



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





Public Presentations





Ad Hoc Focus Groups

- 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.

Name	Affiliation
Thomas Helme (Acc. Ad Hoc Chair)	ACLU of Northern California, Stanislaus Chapter
Austin Grant	Black Student Union
Leah Ashford (AR Ad Hoc Chari)	City Ministry Network
Johnny Garcia	Central Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Jonathan Grammatico	Central Valley Pride Center (CVPC) MoPride
Solange Altman (Vice-Chair)	Community Member
Terhesa Gamboa	Community Member
Marian Martino	Community Member
Nico Solorio	Community Member
Josh Bridegroom	Downtown Modesto Partnership
Alvaro Ramirez	El Concilio
Aaron Anguiano	Latino Community Roundtable
Trish Christensen	Modesto Chamber of Commerce
Tim Zearley	Modesto City Schools
Darius Crosby	Modesto Clergy Council
Brad Hawn	Modesto Neighborhoods, Inc.
Aaron Tait	Modesto PD Internal Affairs
Dan Starr (P&P Ad Hoc Chair)	Modesto Police Officers Association (MPOA)
Wendy Byrd	NAACP Modesto/Stanslaus
Linda Mayo	National Alliance on Mental Illness
Will Kelly (Chair)	Stanislaus & Tuolumne Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Ruben Imperial*	Stanislaus County BHRS
Birgit Fladager*	Stanislaus County District Attorney
Matthew Mason	Stanislaus County Interfaith Council (SCIC)
Jennifer Jennison*	Stanislaus County Public Defender
Jeff Dirkse*	Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department
Perfecto Munoz	West Modesto Community Collaborative

*These individuals participated as content experts and as non-voting members of the work group

Table 1. Forward Together Working Group Members



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CITY OF
MODESTO
CALIFORNIA

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?



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THANK YOU

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