

IMPLEMENTING THE CITY OF ITHACA'S NEW PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY

SUGGESTIONS FROM THE CITY OF ITHACA'S
REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY WORKING GROUP

The Charge

3/31/2021 Common Council Resolution

- **NY State Executive Order 203**
 - Center communities of color
- **Recommendation 1**
 - Enable a working group—consisting of IPD staff, City staff, Alderpersons, interested residents, and outside experts—to outline the structure of the new public safety system, and submit the recommendations to Common Council



Downtown Banner
The Commons, Ithaca

For too long, marginalized and vulnerable communities in the City of Ithaca have lived without the true sense of peace and safety we all are promised. Those same communities, along with allies from every facet of our community, have been asking and working for change to the city's overreliance on police to resolve non-criminal or non-violent public safety.

Process

- **Working Group**
 - Subcommittees
 - Included additional community members
 - Technical Advisors
 - Supported by Center for Policing Equity – project management and content expertise
- **Community Input**
 - Website/Newspaper Ads
 - Email Newsletter Updates
 - Community Forums
 - Including a session with unhoused individuals
- **Decision Making Process**
 - Topic-specific briefings
 - Deliberation & consensus / voting



Suggestions – Department Structure



The Division of Police should retain key law enforcement responsibilities, in particular those calls that represent a serious threat to public safety and/or that state law requires be conducted by a police officer.

The Division of Community Solutions should respond to quality of life and other incidents (including those involving referrals to mental health or other social service providers), and may also include law enforcement duties that can be carried out by non-police (i.e. the administration of certain kinds of fines and penalties).

Suggestions – Call Delineation

Division of Police

- Intoxication
- Robbery
- Shots Fired
- Stabbing
- Warrant
- Weapons
- 911 Call Hangup
- Assault
- Bomb Threat
- Burglary
- Criminal Mischief
- Dead Body
- House Alarm Triggers Police

Division of Community Solutions

- Animal Bites
- Animal Problem
- Bad Check
- Child Abuse
- Civil Complaint
- Escort
- Fire Outside
- Fireworks
- Fraud
- Hazmat
- Information
- Local Law
- Noise Complaint
- Parking Problem
- Personal Injury
- Collision
- Property Check
- Property Complaint
- Repossessed Vehicle
- Service Call
- Special Detail
- Theft of Mail/Packages
- Traffic Collision
- Unclassified
- Vehicle Fire
- Welfare Check

It Depends:

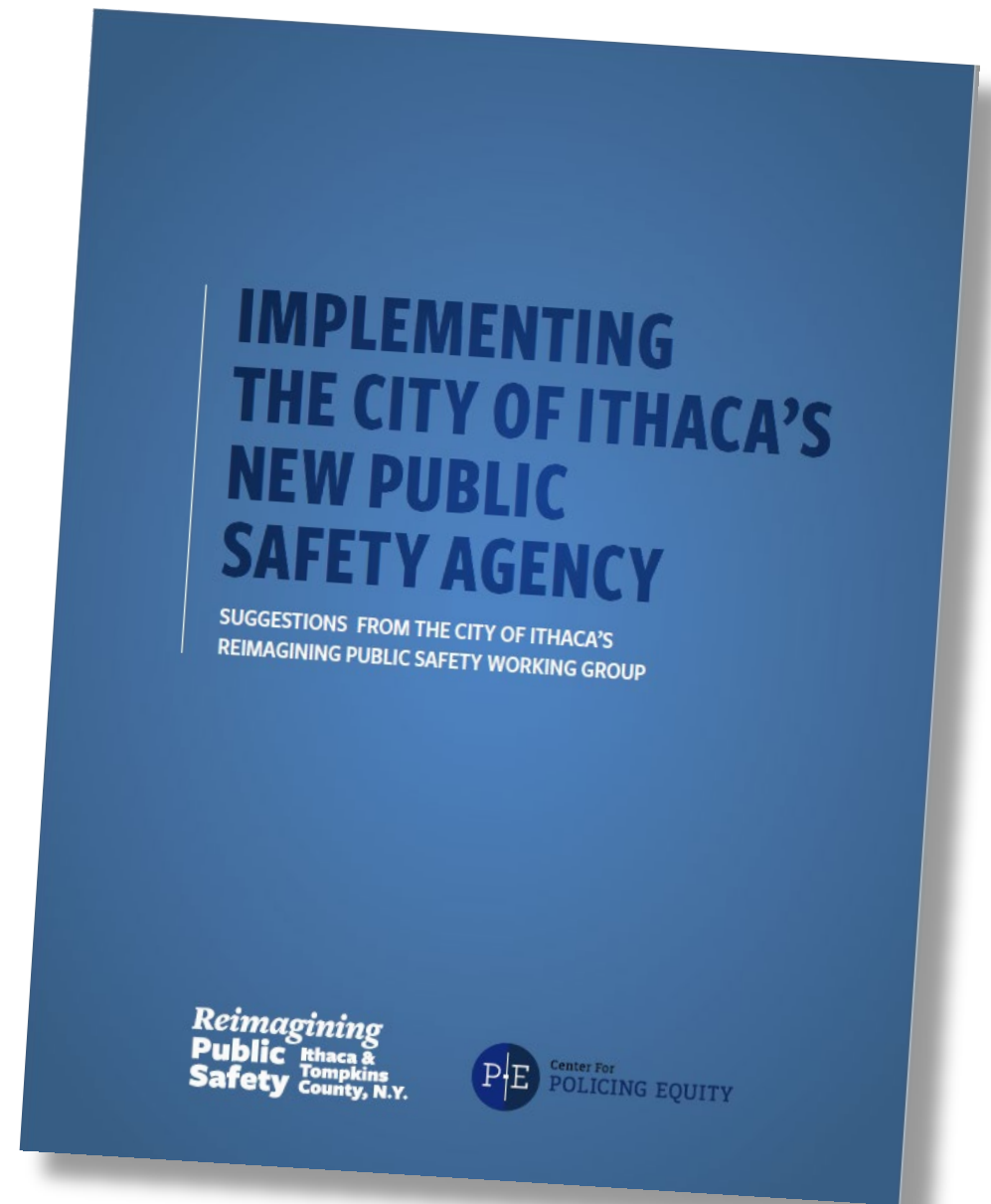
- Assisting Another
- Government Resource
- Disorderly Conduct
- Dispute
- Domestic
- Drugs
- Harassment
- Missing Person
- Overdose
- Psychiatric
- Sex Offense
- Suspicious
- Traffic Complaint
- Traffic Offense
- Transport
- Trespassing
- Unsecured Premise
- 911 Call with No One Talking.

Suggestions – Call Delineation



| Detailed in the Report:

- Staffing level, beat design, and shift assignment suggestions for the Department of Community Safety divisions
- Training protocols for the Department of Community Safety
- Equipment and technology needs for the Department of Community Safety
- Research and data needs of the Department of Community Safety



Budget

- The Budget Subcommittee suggests to Common Council that the new Department of Community Safety be **initially provided with \$1,150,000.00 in additional budget** (which may be spent over multiple years, depending on the pace of hiring new staff and purchasing other improvements).
- This budget would be in addition to the existing budget of IPD (whose staff will continue to work within the Department of Community Safety).



Southside Community Center Mural
City of Ithaca

| What's Next?

- Report published March 2022 for community feedback
 - **On website and available throughout community**
<http://www.publicsafetyreimagined.org/>
 - Q&A sessions with community groups/town halls
 - Town Hall and opportunities for marginalized groups to ask questions and get more information
- Remaining plans are in the process of being implemented and will continue to move forward as the City of Ithaca considers its department redesign.



" We care deeply about the City of Ithaca. We believe in all of its people. We put forward this plan with the conviction that, if approved, it will provide a more expansive, inclusive and effective public safety reality for every one of us."

Eric Rosario & Karen Yearwood, Working Group Co-Leads