

TAKOMA PARK REIMAGINING
PUBLIC SAFETY
TASK FORCE RESOURCES



AGENDA

- Norms & Conversation Guidelines
- Timeline, Schedule, and Format
- Overview of Research
- Stakeholder Audit Process



NORMS & CONVERSATION GUIDELINES

- Enter with Curiosity. When things get difficult, turn to wonder.
- Mute your microphone until you are about to speak.
- Listen to understand, not to respond.
- Encourage disagreement, while not being disagreeable (by behavior).
- 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; we are all contributors.
- 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.
- Avoid taking a narrow view based on who you are and your role in the organization.
- Use “I” statements.
- Assume good intentions.



TIMELINE, SCHEDULE, AND FORMAT

Task Force Meeting Dates:

03/16/2021 – 90 minutes

03/23/2021 – 120 minutes

04/06/2021 – 90 minutes

04/20/2021 – 90 minutes

05/04/2021 – 90 minutes

Sub-Committee Meeting Dates:

03/30/2021 – 90 minutes

04/13/2021 – 90 minutes

04/27/2021 – 90 minutes

05/11/2021 – 90 minutes

Final report due to City Council by June 4, 2021



OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH

Cities and Counties

- Takoma Park, Maryland
- Arlington County, Virginia
- Eugene, Oregon
- Ithaca and Tompkins County, New York
- Montgomery County, Maryland
- Prince George's County, Maryland
- Tempe, Arizona

National Task Forces

- President Barack Obama Task Force on 21st Century Policing
- Council on Criminal Justice - Task Force on Policing
- National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) - Report of the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force



STAKEHOLDER AUDIT PROCESS

- As a precursor to the establishment of the Task Force, Team LINK conducted a series of targeted interviews and focus groups to gauge community perception of Public Safety in the City of Takoma Park.
- The Audit included but were not limited to, Takoma Park community members, faith leaders, business leaders, multi-family tenants, resident managers, educators, city officials, and participants from other national public safety taskforces.
- From the audit conversations, Team LINK heard consistent themes. These findings will inform our work moving forward.



GENERAL STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

- We heard the need to identify a working definition of “Public Safety” and what that means for the City of Takoma Park.
- Stakeholders suggested that the Task Force prioritize the needs of residents, especially those in marginalized groups/communities.
- We heard the consistent importance to review relevant data to identify the key areas of community concerns as they relate to public safety.
- Stakeholders recommended that we create many entry points for engagement, including exploring opportunities for feedback and survey of the community.
- Stakeholders recommended that the Task Force discussions include the structural disadvantages of disinvestment in marginalized communities, lack of educational opportunities, and community resources.



GENERAL STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

- The Task Force can consider discussing mental and emotional health, in addition to the trauma-informed care.
- Stakeholders suggested that, if they were on the Task Force, they would consider recommendations to Council that include investing in training related to cultural competency and effective communication.
- Stakeholders recommended that the Task Force partner with City Departments throughout this process to reimagine public safety.
- Many stakeholders suggested the Task Force explore opportunities for youth involvement in the process.
- We heard that stakeholders would like to see Task Force conversations around expanding community and recreational activities, as they relate to public safety.



DISCUSSION...

