

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

# Transforming Public Safety Charter Amendment & Proposed Department of Public Safety

Council Members Cunningham,  
Fletcher, Schroeder

# Agenda

1. Council Actions to Transform Public Safety
2. Transforming Public Safety Charter Amendment
3. Charter Language Changes
4. Comparative Overview
5. Outcomes
6. Ordinance Defining New Department of Public Safety
7. Continued Community Engagement
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# Council Actions to Transform Public Safety

We have heard the community's demand for change and the work is now in our hands

- Created an Office of Violence Prevention.
- Invested millions of dollars in proven violence prevention strategies.
- Unanimously co-authored and adopted a resolution committing to transform our public safety system.
- Invested in Violence Interrupters through the COVID-19 revised budget in mid-2020.
- Adopted the Safety For All budget which invests millions of dollars in mental health response and scaling our violence prevention efforts to expand their impacts proven violence prevention programs.
- Proposed a charter amendment that will empower voters this November to create a new Department of Public Safety with a law enforcement division.
- Passed a staff direction to create alternative, unarmed approaches to traffic enforcement.

# Research and Data that Inform Our Work

- **Office of Performance and Innovation** work with the **911/MPD Workgroup**
  - Data analysis of all problem nature codes
  - 2020 survey results<sup>1</sup> informed the Safety for All Budget Plan and all of the non-police responses being implemented this year.
- **OVP (Transforming Public Safety) Engagement survey results<sup>2</sup>** underscore the same themes and expand on them.
- Responses to surveys conducted by both offices overwhelmingly recommend non-police responses and strategies to foster public safety.
- **National models and experts** have helped to provide us with existing, successful examples on which we can adapt based on our data and local context.

<sup>1</sup> 911/MPD Workgroup Final Recommendations (2020) [PHS item 9 911.MPD Workgroup 2nd Updated Presentation](#)

<sup>2</sup> Transforming Community Safety Engagement: Community Forum (2021) [Transforming Community Safety Engagement : Community Forum](#)

# Transforming Public Safety Charter Amendment

Amending Article VII and Article VIII of the City Charter relating to Administration and Officers and Other Employees, to be submitted to the voters at the November 2, 2021, municipal election, pertaining to the creation of a new Charter Department, which will provide public safety functions, including a division of law enforcement services, and the removal of the Police Department as a Charter Department.

# Charter Language Changes



## § 7.2(a)

**Names specific departments the City Council is required to establish.**

- Police Department is eliminated.
- Department of Public Safety is created in its place.
- All other departments remain.

## § 7.3

### **Details the structure of the new Department of Public Safety**

- Removes police force employee minimum.
- Appointed Commissioner is head of the new Department of Public Safety. Under 8.4(b) the Mayor will nominate and the City Council will appoint.
- Commissioner appoints Chief of the Law Enforcement Services Division within the Department of Public Safety. The Chief reports directly to the Commissioner.
- Allows for the Department of Public Safety to include a range of complementary divisions, including Law Enforcement Services.

## § 7.4(c)

### **Fire police**

- Fire police were eliminated and replaced with fire investigations.
- “Fire police” referred to an armed arson investigator position that is no longer in MFD.
- New language reflects the cooperation between MFD and law enforcement to investigate the cause of a fire.

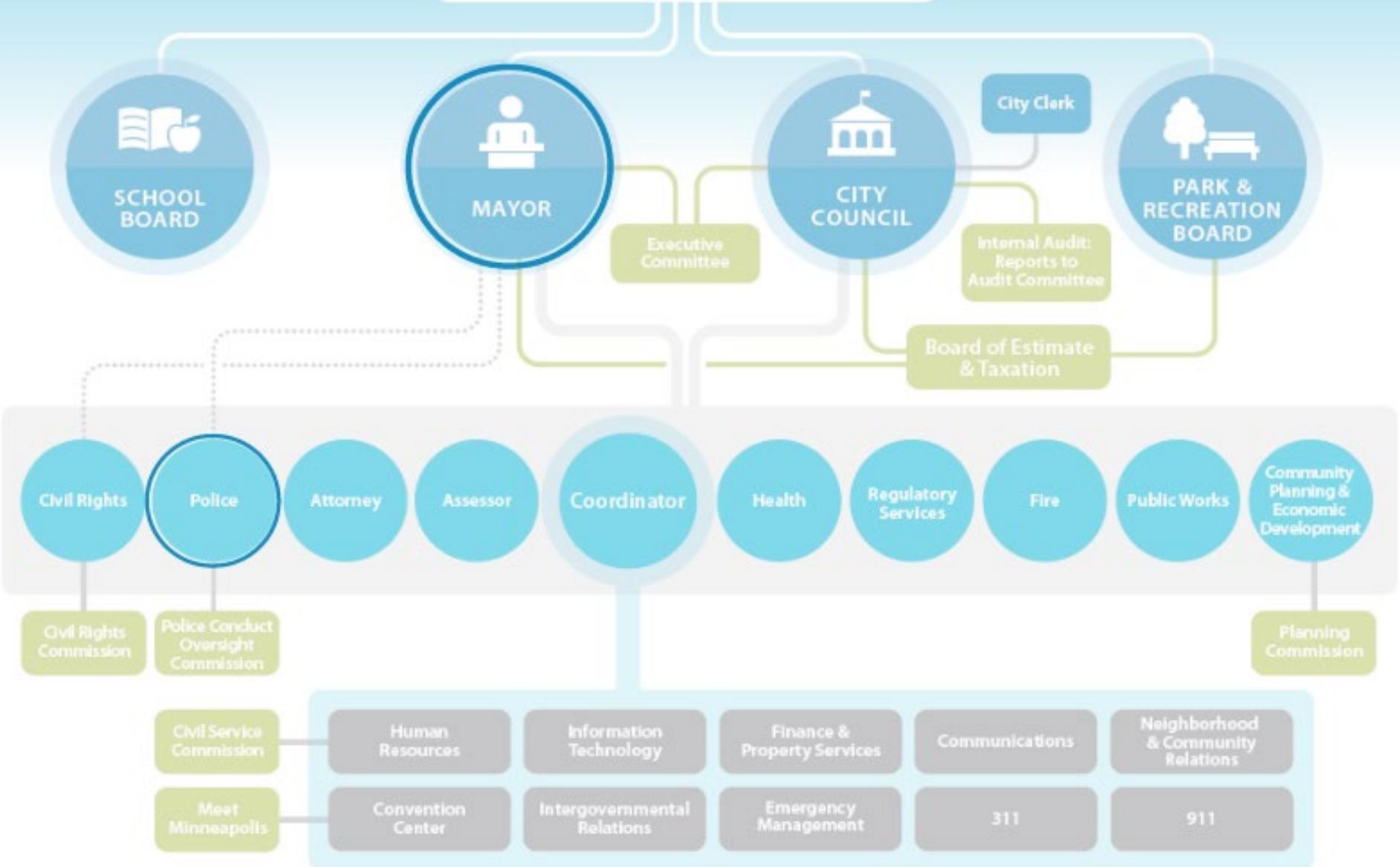
# Comparative Overview



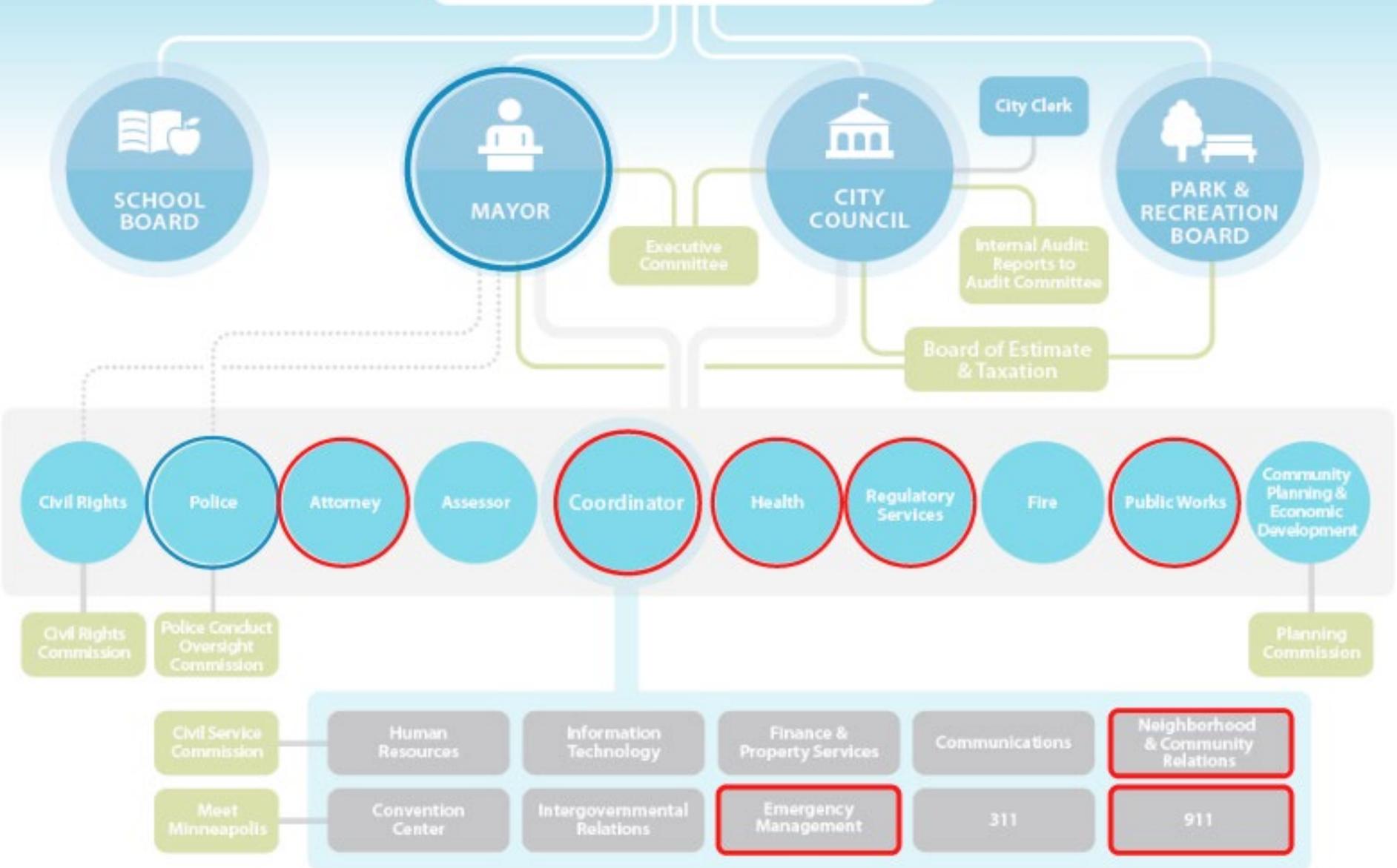
# MPD structure vs. Department of Public Safety structure

	Current Police Department	Department of Public Safety
<b>Oversight</b>	Mayor	Mayor and City Council
<b>Department head</b>	Chief	Commissioner
<b>Department head appointment process</b>	Mayor nominates; Executive Committee recommends; City Council appoints	Mayor nominates; Executive Committee recommends; City Council appoints
<b>Police Chief appointment</b>	Mayor nominates; City Council appoints	Commissioner appoints; process will be defined in ordinance
<b>Policy &amp; Operations</b>	Mayor has complete control over MPD policies and operations	Mayor and department head manage day-to-day operations; City Council has legislative authority, as with all other departments
<b>Divisions</b>	Current safety functions spread throughout five or more departments	Allows for divisions related to safety to be housed within one department

RESIDENTS OF MINNEAPOLIS



RESIDENTS OF MINNEAPOLIS



Civil Rights

Police

Attorney

Assessor

Coordinator

Health

Regulatory Services

Fire

Public Works

Community Planning & Economic Development

Civil Rights Commission

Police Conduct Oversight Commission

Planning Commission

Civil Service Commission

Meet Minneapolis

Human Resources

Convention Center

Information Technology

Intergovernmental Relations

Finance & Property Services

Emergency Management

Communications

311

Neighborhood & Community Relations

911

# Outcomes



# Expands and Improves Our Public Safety System

- Addresses root causes of crime and violence before harm is done to our communities rather than relying solely on armed response after the fact.
- Creates and centralizes a continuum of common-sense responses and strategies that prioritize safety, dignity, and justice while meeting community needs.
- Allows collaboration and coordination to assign the right emergency calls to the right responders.
- Includes a law enforcement division that is more accountable to City leadership and operates in sync with other safety strategies.

# Improves Transparency and Accountability

- Joint oversight between the Mayor and City Council creates transparency by shifting key decisions to the City Council's public legislative process, breaking the norm of closed-door conversations between only the Mayor and MPD Chief.
- Greater transparency and City Council oversight align with residents' expectations that their City Council representative takes on the responsibility for an improved public safety system.
- Day to day functions would still be managed by the Mayor and department head
- These changes align the new department with all other City departments.

# Allow Minneapolisians to Have a Voice in Their Public Safety System

- We have seen overwhelming demand from the community to transformatively change public safety, especially over the past year.
- This November's ballot measure will empower voters to directly affirm our trajectory on public safety.
- The Department of Public Safety will be defined in ordinance, to be informed by national and local best practices as well as community input.
- Residents across Minneapolis may provide feedback on policies through their City Council representatives, who will actually have the power to set policy.

# Ordinance Defining New Department of Public Safety



# Ordinance Components

- A statement of the general purpose or function of the department.
- An outline of the organizational structure of the department, including:
  - Major operating divisions and their general purpose;
  - Titles of other leadership positions subordinate to the Commissioner and how they are appointed
- Any specific authority or powers granted to the Commissioner and any subordinate leadership positions.

# Department Vision

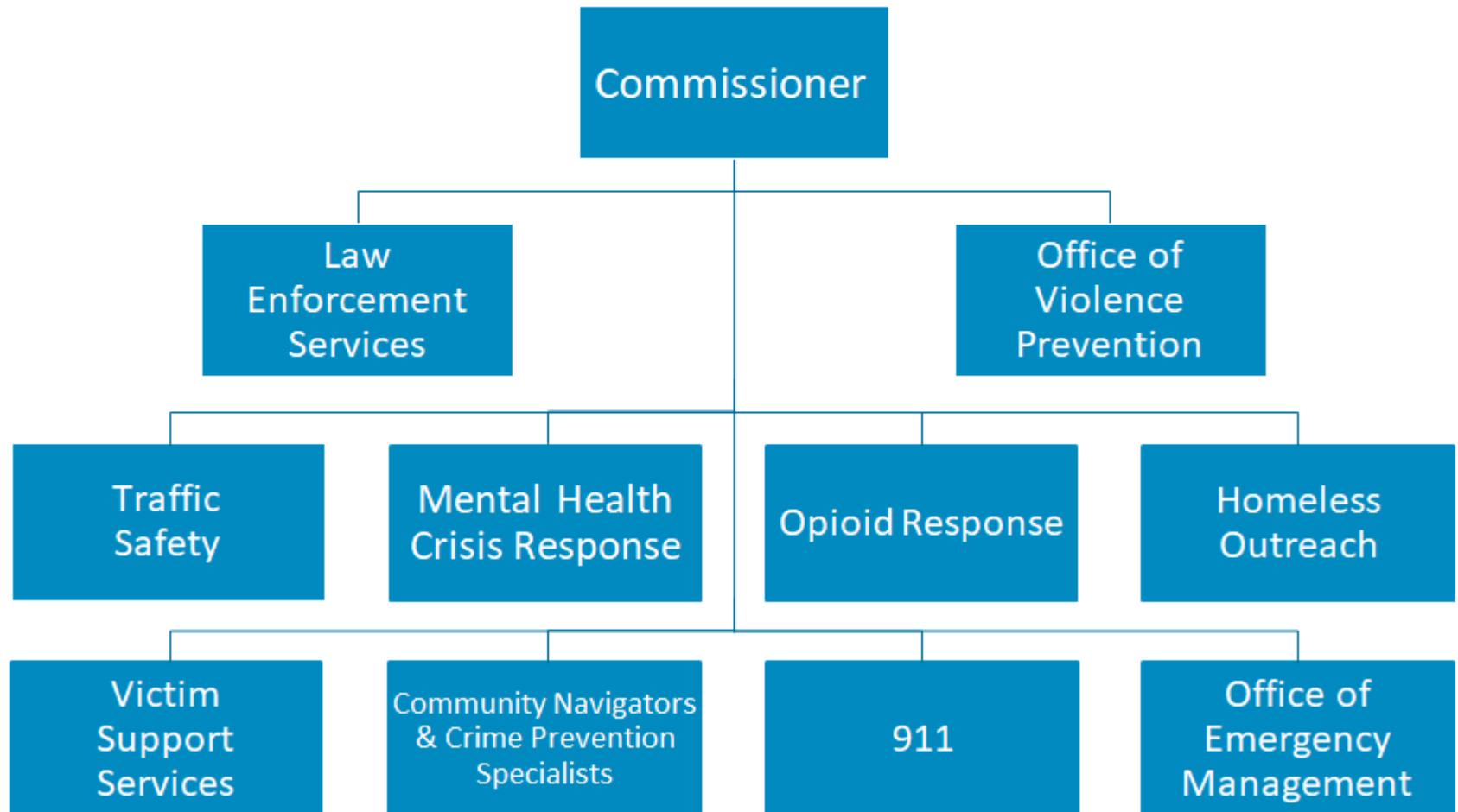
- Will include a Division of Law Enforcement Services
- Allows us to unite public safety functions that are currently spread across the City government:
  - Office of Violence Prevention
  - 911 Emergency Call Center
  - Office of Emergency Management
  - Community Navigators & Crime Prevention Specialists

# Department Vision, cont.

Coordinate responses to public safety gaps that our community has identified:

- Traffic Safety Division
- Victim Support Services
- Mental Health Crisis Response
- Opioid Crisis Response
- Outreach to people experiencing homelessness

# Department of Public Safety (example)



# Past Engagement that Has Informed this Vision

- 911/MPD Workgroup
- Office of Performance and Innovation survey
- OVP Transforming Public Safety survey
- Numerous City Council public hearings and public comment sessions

# Continued Community Engagement



# Purpose

- To develop an ordinance outline for a new Department of Public Safety in collaboration with the residents of Minneapolis

# Outcomes

- An ordinance outline describing a new Department of Public Safety
- A collaborative process for development of the ordinance outline
- For residents to feel their voice is heard in the process and reflected in the ordinance outline
- Specific focus on BIPOC communities and impacted stakeholders

# Timeline

- May: Preparing engagement and research materials
- June 1-July 15: Citywide survey is live
- June and July: Public meetings around the city
- August: Community engagement data analyzed
- September: Ordinance outline drafted
- October-December: Draft ordinance outline posted for public comment
- November: Voting on a public safety charter amendment in the local elections

# Next Steps

- Citywide survey will go live June 1st
- Citywide public meetings information will be posted on the City's website for Charter Amendments

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Courtesy of Meet Minneapolis

*Thank you in the most widely-spoken languages, refugee languages and native languages of Minnesota.*