

MEMORANDUM
Community Advisory on Public Safety (CAPS) Commission
Wednesday, July 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 4:31 p.m.

Commission members present in person: Jason Michálek, Todd Mullins, Nejla Routsong, Kamala Brown-Sparks, Tyler Shaffer

Commission members absent: Jenna Buckner

City staff present: Stephen Lucas, Colleen Williamson

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Cm. Routsong moved and it was seconded to reorder Item III (Guest Speakers) to after Item VII (Topic Suggestions). Motion passed 5-0.
- Cm. Routsong moved and it was seconded to strike Items VI (A) (i) through Item (A) (iii) from the agenda in the interest of time and due to the unavailability of the member of the public to speak on Item VI (A) (iii). Motion passed 5-0.

REPORTS

Co-chairs: none

Individuals: none

Committees:

- Outreach Committee
 - Cm. Routsong gave the report on the Outreach Committee.

Staff: No report.

Public: none

OTHER BUSINESS

- Cm. Routsong moved and it was seconded to dissolve the Special Committee on Violence Suppression of Protests. Cm. Routsong explained that its purpose has been served and was created with the intention of responding to April's Dunn Meadow protests and police response. Cm. Routsong also noted the Special Committee's accomplishments. Motion passed 5-0.
- Members of the Commission discussed the amended 2023-2025 CAPS Commission Budget Request. Acting staff liaison Stephen Lucas explained that he had already submitted their budget as written in 2024 to the Controller for 2025. Lucas

explained that the only impact is that they would have more money in the budget. Commission members agreed. Cm. Routsong moved and it was seconded to approve the amended budget request. Motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- Items VI (A) (i-iii) stricken by an earlier motion.
- In light of community complaints brought to the Commission, Cm. Routsong raised the suggestion of establishing a committee and a procedure for dealing with those concerns. Cm. Shaffer offered a concern that making a committee to respond to public safety incidents may be troublesome due questions of oversight and member capacity. Cm. Michálek suggests discussing the safety models currently employed by the community. Cm. Brown-Sparks expressed support for the pending committee as members of the public view CAPS as a last resort, and turning them away will leave them with nowhere else to go. Acting staff liaison Lucas mentioned the online Complaint for Bloomington Police Department form that community members with a complaint may fill out which leads to an insight process. Lucas clarified that this form does not need to supersede a new committee, but may be an additional resource to offer. Cm. Michálek mentions the need for a standard operating procedure. Cm. Brown-Sparks and Cm. Michálek mention interest in serving on such a committee. Cm. Brown-Sparks moves and Cm. Routsong seconds to create a then-unnamed committee for these purposes. Motion passes 5-0.
- Cm. Routsong suggests moving the planned August 7th presentation of the 2024 CAPS Report to the Common Council to a later date due to commissioner disagreement and lack of time to bring about a consensus. Cm. Routsong moved and it is seconded to move Item VI (B) Approval of 2024 CAPS Report to Council to a later date and to additionally discuss the Report in Outreach Committee. Motion passed 5-0.
- Cm. Routsong moves and it is seconded to moved Item VI (C) to choose presenters for the August 7th Council Meeting to the August CAPS meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

TOPIC SESSIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- Guest Speaker Erika Oliphant suggests a future topic of violence prevention work. Cm. Routsong confirms that Kathleen Sobiech from the Indiana University School of Public Health will be at the August meeting to present findings from a class project on CAPS' Alternative Public Safety Report.

GUEST SPEAKER

- Guest speakers Nick Voyles, Director of Indiana Recovery Alliance and Erika Oliphant, Monroe County Prosecutor, participated in a question and answer session on drug policy and harm reduction in the Bloomington area community. Cm. Shaffer asked Voyles and Oliphant a series of prepared questions pertaining to this topic. Voyles and Oliphant emphasized the difficulty in addressing addiction, discussing the differences of drug decriminalization versus drug legalization. Voyles and Oliphant shared the concern of decriminalization's impact on children and the inability to regulate and prosecute drug cartels. They additionally discussed their

personal and professional experiences in dealing with people struggling with addiction within current drug policies. Both guest speakers emphasized that these community issues do not occur in isolation, and local ability to effect change is limited by State and Federal law.

Cm. Routsong moved and it was seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 pm. Meeting adjourned.

Memorandum prepared by:
Colleen Williamson, Staff