

Public Safety, reimagined.

Recommendations report following
a collaborative effort between
the City of Ithaca & Tompkins County, N.Y.



We're seeking your input, reactions, feedback, and questions on the recommendations listed below. Community members are encouraged share their input through an online form*, mail (c/o RPS Collaborative, 125 E. Court St, Ithaca N.Y. 14850, through local drop boxes (City Hall, 108 E. Green St, Ithaca, or County Offices, 125 E. Court St, Ithaca) or via voicemail (607-274-5465).

*To read the full report or provide feedback online: www.tompkinscountyny.gov/ctyadmin/reimaginepublicsafety

Recommendations:

The following recommendations are being put forth by Tompkins County Administrator Jason Molino and City of Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick to the respective City Council and County Legislature for discussion, changes, and approval by April 1, 2021 following an Executive Order from NY Governor Andrew Cuomo.

A collaborative process was used to draft the full report, involving government officials, law enforcement, community members, researchers, and the Center for Policing Equity.

- Replace the City of Ithaca Police Department with a Community Solutions and Public Safety Department
- Evaluate existing models and implement an alternative to law enforcement response system for crisis intervention and wraparound health and human services delivery
- Better align available resources with emergency response needs by establishing a pilot program for non-emergency calls
- Collect and evaluate the results of officer-initiated traffic stop enforcement
- Identify new curriculum, redesign and implement a culturally-responsive training program that incorporates de-escalation and mental health components into a comprehensive response for law enforcement
- Develop a comprehensive community healing plan to address trauma in the relationship between residents and law enforcement
- Standardize data entry and review existing data sets for more actionable insights and allocation of public safety resources
- Develop a real-time public safety community dashboard
- Create a Tompkins County Public Safety Review Board
- Develop a comprehensive, inclusive, and innovative recruitment strategy for law enforcement and corrections officers
- Develop a County-wide program to promote and support holistic officer wellness
- Seek ongoing and responsive collaboration from New York State Troopers operating in Tompkins County
- Repurpose SWAT Mobile Command Vehicle to Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response and Develop Policies for Use of Mobile Command Vehicle, Centers
- Conduct a Review of SWAT Callouts to Determine Appropriate Use of Service and Equipment
- Grant City of Ithaca Community Police Board more oversight authority
- Require public disclosure of District Attorney and Assigned Counsel Office statistics on a quarterly and annual basis
- Revise the Civil Service exam process to diversify law enforcement personnel
- Advocate for New York State to grant local civil service authorities the authority to enact "continuous recruitment" of eligible candidates for law enforcement personnel
- Urge Governor Cuomo and/or the New York State Legislature to reform disciplinary procedures for law enforcement personnel under Civil Service Law Section 75.

After April 1, the City and County will create a "Community Justice Center" (CJC) to implement the recommendations and engage community members. The CJC will hire new staff and seek community members to work on implementation and next steps.