

ORD – 22-9

From: Edward Stuart <edward.l.stuart@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 11:45 AM
To: CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul) <CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Testimony for Office of Neighborhood Safety

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

To our valued leadership -

This is Ed Stuart, resident of ward 3 in St. Paul, and member of ISAIAH.

I value life and love and safety. No matter our race, class or ward, all Saint Paulites want to be safe in our homes and communities. We all deserve to expect to see our loved one when we wake up every morning. Our systems need to reflect the value of life. As such, the systems that promote public safety need to be transparent, accountable and honest. This desire has only been heightened by the tragic killing of Amir Locke.

Sadly, there are community members who point fingers, identify some people who are not deserving, some people who should be feared, some people whose life is not to be valued. They want to justify funding criminal apprehension and imprisonment, and ignore the root causes of crime. Instead, I envision a St. Paul with residents who reject the politics of fear and division on public safety. We can do better than armed policed models that result in needless deaths. That's why I'm so excited about the Office of Neighborhood Safety that is being developed to meet this moment, be evidence-driven, and put rehabilitation and reconciliation at the center, not rage and retribution. I am excited for a new way that the office of neighborhood safety can impact our city, things like after school activities and diversion programs, and investing in our recreation centers. Instead of punishment being our first and last line of defense, together, we can invest in the Office of Neighborhood Safety as a critical resource towards advancing our community first public safety efforts now and for generations to come.

Regards,
Ed Stuart