

Northampton Policing Review Commission
Alternatives to Policing Subcommittee Agenda
January 29, 2021
12-1:30pm
Remote Meeting

Join the Remote Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/92482569091?pwd=T0RnM25BNVF6U05nZFdHb3ZxZENIdz09>

Meeting ID: 924 8256 9091 **Passcode:** 112585

Or by telephone, call: +1 929 436 2866

1. Call to Order by meeting chair
 - a. Announcement of Zoom Recording
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Approval of Meeting Minutes
2. Public Comment
3. Presentation by Hildegard (10 minutes)
4. Harm reduction strategies
Invited speakers:
Jennifer Tilley: Harm reduction strategies for Treatment of substance use
5. Restorative Justice discussion
6. Update of final proposal for Policing Commission report
7. Preparation for meeting with Police Chief
8. List of questions to submit prior to the meeting
9. New Business
10. Adjourn

1.MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Booker Bush at 12:05pm.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZOOM RECORDING

Commissioner Booker-Bush made an announcement that this meeting was being recorded for the public record and would be available on Northampton Open Media, as well as, the City of Northampton website.

Roll Call

Dr. Booker Bush, Co-Chair Present

Javier Luengo-Garrido, Co-Chair Present

City Councilor Alex Jarrett Present

Carol Owen Present

3. Presentation by Hildegard Freedman

Hildegard Freedman said she lives in poverty in public housing. She said she was raised in Somerville and has lived with drugs and gangs around her as long as she's been alive. She said her sister had taken opiates and jumped off a building in Boston. She said she was informed that her father held a mafia position. She said there's a difference between the reality of the world of drug trafficking is and what academics think. She said she went to the Northampton Police station to get a message through to the detective to what she perceived as cartel involvement after a man died in her building. She said opiate addictions are a disease and need to be treated as a disease. She said more than 72,000 last year died from this. She said she looks forward to the commission's work.

4. Harm reduction strategies

Invited speakers:

Jennifer Tilley: Harm reduction strategies for Treatment of substance use

Jennifer Tilly unable to come during this meeting.

The commissions discussed a scheduling issue with inviting the police on the 9th, and suggested moving the date to the 10th.

The commissioners discussed the full commission timeline drafted by Co-chairs Commissioner Dan Cannity and Commissioner Cynthia Suopis.

Commissioner Booker Bush read an email from the co chairs asking for a compilation list of individuals and organizations who have been a part of the process if people feel comfortable being listed.

7. Preparation for meeting with Police Chief

Commissioner Alex Jarret said he wants this to be informational, and that he is trying to understand what the NPD is doing as well as what the federal and state restrictions might be on any alternatives. He said he would like to understand what sort of pushback the commission might get in order to know how to respond to that.

Commissioner Carol Owen suggested putting a question about unhoused people on the list. She said she's curious about the relationship with the restorative justice group. She said an advocate told her there might be potential to build accountability into the restorative justice group, as there are concerns about the complaint protocol. She wondered whether there are thoughts or plans to change so there is a better process.

Commissioner Booker Bush said developing a more effective way of doing oversight is outside of the scope of the Alternatives subcommittee and might belong in Policies & Services.

Commissioner Alex Jarret said all of the commissioners have received the feedback and have read best practices around restorative justice. He said the way the CRJ is structured and runs is not considered best practices. He said he wants to understand the program to be able to give better recommendations.

Commissioner Booker Bush said he's interested in asking who assists the police when responding to a houseless person having an issue. He said he's also interested in knowing how many calls do they get in relation to houseless people, as well as who the calls come from.

The commissioners revised the questions for the chief of police.

Commissioner Booker Bush thanked Alex for sending the article from shoestring. He said the committee will have to be targeted and focused in terms of what they recommend. He wondered whether the commission should focus in terms of topics to discuss further.

Commissioner Alex Jarrett said he's been thinking about this work in terms of phases and years. He suggested having an alternative mental health response that is peer led be a priority for the next year, at is one in five calls, which would be a significant reduction. He said identifying year one suggestions and going into more detail, while outlining subsequent phases with appendixes, and specifying there would be funding needed to continue this work, might be appropriate.

Commissioner Carol Owen said domestic violence calls, mental health calls, and calls relative to houseless people, are areas the committee needs to be specific about those policies and procedures. When it comes to restorative justice and harm reduction, including the desirability of these frameworks that are highly valuable but would need a longer process to be able to be specific about.

Commissioner Alex said he's interested in hearing about the chief's thoughts around alternative levels of staffing and both why and how those levels are set as well as what alternatives could reduce these levels.

9. Adjourn

Commissioner Booker Bush moved to adjourn. Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously at 1:30pm.