

**DATE:** June 20, 2024

**TO:** Public Safety Advisory Board

**FROM:** Audrey Seymour Ramberg, Assistant City Manager  
Mike Canfield, Police Chief

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Year 2024-25 Public Safety Advisory Board Work Plan

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. Discuss potential items and recommend the Public Safety Advisory Board Fiscal Year 2024-25 Work Plan for Council approval.
2. Consider appointing PSAB members to fill a vacancy on an existing ad hoc committee.

**BACKGROUND**

The Public Safety Advisory Board (PSAB) typically develops its recommended annual work plan in a two-step process. This memorandum outlines and seeks PSAB action on the second step in the process.

In the first step of the process, at its May 23, 2024 meeting, the PSAB reviewed the status of items on its Fiscal Year 2023-24 Work Plan, including three current items that are not yet completed and will carry forward into Fiscal Year 2024-25, in addition to five ongoing items that will continue to be part of the PSAB's annual work plan. The three carried-forward items are Mental Health Crisis Response, Youth Substance Abuse Trends and Prevention Resources, and Forums on the Future of Community Policing.

During the last meeting, each PSAB member was invited to suggest up to one potential new work plan item, recognizing the already full slate of projects that PSAB is working on. (One PSAB member was absent.) Following discussion to clarify, combine, and remove items, a list of four potential new projects resulted. The new items put forward by PSAB members during the May 23, 2024 meeting are as follows in Table 1.

**Table 1: PSAB Member Suggestions for New Work Plan Items**

Member	Suggested Item
Brodovsky	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and develop solutions to the needs of unhoused residents/ residents living in vehicles, including such issues as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Restrooms;</li> <li>— Enforcement of vehicle registration and parking violations;</li> <li>— Services for children; and</li> <li>— Safety, access to Police services, and protection.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Frink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify opportunities to increase use of technology to enhance Officer safety and efficiency.</li> </ul>
Tang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide input on the City’s legislative priorities.</li> </ul>
Souder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the effectiveness of the Forums on the Future of Community Policing and help plan and implement continued forums or other methods of community engagement.</li> </ul>

During the last meeting, staff presented the next steps in the development of the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Work Plan. These steps include staff’s review of the scope and feasibility of the proposed items and a second PSAB meeting to prioritize the items and develop a recommendation for an achievable work plan to present to the City Council for its approval in September 2024.

The staff review is summarized below along with a suggested process for the PSAB to establish its priorities and recommended work plan.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Staff Review of Potential Work Plan Items**

Staff reviewed the current work plan to confirm the items that would continue into Fiscal Year 2024-25 and, thus, impact the PSAB’s capacity to undertake additional items. Staff also reviewed the proposed new items, taking into consideration the following factors:

- Fit within the purview of the PSAB’s mission and areas of expertise needed to work effectively on the item;
- Support for City Council Strategic Priorities, consistency with existing City policy, and responsiveness to Council referrals;

- Avoidance of duplication with existing City or community efforts;
- Timeliness of issue addressed;
- Clarity of item scope; and
- Level of effort/time required and feasibility within the capacity of PSAB members and City staff.

Staff's analysis is summarized below.

### Needs/Solutions for Unhoused Residents/Residents Living in Vehicles

The City has a long-standing commitment to helping unstably housed residents, including those who live in vehicles, investing, on average, \$1 million each year since 2016. The City has been instrumental in supporting the formation of a local, nonprofit, safe parking provider (MOVE Mountain View); launching small, safe parking programs at faith-based locations; adopting a Safe Parking Ordinance to facilitate the creation of safe parking locations on private lots; securing three dedicated safe parking lots; partnering with the County of Santa Clara to provide safe parking and a range of other services to support unstably housed residents on a path to permanent housing; and growing to become the largest safe parking provider in the region with the capacity for up to 114 parking spaces (includes both faith-based lots).

The City works closely and continuously with a wide range of nonprofit and community-based partners to understand the needs of unstably housed residents and leverage resources to meet these needs. This includes the provision of portable restrooms at the site of programs serving vulnerable populations. A broader consideration of public restrooms at City parks and in Mountain View's downtown will be considered in the context of the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan and Downtown Precise Plan updates respectively. Beyond this, although an exception was made to provide hygiene stations during the COVID pandemic, it is not the City's policy to place ongoing portable restrooms in the public right-of-way.

As for vehicle registration and parking enforcement, the City is responsible to manage the City's right-of-way to ensure public safety, promote parking turnover to keep parking available for general public use, clear the parking lane for maintenance, repairs, and construction, meet federal and state regulatory requirements, and promote alternative and sustainable modes of transportation. Use of the right-of-way is regulated by City and state laws, which are applied as appropriate to all vehicles. In those instances where a vehicle is used for living purposes, the Police Department's approach is to enforce parking regulations in a manner that achieves the purposes of right-of-way management mentioned above while also treating vehicle residents with compassion and collaborating with community partners on solutions.

In light of the above, the majority of the areas of interest expressed by PSAB members related to people living in vehicles are being addressed through established City efforts or policy. Consequently, there is not an opportunity for PSAB to engage on these matters in a meaningful way.

Another area of inquiry discussed by PSAB relates to the safety needs of people living in vehicles and whether they feel able to access police assistance when they need it. The Police Chief has plans to establish an advisory group consisting of Mountain View vehicle residents. Working with this group, the Police Department could gather information on this topic and develop a report back to PSAB. Staff recommends this for inclusion in the 2024-25 PSAB Work Plan.

### Technology Use to Enhance Officer Safety and Efficiency

PSAB discussed whether there were unmet opportunities for the Police Department to adopt new technologies that would help Officers do their jobs more safely and more efficiently, freeing them up for the most value-added elements of their work. There were differences of opinion among PSAB members regarding the appropriateness of certain technologies, such as artificial intelligence and video surveillance. There was also a recognition that PSAB members may not have sufficient access to information about available and appropriate technology to add value above and beyond the Police Department's existing efforts to review industry best practices and emerging technology solutions. Consequently, staff does not view this as a fruitful area of focus for PSAB and does not recommend that it be included in the work plan.

### Legislative Priorities Input

It was suggested that PSAB be consulted on the City's legislative priorities. The current process for the City Council's adoption of its legislative platform does not include a role or process for advisory body input. (The Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee is presented with an informational item on transportation legislation but does not provide input into the City's platform.) Staff does not recommend this item for inclusion in the PSAB work plan.

For the PSAB's information, the City's platform includes the following priorities related to public safety, emergency services, and law enforcement:

- Support legislation that strengthens community-oriented public safety policies.
- Support legislation and funding that will help local governments with improving community policing and rebuilding community trust through Officer training and a proactive behavioral therapy approach for crises involving mental illness, homelessness and addiction, and support programs.

- Support legislation that would increase accountability and transparency for law enforcement agencies and personnel.
- Support legislation that promotes and strengthens law enforcement and first responder access to mental health services, including peer support, training, family resources, suicide prevention, and other promising practices for wellness programs.
- Support legislation and funding opportunities that promote situational awareness during emergency events and evacuations.
- Monitor legislation on implementation of best practices regarding law enforcement procedures and policies.
- Support legislation that encourages regional collaboration and deployment of resources to maximize firefighting efforts.
- Support local control of emergency medical services and ambulance services, including prehospital care and transport.
- Support local determination of adequate staffing based on data and analytics.
- Recommend funding opportunities be created for public safety to include diversity in Police and Fire hiring, recruiting, and education practices.
- Support legislation that coordinates public safety shutoff events between customers, regulators, government officials, and public safety partners.
- Support legislation that would strengthen gun safety measures.

#### Ongoing Forums on the Future of Community Policing or Other Community Engagement Methods

PSAB members expressed enthusiasm about the current work plan item to plan and conduct up to three forums on the future of community policing. It was suggested that such forums or other methods of engaging the community should be continued beyond Fiscal Year 2023-24 since it is an important part of the PSAB's mission to support transparency and the Police Department's connection to the public.

The first forum was held on May 30, 2024. The title of the event was "Community Safety, Crime Prevention and Accountability." A panel of Police Department representatives and community leaders presented on the topics of local crime trends, how to help prevent being a victim of crime, the importance of community partnerships to increase public safety, and how the Mountain View

Police Department uses technology to support investigations and public safety. The panel was moderated by the members of the PSAB ad hoc committee who helped plan the event.

The content of the presentations was informative and well-received. Unfortunately, the event was not well-attended, with seven members of the public participating. The PSAB ad hoc committee and Police Department staff will assess the factors that may have contributed to the low attendance and develop ideas to promote more participation in future events.

Since only one of the up to three forums was conducted in Fiscal Year 2023-24, this work plan item is proposed to be carried forward into 2024-25. Therefore, it is not necessary to add a new work plan item at this time. As part of the carried-forward item, staff and the PSAB can assess the value of continued forums or other community engagement activities and recommend them as part of the Fiscal Year 2025-26 PSAB Work Plan as appropriate.

Table 2 summarizes staff's recommendation for the nine Fiscal Year 2024-25 Work Plan items for PSAB's consideration.

**Table 2: Potential Fiscal Year 2024-25 PSAB Work Plan Items**

Recommended for Inclusion in the Work Plan						
Item No.	Item	Status	Time Frame	Type of Action	Need for Subcommittee	Level of Effort
1	Mental Health Crisis Response (in support of TRUST, MCRT, BSU, and 988)	Carry forward	Time-limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor</li> <li>Provide input</li> <li>Raise awareness</li> </ul>	Yes	Med.
2	Youth Substance Abuse Trends and Prevention Resources	Carry forward	Time-limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research</li> <li>Recommend</li> <li>Raise awareness</li> </ul>	Yes	High
3	Forums on the Future of Community Policing	Carry forward	Time-limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with MVPD to plan and conduct</li> </ul>	Yes	High
4	MVPD Budget	Continuing	Ongoing (Council referral)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review</li> <li>Comment</li> </ul>	No	Low
5	MVPD Annual Report	Continuing	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review</li> <li>Comment</li> </ul>	No	Low
6	SRO Annual Report	Continuing	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review</li> <li>Comment</li> </ul>	No	High
7	AB 481 (Military Weapons) Annual Report	Continuing	Ongoing (Council referral)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review</li> <li>Comment</li> </ul>	No	High

Item No.	Item	Status	Time Frame	Type of Action	Need for Sub-committee	Level of Effort
8	Twice-Yearly Contact and Feedback Data Report	Continuing	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review</li> <li>Comment</li> </ul>	No	Med.
9	Vehicle Resident Safety and Access to Police Services	New	Time-limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review</li> <li>Comment</li> </ul>	No	Med.
<b>NOT RECOMMENDED</b>						
11	Technology Use to Enhance Officer Safety and Efficiency	New	Time-limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research</li> <li>Recommend</li> </ul>	Yes	High
12	Legislative Priorities Input	New	Time-limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research</li> <li>Recommend</li> </ul>	Yes	Med

### **Process for Developing Recommended Work Plan**

As mentioned in the May 23, 2024 memorandum and discussed during the meeting, due to capacity constraints throughout the organization and Council's desire to limit the number of work plan items on advisory work plans, advisory bodies are being asked to limit their proposed Fiscal Year 2024-25 Work Plan items. Consequently, staff suggests that projects not be added at this point in the process due to the number of items already identified and the lack of opportunity for staff review of new ideas in real time at the meeting.

### **Appointment of PSAB Ad Hoc Committee Members**

With the recent retirement of two PSAB members, the composition of the existing PSAB ad hoc committee members is as follows:

- Mental Health Crisis Response: Chair Tang, Member Wang.
- Youth Substance Abuse Trends and Prevention Resources: Members Brodovsky and Wang.
- Forums on the Future of Community Policing: Member Langton.

When PSAB memberships is complete with its full seven members, ad hoc committees can consist of one to three members (with three as the maximum to avoid quorum). Currently, there are five sitting PSAB members. Consequently, the current maximum for ad hoc committee membership is two to avoid quorum. Since the committee working on Forums on the Future of Community Policing has one member, there is an opportunity for PSAB to appoint a second member.

**NEXT STEPS**

The work plan items for the next fiscal year will be submitted to the City Council for approval in September 2024. At the October PSAB meeting, staff will present scopes for the new project for PSAB approval.

ASR-MC/MS/6/MGR

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