Forward Together
An engagement initiative on policing in Modesto

Public Workshop
August 11, 2022

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Background

- The Forward Together Initiative was catalyzed as a response to calls for police reform intensifying across the country and at our local level. Furthermore, its formation was a reflection of Mayor Sue Zwahlen's ongoing commitment to strong relationships and trust between the community and law enforcement.
- Forward Together community listening session held May 22, 2021
- Created by the City Council June 8, 2021
- First working group meeting held July 20, 2021
  - Tasked with researching and developing recommendations for the Modesto City Council
  - Participants: Local non-profits, county agencies, Modesto Police, City of Modesto, residents, and stakeholders
  - Outcomes:
    - Establish the procedures and structure to complete initiative.
    - Creation of Ad Hoc Groups with 3 focus areas; total of 27 members; Chair and Vice Chair (included)
Timeline

- **May 22, 2021**: Themes of the Forward Together Initiative determined
- **July 20, 2021**: Forward Together working group 1st meeting
- **October 2021**: Policies and Practices
- **December & January 2021-2022**: Accountability
- **April 2022**: Draft recommendations report presented and reviewed
- **June 15, 2022**: Final recommendations report voted on by workgroup

- **June 8, 2021**: Forward Together Working Group Created
- **July, September, and October 2021**: Organizational structure was developed during these first three meetings
- **November 2021**: Alternate Response Models
- **February & March 2022**: Presentations from educational meetings
- **April 2022**: Received additional feedback & insights by local organizations
- **May 2022**: Draft recommendations report presented and reviewed
Public Presentations

- May 10, 2022
  Modesto Chamber of Commerce Board

- May 18, 2022
  Modesto West People of Action Council

- June 13, 2022
  Woodland West Neighborhood Group

- July 15, 2022
  Modesto Police Officers Association

- May 17, 2022
  Stanislaus NAACP

- May 26, 2022
  Faith in the Valley

- July 14, 2022
  Modesto Police Officers Association

- August 11, 2022
  FINAL Public Workshop
1) Policies and Practices (October 2021)
   ○ Support safety, fairness and equity throughout the department and the community.

2) Alternate Response Models (November 2021)
   ○ Ensure the right type of response and resources are applied to a situation.

3) Accountability (December 2021, January 2022)
   ○ For police conduct, decisions and how they impact the Modesto community.
FORWARD TOGETHER WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATIONS
Alternate Response Models

Policy Goals (6 Total)

**Recommendation:**

1) Scale up the CHAT and MCERT programs to at least the capacity needed to handle the call volume identified in the 2020 analysis.

2) Use a data-driven approach to identify additional need for alternate response programs and scale up capacity accordingly.

3) Modesto Police Department should continue to work closely with Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services on the development of these programs and seek greater community support the launch or scaling up of alternate response programs.

1) Support the launch or scaling up of alternate response programs (CHAT, MCERT, M&M, On-Call Clinician)

2) Allocate funding to launch/scale up these programs

3) Create a Crisis Response Stakeholder Group (mental health, hospitals, counselors, and law enforcement)*

4) Require 40 hours of Crisis Intervention Training for officers and civilian personnel

5) Allocate funding to support an upgrade in technology by the MPD

6) Ensure on-going community oversight is conducted regarding how police are handling calls related to mental health crises.

*examples only
**Policies & Practices**

**Policy Goals (8 Total)**

**Recommendation:** The City should further consider and develop the following policy goals. This process should utilize the auditor and the review board as described in the accountability recommendations.

1) Improve relations between the community and the department
2) Protect community members’ civil rights during interactions with police
3) Reduce youth arrests, particularly among Latino youth
4) Improve MPD officers’ access to mental health treatment
5) Improve accountability and transparency
6) Improve officer training
7) Review and clarify policy language
8) Review use of force policy to minimize likelihood of death resulting from use of force
Accountability
Policy Goals (3 Total)

**Recommendation:** The City should begin to implement a hybrid audit/review oversight model that includes a civilian review board and an independent auditor/investigator, using the city of Anaheim’s model as a reference.

1) Establish a Civilian Oversight Board (COB) made up of community members
2) Identify and contract an Independent External Auditor
3) Establish a Major Incident Review Team (MIRT)
Any Questions?
FORWARD TOGETHER
PUBLIC WORKSHOP
AUGUST 11, 2022

THANK YOU

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