

Questions from Longfellow event on March 27, 2024

1. How do we get from mistrust (by the community of police) to trust (of police by community)?

a. Who will do that work?

b. What does that work look like?

Answer: Like any relationship where harm has occurred, repair will take time. The amount of time will depend on each individual. Repair involves people talking and listening to each other and action. This public dialogue is already taking place, and we need our community to continue to share their thoughts and feedback with us.

As part of the MDHR settlement agreement, the City of Minneapolis and Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) will provide continued opportunities to discuss MPD culture, policies, and relationship with community. Additionally, MPD will continue to take online feedback on those issues. That process will develop over time as the independent evaluator (ELEFA), who will be monitoring our progress on the settlement agreement, becomes more involved.

The ongoing evolution of the City's community safety system also plays a role in building trust in not just the MPD, but the City as a whole. The City's goal is to ensure that the City has a fully comprehensive community safety ecosystem that includes preventative, responsive, and restorative services and resources. This will better allow for less reliance on police services, which nationally, safety systems have over relied on. We hope that being together in a place like a community safety center allows for the opportunity to get to know each other and collaborate.

2. How far are we truly willing to go? Community has shared with the mayor and Council what and where they feel the resources are needed. Are they willing to listen to us?

Answer: This question is much larger than the community safety centers. Minneapolis is one community that is made up of many diverse communities. The diverse communities have equally diverse ideas on what resources they feel are needed. In the case of the Community Safety Centers, Minneapolis staff have committed to trying to get services that are important to the community in the centers. The City can't act alone. Community organizations and other governmental partners have to agree to work with us in the centers for us to provide the services that are important to communities served by the centers.

3. How big is the Lake St. Center?

Answer: The location has not been shared yet because a lease is not done. We hope to have space for a reception area, meeting room, and a couple of shared office spaces for service providers.

4. Who will oversee these sites?

Answer: The City of Minneapolis Office of Community Safety

5. Will one of these sites become a voting center?

Answer: No, neither of the sites will be a voting center. In a separate project, the City is proposing to renovate the former 3rd [Precinct building](#) to house Elections and Voter Services and a community-use space.

6. How many more sessions will be held? Do you have dates? Where are you advertising?

Answer: We are having conversations with culturally specific communities, older adults, youth, and those with lived experience with safety systems. The dates of the meetings are posted on the project websites as soon as details are confirmed for each event. The websites are the best place to get updates. Events will be noted in City newsletters. We are also using other strategies to advertise the events to specific communities including culturally specific radio shows, community leaders, neighborhood group newsletters, flyers in specific neighborhoods, etc. For more information, visit our [webpage](#) and/or sign up for our newsletters.

South Minneapolis Community Safety Center: [City of Minneapolis \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Lake Street Community Safety Center: [City of Minneapolis \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

7. How do you plan on making sure there isn't more surveillance that leads to the further incarceration of people in Minneapolis?

Answer: The goal of the community safety centers is to help people access services related to prevention, response, and restoration. The South Minneapolis Community Safety Center will have a safety communication center, staffed by civilians, to dispatch non-police services like ambassadors or social workers. Any technology that is used at either the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center or elsewhere must be used in accordance with City policy.

8. How do you secure the safety of vulnerable folks when they are seeking resources?

Answer: The community safety centers are intended to be a safe space for everyone. The City is actively considering many aspects of safety throughout the design process.

9. Will there be clear documentation on how funds are allocated for the coming precinct?

Answer: The City Council has already set aside funds for the next two years to build the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center. This information is available to the public and can be found in

the Legislative Information Management System [Legislative Information Management System - City of Minneapolis \(minneapolis.gov\)](#). Money has also been set aside for pilot programs in the center. Specific requests to fund pilot programs would have to be approved by City Council.

10. How can we be sure that this precinct will not just continue to over police and surveil our communities unnecessarily?

Answer: There are several new systems in place that provide police oversight and reform measures. That includes the MDHR Settlement Agreement and the City's new system of government that created the Office of Community Safety.

The Office of Community Safety and MPD both recognize that our community safety systems must work *with* community to provide safety for everyone in a just and fair way.

11. Are you working to revise ordinances that criminalize people for lacking access to resources (housing, conflict resolution, harm reduction, etc.)?

Answer: Ordinances are outside the scope of the Community Safety Center work. The Community Safety Centers hope to provide access to resources for those in need.

12. How does a Community Safety Center actually make us safer?

Answer: The goal of the community safety centers is to help people access services to prevent, respond, and restore people who have experienced crime or violence. Having many strategies working together, instead of in silos, makes them more effective. The Centers also allow people to get help addressing underlying issues that may cause safety issues.

13. How does the City define the purpose of a community safety center? What's it for? And how will you know if you've succeeded?

Answer: The purpose of the community safety centers is to provide access to preventive, responsive, and restorative services to community members. This includes providing services and resources that help people experiencing issues that can often lead to other larger problems. Having many strategies working together, instead of in silos, makes them more effective. The Centers also allow people to get help addressing underlying issues that may cause safety issues.

The centers will succeed if they are used by the community. We will also be successful if services are more collaborative and accessible to people who need them. People who visit the center and those who live, work, and visit the area will be asked to provide input on their feelings of safety.

14. Do providers actually want to be co-located with police?

Answer: We have not finished determining what services the community thinks are most important in the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center. Because of that, we haven't asked anyone if they want to be in the space yet. However, some service providers have told City staff that they are interested in being in the center.

15. How will these services be funded? Will they be duplicative?

Answer: Some services may already be available through City staff or contracts that the City has with community providers or other governmental partners. The City Council has allocated money for pilot programs in the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center. There are also grants and philanthropic funds available. The center does not want to duplicate services. However, some existing services currently can't keep up with demand so adding resources to those services would actually help the people they serve.

16. Why is it only going to be one permanent location (2633)?

Answer: The people who live and work in this area need to have a center within their neighborhood. As we continue to build our community safety ecosystem, there may be more community safety centers in the city.

17. Why not smaller substations all over like they used to be?

Answer: Creating, maintaining, and staffing several smaller substations at this time is prohibitive because of the staff, cost, and availability of property required.

18. Is the new 3rd Precinct location really central?

Property Services employed three levels of criteria during their extensive search for locations for this city service. They looked at primary criteria, preferred conditions, and any possible barriers.

Primary site criteria used for property searches included location within the boundaries of the 3rd Precinct, and a property with a minimum of 1.5 acre You can learn more about the property selection process here ([website link](#))

Geographically, 2633 Minnehaha is not the center of precinct three (3) boundaries, however, it's less than one (1) mile away from the old precinct, and meets all of the primary site criteria, and most of the preferred site conditions.

19. How do the services provided make us safe? Is there a commitment to the purpose of a community safety center? Are they going to coordinate? Or be separate?

Answer: The goal of the community safety centers is to help people access services to prevent, respond, and restore people who have experienced crime or violence. Having many strategies working together, instead of in silos, makes them more effective. The Centers also allow people to get help addressing underlying issues that may cause safety issues.

The City has never had a comprehensive community safety center before. We hope there will be other centers in other areas of the city.

The Lake Street Community Safety Center and South Minneapolis Community Safety Center will collaborate.

20. Why are these services going to be inside a police station?

Answer: People will be able to access non-police services without entering the police section of the facility. This is a new model that we haven't had before in the city.