

Citizens League



Saint Paul Community-First Public Safety Commission

May 19, 2021

About Citizens League



Mission: The Citizens League is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that empowers people to engage in civic life and public policy, to make Minnesota a better place to live and work for everyone.

Community-First Public Safety Commission Commission Charge



Commission's Charge:

- Develop alternative first response options to priority 4 and priority 5 calls for service.
- Recommend approaches for ongoing community involvement in the City's community-first public safety framework.
- Consider the creation of a city-staffed office to drive and integrate community-first public safety initiatives and strategies.

Community-First Public Safety Commission Project Team



Commission Co-Chairs:

- Acooa Ellis - Senior Vice President of Community Impact at Greater Twin Cities United Way.
- John Marshall - Director of Community Relations & Foundation for MN, ND, and SD at Xcel Energy.

Citizens League Team:

- Kate Cimino, Executive Director
- Amanda Koonjbeharry, Director of Public Policy
- Jacob Taintor, Communications and Marketing Specialist

Community-First Public Safety Commission Commission Members



Commissioners:

1. Acooa Ellis, Commission Co-Chair , Twin Cities United Way
2. John Marshall, Commission Co-Chair, Xcel Energy
3. Commissioner Toni Carter, Ramsey County Board of Commissioners District 4
4. Judge Nicole J. Starr, Ramsey County 2nd Judicial District Court
5. Councilmember Mitra Jalali, Saint Paul City Council, Ward 4
6. Director Chauntyll Allen, Saint Paul Public School Board of Education
7. Sue Abderholden, NAMI Minnesota
8. Ahmed Anshur, Masjid Al-Ihsan Islamic Center/ISAIAH
9. Cedrick Baker, Saint Paul Public Schools
10. Sami Banat, Student
11. Jason Barnett, Resident At-Large
12. Rev. Dr. Ron Bell, Camphor Memorial U.M.C./ St. Paul Black Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance
13. Monica Bravo, West Side Community Organization
14. Scott Burns, Structural
15. Chikamso Chijioke, Saint Paul Youth Commission
16. Samuel Clark, Resident At-Large
17. JoAnn Clark, Resident At-Large
18. Sasha Cotton, African American Leadership Council
19. Sierra Cumberland, Saint Paul Police Civilian Internal Affairs Review Commission
20. Natalia Davis, Resident At-Large / Irreducible Grace
21. Julio Fesser, Securian Financial
22. Ameen Ford, Resident At-Large
23. Anna-Marie Foster, Saint Paul Youth Commission

Commissioners:

24. Simone Hardeman-Jones, GreenLight Fund Twin Cities
25. Suwayda Hussein, Saint Paul Youth Commission
26. Laura Jones, Root and Restore Saint Paul
27. David Squier Jones, Center for Homicide Research
28. Clara Junemann, Saint Paul Youth Commission
29. Farhio Khalif, Saint Paul NAACP
30. Suwana Kirkland, National Black Police Association
31. Alicia Lucio, Resident At-Large / Community Ambassadors
32. Wintana Melekin, Resident At-Large
33. Stephen Moore, Culture Booster
34. Amin Omar, Horn of Africa
35. Francisco “Frank” Ortiz, National Latino Police Officers Association
36. Maureen Perryman, Resident At-Large
37. Amy Peterson, HealthPartners
38. President Suzanne Rivera, Macalester College
39. Mark Ross, Saint Paul Police Federation
40. Garaad Sahal, Somali Peace Officers Association
41. Mario Stokes, AFSCME
42. Olyvia Rayne Taylor, Student
43. LyLy Vang-Yang, TakeAction MN
44. Teshite Wako, Oromo Community Center
45. Jai Winston, Knight Foundation
46. Heather Worthington, Resident At-Large
47. Pheng Xiong, Asian Peace Officers Association
48. Otis Zanders, Ujamaa Place

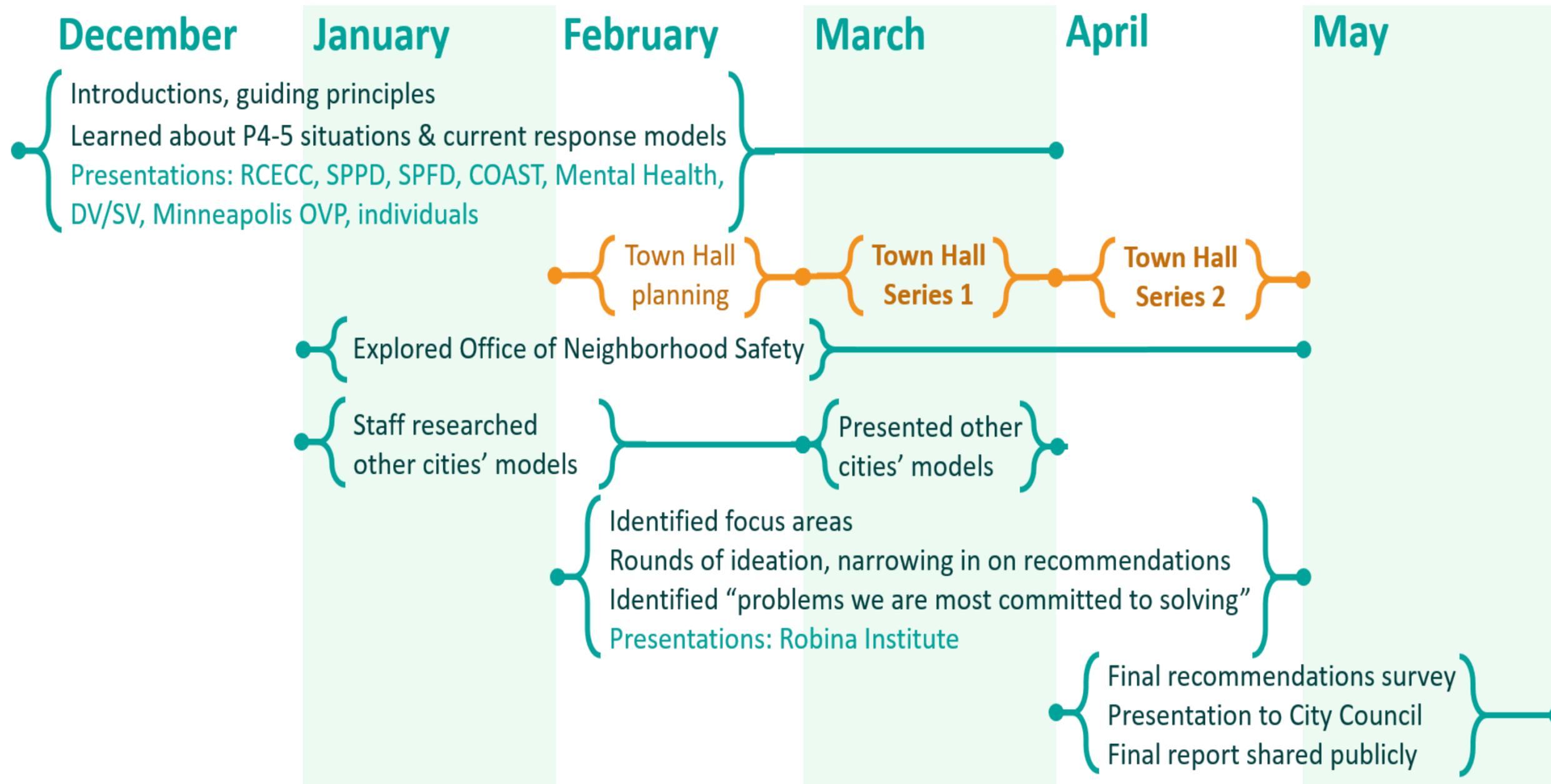
**As announced in December 2020 City of Saint Paul press release*

Community-First Public Safety Commission Citizens League Process



Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Learning and discovery	Exploring and ideating alternatives	Developing recommendations

Community-First Public Safety Commission Timeline



Community-First Public Safety Commission Problems Committed to Solving



Commission-identified “Problems we are trying to solve”

More appropriate responders for each situation who can best assist those in need

Decriminalize behavior & response, particularly for people & communities of color

More efficient deployment of law enforcement; Reserve & focus police resources for where they are most needed

Focus on prevention and community safety

Improve systems & increase accessibility

Community-First Public Safety Commission Priority 4 and Priority 5 Calls



Understanding Priority 4 and 5 calls

Ramsey County Emergency Communications Center

At the Ramsey County Emergency Communications Center (RCECC), the first point of dispatch, Priority 4 and 5 are described as follows:

- Priority 4: generally report-type calls, crimes occurring outside a 20-minute time frame.
- Priority 5: generally quality-of-life calls or administrative activities.

Saint Paul Police Department

Priority 4

Offense reports where no suspect is present and no personal threat exists.

Assist citizens in non-emergency matters.

Shoplifters being held by store security personnel.

Drunks, emotionally disturbed persons, disorderly persons, not threatening physical harm. *(SPPD clarified that some of this outdated language has been updated)*

Priority 5

Miscellaneous request for service.

Barking dogs.

Loud party.

Loud radios, etc.

Parking complaints.

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Call Type Categories



Call Type Categories:

- Young person/Juvenile
- Welfare Check
- Disorderly Conduct
- Persons in Crisis
- Assist Citizen: General assistance
- Child Abuse
- Civil Problem: No Crime Occurred
- Vehicles and Parking

Community-First Public Safety Commission Recommendation Survey



A. Do you support this idea? (Yes/No/Prefer not to answer)

B. If yes, please indicate how you would prioritize implementation of this idea. In other words, which ideas are most crucial to receive immediate attention?

- Immediate (2022 Budget)
- Secondary (2-3 years)
- Longer Term (consider for future)

C. The Commission identified the goals we aim to achieve through our recommendations. (“the flower graphic”) In your opinion, how aligned are the following ideas with the goals we aim to achieve?

- Greatly aligned
- Moderately aligned
- Not aligned
- I prefer not to answer

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Top Recommendations



Recommendations with 90%+ support and 50%+ immediate implementation

Young Person/Juvenile calls

- Community liaison is dedicated to these calls
- Culturally relevant ambassador program in neighborhoods responding to truancy and curfew violations
- Peer-to-peer support/other support groups actually on the ground doing the work
- Access to jobs, sports, arts and cultural connections
- Juvenile supervision center open 24/7

Persons in Crisis

- Mobile mental health team/other resources available 24/7
- Conflict resolution, trauma response preparedness, de-escalation
- System vets calls before sending police to allow for more appropriate/lowest level first responder
- Knowledge of mental health/disabilities so responder can make accurate assessments of safety and needs

Welfare Check

- Threat-assessment and de-escalation training
- New or paired responder models: peer-responder, mental health intervention specialist, situational awareness expert on the phone
- Prepared to provide information on available support and resources during a call
- 911 dispatcher trained to send calls to appropriate response team

Vehicles and Parking

- Advance/improve technology to make process more effective and efficient

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Top Recommendations



Recommendations with 90%+ support and 50%+ immediate implementation

Disorderly Conduct

- De-escalation
- Familiarity with mental health and substance abuse disorders
- 24/7 mental health center access
- Transparency with and accountability from trusted neighborhood sources
- Provide meaningful connections to city/neighborhood resources and response

General Assistance

- Provide meaningful connections to city resources at point of call
- Culturally-centered and focused approach
- Opportunity for mediator/conflict resolution model - diffuse tense situations and mediate conflict
- Increased access to virtual consultation

Child Abuse

- Identify problem addresses (repeat calls from same address); proactively respond with other supports

Civil Problem

- De-escalation skills
- Provide meaningful connections to city/external resources (such as mediation)

Systems, Data, and Dispatch

- Speak caller's language
- Hire from Saint Paul communities
- Review hiring rules



Community-First Public Safety Commission

Office of Neighborhood Safety & On-going Advisory

Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab (GPL) focus:

1. Consider the creation of a city-staffed office to drive and integrate community-first public safety initiatives and strategies, i.e. Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS).
2. Recommend approaches for ongoing community involvement in the City's community-first public safety framework.



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Office of Neighborhood Safety & On-going Advisory

Landscape report high-level takeaways:

- Definition of Office of Neighborhood Safety
- Benefits and challenges
- Relatively new institutions
- More offices coming
- Programming
- Budget
- Community governance
- Community participation

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Office of Neighborhood Safety & On-going Advisory



Recommendation Highlights:

Creation of a city-staffed office

95% of commissioners recommend creating a city-staffed office focused on violence prevention.

Focus of programming

“Gun Violence” and “Youth Violence” make up the top priority tier for programming. The next tier includes “Group-Based Violence” and “Structural Violence.”

Community participation in the office’s launch and operations

Hiring community members impacted by violence is the top recommendation for community participation, followed by an advisory council and volunteer opportunities.

Community governance

“Strategic Planning” and “Public Meetings” are the top community governance recommendations.

Continue to engage commissioners

95% of commissioners would like to be involved in the implementation of a city-staffed office or the design of ongoing community involvement. Their names are listed in Appendix B.



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Pre-Textual Traffic Stops

All of these recommendations received **69-80% total support**, and **63-86% “immediate implementation”**

- Utilize a mailed citation for motor vehicle repair notices (light out, turn signal malfunction, etc.), expired tabs and other moving violations.
- Explore the use of other methods, new legislation (red light cameras), or other procedures to ensure public safety on streets & highways within the City of St. Paul which emphasize the prioritization of resources for the most dangerous/egregious behaviors.
- Cease pre-textual and other traffic stops except in the case of flagrant moving violations such as: Amber Alerts, unsafe speed, DWI, and hit and run suspects.



Community-First Public Safety Commission Context and Considerations

- Current moment
- Virtual environment
- Commission size
- Commission scope
- On-going engagement of commissioners



Questions?

Learn more:

[**citizensleague.org/saint-paul-public-safety**](https://citizensleague.org/saint-paul-public-safety)

Amanda Koonjeharry

Director of Public Policy

akoonjeharry@citizensleague.org

Kate Cimino

Executive Director

kcimino@citizensleague.org