

# Safety Center Update Sessions

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## Community Engagement Sessions - Winter 2024-25

Questions were collected from the public at Community Safety Center Update Sessions held Nov. 18, 2024 – Feb. 5, 2025.

- 1. Are we going to have a 3rd precinct back before 2026?**
  - a. The 3<sup>rd</sup> precinct is currently in downtown Minneapolis and police officers are working in the 3<sup>rd</sup> precinct community. We are working to get their headquarters back into the 3<sup>rd</sup> precinct community as quickly as possible. The South Minneapolis Community Safety Center, which will house the 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct, will not be open before 2026.
- 2. How do services and a safety center on Lake Street help people who live in other areas of South Minneapolis, such as near Minnehaha Avenue or 46<sup>th</sup> Street?**
  - a. Programs like the [Community Safety Ambassadors](#) are being piloted in Spring 2025 in the hopes that they are successful and can be expanded across the city. Data was used to determine hot spots in the city where OCS can work to create the infrastructure to support them.
- 3. Explain how the current system is working. How are police dispatched?**
  - a. Information about police can be found on this webpage: [Police - City of Minneapolis](#)
- 4. The Lake Street Safety Center has a two-year lease. After that time, how are we planning on measuring success?**
  - a. Data will be collected throughout the time the safety center is open. Success measures relate to the center's goals which include collaboration, utilization of the center, and provision of services. A survey has already been created for people who utilize services at the center and for service providers. The survey will roll out soon. Data is already being collected on how many people enter the center and the reason for their visit.
- 5. Is there a plan in place to recalibrate what we focus on (at the Lake Street Safety Center) as the two years go on?**
  - a. Services and resources will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure we have the right mix of services in the space. Adjustments will be made based on data.
- 6. What data sets were considered for people with lived experience and people in the criminal justice system?**
  - a. During community engagement in the spring, we met with individuals who had lived experience in safety systems. We did not have an existing data set to consider. The

existing data considered was summary data from prior community engagement events held by the city, neighborhood groups, and nonprofit organizations. In addition, data was reviewed from the geographic area regarding calls for service and request from 311 and 911.

**7. What is the budget process for the safety centers and other safety services?**

- a. The South Minneapolis Community Safety Center has a budget for the physical building and separate budget for services within the building. The budget for services came from Public Safety Aid, which means they are one-time funds. We will need to determine longer term funding. However, some services in the center might not need any funding or may not need additional funding. Some partners have their own sources of funding.
- b. Other safety projects like the [Safety Ambassadors](#) have their own budget. This funding is also currently one-time funding that we will stretch as far as possible. If the pilot programs are successful, the City will need to determine longer term funding to sustain and grow the programs.

**8. Some services in the safety center are a duplication. For example, right across the street from the Lake Street Safety Center is the Hennepin County Service Center. There are services for affordable housing and domestic violence.**

- a. The City considered services in the Hennepin County Service Center when creating the Lake Street Safety Center. The goal is not to duplicate services but complement them. For example, people who visit the Lake Street Safety Center can't apply for benefits. They would have to go across the street. However, some services are not available in the South Minneapolis building. Domestic violence services are not in the Hennepin County Service Center on Lake Street. The Domestic Abuse Service Center is in downtown Minneapolis. It may help to have similar services in South Minneapolis at the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center.

**9. How do we make the Lake Street Safety Center and South Minneapolis Safety Center welcoming to those who have had very bad experiences with the 3rd Precinct. Putting them in the same building seems like it's discriminatory to people. What will be in place for me to feel safe? What makes these different that will make them welcoming to a large portion of the population who've had these experiences? I've had several bad experiences with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct.**

- a. This was a common topic for discussion during earlier community engagement. Many people said they want people to feel welcomed. One of the ways we will achieve that is by having 311 staff greet people when they enter the building.

At the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center, we heard it was important to have separate entrances for people who want to speak with police and those who want other services. Culturally specific navigators will also be at the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center. Diverse community providers are currently at the Lake Street Safety Center. Many people mentioned that art is important. Art will be integrated into the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center's entrances.

**10. Many people in the neighborhood don't feel safe. Were promised that the police will be more caring and gentler. Where is the money for this? We don't see the training. We don't see any difference.**

- a. More information about police reforms related to the settlement agreement can be found here: [Investigations & Settlement Agreement - City of Minneapolis](#)

**11. For MPD, it doesn't really make sense for them [to be at the safety center] if they are only going to be at the center three hours a week.**

- a. There are two different centers. Police will be Lake Street Safety Center for three hours per week. The goal is to balance keeping police on the streets as much as possible, with a desire to have some access to one at the safety center. The South Minneapolis Community Safety Center will include the 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct.

**12. What does it look like when we have ambassadors on the street and people are doing fentanyl and meth?**

- a. More information about the safety ambassadors can be found here: [Community Safety Ambassadors - City of Minneapolis](#)

**13. When the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center opens, what will stay at the Lake Street Safety Center?**

- a. The Lake Street site is intended to be a pilot for the permanent South Minneapolis Community Safety Center. We have a lease for two years. There will likely be a time of overlap when both centers are open.

**14. Why isn't the Behavioral Crisis Response going to be a service operating out of the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center?**

- a. Canopy Roots, the organization that is currently providing Behavioral Crisis Response services, has some staff at the Lake Street Safety Center. They need time to determine if having a presence at the safety center is a good fit before committing to the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center.

**15. Will restorative justice services be offered for youth at the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center?**

- a. Restorative justice services for youth came up during community engagement in the spring. Restorative justice providers are welcome to use the meeting rooms at the center, but they won't be community partners when the center opens. They may be partners at the center in the future.

**16. How long will it take to see a difference in the crime levels in the Seward neighborhood?**

- a. We won't see immediate results when the safety centers open. We include services related to prevention, response, and restoration because we recognize that people have different needs. Restoration, in particular, takes time to see results. Services for individuals with substance use disorders take time. Oftentimes, getting services once is not enough.

**17. When will success be measured for the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center?**

Just like at the Lake Street Safety Center, data will be collected throughout the time the safety center is open. Success measures relate to the center's goals which include collaboration, utilization of the center, and provision of services.