

July 20, 2020 Engage Fremont Community Dialogue Group 5 Notes

What questions, concerns or issues do you have about policing in Fremont?

- Qualifications needed to become an officer. Minimal education. What evaluations? What questions? Who is engaged in the panel interviews in addition to police officers?
- Police involved in situations they are not trained to handle: homeless, domestic issues. Mental health issues.
- Fear of uniforms from some groups in the community.
- Why does Fremont need more officers? Concerns about budget when looking at graphic. How does our budget compare to other cities' percentage?
- Why don't we have a focus on more unarmed officers? Letting clinicians take the lead on some calls.

What do you appreciate and value about policing in Fremont?

- Police Department has represented itself well.
- Great volunteer opportunities. Forms a good bridge between public and police.
- Questions are addressed.
- Handles situations for which they are not specifically trained.
- Police Union seems to be more transparent than most police unions.

What suggestions and recommendations do you have to address the concerns and issues you have identified with policing?

- How do we approach societal issues- policing become a last resort?
- Funding housing, non-armed responses to mental health issues. Spend more money on upstream problems.
- Look at social services as first line of defense.
- Tweaking what we consider criminal activity- substance use?
- Budget should have a greater shift toward social services.
- Need to have a non-police officers involved on panel interviews. Higher minimum qualifications for officers- minimum age of 20 seems too young. 25? Why can't we raise the minimum age of officers?
- Should look to the populations we're serving to ask what they need (i.e., asking the homeless specifically what they need) Reach out to different/marginalized populations.
- People who have homes don't necessarily know what the homeless need/want.
- Safe space for people who are outcast/marginalized.
- Clinicians ride along with police to get the qualified folks in the arena.
- Complicated cases – several problems at once- lower barriers for service. More funding allows us to investigate more difficult cases.
- If we have people in place who already have the education/sensitivity of the populations served, it will be a smoother process.