

Dear City Council Members,

Whether we are white, black or brown, all Saint Paulites deserve to feel a sense of belonging and safety. That path is grounded in not policing our way out of crime but in creating the conditions to address the root causes in a proactive and justice-oriented way.

Excitement for the Office of Neighborhood Safety comes from the fact that it's based on coordinating Community-First investments including violence prevention strategies and alternative response; supporting the creation of a permanent Community-First Commission which will engage community residents, local stakeholders, and public safety representatives to inform ongoing strategy development, as well as directing resources to impacted communities; engaging in research, data collection and analysis through participatory methods that engage residents and system stakeholders in the co-development of neighborhood assessments, alongside interventions that are responsive to the needs of our neighbors.

Having this department in place matters to me personally because I want to see our neighborhoods and communities safe and thriving. I want to see Saint Paul be touted as **the** livable city for anyone and everyone no matter our color or where we live or how much money we make.

I ask that you include the full dollar amount requested by the Mayor to fund this new department and not have money shifted from it to hire more police. Thank you for your public service.

Thank you,

Arline L. Datu
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Saint Paul 55105