

The City Manager's Task Force to Examine the Future of Public Safety in Cambridge
Co-Chairs: Councillor Marc C. McGovern and Councillor E. Denise Simmons
March 9, 2021 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: None

The City Manager's Task Force to Examine the Future of Public Safety in Cambridge met on March 9, 2021 from 5:00pm to 6:30pm. The meeting began with Councillor Marc C. McGovern, Councilor E. Denise Simmons, Police Commissioner Branville G. Bard, and City Manager Louis A. DePasquale welcoming the Task Force members and introducing the presenters: Queen-Cheyenne Wade and Dara Bayer of The Black Response Cambridge; Deputy Superintendent Robert Lowe, Sr and Officer Eric Helberg of the Cambridge Police Departments Homeless Outreach Response; and Ellen Semonoff, Assistant City Manager for Human Services for the City of Cambridge.

Queen-Cheyenne Wade and Dara Bayer of The Black Response spoke to their mission as "a group of Black and Brown Cambridge residents and former residents who are concerned about the input and progression of the #DefundthePolice campaign, especially in regards to engagement with the Black communities in Cambridge."

During their presentation, Queen-Cheyenne Wade and Dara Bayer identified and addressed what they saw as the needs of the Cambridge community; their processes conducting and collecting community surveys and testimony; the framework and principles of transformative justice and

how it differs from conventional punitive and restorative justice; and what we need to know in order to build a program that addresses the needs of the community outside of a punitive system and within the framework of transformative justice.

Queen-Cheyenne Wade and Dara Bayer's presentation can be viewed here:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAEYTac7gig/sMPsVOKF9-3hJC7P1Y1udA/view?utm_campaign=designshare&utm_source=sharebutton

Councillor Marc C. McGovern and Councilor E. Denise Simmons went on to review the proposed work plan, and boundaries and expectations for the group members. Councilor McGovern noted that we are looking to achieve something in a few months that other communities took years to do, and that the work is important.

The Task Force finished by suggesting 5 different subcommittees: Mental Health, Homelessness, Domestic Violence, Restorative Processes, and Policy.

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

The next Task Force meeting was set for Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.