



For immediate release:
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City Council Approves Establishment of Policing and Community Engagement Committee

On June 23, 2020, the City Council approved the establishment of the Policing and Community Engagement Committee, which will convene its first meeting on Thursday, June 25 at 6:30 pm via virtual teleconference. The purpose of the committee is to create and implement a community engagement plan regarding policing in Union City in response to the national and local events surrounding the death of George Floyd.

The formation of the committee follows a virtual town hall held on June 4, which brought together Police Chief Jared Rinetti, Mayor Carol Dutra-Vernaci, Reverend Brown of Brown Temple Church, and Adrian Valadez of Youth and Family Services. At the town hall, Mayor Dutra-Vernaci announced that she had signed the Obama Foundation's Commit to Action pledge on June 3 committing the City to review its police use of force policies and engage the community about them.

Vice Mayor Emily Duncan and Councilmember Pat Gacoscos were appointed by the Council to serve on the committee, with Vice Mayor Duncan leading the committee. At last night's Council meeting on June 23, three Human Relations Commissioners were also approved to serve on the committee: Chair Melisa Shuen-Mallory, Commissioner Michele Williams-Smith, and Commissioner Jonathan Pettey.

Public input is critical to fulfilling the purpose of the committee. Vice Mayor Duncan expresses:

"The committee was established to listen to the community and understand what is needed to improve public safety in Union City. This is a call to action for all of us. We want to hear your issues, concerns and recommendations for improvement. This is a critical time for us to strengthen the community's trust and relationship with our police organization. Join the discussion, your voice matters."

The first committee meeting will take place this Thursday, June 25th, at 6:30 pm and will recur every Thursday, with the exception of the first week of July, until the committee's purpose is fulfilled.

You can tune into the meeting and participate in public comment by following the link below. To join on a web browser, follow the link:

<https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/gvqsegkb>

To join on a phone, dial +1(415) 466-7000 and enter the pin: 2408919#

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