



Agenda Abstract

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date:	June 12, 2023
Department:	Communications, Police, Public Space
Agenda Section:	Presentation
Public hearing:	No
Date of public hearing:	N/A

PRESENTER/INFORMATION CONTACT

Senior Communications Specialist Cheryl Sadgrove

ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED

Subject: Follow-up on Engage Hillsborough: Safety event

Attachments:

Slideshow: Spring 2023 Event Follow-up

Summary:

Staff hosted the town's first Engage Hillsborough event on Saturday, April 29. The safety-focused event included opportunities for community members to:

- Talk with safety-related staff members at information tables, many with interactive activities (about 23 community members and 21 staff members participated).
- Engage in small- and large-group conversations about safety with one another.
- Receive childcare with a supervised art activity during the event (about 5 children participated).
- Receive Spanish interpreting services during the event (no one used the service, but several attendees expressed support and enthusiasm for the town offering it).

Staff reported that, in one-on-one conversations with community members, they heard questions or concerns about:

- Diversity in the community
- Lowering speed limits
- Pedestrian safety and the need for sidewalks
- Mental health response
- Affordability
- Tenant rights
- Water cleanliness and supply
- Nearby construction impacting Bellvue Street

The same topics arose in the small- and large-group conversations on safety.

The event turned out to be the same day as the River Park Concert, which may have pulled some community members away. It was an attempt to offer an alternative method of outreach that could lead to more and different voices engaging with the town. Eleven community members completed evaluations. The evaluations and sign-in sheet indicated representation from nine neighborhoods. Eight people marked that they were white, two Black and one "other." Two people identified themselves as Latino/Latina/Latinx/Hispanic. One person noted being under age 25.

The idea for the meeting was grown from:

- Town board and staff discussions of the recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force on Reimagining Public Safety.
- Hillsborough's Government 101.
- The topic-based outreach recommended by the Government Alliance on Race and Equity.

Fall occurrences of the meeting would allow it to inform budget requests for the next budget cycle and could immediately follow the Government 101 program, with the meeting serving as one session of the program that is opened to the larger community.

Financial impacts:

Expenses for the spring event totaled about \$1,100 for interpretation services, childcare and art activities, refreshments and promotional materials. Translation of materials cost an additional \$800.

Staff recommendation and comments:

Staff plans to offer a second trial meeting in Fall 2023. The tentative date is Nov. 4.

Action requested:

Staff requests that the board provide any direction on the planned, second trial engagement event.