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Transforming Community Safety Facilitation Guide

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**Thank you for facilitating a Transforming Community Safety meeting. Please use the questions below to have a discussion with your meeting participants. During or after your meeting, please visit:** [**https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/5c4b624dce6a42cf96d2ca6a850abf5b**](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/5c4b624dce6a42cf96d2ca6a850abf5b) **to enter the input provided by the participants. If you can’t enter your notes, contact violenceprevention@minneapolismn.gov or 612-673-2301 for support.**

**Tips for hosting a successful meeting:**

* Keep the meeting size to less than 20 people. That helps ensure everyone can participate fully. If you have a larger group, consider breaking it into smaller groups.
* Have someone other than the discussion facilitator take notes. If there’s more than one group, take notes for each group.
* The note taker should submit notes to the City using this tool: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/5c4b624dce6a42cf96d2ca6a850abf5b>. If the note taker wants to take notes another way, make sure they capture all the information from the tool. If the meeting splits into more than one group, a separate notes form can be submitted for each group.
* Before leading the discussion, take a look at the City’s Community safety website: <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/community-safety/>. It provides some background information that may be helpful.
* At the end of the meeting, consider reading the notes back to the group. That will help ensure the notes summarize the group’s input accurately.
* You can find some information from the City about mental, emotional, spiritual and physical wellbeing at <http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/coordinator/Equity/recastminneapolis/WCMSP-202283>

**Suggested meeting introduction:**

*Consider reading this to introduce the discussion.*

The City of Minneapolis is committed to creating a transformative new model for safety. To do that, City leaders have committed to a year-long process of community engagement. ​This meeting is one of many important opportunities to share input.

Through this meeting, you’ll be able to share your vision for a new community safety model. You’ll also be able to provide ideas for how to accomplish that new model. Input from these meetings will be used to help create recommendations for elected leaders. It will also help guide the City’s next steps for community engagement.

The City’s goal is that Minneapolis's community safety model ensures safety for *every* member of the Minneapolis community. The City’s work on transforming community safety includes three areas:

1) breaking the cycle of violence through public health-oriented violence prevention;

2) exploring non-police alternatives and alternative responses;

3) improving community interactions when police do need to respond to calls through police

reforms and policy changes.

Over the past decade, the City has taken steps to address community safety beyond just relying on law enforcement. The Health Department and the Office of Violence Prevention have been using public health-oriented violence prevention strategies since 2006. The city’s 911 Workgroup has gathered input and made recommendations on alternative responses for certain types of 911 calls. The Police Department has added training, reformed policies, and used non-enforcement strategies. There are many other examples too. We now have an opportunity to explore other ways to develop community safety models outside of the existing, traditional structures.

Some of you may already be familiar or involved in some of those efforts. Any input you have already provided through existing efforts is valued and will still be used as planned by the City. For some of you, those efforts may be new. We at the City are grateful that you are willing to engage or engage again now as part of this broader conversation on transforming community safety.

Some of the questions today may bring up sensitive topics. It is important that we acknowledge that some of our community members lack trust in government due to inequities, harm, and systemic racism.

You can ask to skip any question. You can also take a break and step away or stop at any time.

If you haven’t already, please consider taking the City’s Transforming Community Safety Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J86DD7Y>

Thank you again for taking the time to contribute to this important conversation.

**Engagement Questions:**

1. **What are the biggest concerns or issues you have with the existing community safety model?**
2. **What are opportunities for change with the City’s community safety model?** 
   1. **Do you have any specific suggestions for programs, strategies, or approaches?**
3. *The City has already started working on having an alternative response to 911 calls for mental health crises in 2019 and a pilot program has been funded in the approved 2021 budget.*

**Are there *other* types of 911 calls or community safety issues that should have a non-police response? If so, what types of calls/issues?**

* 1. **Who should respond to those calls/issues instead?** [These can be described in different ways: a different existing City department/responder, a new City department/responder, with the type of qualifications or professional (for example, social worker), or something else

1. *The City’s Office of Violence Prevention is doing work to prevent violence in the community. Here are a few examples:*

*The Next Step hospital-based intervention program provides supportive services and resources for people who are treated at hospitals for a violent injury to help interrupt the cycle of violence.*

*Coaching Boys into Men, is an evidence-based model where high school coaches talk with youth athletes about healthy relationships to prevent dating and relationship violence.*

*Project LIFE offers group members a supported path for those who want to change and exit group or gang life while maintaining strategic and just legal consequences for groups who continue violence.*

*The MinneapolUS strategic Outreach Initiative puts teams of violence interrupters on the streets in neighborhoods to cool violence hot spots by using informal mediation, non-physical conflict resolution and interruption expertise to de-escalate situations before they become violent.*

**What other violence prevention work should the City focus on?**

*State law requires that Licensed Peace Officers respond to certain types of situations. [\* for a list of the specific situations, see the resources section below]. That means that under a new model of community safety, Licensed Peace Officers will still be involved for some situations. We would like your input on how Licensed Peace Officers should operate once they do arrive to a situation.*

**What policies or practices should Licensed Peace Officers have to follow once they arrive to a situation?**

1. **What can the City do to rebuild or increase your trust in the City’s community safety model?**

**Resources:**

**For Question 4**: For more information about the Minneapolis Office of Violence Prevention’s initiatives, see: <http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/minneapolisforward/violenceprevention>

**For Question 5**: In the State of Minnesota, Licensed Peace Officers must be dispatched when:

* Responding to a report of domestic abuse
* Responding to a report of a crime being currently committed
* Responding in a manner that will require an expedited response (Code 2 or Code 3)
* Responding to any report of bias in the commission of any crime
* Responding to any incident that might result in an arrest that only licensed peace officers are authorized to make (i.e. arrests made after execution of a warrant)
* Responding to an incident where firearms might be present or an incident at which the first responder may require a firearm
* Responding to an incident where a citation may be issued that requires a court appearance
* A person who is being detained or is in custody is to be transported
* A search warrant must be executed

**General:** Here is some background information on transforming safety efforts in Minneapolis that may be helpful to discussion leaders and/or participants.

* **What are some things related to how the City approaches community safety that have already changed?**
  + In June 2020, City leaders approved terms of a temporary restraining order that outlined immediate policy and practice changes for the Minneapolis Police Department. The changes included banning neck restraints/choke holds, requiring authorization before the use of crowd control methods like chemical irritants, the duty to report and intervene when witnessing instances of officer misconduct, and others.
  + In 2018, the City created an Office of Violence Prevention. The Office of Violence Prevention uses a community-focused, public health approach to work to break the cycle of violence by addressing it at three points: preventing it before it begins, intervening at the first sign of risk, and healing after it happens. Establishment of the Office of Violence Prevention followed over 10 years of work on Youth Violence Prevention based in the Health Department
  + In July 2020, the City Council shifted $1.1 million from MPD’s budget to the Office of Violence Prevention to fund the MinneapolUS Strategic Outreach Initiative pilot.
  + In June 2020, Mayor Frey and Police Chief Medaria Arradondo announced new policies tightening rules for officer body worn cameras.
  + In August 2020, Mayor Frey and Chief Arradondo announced an overhaul of MPD’s use of force policy to make it more stringent.
  + Community safety has been a primary focus within several large-scale City policy initiatives, including the Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan, the Strategic and Racial Equity Action Plan (SREAP) and more.
  + In 2020, the City moved responsibility for handling “report-only” calls away from 911 to 311.
* **What are some things that are underway now?**
  + Developing an alternative response for 911 calls related to mental health crises
  + A study of Minneapolis Police Department staffing and efficiency
  + A workgroup examining issues related to overtime within the Minneapolis Police Department
* **What are the priority focus areas for this transforming community safety engagement process and recommendations?** 
  + Alternatives to policing/police responses
  + Public health-oriented violence prevention
  + Law enforcement reforms or changes to protocols and practices