

# COMMUNITY SAFETY IN AMHERST

August 3, 2020

## “ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS”

### Town Council vote:

- “The approval of the FY2021 Operating budget is made with the explicit understanding with the Town Manager that two upcoming anticipated vacant positions in the Police Department’s budget not be filled **until the Town Manager, in consultation with the Town Council, and Residents of Amherst, has fully explored alternative options of providing services** and presented the results to the Town Council no later than January 31, 2021.”

## “ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS” AND THE BIGGER PICTURE

- The “Alternative Options” is very specific
- Bigger Picture and Real Mission:  
**Re-envisioning community services to build a Town in which Black residents thrive and feel protected, as do people of all colors**
- Tonight... “consultation with Town Council” starts the conversation

## MISSION: EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- Study the complex issues of delivering community safety services – currently provided through the police department and other means – to ensure racial equity
- Recommend reforms to the current organizational and oversight structures
- Examine existing Town funding priorities

# MISSION: EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- Learn from Previous Work by the Town
- Current Public Safety services
  - Including policies, complaints, training, resident oversight models
- Collect data from people's experiences in Amherst
- Investigate alternative models:
  - Eugene "Cahoots" - Crisis Assistance Helping Out on the Street
  - Albuquerque - Community Safety Alternative
  - Denver STAR – Support Team Assisted Response

# HOW: WORKING GROUP(S)

## Establish a Working Group(s)

- Charge
- Size
- Composition
- Selection and Appointment Process
- Staff and other support
- Timing: January 31, 2021 deadline for reporting

# HOW: OUTREACH AND LISTEN

## Community listening sessions

- Human Rights Commission
- Existing staff connections (CPOs)
- Existing and/or newly formed organizations
  - Defund 413
  - Racial Equity Task Force
  - People's Assemblies
- Community surveys (e.g. online, telephone, door-to-door)
- Community organizers
- MVP-type outreach
- Police/Fire leaders and rank-and-file

## BACK TO THE BIGGER PICTURE

- This is an opportunity! An opportunity to change harm that has been repeated for generations
- Our goal is to figure out – as a community – how to ensure that Black lives thrive
- How do we get there?
- And, last, thank you to all who have been working hard and weighing in to ensure that all voices are heard