



# Online conversation about the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center

On May 22, 2024, Office of Community Safety (OCS) staff hosted a virtual event open to the community using Zoom. Participants were asked to RSVP for the event. 83 people indicated they planned to attend. 35 people attended the event on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, including members of the media.

The event started with a presentation by OCS staff about the concept of community safety centers and themes community had already shared about desired services. Participants submitted questions through the chat function which were read and answered for all participants. Then participants were sent to breakout rooms for small group conversations about what social services and resources are important in the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center. The breakout room discussions were facilitated by city staff who also took notes.

Based on their discussion, the following social service themes received the most support:

- Addiction
- Affordable Housing
  - Sustainable housing and long-term support
  - Involve the Office of Housing Stability
- Mental Health
  - Access or direction to mental health crisis resources such as therapist or in-patient services
  - Access for family members to have someone to talk to when a loved one is struggling
- Harm Reduction
  - Access to Narcan
  - Needle exchange
  - Wonder how harm reduction will be incorporated with a police station in the same building
- Unsheltered homelessness resources
  - Showers
  - Laundry
  - Charge phones
  - Get identification and mail
  - Resources for encampments
  - Personal care items
  - Emergency shelter during extreme weather

Based on the discussion, the following other building uses and resources received the most support:

- Art
  - Community art project
  - Community mural
- Space for supervised parental visits
- Medical disposal
  - Vaccination clinics
- Legal services
  - For renters
  - For family or incarcerated individuals
- Resource hub
  - So many organizations are doing the work that it would be great for everyone to know each other

What's missing:

- Domestic violence
- 311 services
- Connection to transportation
- Mediation services
- Elder care

Of note:

- Use a different word than safety – maybe something like wellbeing
- Make sure the space is welcoming
- “I think that homework, youth, and space for community meals are not directly related to safety concerns and should be housed in a different location.”
- Unsure if people will feel okay to access services
- “Bringing people closer together to stories that’s not theirs gets closer to people whose lives are different than ours and we can get to know them. This is what helps people feel safe.”
- “Feels like we have a lot of these services already. If people aren’t getting them it might be other issues, like transportation, language accessibility, or internet.”