

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION SESSIONS: 3RD PRECINCT BUILDING



LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ANALYSIS

BY THE NUMBERS

QUESTION AS POSED TO THOSE IN THE COMMUNITY SESSION:

Would you like to see the 3rd Precinct Site rebuilt as a Minneapolis Police Department station where it originally was at the intersection of Minnehaha and Lake?

While there was a variety of opinions shared, the majority (75%) felt that the building **should not** be reopened as a MPD station.

NO = 75%
YES = 25%





CONVERSATION SUMMARY

Most Common Responses

How would you like to see the 3rd Precinct site developed? Reopened as an MPD building or put to another use?

Common threads why 75% of respondents said the site **should not** reopen as an MPD building:

- MPD going back into that building would be a slap in the face
- MPD returning to that location would not serve the community
- It would be aggrandizing the history of what happened
- That building, as it stands, is a source of PTSD for the community
- Putting MPD back at that location is asking for more trouble
- Renovating that site for MPD would be crushing to the community - a direct insult to further traumatize the community and perpetuate harm

Common threads why 25% of respondents said the site **should** reopen as an MPD building:

- It is a useable building and the most cost-effective choice is to rebuild
- The location is central located near public transportation
- We need a visible police presence in our neighborhood
- The MPD have to be somewhere within the community and this building already exists
- We need police there to deal with carjackings, robberies and other violent crimes



CONVERSATION SUMMARY

Most Common Responses

If not reopened as an MPD building, what would you envision in that space?

- Collectively owned space - geared toward healing, memorializing history
- Creative community gathering space - a center for healing
- A community-serving space for reconciliation - a memorial or museum
- Held as public land - a place where BIPOC residents and entrepreneurs can gain traction and start businesses, build wealth and create assets
- Affordable housing
- Integrated municipal services and community meeting space
- Multipurpose building for social services organizations providing mental health services and harm reduction services, access to health and safety programs, assistance with housing and general healthcare needs
- Job training programs or financial training center
- Transform the area into a cultural corridor and desegregate
- Access to basic resources - shelter, food, health care, etc.

Do you feel there are ways the City could serve residents with trauma support stemming from the civil uprising?

There was agreement that while trauma support is much needed, the City should not be the facilitator of that support. Instead, the City should provide funding to community organizations that specialize in this work and have the right tools and skills to lead the effort. The importance of including residents as well as business and property owners was noted and that police need mental health services themselves.

- The best trauma support is to clearly communicate the reforms that will take place at the MPD and demonstrate the impact of that reform
- The City is responsible for the trauma, they need to take that trauma on - be accountable - and provide access to those who can provide the needed healing
- While services for trauma are needed, addressing the root issues (reform within the MPD) is just as important
- The City can't provide the trauma relief as the City caused the trauma
- The symbolic action of providing trauma support doesn't mean anything if there aren't real tangible changes



CONVERSATION SUMMARY

Most Common Responses

Additional feedback shared by the majority of those gathered:

- The City owes citizens an apology. The police and the City need to acknowledge their responsibility for what happened and their role in causing trauma to various communities. If the harm isn't acknowledged, there can not be healing
- People can not accept the City's inaction on this space, stating that the City failed residents. The sidewalks are inaccessible. It feels really disrespectful. It has been like this for 2 years - without action or even discussion
- Radical reform is needed for the MPD. Without this reform, nothing will make a difference about where the relocation is determined.
- Many supported the idea of smaller hubs/satellite offices throughout the community rather than a large "fortress" like building that would allow officers to walk around the neighborhood, get to know people, and reduce the surveillance of people in the area.

Demographics of these community conversation participants:

- 99% were Minneapolis residents; 71% live in the 55406 zip code
- Median age was 49 years old
- 77% identified as White or Caucasian; 10% as Black or African American; 4% as Hispanic, Latinx, or Spanish origin; 2% Asian or Asian American; 7 % as other
- 83% homeowners; 17% renters
- 69% identified as female; 25% as male; 3% as non-binary; 3% other
- 65% had a household income of \$75,000 or higher

The outright favorite part of the sessions:

SHARING AND LISTENING WITH MY NEIGHBORS



"I felt heard."

"Having an intergenerational, calm discussion with my neighbors."

"Diversity of thought."

"It was very healing."

"Talking to my neighbors! It was very different perspectives that we heard from. We need to have these conversations more often"

Equally definitive was what people said was needed:

MORE INFORMATION FROM THE CITY

- How the City plans on letting the community dictates what happens
- A description of any plans and initiatives created about the site
- Information about what has gotten in the way of planning
- An summary regarding oversight of police, clarity of next steps and upcoming engagement efforts
- Facts about the site, including a timeline of development plans
- Transparency of the process the site will go through
- An explanation of why the building has been left vacant for so long
- Information about who will make the final decision of what happens at the site
- Background on what (if anything) has been done to recruit, train, and re-train armed officers in the last two years
- Clear outline of how the City will communicate with the community going forward





COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

Questions collected from the Zoom and In-person community conversations:

1. What is the City's plan? Please outline the next steps in a timeline form and include who has the final say of what will happen to the site and when, City led community engagement efforts, and how the City will retain transparency of the plan.
2. Why has the building been left vacant for so long?
3. Please provide background on what (if anything) has been done to recruit, train, re-train armed officers in the last two years - with notes on changing leadership culture and increasing communication with residents.
4. Are there State funds available to rehabilitate the 3rd Precinct building?
5. Are there other City services, besides MPD, that could be moved to this location?
6. Are there Federal funds available to rebuild at the current location but not for building a new station elsewhere?
7. Is the building structurally sound? Is the 3rd Precinct building capital expenditure or MPD budget?
8. How does the Mayor interact with the public safety work group?
9. The public safety work group has no accountability, unknown timeline, zero oversight. What can we do as citizens to know about their work?
10. Are there any ecological concerns in demolishing the building?
11. How would the City clarify what is happening to the 3rd precinct? Especially to avoid non-peaceful protests?
12. What is the structural state of the building?
13. What resources already exist in the building?
14. If the building is to be reimagined as a community site, can we consider doing so in a sustainable and environmental way?
15. How much money has the City of Minneapolis spent on "maintaining" this blighted property since June 2020? (HVAC, snow removal, "security" fence rental/upkeep, trash removal/cleaning the fence and surrounding area, etc) What are you protecting? These fences make it impossible for families and individuals with mobility devices to use the sidewalk along Lake Street.
16. Why has no decision been made about what to do with the 3rd Precinct property?
17. For most shifts, there are no police officers assigned to the 12th Ward. Why is it acceptable for the City to abandon its responsibility to police an entire Ward?
18. If MPD does not return to the 3rd Precinct building (locates operations elsewhere) will the City commit to not sell the property off to the highest bidding private developer? (Please keep it as a community-owned property)

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS CONTINUED

19. How is the City Council engaging with the recent report presented to the federal government on MPD's practices? (DOJ report)
20. Does the community get any input on City Council's engagement (town hall meetings, voting, etc)?
21. Why should taxpayers be responsible for funding a new Precinct? The police got a \$70 million raise this year, why aren't they funding their new home?
22. What are the plans to change the culture within the Minneapolis police department so that the mission is to protect and serve?
23. How can the functions of the MPD be distributed more appropriately so that armed officers can function more effectively?
24. Does training for armed officers need to be expanded?
25. What can the City do to veer in the direction of public safety - regardless of the fact that the public safety commission ballot question did not pass in November 2021?
26. How does the City Council plan to address the harm that police officers caused during the Uprising? People lost eyes, have permanent health problems from excessive gassing, PTSD, etc. How will officers be disciplined?
27. How does the new City Council plan to address the past failure of the previous City Council around taking community led action seriously? Community groups have been trying to implement mechanisms such as Community Control of Police so that citizens, not cops, have the final say in what happens to policing in our communities.
28. Where would the money for whatever ends up happening to the building come from?
29. What other sites are being looked at?
30. What values have been driving the City's conversation about the future of the Precinct? (Other than fiscal responsibility)
31. With the MPD being directly under the supervision of the Mayor (with a heavy hand from the police union) how can the City Council and citizens hold police accountable? Are there current procedures or new ones being drafted?
32. Why is there not a standard timeline to release body camera footage? Officer infractions should be public domain.
33. What evidence exists that precinct proximity does have an impact/correlation to response times? In other words, if the primary driver of re-opening the site is to improve response time, how do we know that to be true?
34. How much could Behavioral Health Crisis response time be shortened if calls were dispatched from the 3rd Precinct site?
35. After two year, this tragic place is still intact. Why is the 3rd Precinct building still standing? The value of that structure is not worth the collective trauma to the community. When will the community hear they are heard and a part of re-envisioning that institution?

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS CONTINUED

36. How will the City Coordinator's office be able to manage the racial equity needed, when BIPOC City staff are struggling under its management?
37. What's the holdup on rebuilding the restaurants and other burned businesses?
38. If no one wants a police station in their area, how will the City find an appropriate site for the station so we can have timely responses in the 3rd Precinct?
39. If the 3rd Precinct building were a commercial building, would the City allow it to remain half burned and surrounded by barbed wire? (I know commercial buildings cannot have boarded windows)
40. Where is the money coming from to pay for the State police to patrol city streets? Taken from what other needs?
41. Will arrests by the State police be handled by Hennepin County courts or State courts?
42. Who is interviewing candidates for the new Police Chief?
43. What are the characteristics of a reform-minded Chief that you are looking for? Does this relate to the findings of the Human Rights Department?

Q&A FROM CITY COORDINATOR'S OFFICE AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS DURING THE COMMUNITY SESSIONS

Q: Are there restrictions to building a Precinct?

A: Yes and no. There are some restrictions, mostly financial restrictions.

Q: What is the budget for the City rebuilding or buying a new precinct?

A: It depends. The current site is assessed at upwards of \$7 million to remodel. And it would depend on where and how big the new precinct would be - \$14 million to \$20 million.

Q: There has been nothing for 2 years. What's the timeline? Is there a timeline?

A: We are working on it. We have hired a Race and Equity Director who will largely be in charge of the reconciliation process. But we have to figure out what's driven by the City? What's driven by contractors? And we want to use this opportunity to develop a timeline. We will regroup after these two meetings and discuss a timeline.

Q&A CONTINUED

Q: What can a Precinct building look like? Are there zoning or other restrictions that impact what can be done?

A: The main restrictions are related to the inside of the building and are related to confidential data access. Not sure how that would factor into potential alternative sites.

A: There are financial considerations that could create restrictions. I (Andrea) would like to look into national examples of multi-use Precinct buildings.

Q: To be able to talk and get together, there's trauma in the community and the communication from the City has been horrible. What's the plan? Is there a plan?

A: You're right, the communication has not been good. There was some turnover. We are trying to focus on our communication and get closer to a decision and work on clear communication going forward. This is a good step. We are working on a plan, but we really needed to hear from the community first about rebuilding or not and gauge what the community wants.

Q: Was any funding ever used for the 3rd Precinct site that would restrict potential uses for the site in the future?

A: I don't think so but not, 100% certain. FEMA will provide some funding to rebuild but we don't know how much.

A: The City does have a land disposition policy that has to be followed. We can sell land for market rate or for community uses but there are restrictions on when the City can sell land. City is required to hold a public hearing and get city council approval.

Q: Did the City collect insurance money for the building?

A: No, the City is self-insured.

Q: Are we required to have a 3rd precinct building in the 3rd precinct?

A: I don't believe there is a charter requirement. It is driven by operational needs and deploy those in a timely fashion in the need to respond.

Q: Does MPD have a requirement to go back to their home precinct in between calls? What is the logistics around response times?

A: No, they are not. Response time comes down to the time between dispatch and when they arrive.

Q: Who is going to make the final decision about what happens with the site?

A: It will be a joint decision between the Mayor and City Council. Certain components will be brought to the council for approval.

A: (CM Wonsley) Council has no authority over MPD. Where council has more authority over - around expanding public safety, mental health services, that's in our purview, we can support those niches and I do want to note the jurisdiction that we operate in. We are allies and here to rep you and here to amplify. Other initiatives to public safety, that's our gateway.

Q&A CONTINUED

Q: Who is interviewing candidates for Police Chief? What are the characteristics of a reform focused Chief?

A: We will send info on members of the search committee to LCC. The consultant leading the process has been meeting with advisory groups to identify those characteristics.

A: Hopefully the results of the recently released Department of Human Rights report will be used in the process and the City will enter a consent decree with MN Dept of Human Rights. We have an ongoing Dept of Justice investigation that will hopefully inform the hiring decision.

Q: Have there been other buildings identified for alternative locations?

A: The City has looked at other available sites, but we have no specifics.

Q: How does the current council fix the historic issue of not taking community input seriously?

A: (CM Chavez) There was a ballot initiative that was voted down, and one of the reasons we supported it was that it gave legislative authority of the police department to city council. I still want to figure out ways that city council can have legislative authority over the police department. A lot of constituents ask me can you pass an ordinance to change the culture, and change the culture, we do not have the authority to do that. Which makes our job really complicated, but that being said, when it comes to budget system we're able to use that as a leverage to use that we need to see structural change in the mpd and that's something i plan on using.

A: (CM Wonsley) My office recently launched a community survey and all residents in Ward 2 will receive a copy. We will also be holding a series of community town hall conversations and we are working to get a citizen police oversight committee.

Longfellow Community Council

looks forward to sharing responses from the City with the community and working with our City Council Members to organize greater community outreach efforts

Event Co-sponsors:

Redesign
Longfellow Rising
Lake Street Council
Longfellow Business Association
Seward Civic and Commerce Association