

TAKOMA PARK  
REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY  
TASK FORCE



# Welcome City of Takoma Park Leadership

- Talisha Searcy, Councilmember (?)
- Kate Stewart, Mayor
- Suzanne Ludlow, City Manager
- Jessica Clarke, Deputy City Manager
- Grayce Wiggins, Manager, Housing & Community Development
- Antonio DeVaul, Chief of Police

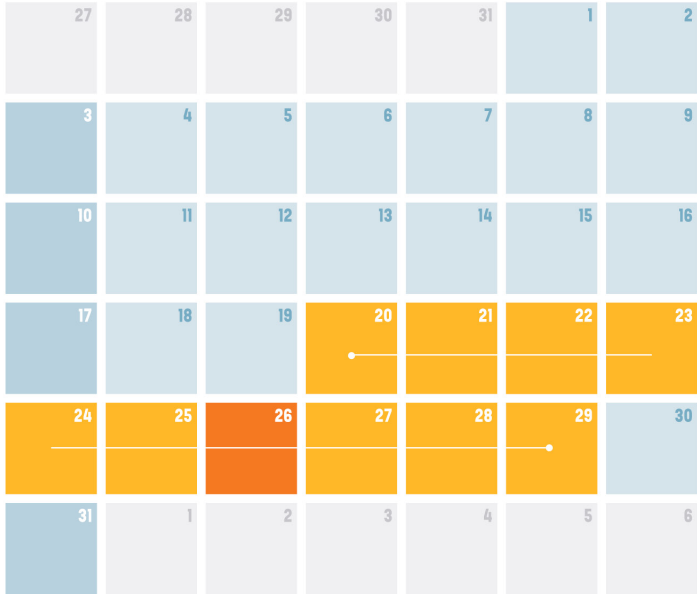


## Charge to the Task Force

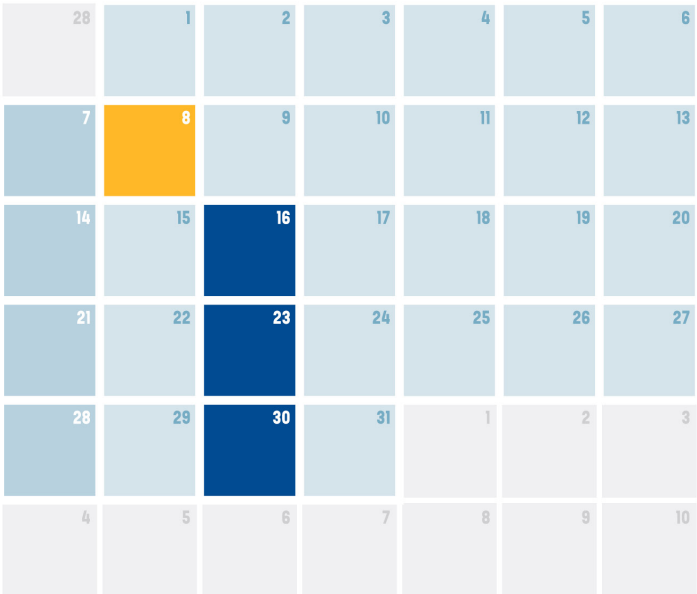
**Purpose:** The purpose of the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force is to develop recommendations that make Takoma Park a safer, more livable community for all residents, with an emphasis on addressing racial inequalities that exist in government and services evolving around public safety. This Task Force is our opportunity to bring new voices into the process as we take stock of what is working, what is not, and as we explore best practices in public safety.



JANUARY



MARCH



● Process/Administrative

● Task Force Meetings

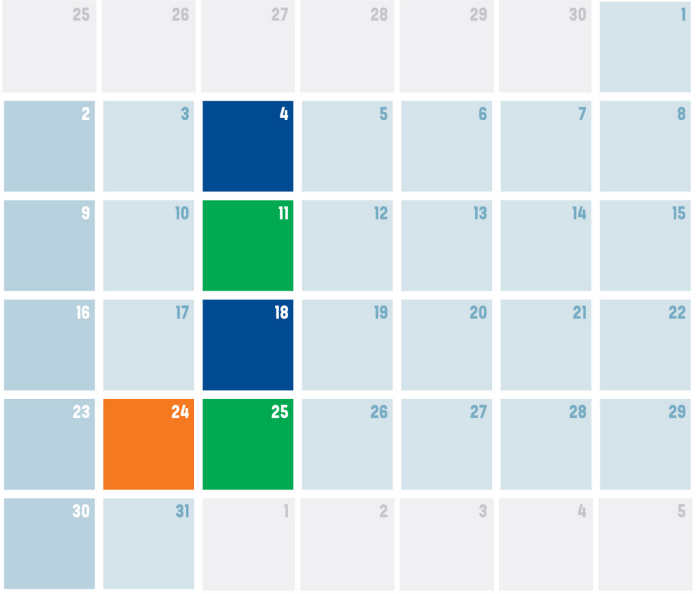
● Subcommittee Meetings

● Community Meetings

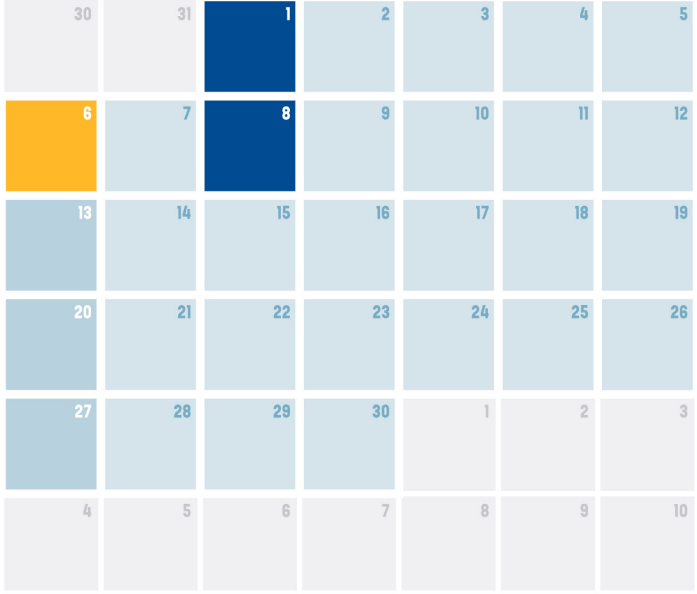
APRIL



MAY



JUNE



# Update

- **Community Listening Session**
  - Thursday, April, 29, 2021
  - 5:30 – 7:00 pm
  - [Register here](#)





# Task Force to Reimagine Public Safety

City of Takoma Park, MD

## Community Listening Session

The City's Task Force to Reimagine Public Safety will host a community listening session on **Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 5:30 pm** for our residents to give feedback to Task Force members on issues related to Public Safety. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Jessica Clarke, Deputy City Manager ([JessicaC@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:JessicaC@takomaparkmd.gov)).

**To register for this event, visit [bit.ly/takomapublicsafety](https://bit.ly/takomapublicsafety) (case sensitive)**

Update

- **Public Comment Form**
  - Available at  
<https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/reimagining-public-safety/>



Initiatives > [Project Directory](#) > Reimagining Public Safety

# REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY

## Purpose

The purpose of the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force is to develop recommendations that make Takoma Park a safer, more livable community for all residents, with an emphasis on addressing racial inequalities that exist in government and services evolving around public safety. In light of what is happening in our country, we believe that as a city, it is our duty to take inventory of our public safety practices, with emphasis on the experiences of our Black and Brown communities. This Task Force is our opportunity to bring new voices into the process as we take stock of what is working, what is not, as we explore best practices in public safety.

The Task Force is made up of 15 individuals sourced from our diverse community and approved by the City Council. The Task Force will meet regularly throughout the months of March, April, and May to create a set of recommendations on Public Safety.

The City of Takoma Park seeks the support of community members, non-profit leaders, local business owners, educators, etc., in Takoma

## Take our Survey!



## Reimagining Public Safety in Takoma Park

### Community Input

The City of Takoma Park is seeking your input on how to reimagine public safety to make Takoma Park a safer and more

powered by SurveyMonkey



Update

- **Task Force Resources Table of Contents**
  - Available at  
<https://reingoldlink.egnyte.com/dl/wZIJ0Qyh05>



## Rules of the Road

- *Enter with Curiosity. When things get difficult, turn to wonder. It is ok to ask clarifying questions.*
- *It's OK to disagree respectfully and openly, without being disagreeable.*
- *Mute your microphone, until you are about to speak.*
- *Use the raise hand feature or show hand in the camera when ready to speak.*
- *Use the chat as a space for gathering thoughts.*
- *Listen to understand, not to respond.*
- *Disagreement is encouraged, but being disagreeable (by behavior) is not.*
- *Stay mentally and physically present.*
- *Make it a brave space – fearlessly share ideas, ask questions, and contribute unconditionally.*
- *Respect each other's thinking and value everyone's contributions.*
- *Speak in "rough draft" - we are all learners.*
- *Bring your thoughtfulness to your responses by being concise so that others may have time to speak.*
- *Seek first to understand, then to be understood.*
- *Listen attentively to others...don't interrupt.*
- *Attack the problem, not the person.*
- *We are all contributors to the entire process.*
- *Use "I" statements.*
- *Assume good intentions.*



Grayce Wiggins, Manager  
Housing & Community  
Development



## Task Force Subcommittees

### **Community Quality of Life**

- *This subcommittee will consider the intersection of public safety and quality of life issues, including housing, mental health, and more, as well as the implications for Takoma Park programs, policies, and budget.*

**Facilitator:** Jevin D. Hodge

### **Committee Members:**

- § Sawa Kamara\*
- § Duane Scott
- § Ajmel Quereshi
- § Emil Parker
- § Christina Morado



# Community Quality of Life

## Themes

- Programmatic reforms and associated budgetary allocations to respond effectively to non-violent occurrences.
- Police department oversight, jurisdiction, and authority to act within the City of Takoma Park, and coordination with neighboring law enforcement agencies.
- Community and city agency coordination to maintain timely and effective communication from the community to city agencies and from those agencies back to the community.
- Alternative approach/models for mental health service calls.
- Alternative approach/model for service calls that relate to homelessness and evictions.
- Review of other housing related efforts such as code/enforcement neighborhood services.



## Task Force Subcommittees

### **Alternatives, Methods, and Responses**

- *This subcommittee will assess Takoma Park's current policing practices for emergency and non-emergency calls, including calls related to mental health. Also, this subcommittee will compare and contrast new potential approaches and best practices that may apply to Takoma Park.*

**Facilitator:** Cordell Carter II

### **Committee Members:**

- § Michael Rubin
- § Jide Atoyebi
- § Sadie Cheston-Harris
- § Cedric Boatman
- § Xitlalli Velasquez



# Alternatives, Methods, and Responses

## Themes

- Successes and lessons learned from public safety programs established in similar cities, including relevant and valid metrics.
- Dispatch operations from neighboring jurisdictions; protocols for deciding who and what kind of operations are deployed.
- TPPD hiring, training and tasking relative to actual demands/daily experiences.
  - Review of policies related to special teams such as the K-9 unit.
  - Assess the City's policies regarding use of force.
  - Performance assessment, recruitment, and retaining Police Department staff.



## Task Force Subcommittees

### **Community Engagement and Transparency**

- *This subcommittee will evaluate practices and policies related to sharing data and budget information among the public as well as efforts to engage community partners in public safety efforts. Additionally, this subcommittee will review existing efforts and consider new approaches to recruiting and retaining public safety professionals.*

**Facilitator:** Jamal Holtz

#### **Committee Members:**

- § **Lauren Van Tol\***
- § Adam Braskich
- § Jumana Musa
- § Kiminori Nakamura





# Community Engagement and Transparency

## Themes

- Mechanisms and opportunities to draw opinions and concerns from the public.
- Accountability from city agencies including the police department on communication channels, policies regarding information shared and timing, processes for communication decisions across agencies.
- Transparency regarding how residents are informed of the “rules” associated with living in Takoma Park.
  - Communications process and tools.
  - Review current police training program.

