



Community-Police Relations Founding Committee Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What will the Founding Committee do?

The Founding Committee will:

- engage the community, with support from the U.S. Department of Justice - Community Relations Service (CRS);
- evaluate the current state of community-police relationships within the Municipality;
- determine the scope of a Community-Police Advisory Board based on community feedback; and
- solicit applications and select the initial members of the Advisory Board.

Members of the Founding Committee will design a more permanent body to ensure good community-police relations. This body will be independent of any municipal body.

Q: If this is a community group, why is the AERC involved?

The AERC's only involvement is to distribute and review the applications for the Founding Committee and to select the 11 members of the Committee. After the members of the Founding Committee are selected, the AERC's role is complete.

In exploring ways to make this process as inclusive and fair as possible, we learned that many communities task their Equal Rights Commissions with this role because these commissions are usually quasi-judicial, independent agencies, like the AERC.

The AERC will not be leading, guiding, or facilitating the Founding Committee.

Q: When will community conversations take place?

The Founding Committee will determine when community conversations will begin, but we expect they will begin in late September or early October.

Q: Can I be a member of both the Founding Committee and the future Advisory Board it will create?

The Founding Committee will consist of 11 members, which will form a selection panel to review Advisory Board member applications. Up to 5 individuals from the Founding Committee may apply for Advisory Board membership.

Q: What is the role of the US Department of Justice, Community Relations Service?

The Community Relations Service (CRS) serves as “America’s Peacemaker” for communities in conflict by mediating disputes and enhancing community capacity to independently prevent and resolve future conflicts. The CRS is the only federal agency dedicated to working with community groups to resolve community conflicts and prevent and respond to alleged hate crimes arising from differences of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or disability. The CRS will help facilitate the community conversations hosted by the Founding Committee.

Q: Why does Anchorage need this?

Community leaders have received feedback from the public regarding the need for a community-based organization that is focused on mediating issues between the community and the Anchorage Police Department.

Q: When will the Founding Committee members be announced?

We expect Founding Committee members to be announced in late September.

Q: Can anyone apply to be a member of the Founding Committee?

All are encouraged to apply.

Q: What will the time commitment be for Founding Committee members?

Once the Founding Committee members are selected, the Committee will be in control of the process moving forward. However, expect to meet at least twice per month, for at least 1-2 hours.

Q: Will the Founding Committee members be compensated for their time?

The Founding Committee will be a volunteer committee.

Q: How old do you need to be to apply to be on the Founding Committee?

There is no age restriction. We recognize the many youth leaders in our community and encourage them to get involved.

Q: What role will the Assembly and Mayor have?

The Founding Committee will be independent of any municipal body, including the Assembly and the Mayor. However, the Founding Committee may choose to collaborate with both the Assembly and Mayor’s office, and may establish liaisons in each. Additionally, the Founding Committee, in deciding the scope of a Community-Police Advisory Board, may include such liaisons or partnerships.