



MINUTES-FINAL
FAIR & IMPARTIAL POLICING TASK FORCE
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020 – 7:00PM
REMOTE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
[LebanonNH.gov/LIVE](https://lebanonnh.gov/LIVE)

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Fair & Impartial Policing Task Force met remotely on June 9, 2020 via Microsoft Teams. The following task force members were present: Karen Liot Hill (Co-Chair), Suzanne Prentiss (Co-Chair), Diane Root, Devin Wilkie, Kathie Beckett, Keysi Montas. Barry Schuster was absent.
2. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** Approval of minutes for the May 28, 2020 task force meeting was postponed to the next meeting.
3. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
 - A. Work Plan
 - i. Guidance from City Attorney – Attorney Bernie Waugh, counsel for the City of Lebanon, briefly reviewed the role of the city attorney – which is to advise the group on legality of provisions but not to advise on matters of public policy. He has a particular concern with Provision 6 and believes that it may not be legal. He told the task force that the ordinance needs an enforcement mechanism.
 - ii. Local communities/Other cities – Task force member Devin Wilkie had shared the language of the Hanover, Hartford and Chicago ordinances. There was discussion about how the State of Vermont has a Fair and Impartial Policing policy at the state level, while the State of New Hampshire does not.
 - iii. Other sample legislation from civic groups – There was no discussion on this topic specifically, but there were a number of references to Lebanon’s Resolution for Inclusiveness as being a potential source for language to broaden the purpose/intent portion of the ordinance. The idea of broadening language to include access to services was raised. The group discussed part of the purpose/intent of the ordinance as respecting human dignity, as well as ensuring that no agents of the city were conducting immigration enforcement actions.
 - B. Public Testimony – The task force heard testimony from Attorney Kate Barta, director of the Welcoming All Nationalities Network which provides legal services on a humanitarian basis in the Upper Valley. She explained that many of her clients are people of color and that many live in Lebanon. She underscored that many of her clients would not feel comfortable speaking publicly for fear of being identified by immigration authorities. This prompted the task force to discuss how best to solicit input from affected communities while allowing concerned people to maintain their anonymity. Karen Liot Hill suggested that for now, any interested

parties who wanted to remain anonymous could send testimony individually and confidentially to a member of the task force who could read it at a task force meeting. Karen will look into other possible ways for people to testify while protecting their anonymity in the future.

Devin Wilkie read a statement from an anonymous member of the community who was concerned with systemic racism and demanding change in law enforcement and local government practices.

4. OTHER BUSINESS: The task force expressed interest in the idea of civilian oversight, which takes different forms in different communities and will be a topic of conversation for a future meeting. Attorney Waugh offered to prepare a memo for the task force with a list of problem areas and questions that the task force will need to address. The task force agreed that this would be helpful. The representatives of the Welcoming Lebanon Committee offered to prepare some draft language regarding purpose/intent with the task force prior to the next meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Due to the current situation with the COVID-19 Pandemic, the City of Lebanon is offering its meetings via Microsoft Teams. Members of the public are encouraged to attend by going to [LebanonNH.gov/Live](https://lebanonnh.gov/live) where you will find instructions on how to enter the meeting. Members of the public will be able to participate and ask questions through the Microsoft Teams software or by phone. Please visit [LebanonNH.gov/Live](https://lebanonnh.gov/live) for full details.

THE AGENDA, IN ITS ENTIRETY IS AVAILABLE ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT [LEBANONNH.GOV](https://lebanonnh.gov)