



Conversation with African American community members #2



May 21, 2024

On May 21, 2024, Office of Community Safety (OCS) staff co-facilitated an event for the African American community with Better Futures. The evening was stormy and two people attended. While demographic information was not collected, both people shared that they had lived and/or professional experience with safety systems.

After a presentation we discussed what social services would be beneficial in the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center.

The social services that had the most support include:

- Affordable housing
 - There is a need to help people with criminal backgrounds find housing
- Economic support
 - Help navigating applying for benefits
- Employment support
 - Particularly for people who have been incarceration or have a criminal record
- Unsheltered homelessness resources
 - Private showers
 - Support to find housing

The following themes had support for other building uses or resources:

- Charging stations
- Legal services
 - Custody issues
 - Child protection cases
 - Access to public defender or legal services if someone is dissatisfied with their public defender
 - A safe space for people to freely talk and ask questions
 - Perhaps a paralegal instead of an attorney
- Space for supervised parental visits

Other services/resources:

- Amazon lockers
- Translation services
- Case manager or community navigator

Other topics discussed:

- Most of the ideas on the list of other building uses or resources are very doable