

****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, fifth floor of City Hall, 316 N. 26th 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 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 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 and click on "Watch Meetings Online" on the homepage.
 - . In-Person.

Citizens may submit public comment via the following methods:

- . Mail: City Clerk, P.O. Box 1178, Billings, MT 59103
- . Email: 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

Please contact Denise Bohlman, City Clerk, at 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."

SPECIAL WORK SESSION AGENDA

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
316 N. 26th Street, 5th Floor

MAY 12, 2026

12:00 NOON

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Nelson

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 back of Council Chambers.

AGENDA:

1. Domestic Violence Response System Overview and Discussion.

-Public Comment

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. Please sign the roster located at the back of Council chambers.)*

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 Special Session

Meeting Date: 05/12/2026

Title: Domestic Violence Response System Overview and Discussion

Presented by: Kevin Iffland, Assistant City Administrator

Department: City Hall Administration

Division: Administration

RECOMMENDATION

This is a work session intended for discussion only. No formal action is requested.

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

This work session is intended to provide City Council with a high-level overview of the City’s domestic violence response system and facilitate a structured discussion regarding current practices, identified challenges, and potential areas for future review or improvement.

The City’s domestic violence response involves a coordinated system that includes the Billings Police Department, City Attorney’s Office, Family Justice Center/YWCA, County Attorney’s Office, detention and court systems, victim advocacy services, and other community partners. The City’s role within that system includes emergency response, investigation, misdemeanor prosecution, coordination with partner agencies, victim support coordination, and ongoing enforcement efforts.

Recent public discussion following a domestic violence homicide has raised questions regarding training, response protocols, protection order enforcement, investigative capacity, victim advocacy coordination, release decisions, and broader system coordination. Councilmembers have also requested information regarding best practices and potential opportunities for future improvement.

The purpose of this initial work session is not to present a final plan or comprehensive analysis, but rather to establish a baseline understanding of the current system and begin a structured discussion regarding potential future improvements and priorities. Staff will provide a high-level overview in several topic areas including:

- Training and protocols;
- Protection order response;
- Release decisions and coordination;
- Risk and lethality assessment;
- Victim advocacy and co-response;
- Dedicated domestic violence response capacity;
- Domestic violence fatality review;
- Legislative considerations.

Due to active criminal proceedings and legal limitations surrounding protected information, some case-specific details may be limited or unavailable for public discussion. Additionally, portions of the domestic violence response system involve agencies and decision points outside direct City authority. Future discussions may require participation from additional external partners.

This work session is intended to help establish a shared understanding of the current system, identify areas requiring additional review, and assist Council in providing direction regarding future analysis, policy considerations, operational priorities, and potential resource discussions.

ALTERNATIVES

As this is a discussion item, alternatives include:

- Direct staff to return with additional information or deeper analysis in identified areas;
- Expand future work sessions to include additional agencies, stakeholders, or operational topics.

FISCAL EFFECTS

No immediate fiscal impact is associated with this work session.

Future policy direction or program changes identified through this discussion may have fiscal implications, which would be brought forward separately for Council consideration.
