



City of Bloomington

# Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission

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Meeting Packet

Organizational Meeting

Tuesday, 18 May 2021

At 7:00 pm

[Via Zoom](#)

# COMMUNITY ADVISORY ON PUBLIC SAFETY

## ORGANIZING MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, 18 May 2021 AT 7:00 PM

*Per Executive Orders issued by the Governor, these meetings will be conducted electronically.*

*The public may access the meetings at the following link:*

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/96872872181?pwd=K0xxUy9SSm03cGZKWWdLMXFtTjBiUT09>

- I. Welcome & Introductions
- II. Discussion of Purpose and Goals
  - a. Gather data on the perceptions and preferences about public safety from community member, and research evidence-based alternatives to traditional policing
  - b. 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.
- III. Function of Commission
  - a. Members
  - b. Council Office – provide notice and general administrative support
  - c. Role of Officers
    - i. Chair - Prepare an agenda and preside over all meetings
    - ii. Vice Chair – Serve as Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson and aid the Chairperson or Secretary upon request.
    - iii. Secretary - keep for every meeting written minutes in which the results of any vote are recorded and, when appropriate, specific findings of facts and conclusions are set forth. (BMC Section 2.08.020 (10))
- IV. Election of Officers
- V. Meetings
  - a. Transparency
    - i. Open Door Law
    - ii. Access to Public Records Act
  - b. Bylaws
    - i. Bloomington Municipal Code
    - ii. Ordinance 20-20
- VI. Establish a Regular Meeting Schedule – The commission shall meet one time each month, every month of the year unless it decides to cancel the meeting. At least four meetings shall be held each year. (BMC 2.12.120 (F))
- VII. Focus of Next Meeting – Brainstorming subject matter & assigning specific questions
- VIII. Adjourn

## STATEMENT ON PUBLIC MEETINGS DURING THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

*As a result of Executive Orders issued by Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb, the Council and its committees may adjust normal meeting procedures to adhere to guidance provided by state officials. These adjustments may include:*

- *allowing members of the Council or its committees to participate in meetings electronically;*
- *posting notices and agendas for meetings solely by electronic means;*
- *using electronic meeting platforms to allow for remote public attendance and participation (when possible);*
- *encouraging the public to watch meetings via Community Access Television Services broadcast or livestream, and encouraging remote submissions of public comment (via email, to [council@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:council@bloomington.in.gov)).*

*Please check <https://bloomington.in.gov/council> for the most up-to-date information on how the public can access Council meetings during the public health emergency.*



**City of Bloomington  
Office of the Common Council**

# **NOTICE**

**Tuesday, 18 May 2021**

***Community Advisory on Public Safety  
Commission Meeting***

**at 7:00 pm**

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The public may access the meeting at the following link:

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As a quorum of the Council 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.



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

OFFICE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

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## Memorandum

**To:** Members of the Community Advisory on Public Safety  
**From:** Council Office  
**Date:** 14 May 2021  
**Re:** First Meeting – Tuesday, 18 May 2021 at 7:00

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Welcome to the Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission. Thank you very much for volunteering to serve the community in this capacity. The Commission was formed by the Common Council in November 2020 with the passage of [Ordinance 20-20](#) (included in this packet) for the purpose of looking at ways to increase the safety of all Bloomington community members by researching and discussing public safety in Bloomington.

As you are well aware, this is not an easy issue to tackle. It is both complex and contentious. Part of the hard work of this group will be to closely examine various ways to approach public safety and figure out what approaches might work best for our community. Starting out, there are no foregone conclusions about what is best. The goal of the group is to “increase the safety of all Bloomington community members, especially those often marginalized due to race, disability, gender, sexual identity, or sexual orientation” through data-driven research about improving public safety by means other than traditional policing.

### Members

The Commission is made up of 11 members meant to be part of traditionally underrepresented groups and those who work directly with or serve one or more of these groups. Such groups may include, but are not limited to, Black people, Latinx people, those experiencing mental health challenges, those with physical disabilities, those who express non-binary gender identity or are non-cisgender, those experiencing or having experienced homelessness, those experiencing or having experienced drug addiction, those experiencing or having experienced domestic violence, and those with a record of previous incarceration. Members were chosen based on their interest in the issue and their ability to work with people with differing perspectives in the interest of reaching common ground. A list of members is provided in this packet.

## **Duties**

According to Ordinance 20-20, the CAPS Commission serves as an advisory body to the Bloomington Common Council and shall:

- Gather data about perceptions and preferences regarding public safety, specifically from groups of individuals that do not fall into the majority racial and economically advantaged demographics, as well as marginalized populations, of Bloomington.
- Research evidence-based approaches to public safety other than traditional policing, including but not limited to the establishment of an alternate crisis response phone number, investments in mental health care, addiction treatment, community centers, or job training (among other areas) to mitigate the causes of crime, and other innovative approaches.
- Explore best practices in socially and racially just public safety measures in cities across the US and worldwide, and to examine which ideas may best be implemented in Bloomington.
- Make recommendations to the Bloomington Common Council and the Mayor's administration on policies and programs that enhance public safety for all community members.
- Promote a broader view of public safety through education and outreach programs.
- To provide an annual report of its activities to the Common Council, Mayor and the public.

## **Suggested Timeline for Year One**

- CAPS Commission elects officers and adopts bylaws
- Establish structure and function of the Commission's work
- Identify relevant data sets and documents for collection
- Perform a needs assessment
- Research evidence-based alternatives to traditional policing
- Identify best practices in public safety and continue data collection and data analysis
- Prepare a list of priority actions and recommendations/proposals
- Prepare a report for City Council

**NOTE:** Per Ordinance 20-20, the efficacy of this Commission will be reviewed by the by the Bloomington Common Council 2 years after the date of the first meeting.



**Please bring your calendars to the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> so we can map out our next couple of meetings.**

## **Transparency**

This Commission is intended to be representative of many voices. As the work of the Commission will likely be of interest to many people, City staff has created a website to host any materials/reports/recommendations that the Commission produces:

<https://bloomington.in.gov/council/public-safety-advisory>.

In addition to publicly posting and sharing its work, please know that the Commission is also subject to both the Indiana Open Door Law and Access to Public Records Act. These laws are meant to ensure that the work of governing bodies is conducted openly and is accessible to the public.

Commissioners should deliberate and make all their decisions during a public meeting. Commissioners should avoid emailing, talking, or otherwise communicating with other members outside of a public meeting about how they will vote, reasons for voting a particular way, or the pros and cons of an issue or petition that may come before the commission. Commissioners should avoid emailing the entire commission (or a quorum of the commission) about commission business. If commissioners have factual information they wish to communicate to the entire body, they should send it to the staff liaison and request that it be provided to the body.

Sometimes, discussion between commissioners outside of a public meeting may be necessary. In such cases, the discussions should involve as few commissioners as possible and never involve a quorum. If the matter warrants substantial discussion with multiple commissioners outside of the regular meeting schedule, a subcommittee may be appropriate, the meetings of which would be posted and open to the public.

Under the Access to Public Records Act, any material that is created, received, retained, maintained, or filed by or with a public agency is a public record and subject to disclosure. This includes emails sent and received via private email accounts if the email concerns public business. For this reason, email correspondence regarding the board or commission's business should generally copy the staff liaison so that the City has a record of the correspondence. Commissioners are otherwise responsible for retaining and producing emails and other records, including text messages, related to board or commission business that they have in their possession upon public records request.

## **Public Notice and Memoranda**

Agencies must give public notice of any public meeting or executive session at least 48 hours in advance. Agencies must keep a memorandum of each public meeting and make it available for inspection and copying after the meeting.

Memoranda should include:

- the date, time, and place of the meeting (including whether the meeting was conducted electronically);
- a list of the members that were present or absent;
- a description of the matters discussed or decided;
- a record of votes taken, listed by individual if a roll call vote was taken.

**ORDINANCE 20-20**

**TO AMEND TITLE 2 (ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL) OF THE  
BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE  
(To Establish a Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission)**

WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington’s Comprehensive Plan lists as two of its core principles to “Fortify our strong commitment to equality, acceptance, openness and public engagement” and “Fortify our progress toward improving public safety and civility;” and

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2020, the Bloomington Common Council unanimously adopted Resolution 20-06, entitled “Denouncing and Condemning White Nationalism and White Supremacy,” in which it pledged “to continue pursuing policies and directing appropriate resources to ensure civil and human rights are protected and afforded to all individuals;” and

WHEREAS, law enforcement in particular and public safety in general are areas where the City of Bloomington must ensure that civil and human rights are protected for all residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, public safety is a concept with broad meaning across community demographics; and

WHEREAS, the voices of marginalized community members are often unheard, minimized, or dismissed; and

WHEREAS, some members of our community do not feel safe, related to:

- Race;
- Gender;
- Disability;
- Mental health challenges;
- Sexual orientation;
- Sexual identity;
- Housing status;
- Experiencing domestic violence;
- Experiencing addiction;
- Previous incarceration;
- Or the intersectionality of some or all of these factors; and

WHEREAS, Bloomington law enforcement officers are overburdened with matters outside the scope of traditional law enforcement training and expertise (e.g. homelessness, substance abuse, mental health crises, etc.); and

WHEREAS, data-driven research about, and real-life examples of, improving public safety by means other than traditional policing exist and are available for study and possible application in Bloomington; and

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. The Board of Public Safety “shall have control and oversee the police and fire department of the city pursuant to statute, and shall have the authority to allow and approve claims” (BMC 2.17.030) but it is not specifically charged with investigating new approaches to public safety; and



WHEREAS, the City has set a Comprehensive Plan Goal 1.2, Health & Safety, to “Support programs and strategies that sustain and enhance the health and safety of residents and visitors.”

WHEREAS, there is a need to gather public input and recommendations on public safety in the City; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA THAT:

**SECTION 1. Establishment of the Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission.**

There is hereby established a Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission in the Common Council Office.

**SECTION 2. Goal.** The goal of the Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission is to increase the safety of all Bloomington community members, especially those often marginalized due to race, disability, gender, sexual identity, or sexual orientation.

**SECTION 3. Code changes.** A new section of the Bloomington Municipal Code, Section 2.12.120 “Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission” shall be added to the table of contents and the text of Title 2 and shall read as follows:

Section 2.12.120 “Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission”

- (a) Establishment and Purpose. There shall be established a Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission (“Commission”), which shall:
  - (1) 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; and
  - (2) research evidence-based alternatives to traditional policing; and
  - (3) identify best practices in public safety globally and evaluate the efficacy of such practices for implementation in Bloomington.
  - (4) 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.
- (b) General. This Commission is subject to the general provisions of Section 2.08.020 of the Bloomington Municipal Code.
- (c) Appointments. The Commission shall be composed of eleven (11) voting members appointed by the Common Council. Each member shall have one (1) vote and shall serve without compensation.
- (d) Qualifications. Citizen appointments to the Commission must be at least eighteen years of age and reside within the City of Bloomington. Strongly encouraged to apply are residents who are historically underrepresented in local government. Such groups may include, but are not limited to residents:
  - (1) who are Black;
  - (2) who are Latinx;
  - (3) who are people of color;
  - (4) with disabilities;
  - (5) who are experiencing or who have experienced mental health challenges;

- (6) who express non-binary gender identity or are non-cisgender;
  - (7) who are experiencing or who have experienced homelessness;
  - (8) who are experiencing or who have experienced domestic violence;
  - (9) who have a previous record of incarceration;
  - (10) with addictions; and
  - (11) who have a demonstrated background of empowering historically disadvantaged groups and working to further racial, social, and economic equity.
- (e) Officers. Officers shall be selected by a vote of the commission members annually.
- (f) Meetings. The Commission shall meet one time each month, every month of the year, unless it decides to cancel the meeting. At least four meetings shall be held each year.
- (g) Staffing. The Common Council staff shall provide general administrative support for the Commission.
- (h) Terms. The initial terms of five city resident appointments shall expire on January 31, 2022. The term of the remaining initial six city resident appointments shall expire on January 31, 2023. Thereafter, all terms of city resident appointments shall be for two years and expire on January 31.
- (i) Powers and Duties.
- (1) In its actions, the Commission shall seek to promote transparency, accountability, a collaborative spirit, long-term and strategic thinking, and effective risk management.
  - (2) The commission shall:
    - (A) gather data about perceptions and preferences regarding public safety, specifically from: racial minority; economically disadvantaged; and marginalized residents of Bloomington.
    - (B) research evidence-based approaches to public safety focusing on those approaches outside the scope of traditional policing, including, but not limited to:
      - i. the establishment of an alternate crisis response phone number;
      - ii. investments in mental health care, addiction treatment, community centers, and/or job training to mitigate the causes of crime; and
      - iii. all other innovative approaches.
    - (C) explore best practices in socially and racially just public safety measures in cities across the US and worldwide, and to examine which ideas may best be implemented in Bloomington;
    - (D) make recommendations to the Bloomington Common Council, the Board of Public Safety, and the Mayor's administration on policies and programs that enhance public safety for all community members;
    - (E) promote a broader view of public safety through education and outreach programs;
    - (F) provide an annual report of its activities to the Common Council, Mayor and the public.

SECTION 4. The need for and efficacy of the Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission shall be reviewed by the Common Council two years after the Commission's first meeting.

SECTION 5. If any section, sentence, or provision of this ordinance, or application thereof to any person or circumstance shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other sections, sentences, provisions or application of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provision of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

SECTION 6. This ordinance shall be in effect after its passage by the Common Council and approval of the Mayor, any required publication or other promulgation in accordance with the law.

PASSED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
STEPHEN VOLAN, President  
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk  
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk  
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN HAMILTON, Mayor  
City of Bloomington

#### SYNOPSIS

This ordinance is authored by Councilmembers Piedmont-Smith, Rosenbarger, and Flaherty and amends Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code (Administration and Personnel) to create an 11-member Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission. This Commission would, among other duties, research and make recommendations to the Common Council and the Mayor on matters of public safety.

*Note: At the November 18<sup>th</sup> Regular Session, the Council adopted Amendment 01, which added Section 4 to the ordinance and renumbered subsequent sections.*

## **Community Advisory on Public Safety (CAPS) Commission**

### **RATIONALE**

Because public safety means different things to different people, and because the voices of marginalized folks are often not heard or listened to, we propose the formation of a Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission.

All members of the Bloomington community have a right to feel safe. It has become apparent that some Bloomingtonians do not feel safe because of negative police interactions, both on the local and national levels, with Black people and people of color, as well as people with mental health issues and addictions. At the same time, police are being asked to do too much. The police, who are trained in law enforcement, are not the most appropriate organization to address issues that require social supports and interventions (for example, mental health crises, substance misuse, homelessness). We recognize that there are a multitude of structural and resource inequalities in our community that can lead to behaviors defined by law as criminal, but potentially solved by additional social resources and support.

We seek to better understand perceptions of public safety in Bloomington among demographic groups who don't normally have a seat at the tables of power, including city government. We also seek to improve upon our current public safety system through methods other than traditional policing, learning from programs, both successful and unsuccessful, tried in other communities. Our goal is to increase the safety of Bloomingtonians, especially those most vulnerable among us.

We therefore seek to establish a Community Advisory on Public Safety (CAPS) Commission appointed by the Bloomington City Council. The Commission should be an official body under Bloomington Municipal Code to ensure that its work will be ongoing and that its recommendations will be heeded by the City Council. A fully independent group not affiliated with the City would be more easily discounted by the City Council and by the Mayor's administration.

### **COMPOSITION**

The Commission shall have 11 members, all appointed by the City Council. We consider appointments by the City Council to be more broadly representative of the community than appointments by the Mayor. Like all city commissions, interested participants must apply to be a member and will be appointed by the appropriate standing committee of the City Council after an application and interview process. Individuals from traditionally underrepresented groups are especially encouraged to apply to be on the commission. Such groups may include, but are not limited to, Black people, Latinx people, those experiencing mental health challenges, those with physical disabilities, those who express non-binary gender identity or are non-cisgender, those experiencing or having experienced homelessness, those experiencing or having experienced drug addiction, those experiencing or having experienced domestic violence, and those with a record of previous incarceration. Individuals who work directly with or serve one or more of these groups are also encouraged to apply. In the words of one community member:

“The leaders and the most heard voices should be those most impacted as long as they feel comfortable in that position. If they do not then those who support them must carry their message. It is vital that we follow the marginalized voices' direction in this effort since their experiences and reality is why change must be made. If we, as supporters, create the narrative in this work, we are no different than any other abusive system.” - Debra Morrow, Executive Director of Middle Way House

Like with all city boards and commissions, the CAPS Commission meetings will be open to the public.

### **DUTIES**

(A) To gather data about perceptions and preferences regarding public safety, specifically from groups of individuals that do not fall into the majority racial and economically advantaged demographics, as well as marginalized populations, of Bloomington.

(B) To research evidence-based approaches to public safety other than traditional policing, including but not limited to the establishment of an alternate crisis response phone

number, investments in mental health care, addiction treatment, community centers, or job training (among other areas) to mitigate the causes of crime, and other innovative approaches.

(C) To explore best practices in socially and racially just public safety measures in cities across the US and worldwide, and to examine which ideas may best be implemented in Bloomington.

(D) To make recommendations to the Bloomington Common Council and the Mayor's administration on policies and programs that enhance public safety for all community members.

(E) To promote a broader view of public safety through education and outreach programs.

(F) To provide an annual report of its activities to the Common Council, Mayor and the public.

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

The Commission is encouraged to work with community volunteers who can provide support with research, data analysis, report writing, public outreach, and other needs of the Commission. The work of community volunteers will be directed by the Commission.

## SUGGESTED TIMELINE FOR YEAR 1

Our overall goal is to have a set of recommendations from the CAPS Commission in time to incorporate any with financial implications into the budget proposal for calendar year 2022.

- Bloomington City Council establishes the Commission by November 4, 2020
- Application process opens by November 9 and interviews start by November 16, 2020
- Seats filled by December 31, 2020
- CAPS Commission performs a needs assessment/collects data through February 26, 2021
- CAPS Commission analyzes data, does additional data collection as needed and prepares a report for City Council by April 30, 2021
- CAPS Commission prepares a list of priority actions and prepares recommendations/proposals for the City Council's consideration by May 31, 2021
- City Council reviews recommendations/proposals for inclusion in the 2022 City Budget

Ordinance 20-20: To Establish a Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission (CAPS)  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

Council Sponsors of Ord. 20-20: Matt Flaherty, Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Kate Rosenbarger

1. If the Board of Public Safety oversees public safety issues in Bloomington, how will the CAPS Commission work with the BPS?

The CAPS Commission will be independent of the Board of Public Safety (BPS) because it has an entirely different focus. According to Indiana code, the Board of Public Safety members are appointed by the Mayor and "**serve at the pleasure of the mayor.**" According to Bloomington Municipal code 2.17.030, "the board of public safety shall have control and oversee the police and fire department of the city pursuant to statute, and shall have the authority to allow and approve claims."

The CAPS Commission will **not** be providing oversight of the BPD. The CAPS Commission will recommend new ways in which our community can provide and improve public safety. If any of these methods involve changes in how the police department is run or structured, and if the mayor's administration and the City Council accept these recommended methods, the executive and legislative branches will work with the BPD, the BPS, and any other statutory body required to be consulted in order to implement such changes.

2. The city and various local leaders have been working with the Divided Community Project to develop a Task Force on the Future of Policing. Why do we need both entities?

The focus of the two groups is complementary but not duplicative. The CAPS Commission is focused on what public safety means to the community at large. Results of the research are still to be determined. We do not want to presuppose what the outcomes or recommendations will be. Based upon the DRAFT proposal provided by the Divided Communities local leadership, the Future of Policing Task Force will, at least in the short term, be focused on improving the police force. It is hoped that the two groups will share information and, as appropriate, collaborate.

The sponsors' goal in forming the CAPS commission is to hear from a variety of underrepresented and underserved communities in Bloomington, including Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) but also including other demographic groups such as people who have experienced (or are experiencing) homelessness, domestic violence, and/or addiction. The Task Force on the Future of Policing is part of the mayor's Plan to Advance Racial Equity and seems to have race as a focal point.

3. How would the CAPS Commission work with emergency dispatch? With city, county, and other local law enforcement (including IU Health Bloomington Hospital security)?

The CAPS Commission might use emergency dispatch data or data from various law enforcement organizations as it gathers information. Until all data gathering and analysis has been completed, it is impossible to state what other interactions or impact the CAPS Commission might have on these organizations. Joint meetings or working groups with members of CAPS and other related organizations can be used to implement goals adopted by the City Council and the mayor's administration. The focus of the CAPS Commission will, however, be the City of Bloomington and not the greater area of Monroe County.

4. A public-private partnership has recently launched the Stride Center where individuals with mental health problems and/or addictions can be connected to social service support. How will the CAPS Commission and the Stride Center work together?

The Stride Center is an excellent addition to the services available in Bloomington. However, as it currently exists, the only way to enter the Stride Center is through local law enforcement intervention. The CAPS Commission is hoping to determine how intervention by the police department can be prevented, i.e. how our community can provide services in order to minimize unnecessary police intervention. This will serve not only the community members but also the police as it will reduce their workload.

5. Where did the idea for the CAPS Commission come from?

The proposal evolved from concerns expressed by members of the public at two City Council Public Safety Committee meetings who advocated for the study and consideration of policing alternatives and a broader review of public safety that goes beyond policing. The initial draft of the proposal was written by Cathi Crabtree and Molly Stewart. A petition regarding policing and public safety, received by the city council from a group of 152 residents during the budget process, also advocated for a group like the CAPS Commission. Specifically, it called for the creation of "a committee composed of community members from a wide variety of identities to provide input and gather information from vulnerable people who have lived experience in order to learn more from them about what creates a safe community." The intent of the ordinance's sponsors is to use the council's legislative authority to simply create a structure for such study and community input, in line with what many community members have advocated for in recent months.

6. Are you trying to create a program like CAHOOTS in Eugene, Oregon?

The sponsors of Ordinance 20-20 have not decided on the best ways to improve public safety in Bloomington. The purpose of the CAPS Commission is to give input into this matter, and to recommend tools to improve public safety for all in our community, especially the most vulnerable. Commission members may look at the CAHOOTS program in Eugene, Oregon, but we are not setting their agenda.

According to their website, “CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) provides mobile crisis intervention 24/7 in the Eugene-Springfield Metro area. CAHOOTS is dispatched through the Eugene police-fire-ambulance communications center, and within the Springfield urban growth boundary, dispatched through the Springfield non-emergency number. Each team consists of a medic (either a nurse or an EMT) & a crisis worker (who has at least several years experience in the mental health field).” CAHOOTS has operated as a non-profit agency for 31 years with financial support from the Eugene and Springfield governments. In 2019, 17% of 911 calls in Eugene were diverted from police to CAHOOTS.

7. Are you trying to create an emergency helpline that does not connect with the police? If so, how is this related to BLM B-Town’s “Make the Right Call” campaign?

As stated for Question 5, the sponsors of Ord. 20-20 do not know what recommendations the CAPS Commission will come up with. However, section (i) of the ordinance specifies that in researching evidence-based approaches to public safety, the Commission will explore the possibility of an alternate crisis response phone number. Whether or not the commission ultimately recommends this approach is not predetermined. They may research an alternative help line and recommend this to city government, but they may not. We thank BLM B-Town for their leadership with the “Make the Right Call” campaign and agree that calling the police does not always lead to the best solutions to community problems.

8. What is the educational role of the CAPS Commission?

The educational component of the CAPS Commission is anticipated to be two-fold. First, the Commission will provide annual reports to the City Council and Mayor, and these reports will be presented in a public meeting and made available to the public. Second, we expect CAPS to facilitate community conversations regarding perceptions of public safety and how these may differ depending on demographic factors. The Commission will promote a broader view of public safety through education and outreach programs, whose format will be decided by the Commission.

9. How will members of the commission be appointed?

Individuals interested in serving on the commission will go through the same process as for any other city commission, with an application through OnBoard, and considering the demographic groups we are targeting, the sponsors plan to work with the City Clerk to see if hard copy paper applications can also be accepted. As is stated in the ordinance, applications from Black/African American residents, Latinx residents, those experiencing mental health challenges, those with physical disabilities, those who express non-binary gender identity or are non-cisgender, those experiencing or having experienced homelessness, those experiencing or having experienced drug addiction, those



experiencing or having experienced domestic violence, and those with a record of previous incarceration will be particularly encouraged to apply. The sponsors of Ord. 20-20 and the residents who brought the proposal forward intend to reach out to organizations that work with underrepresented groups and collaborate with them to urge people who don't normally have a seat at the table to apply.

According to the City Council's normal process, applications will be reviewed by the relevant standing committee, in this case the Public Safety Committee, who will then conduct interviews and select those to recommend for appointment by the City Council as a whole.

10. Is this a case of white people telling BIPOC what to do?

No. This proposal is coming from council members who would like to create a venue for people to be heard, and for themselves, as council members, to be better informed. The legislation does not dictate what the CAPS Commission should ultimately recommend to the city government to improve public safety. The legislation creates a mechanism whereby city government can hear from individuals who, due to their demographic characteristics, generally don't have a seat at the tables of power and who are particularly vulnerable in today's society due to bigotry of various kinds. While BIPOC did not play a direct role in writing the legislation to bring to council, the initial proposal was informed by outreach to many community groups and individuals, including BIPOC. That said, the ordinance sponsors have heard the criticism that BIPOC could have been more centrally included in drafting the legislation, and we take that criticism to heart.

We would also like to emphasize that this proposed legislation acts as a starting point to the public engagement process. The Public Safety Standing Committee is holding its first public meeting to discuss the proposal on October 28 We hope to hear from community members at that time and are open to amending our legislation through further discussion..

## 2.08.020 General provisions.

For the executive branch and the city's boards, commissions and councils, the following general provisions apply unless otherwise specified by statute or ordinance.

- (1) **Appointments.** All department heads shall be appointed by the mayor, subject to commission or board approval when required by this title, and serve at the pleasure of the mayor. Department heads shall appoint deputies and other employees within their departments with the approval of the mayor.
- (2) **Terms.** The terms for all boards, commissions, and councils established under this title shall, after having been established in a staggered manner, be for a period of two years and expire on January 31st. For all such boards, commissions, and councils in effect on December 1, 2014, the terms shall be as set forth in the Proposed Board and Commission Term Expiration Dates, which is hereby adopted and incorporated by reference into the code. In compliance with Indiana Code § 36-1-5-4, two copies of the proposal shall be on file in the office of city clerk for public inspection. For all boards, commissions, and councils established after December 1, 2014, the manner for achieving staggered terms shall be set forth in the enabling legislation and shall spread the expiration dates as evenly as is practicable between the appointing authorities and over all of the appointments.
- (3) **Residential Requirement.** All appointments to city boards, commissions and councils shall be made from residents of the city except those positions that are directed otherwise by state law or city ordinance. If a city employee is appointed to a city board, commission or council by virtue of the employment position, the residency requirement may be waived.

In the event a member of a board, commission, or council no longer resides in the city, the member shall resign immediately and notify the appropriate appointing official or body.

- (4) **Removal for Cause.** Except for appointees who serve at the pleasure of the mayor, a member of a board, commission or council may be removed for cause. Cause shall include, but not be limited to, failure to attend three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings of the board, commission, or council or four regularly scheduled meetings in any twelve-month period; provided, that any member may submit in writing to the appointing authority any extenuating circumstances. Such written submission shall be made within five business days before the formal decision to remove is reached. Acceptance of extenuating factors by the appointing official or body puts the member on notice that further excessive absenteeism shall result in removal.
- (5) **Vacancies by Death, Resignation—Failure to Appoint.** In the event that a vacancy occurs in the membership of a board, commission, or council through resignation or death, the appointing authority shall appoint a person to fill the unexpired term of the resigned or deceased member. If a member's term has expired, but the appointing authority has failed to act, the appointment of the member whose term has expired carries over until the appointing authority reappoints or appoints a successor.
- (6) **Majority Vote.** Majority vote means a majority of the members of a board, commission or council who are present and voting.
- (7) **Quorum.** Unless otherwise specified, a majority of the members serving on a board, commission or council, excepting the nonvoting ex officio members, constitute a quorum for purpose of conducting the official business of the board, commission or council.
- (8) **Parliamentary Procedure.** Meetings of all boards, commissions and councils shall be conducted according to procedures set forth in Roberts Rules of Order.
- (9) **Officers.** Each board, commission and council shall elect a chairperson, secretary, treasurer, and such other officers as may be necessary. Such entity may appoint a non-member to serve as secretary.

- (10) Duties of the Secretary. The secretary of each board, commission or council shall keep for every meeting written minutes in which the results of any vote are recorded and, when appropriate, specific findings of facts and conclusions are set forth.
- (11) Special Meetings. A special meeting of a board, commission or council may be called by the chairperson, the mayor, or by a majority of the members then serving on the board, commission or council requesting such meeting in writing. Upon receiving such request, the chairperson shall thereafter call a special meeting to be held within twenty days.
- (12) Office Space and Staff. Provision of office space and staff to boards, commissions and councils shall be at the discretion of the mayor, subject to common council appropriation approval.
- (13) Budget. All departments, divisions of departments, boards, commissions and councils shall prepare and submit annual budgets in accordance with the forms, timetables, and procedures promulgated by the mayor.
- (14) The intentional display of firearms is prohibited at any public meeting of the city's boards, commissions and councils.

(Ord. 97-03 §§ 1, 2, 1997; Ord. 83-6 § 2 (part), 1983).

(Ord. No. 11-15, § 3, 9-14-2011; Ord. No. 14-26, §§ 1—5, 12-10-2014)

# City of Bloomington

## Community Advisory on Public Safety

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### Contact information

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