



# TOWN OF FAIRFAX

## STAFF REPORT

### May 5, 2021

**TO:** Mayor and Town Council

**FROM:** Garrett Toy, Town Manager

**SUBJECT:** Discuss results from the community questionnaire for Police Chief and police services

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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Discuss results from the community questionnaire for Police Chief and police services.

#### **DISCUSSION**

At its March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Council decided to conduct an internal recruitment process for Police Chief. The Council also requested staff conduct a community questionnaire to:

- a) ask for comments regarding qualities in a police chief,
- b) allow for the submittal of questions for the interim Police Chief, and
- c) allow for comments regarding rethinking and reimagining PD services for the PPPSA to discuss and consider.

The questionnaire/survey closed on April 26, 2021 at 5pm. Please note the questionnaire/survey is not intended to be a “scientific survey” and its purpose is to only solicit input from the community.

We have run the following reports regarding the questionnaire:

- Attachment A shows the overall results of the questionnaire. It shows a bar chart and table regarding Question #1 “In consideration of the next Police Chief, please select the level of importance for each of the leadership qualities and characteristics listed below. The responses to Questions #2-6 are contained in separate attachments. It also summarizes the responses to Questions #7-11.
- Attachment B contains the comments submitted in response to Question #2 “Other qualities you would like” in a police chief.
- Attachment C shows the responses to Question #3 “Please list up to three (3) questions you would like to ask the Interim Police Chief if you were on the interview panel.”
- Attachment D shows the responses to Question #4 “Please list up to three (3) issues you believe are the most significant public safety concerns within the Town of Fairfax.”
- Attachment E contains the responses to Question #5 “Please list up to three (3) services/tasks that you believe the Fairfax Police Department excels in providing to the community.”
- Attachment F shows the responses to Question #6 “The Town’s Racial Equity and Social Justice Committee (“RESJ”) formed a Police Practices and Public Safety Alternatives subcommittee (“PPPSA”) to examine/explore policing practices and services as well as

alternative service models. What are your thoughts regarding rethinking or reimagining police services? Are there specific services or models you would like the PPPSA to discuss and/or explore?”

- Attachment G contains the overall responses from people who indicated they own a business and/or work in Town.
- Attachment H contains the overall responses from those who identified an ethnicity other than white/Caucasian” or selected “declined to state.”
- Attachment I contains letters received from the public.

*NOTE: The survey platform we used only allows us to run reports in these formats.*

Staff will provide a more detailed presentation of the questionnaire at the Council meeting. Some key highlights of the overall responses to Questions #7-11 are:

- Approximately 56% (50 out of 89) of respondents indicated they are satisfied with the Town’s police services. In comparison, approximately 16% (14) are dissatisfied and 28% (25) are neutral/unsure.
- Approximately 81% (75 out of 93) of respondents are residents.
- Approximately 36% (33 out of 91) are business owners and/or work in town.
- Approximately 73% (54 out of 74) of respondents are White/Caucasian with the next highest category (approx. 12% or 9 out of 74) being “declined to state.”
- Approximately 69% (51 out of 74) of the respondents are female.

The results of this questionnaire will be shared with the RESJ/PPPSA. Staff will be reviewing the questions submitted in response to Question #2 and will prepare interview questions for the community panel to reflect the general theme of the most commonly asked questions.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

n/a

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Overall survey results, plus summarized responses to Questions #7-11
- B. Question #2 responses: other qualities you would like in a police chief
- C. Question #3 responses: interview questions
- D. Question #4 responses: public safety issues
- E. Question #5 responses: services/tasks Fairfax Police currently excel in providing
- F. Question #6 responses: rethinking or reimagining police services
- G. Overall survey results from respondents who own business and/or work in town
- H. Overall survey results from respondents who identified an ethnicity other than white/Caucasian” or selected “declined to state.”
- I. Correspondence received from the public