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
February 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
Chandra Banks, Ed.M, Cambridge Resident/CPS Conflict Mediator
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
Sam Gebru, Cambridge Resident, Black Economic Council of Massachusetts
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
Queen-Cheyenne Wade, The Black Response
Rev. Ellis Washington, St. Paul AME Church

Absent: None

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

The group proceeded to review the Task Force's charge:

To Examine ways to limit the Police Response to calls for service without diminishing Public Safety or Community Safety, while increasing Community Cohesion to include restorative processes.

Councillor Marc C. McGovern and Councilor E. Denise Simmons continued by outlining key issues that must be addressed in order to ensure that deliverables meet the charge, including mental health alternatives for the Budget FY’22, other alternative responses, critical documents or outputs that the taskforce must create to meet its charge, and producing a final report.
The group spent the remainder of the time agreeing to a schedule and outlining operating logistics (meeting schedule, time and frequency, how will information about each meeting be distributed, internally and externally, etc.)

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

The next Task Force meeting was set for Tuesday, February 9, 2021 but was postponed – due to a conflicting joint meeting with the City Council and the Committee – until February 16, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.