TAKOMA PARK
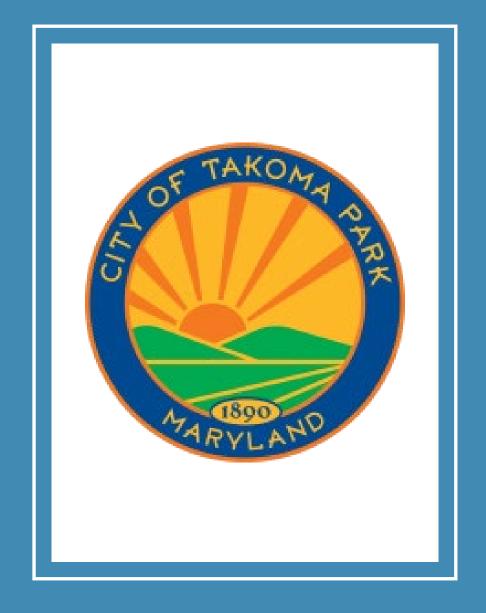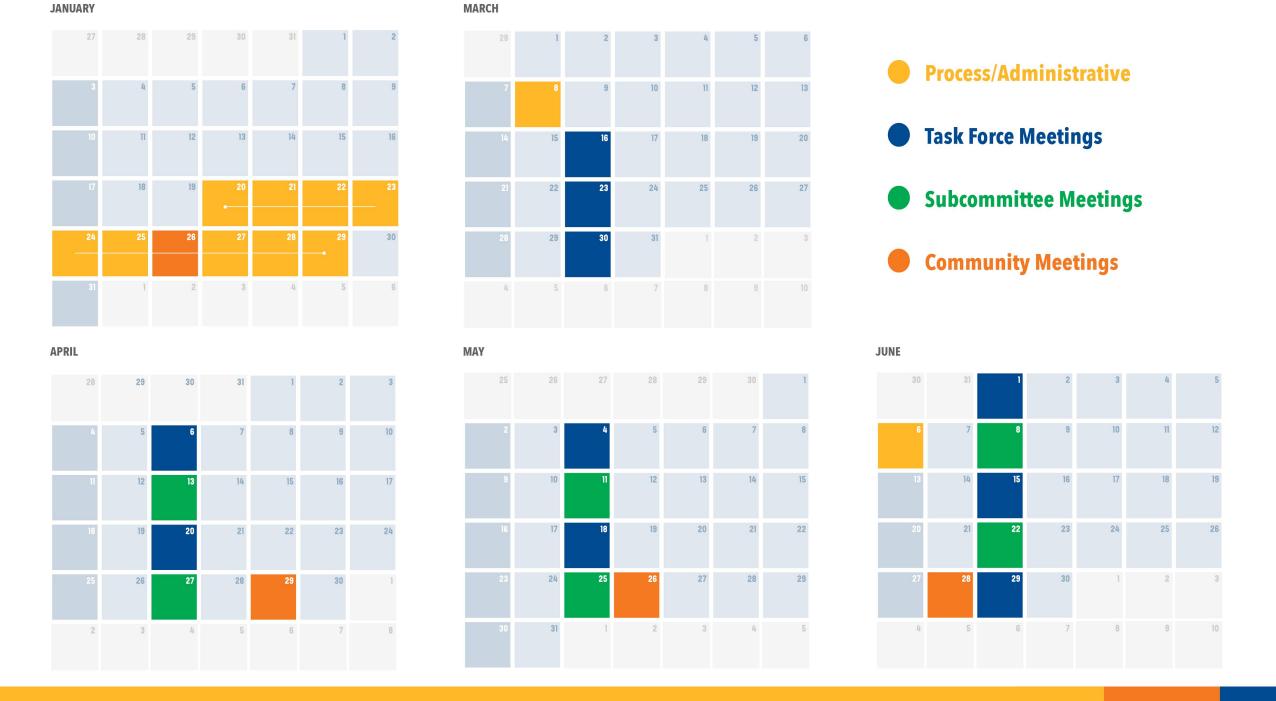## REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY
TASK FORCE

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

27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**
24	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

MARCH

28	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	**8**	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	**16**	17	18	19	20
21	22	**23**	24	25	26	27
28	29	**30**	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

- ● **Process/Administrative**
- ● **Task Force Meetings**
- ● **Subcommittee Meetings**
- ● **Community Meetings**

APRIL

28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	**6**	7	8	9	10
11	12	**13**	14	15	16	17
18	19	**20**	21	22	23	24
25	26	**27**	28	**29**	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

MAY

25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	**4**	5	6	7	8
9	10	**11**	12	13	14	15
16	17	**18**	19	20	21	22
23	24	**25**	**26**	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

JUNE

30	31	**1**	2	3	4	5
6	7	**8**	9	10	11	12
13	14	**15**	16	17	18	19
20	21	**22**	23	24	25	26
27	**28**	**29**	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Timeline

NOTE: Task Force and Subcommittee Meetings Extended to 2 Hours

- 6.22 : Subcommittees: Review Draft Recommendations > Incorporate Feedback

- 6.28: Community Meeting to Provide Feedback on Recommendations

- 6.29: Task Force Meeting: Incorporate Feedback > Finalize Report

- 7.6: Submit Final Report to City Council

- 7.13: City Council Work Session

Public Comment Form

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

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 Monday, June 28, 2021 at 6:30 pm for our residents to give feedback to Task Force members on draft recommendations 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).

To register for this event, visit bit.ly/takomarps3 (case sensitive)

Subcommittee Reports

The Task Force has been working at the subcommittee level to review and process extensive information from public feedback, subject matter experts, other reports, City data, etc.

The topics presented are not final, rather they are "discussion drafts" from each subcommittee that will continue to be refined by the full Task Force and through feedback at the Community Meeting on Monday night.

Framing Questions

The Task Force has been looking to answer three questions:

1. What are we trying to solve for?
2. What solutions can we offer?
3. How will implementation of Task Force recommendations be handled/monitored?

Community Quality of Life

❑ **Coordination of Community Resources**

- **Implement a dedicated City staff resource coordinator** to coordinate all community activities, groups, and neighborhoods.

  - This person could convene a group of the various people/ organizations serving the community, to include homeowners, renters, organizations, community leaders

- **Produce a Resource Guide** of mental health resources and community partners serving the Takoma Park community

- **Promote access to after school and job training programs**

Community Quality of Life

❑ **Public Safety**

▪ **Create/continue a Public Safety Task Force** to engage the community on an ongoing basis around needs, concerns and issues of public safety.

▪ **Implement a city Neighborhood Services Division** responsible for parking violations, speed camera monitoring, and other code enforcement

▪ **Create a Community Safety Team** of unarmed police, mental health service providers, and outreach specialists; Provide specific training to these individuals in violence prevention and de-escalation.

  ▪ Partner with referral sources for mental health/substance use resources

  ▪ Partner with alternative dispute resolution resources

Community Quality of Life

❑ **Housing Safety**

▪ **Increase the staffing level for the Housing and Community Development Department trained to respond to**:

  ▪ Housing/ homelessness crises

  ▪ The need for emergency housing options, i.e., shelters for victims of domestic violence

  ▪ Eviction crises

  ▪ Non-violent neighbor disputes

▪ **Implement an annual review and publication of apartments with code violations in last 5 years** posted to the Takoma Park city website.

▪ **Encourage the establishment of a Tenants Advisory Board**

Alternative Methods and Responses

❑ **Policing**

- ▪ **Dispatch/Multiple Agency Coordination**
  - ▪ Emergency Call Center/311 operator resources response directed to non-law enforcement

- ▪ **Coordination of police response across multiple jurisdictions:**
  - ▪ **Training -** Use training programs that do not engage in military training or promote "warrior behavior"
  - ▪ **Protocols** - Review and update cross-jurisdictional coordination protocols for incidents

- ▪ **Community/police relationships and partnerships** - Community-oriented policing services (COPS)

Alternative Methods and Responses

❑ **Data Transparency**
  ▪ Implement and publicize practices and policies related to sharing data
  ▪ Make police arrest/stop and dispatch data publicly available at regular intervals

❑ **Community Education**
  ▪ Interrupt the school-prison pipeline
    ▪ Advocate to Montgomery County that school administrators and teachers receive training regarding discipline of students of color
    ▪ Collect and publish data on the disproportionate discipline of young people of color and its implications for their safety and futures
    ▪ Create community learning forums on race, class, policing and policy

❑ **Implementation of Task Force Recommendations**
  ▪ Create a standing committee reporting to the City Council on progress on the recommendations

Community Engagement and Transparency

❑ **Increase public accessibility and citizen oversight of police complaints** and disciplinary procedures.

- ▪ **Post reports online** documenting investigations into alleged police misconduct

- ▪ **Create a citizen-led Police Complaints Board (PCB):**

  - ▪ Consisting of volunteer residents with relevant professional expertise, to whom citizens may directly submit allegations of police misconduct and other complaints about police department operations.

  - ▪ Evaluate if the number of complaints processed by the PCB eventually justifies creating one or more funded PCB positions.

Community Engagement and Transparency

❑ **Update the police department's body-worn camera (BWC) policy** to ensure greater accountability and transparency by addressing:

  ▪ Period of time in which live footage is captured
  ▪ Process by which/how quickly video footage is released after a fatal use of force
  ▪ Use of BWC's with other biometric technologies such as facial recognition software

❑ **Strengthen community-police communication** by revamping the Chief's Advisory Board.

  ▪ Improve ways in which community members can share their public safety concerns with the police department and receive timely responses and follow-up.

Community Engagement and Transparency

❑ **Improve City-led communications:**

- Provide training & update protocols to ensure sensitivity, cultural competency, and fairness in official statements released by all city agencies.

- Improve the structure and content of city and police department websites.

❑ **Move non-policing functions** and functions that are not tied to a violation of the criminal code outside of the police department.

❑ **Clear communication of policing priorities**: Chief should communicate to patrol staff that policing resources should be concentrated on serious criminal activities