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To: Audit Committee Members and Community Advisors

Cc: Audit Committee Staff

From: Noah McVay

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Subject: Audit Topic Summary Report for 2026

Dear colleagues,

After six months and many late nights attending district council meetings, I am pleased to present to you all the Audit Topic Summary Report for 2026. This report summarizes each of the audit topics suggested to us, be it through our online, evergreen resident survey or as recommendations made by district council board members and their staff. I warmly thank those district councils who afforded me the time to share the important work the Audit Committee does as the internal auditors of city government. Likewise, I send my kindest regards to those individuals who reached out to me outside or in lieu of any scheduled town halls to share their ideas. It takes many people coming together to improve the basic services each and every one of us rely on, day in and day out.

In that same spirit of good governance, this year's report is organized by functional area of government. To aid the Audit Committee in scoring topic suggestions against the criteria established in our evaluation rubric, I also took the liberty of correlating each topic suggestion's level of public interest with geographic area in the city. In simpler terms, you can see how many residents *and* district councils support a given topic relative to the proposals contained within the same functional category. That said, this summary doesn't neatly fit a true program budget typology. Nevertheless, it is still a useful tool for illustrating how different audit topics examine distinct aspects of city programs and operations. Such is the multifaceted nature of Saint Paul's service delivery.

Respectfully submitted,

Noah McVay

KEY

District Councils by Planning District

Saint Paul is subdivided into seventeen neighborhoods, known as “planning districts”, for small area planning purposes. Each planning district is, in turn, administered by a section 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization known as a “district council”. Those planning districts and their corresponding district councils are as follows:

- District 1. Southeast Community Organization
- District 2. Greater East Side Community Council
- District 3. West Side Community Organization
- District 4. Dayton’s Bluff Community Council
- District 5. Payne-Phalen Community Council
- District 6. North End Neighborhood Organization
- District 7. Frogtown Neighborhood Association
- District 8. Summit-University Planning Council
- District 9. West Seventh/Fort Road Federation
- District 10. Como Community Council
- District 11. Hamline Midway Coalition
- District 12. Saint Anthony Park Community Council
- District 13. Union Park District Council
- District 14. Macalester-Groveland Community Council
- District 15. Highland District Council
- District 16. Summit Hill Association
- District 17. CapitolRiver Council

AUDIT TOPICS BY FUNCTIONAL AREA

Arts, Culture, and Recreation

1. Topic: Arts programs

Proposed scope: Review the economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and equity of arts programming in Saint Paul, including summer arts programs for youth at libraries and recreation centers, the Public Art Ordinance Program, the Cultural STAR Board, and the Neighborhood STAR Board, and make recommendations to improve program outcomes and enhance access to art-based activities for residents of all ages.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Planning and Economic Development, Saint Paul Public Library

Number of resident survey participants who suggested the topic: 1 resident, from Highland District Council

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Highland District Council

2. Topic: Community gardens

Proposed scope: Study the feasibility of creating more community gardens to combat food insecurity, facilitate social interactions within the community, and encourage a healthy lifestyle through a balanced diet and outdoor recreation.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Planning and Economic Development, Public Housing Agency

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: West Side Community Organization

3. Topic: Historic preservation variances

Proposed scope: Test whether the Historic Preservation Commission is operating in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and standards for Certified Local Government status, with emphasis placed on the efficiency and effectiveness of the permit review process.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Planning and Economic Development

Number of resident survey participants who suggested the topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Summit Hill Association

4. Topic: Park infrastructure improvements

Proposed scope: Examine the economy and efficiency of the Department of Parks and Recreation’s short- and long-term capital maintenance schedules, the effectiveness of the one percent (1%) Common Cent sales tax in financing capital outlay for parks and recreational facilities, and the adequacy of operational controls related to state and federal grants administration.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Parks and Recreation

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 1 resident, from Highland District Council

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Como Community Council, Highland District Council

5. Topic: Youth sports programs

Proposed scope: Ascertain the present capacity of recreation centers for youth sports programming, assess whether the Department of Parks and Recreation is effectively using gym space and other facilities to meet current and projected demand for youth sports programming, verify whether or not access to youth sports programming is equitable across the city, and evaluate whether current youth sports programming is meeting the needs of underserved youth.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Parks and Recreation

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 1 participant, from Highland District Council

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Highland District Council

Commerce

6. Topic: Business licensing

Proposed scope: Determine the effectiveness of business licensing processes administered by the Department of Safety and Inspections, the extent invoices received

comply with state law and city ordinance, and the efficiency of the tracking system for managing cases.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Safety and Inspections

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 2 residents, one from Como Community Council and the other from West Side Community Organization

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Como Community Council, Hamline-Midway Coalition, Highland District Council, Macalester-Groveland Community Council, Saint Anthony Park Community Council, Summit Hill Association, Summit-University Planning Council, Union Park District Council, West Seventh/Fort Road Federation

7. Topic: Saint Paul's building code functions

Proposed scope: Examine the cost, quality, and timeliness of building inspection, construction permitting, and property code enforcement functions at the Department of Safety and Inspections, together with the efficiency and effectiveness of the tracking system used by DSI for monitoring and following-up on individual cases.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Safety and Inspections

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 2 residents, one from Como Community Council and the other from West Side Community Organization

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Como Community Council, Hamline-Midway Coalition, Highland District Council, Macalester-Groveland Community Council, North End Neighborhood Association, Saint Anthony Park Community Council, Summit Hill Association, Summit-University Planning Council, Union Park District Council, West Seventh/Fort Road Federation

Environment & Public Works

8. Topic: Animal control

Proposed scope: Assess the Animal Services Division of the Department of Safety and Inspections, focusing on the efficiency and effectiveness of shelter operations and field services, compliance with pertinent laws, regulations and policies, and identifying best practices for standards of animal care.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Safety and Inspections

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 1 resident, from West Seventh/Fort Road Federation

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: N/a

9. Topic: Biodiversity loss

Proposed scope: Study means and methods of managing public land and other city property towards the goal of conserving and augmenting biodiversity within Saint Paul.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Public Works, Public Housing Agency

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Saint Anthony Park Community Council

10. Topic: Climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resiliency

Proposed scope: Ascertain whether city departments are meeting their 2019-2025 targets as identified in Saint Paul's Climate Action and Resilience Plan.

Department(s) within project scope: Whole of city government

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Macalester-Groveland Community Council, South East Community Organization, Summit-University Planning Council

11. Topic: Lead line replacement

Proposed scope: Evaluate the management of recent lead line replacement projects completed by Saint Paul Regional Water Services, to determine the accuracy of service line inventories, the effective use of federal funding, the equity of replacement activities, and compliance with the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Improvements.

Department(s) within project scope: Saint Paul Regional Water Services

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Greater East Side Community Council, North End Neighborhood Organization, Payne-Phalen Planning Council

12. Topic: Skyways

Proposed scope: Investigate the accessibility, ease of navigation, current service area, and safety of the municipal skyway system, its compliance with applicable laws and

regulations, and the effectiveness of prevailing policies – together with available policy alternatives – to encourage pedestrian utilization and business occupancy of skyway spaces.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Planning and Economic Development, Department of Public Works

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 1 resident, from CapitolRiver Council

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: CapitolRiver Council, Macalester-Groveland Community Council, Union Park District Council, West Seventh/Fort Road Federation, West Side Community Organization

13. Topic: Solid waste management

Proposed scope: Assess the economy and efficiency of Public Works’ solid waste management operations, especially as it concerns garbage collection and disposal, and evaluate the effectiveness of Saint Paul’s recycling and composting programs.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Public Works

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Hamline-Midway Coalition, Union Park District Council

14. Topic: Streets and highways

Proposed scope: Determine the economy and efficiency of Public Works’ snow removal operations, opine on the effectiveness of street maintenance activities, and assess the adequacy of capital outlay oversight mechanisms to safeguard public resources.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Public Works

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Como Community Council, Hamline-Midway Coalition, Highland District Council, Macalester-Groveland Community Council, North End Neighborhood Association, Saint Anthony Park Community Council, South East Community Organization, Summit Hill Association, Summit-University Planning Council, Union Park District Council, West Seventh/Fort Road Federation

15. Topic: Tree preservation

Proposed scope: Prospectively analyze potential policy outcomes of the draft tree preservation ordinance, especially as they relate to tree preservation district management, urban forestry standards, and the Forestry Division’s compliance with the proposed law.

Department(s) within project scope: Public Works Department

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Saint Anthony Park Community Council

General Government

16. Topic: Administrative bloat

Proposed scope: Identify surplus, duplicative, or vacant administrative positions in city departments.

Department(s) within project scope: Whole of government, with emphasis on the Human Resources Department

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, Highland District Council, Summit-University Planning Council

17. Topic: Artificial intelligence

Proposed scope: Examine the ethical implications of incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) and other smart-city technologies into functions, programs, and services delivered by the city of Saint Paul.

Department(s) within project scope: Whole of government, with emphasis on the Police Department, Department of Planning and Economic Development, and Office of Technology and Communications

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 1 resident, from Saint Anthony Park Community Council

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: N/a

18. Topic: Cybersecurity

Proposed topic: Assess the integrity of the enterprise information system in response to last summer’s cyberattack, and recommend practices to strengthen Saint Paul’s

cybersecurity posture at the departmental and citywide scales in the face of present and future risks.

Department(s) within project scope: Whole of government, with emphasis on the Office of Technology and Communications

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Como Community Council, Highland District Council, Macalester-Groveland Community Council, Saint Anthony Park Community Council, South East Community Organization, Summit Hill Association, Summit-University Planning Council, Union Park District Council, West Seventh/Fort Road Federation

19. Topic: City procurement

Proposed scope: Consider the extent tested departments are complying with state laws, city ordinances, and their own policies over purchasing and contracting and that contracted services achieve desired outcomes.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Planning and Economic Development, Department of Public Works, Police Department, Office of Financial Services

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 1 resident, from Macalester-Groveland Community Council

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Hamline-Midway Coalition

20. Topic: Data practices

Proposed scope: Assess selected departments' management of requests made under the Data Practices Act for the period running from January 2023 through December 2025.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Planning and Economic Development, Department of Public Works, Office of the City Attorney

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 1 resident, from Macalester-Groveland Community Council

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: N/a

21. Topic: District council reform

Proposed scope: Revisit the financing, organization, and core functions of Saint Paul’s district councils, including the funding formula for district councils and whether the Department of Planning and Economic Development is administering grants to individual district councils in accordance with OMB’s Uniform Guidance.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Planning and Economic Development and all seventeen district councils

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: CapitolRiver Council, Como Community Council, Hamline-Midway Coalition, Macalester-Groveland Community Council, North End Neighborhood Organization, Saint Anthony Park Community Council, South East Community Organization, Summit Hill Association, Union Park District Council

22. Topic: Diversity, equity, and inclusion in the Civil Service

Proposed scope: Review the Human Resources Department’s compliance with labor laws, city ordinances, and internal policies relating to talent acquisition, performance management, and training in order to improve operational efficiency, diversify the city of Saint Paul’s workforce, and mitigate risks of liability, harassment, or discrimination due to exclusionary hiring practices.

Department(s) within project scope: Human Resources Department

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Summit-University Planning Council

23. Topic: Elected official responsiveness

Proposed scope: Inspect the response rates of Saint Paul’s elected officials to constituent correspondence

Department(s) within project scope: City Council and Mayor’s Office

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Union Park District Council

24. Topic: PAULIE

Proposed scope: Evaluate the design and implementation of the new PAULIE system, including what features were described compared to what is being offered, which features or historical data that may have not been incorporated because of the expedited launch timeline, and what plans the Office of Technology and Communications has to remedy any errors in launching the platform.

Department(s) within project scope: Whole of government, with emphasis on the Department of Safety and Inspections

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 1 resident, from Frogtown Neighborhood Association

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Summit-University Planning Council, Union Park District Council

Health, Human Rights, and Labor

25. **Topic:** College savings and universal basic income pilot

Proposed topic: Evaluate the economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and equity of both CollegeBound and CollegeBound Boost.

Department(s) within project scope: Office of Financial Empowerment

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Highland District Council, South East Community Organization, Summit-University Planning Council, West Side Community Organization

26. **Topic:** Human rights enforcement

Proposed scope: Inspect the case processing efficiency of the Investigation Division in the Department of Human Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity (HREEO) for any long case closure backlogs, review HREEO's grant oversight for potential misuse of state and federal awards, and investigate the effectiveness of complaint intake processes to assure enforcement of Saint Paul's human rights ordinance.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Human Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or from of the following district councils: Payne-Phalen Community Council, Union Park District Council

27. Topic: Infectious disease prevention and response

Proposed scope: Assess the Public Health Department’s readiness, communication plans, and resource allocations to manage public health crises, examine whether grant management activities for infectious disease initiatives are compliant with state and federal law, test clinical inventory controls to ensure vaccines and other inventory are not lost to theft or spoilage, and review the methodologies and accuracy of data used by the department to set local public health priorities.

Department(s) within project scope: Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health Department

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Dayton’s Bluff Community Council

28. Topic: Labor protections enforcement

Proposed scope: Determine the effectiveness of enforcement activities at the Department of Human Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity (HREEO) and whether or not sampled employers of multiple business enterprise size classes are complying with Saint Paul’s earned sick and safe time and wage theft ordinances.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Human Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Summit-University Planning Council

29. Topic: Minimum wage standardization

Proposed scope: Examine the effectiveness of the minimum wage ordinance and whether modifications to business enterprise size classifications so that they conform with Small Business Administration definitions of small- and medium-sized enterprises achieve better policy outcomes for workers and the business community alike.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Human Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Summit-University Planning Council

30. Topic: Opioid settlement funds

Proposed scope: Provide reasonable assurances opioid settlement funds administered by the city of Saint Paul are being managed effectively and in compliance with both federal law and the terms of the settlement negotiated by the Minnesota Attorney General's Office.

Department(s) within project scope: Fire Department, Police Department, Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health Department

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Hamline-Midway Coalition, Summit Hill Association, Union Park District Council, West Side Community Organization

Housing, Planning, and Economic Development

31. Topic: Affordable housing tax credits

Proposed scope: Ascertain the extent by which affordable housing tax credits are being used efficiently, effectively, and in compliance with state and federal law.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Planning and Economic Development

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 1

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: CapitolRiver Council

32. Topic: Comprehensive housing policy analysis

Proposed scope: Analyze the outcomes of current housing policy and zoning rules, and interrogate their relationship if any with housing supply and the rent control ordinance.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Planning and Economic Development, Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Public Housing Agency

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 1 resident, from Como Community Council

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Greater East Side Community Council, Hamline-Midway Coalition, Payne-Phalen Planning Council, Union Park District Council

33. Topic: Downtown Improvement District operations

Proposed scope: Inspect the program effectiveness and results of services provided by the Downtown Improvement District.

Department(s) within project scope: Saint Paul Downtown Alliance

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: CapitolRiver Council, Dayton's Bluff Community Council, Payne-Phalen Community Council, West Seventh/Fort Road Federation

34. Topic: Downtown revitalization

Proposed scope: Review the economy and effectiveness of the Downtown Vitality Fund, whether initiatives financed by the fund are satisfying intended program outcomes, and any recommended policies or best practices adopted by other cities within the Upper Midwest and beyond to encourage downtown revitalization.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Planning and Economic Development, Department of Public Works, Office of Financial Services

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: N/a

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: CapitolRiver Council

35. Topic: Emerging and Diverse Developers Program

Proposed scope: Determine the extent by which Saint Paul is fulfilling its grantee goals under the Emerging and Diverse Developers (EEP) Program for members of the BIPOC community and, if not, what best practices can be implemented to more efficiently and effectively recruit participants and distribute scheduled awards in support of established program objectives.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Planning and Economic Development

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 1 resident, from North End Neighborhood Organization

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: North End Neighborhood Organization

36. Topic: Fairness of awards process for economic development grants

Proposed scope: Investigate the efficiency and effectiveness of the internal controls adopted by the Department of Planning and Economic Development for awarding grants

to planning districts for economic development purposes, analyze the methodologies used by similar jurisdictions for awarding grants, and make recommendations which ensure grants are awarded on the basis of merit, including specifically to underserved and undercapitalized communities.

Department(s) within scope: Department of Planning and Economic Development

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 1 resident, from North End Neighborhood Organization

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: North End Neighborhood Organization

37. Topic: Housing affordability

Proposed scope: Verify that only eligible beneficiaries are utilizing the Citywide Down Payment Assistance Program, the Emergency Rent Assistance Program, and the Inheritance Fund as authorized by city ordinance and opine on the effectiveness of these programs in achieving equitable outcomes for historically marginalized communities.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Planning and Economic Development

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 1 resident, from Como Community Council

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: N/a

38. Topic: Housing unit construction and vacancies

Proposed scope: Evaluate the effectiveness of regulatory monitoring performed by the departments of Safety and Inspections and Planning and Economic Development of housing unit construction and vacancy rates.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Planning and Economic Development, Department of Safety and Inspections

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 1 resident, from West Side Community Organization

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: N/a

39. Topic: PHA resident councils

Proposed scope: Assess the strength and design of internal controls over Public Housing Agency resident councils' financial operations, inspect whether or not said resident councils are in compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, and

recommend best practices to the Public Housing Agency to ensure public monies appropriated towards resident council activities are prudently managed.

Department(s) within project scope: Public Housing Agency

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 1 resident, from West Seventh/Fort Road Federation

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: N/a

40. Topic: Short-term rentals

Proposed scope: Examine trends related to short-term rental permits in the time that they've been allowed in Saint Paul, including their impact on affordable housing opportunities, the hotel industry, and if owner-occupied versus non-owner-occupied spaces influence housing supply.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Planning and Economic Development, Department of Safety and Inspections

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 1 resident, from Frogtown Neighborhood Association

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Frogtown Neighborhood Association

41. Topic: Tax increment financing (TIF) oversight

Proposed scope: Scrutinize the economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and equity of tax increment financing (TIF) activities in Saint Paul and recommend best practices to provide reasonable assurances tax increment districts (TIDs) administer public monies prudently and in accordance with the law.

Department(s) within project scope: Office of Financial Services, together with every TID created by the Council

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: N/a

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: CapitolRiver Council, Dayton's Bluff Community Council, Hamline-Midway Coalition, Highland District Council, Macalester-Groveland Community Council, Summit Hill Association, Summit-University Planning Council, Union Park District Council, West Seventh/Fort Road Federation, West Side Community Organization

42. Topic: Zoning appeals

Proposed scope: Inspect the internal controls, operational efficiency and effectiveness, and compliance with relevant laws and regulations concerning the zoning appeals process, including throughput times, ENS notifications to district councils, and the extent the Board of Zoning Appeals acts on district councils' support letters for permits, variances, and rezoning.

Department(s) within project scope: Board of Zoning Appeals and Department of Safety and Inspections

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Hamline-Midway Coalition, Union Park District Council

Public Safety

43. **Topic:** Emergency preparedness

Proposed scope: Test the accuracy of emergency response plans, equipment readiness, and staff training programs administered by the Office of Emergency Management.

Department(s) within project scope: Office of Emergency Management

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Greater East Side Community Council

44. **Topic:** Fire Department operations

Proposed scope: Evaluate the Fire Department's compliance with training and certification standards, verify incident response times, assess the quality of fire station safety and health procedures, and determine whether purchasing, maintenance, and inventory controls over apparatuses, SCBA, PPE, tools, and medical supplies satisfy NFPA standards.

Department(s) within project scope: Fire Department

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: N/a

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Summit-University Planning Council

45. **Topic:** Law enforcement abuse of power

Proposed scope: Examine the Police Department's compliance with the new ordinance banning federal agents from using city property for staging purposes and the

effectiveness of the ordinance mandating proper and visible identification for all law enforcement officials operating within city limits.

Department(s) within project scope: Police Department

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 1 resident, from West Seventh/Fort Road Federation

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Hamline-Midway Coalition, North End Neighborhood Organization

46. Topic: Pedestrian safety

Proposed scope: Review recent incidents of pedestrians being hit by automobiles and recommend evidence-based policies and practices to reduce the number of traffic-related fatalities in Saint Paul and achieve improved measures of traffic safety.

Department(s) within project scope: Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works Department

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 1 resident, from Hamline-Midway Coalition

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Hamline-Midway Coalition

47. Topic: Petty crime

Proposed scope: Take an all-of-the-above approach to reduce petty crimes, especially in communities of color and lower-income neighborhoods, with emphasis on identifying best practices at retail establishments and evaluating Office of Neighborhood Safety program effectiveness.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Safety and Inspections, Police Department, Office of Neighborhood Safety

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Summit-University Planning Council

48. Topic: Police Department adherence to professional standards

Proposed scope: Assess the effectiveness of the Police Department's use-of-force policies, the efficiency of officer safety protocols, and its compliance with both state laws and the city's separation ordinance.

Department(s) within project scope: Police Department

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Como Community Council, Greater East Side Community Council, Hamline-Midway Coalition, Saint Anthony Park Community Council, Union Park District Council, West Side Community Organization

49. Topic: Police officer recruitment and retention

Proposed scope: Conclude if staffing levels at the Police Department match service demand, assess the effectiveness of training for specialized units like mental health crisis response teams, and review workplace culture.

Department(s) within project scope: Police Department

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Dayton's Bluff Community Council

50. Topic: Sober housing

Proposed topic: Prospectively analyze whether or not specific zoning ordinances, distance requirements, and safety regulations for sober housing must be reformed in light of state policy changes that now authorize housing support payments for certified recovery residences.

Department(s) within project scope: Department of Planning and Economic Development, Department of Safety and Inspections

Number of resident survey participants who suggested this topic: 0

Recommended by board members or staff from the following district councils: Summit Hill Association

(END)