FINAL REPORT
Reimagining Public Safety

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL

Reimagining Public Safety

in Columbus

Contents

In 2020, Columbus City Council launched the Reimagining Public Safety initiative after the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis led to nationwide protests. After a series of public hearings, receiving written statements and emails from the community, in July 2020, Columbus City Council passed legislation to begin the process of reimagining public safety in Columbus. The three priorities were alternative crisis response, investing in violence prevention, and investing in a better, more accountable division of police. Historic advancements have been made to reimagine public safety in Columbus, including the creation of a Civilian Police Review Board and independent investigations into allegations of police misconduct.

Building upon its public hearing phase, Columbus City Council included additional engagement opportunities to hear from Columbus residents as part of its 2021 budgeting process. Continuing its focus on gathering input from and listening to the community, from December 2020 through early February 2021, Columbus City Council members heard from the community via an online survey, resident participation in a series of virtual town hall meetings, which were also live-streamed on Columbus City Council Facebook and YouTube social media channels, and other community outreach efforts.

These public engagement opportunities were conducted to hear the voices of the community and further understand Columbus residents' thoughts, opinions, and ideas related to reimagining public safety. This report represents our findings.

![The Saunders PR Group logo]

Reimagining Public Safety Survey

Columbus residents were invited to take an online, 16-question survey as another way to gather community input and provide feedback to Columbus City Council regarding priorities and what is important to the community as Council reimagines public safety.

The survey was divided into three sections: establishing an alternative public safety crisis response, investing in accountability and a better division of police, and investing in violence prevention. The survey was available from December 21, 2020, through February 9, 2021, receiving nearly 4,000 total responses.

## Section 1: Establishing Alternative Public Safety Crisis Response

Columbus Division of police officers are often among the first responders to a multitude of crisis responses calls that occur within the city of Columbus. Columbus City Council is considering alternative crisis response models as part of its budget process. This section captures feedback and insights on engaging non-police personnel as responders to different situations.

Survey respondents indicate issues such as human trafficking/sex trafficking, weapon-related suicide threats, child neglect/abuse, and mental health crises would be best handled by police officers together with trained crisis team responders.
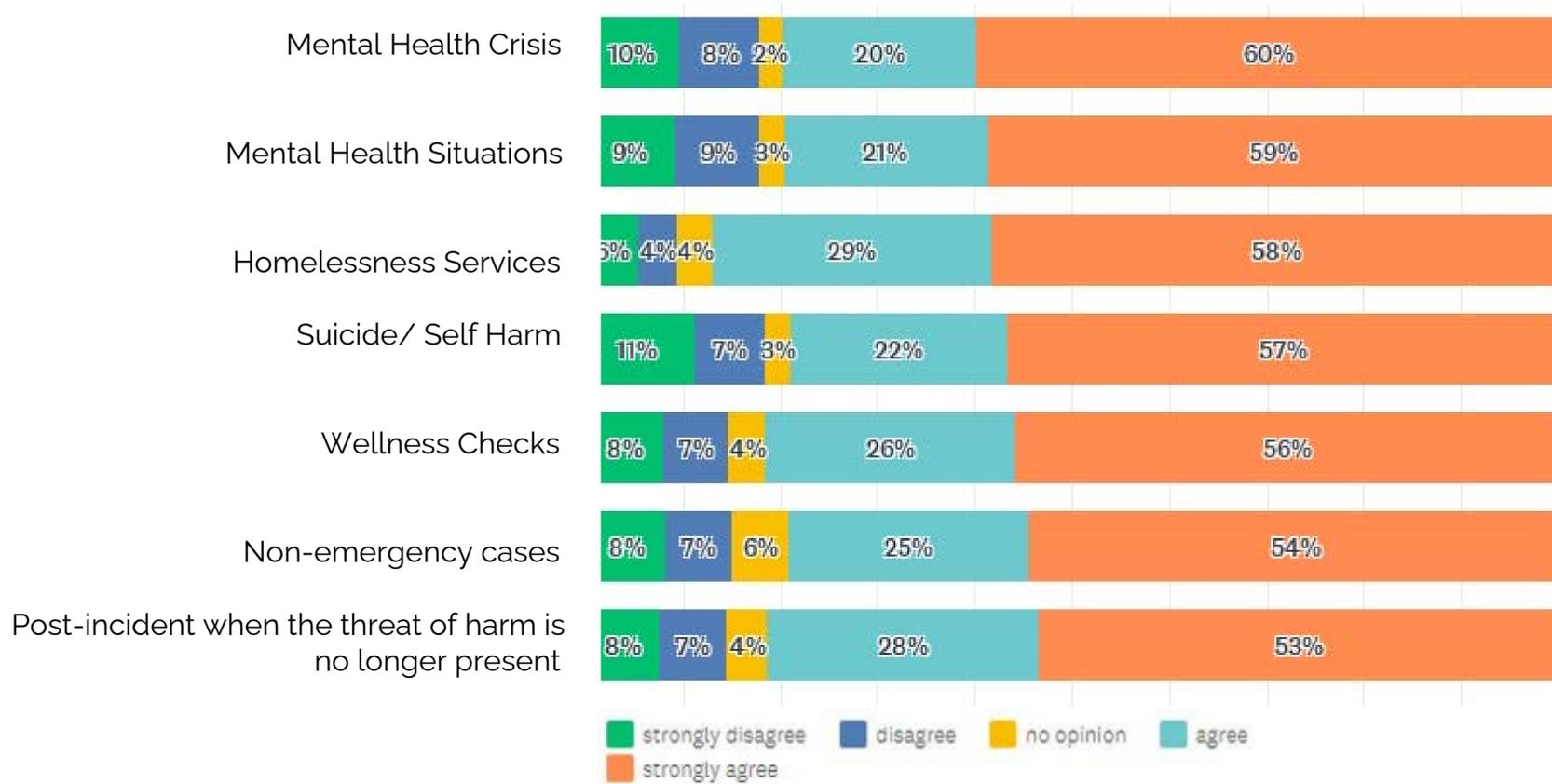

When asked what types of issues would be appropriate for trained crisis team responders to address without law enforcement officers, respondents selected needle pickup, homelessness issues, non-weapon-related suicide threats/attempts, wellness checks, mental health crises, and general nonviolent behavior astop choices.
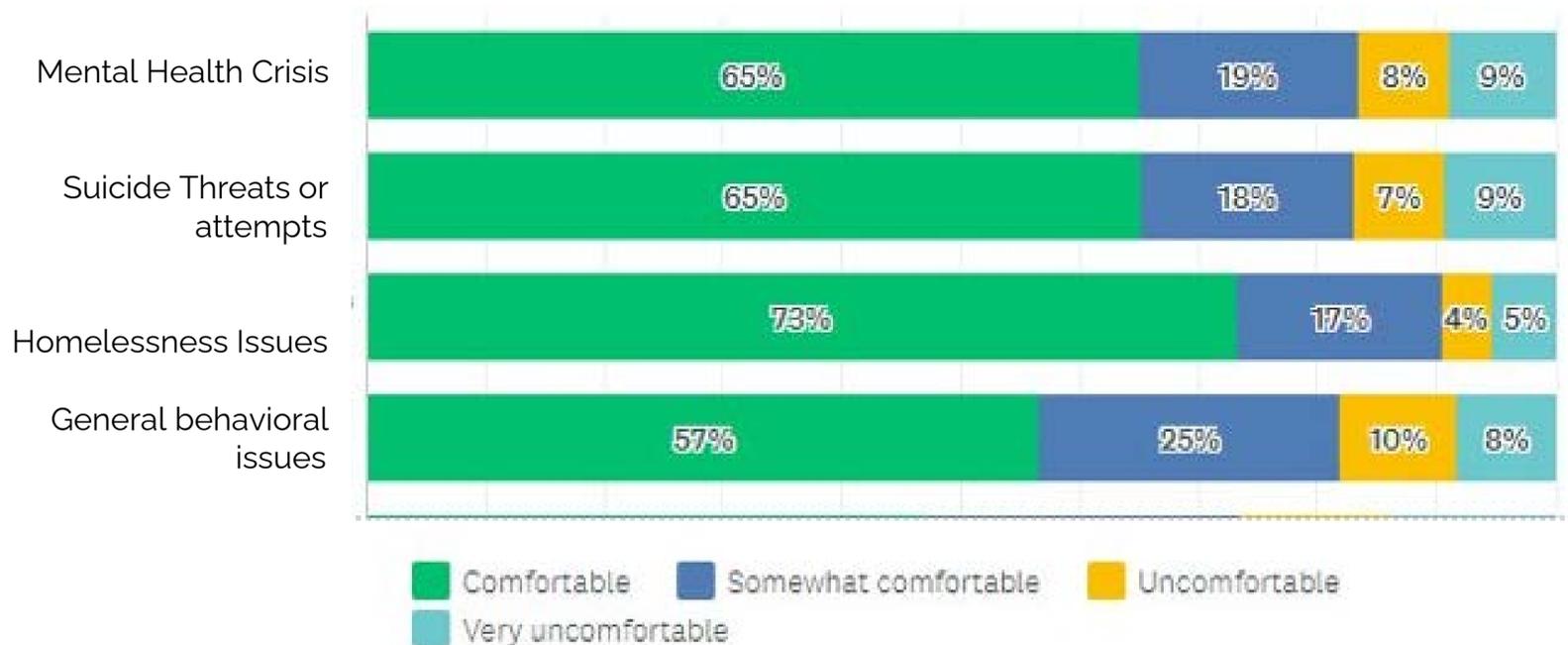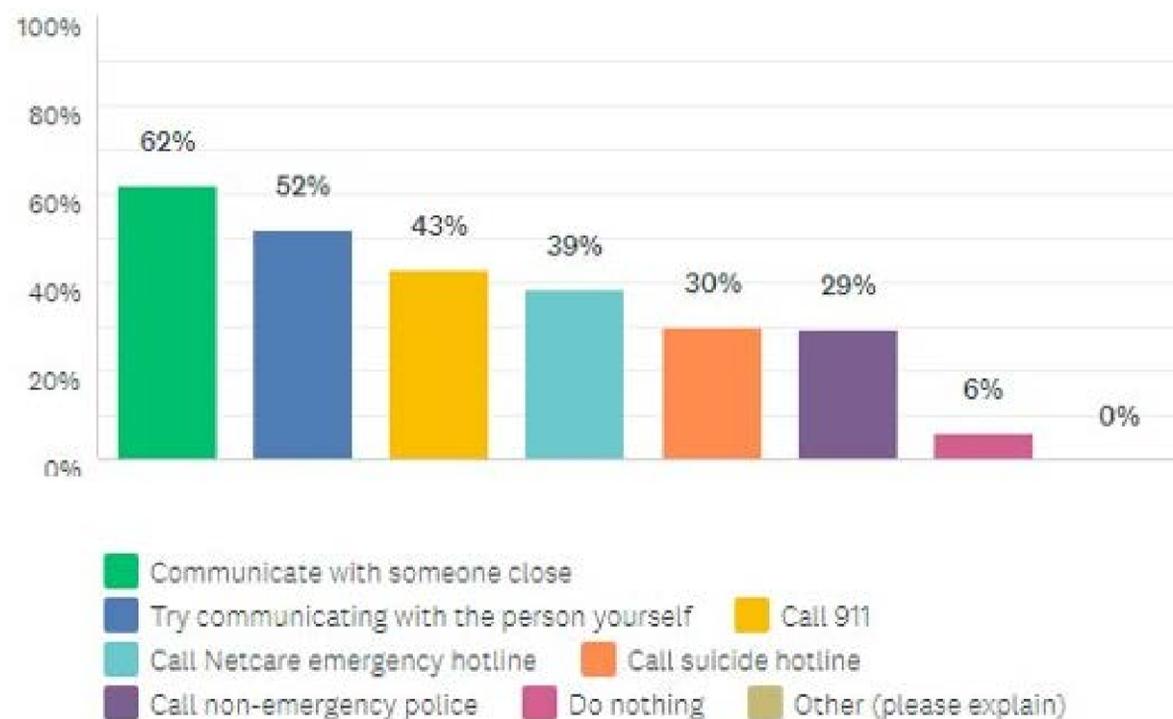
Considering the question on whether Columbus should explore an alternative, non-police or other community trained, unarmed crisis response model, respondents strongly agree that mental health crisis and situations, homeless services, non-weapon-related suicide attempts, and wellness checks should be explored.

Residents Strongly Agree An Alternative Crisis Response Should Be Considered for 911 Calls Such As:

	strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree
Mental Health Crisis	10%	8%	2%	20%	60%
Mental Health Situations	9%	9%	3%	21%	59%
Homelessness Services	5%	4%	4%	29%	58%
Suicide/ Self Harm	11%	7%	3%	22%	57%
Wellness Checks	8%	7%	4%	26%	56%
Non-emergency cases	8%	7%	6%	25%	54%
Post-incident when the threat of harm is no longer present	8%	7%	4%	28%	53%

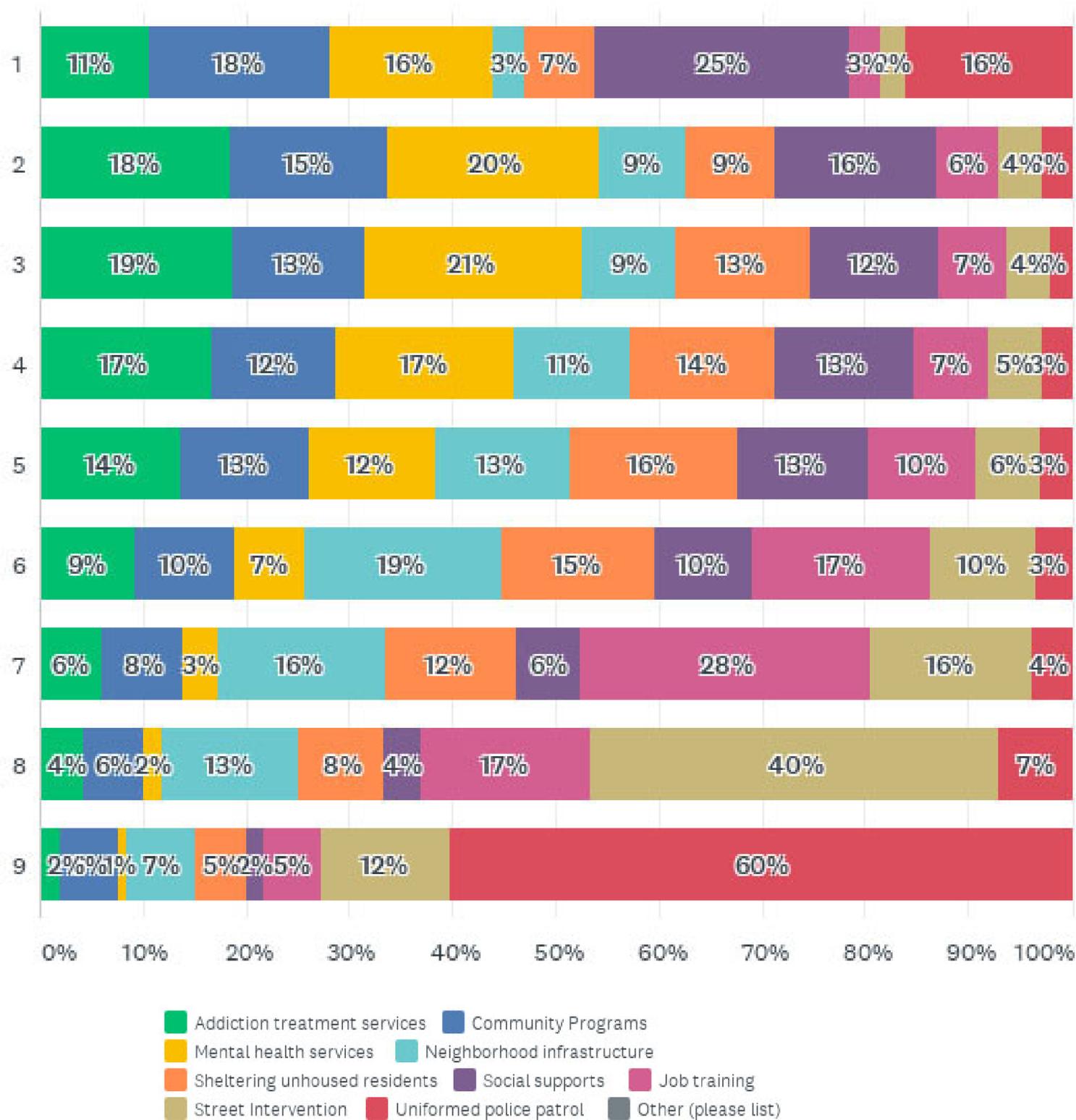■ strongly disagree ■ disagree ■ no opinion ■ agree
■ strongly agree

Witnessing Someone in Mental Crisis

When asked about responding to a mental health crisis, 62% of respondents indicate they would attempt to communicate with someone close to the situation such as a family member or friend to help the person in crisis.

	%
Communicate with someone close	62%
Try communicating with the person yourself	52%
Call 911	43%
Call Netcare emergency hotline	39%
Call suicide hotline	30%
Call non-emergency police	29%
Do nothing	6%
Other (please explain)	0%

■ Communicate with someone close
■ Try communicating with the person yourself ■ Call 911
■ Call Netcare emergency hotline ■ Call suicide hotline
■ Call non-emergency police ■ Do nothing ■ Other (please explain)

Row 1: 11% | 18% | 16% | 3% | 7% | 25% | 3% | 2% | 16%

Row 2: 18% | 15% | 20% | 9% | 9% | 16% | 6% | 4% | 6%

Row 3: 19% | 13% | 21% | 9% | 13% | 12% | 7% | 4% | 4%

Row 4: 17% | 12% | 17% | 11% | 14% | 13% | 7% | 5% | 3%

Row 5: 14% | 13% | 12% | 13% | 16% | 13% | 10% | 6% | 3%

Row 6: 9% | 10% | 7% | 19% | 15% | 10% | 17% | 10% | 3%

Row 7: 6% | 8% | 3% | 16% | 12% | 6% | 28% | 16% | 4%

Row 8: 4% | 6% | 2% | 13% | 8% | 4% | 17% | 40% | 7%

Row 9: 2% | 6% | 1% | 7% | 5% | 2% | 5% | 12% | 60%

0%   10%   20%   30%   40%   50%   60%   70%   80%   90%   100%

Legend:
- Addiction treatment services
- Community Programs
- Mental health services
- Neighborhood infrastructure
- Sheltering unhoused residents
- Social supports
- Job training
- Street Intervention
- Uniformed police patrol
- Other (please list)

Section 2: Investing in Accountability and a Better Division of Police
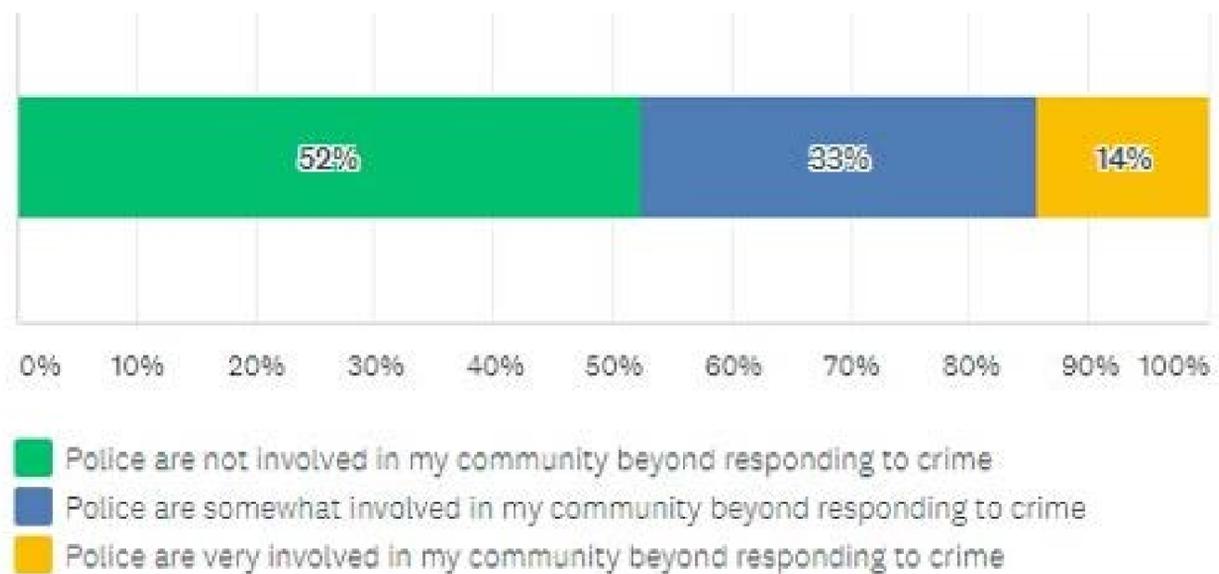
One way crime can be effectively prevented is through strong community and police relations, which involves a long-term police-community partnership that aims to foster relationships and build trust. When the public trusts police officers and when residents and police work together to address crime, violence, and community issues, it builds stronger communities. This section seeks to understand how residents currently view public safety and police-community relations to help reimagine public safety in Columbus.

Respondents define public safety for themselves as leaving home without fear, safeguarding residents from crime, and protecting and serving residents in neighborhoods. Additionally, they indicate police are not involved in their neighborhoods beyond responding to crime.
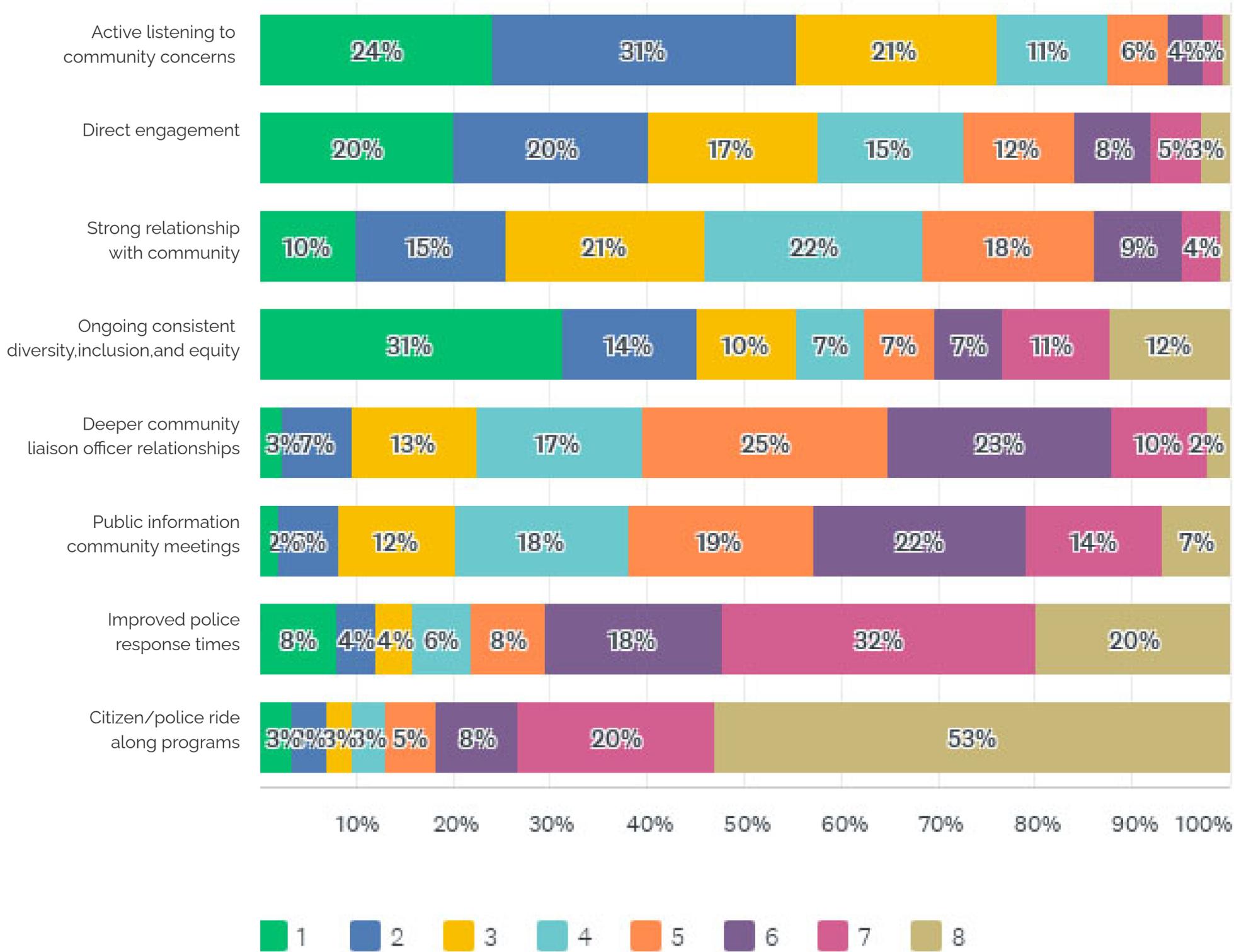
How Do You Define Public Safety?
54% select leaving home without fear as their top choice

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Leaving home w/o fear	54%	15%	11%	8%	6%	4%	%	%
Safeguarding residents from crime	8%	19%	17%	19%	18%	14%	4%	%
Access to safe greenways, parks, recreation	11%	14%	16%	17%	17%	18%	5%	%
Protect and serve residents	7%	20%	15%	12%	10%	14%	19%	3%

Legend: ■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6 ■ 7 ■ 8

Residents Response to Police Involvement in Community Other than Law Enforcement Activities

52%	33%	14%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

■ Police are not involved in my community beyond responding to crime
■ Police are somewhat involved in my community beyond responding to crime
■ Police are very involved in my community beyond responding to crime

Positive and engaged relationships with law enforcement is an important part of community and police engagement. When asked what would improve police-community relations, respondents rank active listening to community concerns and safety needs as their number one choice. Direct engagement such as connecting with youth, riding bikes in the community, and walking in community ranked high as well.
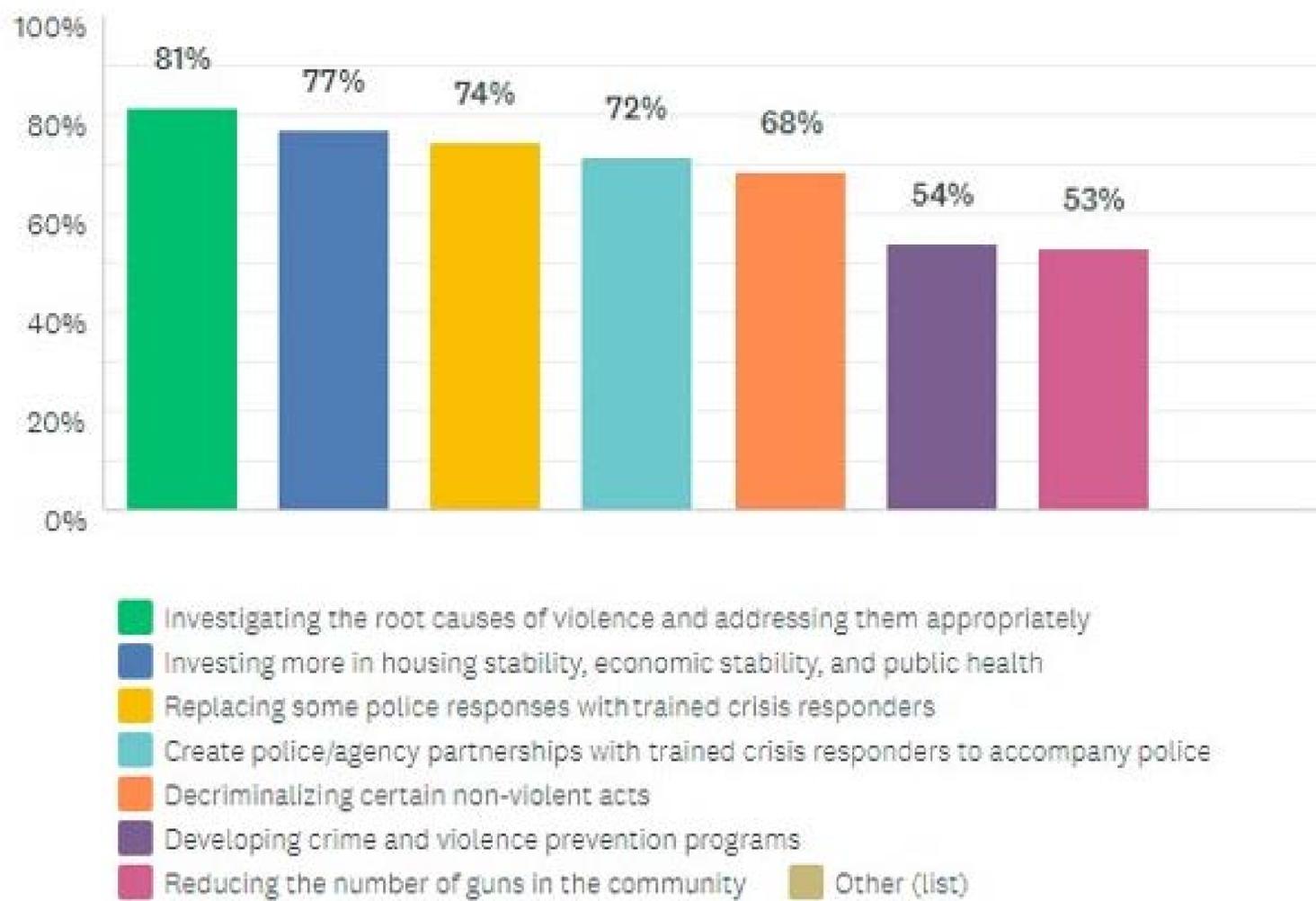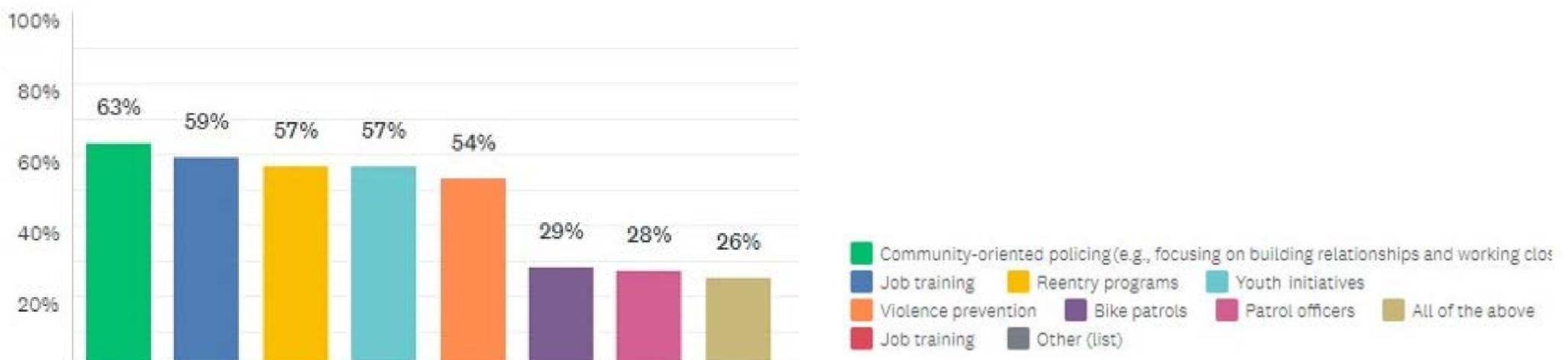
Category	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Active listening to community concerns	24%	31%	21%	11%	6%	4%		
Direct engagement	20%	20%	17%	15%	12%	8%	5%	3%
Strong relationship with community	10%	15%	21%	22%	18%	9%	4%	
Ongoing consistent diversity, inclusion, and equity	31%	14%	10%	7%	7%	7%	11%	12%
Deeper community liaison officer relationships	3%	7%	13%	17%	25%	23%	10%	2%
Public information community meetings	2%	6%	12%	18%	19%	22%	14%	7%
Improved police response times	8%	4%	4%	6%	8%	18%	32%	20%
Citizen/police ride along programs	3%	3%	3%	5%	8%	20%	53%	

Legend: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Section 3: Investing in Violence Prevention

Respondents indicate investing in the root causes of violence and addressing them appropriately as the number one option Columbus City Council should explore when considering different aspects and impacts of public safety. They also state that community-oriented policing, job training, reentry programs, and youth initiatives should be considered, expanded, or increased.

Top Choices to Be Considered When Exploring Different Aspects/Impact of Public Safety

- Investigating the root causes of violence and addressing them appropriately — 81%
- Investing more in housing stability, economic stability, and public health — 77%
- Replacing some police responses with trained crisis responders — 74%
- Create police/agency partnerships with trained crisis responders to accompany police — 72%
- Decriminalizing certain non-violent acts — 68%
- Developing crime and violence prevention programs — 54%
- Reducing the number of guns in the community — 53%
- Other (list)

Aspects of Public Safety to Consider/ Expand/ Increase

- Community-oriented policing — 63%
- Job training — 59%
- Reentry programs — 57%
- Youth initiatives — 57%
- Violence prevention — 54%
- Bike patrols — 29%
- Patrol officers — 28%
- All of the above — 26%
- Job training
- Other (list)

From the survey results, respondents share their ideas about ways to improve policing to build strong relationships with the community. The Columbus community ranks social supports (e.g., childcare options, job training, health care, school/after-school supports, access to healthy food, family support services), community/neighborhood-based programs related to safety (e.g, transformative/restorative justice circles, community-care pods), mental health services, addiction treatment services and sheltering unhoused residents
as some of the interventions that would have the most significant impact on improving public safety in Columbus.

Recommendations include:
- ongoing and consistent diversity, inclusion training
- increasing police involvement in community activities to create a rapport, supporting mental health initiatives for the police and the community
- holding police and civilians accountable for their actions
- hiring more patrol police
- creating family and youth programs
- instituting gun control measures to reduce the number of armed people, especially the youth
- providing education
- job opportunities
- providing affordable housing
- decriminalizing certain non-violent acts
- developing crime and violence prevention programs
- investigating the root causes of violence and addressing them appropriately
- investing more in housing stability, economic stability and public health
- creating police/agency partnerships with professional crisis responders

Reimagining Public Safety
Virtual Town Hall Sessions

Connecting Virtually through Town Hall Meetings

As part of Columbus City Council's focus on listening to and hearing from the community, a series of virtual town hall meetings were held in January and February 2021. These town halls included presentations from experts centered on crisis response, violence prevention, and investing in accountability for a better division of police.

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 – Establishing Alternative Public Safety Crisis Response. Council President Shannon led the discussion with presentations from national experts:

- Asst. Chief Tom Thompson (Ret.) -Law Enforcement Action Partnership
- Betsy Pearl - Associate Director for Criminal Justice Reform, Center for American Progress
- Amos Irwin - Program Director at Law Enforcement Action Partnership

Thursday, January 14, 2021 – Investing in Violence Prevention. Councilmember Mitchell J. Brown led the discussion with presentations from national experts and local leaders:

- David Kennedy – Executive Director at the National Network for Safe Communities
- Deputy Director George Speaks – Department of Public Safety

Thursday, January 21, 2021 – Investing in Accountability and a Better Division of Police led by Councilmember Rob Dorans with presentations from experts:

- Interim Director Matt Symdo – Department of Education
- Aslyne Rodriguez – Member of the Community Civilian Review Working Group

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 – Establishing Alternative Public Safety Crisis Response led by Councilmember Shayla Favor and co-chair Councilmember Priscilla Tysonwith presentations from local expertise in crisis response:

- Sergeant Matt Harris – Columbus Division of Police
- Dr. Brian Stroh – Assistant Medical Director at Netcare
- Michele Perry – Director of Crisis and Assessment Services at Netcare

Thursday, January 28, 2021 – Investing in Violence Prevention led by President Pro Tem Elizabeth Brown with local and national experts in mental and public health.

- Edward Johnson – Director of Public Health Policy with Columbus Public Health
- Rev. Paul T. Abernathy – CEO at Neighborhood Resilience Project (Pittsburgh)

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 – Investing in Accountability and a Better Division of Police led by Councilmember Emmanuel V. Remy with experts:

- Detective Felton Collier - Cleveland Department of Public Safety
- Sergeant Charmin Leon – Cleveland Department of Public Safety
- Chief Mike Butler - Longmont Police Department (Colorado)

An interactive public engagement exercise was included as part of the meeting. Participants who were joining the meeting virtually via WebEx, Facebook, and YouTube were able to engage live by responding to a series of questions posed during the session. A summary of that engagement is as follows:

Engaging with Community During Virtual Town Hall Sessions

January 13, 2021
Title: Establishing An Alternative
Public Safety Crisis Response

During the public engagement exercise of the program agenda, attendees (online, on Facebook, and YouTube) were able to participate in an engagement experience by responding to a series of questions in real time.

Out of 40 responses on how participants would define alternative crisis response, 23 described alternative crisis response as having other professionals or teams respond instead of police officers if the situations do not require police presence in what they considered non-emergency or non-violent cases. Responses included recommendations for alternative responders including clinicians, mental health professionals, behavioral health specialists, social workers, or any other appropriate professional(s) depending on the nature of the problem.

There were 40 responses indicating that the City of Columbus should spend more on and invest in establishing an alternative crisis response. Out of these responses, 11 supported the City of Columbus spending more on alternative crisis responders, such as clinicians and mental health specialists and the infrastructure supporting triaging calls and diverting them to appropriate responders.

Five responses were in support of providing jobs and social support programs for youth development to enhance police-community relationships, and two responses recommended more funding for affordable housing.

There were 55 responses regarding alternative crisis response that the City of Columbus should invest in to make Columbus safer. Responses included the creation of jobs, having a mobile crisis response unit, creating a Rapid Response Emergency Addiction Crisis Team, mental health care, wellness checks, supporting provisions of affordable housing, creating and expanding after school activities and youth programs, options for performing arts. Respondents also listed establishing a strong non-police response team to respond to non-violent calls, training of caregivers, diverting 911 calls from the police, which would involve logistical support to have 911 support alternative response. Other responses included research and determination of root causes of violence and providing social support programs for families.

There were 45 responses on respondents' vision for alternative crisis response, 24 reflecting a community where everybody would be safe and where every crisis call would be responded to by the most appropriate person(s), i.e., alternative crisis response. There were responses focused on a city building culture where crisis calls would not result in violence through excessive force and a caller would feel safer when calling.

During the public engagement exercise of the program agenda, attendees online, on Facebook and YouTube were asked a series of questions to which they responded live and in real time.

There were 83 responses from 29 respondents on how the City of Columbus can address violence in the community. Seventeen responses were in favor of providing opportunities for family, housing, and financial stability. Responses recommended after-school activities and investment in youth, enhanced police-community interaction, funding for violence prevention programs, and more. Other responses included limiting police response to violent situations, better data collection and sharing across agencies, when their actions result in violence, police reforms, provision of mental health services, support for the police, engaging trusted community leaders and gun control.

There were 46 responses from 22 respondents on where the City of Columbus should invest in to prevent violence. Affordable housing, police reforms, improvement of mental health services, the establishment of alternative response teams all had multiple mentions. Other responses included responsive and efficient call center, families' stability, education, vetting of police officers, a credible messenger program, police diversity to reflect the community they serve, quality data collection and analysis on crime, community policing, and youth and social service programs.

There were 72 responses regarding the barriers to preventing violence in the City of Columbus. They include over-policing, police brutality, corrupt police and police unions, disintegrated family structures, racism, lack of trust in the police, drug addiction, societal inequalities, barriers to reentry, lack of access to mental health services, the proliferation of illicit guns and other weapons, a criminal justice system that fails to rehabilitate, lack of employment opportunities, and poor urban design and planning.

The respondents' vision for preventing violence in the City of Columbus as reflected in the majority of the 45 responses included establishing a community where members, regardless of their ethnicity or social class, care about the welfare of one another and are accountable to one another, and violence is socially unacceptable in addition to fostering a fair, corrective, and transformative justice system.

Title: Investing in Accountability and Creating a Better Division of Police

During the public engagement exercise of the program agenda, attendees online, on Facebook and YouTube were asked a series of questions to which they responded live and in real time.

Fifty-one responses were received from 23 respondents on what the City of Columbus should invest in to create a police division that is accountable and just in its decision-making. There were responses on independent investigators for police misconduct, having a qualified inspector general, mental health and psychological counseling for officers, establishing a better and manipulation proof data management system, Civilian Review Board transparency, and working closely with the community. Investments should also be made in revamping the police hiring process to allow for more diversity in the hiring of police officers, removing the time limit on records retention for officer files, confidential/anonymous complaint launching system, allowing complaints and disciplinary actions to remain indefinitely in personnel files for rogue officers. There should also be capacity building for police and holding officers to account under the law were additional comments from the respondents. Fifty responses were received from 23 respondents on what the City of Columbus should do to improve the Columbus Division of Police. Answers range from recommending for the provision of interpreters to residents who do not primarily speak English to adding and hiring more multilingual officers. Promotion of good police-community relationships had multiple responses, giving more weight to the Civilian Review Board, hiring officers who live within Columbus, and incentivizing officers to live in Columbus city limits.

Responses also indicate city leadership should ensure they hire officers from diverse ethnic backgrounds and fire officers with excessive force records. Additional comments included that officers should be regularly vetted and appraised to establish suitability, there should be background screens on the officers' past behavior, and temperament and courtesy training.

Fifty-eight responses on how the City of Columbus can invest in the community to improve police relations centered on providing the public with multiple ways to contact the Civilian Review Board, investing in education, mental health services and support, food access and affordable medical care, investing in an alternative crisis response system, and engaging more with the community. The City should have more diverse officers and train police officers on diversity to better understand the various community members.

There were 41 responses on respondents' vision for creating more accountability within the Columbus Division of Police. Responses included having a responsive, transparent system that rewards good officers and holds to account the rogue officers, thereby promoting a culture of zero tolerance to police misconduct. Other recommendations suggest working with the National Network for Safe Communities (NNSC) in implementing that program.

During the public engagement exercise of the program agenda, attendees online, on Facebook, and YouTube were asked a series of questions to which they responded live and in real time.

Twenty-four respondents gave 45 responses on the definition of alternative crisis response. Out of these responses, 29 defined alternative crisis response as using other responders apart from the police for a non-violent crisis. The responders, in this case, could be professionals in various fields depending on the incident. They could be mental health professionals (mentioned in 13 responses), social workers (mentioned in 9 replies), clinicians, or other trained professionals depending on the need.

There were 40 responses from 22 respondents on what the City of Columbus should spend more on to establish an alternative crisis response operation. Training mental health professionals and partnership with mental health care institutions such as Netcare featured most of the replies. Training social workers, specialized training of other alternative responders, hiring more workforce to handle 911 and 311 calls, who should be trained to deliver satisfactory service. Responses also state that the City of Columbus should invest in patrol and expand the existing mobile crisis response program, expand community awareness of available resources, and train the community on when or when not to call the police. Recommendations also included putting in place reliable interpretation services, creating community cohesion, gun control, and crisis prevention measures.

There were 23 responses suggesting how the City of Columbus should invest in making Columbus safer. Mobile Crisis Response Unit (MCR), Rapid Response Emergency Addiction Crisis Team (RREACT), mental health interventions and support were strong responses, the expansion of the Netcare collaboration response, and increasing social workers were recommended.

There were 25 responses on visioning related to alternative crisis response. The majority envisioned an alternative crisis response as a triage system that matches the response with the crisis situation's needs, while ensuring the callers' safety and/or those in crisis. There were many responses that emphasized mental health and responses also emphasized enhanced police-community relations.

During the public engagement exercise of the program agenda, attendees online, on Facebook, and YouTube were asked a series of questions to which they responded live and in real time.

There were 41 responses from 20 respondents on how the City of Columbus can address violence in the community. Twelve responses recommended engagement with the community, through a partnership with community-based organizations concerned with community welfare and the prevention of crime, training community leaders who are trusted by their community to understand dealing with trauma that could precipitate violence. The City could also support the youth through education and employment opportunities (mentioned in multiple responses). Building neighborhood cohesion and initiating programs that aim to prevent violence can also help the city address violence.

There were 33 responses from 15 respondents on what the City of Columbus should invest in to address violence prevention. The reactions included affordable housing, mental health, food accessibility, provision of jobs, community programs to address trauma, prevent violence, after-school youth programs, and promoting united families devoid of domestic violence. There were 33 responses from 15 respondents on what the City of Columbus should invest in to address violence prevention.
.

The reactions included affordable housing, mental health, food accessibility, provision of jobs, community programs to address trauma, prevent violence, after-school youth programs, and promoting families and addressing domestic violence.

There were 33 responses from 17 respondents on the barriers to preventing violence in Columbus. These barriers included failure to understand the root causes of violence, skewed distribution of resources in the city, inadequate funding, reluctance to change systems, policies, and laws that are oppressive and harmful, taking domestic violence casually, and the effects of racism and social isolation.

There were 27 responses on the vision for preventing violence in the City of Columbus. Generally, the responses reflected the vision of fostering equitable, healthy, and safe families and transparent communities that focus on dignity and shared humanity. There was an emphasis on mental health and neighborhood cohesion.

There were 31 responses on what the City of Columbus should invest in to create a responsible police division that is just in its decision-making. Quality interpretation services, training police officers on fairness in law enforcement and emotional intelligence, and creating an inclusive police department that fairly represents Columbus' diversity were included. The responses also state that the City should ensure that the FOP contract promotes accountability. The City should also invest in promoting transparency and providing an appropriate mechanism for civilian oversight, engagement with the community and local service agencies, and work to understand the community's issues and how best to handle them.

There were 20 responses on how the City of Columbus can improve police engagement with residents. Encouraging officers to live in the communities they work in, and ensuring they reflect it demographically were recommendations. Police involvement in community activities aimed at building strong, lasting relationships and training officers to understand and accommodate the various cultures represented in the city were part of the responses. Interpretation services was also a consistent response.

There were 25 responses on what the City of Columbus can invest in to improve police relations. Responses included supporting education and mental health interventions, promoting alternative crisis response, promoting art programs for youth, providing de-escalation training for community members and police,

supporting recovery services for addiction, supporting social workers and victim advocates to establish partnerships with the police department, providing affordable, safe housing, and offering shelter spaces for the homeless, refugees, and abuse survivors.

There were 22 responses on their vision for creating more diversity within the Columbus Division of Police. The general vision was to have a Division of Police that reasonably represents the face of Columbus and respects all the city's diverse cultures. More specifically, responses recommended diversity in hiring police officers and members of leadership, hiring bilingual officers, and hiring former Columbus Division of Police Chief Tarrant was featured in responses.

All town halls were live-streamed on the Council's Facebook page and the City of Columbus YouTube channel.

At the conclusion of the public engagement sessions, residents had an opportunity to ask questions to Columbus City Council members and share comments as part of the regular speaker hearing process for public city council meetings. Over the course of the six sessions, 26 residents provided testimony.

Hearing from Residents: Focus Groups

Focus group sessions were held to gather additional insights from several groups to ensure diverse representation. We encouraged these groups to take the survey and widely distribute the survey to their networks and provided an opportunity for them to include additional comments.

Senior Services Roundtable

January 13, 2021

- Participants took the online survey as a collective. They indicated the survey was an important tool and wanted to know if residents in Franklin County could participate. It was clear that Franklin County residents were able to take the survey. They also expressed they will share the survey with their constitiuents.

US Together

January 21, 2021

- Cultural competency of officers is important.
- The comfort level of whether an officer and a trained professional responding to these scenarios depends on the cultural competency lens of the office.

Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

January 26, 2021

- People need to understand the vulnerability of individuals with developmental disabilities.
- There needs to be developmental disability officer awareness.
- There needs to be help in training to address communication barriers.
- There needs to be better de-escalation techniques among officers.
- One of their staff members currently works at police headquarters, so there is some connection.
- Need better sensitivity on the side of the police.
- Adult Advocacy Center helps adult victims of abuse and maltreatment, possible to create connections with them to learn and create better practices.
- Netcare crisis center has a ride-along with officers, is it possible to expand this, go deeper, do more?
- Officers might need "premise alerts" for individuals with mental illness or developmental disabilities.
- These alerts would make officers aware of who lives in the house/area they are responding to and how they may need to approach the situation.

100 Black Women

January 27, 2021

- Attendees wanted to take the survey during the session.
- Appreciative of the opportunity to provide input and expressed its importance
- They agreed to share the survey broadly with friends, colleagues, and family.

Columbus Advisory Committee on Disability Issues (CACDI)

January 28, 2021

- Public safety disproportionately impacts people of color with disabilities
- Mental health should not be a policing issue. There should be a service in place to respond to these crises instead of arresting the individual.
- CACDI now has a legislative policy representative.
- Suggested the Eugene, Oregon CAHOOTS program. (31 years ago, the City of Eugene, Oregon developed an innovative community-based public safety system to provide mental health first response for crises involving mental illness, homelessness, and addiction. White Bird Clinic launched CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out on The Streets) as a community policing initiative in 1989).
- The Ohio Department of Health and Mental Services is partnering with CACDI to address safety issues in the disability community.
- Asked questions about the Columbus City Council timeline for implementation.

Urban Aging Residents Coalition (UARC)

January 28, 2021

- Asked who created survey content.
- We are capturing feedback from all over Columbus. All races, ages, sides of town, and hard-to-count populations (according to the 2020 Census efforts), including the homeless population.
- We are reaching out to various entities directly using contacts we already had access to. We rely on agencies and organizations to distribute the survey widely.
- What is going to be the frequency of how we revisit this information or see a follow-up report on progress? Would like to see the impact or outcome of these changes that Council is implementing. Other opportunities to take another survey? This will affect how we perceive law enforcement in our community.
- Discussed concealed carry situations.
- Community leaders cannot communicate with police officers sometimes. Will alternative crisis response personnel be trained to handle people in different neighborhoods?
- As it relates to new officers, how do they determine who is certified, how are they certified, how are they recruiting, and how they evaluate their performance. Will it look different in Black community versus the suburbs? Concerned about relatability. Who is coming to the community? And what is their whole entire approach?
- Will there be a hotline where people can call and register complaints? We explained there is something already in place – they asked if it can be made more accessible.
- Encouraged group to attend virtual town hall meetings.
- Police officers are afraid, too.

New Leaders Council

January 30, 2021

- The group inquired about undocumented residents. A traffic stop could mean a drastic change for them and their citizenship.
- Incentivize officers living within city limits.
- Neighborhood grassroots efforts – create magnets and stickers with information to send out to residents on who to call for various incidents.
- Leverage the more positive public perception of EMS and firefighters vs. police officers to our advantage. Expand dollars toward services of EMS. Utilize EMS on suicide calls.
- The survey feels police-heavy - that public safety only means police officers.
- Code officers and landlords should also be considered part of public safety. The City offers so many aspects of public safety, including discrimination investigations. Shift the narrative of other things the City offers that promote public safety.
- Wish there were parts of the survey that allowed for more explanation of alternative means of public safety outside of policing, like engagement of resources, food, and housing.
- Vision for public safety is engagement - a swath of resources that address food and housing insecurity. So many elements that impact police interactions.
- Vision for public safety is prevention.
- The first time Officer Friend was on rotation in Linden, after moving back into town,Officer Friend wondered why they were basically treating issues with a band-aid, and not providing more services to better treat the broader community. Prevent by giving them the care that they need.
- What percentage of the fire department living within city limits? Wonder what the disparity is between police officers and firefighters of those living within city limits. How does recruitment play into that?
- The police department gets the blame when prevention should be the focus.
- Create awareness around what our social norms are – educate people on how to deal with the situation without having to call the police (example of kids getting arrested for skateboarding outside of designated times).
- There needs to be restorative justice.
- Suggest the police and fire chiefs create synergy and have a conversation with the community. Haven't seen the fire chief very active in the community.
- What do they want to see in the new police chief and fire chief as we await those roles being filled, as well as a permanent Recreation and Parks Director.
- As it relates to basic needs being met, the focus should be less on making sure people get what they need, and more on making sure people can have what they need to meet their own needs. Allow them to realize their own self-worth and contributions.

- Neighborhood grassroots/unofficial block watches on social media (Nextdoor and Facebook) - address the systemic racism in these groups at a City Council level. If we allow this to continue, we will continue to see neighbors who are racist themselves encourage police officers' racist behaviors. This cycle needs to end. Particularly with how many emphatic gun carriers exist in some of these neighborhood watches and Ohio's gun laws.
- Considering the existing oppression and systems, to what degree could this new plan address anti-racism and anti-oppression? Are there resources within the Public Safety Department to address those goals? This would be a dramatic shift, a different framework and mindset.
- South Side/Williams Creek block watch – we heard there was a man who held a group home at gun point. This home had so many tensions with the police department allegedly being involved in local crime. ED of that home and director in block watch leader are very interested in mediation services. CMS and the CRC are interested in being part of this and finding ways to empower those informal methods of reconciliation. Both groups are interested in learning, but no one is offering those services currently. Police confused about what to do and wonder why we don't have funds for mediation.
- Police say public don't know how to interact with police officers.
- Misinformation will cause neighbors to reject new affordable housing developments in their neighborhood. Needs to be a broader education about these social services. These are needed resources in our community, and people (especially white people) shouldn't be resistant toward them.
- Lived in Short North near two mental health services houses on Dennison. They were not the problem neighbors! These are positive examples and success stories of mixed income and multi-resource neighborhoods.
- When considering budgets, there is so much emphasis on ROI. Crime is out of control. If ROI is what we use to justify budgets for different departments, how does the police force continue to get the funds that they do when the ROI is not where it should be? The money the police officers make is being exported to the communities in which they live. That economic value we don't see in Columbus. Our money is being wasted on ineffective public safety, and I feel that the ROI on my dollar as a resident, sucks.
- Website is outdated. Residents should be able to go to Columbus.gov and instantly find interactive, easy to use, mobile-accessible charts on the budget, and not have download a huge PDF on how the money is being spent. Have had numerous conversations about software, but the City is not interested in investing the dollars. We need a holistic overhaul from ground one. Help connect conversations. Help make that happen.
- Report found from the CRC in 1992 by a steering committee including Sybil McNabb, Ben Espy and others, outlining how to improve the police force.
- Public Safety is more than policing.
- Public safety is both a proactive investment, and a timely reaction to active threats. Public safety is measured by how we invest dollars in stopping safety threats before they happen and implementing safe and just responses to a community threat.
- We need a Chief of Social Responsiveness reporting to the Safety Director.

Bhuwan Pyakurel and Nepali Constituents
February 1, 2021

- Cultural identity specific to Nepali is never included as an option when collecting survey information (in this instance, the demographic information at the end of the survey does not include Nepali specifically.)
- Individuals feel lost when lumped together with all Asian American and Pacific Islander identity.

## Alvis Reentry Program Participants (24 men)
February 1, 2021

- All of them took the survey.
- Discussion was held around when men come home after being incarcerated, there is a level of role changing that has taken place that they need to navigate.
- Discussion was held around their responsibility to contribute to society in a positive way.
- Discussion was held around when CIT officers report to a scene and how they interact with the other police officer(s) present. Who has the authority in those situations?

- There needs to be minimum requirements for apartment safety.
- Women are victims and subject to sexual assault.
- People can go in buildings with multiple entrances, there is no door lock requirement except on individual apartment doors.
- Drug paraphernalia, homeless people, and other potentially dangerous things and situations put residents at risk.
- People being robbed coming home from work.
- Homeless people take advantage of the open doors and take shelter in the buildings.
- Police can only do a little, apartment landlords must take action, but there are safety loopholes in the complexes.
- Issues related to housing.
- Exploitative for refugees and immigrants.
- Example: outside locks.
- Shortage of affordable housing overall.
- Landlords don't live in Columbus so it is hard to reach them or hold them accountable.
- City can enforce regulations that are in place.
    - Example: streetlights
- Landlords have a responsibility because residents pay rent and maintenance fees, but there is no real accountability on the landlords.
- What is the city's responsibility in keeping the residents of the complex safe?
- Prevention needs to be a priority in these neighborhoods because police arrive after issues happen.
- Police are not trusted.
- Residents are fearful of police.
- People have trauma related to police.
- In Northland specifically, need more streetlights, sidewalks, and bus routes.
- Landlords, crime, city, service providers. How do they work together to provide solutions?
- Landlords need to be held accountable and take responsibility.
    - Recommendation: CPD hire civilian liaison for New American
- Bridge community gaps.
- Models are in place in other communities.
- Want city to move forward.
- Call line for language barrier interactions with police.
- Somali line—go through English to gain access to translation.
- Nepali translator could not translate some information during the trial and that is an issue.
- 311 trial showed it wasn't a reliable system.
- Officers don't even use the system.

- Would love to have a civilian review board for apartment complexes.
- Civilians check safety of complexes and give clear ratings of buildings.
- Decide whether a building meets a safety requirement.
  - If it does not, they will not recommend to people
- This will hopefully make landlords accountable since they are the only ones legally responsible.

- Want a minimum safety requirement for people.
- Lack of accountability with changing management at these apartment complexes on a regular basis without properly informing the tenants.
- For serving the Latino community: the City needs to address biases among police officer regarding racial profiling, bias based on ethnicity or privilege of ability to speak English, lack of on-site interpreters responding to scene for Limited English Proficient residents. Many times, police do not have interpreters and do not take reports of domestic violence issues and take the side of t he perpetrator who can speak English and may be lying. Latino/Hispanic have a huge mistrust for police so a person trained in crisis intervention outside the force may help with this

- Interpretation is critical.
- List of recommendation for CPD interpretation services.
- No real change that we have seen in how officers interact with limited English speakers.
- Educate police officers and city officials.
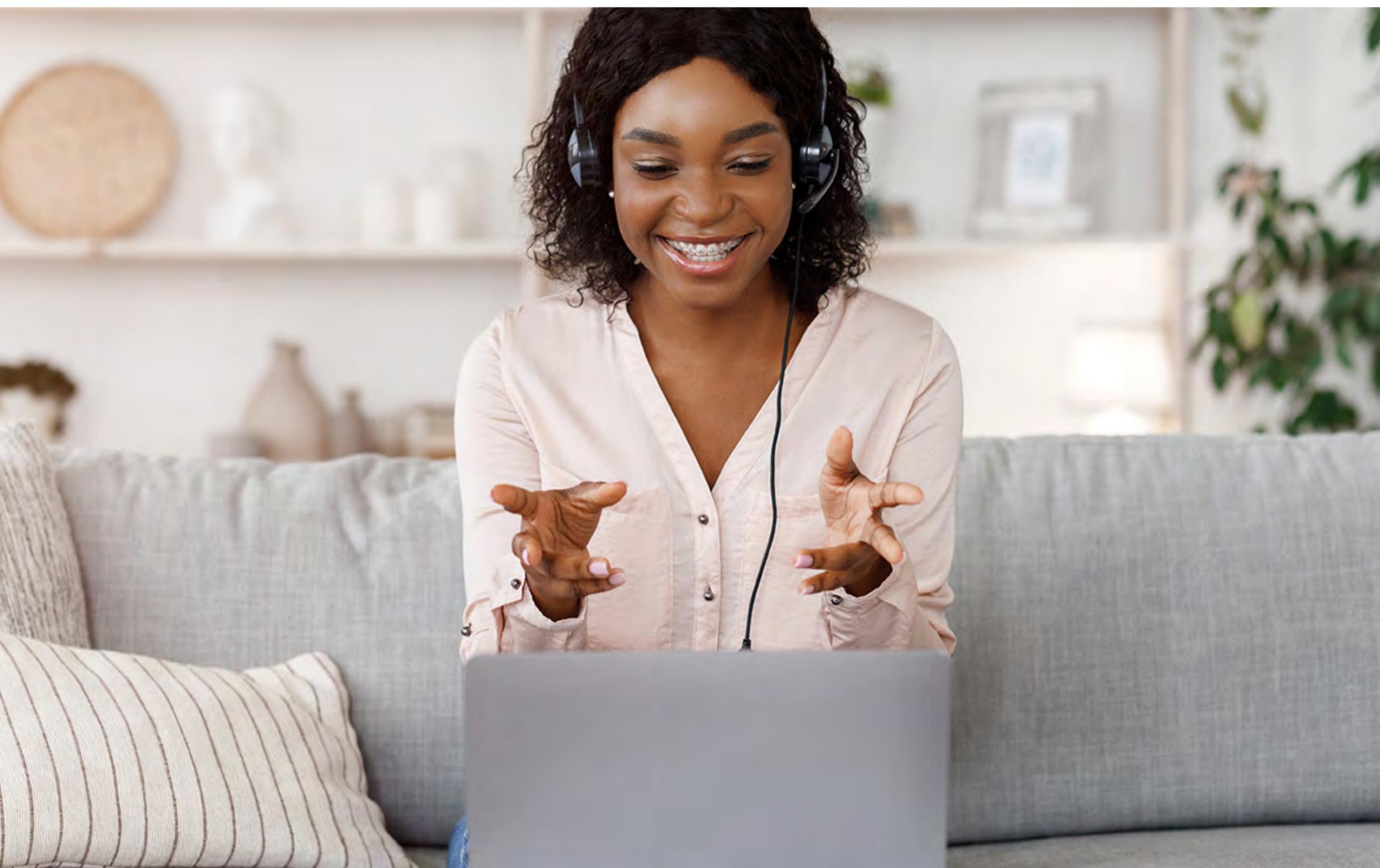
Academy for Urban Scholars Students

February 4, 2021

- Didn't feel that two responders were needed in any given situation. Sometimes don't feel a police officer is needed.
- Were a little confused about the comfortability scale on the survey.
- Suggested raising the legal age for gun carrying from 18 to 21.
- Some of the laws need to change that affect the community, like the Stand Your Ground law.
- They feel that police officers should spend time in jail if they kill someone.
- There should be people in every neighborhood, like a consultant, that can calm situations down instead of officers coming in using pepper spray and excessive force.
- Need another Black President.
- Abortion laws need to be revisited.

Kaleidoscope Youth Center

February 4, 2021

- Program youth and Youth Leadership Group took the survey.
- In June, they had discussion around what happened downtown, and recently discussions about the Capitol Insurrection. Some were active in the June protests.
- Demographic is 12-20 years old that are engaged daily. Most are youth of color who identify within the LGBTQ community.
- Most participants expected for there to be an option for abolition of the police. They felt the survey was designed to ignore the possibility of abolishing the police.
- Most of the youth have not have positive experiences with the police and have connected with the abolition of police movement. They want police violence to stop happening, but they don't have any ideas on what to replace police with.
- Brought up the fact that the entity of policing was created after the time of slavery and is racist by nature. These youth believe all police are part of this racist system.
- The Youth Leadership Group is interested in government advocacy, Equality Ohio and Anti-trans bills. They are learning how to talk to and how to write letters to elected officials.
- Would like to have more targeted outreach on future issues and notice for future town hall opportunities.
- Public Transportation is not adequate in Columbus. Would like to see some type of plan rolled out, free bus fares, a tax bracket that can receive subsidized fares, light rail or subway system that goes out of the city. We advised them of LinkUS efforts happening now.
- More public housing is needed.

Engagement and Outreach (Survey Distribution)

African American Leadership Academy (AALA) Fellows

Columbus and Franklin County Complete Count Committee

ColumbusBlack.com

Columbus Chapter of the Links, Inc.

Columbus City Schools

Columbus Freedom Fund

Columbus Urban League

Columbus Urban League Young Professionals

Divine Nine Fraternities and Sororities

Equity Now Coalition

IMPACT Community Action's Network

MilVets network

M.Y.L.E

NAACP

New American Leadership Academy (NALA) Graduates

OSU Department of Social Change Staff Members

OSU Sorority and Fraternity Life Staff Members

OSU Work Study African American Students

PMPK App

The Twin Rivers Chapter of the Links, Inc.

Who's Who in Black Columbus

Faith Community Outreach

The Saunders PR Group, in collaboration with Larry Price and Associates, delivered two communications to 82 churches in Franklin County that included a direct link to the online survey and encouraging pastors to share the information in their social media platforms, email to their congregants and inclusion in their newsletters and other materials.

Faith Community Outreach

Rev. Otha Gilyard
 Past President of The Ohio
 Baptist General Convention
Shiloh Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan
 Executive Director, Ohio
 Council of Churches

Bishop Frank Madison Reid III
Presiding Bishop of African
Methodist Episcopal Third District

Rev. Howard Washington
 President of the Baptist Pastors
Conference
Second Baptist Church

Rev. John Coates
 President of The
Interdenominational; Ministerial
Alliance

Rev. Jonathan Morehead
 President of the Baptist Ministerial
Alliance Hosack Street Baptist
Church

Bishop Timothy Clarke
 President of The Brotherhood of
Common Life First Church of God

Rev. Vincent Golden
 Moderator of Eastern Union
Missionary Baptist Association
 Unity Baptist Church

Bishop Jeffrey Kee
 Bread Organization

Rev. Scottie Aaron
Friendship Baptist Church

Rev. Derrick Bass
Greater New Life Baptist
Church

Rev. Jonathan Bradford
Bethany Baptist Church

Rev. Nathanial Carter
 Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church

Rev. Arthur J. Combest
Travelers Rest Baptist Church

Rev. Victor Davis
Trinity Baptist Church

Rev. Ron Elmore
 Mt. Period Baptist Church

Rev. Donald Fitzgerald
Christian Valley Baptist
Church

Rev. Paul Forney Maynard
 Avenue Baptist Church

Rev. Shedrick Fowler
 Christ Memorial Baptist
Church

Dr. Eugene L. Gibson Jr.
 Mt. Olivet Baptist Church

Rev. Robert Goff
North Linden Baptist Church

Rev. Dorian Grant
Greater Twelfth Baptist Church

Rev. Alphonso Guice
New Fellowship Baptist
Church

Rev. Wesley Greenfield
 Love Zion Baptist Church

Rev. Lawrence M. Harper
New Creation Baptist Church

Rev. Bennie Henson
 Hebrew Baptist Church

Rev. Tommy Hicklin
Springhill Baptist Church

Elder Lance Humphrey
Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist
Church

Rev. Henry Johnson
 Union Grove Baptist Church

Rev. Kaiser Jones
 Refuge Baptist Church

Rev. James Kelly
Burnside Baptist Church

Rev. Joel King
Mt. Herman Baptist
Church

Rev. Winston King
St. John Baptist Church

Rev. Fred LaMarr
Family Baptist Church

Rev. John Little
Resurrection Baptist
Church

Pastor Marcus Martin
New Jerusalem Baptist
Church

Rev. Hezekiah Martin
Southfield Baptist Church

Rev. Elon Meeks
Pilgrim Baptist Church

Rev. Marvin Miller
Greater Vision Baptist
Church

Rev. Charles Newman
Antioch Baptist Church

Rev. Rodney Phipps New
Shiloh Baptist Church

Elder Michael Reeves
Corinthian Baptist Church

Rev. Quentin Respress
Kingdom Power Baptist
Church

Rev. Roscoe Robey
Seventh Ave. Baptist Church

Rev. Leon Rodgers
Mt. Carmel Community Baptist
Church

Rev. Verlin Samples
Tabernacle Baptist Church

Rev. Keith Troy
New Salem Baptist Church

Elder Dale Tucker
Triedstone Baptist Church

Bishop Herman Ware
Oakley Baptist Church

Bishop Donald J. Washington
Mt. Herman Baptist Church

Rev. Charles Williams
Mt. Nebo Baptist Church

Rev. Timothy Ahrens
First Congregational Church
UCC

Bishop Eugene Bellinger
The Cathedral of the Covenant
Church

Bishop Bradford Berry
Rehoboth Temple

Rev. Eric H. Brown
Woodland Christian Church

Rev. Richard Burnett
Trinity Columbus

Rev. Kevin J. Cooper Sr.
St. Paul A.M.E.

Rev. Jermaine D. Covington
St. John A.M.E.

Rev. John Edgar
United Methodist Church for
All People

Dr. David Forbes
Columbus Christian Center

Bishop Roger J. Hairston
Temple of Faith

Rev. Brian K. Holland
Second Community

Bishop Robert Keyes
Refuge Temple Church of
Christ

Faith Community Outreach

Rev. Amy Miracle
Broad Street Presbyterian
Church

Bishop Christine McGhee
The Way of Holiness
Apostolic Church

Rev. Kenneth Moore
New Birth Christian
Ministries

Bishop Eddy Parker Word
Church of God in Christ

Rev. Donetta Peaks
Director Office of Ministry

Bishop Edgar A. Posey
Living Faith Apostolic
Church

Rev. Harold E. Rayford
The Church of Christ of
The Apostolic Faith

Rev. Roderic Reid
Mt. Vernon A.M.E.

Bishop Fred Saunders
Victory Deliverance
Church

Dr. Lafayette Scales
Rhema Christian Center

Bishop Howard Tillman
New Covenant Believers
Church

Bishop Sherman Watkins
Higher Ground Always
Abounding Assembly

Father Charles Wilson
St. Phillip's Episcopal Church

Rev. C. Dexter Wise
 Faith Ministries

Columbus City Council Distribution

The Columbus City Council has a broad and vast distribution network that includes area commissions, civic associations, nonprofit organizations, civic and service organizations. Over the course of this two-month outreach and engagement effort, a series of emails, social media posts were distributed to community members, encouraging them to take the survey via a direct link to the online survey and to participate in town hall meetings.

Distribution dates were:

Releases and Advisories

12/30/20, 1/8/21, 1/26/21

ChamberMail

12/21/20, 1/28/21

Town Hall Meeting

1/11/21, 1/13/21, 1/21/21

Social Media

Facebook
1/8/21 post
Twitter
1/8/21, 1/12/21, 1/14/21, 1/27/21
Samples and exhibits are included in this report.

Appendix

Live Townhall Responses

January 13, 2021

"Alternative crisis response involves both co-responder and non-police crisis interventions."

After our conversation today, how do you define alternative crisis response?

- No police
- Non-police
- A response where it isn't just an officer who responds
- Alternative crisis response is using different methods
- Not police
- I think that depending on circumstances it can be hard to determine what is the correct action, but after our conversation, would define it as a safe and better solution that needs to be put in place as soon as possible

- Alternative crisis response
- Having someone else other than police officers to respond
- Mental health professionals
- Mental health calls being answered by clinicians + police or social workers solo
- Having other responders than the police for non-emergency situations or situations not requiring force
- The engagement of a multidisciplinary team to address calls that address mental health and non-crime
- Differentiation in policing. Using other professionals to solve community problems
- Using responders other than police where appropriate
- Community members responding to calls that don't require police officer presence
- Having social worker go on appropriate calls
- A manner by which non-emergency calls for service by the general public can be mitigated by entities other than traditional law enforcement

- Behavioral health responders working with police
- Alternative crisis response involves both co-responder and non-police crisis interventions
- people other than police officers respond to calls
- Engagement with the community. Alternative responders - behavioral health providers
- A method of crisis response that does not treat the police as the one-size-fits-all approach, and draws on the distributed expertise of professionals who can be most appropriately matched to the identified problem

- Literally no police at all except. Mental health clinicians. Behavioral health specialists
- Community-led, community-approved responses
- Using people trained to help non-violent crises actually being able to help
- Behavioral health involvement and multi-disciplinary teams
- Community engagement
- Striated services are available for different community needs. Bringing actual safety to our Black and brown community.
- Can come up with creative solutions
- Utilizing resources more efficiently
- Faith community support
- Coordinated teams across agencies
- Filling in the gaps of our social fabric
- Culturally competent responders
- Non-police responses
- Community Engagement
- Reducing harm by keeping cops to situations they're trained for
- Community Safety Liaison
- Expand mobile crisis response

The City of Columbus should spend more on (what) to establish crisis response?

- Training
- Co responders. Mobile crisis response.
- Hiring + outreach
- Thoughtful feedback
- Mentoring
- Mental health training
- Expand mobile crisis response
- Community development
- Evaluation and analysis to feed action, understand people's struggles with inequality and trauma
- Having respect for neighborhoods that are different from your own
- Not assuming all 911 calls need police, fire, or both
- Our BIPOC community members!
- Jobs
- Building an infrastructure that supports relationships with behavioral health responders and various community responders
- Front-end crisis response without police, and back end referrals for those who experienced a crisis
- Culturally sensitive training
- Prevention (an ounce goes a long way)!
- Urban development
- Affordable housing
- Creating an equitable society
- Hiring people from communities that have had success with the issues facing ours
- Firing all racist employees of CPD. Hiring a new group of compassionate responders who are highly trained by anyone other than CPD trainers
- Educating people on what alternative response really means
- Triaging calls to determine the appropriate response
- Assisted outpatient centers to avert the need for crisis responses
- Social workers; Peer leaders; Counselors; Youth workers
- Clinicians
- Logistics for how to divert appropriate calls away from police
- Mental health
- Easy tasks
- Urban development and investment in entrepreneurs
- Building relationships with youth
- Families
- Empathy
- Implicit bias
- Public education
- Educating people on what alternative response means
- Services for addiction (non-punitive)
- Hiring health workers as crisis responders instead of police

What alternative crisis response should the City of Columbus invest in to make Columbus more safe?

- RREACT
- After school activities
- Expand mobile crisis response unit + RREACT
- Non police emergency responders
- Engage our universities to train the workforce of the future
- Further investment in MCR
- A group that is entirely independent from police
- Right professionals for the problems
- Establishing a program similar to the cahoots program used in other cities.
- Expand RREACT, provide funds to develop the workforce needed for the expansion.
- Establishing a robust enough non-police response to evaluate outcomes. This should include as many types of low-priority calls as possible, not just mental health calls.
- Definitely more addiction and mental health alternatives
- Triage! Partner nurses and other health and social professionals with 911 to provide the best intervention and minimize preventable tragedy.
- No officers
- Affordable housing
- Training dispatch to direct non-police emergency responders to non-violent calls
- MCR probably means Mobile Crisis Response...
- Community mental health. De-carceration to rebuild families and communities.
- Primary and secondary response system
- Additional research to understand the proportion of non-violent calls that escalate and become violent
- Be more proactive in solving root cause.
- Provide alternative solutions for unemployed hard-core youth
- RREACT! Treats addiction like any other chronic condition
- Non-police, health-oriented response
- Encouraging multicultural engagement
- Performing Arts programs for kids
- Non-police response pilot program in targeted area | paired with social science evaluators
- City needs to be more respectful of its poor and minority residents
- Highlight the trauma officers in the homicide squad have had this year with 175 investigations.
- Housing, especially for those "difficult to house."
- Partner with local systems (Cols State/ ADAMH/ Providers) to help promote and develop workforce for any of these alternative responder models
- Training for community members to 'police' their own neighborhoods or accompany police and professionals on calls
- Give money to the arts!
- Affordable Housing
- Reducing recidivism
- Establish programs to work with unemployed hard core youth
- Non emergency lines for wellness checks
- shifting non-crisis 911 calls away from crisis/public safety response entirely
- Caregivers
- Outreach to families of gun violence and opioid deaths
- MCR = mobile crisis response
- Self-sufficiency programs that would help deter low-level theft: food security, housing alternatives/options, economic development opportunities (entrepreneurship and job training)
- Community wide competitions in the arts! With award money!
- RREACT
- Research
- More non-police like the examples we saw today - Eugene, Denver
- Fatherhood initiatives
- Expand access to routine mental health/addiction services such that people needn't fall into crisis.
- Investment in jobs, workforce development
- Nonprofits proven to assist with communities in need
- Differentiate public safety from health, non-crisis calls, etc. not every 911 call is a public safety issue
- Activities for fathers and children to bond
- More/better reentry programs
- Invest in neighborhood development, neighborhood nonprofits
- Promote homeownership

What is your vision for alternative crisis response?

- Help your neighbor.
- Us all getting along.
- For an individual having a mental health, addiction, or other non-violent crises to get assistance from an individual with the adequate training and be connected to service.
- Everyone responding to matters appropriately with no judgment or implicit bias
- Police that understand their communities on a human level
- 20%+ of 911 calls diverted to alternative crisis response
- Transparency, accountability, responsiveness, connected with the community, reflective of the community, respective of the community
- All people who struggle with mental health or other types of difficult life experiences can have a decent quality of life and find hope again
- Children won't be afraid of the police. Black people won't be needlessly murdered.
- Population is just as aware of alternatives to 911 as they are of 911 itself!
- A community where everyone is truly safe and taken care of
- Less police = less show of force could lead to more trust
- A separate/apart department with sufficient funding and manpower within the city to provide robust services in a variety of manners to the citizens of Columbus.
- Model for the right way to respond to the varying needs of our citizens and not become a national example for the wrong things
- Police as last resort for intervention, but called upon when clearly needed.
- That weapons altogether will be fazed out completely
- Significantly reduce the need for a police force by improving safety
- A city where people are able to get the directed help that they need from people trained to provide it without fear of persecution or arrest
- No need for crisis response. Enough preventive and restorative programming that everyone has options not to call the police.
- Neighbors taking care of neighbors
- Socially just, safe, and effective programs where city departments work collaboratively.
- That we start small, make changes based on facts not anecdotes or predetermined position, avoid reducing police force size given the violence crisis in our community
- I hope that we can save lives!
- Make hiring first responders from this community a priority
- Provide a service everyone feels comfortable and safe calling
- Crisis responders who share lived experience with and speak the language of the communities in which they work
- Accurate reporting of officer infractions on officer's record jackets
- Have cops respond to the minority of calls
- Every person who responds to every crisis call is appropriately trained to serve the person in crisis optimally, in the immediate crisis and in addressing their longer term needs
- Police that volunteer with nonprofits in the communities they patrol
- A fully-funded pipeline from crisis to response to support services on the back end
- Funding based on community evaluations
- People become reengaged and trust the government again
- Getting rid of the us vs them attitude. Police vs. citizens
- Those in mental health/addiction crisis receive specialist care in the field, just as we'd expect for someone having a heart attack
- People getting help they need
- Incubate small pilots informed by the community and providers, then scale up
- There are programs in place to take care of citizens after a 911 call and not just during
- When he grows up, my son is safe driving at night
- That we address problems with solutions and not be so punitive--we end up ruining lives instead of REDIRECTING THEM!!
- Take the violence out of emergency responses
- DV survivors have options other than police to find help
- Work on de-militarization of police
- A response that reflects that we are no longer criminalizing mental health issues or addiction
- Police live in the communities they served
- Rely on cops only when absolutely needed. Let the community take care of itself whenever possible through alternative resources

Investing in Violence Prevention

January 14, 2021

How can the City of Columbus address violence in our communities?

- Credible messengers
- Provide opportunities for family stability
- Continue to work the strategy laid out by David Kennedy. Spread the word about the new call center processes.
- Invest in youth
- Partner with David Kennedy, focus resources on most violent, reduce policing and focus on repairing harm by police
- I'm encouraged but the multi-prong approach I had heard. tonight and last night. we are getting REAL
- More visible officers on the street interacting with citizens
- By putting more funding into prevention programs, especially targeted at our youth. Making more after-school programs available and more scholarships available to help kids continue on to University after they finish high school
- Providing the basic, immediate needs of community members so they can look to longer term remediation realistically.
- Expand social services while limiting police response to acute violent crime
- Better data collection and sharing across agencies
- Hold leaders and Police accountable so people will understand there is accountability for those under the leadership, and people will recognize there are consequences. If accountability on leaders then citizens will see they won't get in trouble
- Reducing police mistrust - a no tolerance policy for officers acting in ways that abuse their power, dehumanize community members, or harm us
- I think the idea of retraining police, reform, and mental health services
- After school activities
- Provide better access to living wages for all, safe and affordable housing, and decrease poverty. Stop allowing cops to use chemical weapons on peaceful protestors
- Reduce poverty and increase housing security
- We have tried various methods in the past but it has not worked. We need to implement Mr Kennedy's program with Fidelity
- Less over policing and decreased officer interactions
- New progressive ideas! Let's be honest about the problems and face them head on.
- Invest in mental health
- By continuing to work with known violence interventionists; expand our relationship with Mr. Kennedy
- Decrease poverty, which is the strongest correlation to violence. Improve low-income housing, which is so atrocious in Columbus that we should be ASHAMED of ourselves

- Provide BASIC real needs of those smaller groups
- Making sure everyone has their basic needs met - income, child care, food security, health care
- Is it possible to provide after-school resources i.e recreation centers, for youth after hours.
- Everything in Professor Kennedy's presentation!! genuine caring for the community goes a long way.
- "Invest in youth
- Invest in NN SC"
- Emergency funds for families at risk of violence
- Violence "interrupter" programs
- Expand opportunities for youth in our community
- Meaningful collaboration with neighborhoods on what kind of support they want
- Local ID program
- Using data to identify and help those at the highest risk and their family members, address trauma
- Lessen criminal charges
- Feels like domestic violence is missing from this conversation
- More police support from city leadership. Opportunities for change in communities
- Drastically improved mental health services - access is DISMAL
- Training police to acknowledge how concentrated crime is and the have better idea of what situations are actually Dangerous
- Public health approach: include primary, secondary and tertiary prevention to address a diverse population.
- We need the new approach levers David Kennedy talks about instead of just going with jobs and education. Take care of the what the immediate needs are
- Review police arbitration protocols and make it public
- Get authority figures of violence perpetrators involved in resolving conflicts
- Food assistance, mental health
- Decriminalize homelessness and survival crimes
- engage trusted community leaders
- More community events with officers
- Less taking, more action
- Police not so imposing on smaller crimes
- Stop giving tax breaks to big developers and keep housing affordable
- Provide MEANINGFUL follow-up with folks who call 911 with mental/behavioral/drug related crises
- Stop incentivizing arrests
- Officers living in the actual communities they police
- Equal access to services for refugee and immigrant communities
- Improve Police community relations
- More diversion programs
- Embrace legitimacy and seek reconciliation with our communities
- Gun control
- UBI
- Restorative practices in police dept
- Utilizing pre-existing community organizations that people already trust to give out services and resources
- Work with state leaders to remove collateral consequences
- Improved childcare, early childhood education
- Connect tax abatements to city resources i.e. recreation centers and after school programs
- *Actually* affordable housing
- Less big city development and more thought into affordable housing
- Ask this question to the groups who are most at risk of violence -- who don't tune into badly-advertised council meetings
- After-school programs
- Scholarships
- Mentoring programs
- Justice healing circles, support community grassroots efforts to make them better about to reach more youth
- Invest in a non-police, health care-based 911 response to mental health crises.
- Reach out to local sports and entertainment figures to interface with these groups. Not just once, but on a continuing basis.
- Start treating substance use as a public health issue and not as a criminal offense
- Fire officers who use excessive force with civilians
- Commitment to status quo
- The fact that the governor does not have the power to actually change the police union contract
- Misinvestment of public funds
- Give police candidates incentives to live in Columbus at the time of application. Preference points at application.
- No consequences for bad POLICE behavior.
- investing in after-school spaces that teenagers actually want to be in
- addressing mental health and providing more accessible services to those who may be uninsured
- Reduce penalties for criminal past

- Bike police
- Invest in affordable housing. go big!
- Police reform, mental health services, more social workers
- Mental health services - access to health care broadly
- Call Center, NNSC, public education on who to call in lieu of police
- Social workers, non-police intervention teams
- Money won't solve it, need Family structure, God, Jesus and accountbility
- If you contract with Kennedy he will help our community use additional investments in the best way to reduce violence
- Everything Professor Kennedy said is right on point!
- Education- better school funding
- Upstream is everything! Food, health, housing, education
- Review police officers' files to take police off the streets if they have too many offenses internally
- Emergency funds for families in need
- Resources for people who need to escape domestic violence
- Local City non-state ID card program
- Invest in a 2-year contract with GVI, in order to find a better way to help people
- Affordable housing, have a social worker/cop team responding
- Refocus APPS on the most violent
- Contract w/ NNFSC for 2-yr followup to program being done now
- Affordable housing
- Invest in families. Help with food, rent, utilities as well as fun activities.
- Hold police accountable for violence!
- More green spaces
- Police accountability
- Enact a Credible Messenger program
- A two-year contract with NNSC
- Other first response systems/people
- More police diversity to reflect the community they serve.
- Data and evaluation
- Gang violence prevention
- Social services so everyone's basic needs are met - UBI
- Community forums between police and community to listen to each other and improve understanding
- Helping people who need more help
- Kennedy, Kennedy, Kennedy
- Single justice system for police, public, & non-white populations.
- Youth activities, extracurricular activities in schools that everyone can access. Arts, music, school social workers
- Get to know communities by doing home visits and engaging in dialogues with residents to know their plights and issues in the community
- Actual subject matter experts responding to different crises
- Community building and neighborhood development
- See public records 20-1329 20-5124, 20-3028, 20-1742
- More green spaces yes, and protect the community gardens!
- Expand affordable housing availability
- Incentivize police to refer to services to prevent over policing and increase trust in police as a resource.
- Social service programs are underfunded
- Non-state ID card system
- Restorative justice in K-12 schools

- I want the NNSC to work with Columbus
- David Kennedy nailed it. We have to have a unified effort to shift behavior of most violent
- Bring me back to the table so that I can make it even more effective - Dr. Deanna Wilkinson
- WalkingTheThinBlackLine.com
- Community members are engaged in one another. we practice Community Accountability to establish new cultural norms where violence is socially unacceptable
- Comprehensive crisis response
- Restorative practices in schools, neighborhoods, police Dept.
- Making sure fathers and men step up to the plate
- To encourage and welcome people who are in need not to be stigmatized and working with NNSC
- www.makeCOLUMBUSgreat.com
- Mothers have power
- Dr. Deanna Wilkinson
- Make sure officers live in the communities they serve
- Everyone has all of their materials needs met, so they don't become desperate to the point of being willing to enact violence
- www.makeCPDgreat.com
- Recognize the various ethnic minorities and focus on intergroup respect.
- Intentional Reconciliation with our communities that we have oppressed via systemic racism
- Prayer
- The Columbus division of police should not exist. It comes with too much distrust. We need a new system constructed together
- Fathers, fathers fathers!
- We must secure the 2 year contract with Mr Kennedy that we can have the entire program implemented with Fidelity they have the expertise
- Recruiting and appropriately paying community members as peer responders
- People have access to all of the mental health services they need
- Madison County Correctional Institution has MULTIPLE lawsuits violence, racism, harassment, retaliation from COs. Introduce bills to hold them accountable, body cams for COs, and more
- NNSC to continue to work with our community beyond this year
- <50 murders per year
- Housing for all- with access to green spaces (there is research showing violence goes down when apartment complexes have green space)
- Maybe even co-housing communities or co-ops
- First responders not set on criminalizing but on helping
- Stable families
- Allow fathers with Children. Need family structure
- Everyone has dignity even after having made a mistake
- Hire officers with similar vision of alternative policing
- make sure that officers who have been doing great work for years need to know that they are valued
- If police want to help, they HAVE to show sincerity. Can't be fake or superficial
- Finding non-police responders who share history, culture, and language with the neighbourhoods they serve
- Restorative and transformative justice
- City employees must live in the city, especially police!
- Help families with housing and food
- Officers are trusted because if they are on the force, we know they haven't abused their power or dehumanized any of us
- Significantly downsize the policy and make sure that social service interventions operate outside the public safety chain of command
- Add the 2-yr contract w/NNFSC
- Domestic violence is seen as a public, not just a private issue
- Guaranteed basic income
- Single justice system for police, public, & non-white population.
- Seeing crime as a symptom not a cause

Investing in Accountability

January 21, 2021

The City of Columbus should invest in (what) to create a police division that is accountable and just in its decision making?

- "www.makeCPDgreat.com
- Ohio AG Commission Brad Dunn states language in videos at makeCOLUMBUSgreat.com are acceptable and not discrimination in Police Dept Senior Admin Meetings
- Independent investigators
- A qualified inspector general
- "www.makeCOLUMBUSgreat.com
- Ohio AG and Ethics in writing says permissible to delete FOP Meeting videos weeks after meeting instead of 1 year retention to cover up- PD IT Sys Admin intimidated to delete videos, phone logs, PD evidence photos
- National search for the inspector general
- How will the community be able to participate in the selection of the board?
- Expanding its mental health unit
- Trauma care and counseling for officers
- Remove time limitation for filing complaints with IA
- Retired, Current, Former Officers states cover ups in Police Administration and are scared to speak up due to retaliation. Public Record Open Meeting Notes
- Verify at publicRecords@columhuspolice.org
- Divest from militarizing the police. Invest the money in programs addressing economic inequality and housing initiatives.
- Better body cameras
- Complete transparency in developing civilian review board
- preventing fired officers from being hired by other local agencies
- Remain committed to CIT trainings
- Accountability of data and talk to PD IT Dept
- Revamping the civil service hiring process to allow for more diversity in hiring of police officers
- A contract with the NNSC for GVI, the CRB, A fair contract with the FOP, easy access to the training police receive. easy access to pending complaints
- Moving funding away from police and to mental health, social work, access to affordable medical care, and food access
- Interpretation available when making complaints
- Reconciliation and healing groups for Officers and community members
- Mental health services for officers
- Defunding the police
- Remove time limit on records retention for officer files
- Guarantee that CPD does not communicate with ICE at any time

- I think police can currently see the identity of the folks who complain about them; be sure this is no longer the case
- Create organizational firewalls between CPD and investigatory bodies. Internal investigations aren't permitted in most organizations
- Address discrimination concerns from officers of color
- "Body cameras no good if Videos deleted
- Publish results of survey
- Allow disciplinary actions to remain indefinitely in personnel files
- They should invest in a total transformation of leadership and a real hiring process that will weed out dangerous hires
- Mandatory drug testing for officers involved in shootings or excessive force incidents with serious harm
- Body cameras that turn on automatically when an officer gets out of the vehicle
- Hiring officers in the future that live in the communities they serve.
- Mental health education
- Defund police, fund alternative response units
- Create infrastructure that makes a city less dependent on its police department. Instead of putting all the money in one basket for the police, spread it to improve economic and education conditions.
- Change training to stop making police afraid of civilians - stop creating police who feel the need to use excessive force
- We need police out of mental health crises calls
- Ensure permissions and access levels are monitored in PD Dept
- Hold officers accountable to the law since no one is above the law
- Maintain records outside control of CPD - records retention maintained by a more generic body.
- Work closely with each and every communities
- The video should auto upload to a 3rd party cloud. Officer should not see ahead of questioning.
- They should invest in a real police chief and not an individual that has completely benefitted from the way things have been. Provide a place for officers to report without fear of retaliation.
- Increase continuing education requirements that incorporate social determinants.
- CPD just upgraded it's system for storing data; all data on 911 calls (CAD data) + arrests data + all use of force records should be available to the civilian review board. That board should quarterly summarize the data for the public.
- All the training in the world will NOT matter if we keep hiring the wrong type of people.
- Again: The CRB should access all CAD data + spatial data on police location (car GPS) + all use of force data. The CRB needs to have the power to examine patterns/trends, not just specific incidences.

- Talk to PD IT Dept
- Videos of Officer involved shooting cover up www.makeCOLUMBUSgreat.com
- Recruitment and pay incentives for black officers, officers of color, and bilingual and multilingual officers
- Get rid of the current Columbus Division of Police
- Provide interpreters to residents who primarily speak a language other than English. That includes ASL
- Give incentives to officers to live within City of Columbus limits
- Videos of Officer Assault in PD Dept outside of PD IT Dept
- Interpretation available at ALL calls involving a community member with Limited English Proficiency
- Defund the FOP
- Fire cop that have a pattern of complaints complaints from the community before the kill someone
- Rotate officers more often from street assignments
- Give the review board real power
- Stop using children and neighbors to interpret
- Review and remove officers with extreme views
- Change civil service rules on who is permitted to be hired
- Building relationships w/community members
- Hire more officers who reside within the Columbus city limits
- More recruiting and hiring from within the city limits
- Don't rotate officers to different zones; keep folks in same zone
- Defend community members, not property
- Remove weapons and use current funding for de-escalation training
- Large percentage that live in Columbus, incent them to live her Columbus, Diversify who is a police officer | get more control for management in FOP bargaining agreement
- Ensure that CPD live in the City
- Incentives for officers to live in the city
- Change recruitment practices
- Hire officers who live in Columbus city limits. Recruit more officers who speak a second language. Keep all discipline records. Monitor their online activity
- Check in with officers on mental health more often on a deeper level
- Fire officers with DV records
- Remove officers when they have complaints involving excessive force.
- more multi-lingual officers
- FOP stop protecting officers, hold accountable
- Make Adrienne Hood Mayor
- Pathways from CCS to CPD
- The police should not have the option of turning off cams. Third parties should hold footage.
- Teaching officers strategies such as explaining to citizens why they've been stopped and how it will benefit public safety
- Have officers stay in the same zones to build their relationships with community members
- Do this exercise with police officers
- Constant review of officers behavior
- Utilize more diverse psychologists in the police screening process
- Take a larger initiative to dismantle the structure of racism in the CDP. This goes beyond racial bias training.
- Give yearly accounting of complaints
- Use more behavioral science in order to address bias within the division of police. Be responsive rather than informed
- Mandate Kirwan Institute implicit bias training as a regular continuing ed requirement
- Database for infractions of policies
- Stop over policing certain areas
- Hold the FOP accountable for not supporting efforts to better serve our residents
- More community liaisons officers
- Interestingly, our men and women in the military are often doing peace building work in the community. Our officers should be doing that, too
- More training for dispatchers

- Ohio AG and Ethics in writing says permissible to delete FOP Meeting videos weeks after meeting instead of 1-year retention to cover up- PD IT Sys Admin intimidated to delete videos, phone logs, PD evidence photos
- More diverse officers
- "www.makeCOLUMBUSgreat.com
- Retired, current, former officers states cover-ups in police administration and are scared to speak up due to retaliation. Public record open meeting notes
- Verify at publicRecords@columhuspolice.org
- Bring back PAL(Police Athletic League)
- Give public multiple ways to contact the review board
- Invest in education, food access, mental health, and affordable medical care
- Education for youth on how the systems work
- Invest in alternative nonpolice crisis response
- Look Public Records from PD IT Dept
- Baker Investigation #211
- Embrace a means for bringing CPD to community and faith groups to engage with those groups and understand community issues
- Stop sending police to handle issues that they are not trained to handle. Invest in health workers, housing initiatives, wellness and resources for addiction and those in crisis.
- Community led Trauma Support Groups
- Mandatory mental health services for officers
- Improve the conditions of citizens' livelihood. Create social programs that mitigate economic inequity
- Offer diversity training so they can understand us
- Bring back the Police Athletic League
- More education around limitations from FOP contract
- It would be nice to get these questions ahead of time
- NNSC GVI - affordable housing, reparations for making a racially and economically segregated community allow options for good schools for all that are integrated
- More community health workers
- They can STOP gentrifying the communities for starters. All the tax abatements that takeaways millions of dollars could go to community services. Stop investing in businesses and leaving the citizens behind!
- Cultural sensitivity courses
- Require/provide opportunities for police to interact with community members on a one-on-one basis
- Divest from the police and invest in healthcare
- Address community stressors that create an environment for violence
- Bring back the DAREprogram
- Collaboratively with nonprofits churches and other city entities within the precincts they serve
- www.makeCOLUMBUSgreat.com
- Remove funding from police, give to Columbus City Schools
- Spend more time with all the community organizations that are working on community justice
- Bring diverse groups together w/CPD at events like pancake breakfasts for open-ended conversations on broad issues
- Victim services within the police department
- Have a whole different emergency number for mental health crises No Police
- Hold FOP Accountable
- Community input on fop contract
- Eliminating hair requirements
- Removing barriers and preparing residents to become officers
- Provide reparations to Casey Goodson's family and other victims of CDP
- Provide detailed information to the community about resources available to assist residents.
- We need transparency of FOP contracts
- Mentorship programming with CPD and My Brother's Keeper
- Video of Officer-Involved Shooting cover-up

SPR
THE SAUNDERS PR GROUP

What is your vision for creating more accountability within the Columbus Division of Police?

- Listen to people , officers speaking up www.makeCOLUMBUSgreat.com
- Abolish FOP
- End qualified immunity
- Professional licenses for police
- Talk to retired former officers and PD IT Dept employees
- Create a Reconciliation and Healing Commission
- Dismantle the current structure of the police
- require college degrees in officers
- Not allowing the FOP 2 dictate investigations! Exodus
- End the current FOP contract
- Following what Newark NJ did. No shots fired by officers in 2020
- Restorative justice
- Fire bad cops. Make all disciplinary actions public
- Zero residents killed by officers
- Data driven accountability. Which means you have a problem or a goal and you hold yourself accountable to that metric. Every other organization measures success this way, why can we do that in policing?
- Civilian review board with power to remove officers
- Fire and charge police when crimes are committed
- Community defines how they want to be protected. FOP engagement with a more just approach to policing
- Talk to Former Officers
- Drug testing
- Deal with discrimination among officers; if officers can't respect colleagues who are culturally different, how can we expect them to respect the neighborhoods they serve
- Civil payouts for victims of police brutality
- Don't ignore red flags. Be more intentional about caring for and empowering good officers
- FOP has WAY too much power.
- Make Internal Affairs public
- Provide reparations to Casey Goodson's family and other victims
- Low tolerance/zero tolerance policies for police misconduct
- Look at Video and Phone Audit Logs
- Change state level bargaining
- We need more time, if you sincerely want input
- Promote officers with good community relations, incorporate community input into contract renewals, promotions
- Listen to community and people
- Engage officers in community conversations
- Make FOP meetings public. Don't delete videos
- The police chief should not come from the ranks of CPD. we need new ideas
- Consider past history with officers who have served in the military
- Treat a police shooting like a murder investigation from first moment
- Strengthen and broaden training, and set a higher standard for accepting candidates

Establish Alternative Public Safety Crisis Response

January 27, 2021

How can the City of Columbus address violence in our communities?

- Co-responders
- Provide most appropriate services to the affected person
- Non-police crisis response- Social workers, ems, mental health professionals
- Someone other than police officers responding to calls
- Non-police engagement: EMS & clinicians / social workers
- Alternatives to using police as the primary responders for non-violent, or mental health incidents among residents.
- A great thing, but needs more of these units
- Second responders de-escalate crises
- 911 diversion programs
- A response focused on mental health wellness instead of criminal behavior
- Response to those in need from a trained individual that is not a police officer
- Eliminating police intimidation
- Utilizing a dynamic and multi-skilled system of professionals, including social workers, law enforcement, and others to respond to incidents
- It means an opportunity to engage with an individual in mental health crisis without having to respond by utilizing a 'traditional' law enforcement response that is punitive
- As a former homeless outreach worker and a current social worker, I really, really like the idea of expanding the Mobile Crisis response team. I also think that anti-racism and implicit bias training is crucial as part of the alternative response
- Limited support that can be effective but may not be due to being embedded in police department that is not meant to deal with mental health
- A proactively humane methodology designed to enhance public safety
- Someone specialized in a certain discipline responding
- Non 911 numbers where folks can talk trained professionals
- Response methods that are custom to the consumer/callers' individual needs
- Something that needs more money put behind it in order to be used more efficiently
- Safe de-escalation of mental health engagement
- An option to a pure law enforcement response that recognizes mental health concerns that need to be handled in a specialized fashion
- More Mobile Crisis Response
- Emergency response that doesn't require enforcement
- Social workers dealing with all homelessness complaints
- A response that is sensitive to the varying situations that could be there. A collaboration that could lead the way to various responses and is flexible based on the situation
- Matching services to needs
- Creating a full social work team that is specifically trained
- A long needed modern solution
- Using dedicated mental health staff

- Funding more appropriate responses to non-violent emergencies
- More trained 911 call takers
- Take some pressure away from police officers in issues they are not as equipped to handle
- Letting mental health professionals respond to mental health calls
- All officers should get CIT trained
- Spend more on getting more social workers, esp minorities. Even help with the cost of school or student loans.
- I define alternative crisis response as the addition of social workers and resources rather than referring directly to mental health services. The additional of social workers assist with de-escalating and problem solving and offering choice.
- A program that has social workers and nursing staff respond with proper de-escalation and education. From medication education and compliance to resources in the community
- Investing in this program is reimagining policing
- Student loan forgiveness for those going into social work
- I would spend money on additional mental health training, Social Workers along with money for additional transitional housing units and non congregate sheltering in case
- Housing for mental health crisis patients
- Intersection of IPV and mental health and more affordable housing/transitional housing
- Intimate Partner Violence, Human Trafficking concerns during crisis response and more funds to address those concerns

The City of Columbus should spend more on (what) to establish crisis response?

- Actual mental health professionals, not just general social workers (no offense)
- More mental health training
- Better 911 intake script training to dispatch better service
- Partner with existing agencies outside of the police to pay social workers, EMTs, mental health, phones, vehicles, etc
- De-escalation training
- Hire more mental health clinicians along with social workers.
- More call takers - both 911 and non-emergency line
- Invest in all of the resources required: 9-1-1/3-1-1; patrol, CIT, social work, and long-term resources to improve circumstances and reduce the need for incident response
- Understand how 988 is probably going to change what calls go to 911.
- Crisis prevention
- Prevention programs
- Specified training, supporting programs already in place, putting money into social work organizations
- Hiring more counselors, divert funds from CPD
- Expand the existing Mobile Crisis Response program with CPD/Netcare; establish relationships with area hospitals/crisis lines to aid in mental health - related 911 calls; expand community awareness of available resources
- Community block watch support
- Fund the existing proven model with Netcare and CPD for 24/7 teams
- More money towards mental health professionals
- Reliable interpretation services
- Community building
- Spend more on Mobile Crisis teams!!! Police also have legitimate skills and rather than just saying "send social workers by themselves, " if we have a collaboration that allows for the police to be more responsive that will be better for the community
- Non-criminal solutions for people without housing
- Expand CIT training to reach most/all officers
- Culturally-specific response training
- Spend more to expand existing programs like MCR. Don't spend money on overlapping services. It wastes public dollars.
- Long-term resources!
- Full non police response for homelessness and wellness checks
- Divert from 911 if involves mental health, they should be secondary
- De-escalation training for anyone who would respond
- Implicit bias training, a focus on preventative community safety rather than response
- Training for regular citizens: WHEN to call police
- De-escalation training for all citizens
- Bolster Netcare rather than reinventing what it's already doing.
- More racial and linguistic diversity among clinical responders
- Gun control
- Hiring more officers from diverse backgrounds that live in Columbus and are invested in our local community.
- Scale MCR to handle 100% of calls
- Linkage to support immediately coming out of the jails
- Recruit and establish officers in areas they were raised.
- Ability for law enforcement and co-responders to access existing linkage information
- Expand the partnership with Netcare. Spend funds so every officer has mental health response training. Create additional teams, as well as safe areas to seek treatment in critical neighborhoods.
- Combine MCR and RREACT -- mental health and substance abuse are two sides of the same coin.
- Mental health, work, and school programs.
- Crisis prevention intervention training (CPI) for anyone/everyone
- The Mobile Crisis Unit, RREACT, and improved training for Police and Fire to ensure they are all able to meet the needs-citizen CPR type program for mental health

- Non-police units
- More shelter spaces
- Affordable housing and good paying jobs
- Mobile Crisis Response Unit and Rapid Response Emergency Addiction Crisis Team (RREACT)
- Mobile Crisis is great. The RREACT team is fantastic and one of our most successful and valuable units for responding to substance use crises
- "24/7" community center programs
- More sub-stations with crisis response teams in critical areas
- Expand the Netcare collaboration
- Additional short-term options for residential care for individuals in crisis
- A community mental health team with social workers and nursing staff providing resources and medication education and compliance
- More health resources to homeless
- Services for children in crisis
- One model with correspondents and another with social workers only to respond to two levels of calls.
- Mental health
- Invest in established mental health providers rather than trying to expand public health
- Non police response as done in other cities
- Non-lethal weapons to protect police
- For real, wages and housing affordability are big determinants of health and cause more crisis
- Civilian created group
- More school-based safety nets
- Mobile crisis response works and has been proven for 2.5 years. Fits well with the new crisis center and probate screening

What is your vision for alternative crisis response?

- STOP KILLING & INCARCERATING BLACK PEOPLE
- A no-wrong-door approach that delivers patients to an expanded mental health/substance abuse system that can accommodate them promptly
- Mental health crises are viewed as health crises not criminal behavior
- Some type of triage system for situations that don't require an arrest
- That people can call in a crisis and be ensured of safety (for themselves, for the person they called about, etc.) This includes sensitive domestic violence responses
- Non police responders. EMS and social workers team. No police involved
- I want my husband and son to be safe from racist police
- That this city and its residents commit themselves to investing time, energy, and resources in being a safer community from all types of emergencies, including mental health & social/welfare
- Stop placing the onus of crisis response on individuals who aren't trained to respond
- Having people and resources to help in crisis situations that are not just police officers, but highly trained social workers, mental health professionals, etc.
- 100% mental health, addiction, and wellness checks answered by co responders
- 988 to be the 911 of mental health
- A civilian created team that knows the community by providing education, resources and directions during a vulnerable situation.
- The people working in the alternative crisis are people from our community that truly reflect the diversity of the city. This should include multilingual counselors and people who grew up in Columbus
- Taking some of the power away from the police
- Homelessness is treated as a community failure not individual failure
- Having mental health clinicians and social workers available around the clock
- Temporary housing for family members in the crisis
- More follow up by mental health centers
- One component of a larger strategy to reduce the incidence of lethal use of force
- Love one another as yourself
- More sensitive response to domestic violence situations
- For people to be taken seriously when they call for help
- Racially and gender-diverse responders
- Proper allocation of resources

Investing in Violence Prevention

January 28, 2021

How can the City of Columbus address violence in our communities?

- Kinship programing
- Invest in communities and in people
- Invest in residents who have the trust and relationships with their community - who understand that worldview residents have as trauma affected communities - to support individuals
- Fund the small organizations and community leaders doing this work already! Removing barriers to accessing city dollars (i.e c3 status)
- Increase pro-social activities for youth including activities that build resiliency
- Continue these conversations and solicit corporate partners in providing funds, solutions, and partnerships - especially by advocating to their associates
- Investing in family unity
- Consistency: youth employment, more opportunities for youth to experience outside of community, civic engagement opportunities, and peer counseling
- Give people jobs
- More job training and community investment in our young people
- More community-based programs
- Qualitative life on life mentoring/support
- Fund the small grassroots groups
- Invest in young people... more positive interactions and creativity
- Cultivating community-based nonprofits and funding those that already exist
- Hold the police accountable
- Invest in community programs like those described tonight. But also focus on making police accountable for their own violence, to allow trust to be restored
- Parent education on trauma and train on appropriate responses
- More domestic violence prevention
- Integration of services and organizations
- More school-to-work programs
- Supporting healthy families
- Community organizing
- Youth employment
- Increase trust people have in local government
- Advocate for higher Medicaid reimbursement so social workers can get paid their worth. More employees have more access to services
- More parenting support structures
- Better paying jobs
- Building the family unit through family programs
- Improve the education being provided to our students.
- Invest in protecting the youth. Identify factors that increase violence among youth.
- Safer neighborhoods for our children to grow up in
- Collaborations between organizations, stop duplication
- Decrease hopelessness among vulnerable
- Promote bias training insights for all Columbus corporate partners
- Youth jobs
- Resident leaders/community groups
- Programs in the schools for the youth violence prevention
- Community organizers who are FROM the community, trained on trauma
- Historical disinvestment has created a major gap between where we are and need to be
- Root of the issues

- Domestic violence prevention
- Mental health resources
- Food access programs
- Affordable housing in safe neighborhoods
- Affordable housing
- Jobs programs, youth programs
- Youth violence prevention
- Community/peer responder violence intervention and trauma response.
- Social services, school resources (not officers)
- Mental health programs.
- Evidence based mental health treatment
- After-school youth programming
- Schools and after-school programs
- Invest in people doing the work already
- The city needs more touch points between resources and the people. Not just safety or enforcement. Something like 311 but in person
- Mentorship
- Restorative justice
- Funding to connect/convene the various youth serving organizations
- Recreational programming
- Only proving community collaborations that directly address trauma
- Collaboration with community based organizations quit silo talk
- Stricter sentencing for those who commit violent crimes
- Mentoring programs
- The "Healthy Neighborhoods Healthy Families" program/organization
- Housing First services
- Stabilizing families
- Language access in resources
- Housing
- Dedicated funding for violence intervention
- Reparations
- Affordable Housing
- Promote the Columbus enforcement program that provides civilians with the knowledge and understanding of the officers
- A place where families can work through issues together in a neutral environment

What are the barriers to preventing violence in the City of Columbus?

- State Law
- Language access
- Failure to understand the root causes
- Lack of awareness of the violence surrounding communities
- Funding
- The way our schools are funded
- Distrust caused by lack of police accountability
- Funding, unions, and bias
- Reluctance to change systems, policies, and laws that are oppressive and harmful
- Failure of our education system
- Judgment and shame based approaches
- Disproportionate investment in law enforcement interventions.
- Hopelessness among youth
- Politics over and above understanding (standing under) others lived experience
- Not taking domestic violence seriously
- Not engaging the family/caregivers
- Implicit and explicit racism
- Long term effects of systemic racism
- Neglect
- No trust in systems
- Focus on punishment over support
- Access to other perspectives
- Families focused on financial survival and working multiple jobs/non traditional hours which provides barriers for youth accessing pro-social activities
- Lack of understanding the root of the issues
- Trust in local government
- Failing to protect our youth from gang violence
- Punitive approaches
- Disproportionate funding of schools
- Inability to segment crisis responses
- Lack of professionals in the field to do the work
- No commitment - consistency
- Basic needs aren't met
- Social isolation

What is your vision for preventing violence in the City of Columbus?

- Provide a basic living wage
- Current resources collaborating together in trauma informed way
- Supporting healthy families and safe communities
- Bridging the racial divide by focusing on our shared humanity and dignity
- Fund mental health and diversion programs for youth so that they do not enter the juvenile justice system
- Transparency
- Family center where every member of the family can get what they need to thrive. Safe spaces and personalized content for men, women, couples and teens
- Helping better incorporate our new Americans into our community
- A hub in prioritized areas that includes 1 stop shop for various needs under one roof
- Police defunded and those funds redirected to nonviolent de-escalation, violence prevention (instead of response), and community health-focused initiatives
- Educators have access to mental health training and trauma informed care training
- Investment in schools and mental health programs for socio-economically disadvantaged areas; and parental support programs that build their community
- A lot of programs to rebuild a healthy family relationships. Address the root of individuals pain.
- Connecting people
- Housing and healthcare as a right, not a privilege
- Restructuring the systems, policies and laws that continue to uphold white supremacy. Invest in the people in our communities, invest in the social services already doing the work including small organizations/businesses
- Conflict mediators in all communities
- Teams of well paid & trained teams that are held accountable for the mission/goals of programs
- Lower costs of living, access to food, and mentorship
- Building beloved community and historic commitment to nonviolence - end wars as a model of how leaders deal with conflict
- Invest in domestic violence programs that are collaborating with the community
- Removal of corner stores; installation of big box grocery stores. Investment in mental health programs. Conflict resolution skills being taught at school; after school programs
- Language access throughout the justice system
- Addressing the triplets of oppression
- Accountability for corporations to reinvest in the areas in which they operate
- True systems and spaces for voices to be authentically heard and valued
- Lots of appropriate, accessible and affordable housing

Investing In Accountability

February 2, 2021

The City of Columbus should invest in (what) to create a police division that is accountable and just in its decision making?

- "www.makeCOLUMBUSgreat.com
- Talk to PD IT Dept about 100k PD videos
- Look at audit logs
- Accountability needed in PD IT Dept review log files for deleted reclassified videos to delete PD Edvidence and Videos"
- Need police database when terminated so next PD Dept is aware of termination
- Quality interpretation services
- Bike patrols
- Don't delete FOP union videos as violations of Ohio Sunshine Retention Policy
- More training
- Creating a police force that is similar in diversity to the residents of Columbus.
- A contract that ensure accountability, instead of allowing the FOP contract to circumvent accountability
- Inclusion and compassion
- Revising the civil service guidelines to allow for more diverse hiring.
- Procedural Justice Training and the History of Policing in America
- Appropriate response to 911 call
- Hiring Perry Tarrant as the next chief of police #HirePerryTarrant
- Extra hours of on the job training, streamlined hiring, EMT, Fire, Police - Also change the FOP contract to make officers accountable
- Renegotiate contract with FOP
- Hands-on action training
- National training programs, such as 'ABLE'
- Emotional Intelligence and Implicit Bias
- Higher pay for bilingual officers
- Increase diversity - Help with taking some response actions using other responders such as social workers for mental health
- Transparency and civilian oversight
- Require direct community engagement as training hours.
- An FOP contract that gets rid of Qualified Immunity
- Officer involvement at community events
- Constructive communication during incident response
- Collaboration between police and local social service agencies
- Contact community organizations, B.R.E.A.D., churches, Columbus Coalition of the Homeless, Mental Health Agencies, etc.
- Hiring incentives for bilingual officers
- De-escalation training
- School board, and school district staff, principals, and superintendents

- "www.makeCOLUMBUSgreat.com
- Look at phone logs and why not public phone logs and door access logs to drug rooms/ PD weight room
- Columbus Police Chief resigns Jan 28 when video released Jan 26 of Deaf PD IT Sys admin shot by City of Columbus Police and met with Public Safety Director Rob Stewart Jan 25
- Chief does not support BLM
- Meeting captured by former PD Sys IT reporting discrimination internally at PD Dept, deletion of videos ,FOP videos, phone logs, and Pay to Play IT Services
- Allow a community board to either agree with each police hire or be able to petition to remove an officer(s)
- Hire additional officers so they will have the opportunity to engage vs. respondig to calls for service.
- "Video of Deaf PD IT System Admin Shot by Columbus Police exposing deletion of PD Videos and Officers/Taxpayers Data
- https://youtu.be/jq70SE096VE
- Officers that live in the communities they work in, and that reflect it demographically
- Interpretation quickly available by phone, even for casual interactions with community members
- Governor DeWine Communication Disability Law Training
- Hiring PERRY TARRANT would be a good start. #HirePerryTarrant
- Public speaking training, diversity training, culture clash training, encourage Columbus Police to live in Columbus, love the idea of older candidates, begin with the end in mind
- Each police precinct can host a community event, with food, sports and more. At least annually.
- CPD and Baker Investigation states it is acceptable to shoot and pepper spray and run over Deaf Advocate standing by himself holding a sign makeDEAFgreat.com
- Baker Investigation Report #211
- Ensure hiring officers that actually like the citizens of all communities
- Have disability training with disability person teaching
- Give local applicants priority if they reside within the city limits
- If accountability increases, engagement will get better
- Make the police force representative of the community. 30% Black
- Retired, current, former officers states cover ups in police administration and are scared to speak up due to retaliation. Public record open meeting notes
- Verify at publicRecords@columbuspolice.org
- Detectives return calls to victims and homicide victims families

How can the City of Columbus invest in the community to improve police relations?

- Alternative crisis response
- Allow Disability Awareness training as it improves empathy and compassion as see other person shoes and point of view
- Arts programs for youth
- Social workers and victim advocates partnerships with the police department
- De-escalation training for community members
- Support for recovery services for addiction, alcoholism, etc.
- Defund the Columbus Division of Police. Reallocate money to schools and rec centers!
- More shelter spaces
- As deaf advocate been denied training in Police Dept even when free www.makeDEAFgreat.com
- Duty officers and leadership should reflect diversity across communities served
- Affordable safe housing
- NON-escalation as officers often escalate issues
- Affordable Housing, integrated neighborhoods, Neighborhood health centers, Group Violence Intervention with NNSC as lead, long term trauma care as discussed with Fr. Abramson in another rei-magine meeting with Elizabeth Brown
- Shelter for abuse survivors beyond IPV
- Videos at www.makeCOLUMBUSgreat.com
- Defund the department. Reallocate money to community centers.
- Restorative practices for Community and the schools
- Don't delete FOP Union Videos as violations of Ohio Sunshine Retention Policy"
- Police should be evaluated by the community
- Slash the police budget. Invest in education and mental health services
- https://www.law.georgetown.edu/innovative-policing-program/active-bystandership-for-law-enforcement/able-program-standards/

What is your vision for creating more diversity within the Columbus Division of Police?

- Allow deaf advocate to train officers as been denied monthly when ask City and Council and police administration
- Police culture must change first
- Hiring incentives for bilingual officers
- Language courses for officers
- Hiring Perry Tarrant as the next police chief
- If funding is tied to diversity, people will find a way to make it happen
- Have community leaders recommend diverse candidates for positions
- City council never contacted deaf Advocate when repeatedly said will contact deaf Advocate past month weekly in council meetings
- More gender representation in police
- Prioritize applicants who are residents of this city; reduce /eliminate applicants who live outside the city; pay subsidy for bi-lingual officers.
- Hiring Perry Tarrant (a qualified Black man) as the next police chief
- "Video of deaf PD IT System Admin shot by Columbus Police exposing deletion of PD videos and officers/taxpayers data
- https://youtu.be/jq70SE096VE
- Outreach to youth in diverse communities
- 30% Black police force
- Deaf advocate shot and police admin says acceptable Chief quit when video released
- Fire those officers that won't conform to an equal and fair culture
- Reconciliation between officers and the community
- Inventory of skill sets for use in assignments of officers to beats, and neighborhoods
- More diversity in leadership
- Change the manner in which officers are promoted. Allow chief to bring in own staff
- Make the police force represent the city demographics - 30% Black
- Community engagement, recruiting more diverse folks and telling the truth about what the work is about, meet folks where they are. combine all the recruiting for police fire and EMT - Signing bonus for diverse candidates on completion of the training
- Vet candidates for racist social media activity

Disability Rights OHIO

We have the legal right of way.

February 3, 2021

Columbus City Council
90 West Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

     Re: "Reimagining Public Safety" and Investing in
               Community-Based Emergency and Non-Emergency
               Response Systems

Columbus City Council members:

Disability Rights Ohio ("DRO") appreciates the opportunity to provide our insight and perspective on the importance of creating an appropriate, effective system for responding to mental health crises in the community and other emergency and non-emergency situations. DRO is the state's designated protection and advocacy system, with the mission to advocate for the human, civil, and legal rights of people with disabilities in Ohio. The heart of our work is ensuring people with disabilities are able to live safely and thrive as part of our communities. As such, we believe Columbus City Council's "Reimagining Public Safety" initiative has started a critical conversation.

To summarize, our letter will:

- provide a brief overview of our recent public report *Policing and Racial Injustice: a Disability Rights Perspective* and the need for a fundamental shift in responding to emergency and non-emergency situations in the community and the ways disability and race intersect;
- explain the harm that a law enforcement response model has in criminalizing people with mental health labels;
- discuss the need for an effective, non-policing crisis response system reflecting principles of non-violence and non-coercion and avoidance of harmful outcomes, like arrest, incarceration, involuntary hospitalization, and other forms of forced treatment;
- explain the CAHOOTS model in Eugene, Oregon, a good foundation for reform here in Columbus; and
- discuss the need to address the root causes of mental health crises, substance abuse, homelessness, and other societal problems.

DRO's recent public report *Policing and Racial Injustice: a Disability Rights Perspective* discusses the tragic, harmful, and disproportionate impact that police violence has had on people with disabilities and communities of color.

Late last year, DRO published a report entitled *Policing and Racial Injustice: A Disability Rights Perspective*, inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, which has pushed for change at the local, state, and national levels, including how large police budgets can be reinvested into community-based services and supports. This includes alternatives to traditional law enforcement responses to mental health and other crises in the community. These reinvestments could ensure that law enforcement no longer needlessly takes the lives of, causes physical or mental injury and trauma to, or disproportionately arrests BIPOC ("Black, Indigenous, and People of Color") people with disabilities.

In our report, we cited a study published in 2016 showing that 30-50% of individuals killed by police or subjected to use of force have a disability. The intersection of race and disability also increases the risk of police violence, as data also shows that BIPOC people with disabilities are 16 times more likely to be killed if they have a mental health labels. Additionally, data collected by the Washington Post illustrates that police often respond to mental and behavioral health crises with violence.

Law enforcement is not mental health care, and the city's current crisis response system, overwhelmingly dependent on policing, criminalizes people with mental health labels.

The criminalization of people with mental health labels in our community has been long-standing and the result of decades of systemic failures. Columbus now has the opportunity to make much-needed changes and respond to mental health crises with compassion and trauma-informed, anti-racist, anti-oppressive supports and services, as opposed to the threat of or actual imposition of arrest, incarceration, violence, and involuntary hospitalization and other forms of forced treatment. Our community is set up to respond to mental and behavioral health crises with police officers because that is simply the way it has always been. The death of Jaron Thomas here in Columbus is a tragic reminder.[1] But there are no data, surveys, or assessments showing this is the most effective and humane response to mental health crises. The current system is predicated on years of systemic oppression and incarceration of people with disabilities and BIPOC people. We must accept the institutional racism and ableism (including misguided assumption that people with mental health labels are inherently dangerous) that is pervasive in our society and take action to ensure minimal residual harm going forward.

Law enforcement across the country, including Columbus, have created co-responder teams composed of police officers certified in Crisis Intervention Training ("CIT") and clinicians. Unfortunately, BIPOC people experiencing mental and behavioral health crises are still being

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[1] *Community Services for Answers in the Death of Jaron Thomas*, Erica Thompson, Columbus Alive, February 22, 2017, *available at* https://www.columbusalive.com/entertainment/20170222/community-searches-for-answers-in-death-of-jaron-thomas.

met with violence and are losing their lives at the hands of police or experiencing harmful outcomes from these interactions with police. Thirty years after the development of CIT, there is little to no data showing this model is successful in reaching desired outcomes.[2] Nationwide, these response models have resulted in an increase in involuntary hospitalizations. Often, people experiencing a mental or behavioral crisis do not require hospitalization, but other recovery-oriented services focused on helping them through crisis.

Additionally, even the best-trained and friendliest officers can be intimidating due to their badge, handcuffs, marked police vehicle, uniform, weapons, and ultimate authority to arrest. This imbalance of power inherently escalates an already tense situation. The person in crisis may instinctively react to the thought that they are being arrested. Furthermore, research has repeatedly shown people experiencing a non-criminal mental or behavioral health crisis do not want police to respond to the situation.[3] Any reform model must hold the autonomy of the person in crisis at the center of the response, ensuring that people with disabilities maintain their rights to make independent, un-coerced decisions about their health.

An effective, non-policing crisis response system should reflect principles of non-violence and non-coercion, and should not lead to harmful outcomes like incarceration or involuntary hospitalization.

The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) has developed a set of principles that should at a minimum be implemented in any community-based crisis response program in order to protect the rights of people with disabilities:

- there should be minimal or no police involvement in responding to non-violent community emergencies;
- interactions with people in crisis should be non-violent and non-coercive, meaning assistance should be offered on a voluntary basis;
- outcomes of community crisis interventions should not include incarceration or involuntary commitment to a psychiatric hospitalization or other forms of forced treatment;
- any response system must recognize that people in crisis seeking assistance are not necessarily people with mental health labels, nor does the situation always require mental health interventions; and
- any community-based response program needs to include the support and advocacy of individuals with lived-experience; and affected communities should be involved in the development and implementation of community-based response programs.

Creating a mental and behavioral health crisis response program, independent from the Columbus Division of Police and that responds in a supportive and non-confrontational manner, is the only way to truly protect the rights and lives of people with disabilities in Columbus.

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[2] *A Model Act for a Behavioral Health Crisis Response Team*, Taleed El-Sabawi and Jennifer J. Carroll, December 5, 2020, available at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3683432.
[3] *Id*. at 25.

Working with other local, state, and federal partners to develop an appropriate community-based system is crucial, and involvement of those with lived experience, particularly BIPOC people with disabilities, is essential.

Ensuring people with disabilities are supported and protected by our community is essential to any meaningful reform efforts. Responding to these crises with a trauma-informed, anti-racist, anti-oppressive approach and with goal of providing person-centered recovery-oriented services and resources, acknowledges generations of systemic oppression. Even non-policing response systems can be harmful if forced treatment, involuntary hospitalization, institutionalization are the outcomes. Thus, community-based crisis intervention services (including peer support services) must exist and be fully funded as true alternatives.

The CAHOOTS program in Eugene, Oregon provides a good foundation on which to base development of a non-police emergency and non-emergency response system in Columbus.

The 31-year-old CAHOOTS program in Eugene, Oregon is a guide for developing a successful community crisis response program in Columbus. In the nationwide review of crisis response models done by NDRN, CAHOOTS was found to be promising. The trauma-informed approach to community crises is an important aspect of what makes CAHOOTS so successful. This approach must be the foundation of any community crisis response program if it is going to achieve the desired outcome of eliminating police violence toward BIPOC people with disabilities and other harmful outcomes.

CAHOOTS response teams are made up of one medic (nurse, EMT or paramedic) and one behavioral health specialist, with extensive training in substance abuse and mental health. The structure of these teams dictates the tone that is set in responding to a person experiencing a mental health crisis. The person is approached by an equal, ideally someone who has been in a similar type of crisis situation previously, and who has no authority over them, no weapons, and has a mentality to find a non-violent, non-coercive solution. This approach is a stark contrast to the authoritarian, intimidating, and coercive nature, however well-meaning, of a police response.

CAHOOTS teams are dispatched to non-violent situations including: welfare checks, substance use issues and cases of possible overdose, mental health crises (including threats of suicide), people experiencing homelessness, and non-emergent medical needs. Each team arrives in a van that is full of basic needs supplies. Team members are diligent in maintaining their safety as they calmly assess the situation upon arrival. Notably, no CAHOOTS worker has been seriously injured since the program began over 30 years ago. CAHOOTS workers follow a protocol for approaching people in crisis, noting upfront that they are there to help. Responders focus on what the person needs in that moment, while letting them know the limits as to what can be provided, and the necessity of some action on their part. Responders are also cognizant of different communication styles and ensure accessible communication during their interactions.

CAHOOTS responders provide resources and referrals to mental and behavioral health programs, and other community-based services.[4]

Developing an independent community emergency and non-emergency response program is also an efficient use of the city's budget. Utilizing this response method will result in a lower number of incarcerations and hospitalizations, saving taxpayer money that can be invested into the program. Costs will also be lower in terms of employee salaries. Currently, CPD officers earn yearly salaries between $58,947 and $90,230. While Columbus EMT workers earn an average of $36,000 per year, and behavioral health specialists in Ohio earn an average of $56,000 per year. This type of program has proven to be cost effective in Eugene, Oregon, where taxpayers save about $8.5 million per year in public safety costs and another $14 million on ambulance and emergency room expenses.

In consultation with the community, including people with lived experience, a similarly effective system can be developed in Columbus, tailored to the city's unique needs. This model can include a powerful peer support component, enabling those who have experienced mental health crises and the harmful consequences of inappropriate response systems to lead the way. And a community response system has the potential to be expanded to meet other community needs; for example, many people with disabilities rely on personal care or home health aides, who may sometimes be unavailable due to sickness or other reasons, leaving the person temporarily unable to meet their basic needs. A community response system could dispatch an individual to travel to the person's home to help them prepare meals, eat, get dressed, bathe, or whatever else they need that day. Furthermore, Columbus can track and analyze data to determine where improvements can be made.

<u>Addressing root causes of mental health crises, substance abuse, homelessness and other societal problems that disproportionately affect people with disabilities and communities of color is imperative.</u>

Many Columbus residents are struggling to meet their basic needs, including housing, transportation, healthcare, and food – all of which disproportionately impact BIPOC people with disabilities. Community supports, including mental health and other disability services, have historically been underfunded. In collaboration with state and federal partners, local reinvestment should be focused on marginalized communities. At a minimum, they should include funding to scattered-site affordable housing units, increased access to public transportation, expanding access to healthcare, providing employment supports for jobs with a living wage, and increasing support to local food banks and grocery stores to ensure the elimination of food deserts.

As Columbus City Council considers different ways of addressing public safety, investments targeting the root causes of societal problems would go a long way in making our communities

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[4] More information on the specifics of this program can be found on their website (https://whitebirdclinic.org/what-is-cahoots/). CAHOOTS also provides consulting and strategic guidance to communities seeking to implement a similar model of crisis response.

stronger and safer.[5] To cite one example: while law enforcement is not the appropriate response to homelessness, homelessness should also not be a reality for any person in Columbus.

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Disability Rights Ohio appreciates Columbus City Council's efforts to consider new ways of ensuring public safety and responding to emergency and non-emergency situation in the city. As Columbus finalizes its upcoming city budget and begins to design and implement new systems (including community education and outreach about new systems), we offer our expertise and knowledge and our ability to connect elected officials with those with lived experience and other important stakeholders.

We hope we can be part of the conversation moving forward. Please feel free to contact Kevin Truitt, DRO's Legal Advocacy Director, at ktruitt@disabilityrightsohio.org or (614) 466-7264 ext. 122 to connect with us.

Respectfully,

Kerstin Sjoberg
Executive Director

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[5] These efforts would be consistent with other initiatives by the city of Columbus, including a new diversion program that "works to identify the root causes of crimes and prioritize defendants' basic needs over jail time." *See Columbus City Attorney and CareSource Partner on City's Innovative Diversion Program for Nonviolent Offenders*, January 14, 2021, *available at* https://www.caresource.com/newsroom/press-releases/columbus-city-attorney-and-caresource-partner-on-citys-innovative-diversion-program-for-nonviolent-offenders/.

Disability Rights OHIO

We have the legal right of way.

POLICING AND RACIAL INJUSTICE: A DISABILITY RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE
Impacts and Solutions

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Disability Rights Ohio (DRO) is dedicated to ensuring that all Ohioans are full and equal members of society. Individuals with disabilities represent every race, ethnicity, age, and LGBTQ+ status. The path to achieving equal rights can look vastly different based on a person's race, ethnicity, class, gender, LGBTQ+ status, and disability due to systems of oppression and marginalization. Disability rights are civil rights, disability rights are human rights, disability justice is intersectional and as such, DRO unequivocally supports the Black Lives Matter movement.

The heart of our mission is creating communities where all people are equal participants. As a civil rights organization, we strive for the dismantling of racist, ableist, sexist, homophobic, ageist, and transphobic systems of oppression. These systems have led to mass incarceration, stealing of lands, segregation, institutionalization, eugenics, police brutality, red-lining, income inequality, voter suppression, and countless other discriminatory policies that have oppressed and disenfranchised individuals, specifically Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).

The Black Lives Matter movement has pushed for change at the local, state, and national levels, including how large police budgets can be reinvested into community-based services and supports that address the root cause of systemic oppression. These reinvestments could ensure law enforcement no longer needlessly takes the lives of, causes physical or mental injury and trauma to, or disproportionately arrests BIPOC people with disabilities. The conversation surrounding police brutality must include people with disabilities; people with disabilities and BIPOC people are both at increased risk of police violence, putting BIPOC people with disabilities in a particularly dangerous position. Specifically, 30-50% of individuals subject to use of force or killed by police have a disability.[i] This risk cumulatively increases based on the person's race, class, gender, and LGBTQ+ status.

This policy paper will discuss how police use-of-force has disproportionately impacted people with disabilities, often leading to death, and how law enforcement in schools targets students with disabilities, leading to exclusion from their schools and referral to the juvenile justice system. In order to build more inclusive, safer, and truly integrated communities, we must restructure budgets to increase historically underfunded

community supports, including mental health and other disability services as well as reinvesting in community-based services that support individuals with disabilities.

Disability Rights Ohio recommends policymakers reinvest in the community in the following ways:

- Making Meaningful Reinvestments into Community Services
- Changing Crisis Response
- Eliminating School Resource Officers

POLICE USE OF FORCE AGAINST BIPOC PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

People with disabilities are more likely to be victims of police brutality and use of force, and to be harmed more violently. Despite representing only 20% of the population, people with disabilities make up 30-50% of individuals subject to police use of force. An estimated one-third to one-half of people killed by police are people with disabilities. The risk of being subjected to police violence increases as disability intersects with race, class, gender, and LGBTQ+ status. Individuals who experience marginalization are at an increased risk of police brutality.[ii]

Share of Population[xix]

20%

80%

■ People w/o disabilities   ■ People with disabilities
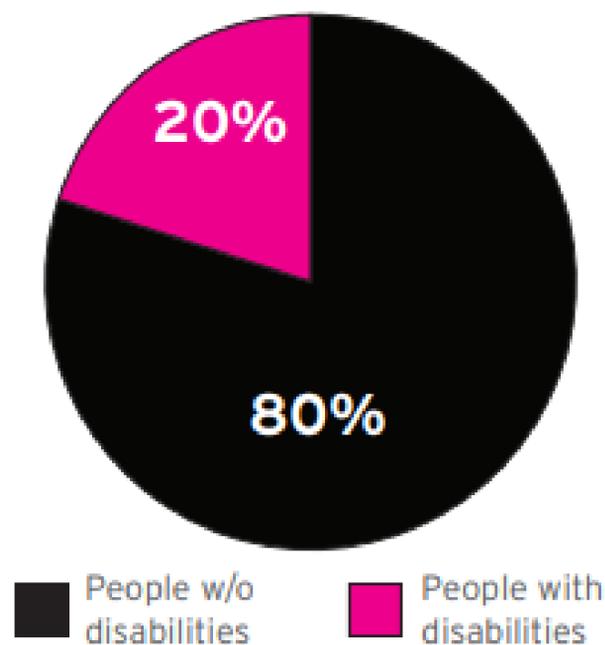
30-50%
of people subject to police use of force are people with disabilities.[xx]

33-50%
of people killed by police are people with disabilities.[xxi]

Police often approach mental health crises as they would any other call, with a battle-ready response that fails to consider reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities, and often use force instead of compassion in these circumstances. Consequently, people with mental health labels encounter police officers in circumstances that can lead to violence. It is estimated 350 people with mental health labels are killed each year by law enforcement. Some research indicates that individuals with psychiatric disabilities are sixteen times more likely to be killed by law enforcement during a police encounter.[ii]

The following are just some of the individuals with disabilities who have unjustly lost their lives at the hands of the police:

Marcus-David Peters was shot and killed by police while experiencing a psychiatric episode while he was unclothed and unarmed.[iv]

Sandra Bland, a Black woman with epilepsy and depression, died in police custody after being arrested for a traffic violation.

Eric Garner, a Black man with asthma, diabetes, and a heart condition, died subsequent to being put in a chokehold by law enforcement following an accusation of a misdemeanor offense.

Tanisha Anderson, a Black woman, was killed by police while being restrained face-down while she was experiencing a mental health crisis.

Deborah Danner, a Black woman, was shot and killed by police in her own home after neighbors reported she was behaving erratically.

Alfred Olango, a Black man with mental illness, was killed by police after his sister reported he was having a crisis.

Keith Lamont Scott, a Black man with a traumatic brain injury, was shot and killed by police for allegedly not following orders to exit his vehicle.

Ezell Ford, a Black man who had bipolar disorder, depression, and schizophrenia, was killed by police during a struggle resulting from an investigatory stop.[v]

Daniel Prude, a Black man experiencing an apparent mental health crisis, died from asphyxiation after being held down by three police officers while naked during winter.[vi]

Madgiel Sanchez, who was Deaf, was fatally shot by police outside his home after neighbors screamed to officers that Sanchez could not hear their commands. [vii]

Freddie Gray, a Black man with a developmental disability, died from a spinal injury caused by police officers after being taken into custody for possession of a knife that was in fact legal.[viii]

Daniel Harris, who was deaf, was shot and killed by police after exiting his vehicle outside his home after officers were attempting to pull him over for speeding.[ix]

Walter Wallace Jr., a Black man with mental illness, was fatally shot by police while having a mental health crisis.[x]

THE HARMFUL IMPACT OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS ON BIPOC STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

BIPOC students with disabilities are subject to police brutality and violence in their schools. As the presence of School Resource Officers (SROs) increased under the guise of protecting students, BIPOC students with disabilities began to experience being handcuffed, tased, and dragged by their feet. BIPOC students with disabilities have been labeled as "bad kids" or "threats," and are disproportionately excluded from traditional schools and placed in alternative settings, often in violation of the least restrictive setting (LRE) requirement of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Many of these students are referred to juvenile court and become involved in the school-to-prison pipeline.[xi][xii][xiii]

For students with disabilities, the IDEA and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) both apply to interactions with law enforcement officers. Students are required to receive educational services in the least restrictive setting, meaning SROs who physically restrain students with disabilities may be in violation of the IDEA and ADA. Hostile interactions with SROs can often escalate situations resulting in creating new or exacerbating existing harm to the student with a disability. The use-of-force against students with disabilities both violates federal statutory authority and has a long-term traumatic impact on these children.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGE

As local, state, and national governments consider reforms to law enforcement policies and funding, it is critical to account for the impact on people with disabilities. BIPOC people with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by police brutality and are segregated in low-income, and at times, inaccessible neighborhoods. Law enforcement agencies patrol these neighborhoods at a higher rate than predominantly white middle-to-high income areas.[xiv] This leads to increased arrests and violent interactions with these community members. Therefore, policymakers should consider the following recommendations:

Making Meaningful Reinvestments into Community Services. Local governments should restructure budgets to increase historically underfunded community supports, including mental health and other disability services. Currently, state and local governments across the U.S. spend $193 billion on law enforcement and corrections; local governments are responsible for two-thirds of spending.[xv] This spending accounts for the second-highest expenditure for local governments behind primary and secondary education (which also spends funding on police through SRO programs). As this spending has increased over time, the duties of local police officers also have increased, including responding to people labeled in a "mental health crisis" which includes pink-slipping individuals into psychiatric hospitals, being placed in schools as SROs, and defaulting to use of force for diffusing situations in the community.

Inflation-Adjusted Police Expenditure Over Time [xxii]
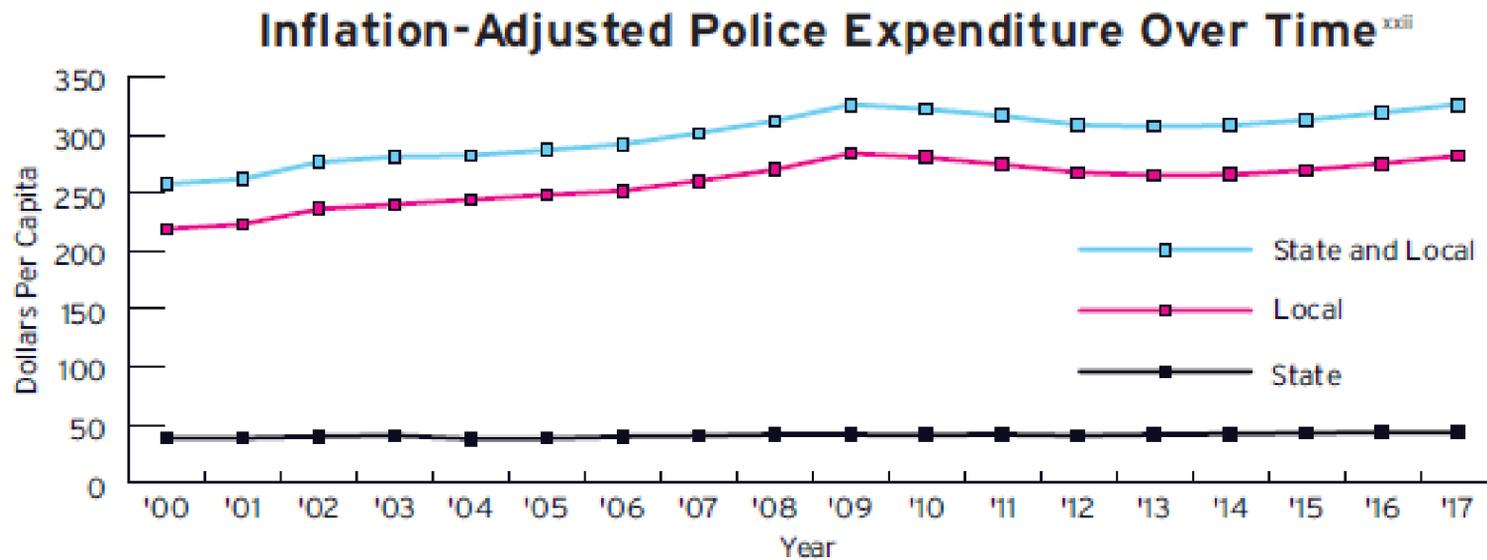
Percentage of Total Inflation-Adjusted Average Police Expenditure 2000-2017 [xxiii]

- 13.7% Police expenditure
- 86.3% Other expenditure
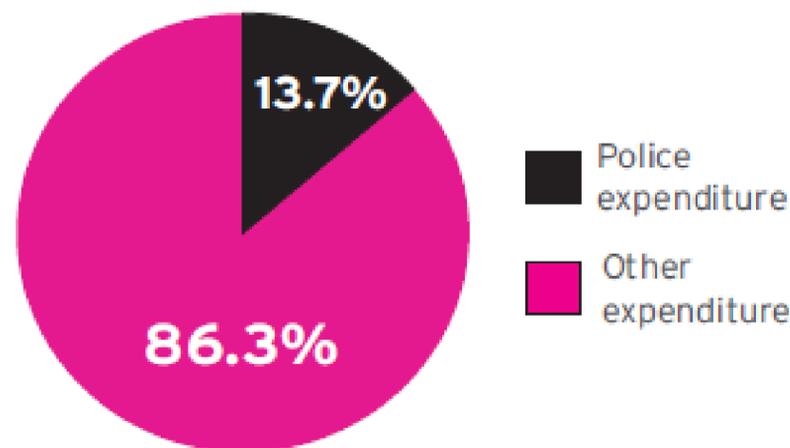
Current law enforcement funding must be reallocated to focus on proper crisis intervention services and increased spending on services, supports, and systems for marginalized groups.

People across the U.S. are in crisis and struggling to meet basic needs including affordable housing, transportation, healthcare, and food – all of which disproportionately impact BIPOC people with disabilities.

Many of these issues are attributed to racist policies that have segregated BIPOC people into communities that have limited access to services, safe housing, quality education, transportation, employment, healthcare, and other critical supports. Specifically, federal, state, and local housing policies have historically prevented Black families from owning homes and building wealth.[xvi] Furthermore, entire neighborhoods that were historically Black were demolished to make way for the international highway system to run through cities and provide white families moving

to the suburbs access to downtown offices.[xvii] Rebalancing our investments and mending the error of these racist policies is necessary.

Effective reinvestment must include funding to scattered-site affordable housing units, increased access to public transportation, expanding access to healthcare, providing employment supports for jobs with a living wage, and increasing support to local food banks and grocery stores to ensure the elimination of food deserts. Providing stability to individuals and funding services like assertive community treatment, integrated supportive housing, and employment supports can reduce the need for emergency response to individuals experiencing what is labeled as a "mental health crisis."

Changing Crisis Response

Historically, police culture in the U.S. has focused on a "warrior" mentality, creating a violent, militaristic divide between the police and the people they serve. Low-income areas are treated like occupied war zones. This has been made clear as police across the country repeatedly have deployed chemical weapons, rubber and wooden bullets, and military-grade equipment against non-violent individuals.

Additionally, financial incentives for law enforcement to arrest BIPOC people must be terminated.[xviii] Eliminating two federal programs that incentivize arresting BIPOC people, the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and the Byrne grant, which have proven ineffective, would free up millions of dollars to invest in supports to prevent law enforcement interaction from occurring in the first place.

Law enforcement agencies should not be responding to every active issue in the community. Specifically, people experiencing what is labeled as a "mental health crisis" will have better outcomes if met with mobile response teams comprised of compassionate peers and professionals trained in de-escalation and trauma-informed care, who can link them to services like housing, transportation, healthcare, and employment. Because of this, budgets should be restructured to fund professionally trained staff in responding to personal crises that do not pose a safety risk to other members of the community. For instance, in Eugene, Oregon the city has implemented the Crisis Assistance Helping Out on the Streets (CAHOOTS) program which reroutes 911 and non-emergency calls related to mental health, substance use, or homelessness to a team of professionals qualified to handle these situations.

Eliminating School Resource Officers

Schools should stop relying on police officers and invest in professional staff. Students with disabilities should be met with compassion and understanding from teachers, administrators, intervention specialists, counselors, school psychologists, social workers, and other staff specially trained to address disability needs. In addition, schools should implement positive behavior interventions and supports (PBIS) fully and with fidelity across all Ohio schools. PBIS establishes an inclusive, safe environment that promotes a positive school culture and decreases the use

of unnecessary restraints, seclusion, and exclusionary discipline for students with disabilities. Providing these supports for children will corrode the school-to-prison pipeline resulting in less overall crime in the future.

CONCLUSION

Systems of oppression have been created and organized to ensure marginalized groups are unable to be integrated members of their society. Even as civil rights laws and deinstitutionalization have given many people with disabilities access to their communities, BIPOC people with disabilities continue to face barriers to receiving needed services in their homes. As progress has been made, new barriers have been created: affordable housing is not widely available, transportation is limited, and employment opportunities are rare. The same individuals who are unable to access services in their communities are being impacted by police brutality and killed at a disproportionate rate. As we move forward to address these issues it is important policymakers include the voices of people with disabilities.

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xi   Urban Institute, Criminal Justice, The prevalence of police officers in US schools, June 2018, available at https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/prevalence-police-officers-us-schools.

xii   *Ibid.*

xiii   University of Michigan Law School, Michigan Journal of Race and Law, *Schooling the Police: Race, Disability, and the Conduct of School Resource Officers*, 2015, available at https://repository.law.umich.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1053&context=mjrl.

xiv   Crime and Justice, *The Neighborhood Context of Police Behavior*, 1986, available at https://www.jstor.org/stable/1147431?read-now=1&refreqid=excelsior%3A6d6cd5f85d6cea5ab2411b33899a3f99&seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents.

xv   U.S. Census Bureau, State & Local Government Finance Historical Datasets and Tables, 2017, available at https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/2017/econ/local/public-use-datasets.html.

xvi   Rothstein, Richard, The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America, First edition, New York; London: Liveright Publishing Corporation, a division of W.W. Norton & Company, 2017.

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Neighborhood, New York: Nation Books, 2017.

xviii   For more on how law enforcement is incentivized to arrest BIPOC people, see Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (The New Press, 2012).

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xxii   Scott, K., PhD, & Buehler, E., PhD. (2020, July 13). *State And Local Government Expenditures On Police Protection In The U.S., 2000-2017*. Available at http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail

COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Lee Cole 614-645-5530

COLUMBUS

January 11, 2021

Council to Host Town Hall Series on Reimagining Public Safety
Topics Include Alternative Crisis Response, Police Accountability and Violence Prevention

COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL OUTLINES A PATH FORWARD — REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY

[Columbus, OH] Today, City Council announced a series of town hall discussions to gain further insight into reimagining safety in the capital City. Each forum features subject-matter experts leading the conversation and opportunities for public dialogue.

"These town halls are designed to hear from national subject-matter experts as well as local residents who are experts on our City and what will keep them safe," said Council President Shannon G. Hardin. "In 2020, we saw the deadliest year on record when it comes to homicides in Columbus. We saw two unarmed residents gunned down by law enforcement in December. Council is committed to pushing forward an operating budget that reimagines safety."

In 2020, Council began the initial phase of reform with the passage of a comprehensive legislative safety package, which included independent investigations into lethal force, demilitarization of police, limiting no-knock raids and instituting background checks for hate-group affiliation. This series continues the ongoing deliberations of the City's Operating Budget.

Each session focuses on one of the three pillars, which are the backbone of Council's efforts moving forward to reimagining safety. They are investing in accountability and a better Division of Police, establishing alternative crisis response models and investing in violence prevention.

"Achieving real change that protects the safety of every person in our city will take fierce dedication and the willpower of all of us working together," said President Pro Tem Elizabeth Brown. "These town halls will help direct our efforts as we continue working to reimagine public safety through the operating budget and other city programs. We have heard the calls from across our city that the status quo is unacceptable, and it is our duty as elected officials to respond."

Any resident seeking to provide written or live testimony via WebEx during the virtual hearing must submit their intention using the following LINK HERE. Requests must be entered by noon on the day of the event. Ten speakers will be heard per town hall, with remarks limited to three minutes or less. There will be audience engagement activities during the town hall events.

- **Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 5:30pm**
  Establishing Alternative Public Safety Crisis Response, led by Council President Shannon G. Hardin
    - Attend via WebEx - Password: 12345
    - By Phone: 1-650-479-3207, Access code: 180 909 1521
    - CLICK HERE to provide testimony via WebEx during the town hall. Requests must be entered by noon on the day of the event.

- **Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 5:30pm**
  Investing in Violence Prevention, led by Councilmember Mitchell J. Brown
    - Attend via WebEx - Password: 12345
    - By Phone: 1-650-479-3207, Access code: 180 507 9073
    - CLICK HERE to provide testimony via WebEx during the town hall. Requests must be entered by noon on the day of the event.

- **Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 5:30pm**
  Investing in Accountability and a Better Division of Police, led by Councilmember Rob Dorans
    - Attend via WebEx - Password: 12345
    - By Phone: 1-650-479-3207, Access code: 180 774 8384
    - CLICK HERE to provide testimony via WebEx during the town hall. Requests must be entered by noon on the day of the event.

- **Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 5:30pm**
  Establishing Alternative Public Safety Crisis Response, led by Councilmember Shayla Favor
    - Attend via WebEx - Password: 12345
    - By Phone: 1-650-479-3207, Access code: 180 419 5906
    - CLICK HERE to provide testimony via WebEx during the town hall. Requests must be entered by noon on the day of the event.

- **Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 4pm**
  Investing in Violence Prevention, led by President Pro Tem Elizabeth Brown
    - Attend via WebEx - Password: 12345
    - By Phone: 1-650-479-3207, Access code: 180 151 7461
    - CLICK HERE to provide testimony via WebEx during the town hall. Requests must be entered by noon on the day of the event.

- **Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 5:30pm**
  Investing in Accountability and a Better Division of Police, hosted by Councilmember Emmanuel V. Remy
    - Attend via WebEx - Password: 12345
    - By Phone: 1-650-479-3207, Access code: 180 405 0178
    - CLICK HERE to provide testimony via WebEx during the town hall. Requests must be entered by noon on the day of the event.

This bulletin was sent to the following groups of people:
Subscribers of ALL - City of Columbus Staff - Civilian, CCC - Chambermail, CCC - Community Engagement, CCC - Council News, CCC - Council Public Meeting Notifications, or CCC - Media, (51177 recipients)

COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Lee Cole 614-645-5530

COLUMBUS

January 8, 2021

City Council Continues to Seek Community Input on Reimagining Safety Initiative
Survey to Help Inform Path Forward to Address Community Concerns

COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL OUTLINES A PATH FORWARD — REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY

[COLUMBUS, OH] Columbus City Council invites residents to participate in a community survey designed to gain further insight on how to establish alternative crisis response models, invest in accountability and a better Division of Police, and invest in violence prevention.

The survey is available online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/ReimagineSafety.

"Over the summer, Council announced its intention to push forward how we reimagine safety together. This survey asks how the community wants to invest in violence prevention, accountability and begin to stand-up a more comprehensive crisis response system," said Council President Shannon G. Hardin. "This is one more step in our community's process to build a safer, stronger City."

The survey is another step in Council's commitment to reimagining public safety driven by the people. In partnership with the Saunders PR Group, residents will participate in virtual town halls, focus group discussions and hearings. The information will be quantified to inform a comprehensive safety strategy that reinvests in neighborhoods, realigns safety protocols to specific community needs while creating a more equitable Columbus.

"Any plan to tackle the violence in our city must have residents' voices at the center," said President Pro Tem Elizabeth Brown. "The 2021 operating budget process is our opportunity to invest in better public safety while also addressing the underlying economic insecurity among residents that is linked to it."

The 16-question survey asks users for their insights into safety in Columbus and how they want to see Council advance a budget that keeps all neighborhoods safe.

"We must listen to our community if we are to improve safety and successfully invest in our neighborhoods," said Councilmember Mitchell J. Brown, chair of the Public Safety committee. "We want to hear from as many voices as possible. I encourage you to participate in this survey."

For more information about the Columbus City Council Reimagining Safety Initiative, visit www.columbus.gov/reimaginesafety/.

###

THE CITY OF COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL

Questions?
Contact Us

Efforts to Reimagine Public Safety Continue

Columbus has faced challenging issues with the relationship between this community and our Division of Police. Council is in the midst of a six-part community conversation on reimagining public safety with virtual town halls featuring experts discussing establishing alternative crisis response models and investing in both violence prevention and accountability with a better Division of Police.

For more information on these town hall events, or to sign up to speak, follow this link.

 In an effort to shape policy based on community feedback, Council wants to hear from you. Follow this link www.surveymonkey.com/r/ReimagineSafety to take the community survey that will help move Columbus forward.

In late June 2020, Council passed a four-part legislative package that included limiting no-knock raids, demilitarizing the Division of Police through the purchasing code, and instituting background checks for hate-group affiliation. The legislation also included a ballot measure to establish an Inspector General and create a Civilian Police Review Board, which voters approved in November 2020.

IN THE NEWS

Efforts to Reimagine Public Safety Continue

The events over the course of a challenging year heighten the need to rethink what public safety means in America and Columbus. Through robust community engagement, Council outlined a framework to create accountability, build a better Division of Police, establish alternative crisis response and invest in violence prevention programs to build a stronger City for every resident. Council held its latest Reimagining Public Safety hearing on December 8, 2020. Watch it here.

 In an effort to shape policy based on community feedback, Council wants to hear from you. Follow this link www.surveymonkey.com/r/ReimagineSafety to take the community survey that will help move Columbus forward.

Council passed a four-part legislative package that included limiting no-knock raids, demilitarizing the Division of Police through the purchasing code, and instituting background checks for hate-group affiliation in late June. The legislation also included a ballot measure to establish an Inspector General and create a Civilian Police Review Board, which voters approved in November.

SAMPLE MEDIA ADVISORIES

Left Advisory

COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL MEDIA ADVISORY
Contact: Lee Cole 614-645-5530

Virtual Town Hall on Investing in Violence Prevention

COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL OUTLINES A PATH FORWARD — REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY

WHAT
A virtual town hall focused on Investing in Violence Prevention

WHO
Pro Tem Elizabeth Brown
Rev. Paul Abernathy, CEO of the Neighborhood Resilience Project
Edward Johnson, Columbus Public Health
Lara Baker Morrish, Deputy City Attorney

WHEN
Thursday, January 28, 2021
4pm

WHERE
Tune in on Facebook
Tune in on YouTube

Call In:
1-650-479-3207
Access code: 180 151 7461

City Council announced a series of town hall discussions to gain further insight into reimagining safety in the capital City. Each forum features subject-matter experts leading the conversation and opportunities for public dialogue.

"To promote the safety of every resident in Columbus, we have to do more than simply respond to violence when it occurs," said President Pro Tem Elizabeth Brown. "That means looking at the root causes of violence on the front end and focusing our resources to address basic needs and build more stable and resilient neighborhoods."

In 2020, Council began the initial phase of reform with the passage of a comprehensive legislative safety package, which included independent investigations into lethal force, demilitarization of police, limiting no-knock raids and instituting background checks for hate-group affiliation. This series continues the ongoing deliberations of the City's Operating Budget.

Any resident seeking to provide written or live testimony via WebEx during the virtual hearing must submit their intention using the following link. Requests must be entered by 2pm on the day of the event. Ten speakers will be heard per town hall, with remarks limited to three minutes or less. There will be audience engagement activities during the town hall events.

The town hall will be streamed on Council's Facebook page and the City of Columbus YouTube channel.

###

Right Advisory

COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL MEDIA ADVISORY
Contact: Lee Cole 614-645-5530

Council Town Hall on Investing in Violence Prevention

COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL OUTLINES A PATH FORWARD — REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY

WHAT
A virtual town hall focused on investing in Violence Prevention

WHO
Councilmember Mitchell J. Brown
Dr. David Kennedy, National Network for Safe Communities
George Speaks, Deputy Director of Public Safety

WHEN
Thursday, January 14, 2021
5:30pm

WHERE
Tune in on Facebook
Tune in on YouTube
Tune in on CTV

Call In:
1-650-479-3207
Access code: 180 507 9073

City Council announced a series of town hall discussions to gain further insight into reimagining safety in the capital City. Each forum features subject-matter experts leading the conversation and opportunities for public dialogue.

"Our community is facing multiple crises at the onset of 2021 including a deadly pandemic, its impacts on the economy, violence in our neighborhoods, and mental health and addiction crises we have battled for years," said Councilmember Mitchell J. Brown. "In this challenging time, it is vital that City Council continue to think critically and innovatively to ensure our public safety resources meet the needs of the residents they serve."

In 2020, Council began the initial phase of reform with the passage of a comprehensive legislative safety package, which included independent investigations into lethal force, demilitarization of police, limiting no-knock raids and instituting background checks for hate-group affiliation. This series continues the ongoing deliberations of the City's Operating Budget.

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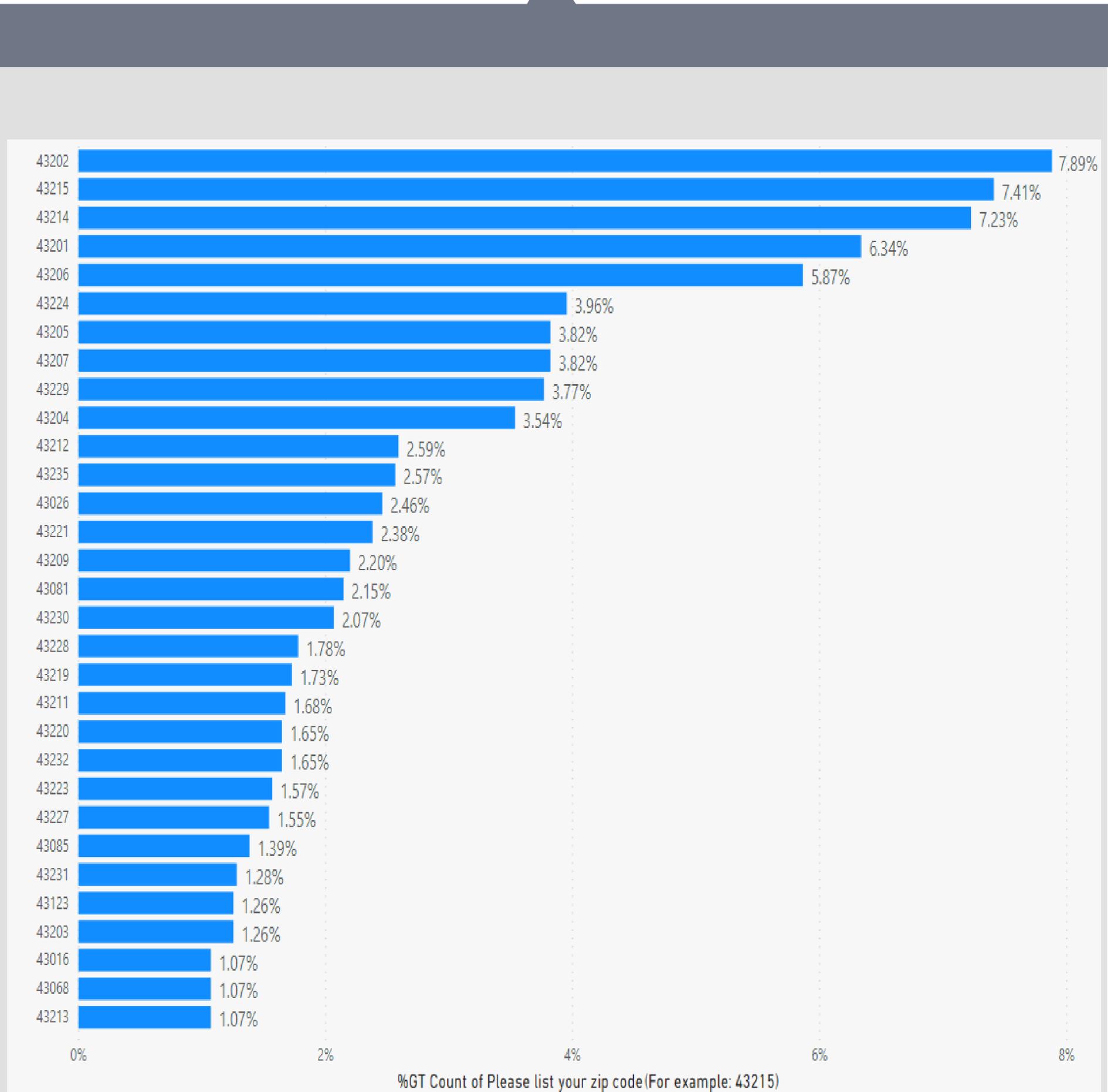
###

Radio One

The Saunders PR Group engaged Radio One as a final push to encourage residents to take the survey. The seven-day hyper-local campaign resulted in an increase of survey respondents.

• Radio Commercials on Power 107.5: A total of 60 commercials for a net reach of 65,000
• Streaming Commercials: A net reach of 1,500 Impressions
• Facebook Targeted Ads: A net reach of 50,000 Impressions
• Station Emails: Two email blasts targeting Radio One listeners
• Social Media Post: Four posts with boosting on Radio One station pages
• Radio crawl with a call to action to go to the Reimagine Public Safety website
• Texting Campaign targeting Radio One listeners

Demographic Data

Zip Codes

Zip Code	%
43202	7.89%
43215	7.41%
43214	7.23%
43201	6.34%
43206	5.87%
43224	3.96%
43205	3.82%
43207	3.82%
43229	3.77%
43204	3.54%
43212	2.59%
43235	2.57%
43026	2.46%
43221	2.38%
43209	2.20%
43081	2.15%
43230	2.07%
43228	1.78%
43219	1.73%
43211	1.68%
43220	1.65%
43232	1.65%
43223	1.57%
43227	1.55%
43085	1.39%
43231	1.28%
43123	1.26%
43203	1.26%
43016	1.07%
43068	1.07%
43213	1.07%

%GT Count of Please list your zip code (For example: 43215)

Demographic Data

Gender
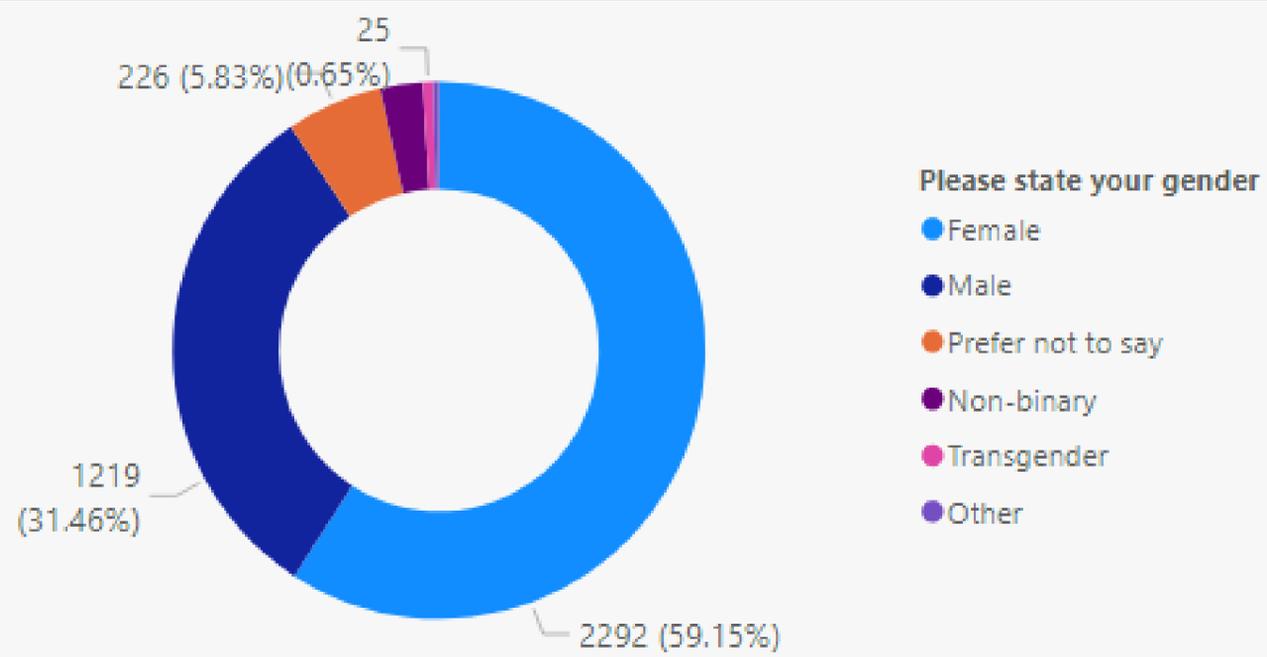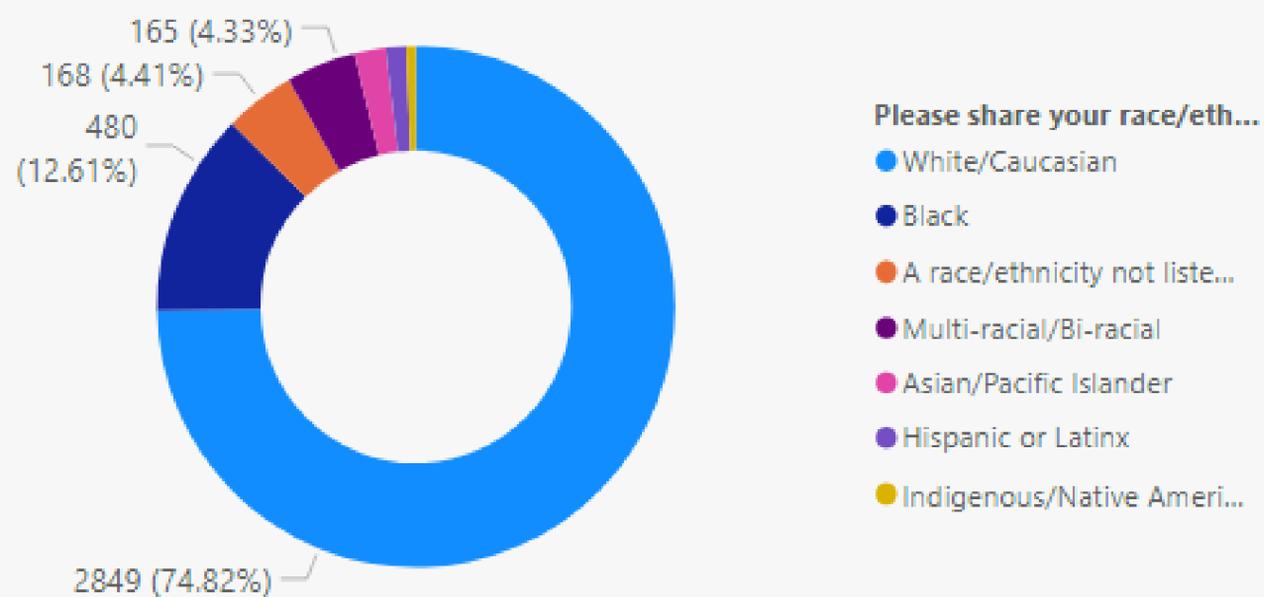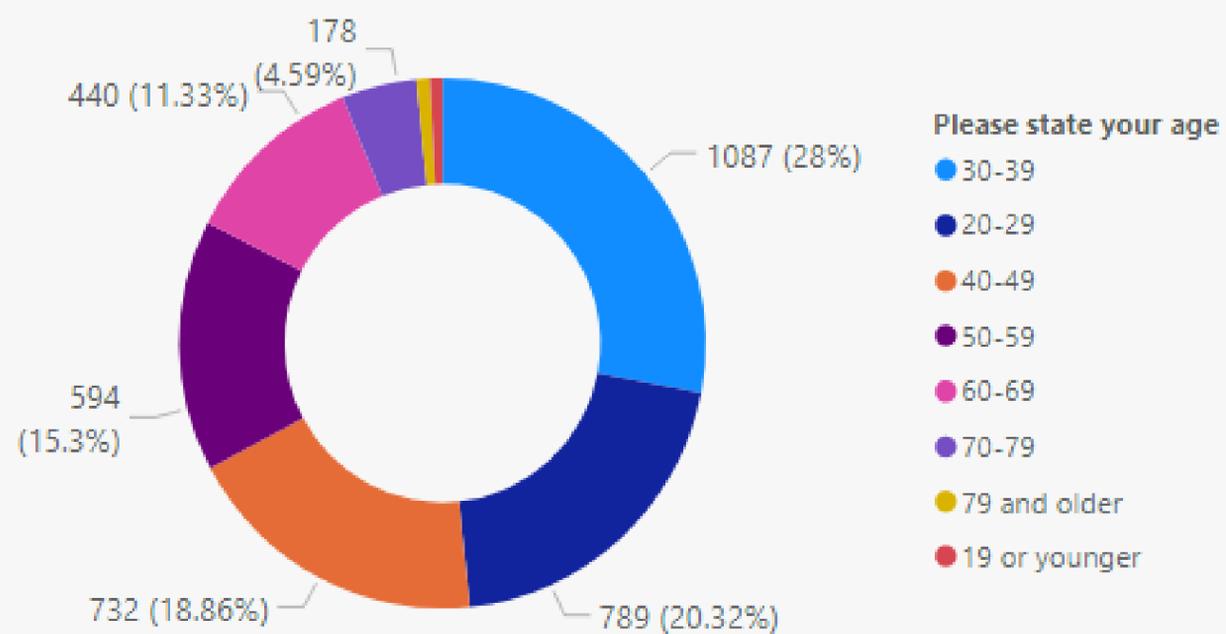
25
226 (5.83%) (0.65%)

1219
(31.46%)

2292 (59.15%)

Please state your gender
- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say
- Non-binary
- Transgender
- Other

Race

165 (4.33%)
168 (4.41%)
480
(12.61%)

2849 (74.82%)

Please share your race/eth...
- White/Caucasian
- Black
- A race/ethnicity not liste...
- Multi-racial/Bi-racial
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Hispanic or Latinx
- Indigenous/Native Ameri...

Age

178
(4.59%)
440 (11.33%)

1087 (28%)

594
(15.3%)

732 (18.86%)   789 (20.32%)

Please state your age
- 30-39
- 20-29
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60-69
- 70-79
- 79 and older
- 19 or younger

Columbus City Council continues its process of reimagining public safety in Columbus. Our focus revolves around investing in accountability and improving our division of police, investing in violence prevention, and creating alternative public safety crisis response models. We are conducting this survey as another opportunity to learn more from Columbus residents about your feelings, opinions and ideas related to public safety.

You can remain anonymous when taking this survey. The information gathered in this survey will be used to help us build a path toward a more just and equitable Columbus. The results of this survey will be made public and is part of Columbus City Council's ongoing outreach to members of our community as we work collectively to heal, restore trust, and strengthen Columbus.

Section 1: Establishing Alternative Public Safety Crisis Response

Today, police officers are the first responders to many different situations that occur in the community. Some of these situations may be better suited for a response from other professionals whose training is dedicated to certain areas such as mental health, domestic disputes, drug overdose, and more. This section will capture feedback and insights on engaging non-police personnel as responders to different situations.

What types of issues would be appropriate for a police officer and a trained crisis team responder to address together?

	Comfortable	Somewhat comfortable	Uncomfortable	Very uncomfortable
Homelessness issues	○	○	○	○
Needle pickup	○	○	○	○
Wellness check	○	○	○	○
Suicide threats or attempts (Non-weapon related)	○	○	○	○
General behavioral issues	○	○	○	○
Mental health crisis	○	○	○	○
Traffic or motor vehicle accident with no injury	○	○	○	○
Alcohol abuse or public intoxication	○	○	○	○
Noise complaints	○	○	○	○
Trespassing	○	○	○	○
Drug abuse or overdose	○	○	○	○
Neighbor complaints or disputes	○	○	○	○
Loud party or loud music	○	○	○	○
Prostitution	○	○	○	○
Panhandling/Loitering	○	○	○	○
Child neglect/abuse	○	○	○	○
Missing person	○	○	○	○
Suspicious persons	○	○	○	○
Domestic disputes	○	○	○	○
Human Trafficking/Sex Trafficking	○	○	○	○
Drug sales or trafficking	○	○	○	○
Animal attacks	○	○	○	○

What types of issues would be appropriate for trained crisis team responders to address without law enforcement?

	Comfortable	Somewhat comfortable	Uncomfortable	Very uncomfortable
Homelessness issues	○	○	○	○
Needle pickup	○	○	○	○
Wellness check	○	○	○	○
Suicide threats or attempts (Non-weapon related)	○	○	○	○
General behavioral issues	○	○	○	○
Mental health crisis	○	○	○	○
Traffic or motor vehicle accident with no injury	○	○	○	○
Alcohol abuse or public intoxication	○	○	○	○
Noise complaints	○	○	○	○
Trespassing	○	○	○	○
Drug abuse or overdose	○	○	○	○
Neighbor complaints or disputes	○	○	○	○
Loud party or loud music	○	○	○	○
Prostitution	○	○	○	○
Panhandling/Loitering	○	○	○	○
Child neglect/abuse	○	○	○	○
Missing person	○	○	○	○
Suspicious persons	○	○	○	○
Domestic disputes	○	○	○	○
Human Trafficking/Sex Trafficking	○	○	○	○
Drug sales or trafficking	○	○	○	○
Animal attacks	○	○	○	○

Please share your opinion on whether Columbus should explore an alternative, non-police, or other community, trained, unarmed crisis response to the following emergency (911) calls.

	strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree
Non-emergency cases	○	○	○	○	○
Post-incident when the threat of harm is no longer present	○	○	○	○	○
Calls related to non-violent offenses	○	○	○	○	○
Calls related to nuisances/misdemeanors	○	○	○	○	○
Mental health crisis	○	○	○	○	○
Traffic enforcement	○	○	○	○	○
Homeless services	○	○	○	○	○
Drug overdose	○	○	○	○	○
Mental health situations	○	○	○	○	○
Wellness checks	○	○	○	○	○
Public intoxication	○	○	○	○	○
Noise complaints	○	○	○	○	○
Prostitution	○	○	○	○	○
Panhandling/Loitering	○	○	○	○	○
Suicide/self-harm (non-weapon related)	○	○	○	○	○
Trespassing	○	○	○	○	○
Alarm system that went off (business or residence)	○	○	○	○	○

If you witness someone is having a mental health crisis, how would you respond? (select all that apply)

☐ Call 911

☐ Call Netcare emergency hotline

☐ Try communicating with the person yourself

☐ Call non-emergency police number 614-645-4545

☐ Call suicide hotline

☐ Do nothing

☐ Attempt to communicate with someone close to the situation (family member or friend of person in crisis)

In your opinion, please prioritize and rank which of these will have the greatest impact on improving public safety in Columbus.

Addiction treatment services

Community/neighborhood-based programs related to safety (e.g., transformative/restorative justice circles, community-care pods)

Mental health services

Neighborhood infrastructure (e.g., streetlights, parks/green spaces, transportation)

Sheltering unhoused residents

Social supports (e.g., childcare options, job training, health care, school/afterschool supports, access to healthy food, family support services)

Job training

Street-level intervention from credible messengers

Uniformed police patrol

Section 2: Investing in Accountability and a Better Division of Police

Our leaders are dedicated to providing a safe community for all Columbus residents. This section will help us identify how residents currently view public safety and police-community relations.

How do you define public safety? (rank in order of importance)

≡

⬍

Access to safe greenways, public parks, and recreation

≡

⬍

Leaving home without fear

≡

⬍

Opportunities for neighbors to bond (block watch, community events, etc.)

≡

⬍

Positive and engaged relationship with law enforcement

≡

⬍

Safeguarding residents from crime

≡

⬍

Protect and serve the residents in neighborhoods

≡

⬍

Maintaining law and order in neighborhoods

≡

⬍

Other (list)

To what extent do you believe police are involved in the community for activities other than enforcement response? (Select one)

○ Police are very involved in my community beyond responding to crime

○ Police are somewhat involved in my community beyond responding to crime

○ Police are not involved in my community beyond responding to crime

Considering your opinion of what would improve police-community relations, please rank the options below based on importance.

Direct engagement (e.g., connecting with youth, riding bikes in community, walking in community)

Active listening to community concerns and safety needs

Informational public community meetings led by police

Strong relationship with the community

Deeper community liaison officer relationships

Improved police response times

Ongoing and consistent diversity, inclusion, and equity training of law enforcement

Citizen/police ride along programs

Section 3: Investing in Violence Prevention

Studies and research suggest prevention as an effective way of addressing public safety concerns. This section will capture your feedback related to investing in violence prevention.

Which of the following should be considered as we explore different aspects and the impact of public safety? (Select all that apply)

☐ Decriminalizing certain non-violent acts

☐ Developing crime and violence prevention programs

☐ Investigating the root causes of violence and addressing them appropriately

☐ Investing more in housing stability, economic stability, and public health

☐ Reducing the number of guns in the community

☐ Replacing some police responses withtrained crisis responders

☐ Create police/agency partnerships with trained crisis responders to accompany police on calls

What current aspects of public safety should be considered, expanded, or increased? (Select all that apply)

☐ Bike patrols

☐ Community-oriented policing(e.g., focusing on building relationships and working closely with members of the community)

☐ Youth initiatives

☐ Violence prevention

☐ Job training

☐ Reentry programs

☐ Patrol officers

☐ All of the above

As discussions for reimagining public safety continue, do you have any other recommendations for safety funding and violence prevention strategies that you would recommend?

Section 4: Participant information

Please list your zip code (For example: 43215)

Please state your age

○ 19 or younger   ○ 50-59

○ 20-29   ○ 60-69

○ 30-39   ○ 70-79

○ 40-49   ○ 79 and older

Please share your race/ethnic background

○ Asian/Pacific Islander   ○ Multi-racial/Bi-racial

○ Black   ○ White/Caucasian

○ Hispanic or Latinx   ○ A race/ethnicity not listed here

○ Indigenous/Native American

Please state your gender

○ Female   ○ Non-binary

○ Male   ○ Other

○ Transgender   ○ Prefer not to say

Indicate below if you have had any contact with law enforcement/criminal justice systems. (Please select all that apply)

☐ I was formerly incarcerated

☐ I have been subjected to immigration detention or deportation

☐ I have been unfairly stopped by the police while driving

☐ I have been harassed, frisked, or unfairly arrested by police

☐ I have been a victim of police violence

☐ I have had unwanted interaction(s) with a school resource officer as a student

☐ My parent(s) or equivalent is or was incarcerated

☐ My child is or was incarcerated

☐ I had an unsatisfactory experience/interaction at the call center when calling the police

☐ I have had positive interaction with law enforcement

☐ I have had positive interaction with the criminal justice system

☐ None of the above

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS

CITY COUNCIL