

Chapel Hill Re-Imagining Community Safety Task Force Preliminary Report

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Compiled by Amplify Consulting
April 2021



Agenda

- Background on Re-Imagining Community Safety Task Force
- Summary of Task Force Progress
- Community Engagement Findings
- Preliminary Recommendations

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Recommendations

- Receive summary information on Community Listening Sessions and Survey results
- Receive information on Task Force's preliminary recommendations and continued work through May

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Introduction

In the Fall of 2020, the Town Council of the Town of Chapel Hill established the Re-Imagining Community Safety Task Force, whose mission is to bring forth concrete, actionable recommendations to the Town Council that will achieve the following:

1. Increase public safety,
2. Eliminate structural inequities in Town public safety systems; and
3. Enable all in the community to thrive.

The task force is charged with developing a community engagement plan to gather input from residents on how public safety services can better promote racial equity and economic inclusion. In this first phase of community engagement, the task force and Town of Chapel Hill opted to learn from the community with both a survey and a series of six community listening sessions.

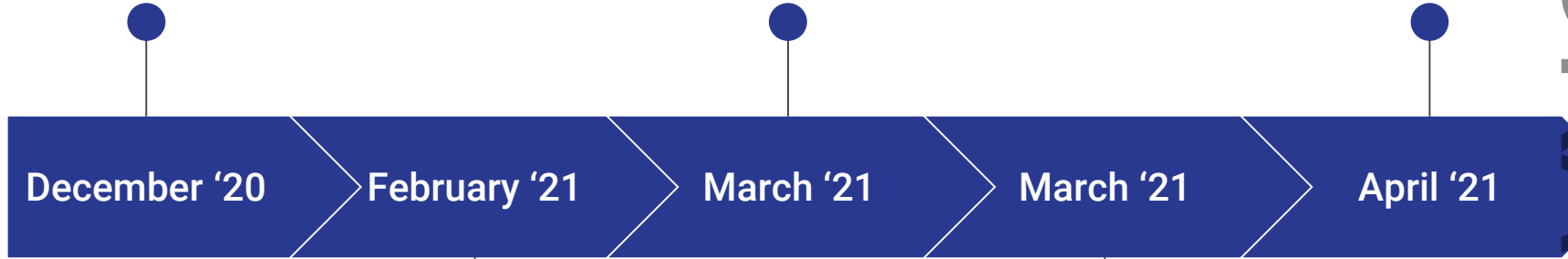
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Project Timeline

Launch Reimagining
Community Safety Task
Force

Identify Community
Stakeholders and
Develop Outreach Plan

Submit Update to Town
Council



Identify Consultant Team
to lead Community
Engagement and
Capacity Building

Conduct Outreach via,
Survey, Listening
Sessions and Additional
Education at Task Force
Meetings

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Re-Imagining Community Safety Task Force

13 Member Task Force

Bi-weekly Task Force Meetings

Bi-weekly Steering Committee Meetings

Additional learning from speakers, supplemental reading and community events.

Guest Speakers and Meeting Topics

- Community Safety 101 Presentation
- Criminal Justice Resource Department Presentation
- Housing and Community Development Presentation
- Orange County Street Outreach and Harm Reduction Program Presentation
- NC Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice Presentation
- Safety Concerns from local Asian Community Discussion

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Oversight of Community Engagement

The Amplify Consulting Team was responsible for developing community listening tools, communicating with RICS members and Steering Committee leaders during regularly scheduled meetings, and facilitating community listening sessions in both English and Spanish. The Reimagining Community Safety Task Force members, Steering Committee, and Town of Chapel Hill staff provided direct insight into survey language, outreach partners and listening session questions.

The Amplify Consulting Team



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Project Manager and
Lead Facilitator



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Kelly Little, MBA, MSL
Community Meeting Co- Facilitator



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Community Meeting
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Community Survey

Survey period: March 10, 2021- April 8, 2021

302 total survey responses

Table 2: Electronic Survey Distribution

Audience	Distributed by whom	Method of communication
Task Force Members	Amplify Consulting	Email; Regularly scheduled Zoom meeting
Listening Session Participants	Amplify Consulting	Post-session follow-up email
Community Stakeholders	Town of Chapel Hill, Task Force members, and Amplify Consulting	Email
General Public	Town of Chapel Hill	RICS webpage; Press release <input type="checkbox"/>

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Survey Demographics

Table 1: Demographic Profile of Town of Chapel Hill compared to Community Engagement Participants

Demographics	Town of Chapel Hill (n=64051) ¹		Survey Participants (N=302)	
	%	#	#	%
Race				
White, not Hispanic	66.9%	31	31	28.4%
Black, not Hispanic	10.9%	6	6	5.5%
Asian / Pacific Islander	13.0%	61	61	55.9%
American Indian / Alaska Native	0.3%	2	2	1.8%
Multi-Race	2.9%	0	0	0%
Other / Not Specified	NR	2	2	1.8%
Did not respond	NR	7	7	6.4%
Ethnicity				
Hispanic / Latinx	6.3%	0	0	0%
Gender				
Male	47.0%	30	30	28.9%
Female	53.0%	64	64	61.55%
Third gender / Non-binary	NR	3	3	2.9%
Other	NR	1	1	0.9%
Did not respond	NR	6	6	5.8%

¹Data from 2019 [US Census Bureau](#)

²NR = Not Reported

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Question 1: What does community safety mean to you?

Q1 - What does community safety mean to you?

Respondents provided open-ended answers to this question. Find full responses to this question in the [Complete Responses to Open-Ended Questions](#) section of this document. Common themes include:

1. Freedom from intimidation, trepidation, or threats
2. Absence of fear, harassment, worry
3. Being able to move through a community independently and without fear or worry – from home, to work, to public spaces
4. A feeling of having everything I need – housing, food security, money
5. Equity, inclusivity, community voice is heard in decision making
6. Community is engaged and people look out for one another
7. Mental health and substance use are proactively addressed

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Question 2: How do you define your community?

Q2 - How do you define your community? (All of Chapel Hill, your neighborhood or side of town?)

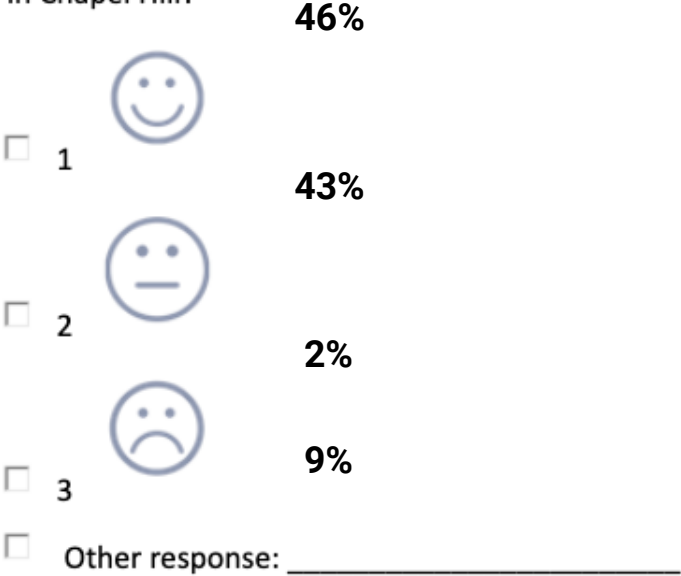
Respondents provided open-ended answers to this question. Find full responses to this question in the [Complete Responses to Open-Ended Questions](#) section of this document. Common themes include:

1. All of Chapel Hill
2. The greater Chapel Hill area, including Carrboro and/or Orange County and/or UNC Chapel Hill
3. My part of town and/or my neighborhood

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Question 3: On a scale of 1 to 3, with 1 being the most safe and 3 being the least safe, how safe do you feel in Chapel Hill?

Q3. On a scale of 1 to 3, with **1 being the most safe and 3 being the least safe**, how safe do you feel in Chapel Hill?



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Question 4: What makes you feel safe in your community?

Q4 - What makes you feel safe in your community?

Respondents provided open-ended answers to this question. Find full responses to this question in the [Complete Responses to Open-Ended Questions](#) section of this document. Common themes include:

1. Socioeconomic status
2. People looking out for each other
3. The feeling of community
4. Seeing people out and about
5. Absence of violence, crime

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Question 5: What makes you feel unsafe in your community?

Q5 - What makes you feel unsafe in your community?

Respondents provided open-ended answers to this question. Find full responses to this question in the [Complete Responses to Open-Ended Questions](#) section of this document. Common themes include:

1. Seeing people who are strangers, experiencing homelessness and/or asking for money
2. Presence of drugs or of intoxicated people
3. Violence & violent crime; reports of shootings, car break-ins, and other local crime
4. Seeing heavy police presence and/or over-policing and over-criminalization
5. Racial profiling and other implicit/explicit racism
 - Including perceived increase in Asian hate
6. Lack of (or awareness of) community resources outside of police / 911

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Question 6: Which of the following services should be delivered by the Chapel Hill Police Department?

Table 4: Participant Ranking of Services Delivered by CHPD

Rank	Service	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Violent Crime	1	11	2.49	2.58	6.66	113
2	Death Response / Investigation	1	12	3.94	2.83	8.01	113
3	Community Engagement	1	12	5.27	3.29	10.8	113
4	Drug & Alcohol Enforcement	1	12	5.59	2.76	7.64	113
5	Property Violations	1	12	6.16	3.01	9.04	113
6	Crisis Interventions	2	12	6.58	3.32	11.04	100
7	Crowd Management	1	12	6.79	2.72	7.41	113
8	Traffic Safety/Management	1	13	7.16	3.22	10.36	113
9	Mental Health Crisis Intervention	1	13	7.17	3.03	9.17	113
10	Noise Ordinance & Nuisance Violations	3	13	8.94	2.37	5.6	113
11	Response to Unsheltered Persons	2	13	9	2.75	7.56	113
12	Youth Engagement	2	13	9.12	2.84	8.07	113

Participants ranked 12 services currently offered by the Chapel Hill Police Department (CHPD) based on the level of importance they felt it was for CHPD to be involved in each service.

Question 7: What organizations or local partnerships should deliver the services mentioned in Question 6, if not CHPD

- I don't know/ Not sure
- Social Services/Social Workers
- Police Officers
- Local government
- None
- Churches
- UNC Police

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Question 8: Who's missing from the conversation?

Q8 - Who's missing from the conversation?

Respondents provided open-ended answers to this question. Find full responses to this question in the [Complete Responses to Open-Ended Questions](#) section of this document. Common themes include:

1. Marginalized communities / communities of color
2. College students and people affiliated with UNC Chapel Hill
3. Children, teenagers, "at-risk youth," and their parents
4. People experiencing homelessness and those working in agencies that serve this population
5. Mental health professionals
6. Non-profits, including faith-based, cultural, and civic groups
7. Immigrants and refugees
8. People with developmental/intellectual disabilities or other disabilities
9. People who are elderly and aging

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Community Listening Sessions

6 Total

Wednesday March 10, 2021

Saturday March 13, 2021

Tuesday March 16, 2021

Saturday March 20, 2021

Tuesday March 23, 2021

Monday March 29, 2021

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Community Stakeholders and Outreach Partners

Groups and organizations included in original outreach:

- Carrboro Community Health Center
- Chapel Hill – Carrboro City Schools
- Compass Center for Women and Families
- Community Empowerment Fund (CEF)
- Criminal Justice Resource Department
- El Centro Hispano
- Freedom House Recovery Center
- Habitat for Humanity
- Inter Faith Council
- Jackson Center
- Mi Pueblo
- NAACP Chapel Hill-Carrboro
- Orange County Health Department
- Orange County Rape Crisis Center
- Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness
- Oxford House
- Pathway to Change
- Refugee Support Center
- Refugee Community Partnership
- St. Thomas More Church
- The Minority Student Caucus
- UNC Refugee Wellness
- Transplanting Traditions
- Volunteers for Youth

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Listening Session Attendance and Racial Demographics

	March 10 Staff	March 13	March 16 Spanish	March 20	March 23	March 29 Task Force
Registered	61	18	9	21	42	21
Attendees	61	12	2	15	36	21
White		100%	0	83%	56%	
Black		0	0	17%	22%	
Hispanic/Latinx		0	100%	0	0	
Asian		0	0	0	22%	
Native		0	0	0	0	
Race Unknown		0	0	0	0	
Other		0	0	0	0	

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Total Attendees: 147
 Average Attendance: 25
 Full Demographics Report Available

Discussion Questions

Question 1

What does safety mean to you?

What makes you feel safe?

What makes you feel unsafe?

Question 2

Identify the top 3 CHPD services to prioritize:

Community Outreach

Crowd Management

Death Response/Investigation

Drug and Alcohol Enforcement

Mental Health and Addiction

Noise Ordinance

Nuisance Crimes

Property Crimes

Traffic Safety and Traffic Crimes

Violent Crime

Question 3

Who's missing from the conversation?

What other questions should we be asking?

What organizations or partnerships can help CHPD deliver community safety services?

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Major Themes

Question 1

- Feeling of safety depends on where you live in Chapel Hill
- Safety means treated fairly and equitably
- Safety means being able to express self
- Safety means Freedom not to be afraid in public
- Safety as an extension of themselves; speaking on behalf of others
- Some Asian, Black and Hispanic participants reported having different experiences in Chapel Hill than their white counterparts, in terms of police interactions, feeling safe in their own neighborhoods and in wider communities.

Question 2

- High Priority- In terms of priorities, violent crime, death response and noise ordinance and nuisance control remain top priorities
- Middle Priority- Traffic safety and management, response to unsheltered persons and Property violations were ranked in the middle
- Lower Priority- Mental Health, Youth Engagement and Drug and Alcohol Abuse were ranked as lower priorities

Question 3

- Youth, the Student population and the Faith Community are missing from the conversation
- More collaborations with UNC Campus, other health providers and community resources that can help provide mental health response services
- More collaborations with homelessness prevention and support organizations

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Summary

- The outreach was fairly representative of the Town demographics but could have reached more diverse communities and people impacted by police interactions.
- It is clear that future outreach should be more inclusive of populations experiencing poverty, those who are differently abled, and those experiencing homelessness.
- Working with outreach partners is most effective in increasing both attendance and diversity.

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Summary

- Common Zip Codes in attendance : 27514, 27516, 27517, 27713, 27312, 27510, 27707
- Overall, participants value collaboration between the Town and service providers for services like mental health crises and substance abuse response.
- Overall, participants felt comfortable sharing their lived experiences.
- Generally, people feel safe in their neighborhoods but not always safe to express themselves in the wider community.
- There is a desire to address the criminalization of poverty in Chapel Hill.

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Community Engagement Limitations

- Demographic questions were not asked consistently across each listening session.
- Not all participants responded to demographic questions in each listening session.
- Some participants misunderstood and/or misinterpreted terms related to community safety services.
- All listening sessions were conducted online via video conference.

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Preliminary Recommendations

Based on survey data and listening session feedback

Task Force Recommendations

1. Provide additional funding to the Orange County Street Outreach, Harm Reduction and Deflection Program (SOHRAD)
1. Provide funding and capacity building to neighborhood organizations to address community safety concerns
1. Collaborate with Peoples Academy to enhance awareness of community safety services
1. Develop a plan for Chapel Hill staff to increase participation in racial equity training

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Preliminary Recommendations

Based on survey data and listening session feedback

- 5. Increase the staff of the CHPD Crisis Intervention Unit
- 5. Identify and further collaborate with existing mental health and substance abuse prevention agencies
- 5. Conduct additional community engagement activities to expand the diversity and reach of the community safety conversation
- 5. Develop Task Force Implementation Plan

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Chapel Hill Re-Imagining Community Safety Task Force Preliminary Report

Thank you to all contributors

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