

## 04-21-2021 Town Council Meeting Responses to Council Questions

### **ITEM #13: Updates and Preliminary Recommendations from Re-Imagining Community Safety Task Force**

**Council Question:**

Are any of the question responses broken down further by race, ethnicity, gender?

**Amplify (Consultant)'s Response:**

*The survey data includes the race and gender of the respondents who chose to respond to the demographic questions. The responses can be filtered by race and gender variables but will be limited to those who chose to respond. The Consultant will provide the raw survey data to the Town to conduct additional statistical analysis.*

**Council Question:**

P. 234 of the packet lists groups and organizations included in the original outreach. This seems to imply there was some additional outreach. Was their additional outreach and if so, to which organizations?

**Amplify's Response:**

*There was not additional specific outreach to organizations. The Consultant team utilized the Task Force and Steering Team members to assist with spreading awareness of the survey and community listening sessions.*

**Council Question:**

If the town decides to contribute to the SOHRAD program, could the contribution for this year come out of federal recovery/stimulus funds?

**Staff Response:**

*We have not received specific guidance on the use of the American Relief Program funds that we anticipate receiving. We will inform the Council if we receive directions that funds could be used to support the SOHRAD Program.*

**Council Question:**

How was the breakdown of the SOHRAD contribution determined (Chapel Hill providing \$97,176 of the \$237,000 total)?

**Staff Response:**

*The Town's portion is determined based on population in Orange County. It is a formula used for*

## 04-21-2021 Town Council Meeting

### Responses to Council Questions

*other programs jointly funded by the governments in Orange County such as the HOME Program and the Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness.*

#### **Council Question:**

Would SOHRAD duplicate some of the current functions of the CHPD Crisis Unit? If so, what would the implications be for the Crisis Unit mission/staffing/funding?

#### **Staff Response:**

*The Police Crisis Unit and the SOHRAD team work together to support residents experiencing homelessness. One difference is that the SOHRAD team is dedicated to serving residents experiencing homelessness, while the Police Crisis Unit responds to a variety of situations involving community members in crisis. Additionally, SOHRAD provides ongoing case management services to the unsheltered population while the Police Crisis Unit provides immediate crisis response that is short-term and solution-focused. We work closely with community partners who specialize in certain areas like Compass Center, Community Empowerment Fund (CEF), Inter Faith Council (IFC) and SOHRAD, to provide ongoing support. The case management and peer support provided by SOHRAD is an essential component to working with those living unsheltered as their needs tend to be higher and require consistent engagement in order to address barriers to their housing stability and ensure they are service connected.*

#### **Council Question:**

The demographics of the survey results are interesting; there's a huge overrepresentation of Asian Americans, which could be due to the recent hate crimes against the AAPI community. Often our Black and LatinX communities are those that face the most discrimination from law enforcement nationally, so what did the consultant do to boost the response rates among those populations, or at least to get a more representative sample of the CH population? Was there a sampling plan? If so, did it include oversampling from any demographics or age groups? Was there follow up and recruiting to balance out the results?

#### **Staff Response:**

*We forwarded this question to the consultant for a response.*

## 04-21-2021 Town Council Meeting

### Responses to Council Questions

**Council Question:**

The consultant recommended that the task force members be more engaged with the survey and get their networks to participate; why wasn't this done for this initiative?

**Staff Response:**

*The Task Force members were asked to share the survey link with their networks. If the survey is reopened, we will continue to ask for their assistance with sharing the survey.*

**Council Question:**

We are getting a lot of interest from downtown business owners and patrons in reducing the panhandling in downtown; are there ways to accomplish this goal that are also sensitive to our interest in decriminalizing poverty/homelessness (although panhandling and homelessness are different demographics, often)?

**Staff Response:**

*While enhanced police visibility can help, CHPD officers understand that rarely do criminal charges help solve the underlying issues that lead to panhandling or homelessness.*

*CHPD Crisis Unit members, in concert with SOHRAD team members, conduct regular outreach with persons who are unsheltered in our downtown area, some of whom also panhandle to support themselves. These efforts have led to housing placements for several, as well as connections with employment opportunities for others. These efforts will need to continue and will need to be adequately resourced.*

**Council Question:**

What have we learned about our police force and how people from marginalized communities feel about interactions with them? What do our law enforcement experts think are ways to address any issues that have been identified? Have we used any of the NAACP webinar materials to hone in on what we might want to do in terms of reporting, accountability, etc.?

**Staff Response:**

*We forwarded this question to the consultant for a response.*

**Council Question:**

What are we trying to accomplish in the recommendations for funding certain initiatives, and what will success look like? What are we aiming for and what metrics will we use to know if we are on the right track or need to modify our approach as we go?

**Staff Response:**

*The Preliminary Recommendations from the Task Force were designed to provide the Council with information as you begin budget discussions. A next step is to work with Orange County*

## **04-21-2021 Town Council Meeting**

### **Responses to Council Questions**

*staff, the SOHRAD team, and community organizations that would manage community engagement to establish metrics for measuring success.*

**Council Question:**

What additional work is the task force going to accomplish before they end in May?

**Staff Response:**

*Amplify will facilitate the remaining three Task Force sessions before the end of May. During this time, we expect the group to finalize recommendations to forward to the Council.*