

Date: December 31, 2020
From: David Kakishiba
To: David Muhammed
CC: City Councilperson Nikki Fortunato Bas
City Councilperson Loren Taylor
Re: RPSTF Proposed Guiding Principles

Per your December 23, 2020 request, I am submitting my feedback/recommendations on RPSTF Proposed Guiding Principles in preparation for the January 6, 2021 RPSTF meeting

I am requesting that the January 6, 2021 RPSTF meeting agenda include a discussion and resolution of the RPSTF's specific decision-making process and timeline for the Guiding Principles, Draft Concepts & Ideas, and Final Recommendations to the City Council.

Feedback

I deeply appreciate the central concern – reducing the number of police officers without the presence of effective alternative responses – expressed by John Jones III, Antoine Towers, Ginale Harris, Keisha Henderson, and Carol Wyatt in their December 7, 2020 letter to the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force.

The RPSTF must be mindful of its role and function in the on-going sequencing of moving from recommendation to reality. Our responsibility is develop and submit to the City Council a set of recommendations to “increase community safety through alternative responses to calls for assistance, and investments in programs that address the root causes of violence and crime, with a goal of a 50% reduction in the OPD General Purpose Fund budget.” We are not responsible for, nor are we involved in policy, administrative, budget, or program implementation. These are the roles and functions of the Mayor, City Council, and City Administration.

Ironically, the Mayor and City Administration have recently advanced proposals through the city legislative process that can/may/will result in decreasing community safety, as feared by John, Antoine, Ginale, Keisha, and Carol.

In my recommendations, I have sought to embrace and embed the principle of “practice-based evidence” (term coined by fellow RPSTF member, Anne Marks), while leaving specific implementation-level concepts (i.e. pilot/transition period, recommended provider) for City Council consideration.

Recommendations

1. The RPSTF believes that in order for the City of Oakland to effectively increase public safety for its residents, workers, and visitors, the City of Oakland must adopt and thoroughly organize itself to practice a comprehensive data-informed Public Health Approach to public safety that addresses the central underlying factors contributing and causing violence and crime.
2. The RPSTF is committed to developing and determining recommendations based on an analysis of all available quantitative and qualitative data, including:
 - a. Identification of non-violent, non-criminal OPD Calls-for-Service over time and sworn officers' time expended on response and resolution of these types of Calls-for-Service.

- b. Identification of criminal investigation case clearance/solve rates.
 - c. Identification of alternative urgent public safety responses for non-violent, non-criminal Calls-for-Service, not involving sworn police officers, based on an analysis of practice-based evidence.
 - d. Identification of alternative on-going public safety interventions (e.g. violence interruption, neighborhood ambassadors, transitional employment, life coaching) based on an analysis of practice-based evidence.
 - e. Identification of adequate sworn and non-sworn staffing levels for field patrols and criminal investigations to achieve increased reductions in Part One crimes.
3. The RPSTF is committed to developing and determining recommendations that deliberately reduce and eradicate City of Oakland's disparate public investment, responsiveness, and treatment of African American and other residents of Oakland's low-wealth neighborhoods.
 4. The RPSTF is committed to developing and determining recommendations that moves the City of Oakland to adopt and sustain high standards of performance management and public accountability.