

Longfellow Community Council

Resolution to Call for a Comprehensive Community Outreach Process and a Delay in the Decision on the Location of the Minneapolis 3rd Precinct Building

Background:

- On May 25, 2020, George Floyd was murdered by Derek Chauvin, a police officer from the 3rd Precinct of the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD).
- The 3rd Precinct building, located at 3000 Minnehaha Ave., was damaged in the subsequent civil unrest and has been shuttered and surrounded by barbed wire since May 2020.
- On May 16 and 29, 2022, the Longfellow Community Council (LCC), the official neighborhood organization for the Longfellow, Cooper, Howe, and Hiawatha neighborhoods, held community discussions to gather input from residents and business owners about the future of the 3rd Precinct building at 3000 Minnehaha Ave., possible alternative uses for the building, and possible plans for the location of the 3rd Precinct officers. A total of 150 people were in attendance at these discussions. Another 50 people engaged with the online survey of the same discussion points.
 - Of the 200 attendees and respondents, ~75% were opposed to the 3rd Precinct being located at 3000 Minnehaha Ave.
 - Common themes from the meeting included lack of trust between residents and the City of Minneapolis, lack of transparency regarding the future of the 3rd precinct and ensuring public safety, and concern that in 2022, two years after murder of George Floyd, there had been very few opportunities for community conversations. Full recap of the conversations can be found at <https://longfellow.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/3rd-Precinct-Community-Conversation-Analysis.pdf>
- In March 2023, DeYoung Consulting Services signed a contract with the City to conduct the community engagement outreach about the future 3rd Precinct building. LCC then subcontracted with DeYoung Consulting Services to organize and promote five community meetings to be held in April with the purpose of gathering input from residents, business owners and community organizations on the future location of the 3rd Precinct. LCC was tasked with advertising and setting up the meeting spaces. DeYoung was tasked with facilitating the meetings and taking notes on community feedback to then create a summary report for the City. At the time of the Request for Proposal (RFP) the understanding was that it would be a 12-month engagement process that incorporated community-based open discussions and forums asking where residents felt the 3rd Precinct building should be located and how it should serve residents. The first part of that engagement process was accelerated to 6 weeks for organizing and holding a series of community conversations to gather feedback and altered the question to a choice between two predetermined locations for the 3rd Precinct location.
 - The City of Minneapolis, DeYoung Consulting, and LCC settled on five community meetings to obtain public input on plans for the location of the 3rd Precinct building.

- Tuesday, April 11th – 125 in attendance
- Thursday, April 13th – 135 in attendance
- Saturday, April 15th – 155 in attendance
- Tuesday, April 18th – 85 in attendance
- Wednesday, April 19th – 150 in attendance
- 13 days prior to the first of these meetings, the City provided the information about the two locations that could be considered by the community:
 - 3rd Precinct location option A: to extensively renovate and expand the former building at 3000 Minnehaha Ave. at an estimated expense of \$12 million.
 - 3rd Precinct location option B: a new building located at 2600 Minnehaha Ave. at an estimated expense of \$24 million, according to the City of Minneapolis.

Whereas, on April 27, 2022, an “Investigation into the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Police Department: Findings from the Minnesota Department of Human Rights states:

- “The Minnesota Department of Human Rights Report finds there is probable cause that the City and MPD engage in a pattern or practice of race discrimination in violation of the Minnesota Human Rights Act.”
- Specifically, the Minnesota Department of Human Rights finds that MPD engages in a pattern or practice of discriminatory, race-based policing as evidenced by:
 - Racial disparities in how MPD officers use force, stop, search, arrest, and cite people of color, particularly Black individuals, compared to white individuals in similar circumstances.
 - MPD officers’ use of covert social media to surveil Black individuals and Black organizations, unrelated to criminal activity.
 - MPD officers’ consistent use of racist, misogynistic, and disrespectful language.
- The pattern or practice of discriminatory, race-based policing is caused primarily by an organizational culture where:
 - MPD officers, supervisors, and field training officers receive deficient training, which emphasizes a paramilitary approach to policing that results in officers unnecessarily escalating encounters or using inappropriate levels of force.
 - Accountability systems are insufficient and ineffective at holding officers accountable for misconduct.
 - Former and current City and MPD leaders have not collectively acted with the urgency, coordination, and intentionality necessary to address racial disparities in policing to improve public safety and increase community trust. Without fundamental organizational culture changes, reforming MPD’s policies, procedures, and trainings will be meaningless;

Whereas, many people in attendance at the May 2022 and April 2023 community meetings expressed a lack of trust in the City of Minneapolis process for deciding the future of the 3rd Precinct building, with common opinions expressed about the process including a lack of transparency and accountability, and a lack of a healing, restorative practices and operations necessary to move forward toward public safety.

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis is allowing residents to vote only between the two announced locations, with a community that has been frustrated with lack of engagement.

Therefore, be it RESOLVED that Longfellow Community Council Board of Directors, in light of community conversations and the recent Consent decree between the City of Minneapolis and the State of Minnesota:

- Demands the development of a new timeline, to be completed no later than May 2024, for defining a shared community vision for what a new facility or facilities should be, and how the former site of the 3rd Precinct should serve the community.
- Supports an intentional and respectful outreach process to allow residents and business owners of the 3rd Precinct in Minneapolis to more comprehensively weigh in on the location of the 3rd precinct building specifically and public safety in general.
- Demands that the outreach process be community-led and managed by neighborhood organizations and other community organizations, not the City of Minneapolis, with a focus on restorative justice.
- Rejects any decision made about the 3rd precinct building until a new community engagement process has been carried out.

Reference:

[Department of Human Rights Investigation into the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Police Department](#)

List of supporting community and neighborhood organizations:

Longfellow Community Council: Longfellow, Cooper, Howe and Hiawatha neighborhoods

Corcoran Neighborhood Organization

Seward Neighborhood Group (see additional attachment)

Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association (see additional attachment)

Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization: Central and Bryant neighborhoods

Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Inc

East Phillips Improvement Coalition, Inc.

Phillips West Neighborhood Organization

Nokomis East Neighborhood Association: Minnehaha, Keewaydin, Wenonah and Morris Park neighborhoods

Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association

Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association: Hale, Page, and Diamond Lake neighborhoods
Bancroft Neighborhood Association
Fulton Neighborhood Association
Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice
Curiosity Studio: Lauren Callis, ATR, LPCC
Confluence: An East Lake Studio for Community Design
Moon Palace Books: Jamie and Angela Schwesnedl
Laune Bread: Chris MacLeod and Tiff Singh
Arbeiter Brewing: Juno Choi, Josh Voeltz, Garth Blomberg
Sharp Sign Co.: Kelsi Sharp
Gandhi Mahal: Ruhel Islam
Two Bettys Green Cleaning Co
Boneshaker Books
The Hub Bike Co-op: Andrew Magill-Grimm, Cristina Montoya, David Lee, Henry Slocum, Jens Hoifeldt, John McConaghey, Lisa Olson, Ruby Simone
Seward Civic and Commerce Association
Pastor Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Pastor Doug Mork: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Building Dignity and Respect Standards Council (BDC)
Deacon David Rojas Martinez: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Firehouse Performing Arts Center (The Hook & Ladder Theater): Chris Mozena, Executive Director
Articulture: Elizabeth Greenbaum, Executive Director
Better Futures MN, PJ Hubbard, President & CEO

Residents:

Audrey Boyle, 2901 35th Ave So, Minneapolis
Jeannette Dennis, Seward resident
Elizabeth Brophey, Ward 11
Ann Carter, Ward 11
Dean Zoller, BCR Responder
Becky Back, Ward 12
Liz and Peter Digitale Anderson, Corcoran, Ward 9
Ewart Martens, Seward resident and business owner
Brian Suerth, Ward 2
Tess Holman, Ward 11, HPDL Community Association Board Member
Megan Moore, Longfellow resident and artist sole proprietor

