



City of Bloomington

NOTICE

Wednesday, 24 July 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:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/88064525074?pwd=xqME3WyZXzYbv9E42hJ21i7JjxcHVs.1>

Meeting ID: 880 6452 5074

Passcode: 904673

One tap mobile

+13092053325,,88064525074# US
+13126266799,,88064525074# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

- +1 309 205 3325 US
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Meeting ID: 880 6452 5074

Find your local number: <https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/kboZXXo0vi>

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.

Meeting Agenda

Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission

Wednesday, July 24, 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=xqME3WyZXzYbv9E42hJ21i7JjxcHV.1>

- I. ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF MEMORANDA/MINUTES
 - A. Regular Session Minutes – May 22, 2024
- III. GUEST SPEAKER
 - A. Nick Voyles, Director of Indiana Recovery Alliance – Presenting on drug policy in the Bloomington area community
 - B. Erika Oliphant, Monroe County Prosecutor – Presenting on drug policy in the Bloomington area community
- IV. REPORTS (if any)
 - A. Co-Chairs
 - B. Individual Members
 - C. Committees
 - D. Staff
 - E. Public / Public Comment
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Approve updated 2023 - 2025 budget request
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Community complaints
 - i. Regarding a recent BPD incident involving a Black child
 - ii. Regarding a lack of response by BPD to alleged vehicular assault at Showers parking lot
 - iii. Regarding a BPD Community Resource Officer vehicle allegedly being used to commit a vehicular assault against a pro-Palestine protestor.
 - B. Approval of 2024 CAPS Report to Council
 - C. Choose presenters for August 7 Council Meeting
- VII. TOPIC SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS
- VIII. 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.

CAPS COMMISSION 2024 REPORT

I. Summary

In the past year, CAPS Commission has striven to encourage the implementation of its prior recommendations, led important community conversations around policing and community safety, and expanded the network of local and national partners involved in CAPS' work.

This year, CAPS has successfully maintained a transparency and consent-based approach to decision-making established in previous years. Adhering to a non-hierarchical and transparent process for decision-making in 2023-2024 has allowed the Commission to make complex and timely decisions on matters of current interest for the community, while avoiding the major conflicts between members that challenged the healthy functioning of the Commission during CAPS' initial two years.

In the next year, the Commission hopes to build on the recent engagement with its work by Mayor Thomson to include greater collaboration with the other city boards/commissions, the Board of Public Safety, Bloomington Police Department and other important city stakeholders in community safety. The initial success of the Council-led facilitation of collaboration between CAPS and Mayor Thomson leads the Commission to request that the Council facilitate setting up channels of collaboration between it and these other city stakeholders in the coming year.

II. Description of Work Performed

In 2023 after completing our APS Report, CAPS attempted to reach out to the Mayor's Office and to partner with other city commissions/boards in areas of our work that overlap with theirs. These outreach efforts were largely unsuccessful due to resistance by Mayor Hamilton and members of his staff. In 2024, several Council Members have assisted CAPS in performing outreach in 2024 with Mayor Thomson, and so far, this outreach has been successful. CAPS Commission believes that this successful intervention is a good model for the Council to follow in improving communication between CAPS and other city departments, individuals and bodies.

regard to political speech, lawful assembly and peaceful protest, protecting transgender rights in Indiana, and understanding the value and historical challenges of performing Black genealogical research.

III. Timeline of 2023-2024 Work

CAPS' Event or Initiative	Date	Summary
Outreach with Mayor and relevant City Boards/Commissions	August - October 2023	Performed outreach efforts with Mayor's Office and 11 relevant city boards/commissions
CAPS' Response to FINAL Recommendations for Alternatives to Police Response to 911 Calls for Service Report	September 2023	Responded to a Report published by the Monroe County 911 Review Committee with several recommendations for the Mayor and Board of Public Safety
FAQ on APS Report	December 2023	FAQ created to assist outreach efforts with Mayor and City Boards/Commissions
Resolution 23-01: Protection of LGBTQ Rights & Freedom	November 2023	Asked Mayor to declare City a Safe Haven for Transgender Youth
Black Ancestry Day	November 2023	Co-organized public event with MC History Center
Reimagining Safety Film Showing	February 2024	Co-organized public event with IU Cinema and several co-sponsors
Reimagining Safety Panel Discussion	February 2024	Co-organized public event with IU School of Public Health and several co-sponsors
CAPS Letter in Support of a Ceasefire Resolution	February-March 2024	Coordinated with several local peace and justice advocacy organizations in supporting a City resolution calling for a ceasefire and resumption of aid
Statement 24-01- On the	April 2024	Interviewed three local scholars of

<u>IHRA's Working Definition of Antisemitism</u>		antisemitism on some popular definitions and controversies
<u>Resolution 24-02 - Denouncing Violent Suppression of Pro-Palestinian Protests</u>	May 2024	Passed resolution denouncing Indiana University's use of militarized police and police violence on non-violent protestors in April 2024

IV. Upcoming Goals

In its 2024-2025 year, CAPS hopes to continue its success in hosting community conversations around important safety-related issues and to deepen and expand the local network of community safety partners involved in its work, especially with the City's most safety-marginalized residents.

In addition, CAPS seeks to enhance three areas of its work which will benefit greatly from active assistance by the Council:

- 1) Gain access for two sitting CAPS members to join existing City public safety and crisis/emergency response teams coordinating city-wide public safety and emergency response programs and policies,
- 2) Improve outreach with other boards/commissions in areas that overlap with their work, and
- 3) Establish procedures for responding to community concerns regarding safety and policing.

V. Other Recommendations

A. Staff Support

Concern: While the CAPS Commission greatly appreciates the highly capable and over-qualified staff liaisons that have been provided by the Council from its legal team, we are concerned that legally trained staff may not be the best fit for supporting the CAPS Commission. The Commission has not frequently sought legal advice from city support

staff; on the other hand, we have noticed a frequent and growing need for more specialist support in areas closely related to its work.

Recommendation: To lower staffing costs and to provide CAPS with the specialized support it most needs, CAPS requests that the Council consider future hiring of staff liaisons who are not legally trained, but instead are experienced in providing support to safety-marginalized people, especially to: people with disabilities, people experiencing mental illness, people who have been incarcerated, unhoused people and/or people who have experienced violence and trauma, such as:

- Social workers
- Drug treatment counselors
- Mental health and public health workers
- Post-incarceration support workers
- Homeless shelter or domestic violence shelter workers
- Community violence interrupters or conflict resolution workers

B. Ordinance 20-20

1. Structural misalignment

Concern: According to Ordinance 20-20, the CAPS Commission should “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.” While the Commission believes it has undertaken this ambitious charge with diligence over the last three years, our view is that non-Council city stakeholders have little incentive to share information or engage with the CAPS Commission’s work, much less to implement its recommendations on enhancing public safety.

Recommendation: To resolve this ongoing contradiction between structural incentives of non-Council city stakeholders and expected advisory bodies of the CAPS Commission, the Commission recommends that the Council do one of the following:

1) revise the advisory expectations in Ordinance 20-20 to remove the expectation for CAPS to make recommendations to any offices, individuals or bodies outside of the Council, or

2) create structural incentives for those offices, individuals or bodies to share information with, positively engage with and/or follow recommendations from the CAPS Commission.

More importantly, CAPS requests that the Council create a standing committee to regularly meet with the CAPS Outreach Committee to assist it in its efforts to achieve its upcoming goals, share information with, positively engage and discuss its recommendations with all levels and offices of the city.

2. Mayoral appointments

Concern: It has come to the attention of CAPS Commission that Council is considering changing the appointing structure for the Commission to allow for 50% Mayoral appointees.

Recommendation: CAPS does not support this change in its appointing structure. The Commission asks the Council to recall the reasons why CAPS Commission was created, including as stated in Ordinance 20-20: “WHEREAS, the only existing citizen commission that works in the field of public safety is the Board of Public Safety, *with all five members appointed by the Mayor*, as per Indiana state code.” In our view, adding Mayoral appointees to the CAPS Commission would likely weaken the Commission’s ability to provide community oversight to the City’s public safety programs and policies, while not providing any incentive to the Mayor’s Office to increase their engagement with the Commission.

Rather than giving the Mayor’s Office greater control over the CAPS Commission, the Commission would prefer for the Council to follow the suggestion made above in Structural Concerns section above by creating a standing Council committee to assist CAPS in its outreach with important city stakeholders.

C. Commission recruitment

Concern: CAPS Commission has been asked for suggestions on how the Council might reduce the consistently high number of vacancies on the Commission.

Recommendation: The Commission recommends that the Council appreciate the unique and highly political nature of its charter as outlined in Ordinance 20-20 compared to other city commissions and boards, and to understand that it is normal that CAPS seats may not

be equally sought after among city residents compared to other commissions and boards seats.

In our opinion, the Commission has functioned well regardless of the frequent number of vacancies. Rather than focusing on the number of vacancies, the Commission would prefer to focus on the functionality of the Commission in regards to fulfilling its purpose.

The Commission encourages the Council to continue its strict requirement that all CAPS members should have backgrounds and interest in advocating for the needs of marginalized people. The main suggestion to improve recruitment is for the Council to better support the Commission in getting its existing recommendations implemented by the City. We strongly feel that anyone considering joining the CAPS Commission may first want to see that past CAPS Commission efforts have made a positive impact in the lives of city residents and we recommend improving engagement with CAPS Commission by all levels of the city government as the main way to improve recruitment.

A secondary suggestion is for the Council to perform recruitment for CAPS outside of the City's usual board/commission public advertising to add recruitment efforts with local community safety-facing organizations that improve the safety of marginalized residents, such as: non-profit advocacy organizations focused on reducing incarceration, racial justice, eviction prevention, drug treatment, mental illness, violence interrupters, conflict resolution and food security. The Council might consider conducting recruitment efforts with organizations that have worked with CAPS Commission in the past, some of which are listed below for your convenience.

- Indiana Recovery Alliance
- Community Kitchen
- Middle Way House
- Eviction Prevention Project
- Care Not Cages
- Food Not Bombs
- Help Ourselves
- New Leaf New Life
- Exodus Refugee Support
- Community Justice and Mediation Center
- IU Palestine Solidarity Committee
- IU School of Public Health Office of Public Health Practice
- Bloomington Peace Action Coalition
- Citizens for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel
- Monroe County Women's Commission

- Black Lives Matter Bloomington
- Jewish Voice for Peace - Indiana
- Bloomington Multifaith Alliance

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