



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

Assembly Information Memorandum

No. AIM 153-2025

Municipal Clerk's Office

Accepted

Date: **July 29, 2025**

Meeting Date: July 29, 2025

From: ASSEMBLY VICE CHAIR ANNA BRAWLEY, ASSEMBLY MEMBER KAMERON PEREZ-VERDIA, AND ASSEMBLY MEMBER FELIX RIVERA

Subject: UPDATE ON TASK FORCE TO REIMAGINE THE PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION

A task force to explore the reimagining of the former Public Safety Advisory Commission was established by the Assembly through AR No. 2025-111. Section 4 of the resolution directs the Chair of the Assembly's Public Health & Safety Committee to provide monthly updates to the Assembly via an Assembly Information Memorandum (AIM).

The task force held its first meeting on June 26, 2025.

For the Assembly's review and consideration, attached is a report prepared by the task force facilitator, Denali Daniels + Associates (DDA).

Also attached is a press release titled *Task Force Pauses to Reevaluate Structure, Invites More Public Feedback*, issued on July 9, 2025.

Prepared by: Legislative Services Office

Respectfully submitted: Anna Brawley, Assembly Vice Chair
District 3, West Anchorage

Kameron Perez-Verdia, Assembly Member
District 3, West Anchorage

Felix Rivera, Assembly Member
District 4, Midtown Anchorage



Facilitator Report

The Task Force Meeting to Reimagine the Former Public Safety Advisory Commission (Task Force) held its first meeting on June 26, 2025, bringing together Task Force members to introduce themselves and begin defining a shared vision for public safety in Anchorage. During public comment, community members raised concerns about transparency, representation, and meeting accessibility. Public comment surfaced the need for more intentional community engagement moving forward.

As a result of this input, the Task Force strategic planning team, which includes Assembly Members Felix Rivera, Kameron Perez-Verdia, and Anna Brawley, co-convenor Rich Curtner, and the facilitation team, decided to pause Task Force meetings in July to reevaluate the structure of the Task Force and consider opportunities for public participation. This pause allowed time to reassess the format and membership of the Task Force and to develop a more transparent and inclusive process.

A Community Workshop is planned for Tuesday, August 5, 2025. The Community Workshop is designed to gather public input on what safety and well-being mean to Anchorage community members and the systems that serve them. The discussion will help shape a community-informed definition of public safety to guide the Task Force's work. All community members are invited to attend and share their perspectives. More information about the community workshop can be found on the [project webpage](#).

Attached: June 26, 2025 Meeting Notes



Task Force Meeting to Reimagine the Former Public Safety Advisory Commission

Meeting Notes

Date: June 26, 2025

Time: 9-10:30 a.m.

Location: Moose Room, Loussac Library

Facilitator: Denali Daniels + Associates

Attendance

Task Force Member	Present
Felix Rivera, Co-Convenor, Assembly Member	X
Anna Brawley, Assembly Liaison	
Kameron Perez-Verdia, Assembly Liaison	X
Rich Curtner, Co-Convenor, Alaska Black Caucus and Alaska Coalition for Justice	X
Thea Agnew Bemben, Mayor's Office; Special Assistant	X
Chief Sean Case, Anchorage Police Department; Chief of Police	X
Kim Rash, Anchorage Health Department; Director	X
Carl Jacobs, ASD School Board; Chair	X*
Darrell Evans, APDEA; President	X
Tafilisaunoa Toleafoa, Pacific Community of Alaska; Executive Director	X*
Randi Breager, AWAIC; Executive Director	X*
Julia Luey, VOA Alaska; President and CEO	
Cheryl Cox Williams, NAACP Anchorage; President	X
Mercedes Arciniega, AKPIRG; Outreach & Good Government Lead	
Katie Baldwin-Johnson, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority; COO	X
Amanda Bremmeer, delegate for Enei Begaye, Native Movement, Executive Director	X*

*Participated virtually



I. Call to Order

Felix Rivera, Assembly Member

Felix called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

Felix provided a land acknowledgement.

II. Opening Comments

Felix Rivera, Assembly Member

Felix emphasized the need for open, difficult conversations on public safety, stressing transparency, public involvement, and the inclusion of multiple perspectives.

Rich Curtner, Alaska Black Caucus and the Alaska Coalition on Justice

Rich advocated transparency and accountability, pointing to the need for a review board.

Kameron Perez-Verdia, Assembly Member

Serves as Chair of the Public Health and Safety Committee. Kameron emphasized the importance of trust, mutual respect, and asking better questions, especially in light of recent officer-involved shootings and national calls for police accountability. He encouraged the Task Force to focus on solutions-oriented dialogue, asking what meaningful community involvement looks like and how APD can be both supported and held accountable. Acknowledging that the Task Force is not starting from scratch, he noted that this work builds on ongoing community concerns and the need for transparent, external oversight. The group's role is to define its purpose, listen with respect, and move the conversation forward with clarity and shared responsibility.

III. New Business

Task Force members were asked to share a word that describe success for the process.

Communications
Intentionality
Transparency
Real
Representation
Public involvement

Transparency
Satisfaction
Engagement
Meaningful engagement
Action-oriented process
Attainable

Reasonable
Sustainability
Data driven
Healing-centered
Equitable
Sustainable

IV. Audience Participation

IVa. Live Poll Responses

Task Force and community members present in the meeting were offered the opportunity to participate in a word cloud to the question, “*What words represent success for this Task Force?*”



IVb. Comment Input (summarized)

- 1) Cynthia [no last name provided] expressed concern about the scheduling of the meetings, noting that holding them at 9 AM makes it difficult for many, herself included, to attend. She urged the group to consider meeting times and locations that are more accessible to the broader community and emphasized the need for timely notice. She also raised issues around transparency and inclusion, pointing out that there was no public input in selecting the members of the Task Force. She noted that about half of the members represent nonprofits or are individuals directly impacted by officer-involved shootings.



- 2) Yarrow Silvers, an Assembly member representing East Anchorage, noted that the process of forming the Task Force hasn't been very transparent. She mentioned receiving an email from a patrol officer who expressed interest in participating and asked whether there's a way to expand the group to ensure broader representation.
- 3) Michael Patterson, Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL), said that we are in the midst of a crisis, pointing to the number of recent officer-involved shootings and the ongoing calls for body cameras. His organization regularly works with families affected by these incidents, providing support during incredibly difficult times. He shared that last year, they proposed a similar task force, with a broader range of stakeholders, and submitted that proposal to both the Mayor's Office and the Assembly but received no response. Michael stressed the importance of including voices that haven't been heard, noting that for the past five years, the same individuals have dominated these conversations. He called for meaningful representation and insisted that this Task Force must have a clear mandate, written into the city charter, with a focused role in police oversight.
- 4) Bruce [no last name provided], representing Allies for Change and the Alaska Coalition for Justice, shared that he has lived in Anchorage for 45 years and raised his children here. As a long-time observer and advocate, he urged patience, suggesting that the community will ultimately judge the effectiveness of this Task Force based on its outcomes. He emphasized the importance of building genuine relationships between the police and the community. Reflecting on past reports and lessons learned, he noted that nearly all findings point to one central truth: if the process doesn't lead to meaningful community engagement and connection, then it's not worth starting at all.
- 5) Kari Martindale, who is new to the area, emphasized the need for clear definitions, starting with what public safety means. She shared her experience living in Maryland, where a Police Accountability Board was established, and stressed the importance of including the word *accountability* in the work of this Task Force. Kari expressed that every officer would begin their day by asking themselves, "*How do I make sure I don't shoot anyone today?*" a mindset she believes should be at the heart of public safety efforts.



- 6) Steven Jolly, Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL), pointed out that holding meetings at 9 AM makes it difficult for the public to participate. He noted that 7 of the 11 Task Force members are from the municipality, emphasizing the need for greater public input in selecting members. Steven also suggested that changing the meeting venue could help increase community engagement.

V. Co-Convenor Closing Comments

Co-convenor Rich Curtner thanked everyone for their participation and expressed his optimism about the outcomes of this effort.

Co-convenor and Member Rivera described himself as someone who values efficiency and shared that he has served on two previous task forces where membership was open. Regarding this Task Force, Felix noted ongoing discussions about clearly defining its membership, reconsidering meeting times, and finding more meaningful ways to engage the public—expect to hear more about these topics. He emphasized that when he creates a task force, he wants it to have a clear purpose, concrete outcomes, identified recipients, and actionable steps for implementation.

VI. Adjourn

Assembly Member Felix Rivera adjourned the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

PRESS RELEASE



Task Force Pauses to Reevaluate Structure, Calls for Public Feedback

July 9, 2025

The Task Force to Reimagine the Public Safety Advisory Commission, created through [Resolution No. 2025-111](#) sponsored by Assembly Vice Chair **Anna Brawley** and Assembly Members **Kameron Perez-Verdia** and **Felix Rivera**, held its first meeting on June 26. The meeting brought together stakeholders to define what success might look like and to reflect on lessons learned from past efforts. Facilitators shared the timeline and key deliverables, and members of the public provided valuable input during the meeting's comment period.

Community participants asked thoughtful, challenging questions about the makeup of the task force, its purpose, and how it will operate transparently. In response to this feedback, task force leaders – including the Assembly sponsors, third party facilitators Denali Daniels & Associates, and co-convenor Rich Curtner – have cancelled the previously scheduled July meetings.

“The small strategy team took a step back to really consider the public’s feedback,” said Assembly Member **Kameron Perez-Verdia**. “We’re looking at restructuring in a way that is more open and truly responsive to the public voice. That’s why we’re pausing meetings in July and will re-engage in August with a new structure that allows for more people to be involved.”

In place of its July meetings, the strategy team will focus on reassessing the task force structure, clarifying opportunities for participation, and exploring new meeting formats that promote broad community engagement. As part of this effort, the Assembly sponsors have launched a community feedback survey to gather input on residents’ priorities, values, and lived experiences related to public safety. Community members are encouraged to participate in the survey at [this link](#). For more information or to stay up-to-date on the task force’s work, visit www.muni.org/assembly or sign up to receive email updates [here](#).

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Contact:

Felix Rivera | District 4, felix.rivera@anchorageak.gov

Anna Brawley | District 3, anna.brawley@anchorageak.gov

Kameron Perez-Verdia | District 3, kameron.perez-verdia@anchorageak.gov