

Task Force Circle

Anna provided a background on the organizing movement that produced the Task Force, and she outlined the process for how the Commission will be established, specifically describing the Task Force's role in that process.

- The Task Force is a bridge between the community, the government, and the police. It's the center point on a triangular Venn diagram.
- The Task Force is drafting the policies and practices that will constitute and govern the Oversight Board.
- The Process:
 - o The Task Force will produce a document in August that'll be shared with the city administrator.
 - o The city administrator will then share the document with his own comments and recommendations with the city council.
 - o The city council will review the document with the administrator's comments and recommendations, and then it will enact an ordinance establishing the commission.

Lori (TF member), Belinda (circle facilitator) and Shirley (community member) helped facilitate the circle.

We first covered various values that participants felt should be part of the circle conversation.

- Written on sheets of paper and strewn about the floor.

The vast majority of the circle process (~2hrs) was taken up by individual introductions. Each participant said their name, how long they have lived in Ann Arbor, and an experience they have had that led them to be involved in community organizing related to the Ann Arbor Police.

Particular themes that arose out of these introductions included:

- Balancing the powerless against the powerful. Instituting better systems of checks and balances to incentivize good behavior by the government.
- Reform police department to approach community members with sensitivity and not violence (re: individuals with mental illness).
- Creating a better system for dealing with complaints of stereotyping and profiling
- Undertaking community education efforts in neighborhoods to 1) fill the substantive reporting gap left by local media ineptitude, 2) reduce profiling by neighbors, 3) educate people about when calling the police is/n't appropriate and useful
- De-escalation vs. escalation of force / violence
- Make the community safe for young men of color
- Want to encourage AAPD to hire *forward-thinking*, respectful, and *creative* officers who solve problems based on cutting-edge practices in conflict resolution, all of which could be facilitated by partnering more closely with U-M.
- Need to acknowledge that people are treated differently in different areas of the city. It's highly important for everyone to feel they're treated equally.
- Worry that growth of police presence as Ann Arbor has become more white and affluent has resulted in its use as a tool to push people out into neighboring cities and to manipulate behavior.

Restorative Justice Circle – Community Listening Session

- Develop better ways to settle disputes amongst each other
- Involvement in the civilian oversight commission must be diverse, in ways that other local governing / public service education initiatives are not (e.g., police and fire academy; citizen academy)
- Many individuals had horrible experiences with the police (either individually or as a department) and felt there was no recourse.
- Standard operating procedures should be reviewed and updated more often. These policies should be based in social science research and psychology.
- Shift power from the police back to the people.
- Everyone should feel welcome and valued in the community.
- Discomfort with the status quo. Injustice is rarely met with meaningful reform.
- Information and technology is available to help us change our community.
- We can learn a lot from other parts of the world, outside our community.
- True independence from the police and from the city is a must.
- Commission should feel empowered to think about policing from a public health perspective.
- Commission can provide an avenue to correct the AAPD when the department itself is unable to self-correct.
- Provide a mechanism for continued community support of the commission as it grows and develops.
- Break down the artificial barriers erected by the institutions of policing and race and class
- Use our hearts more than our heads
- Fully empowered, fully independent, fully funded
- Policing should be community-facing and intertwined

Ideas – what kinds of things do we want this advisory group to take to the table when they're developing their recommendation

- Police creating genuine relationships within the community
- Getting on the Commission (eligibility, appointment, election)
- Designated seats (formerly incarcerated, immigrant, etc. populations)
- Disclosure policy / data collection and storage policies
- Origin of various information (ICE, FBI, etc.)
- ICE collaboration
- Reporting
- Community education and homeowner group participation (e.g., implicit bias)
- Budgetary review and fund allocation
- Transforming Justice Washtenaw Recs (for TF *and* ultimate Comm'n)
 - o Representative
 - o Independent
 - o Transparent
 - o Adequately Funded
- Their statement is publicly available on FB page
- Continue listening sessions
- Do more than *respond* to individual incidents
- Collect data to change policies
- Be proactive

Restorative Justice Circle – Community Listening Session

- Change how police participate in the community
- Commission not just *advising*
- Community training (e.g., implicit bias)
- Commission must have teeth and be effective
- Mechanisms for long-term community support
- Incorporating restorative justice practices into policing
- Don't just tunnel-vision on *police-fixes*
- Look at Philly's old police review board and other historical models
- Recommend disciplinary actions
 - o Run investigations so it can do the kind of work the community expects of it
- Undertake transformative [capital-P] Process changes
 - o Trespass system, juvenile policing, etc.
 - o Structural case study based on historical study of defective models
- Task Force and Commission should seek constant community engagement
 - o All institutions and people make up the community
- Commission should get a seat on future police hiring committees

Future Listening Sessions

- All different formats are necessary
- Some with police and recorded
- Some without police and not recorded

Scheduled

- June 11 listening session 6:30p at Arrowwood
- June 12 meeting 7-9p at CTN