



# Council Pledge on Use of Force Review

## Community Listening Session FAQ

### Why are community listening sessions being held?

Community engagement is a key part of the [City Council pledge](#) to review police use of force policies in response to the ongoing conversation about race and social justice. As part of the process, the city has hired an outside review firm, the [Office of Independent Review Group](#) (OIR), to lead the policy analysis and listening forums as well as to give recommendations regarding the city's use of force policies.

### What will these sessions include?

During each session community participants will have the chance to share their experience with and expectations of the city's use of force policies. The majority of the session will be open discussion from the community, with a few polling questions sprinkled in.

The session will be facilitated by members of OIR. All feedback gathered from the listening sessions and other engagement tools will help OIR determine, prepare and deliver recommendations to the City Council.

### How can I participate?

Bellevue is holding three online community listening sessions ([register here](#)):

- Tuesday, Oct. 13, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 15, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 17, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The listening sessions will also be broadcast live on Bellevue TV channel 21, the [BTV YouTube channel](#) and [BTV's live stream](#). Community members can also complete a survey or submit comments on the city's [Engaging Bellevue](#) site. Comments may also be emailed to [council-pledge@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:council-pledge@bellevuewa.gov). Materials are available in multiple languages.

## **How do I join the online listening session?**

Participants must [register](#) ahead of time to join a listening session. When you register, additional information and instructions for joining the event will be sent automatically prior to the meeting. The virtual sessions will be held on Zoom.

Zoom instructions:

1. To join the meeting from your computer, click or copy and paste the link provided in the registration email into an internet browser.
2. A box will appear on screen with options, click 'Open Zoom'.
3. A box will appear asking for your name. Please enter your first name and last initial, then select 'Join Meeting'. **NOTE:** You will be unable to edit the name displayed after you enter the meeting.
4. A box will appear asking if you would like to join with or without video. Select your preference.
5. A box will appear asking if you would like to join with computer audio or by phone call. The computer audio option will use the speakers and microphone on your computer.
6. Once you have entered the meeting you will see yourself and others in the meeting.
7. To join the meeting from your phone only, the link provided after you register will contain a phone number and meeting ID. You will call the phone number and then enter the meeting ID.
8. If you join via your phone, additional instructions will be provided in the meeting about how you can participate from your phone.

## **If I join the Zoom meeting will I need a camera? Will I need to display my photo or my full name?**

Use of video or photo is encouraged to facilitate a town hall meeting but is not required to participate in the listening session. We ask that you enter your first name and last initial, which will allow us to differentiate between participants who would like to speak.

## **If I call will my phone number be displayed?**

The last four digits of the phone number of call-in attendees will be automatically hidden.

## **What will be done to ensure the event dialog is productive and respectful?**

This event is intended to be a gracious and respectful space for community dialogue. To support this, all attendees are asked to be respectful of the lived experiences and opinions of others. Your experience and opinions are important to us, but please note that the event hosts and sponsors do not permit obscenity, defamation, threats, spam, illegal activities, or

discrimination. Individuals found to be violating these rules may be removed from the meeting.

**What accessibility features are available?**

A closed captioning service is available for the online listening sessions for all attendees. For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable accommodation requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance (425) 452-7886 (voice) or email [ygarcia@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ygarcia@bellevuewa.gov).

**Will city staff or City Council be involved in the meeting?**

City staff members will be supporting the logistics of the call, but all facilitation and comments will be handled by members of the OIR Group.

Mayor Lynne Robinson will provide comments at the beginning of the meeting, but any attending councilmembers will be there to listen only. Council engagement on this topic will occur at a later date; the listening sessions are specifically designed to hear from the community.

**What will be the next steps after the listening sessions?**

OIR has already begun its analysis of Bellevue's police use of force policies, which will continue while public input is gathered through the listening sessions and online survey. As early as the end of the year, OIR will present its findings and recommendations to City Council.