

**\*\*ATTENTION\*\***

The City Council meeting will be held in a hybrid format that may include both in-person AND virtual attendance via Zoom. Unless they have cause to appear virtually, Councilmembers will attend the meeting in person in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 220 N. 27th Street. In order to honor the Right of Participation and the Right to Know in Article II, Sections 8 and 9, of the Montana Constitution, the City of Billings and City Council are making every effort to meet the requirements of the open meeting laws.

Citizens are invited to:

- Review the Agenda Packet on the City's website at: [www.billingsmt.gov](http://www.billingsmt.gov) and click on "Your Government," "City Council," and "Agendas & Minutes".
- View the meeting:
  - On Community 7 TV - Channel 7 or Channel 507 -- Spectrum Cable. *(On evenings when there is a conflict with School District No. 2 Board meetings, the City Council meeting will be broadcast on Channel 8 - Spectrum Cable.)* Channel 7 or Channel 978 - TDS Fiber.
  - Online at [www.comm7tv.com](http://www.comm7tv.com) and click on the "Watch Live" icon. Community 7 also has links to their Facebook page and YouTube channel.
  - On the City's website at [www.billingsmt.gov](http://www.billingsmt.gov) and click on "Watch Meetings Online" on the homepage.
  - In-Person.
  - Virtually via Zoom (see the link below).

Citizens may submit public comment via the following methods:

- Mail: City Clerk, P.O. Box 1178, Billings, MT 59103
- Email: [Council@billingsmt.gov](mailto:Council@billingsmt.gov).
  - Emails received after 3:00 PM on the day of the meeting, may be posted on the Council's webpage the following day for public viewing.
- Attend the meeting in person.
- Attend the meeting virtually through Zoom by entering the Webinar ID and Passcode indicated below. Click on *Zoom Meeting Instructions* and *Zoom Hybrid Meeting Details* below for more information. The link will allow you to attend, view and participate in the meeting on your computer, laptop or smart phone. (You must have the Zoom App on your device [Click Here to Download Zoom App](#)) To provide public comment at the appropriate time, click on the "raise hand" icon located at the bottom of the screen and the moderator will unmute your device.
  - **Don't have a smart phone, computer or laptop?** That's okay -- you can attend a Zoom meeting using your **landline phone**. Call the Zoom phone number, 1.253.215.8782 to join the meeting and follow the operator's instructions. Want to give public comment? Simply "*raise your hand*" by pressing \*9 and the moderator will give you permission to speak when it is your turn. *\*Note this is a long distance toll number and charges may apply depending on your plan.*
- Click Here for [Zoom Meeting IDs and Passcodes](#)
- Click Here for [Zoom Meeting Instructions for Attendees \(as guests\)](#)

Please contact Denise Bohlman, City Clerk, at [bohlmand@billingsmt.gov](mailto:bohlmand@billingsmt.gov), or at 406.657.8210, with any questions.



**VISION STATEMENT:**  
"The Magic City: A diverse,  
welcoming community  
where people prosper and  
business succeeds."

**WORK SESSION AGENDA  
DECEMBER 4, 2023**

**5:30 P.M.**

**BILLINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
COMMUNITY ROOM  
510 N. BROADWAY**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Cole

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON ALL ITEMS.** This is the time to comment on any matter (Agenda or Non-Agenda) falling within the scope of the Billings City Council. There will also be time in conjunction with each agenda item for public comment relating to that item. You may only speak once for each item during the meeting.

Please note, the City Council cannot take action on any item of significant interest to the public that does not appear on the agenda. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes during each public comment period or as set by the Mayor. **Speaker sign-in required.** Please sign the roster at the cart located at the back of the Council chambers or at the podium.

**1. Public Safety Round Table Discussion.**

-Public Comment

**2. Highlight Upcoming Agenda Items of Council Interest.**

-Public Comment

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

**PUBLIC COMMENT on "NON-AGENDA ITEMS".** **Speaker Sign-in required.** *(Restricted to ONLY items not on this printed agenda. Comments are limited to 3 minutes or as set by the Mayor. Please sign the roster at the cart located at the back of the Council chambers or at the podium.)*

**ADJOURN:**

Note:

- This meeting is an "informal" meeting of the City Council. The content of the Agenda is subject to change at the meeting.
- In the event there is a Closed Executive Session, the sole purpose is to discuss litigation strategy. The other parties to the case(s) discussed are not public bodies or associations as described in Section 2-3-203(1) and (2), MCA. The meeting is closed, as allowed by Section 2-3-203(4) (a), MCA, "to discuss a strategy to be followed with respect to litigation when an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the litigating position" of the City of Billings.

## City Council Work Session

**Date:** 12/04/2023  
**Title:** Public Safety Roundtable Discussion  
**Presented by:** Chris Kukulski, City Administrator  
**Department:** City Hall Administration  
**Presentation:** Yes  
**Legal Review:** Not Applicable  
**Project Number:** N/A

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### RECOMMENDATION

Conduct a round table discussion focused on the City's strategic goal to Improve the Health and Safety and DRAFT objectives and action items.

### BACKGROUND (Consistency with Adopted Plans and Policies, if applicable)

Since 2019 the Council has adopted the goal of "Improving Safety". In both 2020 and 2021 the organization developed and presented public safety levies that voters approved. The 2020 levy took place during the pandemic and was appropriately labeled as a "repeal and replace" levy that thankfully prevented the city from reducing staffing levels of police and fire services. The 2021 levy added resources to all aspects of the city's criminal justice system, including police officers, police supervisors, non-sworn officers, prosecutors, victim advocates, code enforcement officers and a 2nd full-time judge. And though progress is being made, our crime rates and the ages of kids who have been both perpetrators and victims of crime are unacceptable.

Billings faces significant challenges. Too many women, men and children are experiencing trauma through family violence. Gun violence and gang activity among teenage boys has become prevalent. The good news is our community and this organization are not willing to accept this as the norm and is determined to change the direction we are headed. We also understand that as the City grows, a successful turnaround becomes more and more difficult.

Attached to this memo is a draft strategic plan summary that includes the strategic goal: Improve the Health and Safety of Billings with the following Objectives: Prevent Crime, Reduce Family Violence, Increase Criminal Intervention, Reduce Violent and Property Crime, Improve Downtown Safety, Increase Levels of Fire Service, Increase Levels of Emergency Medical Services, Maximize the Effectiveness of Public Safety Services and Create a Public Safety Communication Plan.

Invites went to: Assistant US Attorney Laslovich, Dept of Correction, Probation and Parole, County Attorney Twito, Sheriff Linder, Judges Faer, Coalar and Heller, Chief StJohn, City Attorney Dahl, and our family justice team of Nash, Halverson and Stanton through personal conversations and the following email:

Please join the mayor and council, city staff, assistant US attorney, dept. of corrections, probation & parole, sheriff, county attorney and our family justice center team to discuss actions we can take to improve safety and reduce crime in our community.

Early in 2024 the City Council will be asked to review, create and approve specific Strategic Goals, Objectives and Action Plans to provide clear direction to our city staff. Improving Safety will undoubtedly top this list. As you are well aware, solutions to this complex problem require working effectively across the entire criminal justice system, a system that crosses city, county, state and federal jurisdictions.

To clarify what you are walking into, I'm asking that everyone share their ideas on specific action steps to accomplish the following highlighted objectives (the remaining objectives will be discussed during future public meetings). You will not be asked to stand up and make a presentation but rather participate in a dialogue. Our staff will be taking notes so the ideas can be captured and considered as we refine and prioritize how best to move forward in 2024.

1. Prevent Crime
2. Reduce Family Violence
3. Increase Criminal Intervention
4. Reduce Violent and Property Crime

5. Improve Downtown Safety
6. Improve Traffic Safety
7. Increase Levels of Fire Service
8. Increase Levels of Emergency Medical Services
9. Maximize Effectiveness of Public Safety Services
10. Create a Public Safety Communication Plan

The meeting is being held Monday, Dec 4 at 5:30 in the Billings Public Library Community room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

City Council may:

- Approve; or,
- Not Approve

#### **FISCAL EFFECTS**

NA

#### **SUMMARY**

Stakeholders have been invited to participate in a round table discussion with the Mayor and City Council to discuss what actions should be taken to improve the safety of Billings.

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#### **Attachments**

Draft Strategic Plan summary - Improve Health & Safety

## Strategic Goal: Improve the Health and Safety of Billings

November 30, 2023 - DRAFT

### Objective: Reduce Family Violence

#### Action Steps:

- Sign a memorandum of understanding with YWCA to share the cost of a full-time family justice center coordinator. (BPD, YWCA)
- Explore a multi-jurisdictional family violence investigation unit with and without additional personnel. (BPD and Legal)
- Implement the Family Justice Center strategic plan. (BPD, Legal, YWCA, Admin)
- Establish intervention strategies for junior high and high school aged kids. (Council, SD2)
- Establish intervention strategies for adults involved in unhealthy abusive relationships (SNAP, WIC, TANF LIHEAP, Medicaid/Healthy Montana Kids)
- Increase public awareness of family violence/message campaign (PIO)

### Objective: Increase Criminal Intervention Strategies

#### Action Steps:

- Analyze resources necessary to properly assess intervention programs and facilities to meet our needs.

### Objective: Reduce Violent and Property Crime

#### Action Steps:

- Use crime data to focus intensive policing efforts in high-risk areas. (BPD)
- Increase police presence during peak crime hours. (BPD)
- Expand streets crime unit with two gang specialists. (BPD)
- Expand patrol division as budget resources allow. (BPD, Admin.)
- Conduct warrant roundups. (BPD, Courts)
- Maintain commitment to Project Safe Neighborhood. (US Attorney, BPD, Sheriff, and other agencies)
- Support nuisance property team to proactively enforce code violations and reduce crime. (CE)
- Use “shot spotter” technology to shorten response times. (BPD and Federal Partners)
- Contract with Yellowstone County for a short-term pre-arraignment misdemeanor hold facility. (CJCC Subcommittee)
- Partner with Yellowstone County to determine the scope of a jail expansion. (CJCC Subcommittee)
- Partner with Yellowstone County to determine the needs of the juvenile justice system, to appropriately intervene and rehabilitate our youth. (CJCC Subcommittee)

### Objective: Improve Downtown Safety

#### Action Steps:

- Continued officer presence through added bike patrol and foot patrols. *(BPD)*
- Focused policing to improve officer presence, reduce theft and vagrancy *(BPD)*
- Improve community and business engagement *(Admin, Council, BPD, Chamber, BSED)*
- Support Downtown CPTED efforts *(BPD, Downtown, Chamber, Admin, Council)*

### **Objective: Improve Traffic Safety**

#### Action Steps:

- Establish tactical enforcement at problem areas *(BPD) – are these the same?*
- Implement focused policing areas *(BPD)*
- Continue implementation of Community Transportation Safety Plan with state and local partners *(BPD, BFD, MPO, PIO)*
- Incorporate technology strategies to improve compliance and enforcement *(BPD)*
- Propose legislation to maximize technology as a tool to improve safety *(Council)*
- Increase public education through outreach initiatives areas *(BPD, PIO, Council)*

### **Objective: Increase Levels of Fire Service**

#### Action Steps:

- Amend BUFSA agreement to adequately fund the resources and services provided. *(Admin and County officials)*
- Create Fire System Development Charges/Impact Fees *(BFD and Finance)*
- Convert station 8 from an MRT base to a fully operable fire station. (14 personnel) *(BFD)*
- Educate the community on the necessity for Fire Station 9. *(BFD)*
- Procure funding to staff Fire Station 9. (14 personnel) *(BFD)*

### **Objective: Increase Levels of Emergency Medical Services**

#### Action Steps:

- Establish one additional Crisis Response Units/total of 3. *(BFD)*
- Establish two more mobile response teams/total of 4 *(BFD)*
- Rewrite EMS ordinance. *(BFD)*
- Acquire a contract with a private agency to provide EMS transport within city limits. *(BFD)*
- Develop a mobile integrated health and community paramedicine Program. *(BFD, Riverstone)*

### **Objective: Maximize Effectiveness of Public Safety Services**

#### Action Steps:

- Complete CGL analysis of the municipal courts and prosecution and implement recommendations. *(Legal, Courts)*
- Conduct an update to the CPSM analysis for the police and fire departments. *(Admin)*
- Provide 1/4ly reports to the Council and public on our ongoing efforts to improve safety across all city segments of the criminal justice system.

### **Objective: Create a Public Safety Communication Plan**

#### Action Steps:

- Create public facing data dashboard (BPD, BFD, Admin, PIO)
- Provide quarterly reports to Council (*BPD, BFD, CE, Legal, Courts*)
- Provide annual report to Council (*BPD, BFD, CE, Legal, Courts*)
- Establish education and/or outreach program(s) (*BPD, BFD, CE, Legal, Courts*)
- Establish PSA campaigns (i.e., resource education, timely topics, etc.) (*PIO*)
- Create public engagement plan (*PIO*)
- Reinforce departmental messaging (*PIO*)

**Objective: Prevent Crime (this will be proposed as our 1<sup>st</sup> Objective however, for Monday's meeting it is last because it will be discussed during a FUTURE work session. I want the council to know we are working on it)**

#### Objective: Identify, Activate, Expand and Support Innovative Crime Prevention Efforts

**\*develop a reporting protocol for all city supported partnerships that report results related to the Community Health Needs Assessment and Crime Tracking Data**

#### Action Steps:

1. Call together all youth service/program providers to develop a comprehensive list of what is currently underway, identify gaps and compare against evidence based proven successful programs to prioritize and resource. (Council, Admin, Riverstone)
2. Encourage and support coordinated systemic approaches to substance misuse, mental health and housing supports through joint coalition work in the community (i.e. joint work of SAC and CoC)
3. Expand home visiting programs like the Nurse Family Partnership to meet the needs of the city. (*RiverStone, Council, Admin*)
4. Support integration of Substance Abuse Connect and Continuum of Care. (Admin, Council)
5. Implement CPTED assessments in the top 10 parks with high crime rates (*CTED Team*)
6. Facilitate expanded or revitalized neighborhood watch programs through our established Community Task Force groups. (BPD Volunteer Corps)
7. Update curfew ordinance (*Legal*)
8. Support existing youth education and awareness campaign with SD2/Private Schools and Universities (*Council, Admin, PIO*)
  - Assure that we are sharing program efforts through our PIO outlets and with City employees the evidence- based strategies working in the community (Riverstone, SAC, etc.)
    - Suicide prevention (QPR or signs of suicide)
    - Healthy relationships and consent
    - Substance Use Prevention – Peer pressure resistance
    - Supports for keeping kids in school (increase attendance rates)
9. Adopt and redistribute education and awareness campaign efforts with community partners (e.g. nonprofits, medical providers, etc) (*Council, Admin, PIO*)
10. Partner to help expand Friends of the Children of Eastern Montana and other mentor programs (*Communities that Care/Riverstone, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Friends of the Children, etc.*)

11. Tumbleweed?
12. Implement graffiti abatement program for city owned properties as well as continuing coordination with BPD on all graffiti complaints.
13. Expand Friends of the Children of Eastern Montana/mentor programs (*Communities that Care/Riverstone*)
14. Implement “Grown in Billings” childhood initiative (*Thriving Youth & Families Group/Riverstone*)
  - Parenting Montana ([parentingmontana.org](http://parentingmontana.org))
  - Interventions that develop relational health between child/parent (safe, stable, nurturing relationships)
15. Expand recreation programming participation throughout the city with partnerships at schools, churches and other available facilities. (*Parks & Rec*) YES
16. Create an Indigenous Grand Parents Council (*Seven Generations, Council, Admin*)
17. Identify specific action items to help children overcome the effects of ACEs (*Parks and Rec, Library, Council, Admin, The Y, Boys & Girls Club, Boys and Girls Ranch, etc.*)
  - HOPE project work with PCEs – Best Beginnings Coalition
18. Become a trauma informed city (*UNKNOWN*)
19. Allocate resources and support through policy coordination and promotion development of Permanent supportive & affordable housing
20. Anti-recidivism supports at the municipal court level for people coming out of jail from short term stays for low level/non-violent crimes (ie. Crimes of homelessness)
  - increase quality and quantity of court case management employees?
21. Zoning rules enforcement – built environment – derelict properties management.
22. Create safe housing standards.
23. Consider maximum rent increase ordinance.
24. Elder Abuse prevention through greater supports for Seniors?
25. Childcare quality, access, and affordability.
26. Adult education opportunities/job training/employment support programs.
27. To explore as a model – developing communities of opportunity (<https://www.coopartnerships.org/>)
28. Interventions for at risk 10-14 year old children – youth empowerment groups / after school activities