

City of Takoma Park, MD
Reimagining Public Safety Task Force
Public Comments Received via Email

	Please note that personally identifying information has been redacted	
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	<p>Has the arrest data for the past five years been compiled and organized into a database yet?</p> <p>If so, is there a link to the info?</p> <p>Also, has arrest data for residents of Takoma Park who were involved in crimes outside the city (MD, VA, DC at least) been included or requested? Perhaps available through warrants?</p> <p>There were 2 homicides committed by TP residents in 2021 alone, but they occurred in Dc and Montgomery County.</p> <p>If they're looking at ways to handle public safety by proactively working in the community to prevent it through social services, etc., it's about preventing it occurring anywhere by a resident, I would think. Not just events that occur in the city.</p> <p>In the same vein, most of the events that occur in our city are actually committed by persons living outside of Takoma Park.</p>	4/2/2021 5:12 PM
	<p>I sat in on the beginning of the meeting yesterday, but the chief's summary of the analysis of the downturn in traffic violations seemed misleading, as far as I listened.</p> <p>2020 wasn't treated as an anomaly year. It made it look like there were fewer stops due to change in policy but that's probably not the case.</p> <p>There were exponentially fewer cars on the road, particularly in the first half of the year Which would skew the statistics using an overall average.</p> <p>And perhaps officers were reticent to stop vehicles for fear of Covid contagion.</p> <p>And, as far as I listened, it didn't explain why we had thousands more 5 years before. We had a different chief then. Perhaps there were incentives for the officers. Perhaps they were justified.</p> <p>But there's been more speeding and I've almost been hit at multiple locations (stop signs) in Takoma Park in the last year.</p> <p>I didn't hear the rest of the report and will look at it another time.</p>	
	<p>I only recently became aware of this report, which seems like something the City of Takoma Park should be supporting:</p> <p>Recommendations Report - 2021 Reimagining Public Safety Task Force (montgomerycountymd.gov)</p> <p>The questions I have for the committee are how do we, at our jurisdictional level, support and adopt these considerations as well.</p>	4/25/2021

	<p>How will the listening session be conducted? Are people from the public speaking? Or just listening? If there is a link to that, please let me know. Thanks.</p>	
	<p>How a geospatial nervous system could help us design a better future, in public safety, housing, transportation and more, by connecting the geometries inherent in each to see how they overlap. Even here in Takoma Park...if there is a political will. If there are any persons on the task force with these skill sets, I hope they will Be encouraged to use them to come up with solutions... It's not enough to look at the separate maps of crime, commerce, demographics, tree cover, bikeways provided by each department. they must overlay each other. In choosing a new city manager, it's important to have a manager who uses these tools in her management, who has a mind in which these perspectives are running all the time. That is the advantage of having a city manager who does get out and about. It's not just about the meeting and greeting the residents, it's about understanding or even intuiting the lay of the land.</p>	
	<p>I think the Police Department should be reorganized into a Public Health and Safety Department with these subunits: (1) Police: patrol & investigations. (Support units and NEST moved out into the broader department.) (2) Communications: public information and dispatch (so City sends correct service response (NEST, police, mental health, other city department)). (3) Support services: IT, human resources, internal affairs, etc. (4) NEST: re-imagined as suggested below. (5) Emergency management. (6) Public health: mostly mental health, but, depending how staffed, COVID monitoring and other public health issues could be here or under emergency management (I understand COVID is currently there).</p> <p>Please submit to task force. And please add to the TF page some way for other residents to contact the TF other than the session (which I'll attend) and survey (which I did).</p>	
	<p>New City Services The City should develop additional services: (1) mental health services to aid residents who cannot maintain their properties; (2) a fund to assist residents with remedying deficiencies; (3) mediation services to resolve neighbor disputes.</p>	
	<p>Hi all, I am writing to express my support for the proposed elimination of six Police Department Administrative Services and Operations positions and opposition to the creation of six new Criminal Investigations</p>	<p>May 4, 2021 3:14 PM</p>

	<p>positions. I support the proposal from Takoma Park Mobilization and Silver Spring Justice Coalition for the creation of a new Mental Health & Social Service Response unit, within the city's Housing and Community Development Department, with licensed mental-health professional staff. And we reiterate our calls for retirement of the city's K-9 policing unit and for reassignment of the Neighborhood Services Division, which handles housing and environment code enforcement and parking enforcement, to HCD. Thank you</p>	