 1. Interconnected factors impacting public safety, Bloomington, Indiana (Image created by IU SPH-B MPH student based on CAPS report)

Public Safety Town Hall

We can prevent violence by keeping people in good health and situations where they are less likely to commit crime in the first place.

"It appears that the 12 million dollars of new local income tax money that the county received this earmarked just for the jail when, in my view, it ought to be significantly invested in prevention, services, and healthcare."

Identify service gaps - understaffed [public safety] shifts, transportation, uncovered neighborhoods, de-escalation

[I'm concerned about] community resources for low-income individuals and individuals with substance use/mental health concerns.

CAPS: Public Safety Town Hall, April 11, 2023 (2023). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsMmMTDQaCY.

Focus Groups with Safety-Marginalized

Marginalized people need someone to call with lived experience

To reduce homelessness, our community should] "make it easier for people to expunge eviction notices from their records

If more people and organizations would work together, including the churches–instead of complaining about the homeless or those with mental issues, it would do more to help.

I can notice there are more and more people that really do have true mental issues this time around than before [in the homeless community].

It's so hard. There's so many people still on the street working. And you've got to be cleaned up and nice-looking going into certain jobs. And it's not easy. People don't understand that we need a place to clean up.

Recommendations from the CAPS Report

Develop a Department of Community Safety and Resilience that explicitly incorporates a holistic framework for addressing factors that drive safety threats

Opportunity for further analysis using public health policy framework

Next Step: Feasibility study

SPH-B X685 Public Health Policy & Politics

After successfully completing the course, students will be able to:

- Identify and utilize multiple dimensions of the policy-making process, including ethics, epidemiological evidence, and law, to analyze policy
- Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity

Picture: SPH-B MPH students at the Statehouse with Indiana Representative Dr. Brad Barrett

Academic-civic partnership

Purpose:
- to engage students in a practical experience that addressed a local issue
- leverage academic resources for civic benefit

Course Structure:
- Students spent first 6-weeks of the semester learning about policy analysis frameworks based Bhattachara (2013), supplemental readings, guest speakers, and lectures
- During the remaining 6-weeks, the students focused on applying the frameworks to analyze the content of the CAPS report

Methods

Students read and annotate CAPS Report with questions and comments

Teacher facilitates review of spread sheets

Students create one-page issue brief, shares with CAPS for community awareness

3 – 4 students per group, assigned different evaluative lenses:
-law/ethics
-epidemiology, or
-economics

Students articulate research questions and conduct literature reviews based on evaluative lens

Final Deliverable: Summary of findings

Finding 1:

Framework for Community Safety based on literature and community input is needed to guide evaluation of costs/benefits, legal implications, key performance indicators, etc.

Sources:
1. Sebastian, T., Love, H., Washington, S., Barr, A., Rahman, I., Paradis, B., Perry, A.M. and Cook, S., 2022. A new community safety blueprint:, How the federal government can address violence and harm through a public health approach.
2. CAPS Alternative Public Safety Report (2023)

Dimensions of Community Safety

- Crime Prevention
- Public Order
- Social Cohesion
- Environmental Design
- Emergency Response
- Health and Wellbeing
- Justice and Equality
- Community Engagement

Finding 2

Improve data transparency and integration at the local level based on:

- Dimensions of Community Safety

- Best-practices

Community Justice Center Data Dashboard

The CJC is a collaborative effort between Tompkins County and the City of Ithaca to implement Reimagining Public Safety initiatives, including the data views linked here. Below the CJC data views you will find links to additional public safety dashboards.

The public safety data made available by Tompkins County and published in this dashboard originates from various databases. The collection of demographic data is not standardized across public safety agencies and may not show up consistently in the dashboards below.

This data is published in accordance with Tompkins County Policy 01-55 (*Publication of County Data*)

Source: [Community Justice Center Data Dashboard](#)

Finding 3

Conduct Cost-Benefit Analysis designed to analyze public health interventions

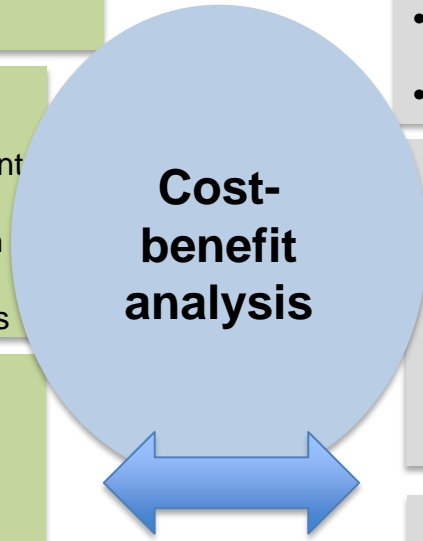- Compare different policy options (including status-quo)

Source: Robertson, L., Skelly, C., & Phillips, D. (2019b). Making Hard Choices in Local Public Health Spending With a Cost-Benefit Analysis Approach. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 7, 147. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2019.00147

Costs
- Feasibility study (all policy options
- Salaries (cost differentials based on cadres
- Training

Needs
- Equitable treatment
- Improve SUD treatment availability
- Improve mental health care access
- Stable housing options

Engagement
- Fire
- Police
- Housing
- 911 Dispatchers/988

Cashability
- Expand public-private partnerships
- Federal funding

Cost-benefit analysis

Impact
- Reduction in crime and violence
- Improved health care access
- Education and lifelong learning
- Improved engagement

Health Benefit
- Reduction in mental health burden
- Improved quality of life in marginalized communities
- Reduction in active SUD

Financial Benefit
- Reduction in municipal costs
- Reduction in hospital ER costs

Next Steps

1. IU – Combine student reports and submit to CAPS Commission by ??

2. On-going engagement with CAPS

3. Potential for collaboration with SPH-X 685 in Spring 2025

Thank you
Public Health Policy & Politics students!

- Hussain Alsaihati

- Alexandra Cottingham

- Riegan Gill

- Alec Iruri-Tucker

- Pranav Kapoor

- Jacob Otile

- Sai Sneha Paruchuri

- Ruchir Raman

- Nolan Wampler

- Jamarra William