



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Wednesday, July 28, 2021

2:00 PM

Remote Meeting

The Public Safety Committee will meet to discuss the Holistic Emergency Alternative Response Team (HEART) proposal for a community-based, unarmed alternative public safety response.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Quinton Zondervan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dennis J. Carlone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Alanna Mallon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Marc C. McGovern	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - JULY 28, 2021

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Mr. Clerk: Councillor Zondervan, the time of the meeting has arrived and you have a quorum.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. I call this meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order. The call of the meeting is to discuss the Holistic Emergency Alternative Response Team (HEART) Proposal for a community-based, unarmed alternative Public Safety Response. Pursuin' Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 adopted by the Mass. General Assembly and approved by the Governor, the City is authorized to use remote participation at Meetings of the Cambridge City Council and its committee. In addition to having members of the Council participate remotely, we have also set up Zoom teleconference for Public Comment. Please be aware that Zoom is primarily being used for Public Comment. In order to watch the meeting, please tune into Channel 22 or visit the Open Meeting portal on the City's website. If you would like to provide Public Comment, please visit the City Council section of the City's webpage. Instructions for how to sign up to speak are posted there. Once you have completed the signup procedure, you will receive a link to the Zoom meeting. We will not allow any additional Public Comment sign up after 2:30 p.m. Mr. Clerk, if you would take a roll of the members present.

Mr. Clerk: Councillor Carlone.

Dennis J. Carlone: Present and audible.

Mr. Clerk: Present. Vice Mayor Mallon.

Alanna M. Mallon: Present and audible.

Mr. Clerk: Present. Councillor McGovern. Councillor McGovern. Absent. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler.

Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler: Present and audible.

Mr. Clerk: Present. Councillor Car- Councillor Zondervan.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: Present and audible.

Mr. Clerk: There are four members present.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. With that, all of today's votes will be by roll call. So we will, um, shortly hear a presentation from the HEART and proponents, but first I will make some opening remarks. So we are seeing, uh, another uptick of shootings in Cambridge and that is very concerning. And street violence has been an issue for all the 30 years that I've been in Cambridge, and we've been grappling with it for all the three years that I've been on the Council without any real success. This term as Chair of the Public Safety Committee, I've held several hearings on alternative approaches to Public Safety in an effort to broaden our thinking beyond traditional approaches like increased policing. Public Safety is not only about gun violence, and there are many other ways that people encounter challenges to their safety, lack of affordable housing, lack of health care, lack of economic opportunities, lack of mental health support, and

many more. And like many other aspects of our racist society, these issues disproportionately impact Black and Brown Communities in Cambridge and across the Country. I'm especially concerned about our young people of color who face tremendous challenges coming of age in America and in Cambridge. It seems like we offer them only two options, an Ivy League education for those who seem poised to excel in that way, and the street life for everybody else. We have to do better and we have to think beyond simplistic punishment and reward-based systems like policing and money. Violence is almost always committed by traumatized young men who too often feel lost and discarded by our society and descend into a street culture of violence. Clearly our current approach to Public Safety is not working and it cannot work. Any system rooted in White Supremacy racism and male-dominated patriarchy cannot keep us safe no matter how well intentioned or competent its practitioners. Our current system perpetuates violence and has been co-opted by racist ideologues who have turned it into a mass incarceration system that perpetuates constitutionally sanctioned slavery in America today. One effort that's given me hope during these difficult times has been the tremendous work done on the Holistic Emergency Alternative Response Team or HEART proposal. It's been a privilege to be a witness to the birth of this very promising alternative approach to Public Safety that seeks to provide compassionate care to those in need of support in the most difficult moments of their lives. To break out of the cycle of violence and trauma, we have to listen to Black women who have been for too long, to paraphrase our Congresswoman, Ayanna Pressley, closest to the pain and furthest from the power. It's time to change that because our very survival as a civilization is at stake. So with immense gratitude for their bravery, their persistence, and their commitment to justice and healing, I now give the Floor to the women of the Black Response to present the HEART Proposal. I also wanna welcome Councillor, uh, Nolan and Mayor Siddiqui who have joined us as well. So, Queen, you have the floor.

Queen-Cheyenne Wade: Thank you, Councillor Zondervan. Um, just to be clear, the other two folks who are being named Queen-Cheyenne right now, um, are most likely some other folks that are speaking up, um, for our testimony, um, after I am speaking. Um, so if they're able to rename themselves I think that would be great. Um, thank you, all, for making the time, um, at 2:00 in the afternoon to be in space. Um, my name is Queen-Cheyenne Wade. I use they/she pronouns, um, and I have been a Cambridge resident my entire life. I've grown up in Cambridge Public Housing, um, and still do. Um, I am one of the Organizers in the Black Response and one of the HEART Program Organizers that have been engaging in developing the Holistic Emergency Alternative Response Team or HEART Program, um, for about the past, um, several months, uh, basically up to a year at this point, um, and I, uh, have a short slide show that I wanted to share with everyone to go a little bit more into some of the, um, programmatic elements, um, and some of the process of how we were able to even get to, um, what we now understand as HEART, uh, as a full kind of fledged Program. Sorry, I'm just getting open... the slides. So, um, this is the presentation that I'll be speaking from today. Um, all of the information, um, in this presentation will also be available, um, in the link that I give at the end of the presentation, which will have all the

data, um, all of the research that we've taken, um, as transparency, um, and accountability are really big values in our creation and sustaining of the HEART Program. Uh, so we first wanted to just start off with who the Black Response is, who are we, um, and why have we, you know, been really calling for this change, um, along with, you know, so many other organizations, groups, and community members. Um, the Black Response is a group of young Black Cambridge Residents who are committed to implementing transformative practices and policies into our City. Um, and we wanted to really create an open Community process to create a program that would build away from punitive practices and would really be rooted in the best practices, um, of Community responses to violence, harm and abuse, um, specifically rooted in Transformative Justice practices and Disability Justice practices. Um, we began this process by writing a letter of Petition to the City Council, um, with our concerns, and we got nine... over 900 signatures from the Community, the larger Cambridge Community. Um, and this is just to be very clear in the distinction that the Black Response is not HEART and the HEART is not the Black Response. The HEART Program is a Program that was created out of a collaborative process that we have facilitated in the Black Response. But it's really been a collaborative process to reiterate to identify the needs around Community safety in our Communities and specifically finding the best practices to actually respond to the needs of our Communities outside of policing systems. Um, and over on the right side is just our list of Community Partners, um, who have been engaging in this work with us, have, uh, endorsed the HEART Program, and have also been meeting in our collective spaces to help collectively design the Program. Um, and this is also not a comprehensive list. Uh, we do have folks that are also not on this list that just also were not, you know, comfortable giving their names or giving, um, other information, uh, to the Public about their involvement. Um, and so we really wanna talk about, like, what propelled the Black Response to, um, pushing forward and really kind of calling for a larger process with other Community members, service providers and organizations, around really imagining what an alternative or really what I w- I think is really important to call it a Holistic Emergency Response Program, um, would actually look like, um, and so really grounding what called and what started this conversation. Um, the first thing, of course, is the uprisings and protests for Black Lives against Police and White Supremacist violence, um, as well as justice for George Floyd, um, that were, you know, uh - uh, many, many different uprisings and protests that happened not only just around the Country but in Boston and Cambridge that were really honoring the lives of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Aubrey, um, and understanding their murders, um, were by the hands of Police and White Supremacist violence, um, that really, you know, sparked what we saw of last summer, um, that really was calling very specifically for transformative change in our policing systems, whether it was to defend the Police, to abolish the Police, or to reallocate funds, um, however kind of folks were using that language. Um, the City, um, of Cambridge specifically put forth a Policy Order, Policy Order 149, in the Summer of 2020 which, you know, had decided or was a Resolution that the City Council had wanted to allocate money to the development of an alternative

safety program. Um, and then lastly was the City's Public Safety Process, um, of developing a - a Public Safety Program that was separate from the Police to the City's process. We have identified that there were parts of that process that we had, um, specifically, you know, identified with Community members and internally, um, were not up to the values, the standards, and the process that we had hoped and that we had envisioned would actually create sustainable change and feedback and, uh, collaboration from many different Communities and Community members. And so this propelled us in wanting to develop a Community-based process that was really grounded in the values of what we'll be talking about in a little bit, but really grounded again in the values of collaboration, collectivism, um, and kind of holistic response. Um, and so we wanted to think about how we actually went about that. And so we wanna... we kind of have thought about it in four, um, distinct parts. Um, the first part has been, of course, that we've been saying that collaboration and collective designing and ownership of the Program is a huge value, um, and probably one of the most important values of, um, our Program. Um, and so we wanted to make sure, um, that that was something that we were actively doing. Even to this day, we are consistently coalition building, um, around HEART Program organizers, folks that we wanna bring in, whether it's Service Providers, Community members or s-uh, Organizations in Cambridge or around the Country, um, that are really able to help us in collectively designing what a holistic, you know, safety program can look like in Cambridge. Um, the next, you know, really big point was Community Education. So not just, uh, trying to collectively design together but also to learn together, to learn about the different kinds of Alternative Programs that exist around the Country, to learn about what we all want in alternative programs. And then also to learn about, you know, collectively about what the City is and isn't doing so that we, again, can find a way collaboratively, um, to respond and to create processes that feel and live up to the values and the standards that we were holding and are building. Um, next we have Collective Designing which was through our coalition building that I had talked about just a minute ago, was really again, the process of Collective Designing, um, with again, Community members, Partnerships outside of Cambridge and as well as City t- Officials that are also on this Panel as well, um, that were aligned with the same vision of the Program, um, to really start again being in the space to actually talk to one another about what the creation of the Program is down to again some nitty-gritty elements of the Program, and we can go into again, what that looks like in a little bit. Um, and then lastly we really thought of this as a defunding or allocation, whichever word you prefer, um, as a campaign, as a really strategic way to start really assessing, um, how we can begin to mitigate Police involvement and impact the Communities where Police harm is already so prevalent, um, as well as allowing this Program to really show that there are services that the Police hold right now that don't need to be held by the Police and can actually be held by Community members to work to give Community members more jobs, more training, and more access to the things that they need to keep themselves safe. And so we just wanted to go over those grounding values of what I talked about when I keep saying, you know, again, we were holding very specific values and standards of

how we wanted to engage in our process. Um, I wanna go over kind of what those values are very quickly. So that these two really grounding values of Transformative Justice and Disability Justice are two very grounding, um, principles and values in the development and the sustaining of the HEART Program. Um, Transformative Justice at its most simplest term is a way of responding to harm, violence, and abuse without creating more harm, violence, and abuse, um, and understanding that our current system actually is perpetuating harm, violence, and abuse in many ways through prisons, through Police, um, through Social Work, through, uh, foster care. There are lot of different spaces where harm is actually perpetuated, um, instead of really looking at the root causes of why harm is happening. Um, and we really also understand this as a lineage, um, that comes from Black, Indigenous, Trans, Sex Working, Disabled Communities that had to create systems of care and accountability outside of the current policing systems because throughout history they were currently not... they were continuously not being serviced or supported by those same systems. Um, and so we are honoring that this is actually a much longer legacy than in the past year or the past five years. This is actually a generational legacy, um, that we are calling upon and wanting to learn from, um, in terms of who has been doing this work for a very long time and how we should be censoring this work and censoring those who are most impacted and who have done that work in their Communities to already kind of imagine safety outside of these systems. Disability Justice is very much connected to Transformative Justice and the ways that it is connecting the intersecting legacies of White Supremacy, ca- Colonial Capitalism, Gender Depression, Ableism, um, and really understanding how minds and bodies of certain people in our society are labeled as disposable, deviant, or invalid. Um, and it's really thinking about how are we actually giving care to people that they want, um, and care that feels, um, like care. Um, and then specifically a lot of Disabled Communities, um, and a lot of Mental Health Communities have or Advocate Communities have talked about how consensual care, autonomous care is not always centered in mental health related fields such as involuntary hospitalization, suicide watches. A lot of these things actually strip people of their autonomy of really understanding what's best for themselves in those moments. And so Disability Justice is really honoring that we need to work from with the people who are experiencing crisis, who are experiencing harm and who cause harm in finding a solution and that cannot just be people giving solutions to people. It needs to be actually again, a collaborative process that we're building together 'cause people know their needs best. The next, uh, framework that we really wanted to bring into this space as a grounding value of HEART, not only just in the process, but in the sustaining of the Program, is participatory action research, which is a framework that we have used throughout all of the research that we have engaged in throughout the Community, the Cambridge Community. Um, and it is a framework that is actively addressing disparities while in conducting research. Um, it's not really thinking about, um, in the same vein that a lot of other research, um, can be very extractive, um, and can be very separate as such of a Researcher and Subjects. It's actually, uh, really forcing folks who are engaging in research to be in the Communities to work with

the people who are actually experiencing, um, the hardships and the lives and the experiences that folks are trying to study. Um, and it's really ap- an approach that centers research and communities that emphasizes participation and action from the folks who are, you know, quote/unquote the Subjects or the people who are being researched. Um, and so again, it's really thinking about how are we collaborating and thinking about research. It's very transparent with its research, um, and so these were values that we really wanted to bring in. Um, again, as there has been a very extractive relationship with Black, Brown, Indigenous, Disabled, and other marginalized communities in researching fields. And so with all of that, you know, with these broadening frameworks, we actually wanna talk about what methods we use to collectively design our Program, um, and how we are still kinda s- creating that Program through this method of collective designing. So we have kind of worked through three main, um, kind of methods. Um, the first was in-depth narratives and interviews. Um, this is from the Summer of 2020 to April of 2021 where we not only interviewed impacted Community members about their relationship with policing systems, um, and as well as what they would want to see in es- in an alternative holistic response. Um, we also checked in with existing and no longer existing Service Providers and Organizations, um, of that had... that existed in Cambridge about their relationship to the Police, to the Community and their services. So we can also see again, some of the history of alternative programs or just different programs that have tried to have different relationships with the City, with the Police, with the Community and their services, again, so that we can take that, um, into consideration in developing HEART. Those were really qualitative, um, research. We also wanted to get a lot of quantitative research, so much larger wide-scale research. Um, and so we have conducted four surveys, um, more - more than four surveys, but I'll say more... four main big kind of groups of surveys. Um, our first group of surveys was for the initial or general Community just to see what folks wanted out of a program, um, what they knew about all existing and pre-existing programs, alternative programs in Cambridge and around the Country, what they knew about the City's process, um, versus the Community process. Um, and again, what they wanted, um, at the end of the day out of a program, what elements they really thought would be important to have in their Community. Um, we also really wanted to make sure that we were talking to young folks as young folks are also a very highly policed Community in the City. Um, and so we really wanted to hear from them, um, about what they want out of support from an alternative program that's supporting young folks through hardship, through violence, through abuse, um, and through conflict. Um, and so this was a really amazing survey that we actually constructed with the Black Student Union at the Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School. Um, we also had internal Community surveys and so these were the people that were in our coalition building and collective designing spaces where we would ask questions about naming the Program. That's how we collectively named the Program HEART. Um, about how we wanted to structure the Program, whether we wanted a hierarchical structure or a more horizontal structure or a mix of both. Um, everything that you can think of we have used in a survey format to really make sure we are getting all the

responses from everybody in our space, um, and discussing that in our collective meeting spaces. Um, and then our last, uh, survey, um, has been for unhoused, um, Communities which has been led and developed by the Material Aid and Advocacy Program, um, who have been doing an amazing job, um, of really capturing Community members, um, and their kind of dreams and visioning and feedback, um, about what they want out of a program, um, as well as their experiences, um, with the current policing systems in Cambridge specifically, which I think is extremely important. Um, and then the last, um, was really with meeting with alternative programs and initiatives. We have met with over eight alternative programs from around the Country such as CAHOOTS, Mental Health First, and Project LEX. Um, and this is again for us to be able to not only learn from these alternative programs, their best practices, what's worked for them, what hasn't, um, but also to see the different structures of different programs and to get feedback, um, for our Program as we are developing and feedback from people that are already doing this work and on the ground. And for folks who might want more in-depth look at some of our data and all of these things, I will put the link in the chat at the end of the presentation. Um, and so this is a little bit more about that actual collective vision for Cambridge HEART, and how we see this Program actually playing out, um, as we are building, you know, towards its implementation, um, in its pilot program. So we're really hoping that HEART will work to serve, um, you know, folks in impacted Communities, um, to address root causes of harm such as houselessness, um, unemployment, food and financial insecurity, domestic and neighborhood conflict, drug abuse and emergency medical support. Um, as well as being a designed approach to proactive Community cohesion and involvement. Um, really thinking about how are we not just thinking about Community safety and thinking about Community care when something goes wrong, but as a consistent need and a consistent Program that we are building in our Communities. Um, these are a little bit more of the aspects of the Program that we're talking a little bit more about, the programmatic pieces such as Community trainings that we will consistently have for Community members, um, to be learning about the same practices, um, and frameworks that the HEART Responders, um, are learning and other people in the HEART kind of s- operating structure. We also have a HEART Program database that we're developing with Software for Good, um, which will really work to kind of connect some of the links, um, and missing kind of holes that are happening in the existing services in Cambridge at the moment, um, to allow folks to have better, um, communication with Service Providers, have more up to date access about resources, um, and kind of everything in between. We also again want this to really be something that is honoring Community employment and leadership, that we really want this to be something that it's allowing marginalized Community members specifically, again, Black, Brown, Disabled, um, and low income and houseless community members to be able to stay and live in Cambridge. So we wanna make sure that we are employing people in these Communities, making sure that they have the salaries to be able to stay in the City as gentrification is something I'm sure we all know is a very big problem in Cambridge. Um, we want that to be a main issue is that we do not want this to be something that

people can still work in Cambridge but are not being paid enough to live in their own Community. We also want to make sure that we have mutual aid and direct connection to Service Providers specifically through again, our HEART Program database, an Aftercare and Community Cohesion team that's very much connected to what I was talking about and thinking of a proactive approach to Community care and Community safety. So maybe that's through organizing events in the Community or helping, you know, marshall Cambridge Carnival instead of having Police marshalling Cambridge Carnival. It can be many, many different, um, ways that the Community is trying to proactively show that we don't need the Police to keep ourselves safe, that actually we work to keep ourselves safe a lot more than we realize. We also want to make sure that we are offering me- Emergency Medical and First Response support, conflict resolution, and peer support through restorative and transformative practices. So this could be Circle processes, Indigenous practices of Circle, um, Community accountability processes through Transformative Justice. Um, this could be safety planning. Um, it could be a wide variety of different services that folks would be able to have through Conflict Resolution and peer support. And then we, of course, we wanna have a Public response, a non-violent approach to supporting unhoused and intoxicated Community members, those in crisis in Public spaces from drugs and mental health issues. We also are really working and negotiating this to be a Both And Dispatch Model. Um, and while the HEART Program will be connected to 911 Services and that is our goal, we also want to have an autonomous number for those in the Community that do have harmful interactions and experiences with EMT and EMS services. Again, really thinking from a Disability Justice standpoint as many disabled folk, um, have had multiple experiences where they have talked about experiences with EMT Services where it's been harmful, abusive, and very violent. And so we really wanna make sure that we're also thinking about the folks in the Community who have had harmful or very traumatic experiences in these current institutions. Um, and this is a little bit more about the HEART Program structure. Um, and I'm gonna try to make sure I go through this 'cause I wanna m- make sure we have time for everything today. Um, but this is a little bit more about the structure. Um, we have, you know, at the top are really thinking more about our Governance Boards. We have, you know, three Boards that we wanted to have instead of a more hierarchy-based structure. Um, and really thinking about a Coalition Board of Service Providers and Community Organizations that are already giving services in the City that would be able to be serviced also through HEART. A Community Board of Community members in - in Cambridge who, um, are able to engage other Community members in giving feedback on HEART, um, holding Community meetings so that folks can learn more about, uh, what's happening in the HEART Program and, uh, again, give feedback edits, um, and really again, be a proactive approach to keeping the Community involved and own- and having collective ownership of the HEART Program. Um, and then lastly we have the Liability and Oversight Board which is really thinking about some more of the professionalized, um, roles in HEART such as Social Workers, Lawyers that we might, um, need to call on for support around dealing with Institutions that we might want to work outside of or

connecting folks, um, to be able to support with folks who might be in currently existing Institutions. We also wanted to have Board Liaisons, folks who will be really connecting a lot of the conversations and decision making that's happening from the Boards to the Personnel teams, um, and that is, you know, one Representative from each Board as well as a Representative from the HEART Responders and Dispatch teams so that there is again, a really, really clear voice of feedback and needs from the people who are on the ground. Um, specifically over at our well... Personnel teams, we have a Wellness and Training team that's not only going to be thinking about best practices that we can train folks in HEART, but also in the Community. Again, we have the After Caring Community Cohesion team. So really thinking about how we are thinking Community care is a continuous effort. Um, and then we have our Admin and Assessment team, a little bit more again of the administrative work such as Data Analyst, Administrative, um, Managers, Accountants, Bookkeepers, IT Coordinators, um, and then the Dispatch and HEART Responders who will be trained in a variety of best practices such as mental health crisis response, the escalation, nonviolent communication, um, and will be answering, you know, phone calls, messages, social media, um, as well as the HEART Responders who will be working in groups of two and will move around the City in vans, um, will also be trained in those same things as well as First Aid and CPR and Safety Planning. Um, in talking a little bit more about the structure of HEART, we have really thought very, very collectively and collaboratively about where we want HEART to sit in holding the values of Transformative Justice, Disability Justice. We do not want, you know, this Program to be s- uh, connected in ways that might continue to harm Community members that have already been harmed, um, and traumatized by these harmful systems. We really wanted to think about how we could work outside of that. And so a compromise we were able to figure, um, was a Quango which stands for a Quasi Non-Governmental Organization, um, and it is, you know, a range of accountability, uh, between the City and a nonprofit or 501(c)(3) to be able to maintain funding through a certain amount of accountability structures with the City. Um, and so we already have examples of Quangos that are in the City of Cambridge right now, um, and so we just wanted to have a couple that we can again talk about, um, as examples for a HEART not being the first Quango that's in Cambridge. Um, a couple examples are the Central Square BID, the Cambridge Housing Authority and Bay Cove. And so just to give a little bit more of a timeline towards HEART and how we are thinking of, you know, the next two years, the next year, um, is really thinking about, you know, establishing a 501(c)(3), getting Community members on board, really bringing in more Community members, not only just for training, but also for hiring through, um, the Board processes and personnel teams. We also want to build out our database and soft roll out elements of the HEART services, whether it's mutual aid, conflict resolution, um, or, you know, again, actually having the vans out on the streets, and we're hoping that by Fall or Winter of 2020, we wanna have a full roll out of HEART Services, um, in a two-year pilot Program starting in the Summer of 2022. Um, and so as we close out, we're just really thinking about why, you know, we should support HEART and, right, you know, we're thinking there are, you

know, other processes that are happening in the City. There are other processes that are happening around the Country, reforms that are happening in the Police. Why should we support HEART? Why is HEART important? Um, and I think again, it's really important to center Community-centered approaches to really imagining and developing holistic responses. Um, I think that not only just in its implementation but its sustainability, I think we really need to name and censor continuously in this conversations (sic) that HEART came out of a Community ask that honored the specificity of impacted Community members' calls for change instead of liberal calls for inclusion that actually leave out some of the most impacted from these harmful systems. Um, and so we really, really need to call for transformative, um, change guided by Community based process, um, to create the programs that we wanna see. And so that is really holding why we really wanna make sure that HEART is being supported, why it's being supported without changes, without charters, um, and really, really honoring how the Community has created it, um, and folks being a part of it means being part of a collaborative process. Um, and thank you, all, for listening to the presentation. I hope this was informative and able to give information that you might not have known about HEART before. I am now going to pass it over to Ann Jenks who is, um, a part of the coalition for Police accountability who is going to talk a little bit more about the, uh, liability and oversight aspects of HEART. I don't know if Ann is here at the moment.

Naomi: Ann, if you are in the Zoom and can raise your hand, we can promote you so you can speak.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: Thanks, um, Queen-Cheyenne, um, I think she's also labeled as Queen-Cheyenne in the (inaudible).

Naomi: Ann, you've been promoted, so if you can turn your mic and camera on, please go ahead.

Ann Jenks: I have turned my mic and camera on. Can you hear me?

Quinton Y. Zondervan: Yes, we can.

Ann Jenks: Great. Okay. Um, thank you so much, uh, for your interest. Um, I've been working for about two-and-a-half years in Oakland, California, on developing an alternative response model here, um, and, uh, so I just very briefly in terms of some, uh, liability and oversight, uh, concerns that tend to pop up. Uh, the questions around liability often come up in the context of - of having an alternative, uh, Emergency Response, especially when not using Licensed Professional Clinical Responders. Uh, it seems to be based on a generalized concern that, uh, there's additional liability created. Uh, it may help to remember that, uh, Police Officers when they respond do not have Clinical Licensure either. Um, but moreover, the experience, uh, in Eugene, Oregon, who have been doing this for 30 years is that the types of responses that they provide simply do not require, uh, the - the skills of a Licensed Clinician. All the - the Programs will refer people to Clinicians or Clinician support if that's appropriate to the situation. Um, there is a, uh, an essential role in the Program for clinical oversight. Uh,

HEART will have, uh - uh, structured Clinical oversight and Clinicians will be involved in developing protocols and in the training. Uh, Clinicians are also gonna be very important in supporting the Responders, both in terms of supervision and providing support for a job that's going to expose Responders both to stress and to trauma. Um, obviously every Jurisdiction is gonna get their own legal opinion about the specifics of their Program and their local laws, but we have failed to identify anywhere that indicates that if Responders function within their appropriate scope, there just doesn't seem to be any additional liability created. Um, and, uh, r- really it's about the success of the Program having well-trained and appropriately supervised Community Responders. Um, the, uh, experience of, uh, um, in Eugene, Oregon, which is 30 years old is that it's a very, very safe model, both for the Community and for the Responders, uh, which is the other, I think, element in - in concerns about liability. Um, no Responder in Eugene has ever been seriously injured. Residents as well as Police and Firefighters are overwhelmingly positive about having CAHOOTS as the response alternative. Um, the CAHOOTS team calls for Police to respond to a team that they're at, uh, less than 1% of the time, and it's almost never because the CAHOOTS team believes it's unsafe for the team. They tend to respond because they need something. The Resident needs something that only a Police Officer can provide, they need to file a complaint, a report of a crime, or that are relinquishing a gun or they're just doing something that couldn't, uh, others do but Police. Um, other Jurisdictions have begun to implement programs and we're beginning to see reports and data across the U.S. and Canada that again, reflect the safety of the Alternative Emergency Responses and the infrequency of needing any Police support. Um, it is going to be important and it's definitely part of the, uh, Program plan for HEART, uh, to provide Alternative Responders with extensive safety training, uh, including driving training. Um, and an essential part of the safety protocol is to give Alternative Responders the authority to decline to respond to a call. Um, I hope that generally addresses the questions around the liability, uh, and - and kind of the Clinical oversight in the world for Clinicians. The other thing just, uh, in terms of Clinicians is that there is already a lack of, uh, sufficient number of Clinicians for the programs that are trying to do this with Clinician Responders and that, uh - uh, the absence of sufficient numbers has prevented programs from moving forward, and, uh, n- it's about to get much larger because there are some cities that are trying to hire Clinician-based, uh, Responders. Thank you.

Queen-Cheyenne Wade: Thank you, Ann. Um, really, really appreciative of your insight, um, and your knowledge as always. Um, I want to, um, be able to pass it to, um, some folks who are a part of our Coalition Building to really talk about their experiences being in this work, as well as some Community members who have also been a part, um, of the Coalition, Collective Designing, um, as well as youth HEART col- uh, members as well who will be speaking. So, um, I know Rachel Bolton is in the attendees. Um, I would love to be able to move her, um, to the Panel to be able to speak and give testimony, um, as well as I'm sure one of the Queen-Cheyennes might also be, um, Cassie Hurd, um, and another Community member from the Material Aid and ad- Advocacy Program, as well as

Grace Clemente, um, from the attendees to all be moved to fir- uh, Panelists if that's possible.

Naomi: So, Rachel has been moved over. Um, can you repeat the other two names please?

Queen-Cheyenne Wade: So, Rachel Bolton. Um, it's gonna be probably a couple of the other Queen-Cheyennes that are in the attendees at the moment. Um, I don't know if Rachel or any of the other, um, not folks are in... are able to raise their hands to be able to show that they, um, are who they are and not me so that we can, um, uh, bring them over. Um, and then also, Stephanie Guirand, please, was also in the attendees that should be in the Panelists. And so, yeah, thank you. Um, I know Stephanie is still in the attendees. Um, I don't know if, Stephanie, you're able to raise your hand as well. Oh, perfect. Um...

Naomi: I've moved Stephanie over. Thanks.

Queen-Cheyenne Wade: Thank you. Um, so, yeah, now I'll pass it over to Rachel, um, Cassie, and other folks at the Material Aid and Advocacy Program.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: Thanks, Queen-Cheyenne, and who's, uh, who's going first?

Cassie Hurd: It's, um, this is Cassie for MAAP. If we're going first, I'm happy to go. We had to do, like, a switch around of computers. Okay, beautiful. Um, so I'm Cassie Hurd. I use she and her pronouns. I'm the Director of the Material Aid and Advocacy Program where I've been offering direct support to, learning from, and organizing alongside unhoused and under-housed Community members in Cambridge and Boston since 2016. Many of our Community members identify as people who use drugs or people who have relationships to substances other than abstinence, and are people who are experiencing challenges with their mental health or who are engaged in non-traditional economies such as Sex Work. Um, they are some of our most criminalized Community members. For the past several months, we've organized collaboratively with - with Cambridge HEART Coalition facilitated by the Black Response to develop a framework for Public Safety, crisis response, and support, um, that is rooted in Community care, Transformative Justice, evidence-based best practice, and the self-identified needs of Community members who are systematically most harmed by the Police and systems that police. We are here today to urge members of the Cambridge City Council Public Safety Committee to commit to supporting HEART as it is written and invest in the development and implementation of the HEART Program. Unhoused Community members are surveilled when they are surviving poverty in public. In Cambridge, we have a quasi-private space, um, because University campuses, the Central Square Business Improvement District, and the Harvard Square Business Association have taken over what used to be Community space. In these spaces, unhoused Community members experience harm and are often criminalized by these systems that police them. People report being asked to move along, and when they assert their right to exist in Public space, they risk being trespassed or charged with disturbing the peace or disorderly conduct. Um, people report

overdosing and being provided a false punitive and harmful choice of hospitalization or a trip to the Police Station. People report being filmed or publicly shamed by private security. People regularly share concern and negative experiences with the Social Justice Police Outreach Unit and Homeless Outreach Officers in Cambridge, citing they should not be accessing services through the same entities that have the power and goal to remove people out of Public space to erase them. Overwhelmingly, uh, their approach, goals, and objectives are neither evidence-based nor informed by the lived experience of people who are unhoused or people who are experiencing crisis in a Public way. Even partnering with Law Enforcement goes against every evidence-based practice for working with people experiencing homelessness or people in crisis. We must remove Law Enforcement from what should be Community directed and led Public Health efforts. The Police exacerbate and perpetuate crisis, and any interaction can potentially result in arrest or incarceration, psychiatric incarceration or sectioning, or losing access to the limited supportive services they have access to. These interventions are counterproductive in that they make our Community less safe and also cause and perpetuate harm. I'm gonna pass things along to Mary, um, who we work with at MAAP and who is an incredible Community member.

Queen-Cheyenne Wade: Oh, you're muted. Sorry.

Mary Althoff: Uh, thank you. Sorry about that. Good afternoon, folks. Uh, my name is Mary Althoff. I'm a 60-year-old active injection drug user who is unhoused and in the Harvard Square area. Um, I have had some lived experiences that I'd like to share with you. I was employed at the Needle Exchange some years ago and in one instance, myself and another Harm Reductionist were responding to an overdose in the Red Line restroom in Central Square. Um, we responded and Narcanned the individual and, um, needed to make a decision as to what his best intentions and future would be given the fact that the Cambridge Police were en route. Myself and the other Harm Reductionist made the decision because the Client had warrants on him, that we would be best served by putting him on the - the train, um, bound for Harvard Square and hoping that we would be able to contact and - and initiate help for him at that end. Um, I'd like to happily result that moment, that day, that young man did receive help in the Harvard Square Community, but unfortunately we've lost him, 20-year-old young man. Um, I'd also lu- I'd also like to bring up a situation, um, that occurred in Harvard Square during my - my current homelessness. Um, I was personally responding to an overdose, um, because of my past experi- wh- employment at the Needle Exchange, I was quite well known amongst the Homeless Community in Central and Harvard Square. So in this situation and I was responding to an overdose in a Public venue, um, and during my resuscitation of this individual, the Police, um, arrived and I was told to remove myself from the Client, to stop resuscitation and, um, and that... I'm sorry I lost my train of thought... that, um, I and the Client would be better served if the Police were to intervene instead of myself. I'd also like to mention that in that similarly... in a similar situation, I've been present in an overdose situation where Police were responding. They ran out of Narcan, and I

was not allowed to approach and give them my supply. Instead, I pelted them with it. Um, I also have, uh, an issue with the disappearance of the Homeless Community, the face of the Homeless Community in Harvard Square. Um, once the pandemic hit us, it's as though we went underground. All of our services were closed, and there were no places for us to be. We were not allowed to light on a bench, to sit and just have peaceful enjoyment of fresh air which wasn't too terribly fresh at the time. Um, I'd also like to speak to how I believe the HEART Program would respond to similar situations. I... in my first, for instance, I responded to an overdose with a f- a fellow Harm Reductionist, and if we had not had the Police bearing down on us in that case, we would have had that young man in our office. He would have chosen to either pursue his - his current, um, uh, d- uh, d- his current relationship with substances or he would choose to go into some sort of, uh, Recovery Program. But he was he was - he was robbed of those options because the Cambridge Police don't offer those options. Um, I'd like to think that the HEART Program would respond to these situations with like-minded, um, compassionate, heartfelt individuals who either have a life experience with the situations or has some study in, uh, these situations, a professional background in these situations where I'm sure we could raise quite the number of people to serve our Homeless if we could only access them and if we could only give the Homeless Community some sense of respect and dignity in the - the, um, services they deserve. Thank you for the time that you've given me today and God bless y'all.

Queen-Cheyenne Wade: Thank you so much. Um, that was a m- an incredibly powerful testimony. I want to make sure, um, Rachel, um, if you also had a testimony, um, and if not, that's... okay. Perfect. I'll pass it over to you, Rachel. Thank you.

Rachel Bolton: Thank you for the space and also thank you so much, Mary, for sharing. My name is Rachel Bolton, and I work at the Material Aid and Advocacy Program in Cambridge where I work for and with people who are unhoused, do substances and - and/or have mental health concerns. I've also worked in a direct care role at a Day Shelter in Boston and did outreach for the local Syringe Exchange and Overdose Prevention Program. HEART's process of Collective Visioning has facilitated us in engaging in a Community-led process with our people. Here at MAAP, we conducted a mixed method survey developed by MAAP staff, our unhoused organizers, and comrades at PMC. We spoke with 116 unhoused Community members about their experiences with policing and their vision for Community-based response to crisis related to mental health, substance use, and homelessness. Every single person that we have interviewed has shared the need for a Community-based crisis respond (sic) that's totally apart from the Police, and that values their autonomy and dignity, is based in relationships, meets self-identified needs, and is outside of the Criminal Legal system. Unhoused Community members are the experts of their experience and know the solutions to the crisis they are navigating, including Community safety while surviving poverty in Public. Uh, as we heard from Mary, people are skillful... skillfully and compassionately practicing Community care every day, responding to each other's

overdoses, practicing de-escalation with each other and also the Police, sharing support and offering connection to trusted allies. What we've seen and heard is that policing interrupts and disrupts people's ability to take care of themselves and each other, and puts up barriers to accessing services and support that they have identified needing. At the center of most people's vision for what a non-Police response would look like was that this Program would hold space for Community members to resolve conflict, respond to emergencies and take care of each other. Cambridge HEART would establish a Program that supports Unhoused Community members in caring for each other and offers an alternative to calling the Police as a tool for asking for help when in reality the Police often show up and create harm. HEART facilitates a Community of caring by moving away from harmful systems of policing, surveillance, and punitive measures. They are meeting demand from Black, Brown, Low-income, and Unhoused Communities here in Cambridge to create an alternative to policing. Their Program creates space and time for people to care for each other in Public. The Program invests in trained staff members from here. They understand how meeting people's basic needs can reduce conflict and resolve crisis. HEART is a Public Safety Program that recognizes the right of people to exist in Public, recognizes people may experience crisis in Public, and centers people autonomy and embodies Restorative Justice. We wanna urge members of the City Council and the City Manager to implement Cambridge HEART as a Public Safety Program that meets the self-identified needs of - of our Community. Thank you for giving us space to share and for having this event. Thank you.

Queen-Cheyenne Wade: Thank you so much, Rachel, and thank you in general to the Material Aid and Advocacy Program for all the amazing Grassroots Community work you do to support our Unhoused Community members away from policing and punitive systems. Um, I am really, really excited to pass it to our next, um, folks giving testimony, um, which is Aliana (phonetic), um, from the Youth HEART Program, um, the Youth HEART Cohort, which has been a Cohort that has been running for the past four weeks through the Mayor's Youth Program facilitated by myself and Samaya Hamad. Um, and we have really been learning about practices of Transformative Justice, Disability Justice, conflict resolution, and peer support conflict resolution through again, best practices, um, created by Community members and marginalized Communities away from Police. Um, and I'm really excited for them to talk about their experiences being in this Program and... as well as connecting it to experiences that they have had in existing policing and schooling systems. Um, so I will pass it over to Aliana or to Grace, um, if both of you are here and able to unmute yourselves.

Aliana: Hello. M- my name is Aliana and I am a Cambridge Resident, and I'm here to urge the City Council and City Manager of Cambridge to invest in the implementation of the Cambridge HEART Program. The HEART Program is a Community-based alternative response team that doesn't involve Cambridge Police and other carceral systems, and it supports marginalized Community members in Cambridge. This summer, I've had the opportunity to be a part of the Youth HEART Cohort where I am learning about holistic ways of responding to

harm, violence and conflict that do not rely on policing and punishment systems, but rather systems of care, community and healing. Throughout the summer, we have gotten to engage in a lot of Community building activities, one being pod mapping, which has had a significant impact throughout my experience with the youth HEART Cohort. Developed by the Bay Area Transformative Justice Collective, pod mapping deals with reflecting about who you can rely on for support. This activity is really meaningful to me because I was given the tools to think about who in my life I felt comfortable enough to go to if I experienced or caused harm. It also built my courage to have conversations with these individuals and asking them if it was okay for them to be in my pod. I'm still working on my pod to this day and I'm so grateful I was able to start these conversations and be in an environment where I could learn about it in the first place. Also throughout this Program, I've been able to learn more about the importance of Transformative Justice, which focus on preventative measures when dealing with harm, supporting those who have been harmed, and destroying the systems that allow harm to happen in the first place. Also learning about Transformative Justice and its relationship with Crisis Response, Disability Justice, expressing boundaries, and what it truly means to hold yourself accountable. As a young person in the City, I have seen countless times in which youth have not been supported when it comes to our needs and what we deem as justice. In fact, school is a perfect example of this. There has (sic) been many... multiple instances where youth have relied on support from administration but instead their well-being was put at risk and in many cases, physically and mentally not protected. I've had instances where I have talked to my friends and we were even afraid to step foot in that building, the need to walk on eggshells. This shouldn't be the case and the fact that it is, it's extremely disappointing. Additionally, a lot of the punitive measures that happen disproportionately affect BIPOC students leading to things like the school to prison pipeline and BIPOC students feeling isolated. But, with the Cambridge Youth HEART cohort, we are steering away from these punitive outcomes and systems since it creates a dangerous pattern affecting marginalized groups that I and the rest of the participants of the you- HEART Coalition are a part of. Instead, a Cohort, built with 10 BIPOC youth, are committed to the practices of Transformative Justice and abolition. We created Youth HEART because the practices we wanted to learn about didn't exist. This Program has taught me that not only is it important to learn from our teachers throughout this process and there has (sic) been so many amazing people that have shared space with us, but also how crucial it is to unlearn our own biases and habits that had been instilled in us at such a young age. A lot of the things I listed, they unfortunately don't teach you in school, and if I'm being honest, this is my fourth week being a part of this amazing group and I've learned more than my full K-12 education, since in school, we are constantly exposed to whitewash curriculum and the notion to obey White Supremacist ideologies, which is extremely hurt-damaging to BIPOC youth. Cambridge HEART supplements what CPSD cannot offer. With Cambridge HEART, we are building new ways of healing Community and justice, which is so important so that we can live in an equitable society, a safe society, a society that values abolition. With that being said, I urge members

of the City Council and the City Manager to commit to supporting and amplifying the Cambridge HEART exactly as written, and invest in the development and implementation of the HEART Program as a Community-based alternative to Public Safety outside of the Police. Thank you for your time.

Queen-Cheyenne Wade: Thank you so much, Aliana. That was incredibly powerful. Um, I am really, really excited to pass it over to Grace, um, an- as well, who is another Youth HEART Cohort member, um, from the last of our Community testimony last, but certainly not least. So, Grace, if you're able to unmute yourself as well.

Grace Clemente: Yes, thank you. Um, hi everyone. My name is Grace. I use she/her pronouns. Um, I'm a rising Junior at CRLS and I've lived in Cambridge my whole life. Um, I'm here today as a member of the Youth Cohort, um, to urge the City and council- City and... City Council and the City Manager of Cambridge to invest in the implementation of the Cambridge HEART Program. The HEART Program is a Community-based Holistic Emergency Alternative Response Team Program that does not, um, involve Cambridge Police and other carceral systems and supports marginalized members in Cambridge. As a member of the h- har- Youth HEART Cohort, I'm engaging in learning about holistic ways of responding to harm, violence, and conflict that do not rely on policing and punishment systems, but rather systems of care, inter- interdependence, and healing. This is important to me because today's students are experiencing record levels of depression, anxiety, and many forms of trauma, notably because of the extended time young people were isolated at home during our time of quarantine. Many of my friends and students at CRLS and other school- and other high schools have experienced traumatic events during quarantine, um, have lost family members, have gained new, um, mental health issues, mental illnesses, um, and coming back to school this following year, there are many anxious students, many students who have not interacted with people in over years... over a year, um, and will have, um, have trouble communicating those issues if there are not, um, accessible resources for them. So students who are going through crises like mental health crises or anxiety attacks and need support, Police Officers are not trained and equipped to deal with those students, and w- in fact, they're gonna lead to more, um, harmful resources. Um, so I have some statistics from the ACLU that states that students with disabilities were arrested at a rate - at a rate 2.9 times of students without disabilities. In some States, they were given 10 times as likely arrested than their counterparts. Black students were arrested at a rate three times that of White students, and in some states, they were eight times as likely to be arrested. Black and Latino boys with disabilities were 3% of students but were 12% of schools and arrests. That shows how many students of color are being disproportionately arrested and, um - um, have disproportionately or interactions with Police Officers than White students. Um, another fact from the ACLU I have is that recent researchers show that the pre- presence of Police in schools result in significantly higher levels of arrests. Um, schools with Police Officers reported nearly 3.5 times more arrests than in schools without Police. It also results in the criminalization of routine discipline issues that do not impact

school safety, with students being sent to Juvenile Court rather than their Principal's Office. However, schools that have more school-based mental health providers and see improved, um, see improved attendance rates, lower rates of disciplinary incidents, and improve academic rates and higher graduation rates. So the HEART Program allows students to learn about, um, de-escalation training, mediation training, um, how to deal with conflicts so students can deal with student conflict. Um, I've interviewed a count... a number of students, um, in my grade and above, um, asking if they were in crisis, who would they like to talk to? And countless number of students said they would rather speak to a student-on-student, um, conversation to help deal with their, um, crises and go from there. Um, I have seen... as a young person in the City, I have seen the ways that youth have not been supported in advocating for our needs. I've seen that this year, um, and before... and countless years before, um, sorry. The Youth HEART Cohort is built with 10, like, Aliana said 10 BIPOC Cambridge students who are committed to the practices of the Transformative Justice and abolition away from systems of policing and punishment. We created Youth HEART because the practices we wanted to learn did not exist. We must work with the new - new larger Community to include youth and all those impacted by policing systems to build new ways of healing Community and justice. Um, I urge members of the City Council and City Manager to commit to supporting Cambridge HEART exactly, um, as written, investment development and implementation of the HEART Program as a Community-based alternatives (sic) to Public Safety outside of Police. Thank you for your time.

Queen-Cheyenne Wade: Thank you so much, Grace. Um, and I, um, want to turn it back over to the City Council, um, or Councillor Zondervan, um, for Public Comment and for questions from City Council and staff. Um, uh, we really hope that, um, folks who are also participants on this Panel were really able to hear the experiences, um, and the needs of all of the folks who gave their testimony in this space today. Thank you.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: Great. Thanks so much, Queen-Cheyenne and all the Panelists. That was very, uh, powerful testimony and - and a really great presentation. Um, Mr. Clerk, we... do we have, um, people signed up for Public Comment?

Mr. Clerk: We have eight people signed up for Public Comment.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: Thanks, so if we can hear from them now.

Unidentified Female Speaker: Yeah (inaudible).

Mr. Clerk: First person signed up for Public Comment is Huma Gupta.

Naomi: Huma was on but seems to have left. Um, Carolyn Magid, please go ahead. Carolyn Magid, please unmute yourself. You have the Floor.

Unidentified Male Speaker: (Inaudible).

Carolyn Magid: Second. Okay, hello, can you hear me?

Mr. Clerk: Yes...

Queen-Cheyenne Wade: Yes.

Mr. Clerk: ...go ahead.

Carolyn Magid: Okay. Hi, my name is Carolyn Magid. I live at 71 Reed Street. I'm a member of Our Revolution Cambridge and also a member of the HEART Coalition led by the Black Response. It's great that the Council so strongly supported the HEART Proposal. Now it's time for the City Manager to fund it so that the City of Cambridge can benefit from all that it offers. It's been a wonderful opportunity, really an honor, to work in the Coalition that has produced this HEART Proposal. Our Coalition includes impacted individuals, Community groups and Service Providers in an open and collaborative process. We have the support of important Community organizations. We have learned from best practices of groups all over the Country and leading Alternative Response Experts and have created an evidence based and workable plan for Cambridge. HEART calls for an Independent Agency led and staffed by trained Community members. A system where the Community rather than the Police ensure many aspects of Public safety. It will meet Community needs and provide Community jobs. HEART is a paradigm changing holistic approach to Public Safety rooted in Transformative Justice. I've been politically active in Cambridge for many years and have seen virtually no programs with as much potential for Transformative Justice and for en- engaging Community members in meeting the self-defined needs of impacted individuals. I urge the City Manager to fund HEART exactly as developed and requested by our Coalition. Thanks.

Mr. Clerk: The next speaker is Marilyn Frankenstein.

Marilyn Frankenstein: Um, can - can people hear me?

Mr. Clerk: We can hear you. Go ahead.

Marilyn Frankenstein: Marilyn Frankenstein, a Holworthy Street resident for 40 years, and speaking in support of generously funding and supporting the HEART Program, building on Policy Order 114. And since that passed, I have become a member of the HEART Coalition as I was so impressed by the work that's being done. I wanna quote Bill Fletcher, a long time Trade Unionist and Public Intellectual, past President of TransAfrica Forum. He recently stated in an article, it is important to understand White Privilege as representing a system rather than a set of holiday presents given out to so-called White people. White Privilege means a system that ensures a differential treatment imposed on populations by the ruling elite. This is not in the main a problem of the behavior of this or that individual. This differential in treatment is built into the system and into the State over decades and centuries. It plays itself out in all fields including jobs, housing, education, healthcare, and Law Enforcement. So, respecting what, now this is me, respecting and understanding Fletcher's analysis, in order to break that grip of White Supremacy which creates so much inequality and injustice for all of us, it is vital to support new autonomous systems, new institutions, new relationships

created and led by the people who have been severely marginalized by the ravages of White Supremacy, relationships created through transparent collaborative processes involving the Cambridge Community service provided (missing audio).

Mr. Clerk: Carolyn, are you still there? I'm sorry, um, Marilyn...

Marilyn Frankenstein: (Missing audio) is and Community organizations. The (missing audio) me. Uh...

Mr. Clerk: Yeah, you're going in and out.

Marilyn Frankenstein: Okay. My internet is a mess. Um, to make this vision a reality, please fund HEART generously so it can succeed. The giga- (missing audio) budget must be reconsidered in our wonderful justice-oriented Cambridge Community. And equally important as well, funding this Community Safety initiative is keeping HEART intact and as a set structure so that, again, we can respect Bill Fletcher's analysis. I'm finished.

Mr. Clerk: Yep, the next speaker is Cathy Hoffman.

Cathy Hoffman: Can you hear me?

Mr. Clerk: Yes, please go ahead.

Cathy Hoffman: Can you hear me?

Mr. Clerk: We can hear you. Please go ahead.

Cathy Hoffman: Okay. Uh, Cathy Hoffman, 67 Pleasant Street. Just adding my voice as a lifelong Cantabrigian peace and racial social justice activist here for more than 50 decades. Peace Commission Director dealing directly with violence, working with young people, holding Circles, promoting violence prevention within the bounds that we had available. Peaceable Schools and Community Leader at Lesley University for 20 years. Member of the HEART family and recovering human being adding my voice to HEART and its inspiring possibility for Cambridge. Excuse me. What would allow success for Emergency Response that enables real change? Three things I think. One, vision based in transformative values with progressive governance led by those representing the Communities most involved and a practical operations plan. Two, a comprehensive and sustainable program, comprehensive by being informed by the most experienced Practitioners on the ground and wide input involvement in the local Community, sustainable through engagement of trained volunteers and paid staff to ensure continuity. And, three, outreach to connections with historically excluded Communities, the Unhoused, Public Housing Residents, Communities of color, poor people and people with mental health issues. How does the HEART Program measure up? Check. Check. Check. The only thing slowing down the next steps of fleshing out practical details and implementations is a check from the City. The testimonies you're hearing today are but a fraction of the voices on the ground which attest to the extraordinary outreach and vision of this Program. Voices hardly heard here at City Council and amplified by circle upon circle of Allies and Practitioners eager to make this reality. But what HEART can't provide that is so

needed is Public spaces for the Unhoused, for Communities of Cambridge to congregate, to socialize, to receive resources, as well as housed spaces for healing and treatment and recovering from trauma that are not incarceration. But what they can do is an effective, humane and powerful plan for engagement that is not Police based. I wholeheartedly encourage all of us to say, let's just do this. Thank you.

Mr. Clerk: The next speaker is Alaina Layrton (phonetic).

Naomi: I believe we heard from Alaina (phonetic) during the meeting, so the next speaker will be Louise Parker.

Louise Parker: Hi, thank you. My name is Louise Parker and I live at 1 Warwick Park in North Cambridge. I'm a member of Our Revolution Cambridge, Cambridge DSA and the HEART Coalition. I believe that the City must fund this visionary Program, which has strong support from both the Community and the overwhelming majority of City Councillors. HEART (sic) we create a Community Response Team that would bypass the Cambridge Police and other carceral systems services. We provide services desperately needed by marginalized communities such as assistance with housing issues, mutual aid, transportation to services, conflict resolution through Restorative and Transformative practices. The Program is similar to and has been endorsed that are pioneers in alternative Public Safety such as CAHOOTS as well as the other such Programs Nationwide and we heard from one today. One of the reasons I believe so strongly in this Program is it's been designed through a collaborative process that you've heard in great detail about, with marginal Community members. Those are the most harmed by existing carceral systems as well as Service Providers and Community organizations. Further, it draws on existing research and experience of similar programs and thus is truly evidence-based and a best practice Program. Finally, built into the Program is a commitment to continuously evaluate and refine practices. Because of this extensive, thorough and fully participatory design process and commitment to ongoing research and refinement, HEART is ideally structured for success, uh, in meeting Community goals and needs. Cambridge prides itself on standing for equity and social justice. And it's the spirit of these values that I urge the (inaudible) to invest in Cambridge HEART exactly as it's written so that we can implement this visionary community-based alternative to Public Safety outside of the Police. Thank you so much for your time today.

Mr. Clerk: The next speaker - the next speaker is Robert Cesari.

Naomi: Robert Cesari, please unmute...

Robert Cesari: Oh.

Naomi: ...yourself.

Robert Cesari: Yes, I am unmuted now. Uh, my name's Robert Cesari. I live at 54 Concord Avenue in Cambridge, and I fully support the adoption of the HEART Program, uh, the alternative policing and treatment strategy. I spent many years in the Criminal Justice Legal System in Mass., um, and about half of that time was

spent in courtrooms. So, I've seen everything. Um, my experience tells me that many people would be more likely to call a mental health crisis or social intervention team rather than the Police in a crisis... personal crisis situation, uh, such as those involving domestic turmoil or drug addiction. Police... people calling in a crisis situation do have concerns about privacy and confidentiality when Police could be using any crisis situation for surveillance or intelligence gathering about an individual, a household, or the Community. Studies show that surveillance techniques such as FIO, Field Interrogation and Observation, are applied in an inequitable way. I know that people calling Police for help in a crisis have concerns about winding up on one of many Police Department lists, like, the Do Not Release list as an example. HEART implementation would avoid confrontational or violent encounters that are possible when armed Police respond to a crisis. A HEART team could be more capable of diffusing and de-escalating the potentially volatile - volatile situation. Implementing HEART will solve inequities in access to quality treatment resources for both domestic abuse prevention and drug addiction. And I refer you to a 2004 report for the Massachusetts Trial Court about the efficacy of a treatment approach to domestic abuse prevention. I do adopt you, or, I do urge you to adopt the HEART proposal. Thank you.

Mr. Clerk: The next speaker is Monty Montero-Elliott.

Monty Montero-Elliott: Hi, everyone, can you hear me?

Mr. Clerk: We can hear you. Please go ahead.

Monty Montero-Elliott: Hey, everyone. Uh, Monty Montero-Elliott, Sydney Street, uh, part of the Cambridge Democratic Socialists, lifetime Resident and Community member. Uh, I urge the City Council to invest in the camb- in the HEART Program exactly as written in Policy Order 114. My mother, a woman with a disability and a Disability Rights Advocate, has long impressed upon me the phrase, nothing about us without us. That has always been an important and central value to me. That people, particularly marginalized people, have the space and the autonomy to create, control, and change the policies that affect them and their Community. HEART gets that. This independent Community-based Emergency Response Program was built collaboratively with impacted Community members, local organizations, and Service Providers. In its ethos and its leadership and employment and pra- and employment practices, it centers Black Communities, Communities of color, Communities with disabilities, Houseless Communities, young people, and the people most affected by violence. I believe that HEART is the most comprehensive and promising Public Safety proposal in the City precisely because of this. The Program is committed to working outside punitive options such as Social Workers and Police and we need those non-punitive, unarmed service programs to help people in need. Many Community orgs such as the Material Aid and Advocacy Program we heard from earlier, the Margaret Fuller House, and the Cambridge Women's Center have committed to working with this Program. In multiple meetings over the past, the Community is, uh, members of the Community have called in to express support

for this Program to say nothing of members of the City Council. It was very heartening to see Policy Order 114 pass, and I urge the Council to please invest in HEART's implementation exactly as written. Thank you very much for your attention.

Mr. Clerk: Naomi, I believe that's all we have for Public Speakers. Is that correct?

Naomi: Right, um, the remaining two are, uh, folks that spoke during the Panel.

Mr. Clerk: Councillor Zondervan, tho- that completes Public Comment.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: Thank you, Mr. Clerk (sic), and thank you to the members of the Public who spoke. Um, we will now hear from my Colleagues on the committee. I see Councillor Carlone, he has his hand raised. Councillor Carlone.

Dennis J. Carlone: Thank you, uh, Mr. Chair. That was, uh, an excellent, uh, very thorough presentation. Um, I - I - I believe the Manager, um, has a pro- a proposal or - or - or at least an introduction to a proposal, and at... normally in our meetings, we have City Staff also presenting and maybe I - I don't know what your plans are for the meeting, but maybe it would be helpful to have a City response to move the idea forward.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: Thank you, Councillor. I - I don't know if the City Manager is prepared to comment at this time, but I believe he is in the meeting. So if you would like to speak, he's welcome to. There he is.

Louis A. DePasquale: Uh, I... I'll be happy to - to just say a few words and then I think maybe we could set up another meeting where we can get into more details, especially as we continue our discussion with the group to make sure that we are continuing to make progress. But, we have spent a lotta time reviewing the proposal. I've had a team of about seven members really working hard to come up with a proposal that we feel works best for the City. I think we've had two productive meetings, I would say, in terms of working with the Black Response Group on this HEART proposal. Uh, I think we are making progress. I sent a letter today to the group stating, you know, where we feel we can work together based on the meeting we had. Uh, I think this is a change that makes the City stronger in providing a service that we all agree with. I think this is some differences in terms of the ECC communications and 911 calls and - and for things like that and ownership of a still being part of a City department where we would probably contract out with the HEART agency for many, many services pretty similar to the ones they've had. We've had... we've got six services listed that we feel we could work very closely with them. I think we've made good progress. I don't wanna speak for them, but I - I really think at the end, we could come up with somethin' that would provide services differently when it comes to Police and Public Safety. Uh, the Police team is fully behind the proposal that we're making. We think it is important to look at these areas and how we can do it differently than we've done in the past. Uh, I think this group has done an

incredible job working to show different ways the City can approach this. Uh, I would say that the real issue for us is we still feel we want the ownership, especially around 911. We've done a lot of research with other cities and towns, and I think we could come up hopefully with a kind of a v- a version of both plans to make this a much better service for the residents of the City of Cambridge. And, you know, I think in the next couple of weeks we can have this even more fine tuned hopefully, and we wanna continue our meetings with the Black Response group, uh, to finalize this proposal, hopefully. But, uh, I think we're making good progress. I think we can come up with somethin' that we all can support, uh, and we're still tryin' to fine tune that. Uh, but it is a lotta work 'cause this is doing somethin' totally different. And what we wanna do is have something in place sooner than later, but also we don't wanna do something in place sooner that doesn't have long-range impact. So it's almost like how we get started. How do we do something quickly while HEART is still working on building their operation, how we can support certain aspects of that and then continue to grow. So it's not like this contract says we're doing this and that's the end of it. We would continue to work together to find more services that the City could then use with this Organization. I think it's a - it's a real good opportunity for the City to work with an Agency that we think can do a good job helping us, uh, provide services differently than we have in the past. I'm excited about the discussions we've had, and I'm hopin' we can continue to move forward with them, and we have the full support of the Police Commissioner, the Police Department, the ECC Director, and all the City Department heads that this is a f- this is a way we feel can work, uh, well for this... Residents of the City.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: Thank you, Mr. Manager. Uh, Councillor Carlone.

Dennis J. Carlone: Uh, thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, Mr. Manager. I - I was... we were all hoping that, uh, that that would be the kind of presentation, uh, you would offer. I realize it's a process and the process goes on, um, but I do wanna say one thing very positive about the Black Response presentation. I saw, uh, m- m- much of the same presentation at a - a meeting that they held recently, but I felt what was missing was a graduation of dates, and, um, I didn't say anything, but you included that and that shows it's a r- it's very realistic on starting up something like this. So I think both of you, that is, uh, Queen-Cheyenne and the Manager, are talking about that and, uh, I as one Councillor encourage the process to continue. I know it's not gonna be perfect from both sides, but hopefully we can come... I've often accused of seeking the perfect when the good is great, uh, but I'm hoping that we can come very close to getting the first step on this going in the right direction. Uh, again, uh, thank you, Mr. Manager, and thank you, Queen-Cheyenne. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Louis A. DePasquale: I would just jump in and I agree with Councillor Carlone. I really feel that we can work together, uh, and come up with a proposal, and we'll be happy to also make a presentation. Uh, we were not asked to do that at this meeting but we wanted to be here to listen to the presentation, uh, in support of the hard work this group is doing, and I think that's one of the reasons we're here. But also to continue to listen so that we can get... come together to come up with a

real proposal that we can present to the City Council that we feel, uh, will make the needs of our Residents stronger.

Dennis J. Carlone: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I yield.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: Thank you. Thank you, Councillor and City Manager, and - and, yeah, just by way of explanation obviously as the City Manager just said the - the discussions between the HEART, um, Program and the City are - are ongoing. And so when we scheduled this meeting, we didn't know where that would be at. So we - we set this meeting up as a presentation on the HEART proposal, but I - I would be happy to have a follow-up, uh, when we have a - a more clear, uh, answer in terms of how we're moving forward. So thank you for that update.

Louis A. DePasquale: Thank you.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: Um, I have... thank you. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler.

Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler: And I thank you and, uh, thanks to the, uh, Panelists for presenting today. Um, I - I just had one sort of follow-up question, uh, and - and sort of touched on in the presentation in that there have been Community approaches to - to Public Safety for, um, a long time, um, but that sort of a formal one funded by the - the City would be new to Cambridge and again a, um, is something that other municipalities are looking at but that there, um, haven't been traditionally, uh, this kind of, uh, m- City-funded approach to alternative approach to Public Safety. There's a - a couple models that I'm sure folks are aware of like CAHOOTS, uh, and Denver and Oakland programs, um, but every... with so many, um, uh, a bunch attention to this, I think there's gonna be new programs coming out as well. And, um, I was just wondering if the Panelists, uh, could talk a little bit about how the few existing programs that are out there like CAHOOTS, um, uh, compare to the - the HEART model and - and maybe how they contrast or what are some new elements. I think that the education piece that a number of, uh, folks talked about would - would be sort of a - a new avenue that's exciting. But I'm just interested to - to hear and - and for the - the folks watching if we could talk a little bit more about sort of what's, um, w- how the HEART Program compares, contrasts, what's - what's new.

Queen-Cheyenne Wade: Yeah, I'm going to assume that that's a question for me, um, and I really appreciate that question. Um, I think, uh, when we are talking about, um, definitely, you know, alternative programs that we're thinking about, um, you know, I think we are definitely looking at main, um, ideas of, uh, you know, definitely the relationship with the City. Um, is it, you know, more of a Grassroots organization? Is it completely in the City? Is it a Quango? Um, I think that has definitely been, you know, a criteria we've looked at and we've looked at the compensation, um, in support of Responders, um, specifically. So, you know, again, how are folks being compensated? Are folks being paid enough to stay in the City? Um, how is, um, the employment, um, of folks actually being done? Is it a Co-Responder model? Um, is it more Community based? Are you actually hiring, you know, folks in the Community, um, as a part of not just the response

structure, the - the, um, outreach, but also a part of the Governance structure, um, that is definitely also been, you know, a big part for us. Um, Stephanie and Ann, please jump in if there's anything else that I'm missing. Um, and I definitely know it's also been really thinking about, of course, the relationship, um, to the Police. And I think a really big, um, kind of misnomer that's been put on CAHOOTS a lot is that they are, you know, really in close cahoots, right, with the Police, um, when that's just not the case, um, and Tim Black has talked about that on multiple occasions. Um, when it is a lot more of a supporting Community members in engaging in Police interactions, um, then CAHOOTS actually engaging with Police and themselves. Um, and I know that that is something that the HEART has also definitely thought as an important element is really supporting Community members who might not know the interact... on how to interact with Police Officers, how to interact with the Law, um, and the different Know Your Rights trainings, um, that Responders would be able to support, um, Community members with as well. So I think those are some main elements that we've also been looking at, um, specifically in the differences between Mental Health First, CAHOOTS, um, Project LEX, Denver Street Alliance, um, Urban Strategies, you know, Macro. Um, these that are definitely, you know, uh, Organizations that, um, again, are definitely holding many of the s- the same values but operating in different ways, um, and I think, you know, whether it's through the City, Grassroots, um, or a mixture of, we've definitely been able to get a lot of really great, um, information from all of them. I also know that I've shared this, um, in a couple of spaces with folks in this in g- a variety of different spaces with folks in - in this Panel, but, um, I have also created, um, a large master list of all of the programs that we have been in conversation with, their programmatic elements and how it actually differs from HEART, including the Public Safety Task Force. So if folks are interested in reading that, I am more welcome to, or, more than happy to send that over to folks to have a much more in-depth element but, I think, going through all of those programs might be, uh, taking up, uh, the last 30 minutes of our time. So, uh, I will definitely make sure to follow up and send that over.

Stephanie Guirand: Can I - can I add something? Um, one of the critical things, um, that we've been looking at is, um, I... and I think to some degree Ann spoke to this in the liability discussion, but around the payment of Responders. Um, so we know that Mental Health First, for example, their Responders are volunteer only and that's because they operate under the Good Samaritan Law in California. And they - they realize that as an Organization that is a 501(c)(3) not funded by the Cities where they operate, both Oakland and Sacramento, that in order for them to cover themselves because of the liability concerns, that they don't pay their First Responders. And that's also the case with, uh, Project LEX, in, um, in Providence, Rhode Island. Uh, but... so we were interested in figuring out how it is that we can pay Responders because there was a previous organization in Cambridge. Um, I can't remember the name. Queen might know. Um, what is it? CCRT? Um, that operated in Cambridge from the... I wanna say 1988 to 2008 when we interviewed a former Executive Director of that Organization, and they - they had a volunteer only, um, like, First Responder, that, like, ju- Community servicing organization

that, like, c- uh, sur- um, supported Community members, um, after violent conflicts in Communities. Um, and part of the problem with that, among, uh, many, uh, things was that they really relied on Black and Brown, uh, low-income folks to... from the Communities that they were serving, and they trained them and gave them resources to be able to service their own Communities. But at the same time, w- we noticed that they were asking Black and Brown people who are already marginalized economically to volunteer their time to - to do this work, and it should be paid work because n- m- uh, you can't afford to live in Cambridge if you're spending your time volunteering, um, especially if you're already low income. And so we realized that in order for us to be able to, like, implement, um, any kind of, like, sustainable organization in the City, we would need to find a paid model. Um, other paid models like CAHOOTS, for example, CAHOOTS is, uh, of, um, part of a 501(c)(3) organization that is a Clinic, the White Bird Clinic. Um, and they are partially funded by the City Government as well as, like, because they're, um, a Clinical Service that they - they accept health insurance, they accept donor, uh, donations, they get a lot of di- they have multiple avenues, uh, of - of - of funding so that they're able to fund their Responders which is very different from what we're proposing with HEART. So it's not really the model that we were looking for. So we kept... we talked to lots of different organizations to sorta figure it out. Um, ultimately though the model that we fell under, um, didn't actually come from a First Responder Program the way that we're thinking of it alternatively, it's actually a very foundational one. It's, uh, Volunteer Firefighters. Their vol- uh, their liability concerns are met by, um, insurance providers. And so their sh- insurance companies... so those are the insurance companies we sought to learn from. When we invited them to speak with us, um, the National, um, nonprofit insurance provider said that it made sense to actually h- um, hire a fully paid staff and have zero volunteers so that they would fall, uh, under Massachusetts Law, even though they don't service Massachusetts, um, that it made sense for us to hire a fully paid staff that, uh, and get Liability Insurance through some existing, um, uh, Insurer in Massachusetts, and we've been in conversation with several insurance providers in Massachusetts, um, as... and so that would cover the liability concerns, right? And so we wouldn't have to operate under the Good Samaritan Law. We would be covered via this insurance policy, um, and by housing, uh, the Program outside of the City, that would also mean that the City is not liable to any, like, you know, missteps that, um, that First resp- that Responders, um, might take. So that is that the City couldn't be sued for the work that, um, that the, uh, the HEART Program does. The HEART would be using its liability insurance to cover the cost, and that Massachusetts has, um, restrictions on the range, uh, of th- uh, of, um, how much it would cost for - for any kind of liability concerns. Um, so if we were to go to court as a - a 501(c)(3) we'd be protected both by our insurance as well as Massachusetts State Law or Commonwealth Law. Um, and this is all stuff that we've learned by bringing s- uh, speakers to the Coalition meetings. Um, and I can speak to it further. I'm... there's a lot to say on the issue. Um, I just wanna say that we... I'm sort of sitting with some conflict right now around, um, the process with the City in that we wanna make sure that we don't disadvantage the

Community members that we seek to support by this Program. That is, um, relegating the - the knowledge and experience of low-income Black and Brown people in this City to street workers so that we can underpay them is actually going to further, um, economically, uh, and racially stratify the City of Cambridge, which we are already b- like, struggling with the o- sort of bleaching of the City. Um, and this par- this Program, um, is an attempt to prevent that from happening and from multiple angles. And I wanna say that in further conversations with the City, um, well I wanna remind everyone here today, um, all the City Councillors here today, that the Speakers all said to fund HEART as written, which means engaging with the structure that we've - that we've collectively put together that said that we need to fund the worker from this Program so that we can pay workers to, uh, adequately so that they can stay in Cambridge. Like, that's the aim. And if we don't do that, then we are contributing to the bleaching of Cambridge. And so I want that to sit with folks as we are having these conversations. But I'm - I'm happy to answer more liability questions if folks have them. Sorry. I'll shut up now.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: Thanks, Stephanie. Um, I see Ann Jenks has her hand raised. Uh, Ann.

Ann Jenks: Uh, just very quickly. Um, I have been having conversations with people across the U.S. and also in Canada. Um, and there's now a group that kind of gets together informally, uh, and talks. And there are many, many different, uh, programs that are set up differently, that are under the Fire Department, that are independent, that are not, you know, based in a Nonprofit, etc. There's a whole bunch of different models. And what they are responding to differs, who is on the teams differs, the hours, the services, it all differs. Um, and it's often the result of just kind of the political situation that they were in and whether they were willing to delay starting a program in order to work on - on how it was gonna be implemented, etc. For example, in San Francisco where they wanted to start a program very rapidly and they did it in the Fire Department using existing staff essentially, there sh- remains a Community, uh, program that is, uh - uh - uh, working on getting supported separately from that, right? So they're gonna end up with two different programs because they didn't... they weren't able to take the time to kind of w- work together to - to develop something to address the broader range of needs. Um, but what's been fascinating to me is whenever I talk to folks about things like the use of Clinicians versus well-trained Community members, um, the - the - the programs that are relying on Clinicians, for example, say that they wish they didn't have to. Uh, when we talk about, you know, paying well enough to ensure that there's low turnover and there's good compensation for what are gonna be very, very difficult jobs, programs that know that they are underpaying people make a point of saying, yeah, I really wish that this... we were able to do that. So it's really been very interesting but the... some of the models that HEART have developed, if you talk to these Programs that are doing things differently throughout the Country, what you hear over and over again is, I wish that we were able to do it more Community grounded, that w- you know, relying more on Community members to respond to Community needs and listening to

the Community. And we regret that our... the - the reality of how we were able to implement it was such that we couldn't do that. So, um, I mean, I - I'm happy to have a beer with anybody and - and regale you for a very long time on the specifics of a lot of things. But the bottom line is, I hear this over and over again, um, in terms of the different response models. It's really quite interesting. Thank you.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: Thanks so much, Ann. Um, Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler, do you have further questions?

Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler: I don't know. I'm happy to yi- yield back. Thank you.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: Thanks so much. Um, Vice Mayor Mallon.

Alanna M. Mallon: Uh, thank you, Mr. Chair, um, and thank you to Queen-Cheyenne, Ann Jenks, Stephanie, and the rest who presented here today. Um, I'm glad to get an update and thanks to the City Manager for providing a little bit of, um, the background of what's been going on, uh, between the HEART, uh, the Black Response and the City in regards to the HEART proposal and the work that's been done. I know that, um, the City Manager and his team as well as the, uh, Police Department are really committed to, um, making sure that we get to a place where, um, we can really implement something innovative here in Cambridge. So, uh, I'm really excited to hear what's coming next. Uh, my only question really at this point is the City Manager mentioned that he'd be, um, having some more meetings with the Black Response and would be ready to present something to the City Council. I'm just curious if there was a - a timeline or some kind of, um, time that we can think about where we might see that in front of us.

Louis A. DePasquale: Uh, so through you, Mr. Chair. I think that we've had... and again I don't wanna speak for Black Response but from my point of view, we've had two very productive meetings. I think, uh, we will continue to have this discussion. If we continue to have productive meetings and we feel like we're heading in the right direction, uh, we will... we would be hoping that sometime in September we would have a recommendation that both, uh, groups can agree with. I - I wanted to try to come up with somethin' that this is not the City's recommendation. This is a joint recommendation that the City has worked closely with, uh, to make sure that we're both on the same page. And again, what we're proposing is not identical to what the propo- original proposal is, but we feel it - it brings the two together. It makes major change in the way we provide service. It will take the Police out of a large percentage of services they provide. The Police Commissioner is in full support of that. Uh, the biggest thing for us is to keep the ECC piece which we found no City has taken that piece away that we know of, so we di- we feel comf- important that that needs to stay. And we would be creating a City department to work with the Black Response team. It would be separate from the Police Department, that that structure is still working on to be very honest. And then that structure would contract with this Organization to provide multiple services related to the presentation that they've had. And I think we can get this done, uh, sooner than later and I think it's like I said, I'd like to get it

started so we can get the ball rolling. This is somethin' that I think will make Cambridge a unique place. It'll be a one of a kind to be very honest what we're proposing, and I think it can grow as a- as we can see the Black Response team has done tremendous work and I can't believe how quickly they've put this all together, and it's gonna continue to get better. And how we let their Group work closer with our Group to provide services that we traditionally have not provided I think is important how we work with them to provide services that we provided with our Police Department now through them is important, and - and those are the kinda options. It's gonna take some time to work out 'cause this is a major change, but it's something that we are fully behind working with them to come up with somethin' that, again, provides the best service for all the Residents of the City of Cambridge. So, I think we're making progress and I think if we continue the discussion, we can come up with a plan that hopefully when we present it to the Council, both sides are in support of. That is certainly my goal.

Alanna M. Mallon: Ho- thank you, uh, Mr. Chair, and through you to the City Manager. So we can look forward to some kind of recommendation hopefully in September that will be coming forward after some more meetings with yourself, your team and the Black Response. Um, I think that's really exciting. It's coming right up. It's may... a couple of months from now so I think you're right. It was, um, it's been amazing to see this all come together and come together quickly. So, um, kudos to the Black Response, uh, and your team for really working together. And I also just wanna call out and support and uplift, um, Councillors Nolan and McGovern for doing a lot of the work, um, in coordinating some of these meetings and making sure that, um, these meetings happen, that people come to the table, and that there's really collaborative work that happens. So, um, I just thank you to Councillors Nolan and McGovern. I'll - I'll yield back at this time 'cause I know time is short and that was really my only question is when will we see it. So, thank you, Mr. Chair. I yield back.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: Thank you, Vice Mayor. Um, any other Councillors wish to ask any questions? Uh, Councillor Nolan.

Patricia M. Nolan: Thank you, Chair Zondervan, and I'm not on the Public Safety Committee but I definitely wanted to be here and as the Vice Mayor so eloquently said, uplift the Black Response for it may not seem like this is moving as fast as some of us would want and yet it's been an incredibly fast process, and it has really pushed along more than I, um, had expected, and I think that's a testimony to the urgency that the Black Response has brought to the table. And also I do wanna thank the City Manager for moving. I think it's uncomfortable sometimes to recognize that, um, some of these circumstances that have been brought to the table are uncomfortable to hear and it's really, really important that we hear them, that we acknowledge them, and that we, uh, bring all of those, uh, people to the table so that we can... whatever program we move forward with is going to be the better for it. Um, my question on, um, I - I think through you, uh, Chair, uh, Zondervan, is whether there's any other future meetings being planned right now or that are we going to have the Black Response and the City work together and then they'll be coming forward with some perhaps joint proposal, and

there'll be some back and forth that many of us have been involved in and want to support. And if there's any sense from the Black Response of what additional information they need from us in order to move forward for the next steps.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: Thanks, Councillor. Um, uh, I'm not sure that question was for me or through me. I - I - I'm - I don't have any meetings planned at the moment, but I - I believe, um, the Black Response and the City Manager will continue to meet, um, over the summer and as the Manager said, uh, hopefully we'll have a proposal for us by September. So...

Patricia M. Nolan: Right.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: ...um, I'm certainly happy to schedule a - a Committee hearing at that time, uh, to - to discuss that proposal in - in more detail if - if that's what the Council wishes to do.

Louis A. DePasquale: And - and - and through you, Mr. Chair, I - I just wanna make clear that proposal in September is the start. It's not a final to say this is where, but I think it's to show that we're working together, it's to show we've got some early initiative. It's to get the ball rolling and then we can talk about where we plan to go in the future. So we won't have a major this is all resolved but I think it's to show that we're making progress. We're working together, and this will be where we're starting and where we hope to go and hope we can do it in a joint statement. That would be what I'm hoping for when - when we make this presentation. Thank you.

Patricia M. Nolan: Thanks and if I just continue, I also heard from, uh, Stephanie and I know Queen said this, too, that whatever programs are created it is not meant to be one that is not of an - an income level that allows, uh, folks who are involved to continue to participate. So we heard that. I know that's - that's something that was said. I'm - I'm - I'm certainly supportive of that and I, um, know that the City is listening as well that that is... that certainly the intention is to enter into this new phase of developing something the City hasn't done in this arena before, it has done it in some other places, but to really develop a partnership that meets the needs of the range of - of folks who have really poured heart and soul into this and - and let this project unfold in a way that hopefully will be... build on CAHOOTS and other models in the country for an - an actual new model that other cities have not done as much. You know, I know Lynn is - is trying. Lynn has announced doing something. I think our Program will be even more comprehensive than that thanks to the work of, um, of the Black Response and developing the HEART proposal. And I wanna remind all of us they've been very clear that there's the Black Response and that's HEART, and while they're related, they are not the same. And I - I think that's another critical distinction that, um, Queen-Cheyenne and Stephanie and I know Dara in other meetings have made that is, um, quite a wonderful ab- n- uh, abil- uh, enables us to move forward in a way that we might not have been able to otherwise. So thanks so much. I yield, uh, Chair Zondervan.

Louis A. DePasquale: Uh, through - through you, Mr. Chair. If I can just add only 'cause I spoke to Lynn Mayer's Office today and they are in the early stages. They've hired a Consultant to help with them. But I do think we can also work together to find out what they're doin' and what we're doin' till we can make this a better product. So we are also in discussions with Lynn to find out whatever ideas they came and we'll be happy to talk to the Black Response team as well to see how we can do this better for everybody.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: Thanks so much, and thanks, Councillor Nolan. Uh, Queen-Cheyenne (inaudible).

Queen-Cheyenne Wade: Yeah, I really wanna, um, just go back to I think a really important point that Patty is talking about and I think, uh, again, Stephanie outlined this very clearly. I think we are really being very, very intentional about our relationship with all Institutions in engaging in this Program. Um, and I think, you know, again, like we have been talking about, there have been a lot of Community members who've been harmed by the existing Organizations that we are either trying to work with or work away from. Um, and so I think that again, it's just really important to center that it is a collaboration. And we, of course, are really, really working to collaborate, um, with all parts of the City, um, in really imagining a Program that can really support those, you know, of us who are the most marginalized in the City. Um, and I think I really just wanna m- you know, reiterate that there are folks in the City, specifically folks at MAAP who gave that testimony, um, who are - who are living out this harm right now, um, and who have given us alternatives based on their time and experience living in the City. Um, and so I think again, we you know, even myself, like, I c- I can say that I hold privilege, you know, being able-bodied person. Um, I don't know what it's like. You know, my mom was severely disabled then lived her whole life in Cambridge and had really horrible experiences with the EMT Services in Cambridge, um, and vowed being a chronically ill Black woman to never call EMT even when she was having seizures. Um, and so I think that this is really the centerpiece of what we need to be talking about here, um, and bringing folks to the table for, and I - I think, you know, of course we have been talking and I'm pretty sure I said Collaboration and Collectivism about 17 times in my presentation as a whole, um, and I really just want to center, um, and really just rename, um, that, you know, again this is not Stephanie's program. This is not Queen's program. We have really built this Program with the folks who are living, you know, they... these really marginalized experiences and lives, um, that are extremely unsafe, um, and we are really trying to work around what safety means for them. So collaboration is always welcome and we are definitely centering the needs of the folks who are actually on the street who are actually a- afraid to call the Police, who are actually afraid to call EMT Services and can't do that. Um, I think again, it's just really important to center that those are the folks that we're fighting for and those are the folks that we're working to protect through this Program.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: Thanks so much, Queen, and thanks, everyone, for this very powerful conversation. It's, uh, as it's been mentioned, it - it is

uncomfortable, um, to - to talk about these things but it's - it's critically important that we do because that's the only way that we can move forward and - and get to a better place. Um, you know, I... I've raised two children in Cambridge and as I've mentioned before, um, had to send my son away from Cambridge, uh, to keep him safe. And, you know, I - I have the privilege and means to do it... to do that but - but feel really concerned about, uh, our many Residents who don't have those options. And it gives me great hope that we are, uh, actively working on a Program like HEART because that can really transform, uh, our City and - and our future and really help a lot of people, um, both stay here in Cambridge and - and stay safe. So really, really, really deeply appreciate all the work that's gone into this and - and the tremendous progress that's been made. And I look forward to, uh, to that continuing. So again, thanks everyone and, uh, I'll entertain a Motion to adjourn.

Alanna M. Mallon: So moved.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: All right. On a Motion by Vice Mayor Mallon.

Mr. Clerk: On that Motion. Councillor Carlone.

Dennis J. Carlone: Yes.

Mr. Clerk: Yes. Vice Mayor Mallon.

Alanna M. Mallon: Yes.

Mr. Clerk: Yes. Councillor McGovern. Absent. Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler.

Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler: Yes.

Mr. Clerk: Yes. Councillor Zondervan.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: Yes.

Mr. Clerk: Yes. Motion passes, four in favor, one absent.

Quinton Y. Zondervan: Thanks, everyone.

Dennis J. Carlone: Good meeting. Good night.

CERTIFICATION

I, Cynthia Hepburn, a transcriber for Intellectix, do hereby certify that said proceedings were listened to and transcribed by me and were prepared using standard electronic transcription equipment under my direction and supervision; and I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript of the proceedings is a full, true, and accurate transcript to the best of my ability.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 7th day of October 2024.

Cynthia Hepburn