

The City Manager’s Task Force to Examine the Future of Public Safety in Cambridge

Co-Chairs: Councillor Marc C. McGovern and Councillor E. Denise Simmons

March 2, 2021 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

- Present:
- Councillor Denise Simmons, Co-Chair
 - Councillor Marc McGovern, Co-Chair
 - Imam Dr. Khalil Abdur-Rashid, Muslim Chaplain at Harvard University
 - Ty Belliti, My Brother’s Keeper
 - Dr. Branville Bard, Cambridge Police Commissioner
 - Brian Corr, Cambridge Peace Commission/Police Review Advisory Board
 - Loren Crow, Cambridge Resident and Management Consultant
 - Louie DePasquale, Cambridge City Manager
 - Leo Gayne, East Cambridge Savings Bank
 - Christina Giacobbe, Director of Emergency Communications and 911
 - Rev. Jaron Green, Senior Pastor, Union Baptist Church
 - Rev. Ireene Monroe, Cambridge Resident
 - Cathy Pemberton, LICSW, Camb. Resident, Healthcare/Wellness Consultant/
System Navigation Specialist
 - Christopher Schmidt, Cambridge Resident
 - Dr. Rae Simpson, Cambridge Resident/mental health advocate/NAMI
 - Tina-Marie Johnson, Cambridge resident/Cambridge Youth Council Facilitator
 - Rev. Ellis Washington, St. Paul AME Church
- Absent:
- Chandra Banks, Ed.M, Cambridge Resident/CPS Conflict Mediator
 - Sam Gebru, Cambridge Resident, Black Economic Council of Massachusetts
 - Queen-Cheyenne Wade, The Black Response

The City Manager’s Task Force to Examine the Future of Public Safety in Cambridge met on March 2, 2021 from 5:00pm to 6:30pm. The meeting began with Councillor Marc C. McGovern, Councilor E. Denise Simmons, Police Commissioner Branville G. Bard, and City Manager Louis A. DePasquale welcoming the Task Force members and introducing the presenters:

Rachel Bromberg and Asante Houghton, Co-Founders of the [Reach Out Response Network](#), Toronto; Liz Speakman, Coordinator of the [Domestic and Gender Based Violence Prevention Initiative](#); Cambridge Police Superintendent Christine Elow, speaking on domestic violence laws and department initiatives; Katia Santiago-Taylor, Advocacy and Legislative Affairs Manager at the [Boston Area Rape Crisis Center \(BARCC\)](#); Valerie Druckenmiller, LCSW Community Advocate at [Transition House](#); and Charyti Reiter, Executive Director of [On the Rise, Inc.](#)

During the first presentation, Rachel Bromberg and Asante Houghton of Reach Out Toronto spoke to their “work partnering with the City of Toronto to support the city in developing a framework for a non-police mental health emergency service ... staffed by mental health clinicians and peer support workers from the communities they serve ... available across the city 24/7, with rapid response times equivalent to the response times of police, fire, and ambulance.”

During the second presentation, a coalition of domestic violence advocates and advocacy groups spoke to the statistics and anecdotal experience of dealing with both victims and perpetrators of domestic violence. To learn more about the individuals and the organizations they represent, please view the hyperlinks in the second introductory paragraph above.

The meeting concluded with questions from Task Force members regarding the presentations. After closing remarks, Councillor McGovern and Councilor Simmons adjourned the meeting.

The next Task Force meeting was set for Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.