



# Conversation with Roosevelt High School Students



On May 23, 2024, Office of Community Safety (OCS) staff facilitated a conversation at Roosevelt High School about the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center and the Lake Street Community Safety Center. Attendees included students and one staff totaling 15 people.

After a presentation about the concept of community safety and community safety centers, participants asked many questions. They briefly engaged in voting activities around the social services and other building uses and resources that are important in a community safety center.

The following social services received the most votes:

- Mental Health
- Food Security
  - Food available in the summer when kids aren't in school
  - Create something similar to the parks program to get food to people in the summer
  - Drive through and walk-up services
- Harm Reduction
  - Free access to Narcan, needle exchanges in spaces where there is not surveillance, no questions asked, and individuals are not getting in trouble
  - Looking at things more through a racial lens and prioritizing and building up people of color in the community and give them more of a space to speak
- Unsheltered Homeless Resources
  - Free lockers for valuables (social security paperwork, tech)
  - Showers and a resting space to sleep, but not overnight
  - Resources on site
  - Connection to other resources like employment or help finding a place to stay until the individual finds a place of their own
  - Ensure individuals don't feel different just because they are unsheltered
  - Ensure people don't feel like a criminal and worry about their safety
  - Ensure resources offered don't make individuals feel like they have to run from the police who could kick them out or send them to jail for being homeless
- Youth Services
- Addiction Services

The following other building uses and resources received the most votes:

- Medical services
- Space for supervised parental visits
- Opioid overdose medicine
- Childcare while using the services at the center
- Legal services
  - Immigration services, domestic abuse, child/parental rights – not divorce
  - Communities of color should be represented by people who look like them

Other things to note:

- Crisis center (if someone wants to commit suicide/in distress)- without police
- Safe place to stay during encampment closures
- Ensure we have people on site who can help someone that is having a difficult time voicing what they need