

Community Safety Task Force Agenda

September 25, 2023

Time: 7:00 p.m.

108 Bim Street

I. Welcome & Attendance – Chair – 7:00p.m.

- a. Establishment of Quorum (need 4 members)

In attendance: Barbara Fedders, Wamiq Chowdhury, Benjamin Blaisdell and Maddie Haynes – members

Sammy Slade and Barbara Foushee – Council liaisons

Quinton Harper, Nate Jones, and Heather Nash – IFC representatives

Kimalee Dickerson – School of Government support representative

Anita Jones-McNair – Staff liaison

- b. Call the meeting to order

Fedders called the meeting to order at 7:06p.m.

- c. Introduction of visitors – 7:08p.m.

IFC representatives introduced themselves.

II. Approval of the September 25, 2023, meetings - 7: 15p.m

Chowdhury motioned to approve the minutes, Blaisdell seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

III. Debriefing Events (Phone Banking, Door to Door Canvassing, Black August and Listening Sessions)

The group began the conversation with identifying common themes. Harper wanted to ground the work and shared a timeline

George Floyd was murdered

Young folks organized and expressed the importance of Black Lives Matter

NAACP youth coordinated a rally/march in Chapel hill and Carrboro

The Community Safety Task Force was created and charged to listen to voices, visions and thoughts of the most impacted and provide alternatives to policing and safety.

Key themes heard throughout this process –

Overall safety

Pedestrian safety on roads, at lights, cross walks, difficulty near bus stops and speed bumps.

Affordably housing – turnover of residents, police should live and be familiar with neighborhoods. It seems like the police are not willing to live in town or get to know the neighborhoods they serve. Many

residents wonder who do the police serve? Responders don't seem to have relationships with families and not willing to build relationships.

Support and Care – access to mental health and substance abuse services. SOHRAD (Street Outreach, Harm Reduction and Deflection) and other services needed. Safety and shelter needed for folks experiencing homelessness.

Response time – officers are around when not needed however when needed and 911 is called, it takes forever for them to respond, if they respond at all. Some residents don't feel comfortable calling 911.

Uptick in domestic violence - inequity practices for low income families as it relates to gun violence and gun control.

Recommendations should center around police reform and services outside policing.

The group agreed that additional conversations and data review should take place prior to the October 23rd meeting. Several task force members will schedule meetings with IFC. IFC representatives left the meeting around 8:35p.m.

Task force members then preliminarily discussed length and outline of recommendation report.

IV. Adjourn meeting at 8:58p.m.

Blaisdell motioned and Fedders, seconded, the vote was unanimous.