Town of Chapel Hill Reimagining Community Safety Task Force

**February 22, 2021**

Meeting Minutes

## **Meeting goals**

1. Continue team building
2. Make decisions regarding Community Listening Session questions and priority populations (stakeholders)
3. Confirm meeting schedule

**Welcome & Roll Call**

Meeting convened at approximately 7:02 PM with roll call and welcome from Town Liaison Sarah Vinas.

Members and Town staff in attendance: Delores Bailey, Chief Blue, Tai Huynh, Karen Stegman, Jaclyn Gilstrap, Ty Hunter, Paris Miller, Sarah Vinas **\*Get complete list from Sarah**

Amplify Team in attendance: Christine Edwards, CEO; Diego Anselmo, Kelly Little, Kayla Earley

**Introductions**

Members introduced themselves and one top thing they hope the task force will accomplish during it’s time working together. Responses include:

* Clear direction and solidified listening sessions
* Understand how well we can cross together - and to understand the charge
* Get started - what are we doing and where are we going?
* Identify what's important to our community so we can reallocate the right resources to meet the needs of the community
* Raise community attention on attacks against Asian Americans since COVID
* Think about things that help my Town be a safer and better place for everyone - regardless of race, socioeconomic status, immigrant status. Feel like everyone is a part of the community
* Opportunities for jobs, housing, police interprofessional roles
* Build beloved community
* Broaden our understanding of what community safety is
* Vision: world free of cages, a world in which people feel free

**Discussion about Community Listening Sessions**

What is our goal/what do we want to learn?

* Amplify Consultant Christine Edwards reviewed draft goals from which the group may work. The group suggested adding an understanding of equity and community policing to the goals.
* The group identified concerns over their inability to review the goals prior to the meeting and noted that the group has not previously discussed goals for listening sessions.
* Some members also expressed concerns that they wanted to review the taskforce’s charge to understand overall goals and how these influence the listening session goals.
* Member Pairs Miller to share CPAC charge by email on the week of 3/1 in advance of the next meeting; Town liaison Sarah Vinas to share the RICS charge by email on the week of 3/1.

Review draft schedule - Taskforce meetings

* Group was interested in the proposed presentations around Policing 101 and other but felt that their meeting time would be better spent in robust conversation and decision making.
* Suggestions made to record presentations and send out electronically for members to view in their own time and reserve meetings for work and decision making.
* Comments that the group needs time to talk and to build community - to find some area of consensus and overlap, recognizing that members have varied viewpoints and lived experiences.
* Additional learning needs expressed by the group include Who in our community is already contributing to community safety?
	+ Suggestions that local groups working in religious, non-profit, Rape Crisis, Community Empowerment, and other community groups share brief videos of how their work fits into public safety.
	+ These partner videos should be shared electronically for members to view in their own time prior to meetings

Review draft schedule - Listening Sessions

* Several members remarked that the listening session schedule is aggressive and that the members have not had time to prepare for the schedule or understand the goals.
* Amplify Consultant Christine Edwards noted that taskforce members will not be expected to participate in every listening session, but that they should attend 1-2 sessions. Members agreed that it would be helpful to postpone sessions and possibly split them in half so that the members may plan time to attend and learn more directly from the community participants.
* The group noted that local leaders are supportive of this timeline and that the taskforce would benefit from having some early listening sessions to inform preliminary recommendations for the Town’s budget, for which proposals are due in May 2021.
	+ Two members suggested a hybrid option in which the taskforce performs 3-4 listening sessions in the short-term to inform the preliminary recommendations for the next fiscal year’s budget and complete the remaining sessions at a later date to inform long-term decision-making.
	+ This hybrid option will allow for community engagement and interest-building, while allowing more community members an advanced notice of participation by delaying future listening sessions.
* Town Liaison Sarah Vinas noted that there is flexibility in the listening session schedule and agreed that the group may postpone February’s proposed sessions.

What questions will we ask?

* Several taskforce members voiced concerns that they have not had an opportunity to review draft survey questions in advance or to take the survey.
* Group agreed that they would like to review survey questions and share answers anonymously prior to the next meeting. Amplify to create an online survey link with the proposed questions via Qualtrics and share with committee members within 48 hours from the current meeting.
* Taskforce will review anonymous questions and provide feedback on the proposed survey during the March 8 meeting.

Stakeholders

* Member Delores Bailey asked how the community would be informed of the listening sessions. Initial plans for informing include word-of-mouth and traditional media, including:
	+ Press release
	+ Email blast to stakeholders identified by the taskforce (not discussed at this meeting)
	+ Email invitation directly to taskforce members to share with their networks
	+ Opportunities to complete survey outside of the listening sessions by paper, text, and electronic link
	+ Future opportunities to promote listening sessions on social media

**Plus/Delta: What have you enjoyed about this meeting? What can we do better?**

Members reflected on their thoughts about what went well in this meeting and what can be improved. Responses include:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Plus: What went well | Delta: What can improve |
| * Gratitude for advisory community and moving the group forward
* Gratitude to those taking risks and to share unpopular opinions
* Thank staff for pressing on and securing consulting team
* Thank you to facilitators for seeing and hearing us - being willing to pause
* Gratitude for members to share their time; for Town council liaisons to give more time
* A lot of group consensus
 | * Important for task force to be heard
* Do the formula in the right time re: listening sessions
* Work to do re: ensuring all member's voices are represented in this space
* Possible attacks to Asian community
* Meeting time is a bit late - 5:30 or 6:00 better
* Receive materials earlier than the day of the meeting
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In response to discussion about timing of the regularly scheduled meetings, Amplify will send a poll to members to allow each person to vote on a meeting time. Amplify will also send draft survey questions and goals within 48 hours.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:49 PM.

## **Next meeting**

March 8th