

Alternatives to Policing Subcommittee Northampton Policing Review Commission

MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday February 24, 2021
7:30-9:00pm

Link to meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/93175561514?pwd=U2ExVGRwSUxMY3NyRGpZNnZjLzh5QT09>

Meeting ID 931 7556 1514

Password 549234

1. Call to Order
 1. Announcement of Zoom Recording
 2. Roll Call
 3. Approval of meeting minutes
2. Public Comment
3. Guest speakers (pending)
4. Preparation of documents for Final Report
 - Mental Health Services
 - Domestic Violence Services
 - Harm reduction Services
5. Next Meeting Date and agenda (proposed 3/3/21)
6. Adjourn

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido at 7:30 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZOOM RECORDING

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido 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

Booker Bush, Co-Chair Present

Javier Luengo-Garrido, Co-Chair Present

Alex Jarrett Present

Carol Owen Present

Kris Banks Not Present

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Carol Owen moved to approve the minutes from February 10th, 2021 and February 17th, 2021. Minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Public Comment

Jane Doe mentioned she was not able to find the outreach form document on the website. She said getting testimony from survivors is important.

Ed Olmstead read from the Brattleboro report.

Ya Ping Douglass thanked the commission for figuring out how to collect community testimony and noted the community constraints with open meeting law.

3. Preparation of documents for Final Report

Commissioner Carol Owen noted a [bill](#) that has been introduced at the statehouse which if it passes will provide grants to entities such as municipalities that are partnered with nonprofits to great alternatives to policing. She said this is a wonderful potential funding source.

Commissioner Booker Bush said it requires no law enforcement to have a part in the grant.

Commissioner [Alex Jarrett](#) suggested including this bill in the report.

Commissioner Booker Bush wondered whether to start by talking about a new department or to discuss alternatives.

Commissioner Javier Luengo- Garrido said the committee needs to be careful. He said it is not uncommon for the legislature to not pass in Massachusetts in the first session.

Commissioner Booker Bush said the committee will need to be explicit in what it asks for and recommend with knowledge that there are other structures involved. He said he agrees, this shouldn't limit the commission going forward.

Commissioner Alex Jarrett said he feels concerned that there are organizations doing this work that the committee hasn't successfully gotten to speak to the committee. He said the committee needs to hear from people who are currently doing this work. He said even if organizations can't come to the meetings, it's important to have conversation with people. He named Hampshire Hope, the Resilience hub, Community action, and MANNA as some examples.

Commissioner Booker Bush said the committee has not spoken to folks doing harm reduction work. He wondered if there are other voices we need to have in place to make recommendations for alternatives to policing.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido asked Dan Cannity to confirm the speakers planning to come to the full commission

Commissioner Dan Cannity noted Jess Tilly will be attending March 2nd and will speak on substance use and harm reduction.

Commissioner Carol Owens said even if the committee talks to someone from the agencies she said that doesn't mean the committee will be in any kind of position to make a recommendation for making much change in the way domestic violence gets responded to.

Commissioner Alex Jarrett said he doesn't think they are ready to make immediate action steps recommendation but that the committee has a lot of examples of what other communities have done in terms of violence prevention work. He said the committee can provide the research and say the recommendation is to continue to study these, and think about what in a year we might be able to do. He said there should be paid staff to do that work and that the commission has done admirably but needs more support.

The Commissioners discuss how to format the document for the preliminary report as well as how to delegate which commissioners will add information into the document.

Commissioner Booker Bush asked when she would like information from the committee.

Commissioner Cynthia Suopis said the committee should be thinking about having a document for the March 6th hearing in the direction of the consensus document, and letting the public know about a particular direction.

Commissioner Dan Cannity noted the intention of sharing an executive summary of what the commission has done so that people have a better understanding of what the commission is. He said in terms of the final report, it's time to start thinking about doing joint meetings especially with the Spending & Contracts subcommittee.

5. Next Meeting Date and agenda (proposed 3/3/21)

The commissioners discuss having a joint committee meeting with the spending and contracts committee.

Commissioner Alex Jarret moved to form a working group which will meet on Monday March 1st at 12pm. Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido seconded the motion. The motion to approve was unanimous.

7. Adjourn

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido moved to adjourn. Commissioner Alex Jarret seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously at 9:14pm.