

# Questions and Answers

**QUESTION:** What are we doing to keep our citizens safe and maintain quality of life? (e.g., Preventing carjacking's, reduce speeding/aggressive driving, aggressive panhandling, etc.)

**RESPONSE:** We continue to engage community in Zone Meetings with best practices and tips to avoid becoming a victim- Trying to institute FLOCK as a tool to assist proactively knowing that carjacking is a crime of opportunity and many times offenders are using stolen vehicles to search for victims- Aggressive follow up with detectives and searching for stolen/hijacked vehicles- Investigation includes a thorough forensic exam of the recovered vehicle to identify and prosecute offenders

**QUESTION:** Please explain in detail how you plan to coordinate with community organizations that represent groups disproportionately impacted by policing. In particular, how will you work with Freedom to Thrive Oak Park and ROYAL, who have a deep understanding of the community impact you are interested in studying.

**RESPONSE:** BerryDunn has worked extensively with the Village to identify and connect with numerous stakeholders (including those listed) to collect community input. This has occurred through online feedback opportunities, numerous large and small group meetings, and through individual meetings.

**QUESTION:** How might we see OPPD out and enforcing the inordinate number of South bound traffic commuters that blow through the DO NOT ENTER sign at the north diverter of 1200 block Rossell? Same with the inordinate number of commuters who blow through both east and westbound stop signs at Rossell/LeMoyne. We see zero OPPD presence enforcing these issues. Ugh!

**RESPONSE:** The RBO and Supervisor are aware of the ongoing issue. We will create a Priority mission that will include CPU & Patrol for the issue. Additionally, The NRO (neighborhood resource officer) will be directed to make this a traffic mission in the Zone.

**QUESTION:** What is the reason for this survey? Are Oak Park police behaving improperly? Are there complaints about our police department's methods?

**RESPONSE:** The surveys and community outreach are part of our methodology to collect community input and feedback regarding public safety in the Village of Oak Park. These are our standard processes and they are not an indication of performance by the police department.

**QUESTION:** When will the Village of Oak Park post the questions on the website that have been received from citizens and the answer to each from the working committee?

**RESPONSE:** Questions will be reviewed and answered weekly going forward.

**QUESTION:** Are the online community forums being recorded and made available to the public?

**RESPONSE:** These forums are not recorded. This is done to help provide a more comfortable space for attendees to share their thoughts and opinions.

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**QUESTION:** What evidence does our community have that the Oak Park Police Department delivers services in an inequitable manner? You first have to find evidence before making assumptions that it does not. Based on the central focus of the research as stated in the newsletter, there is an assumption that it does not

**RESPONSE:** There is no assumption that the police department is inequitable in its approach to public safety. One aspect of this project is to examine equity in the delivery of police services, but there is no predisposition in either direction.

**QUESTION:** How will this project protect victims of criminal retaliation and the safety of the general public at-large once Illinois law changes on January 1, 2023 where “courts will no longer be able to set bail payments of any amount as a condition for a defendant’s release in advance of their trial with few exceptions”?

**RESPONSE:** This project will not examine this issue.

**QUESTION:** Will the following Oak Park governments and/or employee participate in this project? If so, please describe their expected contribution in both defining the project’s scope, progress and execution of action plans?

- 1) Village of Oak Park - Assistant Director of HR and Racial Equity
- 2) Oak Park Public Library - Director of Equity and Anti-Racism
- 3) Elementary School D97 - Senior Director of Equity
- 4) Elementary School D97 - Safety and Security Coordinator
- 5) OPRF High School D200 - Director of Equity and Student Access
- 6) Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township – Executive Director

**RESPONSE:** In addition to small and large group meetings, BerryDunn has worked with the Village to identify key stakeholders for this project, and has invited feedback from those identified.

**QUESTION:** Will comments from an advisor to Mayor Lori Lightfoot recently made public by the Chicago Tribune be a framework of this project? The comments being “I actually agree with the idea of reforming these communities. God knows values such as intact families, education, work ethic, religion, etc. are the building blocks of success in all societies. As young people, we think this is old fashioned. As we mature, we see it is not only true but that the alternatives lead to chaos.”

**RESPONSE:** The scope of this project involves examining best practices in public safety and their application the Village of Oak Park.

**QUESTION:** What, if anything, is the Department doing to improve safety for pedestrians?

**RESPONSE:** The Village has installed enhancements such as striping and flashing beacons to higher volume roadway crossings.

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**QUESTION:** When Illinois law changes on January 1, 2023 “courts will no longer be able to set bail payments of any amount as a condition for a defendant’s release in advance of their trial with few exceptions.” Statistics reflect that 50% of those released in states with similar initiatives do not appear at their scheduled court date. How will this program address the added work load resulting from this law change and not further tax the over worked and understaffed Village of Oak Park Police department. (Report <https://www.wkbw.com/news/i-team/the-cost-of-freedom-half-of-defendants-not-showing-up-to-court-when-released-on-appearance-tickets>)

**RESPONSE:** This is answered above.

**QUESTION:** How will this project protect victims from crime retribution and the safety of the general public at-large once Illinois law changes on January 1, 2023 and “courts will no longer be able to set bail payments of any amount as a condition for a defendant’s release in advance of their trial?”

**RESPONSE:** This is answered above.

**QUESTION:** Why do we have no progressive conflict resolution options in this community? if we do why don't I know about it? we should be taking petty crime, and some other conflicts to mediation outside the court system

**RESPONSE:** We have the CCR (Center for Conflict Resolution) in which a L/O can be diverted for resolution and also the Village-Community Relations Department has been used to help resolve issues between neighbors

**QUESTION:** I see that OPPD publishes daily incident reports, which is good. The day-to-day stuff is interesting. But it might be helpful if the data was aggregated for a big picture view. Otherwise you have to sift through all these daily reports to get a sense for what's happening on the streets. Does OPPD aggregate the incident report data for public review?

**RESPONSE:** The Village and the Police Department are working on a dashboard for better dissemination of data for the public.

**QUESTION:** Why are loud car, cycle, truck radios tolerated on main streets? Getting more frequent and unaddressed by police/Village. Needs to stop.

**RESPONSE:** As the warmer weather approaches the PD will be on the alert for these violations.

**QUESTION:** As a resident of Oak Park, I would like to see some solid data and statistics as to why an outside firm was hired to do DEI consulting on the police department. As a tax-paying resident of Oak Park, I would like to know why money is being directed towards training/consulting and not building up our police department in ways they may deem a higher priority.

**RESPONSE:** The Village Board made this decision based on numerous factors and is interested in gaining an objective report that helps outline key public safety strategies to best serve the Village.

**QUESTION:** How will this project reduce the risk of a carjacking, armed robbery, retail theft, physical assault, murder, illegal guns, business or home burglary, drug traffic and unlicensed and uninsured drivers?

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**RESPONSE:** This project intends to help the Oak Park Police Department serve the Village in the most efficient and effective manner.

**QUESTION:** The Village set aside funds to create a non-police response team for community members experiencing a mental health crisis. How is the Village using this consulting engagement to define and create this team so that they can start responding to these calls for service instead of police?

**RESPONSE:** Considering alternatives to call for service response is a key element of this project, and the resulting information will assist the Board in making these budget and personnel decisions.

**QUESTION:** Why would Oak Park Hire "BerryDunn, a national consulting firm" an entire White company to look into Race issues.

**RESPONSE:** BerryDunn has demonstrated a pattern of providing objective services to government clients across the country. The team from BerryDunn is diverse and possesses the requisite skills to conduct all aspects of the work associated with this project.