

# City of Minneapolis 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Community Engagement Report Executive Summary

The City of Minneapolis engaged DeYoung Consulting Services to facilitate a series of community conversations to determine a new location for the 3rd Precinct Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) building that was damaged during the uprising following George Floyd's murder on May 25, 2020.

We began by meeting with the project sponsors to clarify the project scope and identify its goals. We also reviewed the findings of the previous engagement effort by the Longfellow Community Council (LCC) to determine how their process and findings could inform how we engage the community. It was determined that the information gathering would include: five community conversations, curated conversations that would engage target communities, and a community-wide survey. City representatives worked with the consultants to develop the survey and community conversation protocols.

- We partnered with LCC to organize the community conversations including securing the locations and conducting outreach to the community members.
- The community-wide survey provided a broader opportunity for participation. It was published on the city website in English, Spanish, Somali, and Oromo.
- Eight curated conversations specifically targeted historically marginalized communities, seniors, and the LGBTQ community.

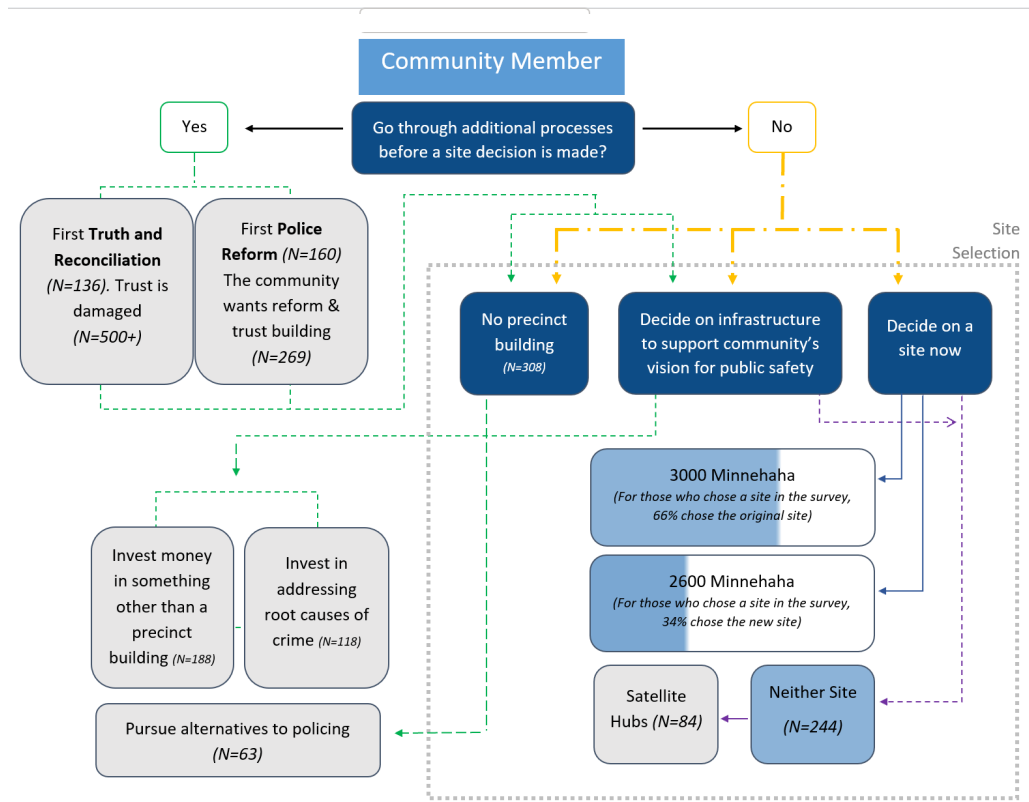
Representatives of the City of Minneapolis were present in all the curated and large community conversations to provide context and answer clarifying questions.

We then analyzed the data collected from the survey, curated conversations, and large community conversations. The qualitative data from the survey's open-ended question was analyzed with the data collected from the community and curated conversations. Because the survey did not allow participants to select that they did not want the MPD building in the precinct, or they did not want to select either location--some respondents selected a location only to be able answer to the open-ended question. To that end, before coding and analysis, we scanned through the open-ended responses. The "Option C" responses were removed from the count of the participants who selected a location. Given the survey's limitations, survey results must be interpreted with care and in the context of the qualitative data collected.

Project sponsors determined that the primary population for this engagement will be individuals that live, work, or visit the 3rd Precinct. To that end, data from those who did not indicate a relationship with the 3rd Precinct was not included in the analysis. We conducted a thematic analysis of both community conversations and survey data. The findings in this report were based on the themes that surfaced from the data analysis.



## Overall Finding: The City faces nuanced decisions regarding the Third Precinct



The results from the mixed-methods analysis show that the City faces a more nuanced set of decisions around the Third Precinct rather than a simple decision between the original and new site. (Note: In the image above, N= refers to the number of comments made about a particular theme in the qualitative data.)

- Many participants believe that this process is being done in the incorrect order and that there are additional processes that should happen before a site decision is made.
- If the City decides to pursue additional processes before a site decision, the primary processes requested by community members include;
  - 1) Police reform
  - 2) Truth and reconciliation
- After these processes are complete or sufficiently advanced, the City could either:
  - Engage in a site selection process again, this time between more options than just 3000 Minnehaha vs 2600 Minnehaha, including alternative sites and the potential for satellite hubs as requested by many participants; or,
  - The results of the processes may lead to a decision to not have a third precinct building and the community may pursue other options such as investing money in other services or programs and addressing root causes of crime, as requested by many participants. The community may also decide to pursue different alternatives to policing.



- On the other hand, if a site selection is necessary at this time, the City may choose between various options, including more sites than just 3000 Minnehaha vs 2600 Minnehaha per the community's request. They may also want to explore other ways for police to be present in the community e.g. through satellite hubs, a popular third choice option among participants.

## Finding 1: Site Decision

Of the 2,412 respondents who live, work, or visit the 3rd Precinct selected a location and **did not indicate** that they do not want a precinct at all, 1591 (66%) selected the Current Site while 821 (34%) selected that New Site. Cost, completion time, location, symbolism, and visibility are some of the top reasons why participants preferred the original location over the other. A significant number of participants prefer a low-cost building that will be completed on time due to growing insecurity in the area; the central location was also a strong theme. A significant number of those who chose the alternative site indicated an opportunity for a “fresh start.”

Participants indicated that they would like to spend money on funding police reforms, addressing the root cause of crime or alternatives to policing such as economic support; this would be done along with addressing poverty, increasing food access, restorative justice practices, providing affordable housing, addressing mental health and addiction, schools and education, and youth activities and other projects that are beneficial to the community.

A significant number of participants do not mind having a precinct but do not want either site because they believe the MPD building should not be close to the current neighborhood where many people have been traumatized. They suggested the City should look for a truly geographically central location or small satellite offices that would be more effective, welcoming, and cheaper.

Some participants suggested that instead of a police building, the current site should be a memorial for George Floyd or a monument for police brutality, a garden or green space, a business or commercial center, a multipurpose community center, or affordable or transitional housing.

## Finding 2: Community Responses to the Engagement Process

A significant number of participants expressed skepticism about the engagement process. They indicated that they have a deep distrust of the City and MPD and believe that this process has a predetermined outcome and that the City is paying lip service. They feel that acknowledgment, healing, truth, restorative justice, police reform, and a reconciliation process should be prioritized over the building. Some participants expressed frustration with the City for not providing relevant information on the two sites to make an informed decision. They want the City to conduct a truly inclusive and culturally responsive engagement to let people from the neighborhood decide what they want to do about the 3rd Precinct MPD building.



### **Finding 3: Community Impact of George Floyd’s Murder and Ensuing Unrest**

A significant number of participants expressed that they felt betrayed by City leadership and decried the responses of MPD to the uprising. They feel that the uprising was escalated by the response of MPD showing up in riot gear, shooting and “hunting down” protesters and spraying tear gas at peaceful protesters and bystanders. Many felt abandoned during the uprising and are still feeling abandoned because they believe the City has not done enough to help the neighborhoods recover emotionally or economically. While some feel that the issue has further divided the community, others feel that community members protecting one another and some positive conversations about race and white privilege are rare positives that came from George Floyd’s murder.

### **Finding 4: Community Perception of MPD**

The perception that MPD is unresponsive, unhelpful, ineffective, overly aggressive, and generally does not perform their duties of responding to calls, and solving, or preventing crimes was a strong theme. They added that MPD officers are historically violent, using force excessively, and committing atrocities. Some respondents said that they are afraid or hesitant to call the police because MPD does not respond to issues positively, but rather instigates trouble and makes situations worse. While most of the experiences with the police that were expressed were negative, some participants shared some positive experiences with certain officers. Others stated that policing is a difficult job with little support and some officers have unresolved mental health issues and untreated PTSD.

### **Finding 5: Solutions to Public Safety Issues**

The need for police reform was a strong theme; this is required to transform the MPD into a community-supporting police force because participants perceive that the current MPD culture of corruption, violence, aggression, and racism is not sustainable and does not support public safety.

Many added that the City should reimagine policing by re-examining the role that the police play in the community, abolishing police, demilitarizing the police, and introducing social services, mental health services, and crisis response teams.

Some participants suggested that MPD officers should change their attitude and work to build trust and relationships with community members; others noted that the City should address the root causes of crime, such as poverty, illiteracy, mental health, and homelessness.



## **Finding 6: Unique Perspectives from BIPOC and LGBTQ+ Community Curated Conversations**

Following are some unique perspectives that came from the BIPOC community curated conversations:

Some participants in the Latino community have conflicting feelings about the police because they are needed for security but they elicit fear due to racism and profiling.

Those in the American Indian community conversation acknowledged that response time has been a major challenge as crime is increasing in the neighborhood. They also feel that the history of policing as a way to control shaped police behaviors and culture.

Asian American community conversation participants want a police presence but also want the police to help and not hurt the community.

In the African American community conversation, participants said they would like to see a precinct building and more police presence, but some would rather not believe that the police are dangerous to their community. Instead of investing in policing, they would rather invest in programs that prevent crimes such as youth mentorship.

Participants in the East African community conversation stated that there are not enough police in the community and the crime rate is very high. They believe that poverty contributes to increasing crime in the community.

The majority of those in LGBTQ+ conversation expressed that they did not want the MPD station to be rebuilt. They expressed their outrage at the engagement process and believe that the options provided do not address the pressing issue at hand. They would rather spend money on things that help people that are struggling in the community

