



CITY OF Boca Raton

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Community Conversations Feedback Police Services HQ



PRESENTED BY THE
Community Advisory Panel
September 22, 2026



Community Advisory Panel

Objective

- The Community Advisory Panel (CAP) was created to provide a public forum in which residents may state their views, voice their concerns, and express their needs regarding quality-of-life issues in the City.
- Serves as a bridge between the community and City Council and a clearinghouse for information on community needs and interests.
- Develops recommendations and presents reports to City Council based on community input, observations, and recommendations.
- The Panel consists of Residents appointed by Council who volunteer for three-year terms.



Public Input on the Police Services HQ

Community Conversation Sessions

- The CAP was tasked with providing City Council with community input on the City's reassessment of current and future facility needs of the Police Services Department.
- Two Community Conversation public input sessions were held on August 5 at the Spanish River Library and on September 2, 2026 at the Downtown Library, to gather feedback on:
 - Facility needs and potential locations
 - Funding considerations
 - Community priorities and public safety needs



Public Input on the Police Services HQ

Community Conversation Sessions

- Each Community Conversation session included:
 - A presentation by the City Manager, Police Chief, Public Works & Engineering Director, and Deputy City Manager/CFO.
 - Q & A with attendees
 - Round table discussion
- CAP members served as round table moderators at each event, along with City staff, leading discussions with directed questions and recording attendee feedback.
- We hosted approximately 200 attendees between both sessions.



Community Conversations





Roundtable Discussions – Police Services HQ

1. How important is it that the Police Services Department has facilities designed to meet today's public safety needs and future growth?

- Overwhelming majority agreed that it is very important – many rated 8 to 10 out of 10 or critical /top priority
- Residents recognize the current facility is outdated and that police need facilities/equipment suited to today's public-safety needs
- Future growth and changing crime and technology needs should be considered, but residents cautioned against overbuilding for future demand
- Centralization could improve coordination, efficiency, and operational continuity
- Residents recognize safety, resilience, and emergency-management needs – including hurricanes and flooding
- Strong expectation that the facility be right-sized, adaptable, and state-of-the-art without becoming excessive



Roundtable Discussions – Police Services HQ

2. How important is it that the Police Services Complex be centrally located to support efficient response times, access across the city, and effective coordination of police operations?

- Overall support for centralization was strong, but residents disagreed on the meaning of central as being based on geographic, population-based, or criminal activity
- Several residents were unsure if moving west would affect response times, since patrols already operate throughout the city
- A recurring theme was maintaining a police presence downtown, even if the main complex moves elsewhere
- Perception was that a substation downtown would allow for public access, provide day-to-day services, and may deter crime



Roundtable Discussions – Police Services HQ

3. What concerns, if any, do you have about potential locations for the new Police Services Complex, and how could those concerns be addressed?

Spanish River:

- Traffic, flooding/lake proximity and site access
- Desire to preserve trees/green space
- Questions about accessibility, parking and infrastructure

Downtown:

- Concerns about limited expansion capacity, traffic, accessibility, evacuation zone, flood exposure, and cost and complexity of building vertically
- Residents questioned the impact of construction and large police/service vehicles on downtown traffic and public space

General Concerns:

- Costs and logistics



Roundtable Discussions – Police Services HQ

4. What do you believe should be the City's top priority when planning for the future of the Police Services Department?

- Public safety and maintaining Boca Raton's high standards
- Plan for population growth with potential expansion as needed
- Modern technology and training facilities that can adapt to changing public safety needs
- Operational efficiency, coordination, and consolidation where it makes sense
- Maintain strong community relationships, communication, and resident engagement
- Staffing and officer support are as important as the building; attract, retain, and appropriately support police personnel
- Fiscal responsibility and transparency



Roundtable Discussions – Police Services HQ

5. Do you feel today's discussion provided an opportunity to share your thoughts and learn more about the future of the Police Services Complex?

- Overall response was strongly positive



Roundtable Discussions – Police Services HQ

Additional Comments

- Before committing funds, provide a clear plan - preferred site, concept/scope, and cost
- Financial transparency and responsible spending are essential
- Give weight to what the police ask for, as they are the experts
- Compare proposed facilities and costs to new facilities of similar cities
- Continue strong resident engagement and transparency through the process



Roundtable Discussions – Police Services HQ

In Summary

- ✓ Residents acknowledged the need to rebuild
- ✓ Residents want a more granular concept of the facilities the City wants to build before any vote
- ✓ A Central PD Complex would work, but many residents still want a significant PD presence Downtown
- ✓ The one, unanimous agreement among residents present is that these Community Conversations with senior staff are most welcome