

Date: January 14, 2021

Attending: Ali Abdul, Niki Amaris, Suheir Alaskari, Deb Ibonwa, Kate Knox, Lado Ladoka, Merita McKenzie, Peter O'Donnell, Jonathan Sahrbeck, Louis Pickens, Pious Ali (Co Chair), Lelia DeAndrade (Co-Chair); Samaa Abdurraqib (Facilitator)

Absent: Jerome Bennett

Approved minutes January 7

Goal:

- Public Comment
- Discussing public safety models

Discussion:

- We'll begin our work on charge #1 by identifying what we want and then examined potential models that will work.
- Previously, we agreed the role of the police is too broad
- We want to acknowledge that our motivation for this is not an attack on the police but a search for a better more effective strategy, We recognize that it would be nice to relieve the police from the burden of managing mental health crises
-
- Committee discussed needs, challenges and opportunities:
 - We are interested in seeing a reallocation of funds to community-based resources
 - There needs to be a collaborative approach to public safety that involves organizations beyond the police
 - more bias training for the police
 - more trust built between youth and police and youth and city
 - Racial, religious and cultural competency among police and public safety providers
 - Affordable and accessible legal services
 - Restorative justice
 -
- Things for the committee to consider examining:
 - the disparate patrolling in BIPOC neighborhoods
 - the services the police provide and determine who/what would be best to address it
 - recruiting and hiring practices of police
 - new anti-bias policies for PPD- We need to create policies and practices that are addressing latent patterns of behavior, not focused on explicitly racist police officers; to have a more complex way of engaging.
 - A possible recommendation:
 - deep internal racial equity assessment for police with ongoing training, strategic planning and next steps; weaves a racial equity lens through all the work
 - demographics related to stops and arrests
 - Inviting youth from BLM and Black Power movements to talk to the committee
 - Review of complaints, the complaint process, and making sure that there is accountability
 - How the police respond to violations to operating procedures
 -
- We have a model that helps familiarize people with police procedures; invites people to police station and help people understand their work- like a public police academy

- Public Safety models should address:
 - Domestic violence
 - Mental health
 - Unsheltered/homeless people
 - Youth
 - Property damage
 - Use of public spaces
- Program needs:
 - Improved education about 911 – how it is used and how things are dispatched; infomercials
 - Language accessibility
 - Teams should be composed of people with lived experience, training/professional skills
 - Community Behavioral Health team- with nurse, doctors, social workers, case managers
 - Program be separate from police department not a paramilitary response; offer an alternative to the police models
 - This should be created and funded as an independent body – separate from police
 - The city could offer grants and review contracts regularly to implement program

Note:

- The city has a program that helps familiarize people with police procedures. It invites people to the police station and helps them to understand police work
- There is also a program model in which parents engage in weekend policing

Committee adjourned at 7:00