



Police and Safety Listening Sessions City of Hillsboro

Saturday, August 8, 2020

9:00 am to 10:30 am English and 11:00 am to 12:30 pm Spanish

Submitted by Portillo Consulting, International 

BACKGROUND

The City of Hillsboro invited the community to give comments on the current national and local concern regarding Police reform and the Safety of all community members. It was decided that the City of Hillsboro Staff, Mayor Callaway and Council Members would invite community members to speak to them, uninterrupted in their given time slot, in an open setting. This report reflects the process, a summary of the comments along with an analysis of frequency and similarity of comments, unique comments and references cited by the speakers.

PROCESS

The need for the listening sessions was clear and all decided that this would happen on August 8. One session would be conducted in English and immediately following it would be repeated in Spanish. Both would be facilitated by the same facilitation team, Portillo Consulting, International.

Once the date was agreed upon and the facilitator was identified, the communication and advertising of the project began with both broad and targeted outreach. Advertising and news stories were reported on local stations in both English and Spanish, in addition to a standard set of broad communications such as social media posts and website updates. Additionally, over ten thousand postcards in English and Spanish were mailed to residential addresses within census block groups with relatively higher percentages of people of color. City leadership also reached out to local community leaders through email to encourage participation in the listening sessions. Both of these targeted outreach methods were utilized in order to reach communities of color and those most impacted by racial injustice. , Participants interested in providing testimony were encouraged to register in advance of the sessions and given all information for attending the zoom meeting, although pre-registration was not required. Participants also had the option register to provide testimony once the listening sessions were in progress.

Each session began with a welcome from the City Manager, an introduction of the Mayor and City Council members as well as the staff members who would be working directly with the sessions.

The participants were told that they would be given three minutes to speak with warnings given at regular intervals. They were allowed to speak without interruption while the note taker took notes in real time, on the screen. After each person spoke, they were given some time to read the written notes and make any corrections so that the comments were captured to their satisfaction. The sessions were also recorded to ensure accuracy of the reported comments.

In addition, they were given opportunities to submit comments in writing or on a phone message line. This was designed for those who were not able to speak at the session due to time and to give a different mode of communication for those who would prefer not to speak at the session. All comments that came on email or phone were integrated into the final compilation of comments here.

Two sessions were conducted, one in English and one in Spanish. They were each slated for 90 minutes. While the English session went a few minutes over time, the Spanish session lasted about 1 hour. All people who wanted to speak in the Spanish session were able to speak and there was some time spent at the end waiting to see if others might join or decide to speak. When no one else rose up to speak for about 5 minutes, the session was closed.

On the day of the sessions, there was one person signed up for the Spanish session and two for the English session. During each session more people signed up and people came in and left at different intervals. There were approximately 63 people in the English session and 32 in the Spanish session.

15 people gave comments in the English session and 8 in the Spanish session. 2 of the people spoke in both sessions.

The comments on the next pages are arranged in two ways. The first is the comments that were stated in some way in both sessions as well as the comments that were specific to each group. The second is the comments listed by theme.





LISTENING SESSION- Aug. 8th, 2020 9:00 am and 11:00 am
Survey of Community comments

Most voiced comments and concerns, shared by both sessions

- Deep concern how our neighbors of color are being impacted by police violence across the country
- Very thankful for the City's initiative to have listening session
- Reallocating funds from police to community services to support:
 - Mental Health
 - Housing
 - Education
 - Existing Crisis Prevention program already in place
- Referenced Eugene's CAHOOTS and Whitebird clinic programs as models of alternative responses to crises that could be adapted to meet the needs of Hillsboro
- Provide more education to create awareness on:
 - racial profiling
 - White supremacy/ white privilege
 - Inequality
- Concern about police being overloaded with roles that they are not trained for, look for other agencies or means to deal with issues
- Transparency on disciplinary actions taken against police officers guilty of wrongdoing, stricter measures, vetting.

Main differences expressed in English session

- Referenced #8Can'tWait, most often as a positive model for Hillsboro
- In contrast, #8Can'tWait was referenced \by a few as not going far enough or not appropriate for Hillsboro
- Still others, referenced #8ToAbolish as going beyond the #8Can'tWait as a model to use for police reform in the City of Hillsboro
- Concern about safety in parks and other areas by allowing Police to work as they have, to continue keeping the community safe
- Better Police training specific to issues that did not involve criminal activity but Police were called to deal with the problems
- Reviewing the role of Police and exploring alternatives in activity that could perhaps be better served by other agencies



Main differences expressed in Spanish session

- Fear of deportation
- Lack of trust with Police
- Hispanic and Indigenous populations don't go to police for help, they go to various community agencies that are underfunded and can't help as much as needed
- Communication barrier, information is not offered in Spanish or in indigenous languages
- Disproportionate access to resources
- Feel considered less than white population
- Concerned that all Police, Sherriff and ICE work together to share negative information

References cited in comments

Whitebird/CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) <https://whitebirdclinic.org/cahoots/>
#8CantWait <https://8cantwait.org/>
8 to Abolish <https://www.8toabolition.com/>



Comments by Topic Categories

<p>Do/ Do not defund- reallocate funds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defined “Defund the Police” in different ways; from total defunding to reallocation • Reallocate funds to Mental Health • Equity of services and access to services, some services are not fully funded, some are not accessible to low income or non-English speaking community members • Reallocate funds to Crisis Prevention
<p>Police Training and Re-evaluating</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De-escalating procedures • Racial Disparity training, evaluate and train Police on recognizing and addressing racial disparity in terms of their work and the Hillsboro Community • Adopt #8CantWait for Hillsboro • #8CantWait was mentioned once as not a good fit for Hillsboro • Go beyond #8Can’tWait to #8ToAbolish
<p>Police are overwhelmed with too many roles outside of their scope of duties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAHOOTS program White Bird Clinic- Eugene model- helps city to have specialized teams to respond to calls was mentioned as a plus by several callers • Police are asked to perform different duties which are not appropriate for the uniform, guns that they are asked to wear in other circumstances
<p>Excessive force and intimidation, racial profiling and targeting, focus on African Americans and Hispanics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate meetings or forums with police and targeted groups to create understanding of how and why of a negative police perception exists and generate changes • Better communication and relationships with Hillsboro communities of color
<p>Fear of police</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear of deportation and unjust incarceration of Hispanics • Fear of brutality and death by African American and Latinx communities



<p>Transparency by Government Agencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Public Records when looking for more information regarding records of specific Police Officers • Access to Public Records when looking for information by someone in police custody • Access to statistics of actions taken to investigate, punish, reinstate police officers after wrongdoing • Stronger vetting measures • Equal law enforcement for all, White, African American and Latinx
<p>Equal treatment and access to resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop racial profiling – educate police to create awareness of unequal treatment • Educate community on their rights and proper protocol • Educate police and create awareness of the existence of white supremacy, meaning, how it manifests, real everyday examples of white privilege • Educate on the history of policing in the United States and the original purpose • Equal access of resources/communications, language barrier critical in emergency situations
<p>Affordable Housing Need</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on houseless population, accessible housing to relocate people living on the streets • Realistic “affordable housing,” despite the access to what is called “affordable housing,” many low-income people can still not afford this type of housing. This leads to homelessness and the problems associated with it. There is a need to reevaluate what it truly constitutes affordable housing. • Low income cannot afford current prices • Need for housing assistance program focused on Hispanics • Need to understand that not all homeless people are criminals and should not be treated as such

