



Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County

COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT BOARD

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June 30, 2020

Mayor John Cooper
Metropolitan Courthouse
Nashville, TN 37201

Dear Mayor Cooper,

We are pleased that you have pledged to act on President Obama's challenge to address police use of force policies in Nashville and embrace your idea of assembling a committee to review Metro Nashville Police Department's use of force policies. The Board has voted to accept your invitation to be a member of the Use of Force Committee which includes the reviewing of MNPD's use of force policies and national best practices. The COB is positioned with the resources, expertise and community support to lead the Use of Force Committee, representing the fullness of the Nashville Community.

During this process, there are several critical matters that we implore you keep in the forefront of this process. First, it is imperative the process is detailed, transparent, and outlined to the community with appropriate notice given. To achieve this important outcome, we recommend that at least a weeks' notice is extended to the public to encourage their participation. Such actions must be provided early and often during the process and we recommend that these meetings be held in a public forum with the use of technology being employed, when necessary, to promote the health and participation of the community.

Next, we strongly recommend that the following community groups be invited to join the Use of Force Committee:

- Nashville Natives
- Youth
- Formerly Incarcerated Individuals
- Racially Diverse Nashville Natives
- Faith Leader Community
- Senior Citizen Community
- LGBTQ Community (with a specific focus on Trans Women of Color)
- Homeless Community
- Immigrant Community

We strongly believe the addition of these community groups is indispensable to the success of this Committee and will be of great value to the team. We also feel it necessary to note the importance of ensuring that Committee members are not currently seated elected officials. For the Community Oversight Board to be fully engaged in this committee there must be intentional space for the voice of the community to be heard both before and during the course of the scheduled meetings of the committee. The recommendations of this Committee should offer a clear understanding of when each recommendation will take effect (no longer than 30 days without special exception) so that the success of these goals are both expected and measured.

Finally, we would like to reiterate the importance of the COB's involvement in all community related matters as it relates to public safety, this should obviously include the selection of our next Chief of Police. We will continue to remain committed to promoting the voice and values of the Nashville community, and we look forward to continuous collaboration and communication between our departments on this topic.

Respectfully,

Ashlee Davis
Chairperson
Community Oversight Board

Jill Fitchard
Executive Director
Community Oversight Board