



Work Overview  
& 2021 Core Needs

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August 12, 2020

Since 2016, hundreds of community members representing households, businesses, and organizations have attended one or more South Minneapolis Public Safety Coalition (SMPSC) meetings or events. Our core goal has centered on trying to engage a variety of community members to inform and influence how best to improve livability and safety throughout the area.

We have used monthly meetings, surveys, judicial listening sessions, community-centered events, days on City Hall, emails, and phone calls to gather a variety of gut wrenching and heartbreaking calls for change. The underlying insight is the same. We are severely under-resourced to successfully change the trajectory and impact of livability and safety challenges throughout our community.

We know enough. Our ongoing and collective experiences has informed a group of needs that must be fully funded. Although we plan to take steps to center and capture community voices regarding ways to strengthen the health of our community, we have every confidence that the City's 2021 should account for support the following:

- 1. Minimum investment of \$6.5 million to support coordinated street outreach geared toward violence prevention and supportive services in key areas within South and North Minneapolis.**
- 2. Expand the City's Community Planning & Economic Development (CPED) department's Great Street Program framework to Public Works at a minimum and invest at least \$2.5 million to identify and deploy public works related resources to key areas in South and North Minneapolis.**
- 3. Reimagine and redirect some existing City roles to provide administrative and supportive aid to County Probation Officers through a pilot initiative funded at \$1.5 million.**



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### 1. Establish Structured & Adequate Approach to Outreach

#### A. THE ASK

**Minimum investment of \$6.5 million to support coordinated street outreach geared toward violence prevention and supportive services in key areas within South and North Minneapolis.**

#### B. THE WHY

- a) The current approach to outreach involves disconnected and under-resourced teams across various municipal and non-profit functions. This includes two members within the Minneapolis Police Department, several Metro Transit officers within their Homeless Access Team, and organizations like St. Stephens, The Family Partnership, and American Indian Community Development Center.
- b) There is a need to expand and fully resource existing teams and organizations doing this work, and (or) establishing a dedicated outreach function within the City.
- c) Based on the experience and knowledge of those who actively conduct outreach, the amount of time it takes to connect with and support a person experiencing a variety of hardships, including homelessness, is highly variable. The need to increase the possibility of more contact and engagement with those in need is an instrumental step to further individual and community livability and safety.

### 2. Expand Interdepartmental Utilization of Great Street Program Designations

#### A. THE ASK

**Expand the City's Community Planning & Economic Development (CPED) department's Great Street Program framework to Public Works at a minimum and invest at least \$2.5 million to identify and deploy public works related resources to key areas in South and North Minneapolis.**

#### B. THE WHY

- a) The disproportionate amount of livability and safety challenges that occur along and near key commercial corridors in South and North Minneapolis drives increased litter, erosion of street parking for residents, idling vehicles, and public urination are common examples.
- b) Numerous discussions regarding the possibility of expanding a Special Service District (SSD) to assist with these realities have been short-circuited by (a) an inability garner continuity of support by property owners and (b) the absence of coverage on residential blocks.
- c) The Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) department utilizes three distinct categories to indicate the sustainable growth status for Activity Centers, Commercial Nodes, Commercial Corridors, and LRT Station Areas. These designations include Intervene, Support, and Monitor. This approach to indicating need can be leveraged by Public Works to help determine and direct additional services based on an area's designation at no additional cost to residents or businesses.

### 3. Improve City & County Collaborations

#### A. THE ASK

**Reimagine and redirect some existing City roles to provide administrative and supportive aid to County Probation Officers through a pilot initiative funded at \$1.5 million.**

#### B. THE WHY

- a) Efforts to improve diversion program support and probation oversight to repeat offenders showed signs of promise. Example, the Phillips 50 which was modeled after the Downtown 100.



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- b) Challenges surfaced around this effort include (a) lack of immediate availability of diversion services (b) overall probation officer's case load, and (b) minimal admin support and tools to monitor progress and impact.
- c) There is a material opportunity to review and consider how existing non-sworn MPD roles like Crime Prevention Specialists, Community Navigators, and County Case Workers can provide support team resources to increase likelihood of reduction in recidivism, given the aims of Treatment Courts.