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CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Neighborhood Safety Overview

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE April 22, 2026

AGENDA

- **Overview of ONS**
- **Future Focus of ONS**
- **Neighborhood Safety Community Council**
- **Opioid Response and Next Steps**



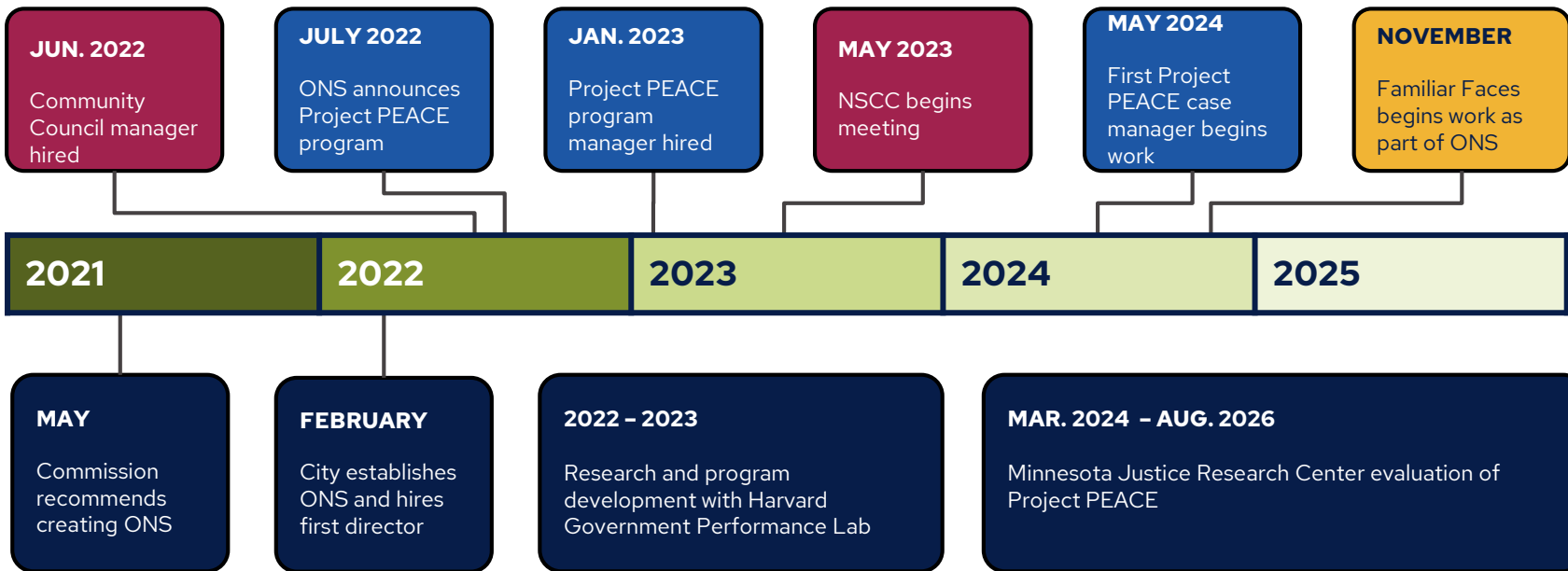


The Unique Role of ONS in City Government

The teams work directly with Saint Paul residents to interrupt cycles of crisis by addressing the root causes of violence and unsheltered homelessness. In cooperation with other City departments and community partners, ONS makes Saint Paul safer every day.



ONS Over Time





ONS's Current Portfolio

PROJECT PEACE

Addressing trauma and community instability to reduce gun violence and promote healing, in partnership with other City departments.

FAMILIAR FACES

Preventing and diverting individual crises through outreach and life coaching services to facilitate system connections and promote stability for community members experiencing unsheltered homelessness.



Project PEACE: Group Violence Intervention

Group violence intervention (GVI) is an evidence-based violence reduction strategy focused on reducing gun violence while minimizing community harm.

The Project PEACE approach to group violence intervention includes:

- Evidence-based group violence reduction
- Focus on the highest-risk groups
- Deterrence-first, prevention-centered
- Unified community message
- Intensive wrap around supports
- Focused strategic enforcement

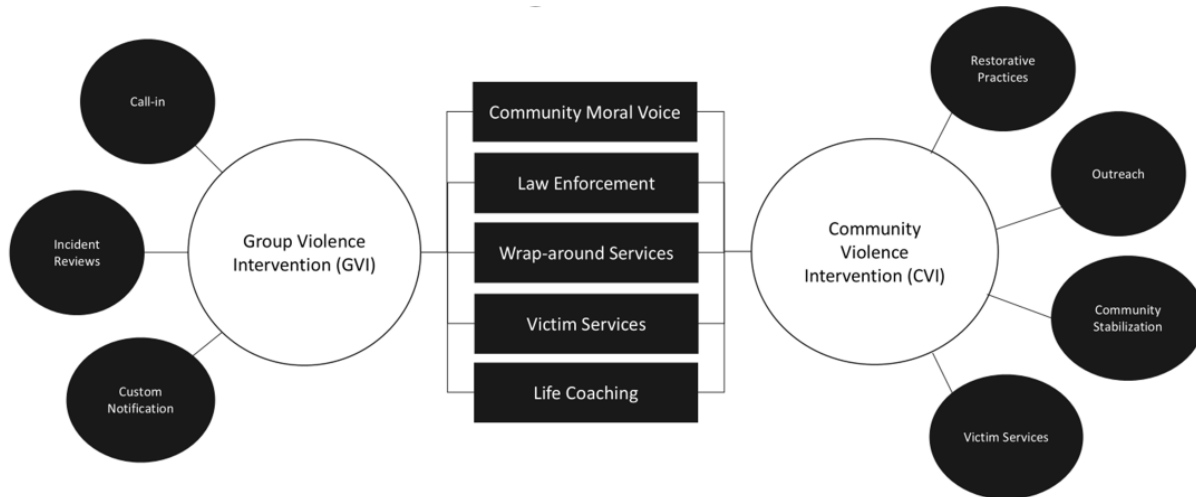
Services and supports:

- Cognitive behavioral therapy
- Life-coaching and mentorship
- Victim services
- Trauma-informed support
- Employment and education services
- Relocation support
- Family stabilization



Project PEACE: Community Violence Intervention

The Project PEACE approach integrates community violence intervention (CVI) into GVI, strengthening household and community bonds and building trust.



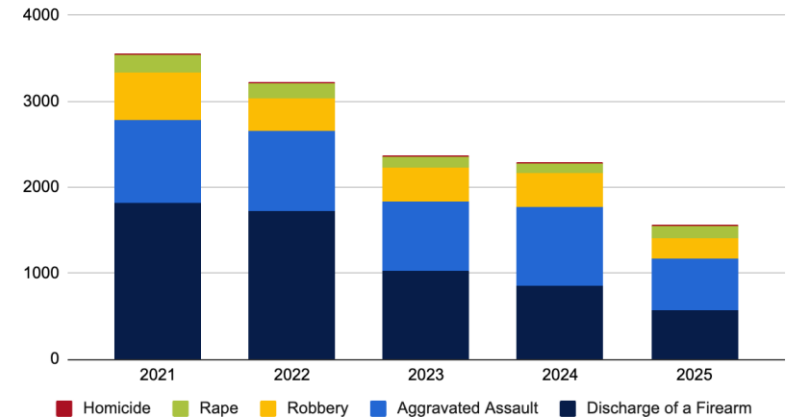


Four Years Later, a Safer City

Saint Paul is much safer in 2025 than it has been in years, thanks to the united efforts of community partners, public safety agencies, and City departments including the Office of Neighborhood Safety.

- **Community-first public safety is working.** By bringing residents to the heart of public safety and investing in prevention, Saint Paul has achieved nationally exceptional decrease in gun violence.
- **Collaboration is crucial.** Our success comes from uniting the unique strengths of enforcement and prevention specialists across the Saint Paul enterprise, making preventive public safety a core City service.
- **Invest to continue the success.** As time-limited public safety funding runs out in 2026, ongoing City investment is needed to keep making Saint Paul safer for years to come.

Violent Crime in Saint Paul, 2021–2025





Familiar Faces: Intensive Care Management Team

The Familiar Faces Intensive Care Management Team provides mental health and substance use support and referral, integrated with primary health care and life skills development.

At the end of 2025, the ICMT includes:

- Two outreach workers (2.0 FTE)
- Two life coaches (2.0 FTE)

Here's how the team works:

- **Assertive outreach.** Daily, Familiar Faces outreach workers build trust with Saint Paul residents through a dedicated outreach and consistent follow up and service connection. Initial focus is on helping individuals meet their basic needs for food, medical care, temporary shelter, and transportation.
- **Relentless engagement.** Familiar Faces life outreach workers facilitate handoffs of dedicated clients to Familiar Faces case managers to provide ongoing support through person centered goal planning focusing on housing stability, safety, wellness, and resolving criminal justice touch points.



ONS's Current Portfolio

Neighborhood Safety Community Council (NSCC)

The Council acts as a bridge between the City of Saint Paul government and the broader Saint Paul community to address structural and historical barriers related to public safety and assisting the City to navigate an alternative approach to public safety.



Neighborhood Safety Community Council

Introduction:

John Porten, Ph.D., NSCC Chair



ONS by the Numbers in 2025

PROJECT PEACE

- **35 active clients**
- **31 custom notification visits**
- **1,274 interactions** with clients
- **346 hours** devoted to direct client interactions

FAMILIAR FACES

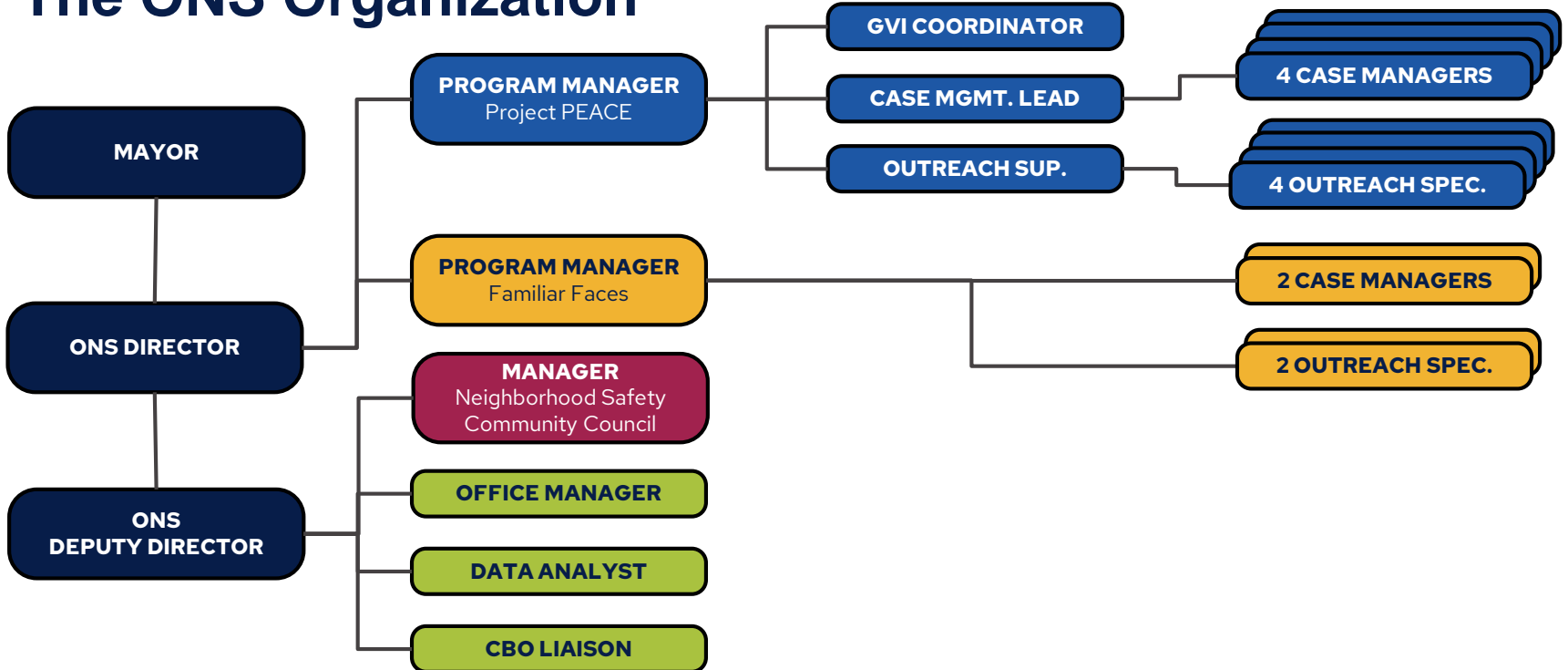
- **39 clients** in stable housing
- **415 people** reached out to
- **570 services** performed over **1,431 interactions**

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

- **\$312,500 awarded** to partner community-based organizations: World Youth Connect, Kamorra Enterprises, Elpis, Boots on the Ground
- Goals Not Guns Campaign, 2024–2025:
 - **300 young people** participated
 - **8 events** in **7 locations**
- **\$160,000 allocated** for 2026 partner organizations: KOOM Recovery, Face to Face, T.O.N.E Up, 180 Degrees



The ONS Organization





The ONS Team



Office Staff

Data analyst **Andrew Mua**, community-based organization liaison **Tyler Bouwens**, ONS deputy director **Rachel Holzemer**. *Not shown*: office manager **Shyrisse Tisdle**.



Familiar Faces

Case manager **Raven Davis** and outreach specialist **Arturo Garcia**, program administrator **Chris Michels**, outreach specialist **Sam Stoltz**, and case manager **Jennifer Kissling**.



Project PEACE

Top row: outreach specialist **Dominique Johnson** and case manager **Jeria Jenkins**, program manager **Faith Lofton**, case managers **Andre Knight**, **Dejay Johnson**, and **Nesha Adams**. *Front row*: outreach specialists **Undre Ellis** and **Juddah Battles**.



ONS Leadership



Cedrick Baker

Director



Rachel Holzemer

Deputy Director



Faith Lofton

Program Manager
Project PEACE



Christine Michels

Program Manager
Familiar Faces



Future Focus of ONS

- Clarity of Scope
- Identifying Unmet Needs
- Sustainability Efforts
- Internal & External Engagement



Opioid Response Update

- The City of Saint Paul will receive \$14M in Opioid Settlement funds over 17 years (2022-2038).
- Opioid Settlement funds are housed in a Special Revenue Fund and must adhere to uses related to opioid remediation.
- Approved Uses: Treatment, Prevention, Other Strategies



Opioid Response Update

Department	Description	2026 Budget
Library	Safety supplies	\$3,000
Police	Continue formerly grant-funded COAST work	\$272,863
DSI	HART	\$621,910
Fire	Assistant Fire Chief – Opioid Response	\$269,622
Gen Gov't	Fentanyl / Quality of Life (one-time)	\$1,000,000
TOTAL		\$2,167,396

Questions?



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