

# **CHARTER**

## **Ad Hoc Committee on Police and Community Relations**

### **8/18/15**

The Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem have been charged by the Council with enlisting the help of five community members who would act as a “convener group.” The group’s purpose is to develop opportunities for broad-based and inclusive engagement with the community about police and community relations.

The Comprehensive Plan establishes a broad policy framework for Olympia’s public services that emphasizes the importance of integrated and interdisciplinary approaches to service delivery. Criminal justice issues can’t be addressed solely through policing. Partnerships between police, the courts, schools, the religious community and many other organizations are essential to addressing the sources of much of the crime in our community. Public engagement is a critical part of this work.

As stated in the Public Services section of our Comprehensive Plan [GS15]:

*The citizens of Olympia are empowered as partners in solving community problems.*

The Ad Hoc Committee is tasked with identifying strategies to advance the following three Comprehensive Plan Public Service Goals:

PS15.1: Form interdisciplinary partnerships with individuals and groups in the community to address policing issues.

PS15.2: Involve citizens as we look for ways to reduce repeat crimes, and use education to prevent crime.

PS15.3: Emphasize the need for our police force to have positive, day-to-day interaction with the public that encourages collaboration on problem-solving, rather than responding only to crises. Regular contact between the police and citizens helps strengthen working relationships and makes policing more effective.

**To this end, the purpose of the task force is:**

To engage the public and 1) provide them with information on current activities and best practices, 2) listen for opportunities for improvement, and 3) create grounds for positive and productive engagement between people who have different experiences and perspectives.

**The specific charge of the Task Force is:**

To work as a team, in collaboration with City of Olympia staff and local non-profit organizations, and carry out up to 5 community forums to receive information and share perspectives about:

- ✓ Methods for engaging under-represented and minority groups on policing practices in order to bridge understanding between Olympia's law enforcement officers and the public.
- ✓ Seek input on a preferred process for engaging the public on implementing police-worn body cameras.

Engagement methods will include community briefings by city staff and other criminal justice professionals, small group discussions, and other direct public engagement strategies.

**Outcomes:**

Within six months of appointment, provide a summary of what was heard that might assist Olympia in achieving its goals as a transparent and inclusive organization.

**Challenges for success:**

- Achieving broad based community input and understanding
- Attaining adequate resources to support the ad hoc committee
- Staying within the charter of the Committee
- Delivering results within the appointed time frame.