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**DATE:** Monday, September 30, 2024  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

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The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, September 30, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT:** Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor; Darcy Sandefur, City Clerk; CM Maryalice Wu, CM Christopher Evans, CM Shirese Hursey, CM Jaya Kolisetty, CM Chaundra Bishop, CM Grace Wilken, CM James Quisenberry

**ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** William Kolschowsky, Bridget Broihahn, Larry Boone, Rich Surles, Elizabeth Hannan, Michelle Brooks, Femi Fletcher, Seok Hyun Cho, Matt Roeschley, Demond Dade, Dave Smysor, Tal Prendergast, Steven Doggett, Bourema Ouedraogo

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

With a quorum present, Mayor Marlin called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 7:00p.m.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**a. 09-09-2024 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

Motion to approve by CM Wu, seconded by CM Kolisetty.

Voice Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

**3. Additions to the Agenda**

None.

**4. Presentations and Public Input**

**a. Public Input**

*Barbara Kessel* expressed concern on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois regarding the recent changes to the Alternative Response Task Force meeting format. Insisted the meeting format remain inclusive and transparent so that responses may be drawn from the entire Urbana community and so that they may listen in. Stated the changes recommended from BerryDunn should not override the interests of the community. Expressed desire from the community to be able to witness and participate throughout the whole process of developing an alternative response model. *Chris Zelle* echoed the previous statement. Stated the community needs to continue to be involved in the process. Expressed the community needs to be able to

trust the City through the process of developing an alternative response to stick to its promises of transparency. Stated the City of Urbana should keep the interests of the community at heart through the Alternative Response Task Force meetings. **Lilah Leopold** expressed shock from hearing BerryDunn's suggestions for the Alternative Response Task Force meetings to have them more closed off. Voiced intent and interest in attending the alternative response task force meetings. Stated the implications of the suggestions from BerryDunn implies the public as being seen as disruptive to conversations when the meetings will ultimately impact the community as a whole. Stated the idea of the alternative response task force meetings being closed to the public sets a dangerous precedent. Urged the City of Urbana to not accept the suggestions put forward by BerryDunn in the interests of the public and to preserve the democratic process. Questioned the benefits from having the discussions closed from the community. Stated it seemed as though the organizations who had agreed to serve on the task force did so under the assumption that the meetings would be public. **Steven MacGuire** stated the City of Urbana should prioritize transparency and accountability in the development of an alternative response process. Expressed BerryDunn may have suggested the discussions be closed to discuss potentially controversial topics, but the public needs to have some form of participation in the process due to it being tax-payer funded and to view the merit of the ideas being discussed. Urged City Council to reject the recommendations from BerryDunn. **Stuart Levy** expressed hope for the Alternative Response Task Force discussions to be open to the public and to form a genuinely new process, instead of falling to the bureaucratic inertia to base models on old processes. **Marina Minetti** expressed horror felt from reading the suggestions from BerryDunn to close the alternative response task force discussions to the public. Stated the public cannot be excluded from this discussion and questioned the intent behind the suggestions. Stated the suggestions oppose what the public originally requested. **Jane McClintock** stated the public has voiced significant interest in the Alternative Response Task Force discussions. Voiced excitement for the Alternative Response Task Force discussions, but emphasized the need to have the ability to witness it. Stated the suggestion to have the sessions be closed off is unproductive. Stated the community has the ability to add to the productivity of the discussions with their presence. **William Argus** thanked law enforcement, the Fire Department, and City Staff for their hard work. Introduced himself as a new member of the community and hoped for the issues regarding the discussion to be resolved.

*Mayor Marlin read Written Public Input voicing opposition to the proposed increases to the Local Motor Fuel Tax from the following individual: Steve Campbell.*

*Mayor Marlin read Written Public Input requesting for the Alternative Response Task Force meetings to be public from the following individuals: Addison Gray, Bren Larcom, Adam Nichols, Sana Saboowala, Isabel Scott.*

*Written Public Input requesting for the Alternative Response Task Force meetings to be public were received, but not read, from the following individuals: Lilah Leopold, Lilly Wright, Autumn Soliman.*

## 5. Council Input and Communications

**CM Kolisetty** echoed many of the sentiments articulated by the public. Expressed shock felt from hearing the changes made to the Alternative Response Task Force meeting format without consulting the whole of City Council. Thanked CM's Wilken and Evans for placing the discussion item onto the agenda and those who have spoken with her on this topic outside of City Council. Emphasized the need for transparency throughout the entire process. Thanked the public for speaking on the issue. **CM Wilken** thanked the public for their input tonight and agreed with the requests calling for transparency in the Alternative Response Task Force meetings. Stated she will share more of her thoughts during the discussion item.

## 6. Mayoral Appointments

### a. Deputy Fire Chief

– Steven Doggett (term ending June 30, 2025)

Presented by Femi Fletcher, Human Resources Manager, Fire Chief Dade, and Mayor Marlin. Femi Fletcher provided an overview and background on the hiring and selection process the Deputy Fire Chief and Deputy Chief of Police candidates went through before coming to City Council for appointment. Mayor Marlin provided an introduction for Steven Doggett and spoke on his merits and accomplishments. Noted the staff appointments all are set to end on June 30, 2025 and do not extend beyond that fiscal year due to State statutes.

Motion to approve by CM Wu, seconded by CM Quisenberry. Questions and discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

### b. Deputy Fire Chief

– Tal Prendergast (term ending June 30, 2025)

Presented by Fire Chief Dade and Mayor Marlin. Mayor Marlin shared an introduction for the candidate and spoke on his accomplishments. Fire Chief Dade thanked City Council for the appointment of a second Deputy Fire Chief.

Motion to approve by CM Hursey, seconded by CM Bishop.

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

### c. Deputy Chief of Police

– Rich Surles (term ending June 30, 2025)

Presented by Chief Boone and Mayor Marlin. Mayor Marlin spoke on the candidate's accomplishments at the City of Urbana's Police Department and his merits.

Motion to approve by CM Hursey, seconded by CM Wu.

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Quisenberry

**NAY:** Evans, Wilken

**d. Deputy Chief of Police**

– David Smysor (term ending June 30, 2025)

Presented by Chief Boone and Mayor Marlin. Mayor Marlin shared an introduction for the candidate and spoke on his accomplishments. Chief Boone thanked City Council for approving the two Deputy Chief of Police appointments and emphasized the ability for the appointees to help make the Urbana Police Department a 21st century police department. Stated Deputy Chief of Police Surles has the ability to be a Chief of Police and emphasized his commitment to the City of Urbana and the Urbana Police Department. Expressed pleasure to have Deputy Chief of Police Smysor appointed, pointing to his recent graduation from the Federal Bureau of Investigations National Academy.

Motion to approve by CM Bishop, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

**e. Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission**

– Carmen Franks (term ending June 30, 2027)

Mayor Marlin spoke on the recommendation to appoint the candidate to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission and spoke on her merits.

Motion to approve all three commission appointments by CM Wu, seconded by CM Wilken. Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

**f. Tree Commission**

– Elise Doody-Jones (term ending June 30, 2027)

Mayor Marlin spoke on the candidate's accomplishments and merits before reading a statement of interest from the candidate. *Approved together with item e.*

**g. Sustainability Advisory Commission Youth Seat**

– Gabriel Doussard (term ending April 24, 2025)

Mayor Marlin spoke on the candidate's merits and accomplishments before reading a statement of interest from the candidate. Clarified the appointment end date is April 24, 2025 due it being the candidate's 18th birthday and the youth seat is only available to those under 18 years old. Expressed hope for the candidate to reapply for a vacant regular commission seat afterward. *Approved together with item e.*

**7. Reports of Standing Committees**

None.

8. Committee of the Whole (*Council Member Grace Wilken, Ward 6*)

1. Consent Agenda

None.

2. Regular Agenda

- a. **Resolution No. 2024-09-063R:** A Resolution for Improvement under the Illinois Highway Code (State Motor Fuel Tax for Lincoln Avenue, Wascher Drive to Killarney Street, Road Diet Demonstration) – PW

Will Kolschowsky, Senior Management Analyst / Assistant to the City Administrator was present for questions. The Resolution seeks to appropriate State Motor Fuel Tax (State MFT) funds, in the amount of \$220,000, for a temporary road diet demonstration associated with the Lincoln Avenue (Wascher to Killarney) project.

~~Motion to approve by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Hursey.~~ Questions and discussion followed.

Motion withdrawn by CM Wilken.

Motion to defer to the next City Council meeting by CM Quisenberry, seconded by CM Wu. Questions and discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

- b. **Ordinance No. 2024-09-030:** An Ordinance Amending Urbana City Code Chapter 22, Sections 22-31 and 22-34 (Local Motor Fuel Tax) – HRF

The Ordinance approves increases in the City's local motor fuel tax to fund transportation improvements which will increment to 7.5 cents in the first year, 10 cents in the second year, 12.5 cents in the third year, and increase either based on the Consumer Price Index or 5% in the following years with preference given to the lower percentage.

Motion to approve by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Quisenberry. Questions and discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

- c. **Ordinance No. 2024-09-031:** An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Budget Amendment #1 - Omnibus) – HRF

Motion to approve by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Wu. Questions and discussion ensued.

The Ordinance amends the FY2025 Annual Budget to include additional funding for ladder truck repairs and multiple rebudgets for capital improvement projects.

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry, Marlin

**NAY:** None.

## **9. Reports of Special Committees**

None.

## **10. Reports of Officers**

Will Kolschowsky provided two updates regarding ARPA funds and the Special Census. Noted that RPC will be presenting next week providing an abridged version of the full report on the use of APRA funds. Stated in two weeks a discussion will be held on allocating the remaining ARPA funding that must be allocated by the end of the year. Stated in October, the Special Census will swap from self-response to in-person counting. Encouraged the public to submit self-responses. Mayor Marlin stated areas close to campus should have received three mailings to date regarding the Special Census as those areas were under counted in the 2020 Census. CM Wu asked if special mailers were sent to international students regarding the Census. Mayor Marlin affirmed that they were contacted. Shared that the compensation of municipal offices will be considered in October using compensation rates from various comparable cities. Stated the salaries must be set at least 180 days before the next elected officials take office.

## **11. Discussion**

### **a. Alternative Response Task Force Meeting Access – CM's Wilken and Evans**

Introduction provided by Mayor Marlin and presented by CM's Wilken and Evans. Mayor Marlin stated there was some misunderstanding with the suggestions from BerryDunn. Provided a background on the study from BerryDunn and an overview of the goals of the Alternative Response Task Force meetings. Spoke on the eighteen participating organizations and the fields they represent in the Alternative Response Task Force. Stated the process began with an incorrect assumption that the meetings will be public and televised. Shared BerryDunn proposed a public presentation on October 14th before City Council followed by task force meetings. Stated the results of the workshops will be reported at the midpoint with opportunity for the public to provide input followed by further meetings. Stated there will be a public presentation before City Council on the final results of the meetings to provide the options for consideration for Council and the public.

CM Wilken stated Mayor Marlin, during discussions on the formation of the Alternative Response Task Force, committed on record that the meetings will be recorded, made public, and posted for the public to access. Stated it was only recently discovered last week that BerryDunn had recommended to make the meetings not open to the public. Affirmed and echoed concerns from the public stating that the meetings should be open to the public and

that was what had been agreed upon. Stated concerns have only been heard from BerryDunn and not from the community organizations participating on the task force about the meetings being public. Stated the task force could be viewed as an ad hoc commission with public and recorded meetings. Expressed concern regarding BerryDunn's guidance and suggestions regarding the meetings. Stated the compromises are upsetting, but better than having no access to the meetings at all. Expressed interest on hearing further opinions on the accessibility from the Council and how to enforce Council direction on accessibility.

CM Quisenberry stated the Alternative Response Task Force meetings must be public as they are developing options for public safety. Expressed approval and support for the group of organizations taking part in the task force. Shared concern about the participating organizations potentially not being able to freely speak due to the sensitive nature of the topic being discussed. Stated some individuals in the community have expressed concern regarding speaking on police matters and then facing potential retaliation from the police department. Hoped for a balance to be found so that the meetings can be shared publicly, have the discussion not be steered, allow for small group discussions, and prevent individuals with strong agendas from interfering. Cited the discussions Champaign County held regarding the jail where a task force was formed, but had difficulties in the beginning of the discussion and produced not very impactful outcomes.

CM Kolisetty stated the Alternative Response Task Force meetings must be public as that was what had been committed to, it was what the task force members were informed of, and the organizations may not wish to participate in a closed process without transparency. Stated to change the process through these recommendations does a disservice to the participating organizations. Recalled own experience of being on a State of Illinois task force where all work was conducted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act as a potential model for how the Alternative Response Task Force meetings could operate. Stated if BerryDunn cannot follow along with having the meetings transparent, a new consultant will have to be found.

CM Wu stated concerns seem to center around the ability to provide public input, that the meetings would be inaccessible to the public, the public would not be able to be present during decision making, and closing the meetings erodes trust between the City and the public. Emphasized the task force is not developing the entirety of the proposal as the goal is to develop multiple options for City Council to consider, then those decisions will be made in public during open sessions with opportunities for discussion. Stated an alternative response model will be developed through the public process. Stated the recommendations from BerryDunn provide an opportunity for the public to view the draft proposal from the task force and then provide direct feedback on the contents of the proposal to the task force as well as the consultants before they work to finalize the proposal with the feedback in consideration. Stated she had originally proposed that the task force meetings follow in a similar procedure to the Council goals setting sessions and provided a background on that process. Proposed the meetings be conducted publicly, are recorded, and follow a format where BerryDunn briefs the task force on the discussion topics, they break out into small groups, and the contents of the discussion are later reported on in the meeting when they reconvene as a large group. Emphasized the amount of time discussions will take with a group of 16 people given that discussions with seven City Councilmembers already take a significant amount of time.

CM Evans asked when the second Alternative Response Task Force meeting is scheduled for and for clarification on what groups would seek to retaliate against or steer the conversations. Mayor Marlin confirmed the meeting is set to take place on the 19th of November. CM Evans stated the public seek to witness the discussions rather than wholly participating. CM Quisenberry clarified members of the community have spoken in public input before on behalf of individuals who wished to remain anonymous due to fear of retaliation.

Council discussed having the meetings be live-streamed so viewers can watch anonymously and so the participating organizations can speak freely without a live audience. Council further discussed potential logistics of meetings and methods to effectively facilitate discussion within meetings.

CM Wilken proposed straw polls on the options of closing the meetings as per BerryDunn's recommendations, having the meetings be open and compliant with the Open Meetings Act, and a third option where a compromise is made between the two. Proposed providing direction to draft a resolution to solidify the will of the Council once decided.

CM Kolisetty stated a midterm report from the task force on the development is a good idea, but ultimately supplemental to the process and cannot substitute having the meetings actually open to the public. Stated the discussion process was envisioned with having the public being included as a part of the process. Shared experience from being on a large task force where discussions ran smoothly as those who wished to speak had a chance to and those who wished to listen could do so.

Council discussed if there was concern voiced from the participating organizations regarding whether the meetings were open or closed. Council discussed the need for multiple avenues of input and access for the public through live-streaming and physical access to the meetings. Council discussed the logistics of having the Open Meetings Act guidelines apply to the meetings.

Straw poll by Mayor Marlin: In support of following the meeting logistics as recommended by BerryDunn.

AYE: 0

NAY: 7

Council further discussed how the guidelines of the Open Meetings Act apply to the meetings, the impacts it will have on general logistics, and how the implementation of those guidelines can be enforced. Council discussed the legality of having the task force meetings closed to the public and if they must fall under the Open Meetings Act guidelines based on a smell test.

Straw poll by Mayor Marlin: In support of having the meetings follow the Open Meetings Act guidelines.

AYE: 6

NAY: 0

Council discussed how to effectively convey the demands to BerryDunn and if direction had to be provided to the City Attorney to draft a resolution issuing those demands to have the meetings be open and in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Straw poll by CM Wilken: In support of directing the City Attorney to draft a resolution for the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting stating the Alternative Response Task Force meetings be compliant with the Open Meetings Act.

AYE: 4

NAY: 3

## **12. Adjournment**

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Marlin adjourned the meeting at 9:03p.m.



Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable [on-demand HERE](#).

**Minutes approved: 10/21/24**

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2024 6:28 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Re: Tax increase to allow better/more improvement to Urbana streets

**\*\*\* Email From An External Source \*\*\***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

As I understand this it only applies to gasoline, not to diesel or electric powered vehicles.

This, on its face, is not equitable.

One of the top causes of deterioration of our roads is weight. Electric vehicles tend to weigh 1 1/2 to 2 times the equivalent model. Not many diesel cars anymore but many trucks are. The Ford F-150 diesel weighs approximately 30% more than the gas model.

None of the vehicles in the preceding paragraph pay anything into the fuel tax fund.

We won't even get into 40,000 to 78,000 pound MTD buses. No road taxes there either.

This isn't fair! The Urbana City Council has a reputation for being fair. Change this or kill it

Steve Campbell

Please read this into the meeting.

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Addie Gray <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2024 4:54 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** 9/30 Public Comment: Alternative Response Task Force Meetings (Please Read Into the Record)

**\*\*\* Email From An External Source \*\*\***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council,

My name is Addison Gray and I am a resident of Ward 2.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the recent changes in the format of the Alternative Response Task Force meetings. Initially, the public was assured that these meetings would be accessible through in-person attendance, live broadcasts on UPTV, and archived recordings. This transparency is crucial for maintaining public trust in the decision-making process on such an important issue as public safety.

The decision to follow the BerryDunn consultant's recommendation to discourage public participation, not record the meetings, and delay public input until after the Task Force has completed its work is unacceptable. It effectively shuts the public out of crucial discussions and decisions that will impact the entire community. Operating behind closed doors under the guise of "expert" advice betrays the principles of transparency and accountability that should guide our local government.

I urge the Council to reject this new arrangement and reinstate full public access to the Task Force meetings. The community must be able to engage in these discussions as they happen, not after decisions have already been made and reports filed. Public participation is a fundamental right, and the exclusion of the public from these proceedings is a blatant disregard for that right.

I strongly encourage the Council to restore the previous format that allowed public attendance, live streaming on UPTV, and recorded archives. Anything less than full transparency will erode trust between the city and its residents. I expect the Council to take these concerns seriously.

Sincerely,

Addison Gray

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Bren <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2024 6:29 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** alternative response task force

**\*\*\* Email From An External Source \*\*\***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear City Council,

Please read this into tonight's record.

I would like to see a department that does not serve an enforcement function responding to the vast majority of emergency calls that are not violent crimes in progress. This would free up the police to respond to calls that are enforcement issues, and to investigate violent crimes.

Many people have opinions about how we achieve public safety, and there may be good reasons for a public safety plan that does not match what I personally want. If meetings of the Alternative Response Task Force were recorded and available for the public to listen in a timely manner, all of us could gain confidence that the alternatives each of us would prefer were considered, and that the trade-offs the Task Force had to make were needed and appropriate.

This could improve my (and presumably others') satisfaction with whatever plan the Task Force recommends, and improve the usefulness of suggestions members of the public make to the council on this topic.

Bren Larcom, ward 6 resident

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Adam <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2024 6:22 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public input for 2024-09-30 city council meeting

**\*\*\* Email From An External Source \*\*\***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comments into the record.

I understand there will be a discussion about "Alternative Response Task Force Meeting Access" tonight.

This seems like a simple decision. Allow the community to participate in the process, be that by submitting their concerns to the task force or just following along with the meetings.

We all know this alternative response has been something the community has been excited about for years and that public safety is the topic that gets the most civic engagement.

Why close these meetings? What is it that someone doesn't want the public to see? Is it because having an open, democratic process is inconvenient? If so, do you feel that is an acceptable justification?

If you supported the formation of an alternative response, is this what you imagined? A group which excludes every individual who applied, only accepting organizations, having secret meetings to decide who will respond to calls for service?

To kill the transparency of the process and only release the results would cause people to distrust the process. They will feel like the system is not working for them.

This recommendation from BerryDunn may be accepted in some cities, but it does not fit with Urbana's values.

Our org chart has the people are at the top. That's not the group who should be excluded.

According to imagine Urbana, our city values:

1. The city ensures equity and inclusion in all city services
2. The city is a welcoming community

I ask that you take a stand for democracy and government transparency. Open up these alternative response meetings to allow the public to provide direct input. Please, welcome public participation rather than excluding it.

Thank you,  
Adam Nichols

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Sana Saboowala <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2024 5:50 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** Public Input 9.30

\*\*\* Email From An External Source \*\*\*

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment aloud:

Dear Urbana City Council,

I am sorry I couldn't be here today to provide input in person. I'm very disappointed to hear that you're considering making the Alternative Response to Policing Task Force private, rather than having all the meetings open to the public. I had come to city hall to try to be present for the meeting on September 17 that was cancelled.

In my public comments earlier this year I had criticized BerryDunn and the council for not being community engaged. I am a 7th PhD candidate at U of I and I do community-engaged work, and I understand that it's a laborious task, but it's worth it to know what the community needs. Closing off the process of the alternative task force, not allowing the public to see those conversations, and not allowing public input into those conversations goes against the basic tenets of community-engagement.

BerryDunn, based on the reports we've seen from them, doesn't have a good track record of being engaged with the local Urbana community. I don't think the advice of an outside consultant count for more than what Urbana constituents want. We want transparency, and we want a say in shaping what alternative responses to policing look like in this community.

Money was set aside for alternatives to policing because of what the community asked for. Don't cut us out of the process now. As you saw with the police budget, the people of Urbana want to be more involved in the process of creating alternatives to policing. Allow us to be. At the very least be transparent, have these meetings publicly. There's already so much mistrust, why create a situation where there's more secrecy and more barriers between the community and the government? I urge you allow for public meetings and public input at all points in the process of creating alternative responses to policing.

Thank you

Best,  
Sana Saboowala  
Resident of Urbana

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Izzy Scott <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2024 5:32 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Cc:** ! Wu, Maryalice; ! Evans, Christopher; ! Hursey, Shirese; ! Kolisetty, Jaya; ! Bishop, Chaundra; ! Wilken, Grace; ! Quisenberry James  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 9.30 — PLEASE READ MY COMMENT ALOUD!

**\*\*\* Email From An External Source \*\*\***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

To the Urbana City Council,

My name is Isabel Scott. I'm a resident of Champaign, but am frequently in Urbana. I'm writing to you today because I'm very concerned about the BerryDunn consultant's push to have the ARTF meetings & reports conducted out of the public's eye.

I am wholeheartedly in support of policing alternatives. I'm happy to see that Urbana is giving serious consideration to this. However, any alternatives to policing must rely on community input and support, especially if they are to bridge the (very real and valid) mistrust that marginalized communities have of policing. I question as to why the BerryDunn consultant is pushing for these meetings to be private, with no public input. I think this is antithetical to what the Council wants to achieve.

Urbana deserves transparency from its elected officials and outside consultants brought to work on issues facing the city. Anything less than that is deeply underhanded and irresponsible. If BerryDunn doesn't want public input on their plans for the ARTF, then I believe they are not suited to be working with the Urbana community. If their work affects the community, then the community deserves to know about it, and have an archive of past decisions made by the taskforce to hold them accountable. Again, I'm worried about the consequences for Urbana's most vulnerable if an outside entity is allowed to make decisions regarding something as challenging and complex as policing, without any public oversight. To me, this sounds like a recipe for disaster – or potentially a scandal.

Please vote AGAINST the new arrangement for ARTF meetings. Protect your constituents & those in Urbana (and Champaign) community who do not have a voice in this matter. Transparency must be the Taskforce's guide.

Regards,  
Isabel Scott

**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Lilah Leopold <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2024 3:05 PM  
**To:** !City Council; Marlin, Diane  
**Subject:** Public Comment 9.30.2024

**\*\*\* Email From An External Source \*\*\***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Members of the Urbana City Council and Mayor Marlin,

It is IMPERATIVE that the Alternative Task Force meetings be available to the public. This is a CRUCIAL and NECESSARY step in building, repairing, and maintaining trust among law enforcement and the community of Urbana.

Sincere and continued thanks for your service!  
Lilah Leopold, Ward 4



**Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'**

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**From:** Lillian Wright <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2024 5:44 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 9.30 PLEASE READ MY COMMENT ALOUD

**\*\*\* Email From An External Source \*\*\***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello City Council,

Thank you for reading my email aloud tonight. My name is Lilly Wright and I live and work in Urbana.

I am concerned about the recent change to the Alternative Response Task Force meetings format. As I have learned, the BerryDunn consultant recommends the public NOT participate in meetings or for the meetings to be recorded or archived, and I find this sketch as heck. As the Alternative Response Task Force is supposed to exist as an alternative to the police, it doesn't make any sense for the community to be forbidden knowledge of its operation. We would like transparency, please.

Thank you,  
Lilly Wright

## Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

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**From:** Autumn Soliman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2024 6:58 PM  
**To:** !City Council  
**Subject:** PUBLIC INPUT 9.30 PLEASE READ MY COMMENT ALOUD

**\*\*\* Email From An External Source \*\*\***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good evening,

As a resident of CU, I find it very troubling that our leaders are trying to shut down public engagement about the Alternative Response Task Force, especially when it involves something as important as public safety. Policing has a racial component, which makes it even more critical to have open dialogue. Your consultants dont have a single person of color on their Board. How can we trust a third party to know what our community needs? How can we trust them to know what the Black community needs? Simple - we can't.

Please take note of how another public entity, perhaps an unnamed school district, recently tried to deter engagement about policy changes. Their big shot consultants failed to genuinely engage parents and families affected by change and offered proposals without equitable representation of community voices. That hasn't gone well for the community and it certainly hasn't been kind to those leaders. Take note, we are not data points to be organized, risks to be mitigated, or incidents to be managed; we are a community. We are neighbors, business owners, parents, children, and above all, human beings. Please ask your community what they need for safety, then have your consultants crunch numbers and run their models to make it work.

A leader who doesn't trust their community to speak is not fit for leadership.

Thank you.

Autumn Soliman