



Robert Davis <robert@swg-unboxed.org>

Reimagine Police Group Participation

Robinson, Murphy - DOS HA1417 Manager Department of Safety <Murphy.Robinson@denvergov.org> Wed, Jan 13, 2021 at 3:57 PM
To: Robert Davis <robert@swg-unboxed.org>

Dear Dr. Davis:

I have been advised of the email you sent to the law enforcement participants on the Reimagining Police and Public Safety Task Force group, in which you asked them not to attend or participate in meetings and community discussion. I was optimistic about the potential these meetings would have to drive positive and collaborative change but must share that I am increasingly concerned about the direction these meetings have taken. After my participation in the December 3rd meeting, you and I had a phone conversation in which I expressed concern about the lack of dialogue between me and the other participants, and the tone and tenor that was taken. Your response was that you believed it went well and were encouraged. So you can imagine my surprise when I saw the statement you issued on December 17th wherein you mischaracterized my comments and made disparaging remarks about my demeanor.

If you recall during our conversation, I informed you that there was concern that the people on your committee do not fully represent the community. You asked for examples and I offered two: there are no Denver business owners and there is no neighborhood group representation. Many other stakeholders should be included for this group to even approach the broad community. People handpicked by you are not a clear representation of the community, and therefore, the committee lacks a truly diverse perspective. That diverse perspective is what is needed to build consensus for meaningful reform. Without it, the group you have convened is little more than a personal sounding board for political views and rhetoric.

Secondly, I asked you to recall an email to my colleagues in the Department of Public Safety in which you directed them to refrain from sharing their thoughts, comments, and experiences, limiting their role to answering questions. This remains troubling to me because the people that serve in this capacity are a part of the community and the only way to make lasting change is to have all perspectives at the table. Your original request for personnel to join your group were to be active participants in the meetings. Your response to me was that you were not willing to rescind your directive because you believed Public Safety employees had other forums available to them. When you first asked our team to join this "community" effort, you said that we would be at the table and participants in the conversation. Your change of direction, without consultation, is troubling. I have had many community members call and voice concern about the lack of direction, leadership, and politically charged motivation by the half dozen people dominating this committee. I will also note that there has been absolutely no progress for change recommendations from this group in the last 7 months.

Therefore, effective immediately and in coordination of what I believe you are trying to do already by removing public safety personnel from the conversations, I will not dedicate individuals from the Department of Public Safety to this committee, as I believe it is not in the best interest of the City and County of Denver.

Furthermore, I have deep concern about fulfilling your continued request for \$50,000.00 to pay for your administrative cost in leading this effort. Not only is it becoming clear that the values of the group's leadership do not align with city's fiscal responsibility to have an open and fair process to truly capture the entire community's voice, but I believe that if the City of Denver funds any portion of your effort it will be seen as a government-led initiative and we would be further accused of attempting to influence your outcomes. Therefore, we will not be able to fulfill your request for \$50,000 to cover your administrative costs and professional service salary. This will assure that this truly remains a "community member" lead initiative.

The department of safety will continue to participate and invest personnel time in dialog that is representative of a diversity of thought and hard conversation, and looks forward to helping to lead this effort across our city for meaningful results.

Dr. Davis, we look forward to and are still committed to reviewing your proposed outcomes, should they manifest.



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