

Overview:

On June 15th, 2020, a Resolution was brought to Ann Arbor's City Council meeting by the Mayor and other sponsors which requested that ICPOC lead a community effort to make recommendations regarding policing in our community. The Resolution was broad in scope and it was later clarified by Council that ICPOC should respond with a proposal outlining what the Commission felt was the right path forward, and what role it would play.

Many of the specific action points raised in the Resolution can be read as referring to activities or tasks that are already included in the Ordinance governing ICPOC, and among our current work. **However**, in a follow up Council meeting and further review of the Resolution by the Commission, it is clear that the scope of work can be broadened.

A summary of what we currently do:

Presently commissioners are committed to oversight, oversight training and DEI training, each are working on specific projects, outreach with community members and stakeholders, local agencies and legislators across the state, and review of the AAPD. While engaging and centering the needs of the community, we are also clear channels of communication with the AAPD. ICPOC leadership is also working on an annual report detailing these efforts, initiatives, and outreach.

A summary of additional duties identified in the resolution:

The public safety resolution is an invitation to have a larger role through a review of the broader picture of policing - encompassing public safety - in Ann Arbor. We've been asked to undertake a review and then provide guidance around the way Ann Arbor envisions, conducts, and funds public safety. This can be accomplished by broadening efforts to advocate/lobby at the local and state level. There was also a request to review resources and functions provided by governmental units other than the City of Ann Arbor. The resolution also requested that ICPOC review the City's budget, with a particular focus on the AAPD budget. Further, City Council has consented to ICPOC's review of the police contracts, which also means cultivating a working relationship with the Police Unions.

Moving Forward

We do not concur that forming a new Task Force is the right way forward to address these requests. As noted, many of these responsibilities are already ones performed by ICPOC, and it will cause overlap and inefficiencies to duplicate efforts. ICPOC can and will engage with a broad a range of stakeholders and community partners and, in fact, we are already building those needed relationships. We have been engaged in training and learning about these very topics. It makes the most sense for ICPOC to take on these new requests.

In order for ICPOC to take on additional areas and work, we need to make adjustments. Internally, we'll need to shift responsibilities and assign new tasks. However, we will still need to add enough capacity to work in a way that reflects this need for change, especially for administrative and data collection tasks. Therefore, as offered in the Public Safety Resolution, we will need additional budgetary resources, including an increased level of staffing support.

The Ordinance under which ICPOC functions would also need to be updated to reflect the changes in our scope of work. This is necessary to give us the authority to do things such as independently access the data we need.

There is a written Resolution for City Council, confirmed by ICPOC at our October meeting.

Final thoughts:

We are in the midst of a movement that is rallying not only our community but the country as a whole. We must be cognizant of the legacy of police oversight in Ann Arbor, and the influence we yield as a commission. This moment is an opportunity to look at and potentially shape the system of public safety and policing in our community for the betterment of all.