



Minutes

Citizens League City of Saint Paul Community-First Public Safety Commission

Wednesday, January 27th, 2021

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Virtual meeting via Zoom video

Commission Members present: Co-Chair Acooa Ellis, Co-Chair John Marshall, Ramsey County Board Chair Toni Carter, Councilmember Mitra Jalali, Ms. Sue Abderholden, Ms. Chauntyll Allen, Mr. Cedrick Baker, Mr. Sami Banat, Mr. Jason Barnett, Rev. Dr. Ron Bell, Ms. Monica Bravo, Mr. Scott Burns, Ms. Chikamso Chijioke, Mrs. JoAnn Clark, Mr. Sam Clark, Ms. Sasha Cotton, Ms. Sierra Cumberland, Ms. Natalia Davis, Mr. Julio Fesser, Mr. Ameen Ford, Ms. Anna-Marie Foster, Ms. Simone Hardeman-Jones, Ms. Suwayda Hussein, Mr. David Squier Jones, Ms. Laura Jones, Ms. Clara Junemann, Ms. Farhio Khalif, Ms. Suwana Kirkland, Ms. Alicia Lucio, Ms. Wintana Melekin, Mr. Stephen Moore, Mr. Amin Omar, Ms. Maureen Perryman, Ms. Amy Peterson, Dr. Suzanne Rivera, Mr. Mark Ross, Mr. Garaad Sahal, Hon. Nicole Starr, Mr. Mario Stokes, Ms. Olyvia Rayne Taylor, Ms. LyLy Vang Yang, Mr. Teshite Wako, Mr. Jai Winston, Ms. Heather Worthington, Mr. Pheng Xiong, and Mr. Otis Zanders.

Members not present: Mr. Ahmed Anshur and Mr. Frank Ortiz

Special guests: Mayor Melvin Carter, Mr. Andrew Bentley, Mr. Elliot Karl, Ms. Kailey Burger, Professor Mitch Weiss, and Ms. Sarah Mehta.

Staff & staff support present: Ms. Kate Cimino, Ms. Amanda Koonjbeharry, Mr. Jacob Taintor, and Ms. Madeline McCue.

Proposed objectives for this meeting

- State commission charge and proposed goals.
- Approval of January 13th, 2021 meeting minutes.
- Small group discussion time.
- Review Harvard Study.
- Understand P4 and P5 call types and response models.
- Overview of Office for Violence Prevention charge, overview of initial research, and discussion of next steps.
- Subcommittee meeting time.
- Time for questions.

Minutes

Co-chair Ellis called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

Opening and Approval of Minutes

Co-chair Ellis welcomed the commission and reviewed the proposed outcomes for this meeting (*see above*). She also reviewed the commission's charge, as specified by the City of Saint Paul, to make recommendations to the Mayor and the Saint Paul City Council regarding:

1. Alternative first response options to low-priority calls for service;
2. Approaches for ongoing community involvement in the City of Saint Paul's Community-First Public Safety Framework; and,
3. Consideration of the creation of a city-staffed office to integrate the initiatives and strategies of the Community-First Public Safety Framework.

Co-chair Ellis continued to the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as written passed with 30 votes.

Co-chair Ellis invited a commission member to lead the group in a moment of mindfulness, and then invited members to contact Ms. Amanda Koonjbeharry if they were interested in leading future mindfulness moments.

Chat and Connect

Co-chair Marshall introduced the next activity, in which members would be split into small breakout rooms to discuss what stood out to them from the last meeting and what thoughts they were bringing into this meeting.

Co-chair Marshall sent members to breakout rooms at 9:16 am.

While members were in breakout rooms, Ms. Kate Cimino greeted presenters and representatives from the city and county.

Ms. Koonjbeharry introduced Mr. Danny Givens. Mr. Givens introduced himself as the Director of Transforming Systems Together, a Ramsey County initiative.

Co-chair Marshall welcomed members back at 9:33 am and invited them to share their reflections.

A commission member shared their group's excitement about subcommittees and interest in last meeting's presentations about current initiatives in this field.

Another member agreed that the presentations from the prior meeting laid the groundwork for understanding the commission's work going forward. They postulated that the unique arrangement of two adjoining major cities would have an effect on the public safety approaches of the Twin Cities.

Co-chair Marshall agreed, noting that his group discussed the juxtaposition between the East and West Metro.

A commission member shared their story about a COVID-positive family member who experienced a crisis that resulted in police involvement and an arrest. They noted the importance of considering what occurs after crises.

A commission member emphasized how impressed they were by the organizations discussed at the last meeting and encouraged the commission to take advantage of their knowledge and connections those organizations might offer.

Co-chair Marshall thanked the commission members for their thoughts and invited Ms. Kate Cimino to discuss community feedback.

Community Report

Ms. Cimino greeted the commission members and encouraged the members to share the link to the comment form and the dedicated email address and voicemail line.

Ms. Cimino encouraged members to review an article sent to them via email by Kevin Byrne. The article, "Open Data As An Open Letter," highlights the use and benefits of data visualization and will be posted on this project's website. It may be further discussed by the Research Subcommittee.

Presentations

Co-Chair Marshall introduced the first speakers, three members from the Harvard Government Performance Lab (GPL). Mr. Andrew Bentley, Mr. Elliot Karl, and Ms. Kailey Burger would be providing an overview of the GPL's findings from their initial research on an Office of Violence Prevention (OVP). The GPL will incorporate the commission's feedback and present their expanded research at the February 10 meeting. The commission will then indicate whether they are interested in continuing to explore the possibility of an OVP in the City of Saint Paul. If the commission desires to pursue this route, a section of the research subcommittee will work with the GPL to refine the recommendation. The commission will have an opportunity to reach consensus on the final recommendation before submission.

Co-chair Marshall welcomed Mr. Bentley, Mr. Karl, and Ms. Burger.

Mr. Bentley, Mr. Karl, and Ms. Burger presented about the GPL's work and took questions. *See Addendum A for details.*

Co-chair Marshall thanked Mr. Bentley, Mr. Karl, and Ms. Burger for their presentation. He advised the commission to complete the feedback form regarding the GPL's research by Monday, January 31st.

Co-chair Marshall dismissed the commission for a break at 10:23 a.m.

Co-chair Ellis reconvened the commission at 10:30 a.m.

Co-chair Ellis introduced the next speakers, Professor Mitch Weiss and Ms. Sarah Mehta from the Harvard Business School. She introduced Mayor Melvin Carter to provide context for this work.

Mayor Carter greeted the commission. He addressed the importance of the commission's work.

Mayor Carter introduced Professor Weiss as a colleague, mentor, and sounding board. Professor Weiss was the chief of staff for Boston Mayor Thomas Menino and guided the city's response to the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing. He now teaches at Harvard Business School and wrote a Harvard case study about the City of Saint Paul's Community-First Public Safety Framework.

Mayor Carter described Professor Weiss as someone who was "always pushing the envelope" and who believed that municipal governments should be more entrepreneurial, innovative, and responsive to their communities. Mayor Carter mentioned Professor Weiss's book "We the Possibility," which discusses the Community-First Public Safety Framework.

Professor Weiss and Ms. Mehta presented about their work and took questions. *See Addendum B for details.*

Co-chair Ellis thanked Professor Weiss and Ms. Mehta for their presentation.

Co-chair Ellis introduced the next speaker, Officer Pheng Xiong of the Saint Paul Police Department (SPPD), a commission member.

Officer Xiong presented about the SPPD's response to low-priority calls and took questions. *See Addendum C for details.*

Co-chair Ellis thanked Officer Xiong for his presentation. She invited Ms. Amanda Koonjbeharry to introduce the subcommittees.

Subcommittees

Ms. Koonjbeharry greeted the commission. She explained that members would be split into their subcommittees for a facilitated discussion. Members were placed into breakout rooms at 11:28 a.m.

Ms. Koonjbeharry reconvened the commission at 11:56 a.m. She thanked the commission and invited the co-chairs to conclude the meeting.

Questions and Close

Co-chair Marshall thanked the commission and speakers for their time and engagement. He encouraged members to complete the surveys about the presentation.

Co-chair Ellis thanked the commission for their commitment and attention. She concluded the meeting at 11:58 a.m.