



Public Safety Alignment and Governance Report: Update and Implementation Plans

AN UPDATE ON FEEDBACK RECEIVED
FROM CITY'S PUBLIC SAFETY GROUPS AND
PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION PLANS.

Agenda

November 9, 2021

1. Feedback, Implementation, and Timeline of Recommendations for:
 - Civilian Appeal Board
 - Community Relations Commission
 - Public Safety Committee
 - SAFE Taskforce
2. Next Steps
3. Questions/Discussion



Background

- In Fall 2020, City Manager, Mark Washington, tasked the Office of Oversight and Public Accountability to complete an evaluation and offer recommendations regarding the alignment and governance of the City's Public Safety boards and commissions (Civilian Appeal Board, Community Relations Commission, Police Chief Advisory Team, Public Safety Committee, SAFE Taskforce).
- In July of 2021, OPA published a Comprehensive Evaluation of the City of Grand Rapids' Public Safety Boards, Committees, Taskforces, Teams, and Commissions (*Report*).
- In July of 2021, OPA provided a briefing to the City Commission and the Public Safety Committee regarding the July 2021 *Report*.
- From Fall 2020 – Summer 2021, OPA conducted an analysis which included reviewing applicable policies and procedures, analyzing group structures, observing group meetings, engaging with City staff, gathering feedback, evaluating group alignment with strategic plans, and aligning Public Safety Boards with principles of governmental excellence and efficiency.
- From July 2021 – October 2021, OPA obtained feedback regarding the recommendations contained in the *Report* from the various boards and commissions to which the recommendations regard.
- City Commission was provided a formal recommendation from the Public Safety Committee on certain recommendations on July 27, 2021.
- Today OPA is providing City Commission with an update regarding the feedback received and recommended next steps.
- After thorough review of all of the feedback received, Staff recommendations remain consistent with the July 2021 *Report*,



Civilian Appeal Board



Civilian Appeal Board Feedback

Initial Recommendations

Member Feedback

1. Implement Mandatory Onboarding and Training for all CAB Members.	Board members support this recommendation.
2. Improve Written Reports in Order to Promote Fairness and Enhance the Quality of Board Decisions.	Board members support this recommendation.
3. Increase Jurisdictional Authority to Align with Best Practices and to Promote Increased Accountability.	Board members support this recommendation.
4. Empower CAB to Make Formal Policy Recommendations to Elevate Community Voice in Public Safety Operations.	Board members support this recommendation. However, board members requested “policy” be removed so recommendations can be made regarding additional training or other general concerns.
5. Reimagine City Commission Policy 800-02 to Increase Procedural Justice and to Reflect and Ensure Transparency.	Board members support this recommendation, however, would like to ensure the recommendation is actionable.

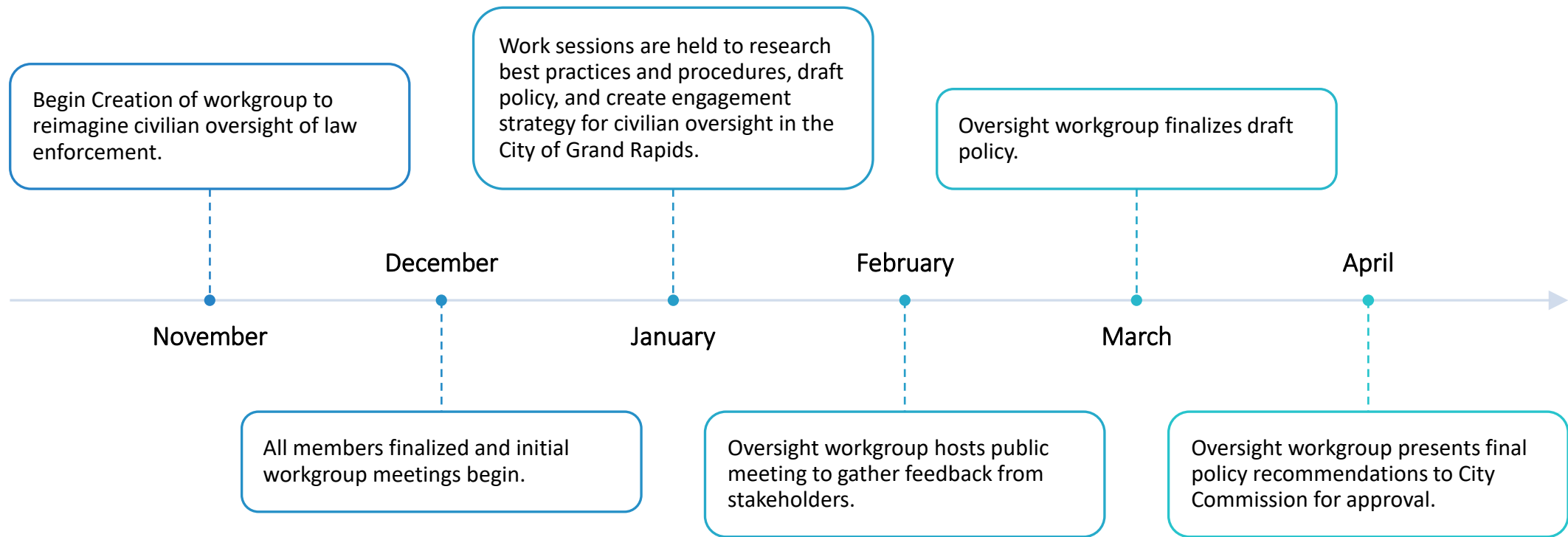


Civilian Appeal Board Implementation

Final Recommendations	Implementation
1. Implement Mandatory Onboarding and Training for all CAB Members.	Board members have the authority to implement this by and through CCP 800-02; additionally, this will be incorporated in recommendation #5.
2. Improve Written Reports in Order to Promote Fairness and Enhance the Quality of Board Decisions.	Board members have the authority to implement this by and through CCP 800-02; additionally, this will be incorporated in recommendation #5.
3. Increase Jurisdictional Authority to Align with Best Practices and to Promote Increased Accountability.	This will be incorporated into recommendation #5.
4. Empower CAB to Make Formal Recommendations to Elevate Community Voice in Public Safety Operations.	This will be incorporated into recommendation #5.
5. Reimagine City Commission Policy 800-02 to be Actionable, Increase Procedural Justice, and to Reflect and Ensure Transparency.	An 11-member OPA-led workgroup comprised of a representative from OPA, the City Attorney’s office, GRPD, ACLU, NAACP, CAB, UCC and 4 community members (1 per ward appointed by commissioners and 1 appointed by the mayor) will meet over a four-month period to redesign CCP 800-02. At the completion, this group will provide a final policy recommendation to the City Manager and City Commission that will fully reimagine civilian oversight of law enforcement in the City of Grand Rapids. Once appointed, the workgroup will create an engagement strategy to ensure community is heard throughout the process.



Civilian Appeal Board Tentative Timeline



Community Relations Commission



Community Relations Commission Feedback

Initial Recommendations

Feedback

1. Refocus the Community and Police Relations Subcommittee to Address Systemic Inequities in the Criminal Justice System.

CRC supports this recommendation.

2. Provide Additional Training Regarding the City of Grand Rapids Strategic Plan, Grand Rapids Police Department Strategic Plan, Grand Rapids Fire Department Strategic Plan, and the Office of Oversight and Public Accountability Strategic Plan.

CRC supports this recommendation with the understanding that CRC leadership will be providing additional resources and discussion regarding each of the strategic plans.

3. Increase Public Access and Knowledge Regarding the CRC's Operations.

CRC supports this recommendation.



Community Relations Commission Implementation

Final Recommendations

Implementation and Timeline

1. Refocus the Community and Police Relations Subcommittee to Address Systemic Inequities in the Criminal Justice System.	Completed on September 7 th , 2021.
2. CRC Leadership Should Provide Access to Additional Resources Regarding the City of Grand Rapids Strategic Plan, Grand Rapids Police Department Strategic Plan, Grand Rapids Fire Department Strategic Plan, and the Office of Oversight and Public Accountability Strategic Plan.	CRC will create a training packet for members including all strategic plans in addition to discussion points by the end of the fiscal year.
3. Increase Public Access and Knowledge Regarding the CRC's Operations.	CRC will facilitate community feedback listening sessions by the end of the fiscal year.



Community Relations Commission Implementation Cont'd

The Community Relations Commission has the authority to implement all the recommendations by and through the Board and Commission Handbook by and through the Title 9 Humans Rights Ordinance.



Public Safety Committee



Public Safety Committee Feedback

Initial Recommendations	Feedback
1. Create a Formal Structure to Track and Evaluate Progress on Public Safety Committee Recommendations.	Public Safety Committee supports this recommendation.
2. Elevate the Work of the SAFE Taskforce by Converting it to a Permanent Advisory Committee of the Public Safety Committee in Order to Create Better Alignment with the City’s Strategic Plan and Elevate Resident Voice in Public Safety Operations.	Public Safety Committee voted to recommend that the SAFE Taskforce be adopted into the Public Safety Committee in an advisory capacity until the remaining fiscal responsibilities of the SAFE Taskforce be exhausted and then the tasks of the SAFE Taskforce be incorporated into the Public Safety Committee moving forward.
3. Increase Public Access and Knowledge Regarding Public Safety Committee’s Operations.	Public Safety Committee supports this recommendation.



Public Safety Committee Implementation

Final Recommendations	Implementation and Timeline
<p>1. Create a Formal Structure to Track and Evaluate Progress on Public Safety Committee Recommendations.</p>	<p>The staff liaison will ensure citizen members' positions are reflected in both the meeting minutes and any resolutions that advance to the City Commission from the Public Safety Committee beginning in December 2021. Public Safety Committee members are empowered to request informational updates from public safety departments be included in the agenda. The staff liaison will maintain a list of past requests and recommendations made by the Public Safety Committee and include those recommendations and outcomes on the Public Safety Committee's webpage.</p>
<p>2. Elevate the Work of the SAFE Taskforce by Converting it to a Permanent Advisory Committee of the Public Safety Committee in Order to Create Better Alignment with the City's Strategic Plan and Elevate Resident Voice in Public Safety Operations.</p>	<p><i>The implementation for this recommendation will be discussed in future slides.</i></p>
<p>3. Increase Public Access and Knowledge Regarding Public Safety Committee's Operations.</p>	<p>The staff liaison will promote that Public Safety is streamed and recorded in addition to developing a promotional video for the Public Safety Committee to recruit new members for appointment beginning January 2022.</p>
<p>4. Elevate resident voice by requiring the position of Public Safety Committee Advisory (Community) Members be reflected in the minutes of the Public Safety Committee and any resolutions, items, or memorandums arising from the Public Safety Committee. (New Recommendation)</p>	<p>Whenever the Public Safety Committee votes, the position of Public Safety Committee Advisory (Community) Members will be polled and recorded in order to ensure that staff, community, and the full City Commission is aware of the position of the Committee's Advisory Members. Although not required, City Commission may amend the Standing Committee Rules to reflect the existence of advisory members of the Public Safety Committee</p>

SAFE Taskforce



SAFE Taskforce Feedback

Initial Recommendations	Feedback
<p>1. Elevate the Work of the SAFE Taskforce by Converting it to a Permanent Advisory Committee of the Public Safety Committee in Order to Create Better Alignment with the City’s Strategic Plan and Elevate Resident Voice in Public Safety Operations.</p>	<p>SAFE does not support this recommendation and instead recommends that the SAFE Task Force be elevated to a Board or Commission of the City of Grand Rapids with resident and anti-violence practitioners appointed by City Commissioners and the Mayor.</p>
<p>2. Fully Define the Role, Responsibilities, and Scope of SAFE Advisory Committee to Focus on the City and Public Safety Strategic Plans in Order to Provide Clarity and to Ensure Governmental Excellence.</p>	<p>SAFE supports this recommendation.</p>
<p>3. Increase Transparency Regarding SAFE’s Activities and Outcomes.</p>	<p>SAFE supports this recommendation.</p>



SAFE Taskforce Implementation

Final Recommendations	Implementation and Timeline
<p>1. Elevate the Work of the SAFE Taskforce by Converting it to a Permanent Advisory Committee of the Public Safety Committee in Order to Create Better Alignment with the City’s Strategic Plan and Elevate Resident Voice in Public Safety Operations.</p>	<p><i>The implementation for this recommendation will be discussed in future slides.</i></p>
<p>2. Fully Define the Role, Responsibilities, and Scope of SAFE Citizen Board or Commission to Focus on the City and Public Safety Strategic Plans in Order to Provide Clarity and to Ensure Governmental Excellence.</p>	<p>The staff liaison will produce training materials encompassing the City’s strategic plans in addition to leading the discussion and implementation of a fully defined role, responsibility, and scope by January 2022. SAFE Taskforce should then vote to finalize the role, responsibility and scope by February 2022.</p>
<p>3. Increase Transparency Regarding SAFE’s Activities and Outcomes.</p>	<p>The staff liaison will add SAFE’s activities, spending, outcomes, and reports to the SAFE Taskforce webpage. This should be completed as reports and other information becomes available.</p>



Commissioner Discussion: Options for the future state of the SAFE Taskforce

Recommendations	Implementation
<p>1. Elevate the Work of the SAFE Taskforce by Converting it to a Permanent Advisory Committee of the Public Safety Committee in Order to Create Better Alignment with the City’s Strategic Plan and Elevate Resident Voice in Public Safety Operations. <i>(Recommended by City Staff)</i></p>	<p>This item can be implemented through the creation of a new City Commission Policy establishing SAFE as a permanent Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee should be comprised of subject matter experts and community members. The initial appointments to this committee should be made from the existing SAFE Taskforce membership. This recommendation should include an amendment to the Standing Committee Rules that explains the process of the creation of subcommittees to standing committees.</p>
<p>2. SAFE Taskforce be adopted into the Public Safety Committee in an advisory capacity until the remaining fiscal responsibilities of the SAFE Taskforce be exhausted and then the tasks of the SAFE Taskforce be incorporated into the Public Safety Committee moving forward. <i>(Recommended by Public Safety Committee)</i></p>	<p>As a mayoral taskforce, the Mayor has the authority to implement this recommendation by culminating the work of the SAFE Taskforce at the conclusion of FY22. There after, no additional Commission action is needed for Public Safety to assume the responsibilities of the SAFE Taskforce given the language in the Standing Rules. The Public Safety Committee has the authority to recommend support for programs in the same fashion SAFE currently recommends programs. Recommended items will need to follow the City’s fiscal approval process.</p>
<p>3. The SAFE Task Force be elevated to a Board or Commission of the City of Grand Rapids with resident and anti-violence practitioners appointed by City Commissioners and the Mayor. <i>(Recommended by SAFE Taskforce)</i></p>	<p>This item can be implemented through the creation of a new City Commission Policy to allow SAFE to function as a permanent Citizen Board or Commission.</p>





Questions and Discussion

