

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2021-__

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD, TO BE
KNOWN AS “THE MAYOR’S CITIZEN TASK FORCE
ON DE-ESCALATION AND POLICE PRACTICES” OR
“THE DE-ESCALATION TASK FORCE”**

WHEREAS, “de-escalation” is any practice that tends to prevent conflicts from growing in severity; and

WHEREAS, public safety can be enhanced by best practices in de-escalation policies, including community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Paterson and its Public Safety Director are dedicated to continuing improvement of public safety in the City; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of Paterson's younger residents in the improvement of policing policies can advance community-wide engagement.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, André Sayegh, Mayor of the City of Paterson, New Jersey by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Statutes of this State and the Code of the City of Paterson, do hereby issue the following Executive Order:

SECTION 1. Establishment of Task Force

There is hereby established a “Mayor’s Citizen Task Force on De-Escalation and Police Practices,” which may also be known as “The De-Escalation Task Force.”

SECTION 2. Membership of Task Force

The De-escalation Task Force shall consist of seven members appointed by the Mayor including two (2) age-restricted members, aged 18 to 20 years old, and one aged 21 to 30 years old. All members shall complete training in evidence-based policy research. The training shall be via the online Leadership and No-Blame Problem Solving course offered by Rutgers University-Newark, or via The Citizens Campaign portal, or via other educational entities, prior to their being authorized to vote on any resolutions of the De-escalation Task Force.

SECTION 3. Powers and Duties of the Task Force

- A. The De-escalation Task Force shall conduct public meetings at least four times a year. The opinions and conclusions of the task force shall be formalized via written resolution.
- B. The De-escalation Task Force shall have the following duties:
 - (1) Serve in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and Public Safety Director;
 - (2) Recommend to the Mayor, Business Administrator, and Public Safety Director evidence-based policies that:
 - a. have been proven to be successful, and
 - b. might improve screening, training, reporting and any other actions or practices that enhance de-escalation,
 - c. help foster a "guardian" culture in the Paterson Police Department.

- (3) To conduct public hearings to receive evidence-based, de-escalation best practice input from individuals, including police officers;
- (4) Review an Annual De-escalation Performance Audit that shall be provided by the Paterson Police Department to report progress on the adoption and/or implementation of any policies or practices or actions taken to improve the de-escalation capabilities and performance of the Department, including but not limited to, improving recruitment screening and psychological testing, use of force reporting, de-escalation training, and any other practices and policies that enhance de-escalation capabilities.
- (5) The De-escalation Task Force's role is to research and advise. It shall not have the power to investigate individual members or officers of the Police Department; nor shall it have subpoena power or access to any internal affairs files that are not public records; nor shall it have the power to recommend or impose discipline upon individual members or officers of the Police Department.

SECTION 4. Consideration of Use of Force Records in Promotion Decisions

This Order finds and declares that, to the fullest extent permitted by the current Collective Bargaining Agreements and Law, an Officer's excessive use of force record and de-escalation performance in accordance with their training should be considered in decisions regarding the officer's promotion.

SECTION 6. Effective Date

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon execution order by Mayor Sayegh.

SECTION 7. Term of Executive Order.

The Task Force established by this Executive Order shall remain in effect until rescinded by Mayor Sayegh or any successor.

APPROVED:

ATTESTED TO AND RECORDED BY:

MAYOR ANDRÉ SAYEGH

SONIA GORDON, CITY CLERK

DATE: _____

DATE: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

AYMEN ABOUSHI, ESQ
CORPORATION COUNSEL

DATE: _____