



# Memorandum

**TO:** PUBLIC SAFETY, FINANCE AND  
STRATEGIC SUPPORT COMMITTEE

**FROM:** Angel Rios

**SUBJECT: POLICE REFORMS WORK PLAN:  
REIMAGINING COMMUNITY  
SAFETY PROCESS STATUS REPORT**

**DATE:** September 9, 2021

Approved

Date

9-9-21

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Accept the status report on the Police Reforms Work Plan: Reimagining Community Safety process.

## **BACKGROUND**

At the June 22, 2021 City Council meeting, the Council established the Reimagining Community Safety Community Advisory Committee ("Committee" hereafter). The structure of the Committee was based on a proposal from a coalition of community leaders who sought to establish a community-led process to bring forward recommendations on the reimagining of policing in San José. Their proposal was based on a desire to revise the initial Reimagining Community Safety process initiated by the City in Spring 2021, with the goal of establishing a body that was led by the community instead of by the City and which had the scope to make recommendations on the full range of policing topics of interest to community members. In response to the coalition's desire for a broader scope, the Council provided that the Committee would have the ability to bring forward recommendations to the City Council in the following areas:

- 1. Alternatives to policing:** Make recommendations to the City Council on identification and resourcing of community-based programs and interventions and alternative City service models that will significantly change, reduce, or eliminate the role of law enforcement in addressing social challenges. These may involve both the creation of alternative emergency response systems and preventative approaches.
- 2. Transformation of police policies and practices:** The Commission will develop a detailed understanding of current San José Police Department (SJPd) policies and institutional context to inform policy recommendations moving forward. The body will explore what police policies

require immediate reform and make recommendations to the City Council on reform of those policies and practices, including, but are not limited to, crowd control techniques, use of force policies, training, and hiring.

**3. Increased police accountability and transparency to the public:** Make recommendations to the City Council on increased police accountability, which may include, but are not limited to, oversight and disciplinary practices, and transparency to the public.

**4. Implementation strategies:** Make recommendations to the City Council on implementation strategies for alternatives to policing, applying necessary policy reforms, and increasing public accountability/transparency in San José. Implementation recommendations may include, but are not limited to, proposals for publicly tracking implementation of recommendations and identifying resource needs and funding strategies.

Instead of appointing individuals to the Committee, the Council designated a list of organizations that would appoint seats on the Committee, consistent with the coalition's desire that the process be community-led. A comprehensive account of the structure of the Committee can be found in the supplemental staff memorandum for item 4.3 at the June 22, 2021 Council Meeting, which is provided as Attachment A to this memorandum. Note that in addition to the recommendations contained in the memorandum, the City Council further provided that six members of the body must live within Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force areas or Project Hope neighborhoods, with the option of four of those members overlapping with other appointments to the Committee. The Council also added a seat to the Committee to be appointed by the Billy DeFrank Center and directed staff to return to the Public Safety, Finance, and Strategic Support (PSFSS) Committee in September 2021 to report on the Committee progress.

## **ANALYSIS**

This memorandum responds to the Council's June 22, 2021 direction. A summary of the activities of the Committee to date is provided below.

### **Committee Membership**

Since the Council's action in June, Committee members have been appointed and the Committee has begun meeting. A full list of appointed members is included as Attachment B. Of the appointed members, a total of four represent Mayor's Gang Prevention Hot Spot areas. The Washington/Alma, 10<sup>th</sup> and Williams street, Julian Street and Mayfair hot spots are currently represented. Two additional representatives are required to meet the full complement of six. Staff in the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department are assisting in reaching out to community leaders in Hot Spots or Project Hope Neighborhoods who may be interested in applying for these seats. Also, as directed by the Council, a representative from the Billy DeFrank Center has been included on the Committee.

## **Committee Meetings**

As of the writing of this memorandum, the Committee has met three times, on August 4 and 18 2021 and September 1, 2021. The Committee meets every other week on Wednesdays, alternating between an evening meeting commencing at 6:30 pm and a morning meeting commencing at 8:00 am. The next scheduled meeting is set for 8:00 am on September 15, 2021. Meeting agendas and video recordings of the meetings are being posted on the City's website.

These initial meetings have been primarily introductory. Agenda topics have included the following:

- Introduction of Committee Members and sharing of their perspectives on public safety;
- Testimony from community members based on their lived experience with policing;
- Sharing of learnings from other recent processes related to public safety in other cities;
- Presentation of historical information on policing in the United States;
- Presentations related to alternative community approaches to public safety concerns;
- Discussion of data needs, and;
- Discussion of the Committee process going forward, including formation of subcommittees. Subcommittees have not yet been formed, but Alternatives to Policing, Prevention, Reform and Accountability, and Youth Issues have been identified as potential subcommittee focus areas.

The agendas for the first three meetings are included for reference as Attachments C, D, and E.

## **Next Steps**

The staff supplemental memorandum for the June 22, 2021 Council Meeting indicated that \$125,000 from the existing budget allocation for the Police Reforms Work Plan was available to procure consultant support for the Committee. That funding remains available; as the Committee forms subcommittees and develops a clearer understanding their consultant needs, staff will assist in consultant procurement in accordance with the City's procurement policies. The Administration is also slated to return to the PSFSS Committee in November with another update on the work of the Committee.

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**Subject: Police Reforms Work Plan: Reimagining Community Safety Process Status Report**

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**COORDINATION**

This memorandum has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office.

/s/

ANGEL RIOS

Deputy City Manager

For questions, please contact Angel Rios, Deputy City Manager, at (408) 535-7998.

Attachment A: Supplemental Memorandum for item 4.3 on the June 22, 2021 Council Agenda

Attachment B: Reimagining Community Safety Community Advisory Committee Roster

Attachment C: Reimagining Community Safety Community Advisory Committee meeting  
agenda for August 4, 2021

Attachment D: Reimagining Community Safety Community Advisory Committee meeting  
agenda for August 18, 2021

Attachment E: Reimagining Community Safety Community Advisory Committee meeting  
agenda for September 1, 2021