



Eugene City Council

101 W 10th Ave., Suite 203

Eugene, OR 97401

541-682-5010 • 541-682-5414 Fax

www.eugene-or.gov

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

May 10, 2021

5:30 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Due to Governor Brown's Stay Home, Save Lives Executive Order to combat the spread of Covid-19, this meeting will be held remotely using virtual meeting technology.

Information about online or other options for access and participation will be available at <https://www.eugene-or.gov/3360/Webcasts-and-Meeting-Materials>

**Meeting of May 10, 2021;
Her Honor Mayor Lucy Vinis Presiding**

Councilors

Jennifer Yeh, President

Mike Clark

Randy Groves

Emily Semple

Claire Syrett, Vice President

Greg Evans

Matt Keating

Alan Zelenka

5:30 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

1. WORK SESSION: Community Safety Initiative Engagement Sessions

For the hearing impaired, an interpreter can be provided with 48 hours' notice prior to the meeting. Spanish-language interpretation will also be provided with 48 hours' notice. To arrange for these services, contact the receptionist at 541-682-5010. City Council meetings are telecast live on Metro Television, Comcast channel 21, and rebroadcast later in the week.

El consejo de la Ciudad de Eugene agradece su interés en estos asuntos de la agenda. El lugar de la reunión tiene acceso para sillas de ruedas. Se puede proveer a un intérprete para las personas con discapacidad auditiva si avisa con 48 horas de anticipación. También se puede proveer interpretación para español si avisa con 48 horas de anticipación. Para reservar estos servicios llame al 541-682-5010. Las reuniones del consejo de la ciudad se transmiten en vivo por Metro Television, Canal 21 de Comcast y son retransmitidas durante la semana.

For more information, contact the Council Coordinator at 541-682-5010
or visit us online at www.eugene-or.gov.

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Community Safety Initiative Engagement Sessions

Meeting Date: May 10, 2021
Department: Central Services
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 1
Staff Contact: Laura Hammond
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5587

ISSUE STATEMENT

At this work session, staff will provide a summary of the results of the Community Safety Initiative Engagement Sessions including focus groups with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and members of the Jewish and LGBTQ+ communities, an online survey, and community listening sessions.

BACKGROUND

Community Safety Initiative Background

The Community Safety Initiative (CSI) was designed to be a systems-wide approach to improve safety, reduce the cycle of crime and improve community members' quality of life. The Initiative includes police, fire, emergency medical services, 911, municipal court, prevention and homeless services, as well as community programs that work together and with city departments (Attachment A).

In 2018, City Council had four work sessions to understand and address growing deficiencies across the community safety system. Data presented indicated that while staffing levels remained relatively flat, calls for police service increased 21 percent from 2014 to 2017, one out of three non-life-threatening police calls for service received no response, and general response times increased by 20 minutes. Two surveys of city residents were completed in 2018 that provided additional information regarding perceptions of safety and possible allocations of public safety resources. In addition, CSI development was informed by models like 21st Century Policing Task Force report and evaluation and best practices.

In June 2019, City Council passed a payroll tax ordinance to provide long-term funding of the Community Safety Initiative. The Community Safety Payroll Tax was expected to generate \$23.6 million annually. In November 2019, voters approved a charter amendment that caps the payroll tax rates and limits the use of the funds to community safety services (i.e. police, fire/emergency medical, municipal court, prevention and homeless) and tax administration.

While these future payroll tax revenues are required to be applied towards community safety, there is flexibility within the City code to meet changing needs by reallocating resources within the Community Safety Initiative.

May 10, 2021, Work Session – Item 1

Engaging Communities of Color

The system-wide approach of the Community Safety Initiative (CSI) was designed to serve the Eugene community in an equitable and inclusive manner. In addition to the broader outreach efforts of the CSI, opportunities for communities of color to engage with the process included speaker presentations to the LatinX Alliance, Integration Network for Immigrants of Lane County and Grupo Latino Accion Directa, a Spanish language survey, and an event booth at Fiesta Cultural.

The death of George Floyd, a 46-year-old African American who was killed by police on May 25, 2020 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, focused national and local attention on calls for police reform that included reallocating funding toward other types of community safety responses and providing more social service-centered response to certain types of calls for service. Many community members expressed these concerns and interests to the City Council.

In July of 2020, the City Council directed the City Manager to convene engagement sessions with organizations representing communities of color to discuss CSI changes or additions that would best respond to the needs of their communities. Given the amount of time since the last round of engagement work on the CSI, the Council was also interested in providing an opportunity for the general public to share their perspectives.

On September 16, 2020 staff presented a proposed plan and received feedback from Council that included the following themes:

- Incorporate smaller, focus group-style meetings;
- Do not rush the process and take the time necessary to build trust with community;
- Consider a mix of ways to engage, including use of a survey;
- Stay focused on BIPOC communities but provide some opportunity for general public to give feedback.

Based on that feedback, staff returned in October with a revised engagement plan and process (Attachment B) that was approved by the City Council. The plan included the following components:

- Focus groups with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and members of the Jewish and LGBTQ+ communities;
- A survey to collect standardized responses to a series of questions from both BIPOC participants and general public; and
- Community listening sessions open to the general public to gauge current perspective on CSI strategy and approach.

The CSI engagement sessions invited a broad cross section of communities of color to learn about the development of the CSI (Attachment C) and listen to their perspective on how the intended outcomes align with the public safety priorities within their communities. Many of the organizations invited to participate were not specifically engaged previously, and the City of Eugene hoped to hear new voices and perspectives as part of this effort.

Four focus groups were conducted with a total of 35 participants in December 2020 and information collected was used to inform the development of an online survey that was open to the community in

March 2021. The survey was available in English and Spanish. The English language survey received a total of 2452 responses and the Spanish language survey received 113 responses. Two virtual community listening sessions were also held in March with a total of 101 community participants.

Several themes emerged from the information collected through the BIPOC focus groups, online survey, and community listening sessions including high levels of agreement across groups on priority needs related to homelessness, mental health and addiction services, and support for a number of priority needs that emerged from focus groups. At this work session staff will present the analysis of the results of the engagement sessions. The City Council will receive the full report prior to the work session.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

October 19, 2020 City Council Work Session

MOTION: I move to direct the City Manager to convene workshops with organizations representing Communities of Color to specify changes or additions to the Community Safety Initiative with the proposed process as presented in Attachment A. (motion passed)

September 16, 2020 City Council Work Session

Staff presented a proposed engagement plan and received feedback from council that included the following themes: incorporate smaller, focus group-style meetings; do not rush the process and take the time necessary to build trust with community; consider a mix of ways to engage, including use of a survey; stay focused on BIPOC communities but provide some opportunity for general public to give feedback.

July 20, 2020 City Council Work Session

MOTION: I move to Direct the City Manager to convene workshops with organizations representing Communities of Color to specify changes or additions to the Community Safety Initiative that would best respond to the needs of their communities; and to return to Council in September with a report on which organizations have or will be included, process, and timeline. (motion passed)

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Community Safety Flyer (2020)
- B. Approved CSI Engagement Plan
- C. Link to [video of Overview Community Safety Initiative](https://youtu.be/D1tQtegL8X4) (https://youtu.be/D1tQtegL8X4)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Staff Contact: Laura Hammond
Telephone: 541-682-5587
Staff E-Mail: lhammond@eugene-or.gov

Keeping the community safe

RESPOND FASTER • DETER CRIME • BE ACCOUNTABLE

What is the problem?

OUR COMMUNITY SAFETY SYSTEM IS STRESSED

- Calls for police service have increased 21 percent since 2014.
- Staffing levels have remained relatively flat.
- One out of three non-life-threatening police calls for service receive no response, and general response times have increased by 20 minutes.
- The number of unsheltered homeless adults is significantly higher than in many other similar communities.

The system includes police, fire, 911, municipal court, prevention and social services, which are interdependent and work together.



What is the plan?

The Eugene City Council passed the Community Safety Payroll Tax Ordinance (No. 20616) in June 2019 to provide long-term funding for community safety services. The Community Safety Payroll Tax is expected to generate \$23.6 million annually to provide faster, more efficient safety responses, deter crime, connect people to services, engage and help at-risk youth, support more investigations and court services, and add jail beds to reduce capacity-based releases and hold those who commit crimes accountable.



FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

- 40 patrol officers, 5 detectives, 4 sergeants and lieutenant
- 10 community service officers, sergeant and lieutenant
- 9.5 staff for 911
- Street Crimes Unit
- Animal welfare and traffic safety officers
- Evidence control and forensic analysts
- 10 additional jail beds in Springfield Municipal Jail and increased jail services
- Opening 3rd municipal courtroom with additional staffing
- 911 triage/community response unit
- Expansion of Community Court and Mental Health Court
- Enhanced homeless services – emergency shelter options and day center
- After school programs at Title 1 schools

Three-pronged approach

RESPOND

This is the first priority with the goals of:

- Answering more calls
- Getting to more crimes faster
- Using new tools and methods to increase efficiency

RESOLVE

The goal is to resolve every situation in a way that is best for the people involved, as well as the community.

- More investigations
- More court services
- More accountability

PREVENT

Many people are seen repeatedly. The goal is to reduce those interactions and help people deal with their challenges. Community partners are integral.

- Deter crime
- Connect people to services
- Engage at-risk youth early

As a community we are at our best when we come together to solve our toughest challenges. We can keep Eugene a welcoming and safe place for all.

– Eugene Police Chief Skinner

Community Safety Payroll Tax

EMPLOYER PAYROLL TAX

TAX RATE

Employers (2 or Less Employees)*

0.0015

Employers (More than 2 Employees)

0.0021

*An employer with two employees or less would receive a reduced rate of .0015 on the first \$100,000 of payroll.

EMPLOYEE PAYROLL TAX

TAX RATE

Minimum Wage Employees**

0.0000

Employees Earning \$12.01-\$15/hour

0.0030

Employees Earning Above \$15/hour

0.0044

** As of July 1, 2020, the minimum wage in Eugene will be \$12 per hour.

Payroll tax estimator: eugene-or.gov/PayrollTax

Accountability

Funds will only be used to pay for community safety services.

Protections in the proposed ordinance passed by the council include:

- Creating a separate fund for payroll tax revenue
- Ensuring that payroll tax funds won't replace existing funding
- Requiring an independent financial audit
- Establishing a citizen advisory board to review annual performance audits
- Requiring a 7-year review and reauthorization
- Charter amendment capping the rates and limiting use to community safety



Find the most current information on community safety at: eugene-or.gov/CommunitySafety
Have questions? Contact us at CSpayrolltaxhelp@eugene-or.com or by calling 541-682-5053

ATTACHMENT B: CSI Engagement Plan (Oct 19, 2020)

Purpose
To provide an opportunity for organizations representing Communities of Color to specify changes or additions to the Community Safety Initiative that would best respond to the needs of their communities
Workshop Invitation List
<p>Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement will invite and engage with the following organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Asian and Pacific Islander Community Action TeamBethel TempleBlack UnityBlacks in GovernmentCentro Latino AmericanoChinese American Benevolent Association (CABA)Community Indigenous People's GroupDisOrientEugene Arte LatinoEugene Human Rights CommissionEugene Islamic CenterHuerto de la FamiliaJewish Community Relations CouncilJewish Federation of Lane CountyLa E-KissLCC LonghouseLULACNAACPNative CommunityPhilippine American Association of Lane County (PAALC)Powerhouse Worship CenterTemple Beth IsraelThe Father's HouseTransponderWhole Eugene Community United <p>Invitees may also include representatives from 4J and Bethel School Districts, UO and LCC (including student-led organizations) and key informal leaders engaged in work with communities of color that may not be affiliated with a particular organization.</p>

ATTACHMENT B: CSI Engagement Plan (Oct 19, 2020)

Process Components
<p>Community Safety Initiative (CSI) informational webinar – Posted online and available for viewing remotely. Provides a baseline of understanding about the CSI;</p> <p>CSI Q&A document – Developed based on questions submitted by BIPOC participants after viewing webinar;</p> <p>BIPOC Focus Groups – 2-hour, small group (up to 10 people) sessions providing opportunity to actively listen to BIPOC participants’ perspective on public safety and the CSI;</p> <p>Survey – Developed to collect standardized responses to series of questions from both BIPOC participants and general public. Provides another opportunity for engagement, particularly for those unable to attend a focus group or workshop;</p> <p>Workshops for general public* – Provide 2-3 workshops open to the general public to gauge current perspective on CSI strategy and approach;</p> <p>Compile information collected through focus group meetings, workshops and via survey, identifying themes and recommended changes and present report to council</p> <p>*Sessions will be recorded and available for viewing after their scheduled times to increase access to information.</p>
Timeline
<p>September/October:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Council provides direction on proposed planStaff invite BIPOC participants, schedule and prepare webinar <p>November/December:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Disseminate webinar to BIPOC participantsBIPOC participants submit questions and policy clarifications in advance of focus group sessionsBIPOC Participants receive CSI Q&A documentHost focus groups and disseminate survey to BIPOC participantsCouncil update (prior to winter break) <p>January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Promote webinar and survey to general publicHost workshops for general public <p>February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Staff compile and present report to council