

The Procedural Justice Committee met on Oct. 6, 2020 at the Public Safety Building.

New Co-Chair Yvonne Flowers talked about the committee's role in helping the city address Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order 203 pertaining to policing and enhanced training and policies. She said the committee will have an advisory role to the city and will help facilitate the public discussion.

Mayor Rob Rolison explained to the committee members why he wanted them to do this work and why he named Flowers and Bishop Debra Gause as co-chairs, pointing to their close ties to the community. Flowers is serving her second consecutive term on the Common Council, and Gause is the senior pastor of Holy Light Pentecostal Church.

He also noted that the Police Department already had undertaken much training, including in procedural justice and implicit bias, and is considerably ahead of most departments in the area.

Committee members said they would like to see more diversity in the police ranks, and that more public oversight of the department should be part of the reform effort.

The committee will seek public input and make recommendations to the city. The Police Department will help craft a report that will be first forwarded to the administration for review. A report ultimately will go to the Common Council for approval.

The committee has reviewed the governor's executive order and also will review the governor's [resource guide](#) on the top.

The committee agreed to meet again on Oct. 20 and will hold a public meeting later this month. That virtual meeting will offer residents the opportunity to weigh in about police matters and to give their views on the executive order.

The city has created a [website](#) for the committee and its work on executive order 203.