



Common ground. Common good.

AGENDA

Saint Paul Community-First Public Safety Commission

Wednesday, December 16, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Proposed outcomes for this meeting

- State commission charge and proposed goals
- Introduce commission members, presenters, staff, and other participants
- Review Citizens League process and principles of engagement
- Discuss Commission timeline
- Answer questions

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

1. Opening

John Marshall and Acooa Ellis, Co-Chairs

a. 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 i.e. office of violence prevention.
- Make recommendations based on these findings and conclusions.

b. Welcome Remarks

Mayor Carter
Council Member Mitra Jalali
Commissioner Toni Carter
Citizens League Incoming Board Chair Laura Monn Ginsburg

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

2. Commission Introductions

Acooa Ellis, Co-Chair

10:45 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.

3. Break

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

4. Citizens League Process and Principles of Engagement

Kate Cimino
Executive Director, Citizens League

11:30 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

5. Proposed Timeline and Logistics

Amanda Koonjbeharry
Director of Public Policy, Citizens League

11:35 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

6. Questions

John Marshall, Co-Chair

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

7. Evaluations

8. Adjourn and Next Steps

John Marshall, Co-Chair
Acooa Ellis and John Marshall, Co-Chairs

Upcoming Meeting

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (link to come)

CITIZENS LEAGUE

Governing Document



Mission

The Citizens League is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that seeks to empower people to engage in civic life and public policy, to make Minnesota a better place to live and work for everyone.

Vision

Through our work:

- Minnesotans of all backgrounds, parties and ideologies are engaged, inspired and empowered to take an active role in public policymaking, fueling Minnesota's ability to implement innovative and effective policy solutions.
- The Citizens League is a relevant and respected policy resource and a trusted convener, focused on solving current and future problems, building civic capacity, and earning the ongoing support of our Minnesota community.

Operating Guidelines

The Citizens League is unique in *how* we approach policymaking. We:

- **Believe public policy happens everywhere, not just in government institutions and the public sector.** "Public policy" happens at the Capitol and in government chambers, and also in businesses, nonprofits, communities, congregations and families. The most important public policy issues of our day have a role for all types of institutions and individuals.
- **Bring diverse perspectives and people together.** We know that engaging people across ideology, background, race & ethnicity, geography, sectors and parties produces better solutions. We work with Minnesotans from a wide variety of communities and sectors to understand important public policy issues and identify the roles each stakeholder has in contributing to solutions. We believe there is positive societal value in creating and sustaining connections across differences.
- **Seek insights from research, data, and lived experiences of individuals and communities to inform our programming and our policy recommendations.** The Citizens League seeks out rigorous research and diverse, trusted sources of information to inform our work. We seek ways to center the lived experiences of those most impacted by public policies, who are vital partners in defining the problem and crafting sustainable solutions. We recognize that everyone has a lens or a perspective they bring to policy work, and we seek to honor these perspectives.
- **Acknowledge that there is a historical context to all policies, systems and structures, which invite new approaches to move forward.** Not all groups or people have been part of designing existing policy; both intentionally and unintentionally, people most impacted by issues have often been absent from the problem-solving table. The Citizens League recognizes this context (including how it has shaped our own organization's history), and we continually seek deeper engagement to create innovative and impactful policy solutions.
- **Operate with transparency and humility.** We aim to use a process and practices that build trust among all stakeholders, so that our outcomes and policy recommendations are similarly rooted in trust. Our staff and board commit to continually learning and growing in our work.

- **Advance policy solutions in collaboration with a broad base of support.** We aim to build coalitions and networks to move good ideas forward, even in a fractured political and policy landscape. The Citizens League balances policy idealism with political pragmatism – exploring bold and innovative ideas, and identifying achievable actions with the most meaningful impact.
- **Disseminate policy information and programming in ways that are accessible to a broad range of stakeholders.** Our work connects systemic policy issues to the real stories of Minnesotans impacted by these policies. We strive to make our work as accessible as possible to people across income level, geography, race and ethnicity, and ability.
- **Recognize the tension and impossibility inherent in the very concept of finding a singular solution that serves all people.** However, we will always strive to welcome, acknowledge, and respect discussions that bring to light important nuances to policy conversations.

Last updated December 9, 2020, pending board review

SAINT PAUL COMMUNITY-FIRST PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings are scheduled from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM and will be held virtually.

Meeting #1: Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Meeting #2: Wednesday, January 6, 2021

Meeting #3: Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Meeting #4: Wednesday, January 27, 2021

Meeting #5: Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Meeting #6: Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Meeting #7: Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Meeting #8: Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Meeting #9: Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Meeting #10: Wednesday, April 21, 2021



The Office of Mayor Melvin Carter

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 17, 2020

CONTACT:

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Mayor Melvin Carter Announces Community-First Public Safety Commission To Re-Envision Emergency Response In Saint Paul

Commission Of Approximately 40 Members Co-Chaired by Acooa Ellis of Greater Twin Cities United Way and John Marshall of Xcel Energy To Convene For 5 Months In Process Led By The Citizens League

Commission Will Provide Recommendations to the Mayor and City Council In May 2021

SAINT PAUL, MN - Today, Mayor Melvin Carter announced the launch of a Community-First Public Safety Commission to re-envision emergency response in Saint Paul. The Commission will focus on alternative first-response options to priority-4 and priority-5 calls for service, and approaches for ongoing community involvement in the City's Community-First Public Safety Plan, including considering the creation of a city-staffed office to drive and integrate this work.

The Commission of approximately 40 members will be co-chaired by Acooa Ellis of Greater Twin Cities United Way and John Marshall of Xcel Energy. The Commission will convene for 5 months in a process led by the Citizens League, and will provide recommendations to the Mayor and City Council in May 2021.

"Now more than ever, amid the many crises we face, re-envisioning emergency response is a critical step toward realizing safer outcomes," **said Mayor Melvin Carter**. "This Commission will help us expand our Community-First Public Safety Framework, and further chart a path forward for our community."

"Today, one of the most pressing issues we face is a steady increase in calls for service," **said Police Chief Todd Axtell**. "We have an obligation to make sure officers are available when people need them—especially for the most serious crimes. And while we've taken steps to address the issue by adjusting deployment, leveraging technology and targeting resources, we should never stop pushing to do more for our city. My hope is that this commission builds on our work and helps us identify even more efficiencies."

"At this pivotal moment in our city and our nation's history, we must continue moving a new vision for public safety forward," **said Council President Amy Brendmoen**. "This commission will advance this work and bring together many voices to shape how we keep our community safe during these uncertain times."

"Community safety beyond policing starts with shifting away from the punitive, costly and reactive status quo of traditional law enforcement and investing deeply in neighborhoods and residents most impacted by historical injustice and police violence," **said Councilmember Mitra Jalali**. "As this commission embarks on its work, we need to center those voices in this and every forthcoming process in the work ahead for our city."

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY-FIRST PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

The Community First Public Safety Commission will help shape the City of Saint Paul's continued work to take a holistic and sustainable approach to building safer outcomes in our neighborhoods. Consisting of approximately 40 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 emergency response models. 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.

"Engaging a broad array of voices in shaping our public policies ensures a well-informed assessment of community challenges and viable solutions—well into the future," **said Accoa Ellis, Senior Vice President of Community Impact for the Greater Twin Cities United Way.** "I'm honored to co-chair the Community-First Public Safety Commission and look forward to developing a set of recommendations that optimize City resources in service to all of Saint Paul's residents.

"Solving the challenges we face today will require cross-sector collaboration, and the development of new models and modes of thinking," **said John Marshall, Director of Community Relations for Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota for Xcel Energy.** "The Community-First Public Safety Commission will engage in this approach as we further the important conversation around public safety for Saint Paul residents, workers and visitors."

"For more than 65 years, the Citizens League has engaged Minnesotans to address critical issues in our community, and as we face the ongoing impacts of the pandemic, this work remains a crucial part of advancing the common good," **said Citizens League Executive Director Kate Cimino.** "We look forward to supporting the Community-First Public Safety Commission in their efforts to enhance public safety in the City of Saint Paul."

The Commission will include a broad array of voices and will prioritize engaging members who live and work in Saint Paul with the following structure:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Intergovernmental Partners | Up to 2 Members |
| • Education | Up to 2 Members |
| • Youth | Up to 6 Members |
| • Business | Up to 3 Members |
| • Cultural and Other Affinity Groups | Up to 7 Members |
| • Law Enforcement | Up to 6 Members |
| • Advocacy Organizations | Up to 3 Members |
| • Faith Communities | Up to 3 Members |
| • At Large Members | Up to 8 Members |

In addition to the Commission members, city department and governmental partners will be invited to participate in the process to provide additional support for this work, including representatives from:

- Saint Paul Police Department
- Saint Paul Fire Department
- Saint Paul Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity
- Saint Paul Parks and Recreation
- Saint Paul City Attorney's Office
- Saint Paul Libraries
- Saint Paul Mayor's Office
- Ramsey County Community Corrections
- Ramsey County Social Services
- Ramsey County Attorney's Office
- Ramsey County Sheriff's Office
- Ramsey County Emergency Communications Center
- Second Judicial District of Minnesota

The full list of Commission Members will be announced later this month. The Commission will convene twice per month starting in December and will establish subcommittees as needed. The Commission will make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council regarding:

- Alternative first response options to priority 4 and priority 5 calls for service, and
- Approaches for community involvement in informing and evaluating the City's community first public safety framework and partnerships via an on-going advisory council, including considering the creation of an city-staffed office to drive and integrate this work.

The project budget is \$71,200, paid for through the City's Innovation Fund. The project will be independent of the City of Saint Paul and the project will follow the Citizens League's operating guidelines as stated in the organization's Governing Document. A final report and recommendations from the Commission will be presented to the Mayor and City Council in May 2021.

ABOUT THE CO-CHAIRS

Acooa Ellis, Senior Vice President of Community Impact for the Greater Twin Cities United Way directs United Way's work in grantmaking, coalition engagement, systems change, public policy and the agency's 211 resource helpline. Acooa previously served as director of social justice advocacy for Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Prior to that role, she managed government relations for the southern region of the country on behalf of Target Corporation.

John Marshall, Director of Community Relations for Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota for Xcel Energy manages strategic community and local government relationships in MN, ND & SD playing key roles in the areas of operations, emergency response, economic development and social and community investments. John has 19 years of professional experience including eight years of public service working for the City of Saint Paul and currently serves on several community boards in St. Paul and across the State.

ABOUT THE CITIZENS LEAGUE

The Citizens League is a member-supported nonpartisan nonprofit organization that champions the role of all Minnesotans to govern for the common good and promote democracy. For more than 65 years, the Citizens League has developed and implemented nonpartisan policies on critical issues facing Minnesota, such as education, governance, taxes, parks, and transportation. The Citizens League is directed by a volunteer board, guided by operating committees, and financially supported by individual members, foundations and businesses.

Citizens League **Executive Director Kate Cimino** joined the organization as executive director in September 2020. Most recently, she worked at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs for thirteen years, serving since 2011 as the executive director of the Humphrey Policy Fellows program and assistant director of the school's Center for the Study of Politics and Governance.

Citizen League **Director of Public Policy Amanda Koonjeharry** joined the organization in 2019 and leads all efforts related to developing and advancing policy recommendations with the Citizens League's members and partners. Amanda previously served in Hennepin County as Director of No Wrong Door, Hennepin County's anti-sex trafficking initiative and as a Senior Planning Analyst.

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY-FIRST PUBLIC SAFETY FRAMEWORK

Mayor Carter's Community-First Public Safety Framework prioritizes investments that are proven to make our most vulnerable children and families more secure in our homes and neighborhoods, and centers around:

- Improving community connectivity & supports;
- Designing public spaces for safety; and
- Enhancing the capacity of public safety systems.

In 2020, the Community-First Public Safety Framework invests more than \$1 million in proven, data-driven and evidence-based approaches from around the country and world, and leverages public, private and philanthropic investments to maximize public resources. The framework engages 9 different city departments in a comprehensive public safety strategy, reflects community-driven priorities from over 1,000 Saint Paul residents who've participated in Mayor's Office community engagement events in 2019, and invests directly in community-based resources & capacity to address localized challenges.

ABOUT PRIORITY CALL DESIGNATION

The Saint Paul Police Department uses a classification system for radio calls with five priority designations as follows:

- Priority 1 and 2 calls are designated as emergency.
- Priority 3 calls are designated as urgent.
- Priority 4 and 5 calls are designated as routine.

General Priority guidelines include these types of calls:

- Priority-1
 - Officer down, injured, or needs immediate assistance in a critical situation.
- Priority-2
 - Any crime in progress.
 - Activity which indicates a crime is about to be committed or has just been committed where suspects are in the area.
 - Any matter which the caller reasonably indicates is of an urgent matter.
 - Intrusion or robbery alarm.
 - Any matter involving serious personal injury or imminent threat of serious injury.
 - Emergency assistance required by the fire department (not DOAs).
 - Physical domestics
- Priority-3
 - Domestics, neighbor trouble, etc., where no threat of personal safety exists.
 - Suspicious people, vehicles, window peepers, prowlers, trespassers, exposers, etc.
 - Traffic crashes, no personal injury.
 - Assist the fire department with a DOA.
 - Fights, mutual affrays, without weapons.
 - Assist any agency not amounting to priority 1 or priority 2.
 - Report of a citizen holding a suspect not amounting to a priority 1 or 2, does not include shoplifters.
- Priority-4
 - Offense reports where no suspect is present and no personal threat exists.
 - Assist citizen in non-emergency matter.
 - Shoplifters being held by store security personnel.
 - Drunks, emotionally disturbed persons, disorderly persons, not threatening physical harm.
- Priority 5
 - Miscellaneous request for service.
 - Barking dogs.
 - Loud party.
 - Loud radios, etc.
 - Parking complaints.

Radio Call Priority designation information is available at <https://www.stpaul.gov/books/44105-radio-call-priorities>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 10, 2020

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Mayor Carter Announces 48 Members to Serve on Saint Paul's Community-First Public Safety Commission

*Commission to Convene For 5 Months in Process Led by The Citizens League
To Re-Envision Emergency Response in Saint Paul*

Commission to Provide Recommendations to the Mayor and City Council in May 2021

SAINT PAUL, MN - Today, Mayor Carter announced the full membership of the Community-First Public Safety Commission. The 48 members include a broad array of voices from the public and private sectors, nonprofit, community and neighborhood organizations, educational institutions, peace officer associations, city commissions, labor and advocacy organizations, healthcare, philanthropy, and residents.

The Commission will focus on alternative first-response options to priority-4 and priority-5 calls for service, and approaches for ongoing community involvement in the City's Community-First Public Safety Plan, including considering the creation of a city-staffed office to drive and integrate this work. The Commission will convene for 5 months in a process led by the Citizens League and will provide recommendations to the Mayor and City Council in May 2021.

COMMUNITY-FIRST PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Acooa Ellis, Commission Co-Chair	Twin Cities United Way
John Marshall, Commission Co-Chair	Xcel Energy
Commissioner Toni Carter	Ramsey County 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/ISAIAH
Cedrick Baker	Saint Paul Public Schools
Sami Barnat	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	Cultivate
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

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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 Squire Jones	Center for Homicide Research
Clara Juneman	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

In addition to Commission members, city department and governmental partners will participate in the process to provide additional support for this work, including representatives from:

City of Saint Paul

- Saint Paul Police Department
- Saint Paul Fire Department
- Saint Paul Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity
- Saint Paul Parks and Recreation
- Saint Paul City Attorney's Office
- Saint Paul Libraries
- Saint Paul Mayor's Office
- Saint Paul Human Resources
- Saint Paul Office of Technology & Communications
- Saint Paul Financial Services

Ramsey County

- Ramsey County Transforming Systems
- Ramsey County Social Services
- Ramsey County Public Health
- Ramsey County Attorney's Office
- Ramsey County Sheriff's Office
- Ramsey County Emergency Communications Center

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ABOUT THE COMMUNITY-FIRST PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION PROCESS

Through a process led by the Citizens League, the Commission will examine a wide range of policy ideas for alternative emergency response models. Executive Director Kate Cimino and Director of Public Policy Amanda Koonjbeharry from Citizens League will serve as project leads. The Commission will convene twice per month starting in December and will establish subcommittees as needed.

The project budget is \$61,650, paid for through the City's Innovation Fund. The project will be independent of the City of Saint Paul and the project will follow the Citizens League's operating guidelines as stated in the organization's Governing Document. A final report and recommendations from the Commission will be presented to the Mayor and City Council in May 2021.

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- Improving community connectivity & supports;
- Designing public spaces for safety; and
- Enhancing the capacity of public safety systems.

In 2020, the Community-First Public Safety Framework invests more than \$1 million in proven, data-driven and evidence-based approaches from around the country and world, and leverages public, private and philanthropic investments to maximize public resources. The framework engages 9 different city departments in a comprehensive public safety strategy, reflects community-driven priorities from over 1,000 Saint Paul residents who've participated in Mayor's Office community engagement events in 2019, and invests directly in community-based resources & capacity to address localized challenges.

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###

Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles- Summary

1. Develop and articulating clear and concise language regarding our partnership
2. Find comfort in the discomfort
3. Honor truth in differences
4. Lead with curiosity, honesty, transparency and humility
5. Foster a space for grace in the process
6. Remain mindful and respectful of our role as members of a vast ecosystem.



Guiding Principles

1. Develop and articulate clear and concise language regarding our partnership.

- This language should be consistent among partners and communicate:
- The value of this work
- Clarity on the “why?”
- What policy changes we expect from this partnership

2. Find comfort in the discomfort.

- This commitment requires that we recognize that navigating these conversations may be triggering and that each individual and company or organization is going to be in a different place on their journey.
- We also recognize discomfort can signal opportunities for growth and additional understanding, as well as cause some people to disengage. We will lean into learning and remain present when the urge to disengage occurs.

3. Honor truth in differences.

- We honor that communities have knowledge about how they are experiencing various systems and structures and solutions.
- We will acknowledge the presence of blind spots and work to check our personal bias when entering conversations.
- We will remain respectful of lived experiences different than our own, mindful to recognize those experiences as hard-earned wisdom.

Guiding Principles

4. Lead with curiosity, honesty, transparency, courage and humility.

- We acknowledge this coalition embodies a great deal of privilege and influence, which can impact our efforts to engage meaningfully with community. To attain our objective, we will:
- Be slow to judgement when engaging with communities—particularly those different from our own.
- Remain mindful of non-verbal communication.

5. Foster a space for grace in the process.

- We will prioritize impact over intent.
- When missteps occur, we will acknowledge, apologize and atone.
- Acknowledge that harm was caused
- Apologize for the actions
- Take the steps to correct/repair the harm that was caused.

6. Remain mindful and respectful of our role as members of a vast ecosystem.

- Our efforts should enhance, not distract from or supplant, existing work around the community.