



Common ground. Common good.

**AGENDA**  
**Saint Paul Community-First Public Safety Commission Meeting**  
Wednesday, March 24, 2021 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Via Zoom

**9:00 a.m. – 9:25 a.m.**

1. Welcome Acoa Ellis and John Marshall, 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.
    - Make recommendations based on these findings and conclusions.
  - b. Approve Minutes John Marshall, Co-Chair
  - c. Mindfulness Moment Natalia Davis, Commission Member
  - d. Community Report Kate Cimino  
Executive Director, Citizens League

**9:25 – 9:50 a.m.**

2. Goals exercise / Problems we are most committed to solving  
Kate Cimino, Executive Director, Citizens League

**9:50 – 10:30 a.m.**

3. Community voices  
Damon Shoholm, moderator

**10:30 – 10:35 a.m. – Break**

**10:35 – 10:50 a.m.**

4. Process updates  
Kate Cimino, Executive Director, Citizens League

**10:50 – 11:55 a.m.**

5. Visioning activity around top-priority situations identified by Commission  
Angelica Klebsch, facilitator

**11:55 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

- Questions  
Adjourn and Next Steps

Acoa Ellis and John Marshall, Co-Chairs

**Upcoming Meeting**

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

### 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.

*Approved March 3, 2021*

# COMMUNITY-FIRST PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### 1. Articulate clear and concise language about this project and our expectations

- We seek consistency and clarity around:
  - The value of this work
  - The “why?” of the project
  - What policy changes we expect from this project
- We acknowledge that consensus is not the same as unanimous. Disagreement is inevitable and may not necessarily be resolved, but progress is possible without perfection.

### 2. Find comfort in the discomfort

- This commitment requires that we recognize that navigating these conversations may be triggering and that each individual and 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.
- We will be brave and vulnerable, as much as possible.

### 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 we each have things we do not know; 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.

### 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 complex layers of communication
  - Commit to a principle of harm reduction
  - Set aside implicit power roles so all voices have equal weight

### 5. Foster a space for grace in the process

- We will prioritize impact over intent.
- When missteps occur, we will acknowledge the harm that was caused, apologize, apologize for the actions, and take the steps to repair the harm that was caused.
- If and when heated or emotional interactions occur, we will seek to follow up with our fellow Commissioners afterward, while also acknowledging that being gracious requires emotional energy.

### 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.
- We recognize the now (accept where we are), approach the work with optimism that we can make change, and imagine the work continuing after the commission's charge ends.

*Adopted by Commission members, January 6, 2021*

**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