

Task Force to Reimagine Policing in Brookline

Task Force Charge

The Task Force to Reimagine Policing in Brookline will explore and recommend new approaches to public safety and policing in Brookline. The Task Force will utilize a data-informed approach to interrogate our current model and provide a distinctly alternative approach to public safety.

The Task Force will:

- Seek to understand our current approach to public safety
- Seek to understand how certain populations (including, but not limited to, Black, Indigenous, People of Color, Women & LGBTQ+ people) experience policing in Brookline
- Explore alternative models of public safety in the US and abroad
- Conceptualize new models of public safety that have yet to be imagined
- Consider which police functions are better suited for other departments
- Solicit public feedback and ideas through robust community engagement
- Make recommendations for meaningful changes that can be enacted by the Select Board, Town Meeting, School Committee, or other relevant bodies
- Make legislative recommendations to our state and congressional representatives

Other tasks may be determined by Task Force members and community input.

Membership

Voting Members: Voting members shall consist of Select Board Member Raul Fernandez (who will serve as Task Force Chair), Advisory Committee Chair Mike Sandman, and nine Brookline residents committed to reforming and reimagining Brookline's model of public safety, at least half of whom are people from communities disproportionately impacted by policing (including Black, Indigenous, People of Color, Women, and LGBTQ+ people).

Staff Members: The following Town staff or their designee shall serve as non-voting members: Chief of Police, Chief Diversity Officer, Human Resources Director, Town Administrator, and Town Counsel.

As Needed Staff and Outside Consultants: The Task Force shall consult with outside consultants or other Town staff or their designees, as needed, including the Fire Chief; Health and Human Services Director; Transportation Administrator; School Superintendent; Executive Director of the Community Mental Health Center; Brookline Housing Authority Director, representative of the Courts; the Norfolk County District Attorney; Police Department social worker, School Department social worker, teachers, academic researchers, or other appropriate persons.

Community Consultants: Task Force Chair Fernandez shall identify no more than ten residents to serve as non-voting community consultants. They shall be chosen from among those who submitted Task Force applications but were not selected, and shall possess an openness to reimagining Brookline's model of public safety. At least half will be people from communities

disproportionately impacted by policing. The Task Force shall schedule public meetings to hear and discuss ideas, suggestions, and criticisms with these community consultants, in addition to forums that are open to all members of the public.

Approximate Timeline

July 21, 2020

Approval of Task Force charge.

August 11, 2020

Appointment of Task Force members.

October 15, 2020

Interim recommendations including FY21 budget and policy adjustments and list of any actions taken by the Select Board pursuant to recommendations of the Task Force.

February 1, 2021

Final Task Force recommendations, including FY22 warrant articles and budget considerations for Annual Town Meeting.

The Task Force may also submit recommendations to the Select Board at any time.