



# Media Advisory

Unified Government Strategic Communications

701 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 620

Kansas City, Kansas 66101

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 12, 2021**

## **Unified Government Selection of New Police Chief Advances to Final Stages**

*The search for a new KCKPD police chief continues with this week's assessment center.*

On Thursday, April 15, 2021 the Unified Government Commission will hear presentations and ask questions of the top candidates for Chief of the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department. The public is invited to attend the conversation which will be broadcast virtually via YouTube or UGTV at 5:00PM. Login information for Thursday's special session is below.

While the COVID-19 pandemic may have slowed the process temporarily last Spring, the Unified Government administration has led an extensive effort since January 2020 to understand and define the ideal candidate for Kansas City, KS, including community listening sessions, a community survey, and police department listening sessions. The Unified Government hired a national recruitment firm to identify and pre-qualify candidates for the position in early 2021. The candidates have participated in a rigorous process of interviews and written exercises and the top four (4) finalists will advance to this week's three-day assessment center.

For key strategic hires such as Chief of Police, the Unified Government uses a hiring practice called an assessment center, a multi-step, multi-day intensive process that includes simulated exercises; group interviews with neighborhood groups, the police union, and police command; neighborhood tours; and interviews with the County Administrator Doug Bach, as well as the upcoming Special Session presentation with the Unified Government Commission. The assessment center gives candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their capabilities in real-time while also meeting key community and organization stakeholders.

In addition, the Unified Government county administrator has invited public representatives to be part of the Assessment Center process. This Blue Ribbon Committee includes:

- Randy Callstrom, Wyandotte Behavioral Health Network
- Joy Engel, Turner USD 202 District Leader
- Mark Dupree, Wyandotte County District Attorney
- Rev. Tony Carter, Salem Missionary Baptist Church
- Daniel Silva, KCK Chamber of Commerce
- Max Mendoza, Heartland 180
- Martin Cervantes, KCK Public Schools Student Mentor/Leadership 2000 Board Member
- Denise Tomasic, Tomasic Law
- Melanie Bakarich, Piper Educational Foundation
- Rachel Jefferson, Groundwork NRG
- Dr. Evelyn Hill, Avenue of Life
- Roslyn Brown, KCKCC Board of Trustees
- Irene Caudillo, El Centro
- Valeria Espadas, Safe & Welcoming Wyandotte Coalition
- Carolyn Wyatt, Unified Government Board of Park Commission
- Sheriff Don Ash, Wyandotte County Sheriff

The Kansas City, Kansas Police Department responds to over 380,000 calls for service annually in service to the residents and businesses of Kansas City, KS. The department has adopted many best practices and standards in terms of community policing, [department response to issues](#), and cutting-edge technology. The incoming police chief will have an opportunity to build upon these

practices while fostering a more diverse police force and readiness for the future. Interim Chief of Police Michael York has been leading the department while the search for a new chief is underway and is looking forward to his retirement at the end of this year.

For more information about the year-long process to shortlist candidates for this important position, please check out our website: [KCKPD Chief Search – Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City](#)

More information on the four finalists will be available on Thursday, April 15. The final selection of the next Kansas City, Kansas Police Department chief will be made by the county administrator in May 2021.

**Unified Government Commission Special Session**

Thursday, April 15, 2021

5:00PM Central

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89105883421?pwd=QnZsSFZaeHI2Yk5qQm1vdHJbUh5UT09>

Passcode: 435602

Or One tap mobile:

US: +16699009128,,89105883421# or +12532158782,,89105883421#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 900 9128 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592

or +1 312 626 6799 or 888 475 4499 (Toll Free) or 877 853 5257 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 891 0588 3421

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89105883421>

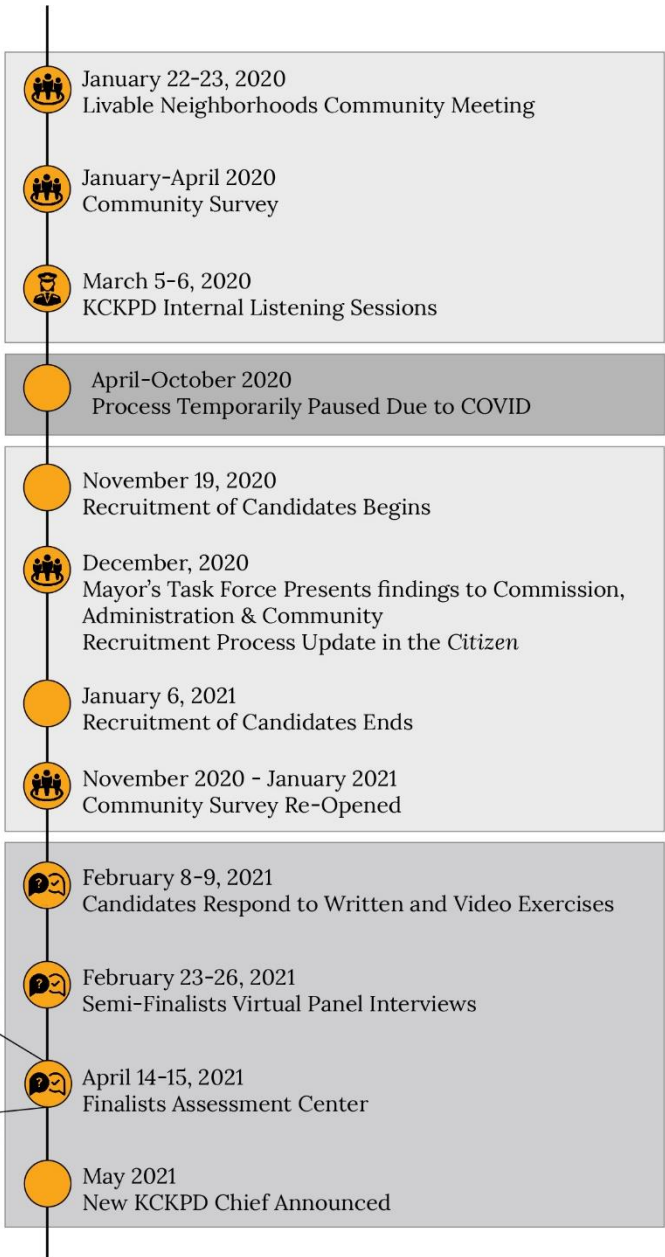
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Kansas City, Kansas Police Department

# The Search for a Chief of Police

Our search for a new chief at the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department has been a year-long journey. We have actively sought public input on the process, engaged officers and staff across the department, and hired a professional recruitment firm to identify the best talent possible.



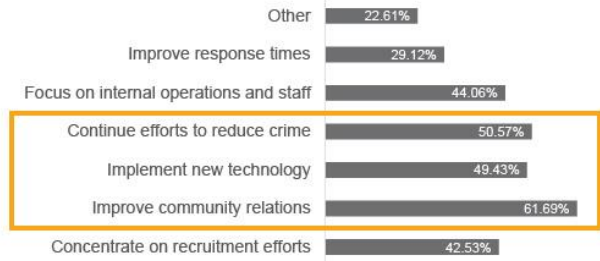
Tune in to our Commission Meeting on Thursday, April 15 to hear from each of the finalists as they answer questions from our elected officials.

# Community Input: What We Heard

Throughout the search for a new Police Chief, we have reached out to the community for your input on several topics. Here's a brief summary of the survey results that we received.

**243** survey responses      **90.8%** KCK residents

## Your Top Three Priorities for the Incoming Police Chief



### KCKPD Strengths

- COMMUNITY POLICING
- OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT
- YOUTH PROGRAMS
- FAST RESPONSE TIMES
- PROFESSIONAL, POLITE & RESPECTFUL
- ENFORCEMENT, PROTECTION & PATROL

### Opportunities for Improvement

- TRUST & TRANSPARENCY
- DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
- COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
- INCREASED VISIBILITY
- CRIME REDUCTION & PREVENTION
- TECHNOLOGY

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