



Conversation with Native American community members



On May 24, 2024, Office of Community Safety (OCS) staff co-facilitated an event for the Native American community with Neighborhood & Community Relations (NCR) staff. 16 people attended the event.

OCS provided a brief presentation about community safety, the concept of community safety center, the Lake Street Safety Center, and the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center. Afterward the group shared their deep frustration with the City of Minneapolis.

There were a few common areas of concern:

- Needs on Franklin Avenue
 - One significant area of concern and discouragement was that a new safety center was funded for Lake Street but not Franklin Avenue.
- Homeless encampments are not safe or healthy
 - People who bring supplies to the encampments don't represent this community
- Lack of action by the City
 - So many meetings have taken place with no action to help this community
 - Solutions have been shared for many years but they are implemented in other areas of the city instead of in the Native community
- Inappropriate engagement
 - It was disrespectful to come to the meeting with prepared materials
 - Not feeling seen
 - Need to "quit looking out of white eyes"
 - The themes from prior engagement did not come from Native Americans
- The law enforcement system
 - There is no accountability
 - Response times are too slow or there is no response at all
 - Don't see police in their community anymore
 - Want more community policing to deter crime
 - When suspects are arrested they are quickly bailed out by assistance funds

Comments related to the community safety center:

- Welcoming
 - Seeing staff who look like them
- Youth
 - Need resources for kids so they feel safe and can make better decisions
- Concern about perception
 - Concern a person being seen going into a "cop shop" will be considered a snitch.