

Friday, Mayor Indira Khan announced updates to the Knoxville Police Department's Use of Force Policy to make it consistent with the B Can't Wait campaign. The campaign outlines eight specific use-of-force policies to reduce police violence.

Mayor Khan said, "This review is just one step in my commitment to take a comprehensive look at public safety in Knoxville. This is not a one-way conversation. Our efforts must be intentional and include meaningful community input."

"KPD is a well-trained, professional and accredited police department that was already practicing the majority of the recommendations of the B Can't Wait campaign. There were, however, areas where improvements were needed in the Use of Force policy and in the Code of Conduct."

Police Chief Eva Thomas says the new policies have now been distributed to every officer and agrees this is another step in the right direction. "I am proud of the work and attention that our Use of Force Committee devoted to



Ijams has a variety of programs and activities including dip-netting in ponds, hiking the trails and discovering natural treasures.

New Ijams Nature Center programs offer fun for all ages

Join Ijams Nature Center for safe summer fun! The nature center is offering free programs, from rock scrambling and creek walks for families, to birdwatching for beginners, introduction to bouldering and art programs for all ages.

"Ijams Nature Center programs that allow us to learn and enjoy the outdoors," Ijams Executive Director Amber Parker said.

"These programs are perfect for families who can explore together as a unit, or adults and older teens who are able to

exposure."

Space for all programs is limited to ensure physical distancing and Ijams is following safety and sanitization protocols.

In addition to scheduled programs, Ijams naturalists will rove the grounds on Saturdays.

Charter Review Committee

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Should future Knox County Commissions be expanded to eleven districts and the at-large positions be eliminated?

That was one of the questions about the future of Knox County government that the Charter Review Committee discussed Thursday afternoon. The members also asked if the two at-large commissioners should be added to future charter reviews.

Any decision by the review committee will go before voters, possibly on the August ballot.

Knox County Lee Director Bud Armstrong said, under the current charter, at-large members are barred from serving but it may be possible for them to be named as citizen members by the other county commissioners or by the mayor.

Some possible combinations of the makeup of the future Knox County Commission were discussed.