



**A Community Conversation Series
Reimagining Police and Public Safety
City Council Ad-hoc Committee
Thursday, August 27, 2020
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm**

QUESTIONS, CONCERNS & REQUESTS

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CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

Communications: Questions or concerns that can be addressed or answered without taking any or much action

Action Items (Accountability): Questions or concerns that require an action or task to be completed on a relatively short-term basis

Planning, Funding, Statistics & Research: Questions or concerns that require further long-term planning, address funding or budgeting issues, or require additional analytical research

Social Services: Mental Health, Schools, Youth: Questions or concerns regarding social services in areas that include but are not limited to mental health, schools, and youth

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QUESTIONS, CONCERNS & REQUESTS

#	City Council	Category	Answers
1	Hold a panel to hear from people and organizations who have been directly impacted by over policing & police brutality.	Action Items (Accountability)	
2	Form a working group that prioritizes participation by black and brown people.	Action Items (Accountability)	
3	Conversations should be centered around black and brown voices; encourage interaction from those communities.	Action Items (Accountability)	
4	The community needs a voice; even with the Zoom we are silenced, wish (he) could look Mayor Butt in the eye.	Action Items (Accountability)	
5	You are committed to having a rookie council member lead a community that has multiple experienced organizations, why isn't the city at the table with them?	Action Items (Accountability)	
6	(The City) needs to acknowledge about systematic racism in order to change it.	Action Items (Accountability)	
7	Who will be on the RPS Task Force/Board?	Communications	
8	What is your understanding of defunding police; how do RPD and city council interpret this?	Communications	
9	Will the Task Force/Board be committed to working with community in a real way?	Communications	
10	How can we trust Mayor Butt and Nat Bates to be unbiased and rethinking Public Safety when they receive money from RPOA (Richmond Police Officers' Association)?	Communications	
11	Why was this event hosted separately from the community working group; why are they being ignored?	Communications	
12	This community "listening" session feels very reminiscent of the Global Bay Campus conversations. Nobody had answers to when questions would be answered, nothing	Communications	

	came of anything.		
13	Police often called as de-facto social service workers. What are some things that RPD does that others could do?	Social Services: Mental Health, Schools, Youth	

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#	City Staff	Category	Department	Answers
14	Community working group reached out to the City Manager without any response.	Action Items (Accountability)	CMO	
15	Will all the questions be available to the public? If so, where? When do we expect to have answers to these questions?	Action Items (Accountability)	CSD	Yes. They are available at the Reimagining Public Safety webpage at: ___. We expect answers to the questions to be published by November 30, 2020.
16	If we are really serious then we need to work with the Chief's boss. Tired of non-productive meetings. These meetings are perfunctory. We are still divided even in the midst of a pandemic.	Action Items (Accountability)	CMO	
17	Is the city sending out some questionnaires to the entire community since people may be hesitant to speak?	Communications	CSD/Task Force	The questionnaires may be part of the Community Listening Sessions.
18	How can we trust our input will be taken seriously when the City Manager blatantly ignores our emails from our spokesperson of the Community Public Safety task force, which is an example of systemic racism she talks about fighting against?	Communications	CMO	
19	How do we know that this community input won't be used against us and won't be used to invalidate and gaslight our strategizing efforts or our experiences with police and crime?	Communications	CMO and Mayor's Office	
20	We are already doing all this work with more than 20 leaders of different organizations and residents. Why is there pushback from the city and no support?	Communications	CMO and Mayor's Office	
21	There seems to be ambivalence about the term defunding.	Communications	CMO and Mayor's Office	
22	Where can we get more funding or find other resources?	Planning, Funding, Statistics & Research	Finance	

23	Sounds like city services need to be re-prioritized, such as street sweeping.	Planning, Funding, Statistics & Research	Code Enforcement	
24	The city needs to improve their interdepartmental connections and communications.	Planning, Funding, Statistics & Research	CMO	
25	Is Richmond going to be working with the CARES law?	Planning, Funding, Statistics & Research	Finance	
26	How many more years will it take to defund and invest in the community and what is the city's long-term plans commitment?	Planning, Funding, Statistics & Research	CMO	
27	Why does the city & police not advocate for more funding towards efforts like the ONS (Office of Neighborhood Safety) which has been extremely successful at reducing gun violence with injury by 85% since 2005 and does it without 41% of the city's budget and instead does it with 1%?	Planning, Funding, Statistics & Research	Finance	
28	And how can you, in good conscience advocate for more funding for police when it takes away from funding for services that reduces the roots of crime such as affordable housing , job training, quality mental health services and experts, quality schools and teacher, which is always getting cut and fighting for funding every single year, quality health care and ER rooms social workers, and research around the root of crime and at-risk-youth?	Planning, Funding, Statistics & Research	CMO	
29	Which stakeholder groups and perspectives need to be involved in this conversation?	Planning, Funding, Statistics & Research	ONS	
30	High schools need more support services, i.e., music, arts, etc. If Prop 15 is passed it could include funding for schools and the police.	Social Services: Mental Health, Schools, Youth	Finance	

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#	Police Chief / Police Personnel	Category	Answers
31	Semantics matter: need to change wording - i.e., defunding connotes adversary before conversation starts; from Police Officers to maybe Peace Officers; perhaps Public Safety Department to remove the relationship with history of slave patrol	Action Items (Accountability)	
32	Concerned about officers who have numerous complaints in their files. What about accountability? Notes to keep the officer who killed Pedie Perez off patrol went unheeded.	Action Items (Accountability)	
33	We are a segregated city and we should have Police involved in resolving segregation and not lessen the role of police but have police partner with others and have more presence in community; train and enhance non-adversarial types of resolutions.	Action Items (Accountability)	
34	Not picking on individuals, but rather the system of police in the current light of police killings nationally, agencies protect bad police; & yes RPD has been good but we lived through the Richmond Cowboys and how Grant worked with our community; this is just a process and politics are getting involved; this isn't an offense but a defunding request for a conversation.	Action Items (Accountability)	
35	How effectively are rape kits processed?	Communications	
36	Reduction of numbers of police is going to be a problem since (they) have called over a 100 times about prostitution and homeless problems in their neighborhood and doesn't see how reducing funding will benefit anything.	Communications	
37	How much of a problem do we have with white Nationalists in the RPD?	Communications	
38	How many RPD police killings have there been?	Communications	

39	Presentation from July reflected a different number of current employees. Can we re-hire these people?	Communications	
40	Based on an understanding from the Chief's presentation, with other social services incorporated, Police would still be thin because their presence is needed at these calls too, is this correct?	Communications	
41	Do 290 visits require a sworn officer?	Communications	
42	What is the percentage of 911 calls that do not require a sworn officer?	Communications	
43	What percentage of non-emergency calls do not require a sworn officer?	Communications	
44	Do we have an auxiliary group?	Communications	
45	What is the police department doing to make sure a Jacob Blake, Brianna Taylor, George Floyd, Mario Woods, or Alex Nieto situation never happens here in Richmond. And if that's what they are trying to do then why did it happen when Pedie Perez was killed?	Communications	
46	What is the police doing to combat or undo the racist legacy of the RPD?	Communications	
47	Found it disturbing to find that you are saying you want to find a way to connect with youth outside of SRO.	Communications	
48	Of all the jobs the PD does, how many can be done without weapons?	Communications	
49	Public Safety is inclusive of jobs; schools; housing; Police is not exclusive to Public Safety.	Communications	
50	Police are seen as a threat. Hopes that the city is taking this seriously.	Communications	
51	Is the goal of the police to reduce crime or just report it? Or is it to reduce crime with fear and intimidation?	Communications	
52	What specific policing, or public safety topics, or issues, do we need to problem solve or engage in dialogue about as a community?	Communications	

53	How do we keep police officers and community safe during these times?	Planning, Funding, Statistics & Research	
54	What is the solution to gunfire and fireworks?	Planning, Funding, Statistics & Research	
55	What is the solution to homelessness and prostitution?	Planning, Funding, Statistics & Research	
56	Less afraid of having quality of life policing and more concerned about the under-policing on solving homicides & cold-cases.	Planning, Funding, Statistics & Research	
57	Can parking/vandalism not be handled in a less expensive way?	Planning, Funding, Statistics & Research	
58	Police are called into too many situations and should focus on solving crimes.	Planning, Funding, Statistics & Research	
59	RPD seems to be overworked and under helped, converting services seems like a great idea, and the COHOOTS model should seriously be considered.	Planning, Funding, Statistics & Research	
60	Police officers should be required to have licensing similar to nurses, and violations should be public record. Multiple violators should lose license to work such as nurses.	Planning, Funding, Statistics & Research	
61	What ideas do we have about training conflict resolution and cooperation techniques?	Planning, Funding, Statistics & Research	
62	If more policing is the answer to ending social or economic problems, how many more years will it take?	Planning, Funding, Statistics & Research	
63	Crime has gone down. Why do we need for more policing? We need resources.	Planning, Funding, Statistics & Research	
64	Why is there no strategizing and research towards the root of crime?	Planning, Funding, Statistics & Research	
65	If homelessness is not a crime, why are police dealing with it?	Social Services: Mental Health, Schools, Youth	
66	How can we provide mediation support to police officers and agencies that will be providing social services?	Social Services: Mental Health, Schools, Youth	

67	How will sex trafficking in schools be handled in light of an SRO (School Resource Officer) trafficking an underage girl?	Social Services: Mental Health, Schools, Youth	
68	When schools resume, what will happen when crimes (drugs, violence, weapons) happen in school? Who is going to stop children with weapons? What will be the timeline for response? Who is going to keep the children safe?	Social Services: Mental Health, Schools, Youth	
69	Arresting youth and/or adults do not help alleviate long term trauma nor prevent further problems.	Social Services: Mental Health, Schools, Youth	
70	Do we need officers to do everything they are currently doing?	Social Services: Mental Health, Schools, Youth	