

Update to Council on Citizens League Commission

April 13, 2021

CM Mitra Jalali, Council Liaison

Commission Overview and Scope

- Mayoral commission announced by Mayor Carter in November 2020
- Has been meeting since mid-Dec. 2020 until now, wraps May 2021



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**Saint Paul Community-First
Public Safety Commission**

The background of this text block is a photograph of the Saint Paul, Minnesota skyline. The city is built on a hill, with numerous buildings of varying heights and architectural styles. In the foreground, there are some lower-level buildings and trees. The sky above the city is filled with scattered, fluffy white clouds.

Commission Overview and Scope

Consisting of 48 members appointed by the Mayor, the Commission will bring together community members with wide ranging experiences to explore how the City can build upon its current strategy.

Through a process led by the Citizens League, they will examine a wide range of policy ideas for alternative response models to priority-4 and priority-5 (non-emergency) calls for service.

The Commission will be Co-Chaired by Accoa Ellis of Greater Twin Cities United Way and John Marshall of Xcel Energy. Citizens League Executive Director Kate Cimino and Director of Public Policy Amanda Koonjbeharry will serve as project leads.

Commission Members

Acooa Ellis, Commission Co-Chair , Twin Cities United Way

John Marshall, Commission Co-Chair, Xcel Energy

Commissioner Toni Carter, Ramsey County Board Board of Commissioners
District 4

Judge Nicole J. Starr, Ramsey County 2nd Judicial District Court

Councilmember Mitra Jalali, Saint Paul City Council, Ward 4

Director Chauntayl Allen, Saint Paul Public School Board of Education

Sue Abderholden, NAMI Minnesota

Ahmed Anshur, Masjid Al-Ihsan Islamic Center/ISAIAH

Cedrick Baker, Saint Paul Public Schools

Sami Banat, Student

Jason Barnett, Resident At-Large

Rev. Dr. Ron Bell, Camphor Memorial U.M.C.

& St. Paul Black Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance

Monica Bravo, West Side Community Organization

Scott Burns, Structural

Chikamso Chijoke, Saint Paul Youth Commission

Samuel Clark, Resident At-Large

JoAnn Clark, Resident At-Large

Sasha Cotton, African American Leadership Council

Sierra Cumberland, Saint Paul Police Civilian Internal Affairs Review
Commission

Natalia Davis, Resident At-Large / Irreducible Grace

Julio Fesser, Securian Financial

Ameen Ford, Resident At-Large

Anna-Marie Foster, Saint Paul Youth Commission

Simone Hardeman-Jones, GreenLight Fund Twin Cities

Suwayda Hussein, Saint Paul Youth Commission

Laura Jones, Root and Restore Saint Paul

David Squier Jones, Center for Homicide Research

Clara Junemann, Saint Paul Youth Commission

Farhio Khalif, Saint Paul NAACP

Suwana Kirkland, National Black Police Association

Alicia Lucio, Resident At-Large / Community Ambassadors

Wintana Melekin, Resident At-Large

Stephen Moore, Culture Booster

Amin Omar, Horn of Africa

Francisco "Frank" Ortiz, National Latino Police Officers
Association

Maureen Perryman, Resident At-Large

Amy Peterson, HealthPartners

President Suzanne Rivera, Macalester College

Mark Ross, Saint Paul Police Federation

Garaad Sahal, Somali Peace Officers Association

Mario Stokes, AFSCME

Olyvia Rayne Taylor, Student

LyLy Vang-Yang, TakeAction MN

Teshite Wako, Oromo Community Center

Jai Winston, Knight Foundation

Heather Worthington, Resident At-Large

Pheng Xiong, Asian Peace Officers Association

Otis Zanders, Ujamaa Place

Commission Overview and Scope

Committee charge and proposed goals for committee work

- 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.
- Consideration of the creation of a city staffed office to drive and integrate community-first public safety initiatives and strategies.
- Make recommendations based on these findings and conclusions.

Commission Overview and Scope

What are Priority 4 and 5 calls?

Ramsey County ECC

RCECC Call Priorities

- Priority 1: a responder is down
- Priority 2: in-progress crimes that endanger life or property
- Priority 2A: higher-risk officer-initiated events
- Priority 3: crimes that occurred <20 minutes ago
- Priority 4: crimes that occurred >20 minutes ago
- Priority 5: quality-of-life calls, administrative activities
- Priority 6: test calls
- Priority 7: off duty

Commission Overview and Scope

Default Priority 4-5 situation types

Categories suggested: for discussion

- Persons in crisis / in need (certain situations)
- Theft, burglary, damage, and illegal activities
- Noise, disturbances, and animals
- Traffic, parking, and accidents
- Administrative and follow-up
- Proactive outreach

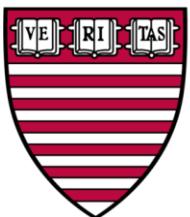
Progress so far

Topics presented to the commission include:

- Presentations from Emergency Communications Center and Saint Paul Police Department
- Presentations from Ramsey County Mental Health, Mobile Crisis Teams, St. Paul Police Department Community Outreach and Stabilization Unit, East Metro Crisis Alliance, and St. Paul Fire BLS unit
- Presentation/deep dive into call priority/response types in 4s & 5s with Robina Institute
- Presentation from Mpls Office of Violence Prevention on existing city departments stewarding this work
- Presentations from community partners leading domestic abuse prevention & response work
- Presentation from St. Paul Fire BLS unit
- Presentation from community partners supporting individuals directly impacted by police violence like MN Freedom Fund & Families Supporting Families Against Police Violence

Progress so far

- Additional support from partners includes Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab, providing surveying capacity & best practices research to the commission on key charge topics
- Integrating research in successful and/or emerging models around the country into commission work i.e. CAHOOTS program and other offices of violence prevention



HARVARD Kennedy School
Government Performance Lab

Progress so far

- Community Town Halls – Underway

Series 1: March 16 and 20 (approximately 30 attendees)

Series 2: April 14 (tonight!) and 17:

<https://citizensleague.org/projects/saint-paul-public-safety/saint-paul-community-first-public-safety-commission-town-halls/>

Progress so far

- Community Town Halls – Underway

When you think about public safety, what about your neighborhood makes you feel safe?

And what about your neighborhood makes you feel less safe?

If you had a “magic wand,” what would you like to see for on-call responses to situations that are not urgent or violent, but need attention? (Examples – noise complaint, welfare check, young person, etc.)

Progress so far

- Community Town Halls – Underway

Some emerging central themes so far:

People felt most safe when they had a deep connection to the people and organizations in their neighborhoods - strong social & civic infrastructure of community organizations & city resources

Police presence in neighborhoods especially if combined with over-policing/harmful or inappropriate responses to situations made them feel less safe

Recommendations and Next Steps – coming May 2021

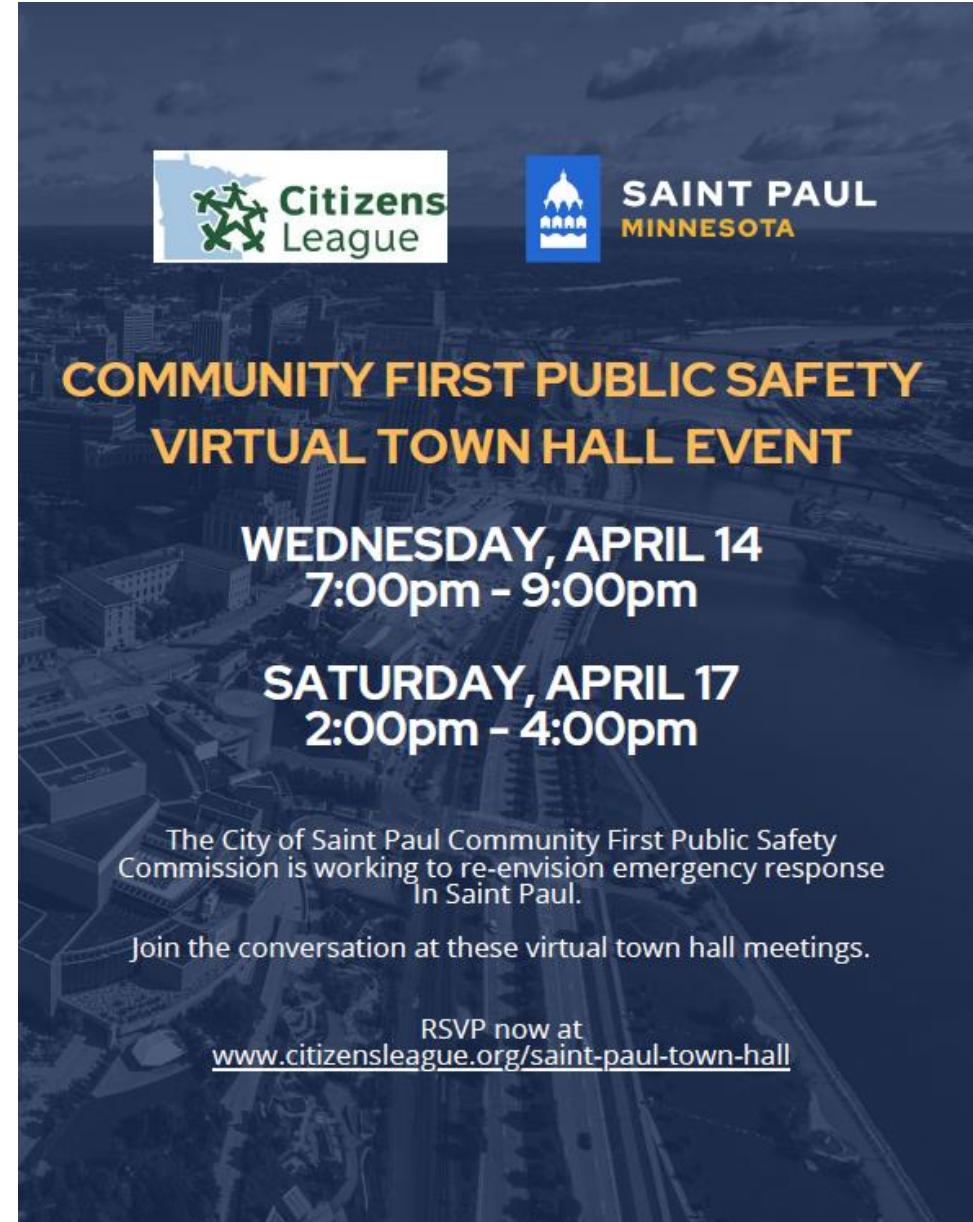
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Upcoming Town Halls

*Please attend and/or share from
your Ward offices & networks*

<https://citizensleague.org/projects/saint-paul-public-safety/saint-paul-community-first-public-safety-commission-town-halls/>



Commission Resources

- All meeting agendas and resources can be found at:
<https://citizensleague.org/projects/saint-paul-public-safety/>

- Staff contacts for Commission:

Kate Cimino, Executive Director, Citizens League
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Amanda Koonjbeharry, Public Policy Director, Citizens League
akoonjbeharry@citizensleague.org

Questions and/or Comments