

**MODESTO CITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION NO. 2021-216**

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE *FORWARD TOGETHER* WORKING GROUP AND LISTENING SESSION THEMES; AND DIRECTING STAFF TO CARRY OUT THE APPROPRIATE NEXT STEPS AND RETURN TO COUNCIL WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

WHEREAS, in policing, the importance of building trust is the foundation of a strong relationship between law enforcement and the community; and

WHEREAS, the death of George Floyd in May 2020 triggered protests in hundreds of cities across the United States and renewed the national discussion around police use of force, police-community relations, and reform; and

WHEREAS, recent events in the City added to the local conversation and intensified the demands for the City to address police use of force, police-community relations, and reform issues; and

WHEREAS, to reaffirm the City's commitment to maintaining and strengthening community trust, Mayor Sue Zwalen announced the launch of a community engagement process to solicit feedback on police-community relations; and

WHEREAS, branded as *Forward Together*, the community engagement process will both educate and explore solutions that address the broad areas of expressed community concerns; and

WHEREAS, the formal launch of the *Forward Together* initiative was the Listening Session on May 22, 2021, where in a total of 43 individuals spoke during the Listening Session and the key themes (overarching areas of concern) that emerged were:

- **Accountability** – for police conduct, decisions and how they impact the Modesto community.

- **Policies and Practices** – that support safety, fairness and equity throughout the department and the community.
- **Alternate Response Models** – that ensure the right type of response and resources are applied to a situation.

WHEREAS, the *Forward Together* working group will be tasked with extensively reviewing and researching these themes to provide recommendations to Council in the next 6 to 12 months; and

WHEREAS, to arrive at the membership of the working group, staff solicited interest from stakeholder organizations in the community and asked that the organization provide a member that can commit the time and effort required for this very complex and important issue, based on the feedback from each organization; and

WHEREAS, additionally, it is recommended that the *Forward Together* working group be expanded, by receiving, reviewing and selecting 4 additional members from the community, the *Forward Together* working group will review these applications at their first meeting tentatively scheduled for July 20th and consider and approve the appointment to fill the 4 vacancies; and

WHEREAS, meetings of the full *Forward Together* working group will be open to the public, and may be held at various locations throughout the city to further engage the community in the process; and

WHEREAS, Staff assigned to this initiative will provide periodic updates to Council on *Forward Together's* progress, and will implement a communications strategy to ensure that the public is informed and has an opportunity to participate in the process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Modesto that it hereby approves the following *Forward Together* themes:

- **Accountability** – for police conduct, decisions and how they impact the Modesto community.
- **Policies and Practices** – that support safety, fairness and equity throughout the department and the community.
- **Alternate Response Models** – that ensure the right type of response and resources are applied to a situation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Modesto that it hereby approves the *Forward Together* working group membership as follows:

Organization Name	Appointee
ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California)	Thomas Helme
Black Student Union ¹	TBD
City Ministry Network	Wade Patton
CVPC (Central Valley Pride Center) MoPride	Zola Hayes
Downtown Modesto Partnership	Josh Bridegroom
El Concilio	Alvaro Ramirez
Golden Valley Health Center	Yamilet Valladolid
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	Johnny Garcia
Latino Community Roundtable	Amanda Duran
Modesto Chamber of Commerce	Trish Christensen
Modesto City Schools	Tim Zearley
Modesto Clergy Council	Darius Crosby
Modesto Neighborhoods, Inc.	Brad Hawn
Modesto PD Internal Affairs	Aaron Tait
MPOA	Dan Starr
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)	Wendy Byrd
NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Stanislaus	Darlene Thomas
Stanislaus County Behavioral Health	Ruben Imperial
Stanislaus County District Attorney	Birgit Fladager
Stanislaus County Interfaith Council (SCIC)	Matthew Mason
Stanislaus County Public Defender	Laura Arnold
Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department	Jeff Dirkse
Stanislaus & Tuolumne Counties Central Labor Council	TBD
West Modesto Community Collaborative	Perfecto Munoz

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Forward Together working group will review applications for 4 additional members from the community and consider and approve the appointments at an open meeting of the working group.

¹ To date staff has been unable to make contact, but efforts to do so continue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if an appointee withdraws from participation, or if a representative of a listed organization has not yet been selected, the listed organization can select a representative to fill the vacancy without additional Council action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the *Forward Together* working group can include residents and non-residents of the City of Modesto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that City staff is directed to carry out the appropriate next steps in proceeding with the *Forward Together* initiative and return to Council with recommendations.

The foregoing resolution was introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Modesto held on the 8th day of June, 2021, by Councilmember Madrigal, who moved its adoption, which motion being duly seconded by Councilmember Ricci, was upon roll call carried and the resolution adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers: Escutia-Braaton, Kenoyer, Madrigal, Ricci, Wright, Zoslocki, Mayor Zwahlen

NOES: Councilmembers: None

ABSENT: Councilmembers: None

ATTEST: _____
STEPHANIE LOPEZ, City Clerk

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BY: _____
JOSE M. SANCHEZ, City Attorney