

Safety for All Budget Plan

Minneapolis Council Member Phillipe Cunningham, Public Health and Safety Chair

Minneapolis Council Member Steve Fletcher, Public Health and Safety Vice Chair

Minneapolis Council President Lisa Bender

November 27, 2020

One of the most fundamental roles of our government is to provide for the safety of everyone in our community. Minneapolis residents have made a clear call for change. Over-relying on armed law enforcement has over-exposed our city to potential harms and not led to safety for all in our city. We can and must do better.

This plan builds on years of work by our [Office of Violence Prevention](#) and [911/MPD Workgroup](#) to invest in data-driven, research-backed solutions to begin the process of transforming our public safety system and to increase community safety for all. These investments will reduce the burden on our police department, deliver more effective and appropriate responses when people in our communities need help, and prevent and interrupt cycles of violence.

Minneapolis can no longer afford a one-size-fits-all approach to public safety. This proposal supports our strong commitment that we will not accept the violence that disproportionately harms some families and neighborhoods, that we can get to the root causes of it, and end it. It works to transform our public safety system into one that keeps *everyone* safe.

The Safety for All Budget Plan proposes to move about \$7.9 million out of the Mayor's proposed 2021 police budget to:

- Provide the right response to calls for help
- Effectively prevent and intervene in cycles of violence
- Increase resources for civilian-led police accountability

1. Provide the right response to calls for help

When people in Minneapolis are in an emergency, they want the City to send the right person for the job. The Safety for All Budget Plan will remove a significant burden from police by redirecting non-emergency 911 calls like theft reports and parking problems to other City departments, allowing police to focus on responding to violence and other emergencies consistent with their training. It also funds a citywide pilot for mental health crisis calls, which are the third most common top-priority category; 80% of them are non-life-threatening, and only 9% of them result in a police report. This package funds a more effective response system with unarmed mental health professionals, paramedics, and other service providers whenever possible, and allows those trained professionals to determine if they need support from armed law enforcement.

Mental Health Crisis Response and 911 Dispatch Training (\$2.44 million)

- Launch a non-police 911 Mental Health Crisis Response that can respond to non-threatening calls for service during all shifts, in all neighborhoods.
- Embed mental health professionals in 911 and train 911 operators to more effectively triage mental health calls and dispatch appropriate responders.

Invest in Alternative Responses (\$1.49 million)

- Expand 311 capacity to take theft and property damage reports, and parking complaint calls.
- Create a non-police City staff unit to take theft and property damage reports, and collect evidence.
- Transfer parking-related call responses from 911 and MPD to 311 and existing Parking & Traffic Control staff, who already handle most of these calls.
- Provide Coordinated Support for people experiencing homelessness

2. Effectively prevent and intervene in cycles of violence

Violence as a part of our daily lives is unacceptable. Further, some Minneapolitans face a much higher risk of being victims of violence: 80% of gun violence victims are Black and the majority are young. We need to treat violence with a public health approach because it spreads like a disease to those who have been exposed to it. However, violence is not inevitable; it can be prevented, treated, and even cured. We can do this by investing in scientifically proven violence prevention

and intervention strategies and in the community members leading efforts in our neighborhoods. Existing Minneapolis Office of Violence Prevention programs save lives and will save even more in our city, if expanded and properly funded as proposed in the Safety for All Budget Plan.

Expanded Violence Prevention program¹ (\$2.03 million)

- Transfer existing Community Navigators from MPD to the Office of Violence Prevention and add a Southeast Asian Community Navigator.
- Expand Next Step, the City’s hospital-based, bedside violence intervention program, which already serves HCMC and North Memorial, to Abbott Northwestern hospital.
- Expand the Blueprint-Approved Institute to Prevent Violence to serve both Northside and Southside communities.
- Develop and implement the Group Violence Intervention in South Minneapolis.
- Increase the Office of Violence Prevention operating budget to open Northside and Southside offices for violence interrupters, and fully staff and evaluate programs.

Neighborhood Safety Organizing (\$1.94 million)

- Transfer existing Crime Prevention Specialists from MPD to the Neighborhood and Community Relations department, where they will help community groups and neighborhood organizations prevent crime.
- Fund restorative justice and de-escalation training for neighborhood organizations and other community-based organizations.
- Increase the Violence Prevention Fund to invest in community-led violence prevention strategies.

3. Increase resources for civilian-led police accountability

People in Minneapolis expect and deserve an accountable public safety system that serves our entire community with compassion and respect. The Safety for All Budget Plan supports these critical objectives by increasing capacity in the Civil Rights Department’s [Office of Police Conduct Review](#) to investigate complaints of police officer misconduct, and intervene early with officers who are exhibiting known signs of potential future misconduct.

¹ [City of Minneapolis Violence Prevention Initiatives](#)

Police Accountability (\$335,000)

- Increase capacity within the Civil Rights Department's Office of Police Conduct Review to investigate complaints about police officer behavior.
- Move oversight and accountability for the proposed Early Intervention System from MPD to Civil Rights.

Police Budget & Staffing Capacity

The City of Minneapolis is developing a budget under the fiscal constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic and the unusually high level of financial uncertainty caused by staff leave and legal liability from harm caused by police actions. The Safety for All Budget Plan scales back a large increase in police overtime, redirects some public safety functions, and allocates the resources for an achievable and sustainable level of police staffing.

Safety for All Budget Plan 2021 (\$7.9 million total change):

- Cuts \$5 million in overtime to fund new public safety investments that reduce need for overtime, transferring as much as 15% of workload away from MPD.
- Transfers civilian functions to departments with stronger capacity to supervise and support the work toward better outcomes.
- Creates an MPD staffing fund to allow the Chief to manage overtime, recruiting, and staffing decisions in a year with unusual workforce attrition.
- Preserves the Mayor's proposed 2021 MPD sworn officer staffing level of 770
- Preserves funding for planned recruit and community service officer classes
- Lowers the authorized sworn force average to 750 in future years.

The Safety for All Budget responsibly responds to urgent public safety needs now while investing in the transformative new system of public safety we are building together.