

NEWS RELEASE

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NYU Law School's Policing Project Releases City's Community Safety Ecosystem Asset and Gaps Analysis

*Report shows City is a leader in key response areas of 311 and BCR initiative
City requested the analysis to review areas of strength and growth*

November 21, 2024 (Minneapolis) City leaders and representatives from the New York University School of Law's Policing Project have presented to the Minneapolis City Council's Public Health and Safety Committee the *Community Safety Ecosystem Asset and Gaps Analysis* report, one more step toward the creation of a robust community safety ecosystem and a rebuilding of the City's relationship with the people it serves. At the committee meeting yesterday, Office of Community Safety (OCS) Director of Design and Implementation Amanda Harrington told the City Council committee members that the report, which will be released publicly in a few weeks, showed that Minneapolis has a strong foundation of programs and personnel, but there are opportunities for improvement as policing and community safety are reimagined in Minneapolis.

This analysis report is a follow-up on the *Minneapolis Safe and Thriving Communities Report and Plan* provided to the City in July 2023, a long-term vision and future recommendations for continuing to build out an ecosystem for community safety beyond policing. The focus of the analysis is on improvements to community safety services and their efficiency and the integration of resources into a comprehensive ecosystem with governance structures that promote coordination, accountability, and transparency. Recommendations in the report identifies the City's strengths, such as the City's use of 311, the significant rate of calls diverted to alternative responses – such the Behavioral Crisis Response (BCR) initiative – and the work and dedication of the existing network of providers within the Twin Cities. The report also identifies opportunities for improvement and the existing barriers for advancing the City's community safety goals.

"Minneapolis is building a 21st century public safety ecosystem that learns, adapts, and grows to meet the needs of all residents," **said Mayor Jacob Frey**. "This work highlights the strength of our efforts and the potential to achieve even more through innovation. Together, we are creating a safer and more equitable future for our city."

“I cannot stress this enough – we take this work very seriously,” **said Community Safety Commissioner Toddick Barnette.** “Requesting this analysis was an important step in the long process of implementing the safe and thriving communities’ strategic plan. What this report reveals will help us better understand what we are doing well and most importantly, areas where we need growth – both in structures, processes, and functions – in order to provide the right response at the right time.”

Director Harrington added, “This report will continue to guide our work as we change our approach to safety. While we are now seeing that 9% of our calls for service are being diverted to BCR or another response, I know that we can build that to 20%, leading to an increased likelihood that fair, equitable, and transparent outcomes can be delivered on a consistent basis.”

The Policing Project drew on several sources of data, as well as conversations with City and non-governmental contract agencies to provide deeper insights into successes as well as barriers within the system. The report is broken down by looking at desired state, current state, and gaps for each of the three types of services. The report looks at the differing types of calls for service over a 3-year period before providing an action plan of recommendations for the City, many of which are already underway, or even completed.

Once the report is published within the next few weeks, it will be posted on the OCS webpages on the City’s website. For more information, you may also follow OCS on Facebook and Instagram.

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