



Proposal

Annual Engagement Meeting on Safety

Staff proposes testing an annual engagement meeting on safety as a chance for community members to:

- Share safety concerns.
- Meet the staff who work in aspects of safety.
- Learn how the town operates in relation to safety.

Meetings on other key topics could be added as needed, with a goal of two meetings of this type per year. One meeting would be offered in the fall to feed into budget requests. Potential names for the meeting are “Conversation on Safety,” “Let’s Talk Safety” or “Safety Talk,” with the topic substituted as needed. Example: “Conversation on Sustainability,” “Let’s Talk Sustainability” or “Sustainability Talk.”

The meeting would offer an alternative method of outreach that may lead to additional and different voices engaging with the town by attempting to reach members of all areas of town and to make attendance easier via childcare and a weekend date. The idea was grown from town board and staff discussions of the recommendations of the Mayor’s Task Force on Reimagining Public Safety as well as the town’s Government 101 program and the topic-based outreach recommended by the Government Alliance on Race and Equity. The Communications Division would lead coordinating the meetings.

Community Participants

The meeting would be promoted to all community members through various means, including direct mail at least to neighborhood boards or property managers. Government 101 program participants would be invited directly as well as at least one representative from each community within Hillsborough’s service area.

Staff Participants

Orange Rural Fire Department would be invited to participate, and staff from the following divisions and departments would be included:

- Communications Division
- Community Services Department — the four divisions would each have an information table:
 - Planning and Economic Development
 - Public Space and Sustainability
 - Public Works
 - Stormwater and Environmental Services
- Police Department
- Utilities Department

Program

The two-hour meeting would offer in this order:

- 30 minutes of information tables with each participating division and department.

- 1 hour of programming on safety:
 - 5-minute warm-up exercise
 - 10-minute large group exercise
 - 45-minute discussion
- 30 minutes of additional time to circulate among staff and ask questions and to view the safety-related activity created by children participating in offered childcare

Logistics and Materials

The pilot meeting is proposed for 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 29 in the Whitted Human Services Center meeting room, with a room on the floor for childcare. These rooms have been tentatively reserved.

If the pilot shows potential for continuing this form of engagement, a fall meeting would be planned to immediately follow the Government 101 program. This would build on the momentum of Government 101, encouraging participation from that year's student community members and gaining additional community members from Government 101 testimonials.

Plans for the pilot meeting include:

- Childcare to be offered for children ages 4 to 12 years old, with Orange County recreation counselors assisting police officers.
- Table in hallway with brief video of police chief outlining key aspects of how Hillsborough police operate.
- Information tables in meeting room staffed by participating divisions and departments with a table each for Orange Rural Fire Department and for materials from Orange County and nonprofit services.
- Map activity for community participants to place a blue dot for where they live and a red dot for where they work in town (this will help in showing boundaries of town services).
- Writing activity for community participants to complete the sentences "I feel safe when ..." and "What's most important to me is ..." to be submitted for staff review.
- Children's activity on safety, led by police officers and possibly elected officials and Orange County Arts Commission.
- Handout in English and Spanish with brief information summarizing the work each participating division and department does related to safety.
- Documents in English and Spanish of brief key information on safety services at each table.
- Refreshments.

Budget

Staff propose budgeting \$2,500 for the meeting to cover costs, including translation of documents and promotion via yard signs, direct mail postcards and other means. Estimated expenses thus far are:

- Meeting space rental: \$300 — The large meeting room and a small meeting room in the Whitted Human Services Center are reserved from 1 to 7 p.m. April 29, 2023. The cost is \$25 per hour per room.
- Interpreter Services: \$412.50 — This is Chicle's quote for two interpreters and the equipment for a two-hour event in Hillsborough. There may be other options.
- Childcare: about \$150 — Payment for two to three Orange County parks and recreation staff members for at least three hours (2:30 to 5:30 p.m.).

- Refreshments: \$450 — Likely fruit, pastries, nuts, chips and beverages.