



Minutes

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

Wednesday, April 7th, 2021

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Virtual meeting via Zoom video

Commission Members present: Co-Chair John Marshall, Co-Chair Acooa Ellis, Councilmember Mitra Jalali, Ramsey County Board Chair Toni Carter, Ms. Sue Abderholden, Mr. Ahmed Anshur, Mr. Cedrick Baker, Mr. Sami Banat, Mr. Jason Barnett, Ms. Monica Bravo, Ms. Chikamso Chijioke, Mrs. JoAnn Clark, Mr. Sam Clark, Ms. Sasha Cotton, Ms. Natalia Davis, Mr. Julio Fesser, Ms. Anna-Marie Foster, Ms. Simone Hardeman-Jones, Ms. Suwayda Hussein, Mr. David Squier Jones, Ms. Clara Juneman, Ms. Farhio Khalif, Mr. Stephen Moore, Mr. Amin Omar, Ms. Amy Peterson, Dr. Suzanne Rivera, Mr. Mark Ross, Mr. Garaad Sahal, the Honorable Nikki Starr, Mr. Mario Stokes, Ms. LyLy Vang Yang, Mr. Teshite Wako, Mr. Jai Winston, and Ms. Heather Worthington.

Members not present: Ms. Chauntyll Allen, Dr. Ron Bell, Mr. Scott Burns, Ms. Sierra Cumberland, Mr. Ameen Ford, Ms. Laura Jones, Ms. Suwana Kirkland, Ms. Alicia Lucio, Ms. Wintana Melekin, Mr. Frank Ortiz, Ms. Maureen Perryman, Ms. Olyvia Rayne Taylor, Mr. Pheng Xiong, and Mr. Otis Zanders.

Special guests: Mr. Andrew Bentley, Dr. Lily Gleicher, Mr. Elliot Karl, Ms. Angelica Klebsch, and Dr. Ebony Ruhland.

Staff present: Ms. Kate Cimino, Mr. Jacob Taintor, and Ms. Madeline McCue.

Minutes

Co-chair Marshall called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Opening and Approval of Minutes

Co-chair Marshall welcomed the commission and 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 Marshall began the meeting by acknowledging the ongoing trial and the strain that it has brought to the community. He thanked the commission for their participation through these stressful times and going forward.

Co-chair Marshall reviewed the agenda. In the first half of the meeting, researchers from the University of Minnesota Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice will present their findings from data analysis, and the Harvard Government Performance Lab will present their final research and lead the commission through a recommendations survey. In the second half of the meeting, the commission will further develop its recommendations for Priority 4-5 alternative response.

Co-chair Marshall continued to the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as written passed with 24 votes.

Co-chair Marshall invited a commission member to lead the group in a moment of mindfulness.

Community Report

Ms. Kate Cimino greeted the commission and encouraged members to attend the upcoming town hall meetings from 7 pm to 9 pm on April 14, 2021, and from 2 pm to 4 pm on April 17, 2021.

Ms. Cimino shared feedback from the community. Members of the group ISIAH submitted personal stories about negative encounters between loved ones and the police; they voiced their support for an alternative first responder model or co-responder model and an office of violence prevention housed outside of the existing police department.

Ms. Cimino encouraged members to continue sharing the links to provide feedback.

Presentations

Co-chair Ellis introduced and welcomed Dr. Ebony Ruhland from the University of Cincinnati, and Dr. Lily Gleicher from the Robina Institute. Co-chair Ellis reminded the commission that the data that was available for analysis was limited.

Dr. Ruhland and Dr. Gleicher presented their final research on calls for service in Saint Paul. *See Addendum A for details.*

Co-chair Ellis thanked Dr. Ruhland and Dr. Gleicher for their presentation.

Co-chair Marshall introduced and welcomed Mr. Andrew Bentley and Mr. Elliot Karl from the Harvard GPL.

Mr. Bentley and Mr. Karl presented about their research on the proposed creation of an Office of Neighborhood Safety in Saint Paul and conducted a survey to determine the commission's decisions regarding the recommendation of an Office of Neighborhood Safety. *See Addendum B for details.*

Co-chair Ellis thanked Mr. Bentley and Mr. Karl for their presentation.

Co-chair Marshall dismissed the commission for a break at 10:33 am.

Recommendation Development

Co-chair Ellis reconvened the commission at 10:40 am.

Co-chair Ellis welcomed Ms. Angelica Klebsch of AGK Consulting LLC to lead recommendation-development process.

Ms. Klebsch shared an interactive whiteboard where the commission could work together to prioritize recommendations. On the whiteboard were nine categories: young person/juvenile, person in crisis, welfare check, vehicles & parking, disorderly conduct, general assistance, child abuse, civil problem, and other. Within each category, there were approximately 10 – 25 ideas for recommendations that had been compiled from recent surveys and ideation of the commission. Commission members were each given a set of votes to assign to recommendations within each category, assigning more votes to their highest priorities.

Ms. Klebsch guided the commission through the nine categories, one by one, and invited them to cast their votes.

Co-chair Ellis thanked Ms. Klebsch and the commission.

Questions and Close

Co-chair Ellis encouraged members to share their feedback and to attend the upcoming town hall meetings.

Ms. Cimino confirmed for a commission member that the Citizens League would be working on budget-oriented considerations, built around the final recommendations, in the coming weeks. She thanked the commission for their continued commitment and engagement with dense subject material.

Co-chair Marshall thanked the commission and concluded the meeting at 11:53 a.m.