

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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A wide-angle photograph of the Saint Paul skyline, featuring various skyscrapers and buildings under a cloudy sky. The image is used as a background for the title text.

Saint Paul Community-First Public Safety Commission

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 Chauntyll Allen, Saint Paul Public School Board of Education
Sue Abderholden, NAMI Minnesota
Ahmed Anshur, Masjid Al-Ihsan Islamic Center/ISIAH
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

Committee charge and proposed goals for committee work

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- Recommend approaches for **ongoing community involvement** in the City's community-first public safety framework.
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- Make recommendations based on these findings and conclusions.

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/>



  **SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA**

**COMMUNITY FIRST PUBLIC SAFETY
VIRTUAL TOWN HALL EVENT**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14
7:00pm - 9:00pm**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 17
2:00pm - 4:00pm**

The City of Saint Paul Community First Public Safety Commission is working to re-envision emergency response in Saint Paul.

Join the conversation at these virtual town hall meetings.

RSVP now at
www.citizensleague.org/saint-paul-town-hall

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