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DATE: September 28, 2020

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

FROM: Nathan D. McCommon, Deputy City Manager, 452-4194  
*City Manager's Office*

SUBJECT: Advancing the Mayor's Pledge

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Following the tragic death of George Floyd, citizens across the nation and here locally were moved to evaluate the continued reality of systemic racism. Mayor Robinson, with the support of the Council, pledged to review police use of force to identify any potential reforms. Recent reactions around the country and locally in response to criminal charging decisions in the Breonna Taylor case further highlight the importance and timeliness of the pledge's commitment to listen to the community.

In line with that direction, we are now in the review and engagement phase of the pledge. This phase of public input will lead to a report and identification of potential reforms for consideration that ensure Bellevue's values are reflected within these critical policing policies. To perform the analysis, the city has hired a consultant to review policing policies and practices and recommend measures that ensure Black people and other people of color are safe and respected, which in turn will ensure the entire community is well served by this important public safety function.

The Office of Independent Review (OIR) Group is the consulting team that is leading the policy review, the public listening forums, and forming recommendations for potential reforms of police use of force. City staff will support the OIR team with content review, logistical support, and communications. The public forums will occur on the following three dates:

Tuesday, October 13	5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
Thursday, October 15	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Saturday, October 17	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Given the continued limitations of public gatherings due to COVID, virtual platforms will be used for all formal engagement in this process. There will be a blend of opportunities for interested stakeholders to contribute opinions and experiences. The manner of invitations will be broad through various media and networks. In addition, we will actively engage organized groups that have voiced interests aligned with the pledge. We encourage all residents of Bellevue to join one of the listening forums. Instructions for participation will be provided in the public invitations.

In the meantime, OIR has already begun its analysis of police use-of-force policies, which will continue while gathering public input. The listening forums may generate additional analysis of police use of force in Bellevue.

Future information on advancing the pledge will be provided via the City website, social media, and supplemental communications.