



Draft Advisory Board Recommendations
Mayor's Task Force on Re-Imagining Public Safety
October 25, 2021

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There is strong support among task force members to create a standing advisory board to consider various policing and public safety issues. The task force recognizes that there is disconnect between policing and communities writ large across the country and that Hillsborough is not immune. Some communities want a stronger police presence, whereas others feel over-policed. Struggles of addiction, poverty, etc. are not being directly addressed but instead are handled by police in crisis situations, when police are called to respond to situations that are outside their area of training or expertise. The task force sees a role for a standing advisory board to be a means of accountability and to explore policy changes that can strengthen the connection between the Hillsborough Police Department and the community, which would be beneficial to all parties. There are two general buckets of issues for an advisory board to consider. One, as a venue outside of the Police Department to examine complaints; and two, as a venue to continue with the work of re-imagining public safety and policy changes. Below is a list of recommendations falling loosely in both areas. The task force understands that these recommendations for an advisory board may lie outside of current legal parameters or may be beyond the current capacity of the Town of Hillsborough. Regardless, they reflect the needs of the community illuminated by the work of the task force over the past 10 months.

- Convene, populate and support a standing advisory board. We imagine that a small number of dedicated citizens and community leaders would be ideal; five members would allow for a diverse group of community members but would be small enough to develop a close rapport among the members. “Diversity” to us means variety in ages, races, ethnicity, races, experience, and perspective.
- Have the advisory board continue to conduct research into police practices and continue to issue recommendations to the Board of Commissioners as necessary.
- Have the advisory board review community complaints regarding use of force or about other police conduct. Many police review boards across the country have failed, and many reports show this is due to inadequate authority or because of lack of information. Policies should be adopted to avoid this outcome in Hillsborough.
- Have the advisory board continue a review of data regarding racial disparities in local policing. Traffic stop data show racial disparities, and ideally these would be eliminated.
- Have the advisory board pay attention to innovations and assess whether any changes being made are forward thinking or effective. Responses to addressing racial disparities are relatively new..
- Consider a role for the advisory board in ensuring the Hillsborough Police Department is more racially and ethnically diverse. There is broad agreement among the task force and Police Department regarding this need.
- Have the advisory board be a place to consider additional policies to reimagine public safety in Hillsborough, such as instituting alternatives to policing and educating the community about wellness and mental health resources, violence prevention, and community training to help communities reduce violence without police intervention.