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 16, 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. 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: Rev. Jaron Green, Senior Pastor, Union Baptist Church

The City Manager’s Task Force to Examine the Future of Public Safety in Cambridge met on March 9, 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 presenter:

Rahsaan D. Hall, Esq of the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts.

During his oral presentation, Rahsaan D. Hall, Esq. spoke to the cycles of trauma and violence; rehabilitation opposed to incarceration; the inequity of arrests and traffic stops; and the police reform bill and alternatives to policing.

Councillor Marc C. McGovern and Councilor E. Denise Simmons opened up the floor to a free discussion. Task Force members discussed everything from: qualified immunity to the disparity of arrest in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by race. The Commissioner finished by talking about the arrest data in Cambridge and how he’s directing the department to correct it.
The group discussed next steps and added upcoming presentations to the calendar:

**3/23/21:**
- **Community Cohesion**, Dr. Robert Sampson, Harvard University
- **Boston Emergency Services Team**, Tasha Ferguson, LMHC - Director of Emergency Services Programs, Boston Medical Center External

**4/7/21:**
- Reimagining Community Safety - CAHOOTS - Tim Black, Director of Consulting at White Bird Clinic (External)
  - [https://harvard.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJElduGvrTMsGtVSx_4q5ZhvVHJr51arMe1V](https://harvard.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJElduGvrTMsGtVSx_4q5ZhvVHJr51arMe1V)

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 23, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.