**En Español:**
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lv_AX3-Qqm-75WKx_isBqXIdUhIr_ZQNRS8lGuLqa4I/edit?usp=sharing

**What:** City of Denton Ad Hoc Use-of-Force Committee Public Comment

**When:** Thursday, July 23 at 5:30 P.M.

## Content/Additional Info:

- To comment by phone during the July 23 Use of Force Committee meeting, call (940) 349-7800 beginning at 5:30 p.m.
    - Online comment form in **English**:https://cityofdenton.wufoo.com/forms/z1kwuxc71bsz7qz/
    - Online comment form in **Spanish**:https://cityofdenton.wufoo.com/forms/z1ik0dz11uzy0ul/
- https://www.cityofdenton.com/en-us/government/boards-commissions-committees/use-of-force-committee
- **Live phone comments are limited. Try to keep your messages under three minutes.**
- **Graphic folder**

## The Goals:

- Address issues in the Operations of Committee
- Address issues in the Current Policy and Prevention

## Talking Points:

### *Operations of committee*

The ad hoc committee was created with a top-down, power dynamic. [Briefly mention how the selection of the committee occurred, briefly] This was done in a wholly disconnected approach and does not serve the government to people procurement needed from such a committee . The people of Denton need absolute transparency and deserve to be fully informed as to how the ad hoc committee

intends to center the needs of the most marginalized and targeted by Denton policing.

The people of Denton need solutions that decrease the power and scope of policing, not increase or further fund resources for expanded or thorough policing; this includes technology and equipment which result in more money and do not prove to reduce violence or police killings.

Mayor Chris Watts has requested public input by way of personal, and often traumatic stories. We would like to inquire some necessary questions; will the committee be aware, prepared, assisted, and adequately trained on how to safely retrieve these memories and stories in a victim-first context? This includes:

- Acknowledging the psychological consequences of asking people to relive their experienced trauma on a public forum
- Clarifying the exact purpose of retelling traumatic stories, and how this information will be utilized
- A guarantee and pledge that this information will not be not utilized against the people who will be sharing such stories and that they will not be utilized to delegitimize their experiences or the conversation at large.

### ***Current Policy & Prevention***

To hold this conversation is to acknowledge the systems already in place and to also address the myriad of ways in which we witness these issues that permeate inconspicuously as well. This means examining **use-of-force**. Our questions are the following:

- Who is creating, providing and leading such use-of-force trainings? What do these trainings consist of?
- Are there anti-racist and anti-discriminatory practices and , trainings included in the conversations police have about when they are inclined to utilize force against vulnerable populations?
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) often cooperates with local police departments which often leads to handing over operations to authorities outside of the city's control. How does Denton PD cooperate with ICE? How does Denton PD conduct and document immigration inquiries? How does Denton PD respond to immigration detainers? We ask that these policies are plainly and distinctly shared with the public.

This reckoning with policing demands solutions that focus on prevention of use-of-force **not** reaction to overt use-of-force. We shouldn't have to wait until

something horrible happens for the city to react to, we should make use-of-force inconvenient for police to avoid imprudent use. This means:

- Consequences for use-of-force
- Impact on employment, benefits, pensions
- Swift consequences not drawn out reviewing

## Script: Three minutes

**My name is** [name] **and I am part of** [insert group/am or "a concerned community member"]**. I am calling today about the** ["ad-hoc committee" and/or the current policy and preventions] **and its role in Denton policing. I am most concerned about** [enter specific issue or own take on issue] **because it fails to center the most marginalized and affected by policing in Denton.** [You may take time to add personal or further points here if you would like, but be brief!] **I would like to see** [use solution/alternative provided in talking points]. **Historically, reform hasn't prevented or reduced harm to communities, we demand solutions that divest police resources into the community, not the type that further empower and militarize police resources.** Thank you for listening.

## Sample Social Media Posts:

Tomorrow the city's ad hoc committee will have its first public input session to talk about Denton Police Department policies, practices, and training. **Call (940) 349-7800 at 5:30 p.m. and tell them you want solutions that center the most marginalized.**

[graphics]

At this time tomorrow the city's ad hoc meeting will be discussing Denton PD's practices and policies. The people of Denton need absolute transparency and deserve to be fully informed as to how the ad hoc committee intends to center our communities. Take action!

[CTA graphic]

Today the city's ad hoc committee will be taking public comment on Denton PD practices. Use the script in the graphic to tell the committee we want to decrease the power of policing not increase or fund their resources!

[graphic with script]

🚨Tonight!🚨 We need the city's ad hoc committee to guarantee and pledge that the traumatic policing retellings will not be not utilized against the people who will be sharing. Please call **(940) 349-7800** at 5:30 p.m. and ask for accountability!

Link to talking points →
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QeGghGD3cbTsd5nL-RL9eRYNZzX-IXJSfFh2oQzqo5M/edit?usp=sharing