

“Resident Brainstorm: Let Your Ideas Shape Our Priorities” Survey

BACKGROUND

The “Resident Brainstorm: Let Your Ideas Shape Our Priorities” survey was published on February 15, 2024 and closed on March 1, 2024 (15 days). The survey was shared with residents of Ward 11 through multiple platforms. The survey included 2 questions. Question 1 asked “As a resident, is there anything you would like Council Member Emily Koski to know or take into consideration as she works on her priorities for the next 2 years? If so, what and why?”. Question 2 asked “Do you have any additional input or feedback you would like to share?”.

OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

The goal of the “Resident Brainstorm: Let Your Ideas Shape Our Priorities” survey was to actively engage the residents of Ward 11 in shaping Council Member Emily Koski’s strategic plan and priorities. The survey aimed to collaborate directly with residents of Ward 11, hear their ideas and goals, use them to make decisions, and keep them updated as the work progresses.

KEY FINDINGS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Priorities:

- 63% of respondents identified Community Safety as a priority.
- 27% of respondents identified Affordable Housing & Homelessness as a priority.
- 22% of respondents identified Transportation & Infrastructure as a priority.
- 14% of respondents identified Economic Inclusion & Development as a priority.
- 12% of respondents identified Climate Action & Public Health as a priority.
- 22% of respondents identified Other as a priority.

Community Safety:

Top Priorities:

- Reducing Crime and Increasing Public Safety
- Increasing Police Department Staffing Levels
- Reducing Juvenile Crime and Increasing Accountability and Rehabilitation for Juvenile Offenders

Additional Priorities:

- Specific Public Safety Concerns/Issues
- Increasing Police Department Staff Pay/Incentives
- Public Safety Reform
- Public Safety Alternatives
- Downtown Crime
- Other

Accomplishments:

- Held Regular Ward 11 Public Safety Meetings.
- Created Office of Community Safety.

- Appointed Commissioner and Chief of Police.
- Created Community Commission on Police Oversight.
- Funded Additional Vans for the Behavioral Crisis Response Program.
- Created and Funded a Community Safety Audit Division.
- Held Public Safety Meetings on Juvenile Crime.
- Shared Educational Resources on Juvenile Crime.
- Championed MPD's Signing of 30 x 30 Pledge.
- Advocated for Improvements to Fire Stations.
- Created and Funded a Domestic Violence Navigators Program.
- Launched South Minneapolis Community Safety Center Project.
- Launched Lake Street Community Safety Center Project.
- Researched on Auto Theft Deterrence and Prevention.

In Progress:

- **Research on Law Enforcement Recruitment, Hiring, and Retention.** Council Member Emily Koski authored a staff directive requesting research on law enforcement recruitment, hiring, and retention. The research will include: 1. A landscape review of law enforcement recruitment, hiring, and retention practices in comparable jurisdictions, this may include recruitment policies, incentives, and outcomes; hiring processes, models, and standards; and retention incentives, initiatives, and effectiveness 2. An overview of the City's current, and future recruitment, hiring, and retention practices for MPD, and 3. Trends, standards, or areas of focus across comparable jurisdictions and provide any similarities or contrasts that merit consideration or continued discussion.
- **Fund Law Enforcement Recruitment, Hiring, and Retention.** Council Member Emily Koski intends to use the research on law enforcement recruitment, hiring, and retention to create and fund new strategies in the upcoming biennial budget cycle.
- **Continue Work on 30 x 30 Pledge Fulfillment.** Council Member Emily Koski continues to stay engaged in 30 x 30 Pledge fulfillment. She receives regular updates on the steps MPD is taking to increase representation of women in the ranks.
- **Continue Work on South Minneapolis Community Safety Center Project.** Council Member Emily Koski continues to stay engaged in the Community Safety Center Project. She currently is focusing on supporting the Project Team in community engagement efforts.
- **Continue Work on Lake Street Community Safety Center Project.** Council Member Emily Koski continues to stay engaged in the Community Safety Center Project. She currently is focusing on supporting the Project Team in community engagement efforts.
- **Fund Auto Theft Deterrence and Prevention Strategies.** Council Member Emily Koski intends to use the research on auto theft deterrence and prevention strategies, as well as the learnings from MPD's newer pilots, to fund new strategies in the upcoming biennial budget cycle.

Of Note:

- All residents who responded with specific public safety concerns/issues received a response from the Ward 11 Office about the concern/issue.

Affordable Housing & Homelessness:

Top Priorities:

- Developing and Implementing Strategies to Address and Prevent Homelessness
- Increasing Affordable Housing Opportunities
- Addressing Crime and Safety Issues in and around Encampments

Additional Priorities:

- Improving Encampment Response
- Increasing Senior Housing Opportunities
- Other

Accomplishments:

- Secured Affordable Housing Development at 5401 Chicago Ave.
- Secured Affordable Housing Development at 5344 34th Ave S.
- Supported Re-Development of Motels into Affordable Housing Developments (SROs).
- Advocated for Avivo Villages Expansion.
- Hosted Habitat for Humanity Build Day.
- Served on the Planning Commission.

In Progress:

- **Launch South Lyndale Corridor Master Plan.** Council Member Emily Koski is working to move the City to take action on the South Lyndale Corridor Master Plan, a plan to guide the development and revitalization of the South Lyndale Corridor from Minnehaha Creek South to Crosstown Highway 62. The plan includes realigning Trunk Highway 121 and using the gained land to develop a new corridor with hundreds of units of housing, neighborhood-friendly transportation options, businesses, public spaces, and more.
- **Create Additional Affordable Housing Opportunities in Ward 11.** Council Member Emily Koski continues to meet with developers to encourage affordable housing development in Ward 11. She has identified a number of locations where redevelopment and/or new development is possible.
- **Create and Implementing Strategies to Reduce and Prevent Homelessness/Encampments.** Council Member Emily Koski continues to work with her colleagues at the City, County, and State, experts, and organizations to search for strategies and solutions that address homelessness/encampments. She continues to work with Avivo Villages to pursue an expansion of their housing/services provided in the City.

Transportation & Infrastructure:

Top Priorities:

- Increasing Traffic Calming Measures
- Increasing Pedestrian/Biker Safety
- Preserving Car/Vehicle Access and Parking Availability

Additional Priorities:

- Specific Traffic Concerns/Issues
- Improving Public Transit
- Increasing Traffic and Parking Enforcement
- Road and Sidewalk Rehabilitation, Restoration, Reconstruction
- Other

Accomplishments:

- Improvements to the intersections of Cedar Ave & Edgewater Blvd/Cedar Ave & Nokomis Pkwy.
- Advocated for Winter/Snow & Ice Parking Restrictions in Ward 11.
- Increased funding for Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program.

In Progress:

- **Expand the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program.** Council Member Emily Koski continues to work with the Public Works Department to plan for the expansion of the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program over the next 5-10 years to meet the program's high demand. She intends to fund this expansion in the upcoming biennial budget cycle.
- **Fund Nicollet Avenue Bridge Reconstruction Project.** Council Member Emily Koski continues to advocate for funding for the Nicollet Avenue Bridge Reconstruction Project. This \$33 million project will repair and rehab the historic concrete arch bridge over Minnehaha Creek.

Of Note:

- All residents who responded with specific traffic concerns/issues received a response from the Ward 11 Office about the concern/issue.

Economic Inclusion & Development:

Top Priorities:

- Supporting Small Businesses/All Businesses
- Increasing Economic Growth and Development

Additional Priorities:

- Wage and Labor Standards
- Other

Accomplishments:

- Regularly Featured Ward 11 Small Businesses.
- Connected Ward 11 Small Businesses with City Programs/Resources.
- Created and funded a Small Business Labor Standards Support Pilot Project.
- Advocated for Hennepin Avenue Small Businesses.
- Increased funding for Labor Standards Co-Enforcement.

In Progress:

- **Continue Work on Small Business Labor Standards Support Pilot Project.** Council Member Emily Koski created a Small Business Labor Standards Support Pilot Project to provide services to support I/BIPOC owned small businesses so that they can meet and/or exceed minimum labor standards. In its first year, the project provided I/BIPOC owned small businesses with education, 1:1 meetings with bookkeepers, free access to HR software, and on-going assistance. In its second year, the project will provide the same support in a low barrier, flexible manner through community intermediaries – I/BIPOC bookkeepers and B-TAP providers.
- **Support New Transportation Network Companies and Drivers.** Council Member Emily Koski has been leading ongoing conversations on strategies to enhance TNC market accessibility, boost entry and use for new companies, and support drivers in this transitional period.
- **Continue to Connect Ward 11 Small Businesses with City Programs/Resources.** Council Member Emily Koski continues to connect directly with Ward 11 small businesses/small business owners to build relationships and provide support.

Climate Action & Public Health:

Top Priorities:

- Addressing Climate Change and Supporting Environmental Sustainability

- Reduction Drug Use/Addiction and Increasing Treatment/Rehabilitation
- Increasing Tree Coverage and Green Space

Additional Priorities:

- Decreasing Pollution
- Environmental Justice

Accomplishments:

- Held Town Hall Meeting and Community Engagement on Lake Nokomis Groundwater and Surface Water Evaluation.
- Led City, Park & Recreation Board, and Watershed District Partnership Agreement on Water.
- Supported Climate Equity Plan.
- Supported Climate Legacy Initiative.
- Supported Reproductive Healthcare Ordinance.

In Progress:

- **Continue Work on City, Park & Recreation Board, and Watershed District Partnership Agreement on Water.** Council Member Emily Koski continues to lead work to identify opportunities for shared investment in improving regional water quality, mitigating flooding, and enhancing natural resources. This includes creating measurable results, building measurable flood storage, and removing Lake Hiawatha and other Minneapolis waterbodies from the state's impaired waters list.

Other:

Top Priorities:

- Specific Concerns/Issues
- Lowering Taxes
- Supporting the Senior Community

Additional Priorities:

- Other

Accomplishments:

- Created Seniors Community Group.
- Held Annual South Minneapolis Seniors Fairs.

In Progress:

- **Continue to Hold Seniors Community Group Monthly Meetings.** Council Member Emily Koski continue to hold Seniors Community Group Monthly Meetings to engage with the senior community, share updates/presentations, and have discussions on their concerns/issues.
- **Continue to Hold Annual South Minneapolis Seniors Fair.** Council Member Emily Koski continues to hold Annual South Minneapolis Seniors Fair and build on this effort every year.
- **Research on City's Attrition Issue.** Council Member Emily Koski authored a request for research/review on the City's attrition trend over the past 10 years, all data collection strategies used to collect data on the City's attrition, how the data we collect is compiled, analyzed, and tracked ongoing, and the data from the past 5 years.
- **Fund Strategies to Address City's Attrition Issue.** Council Member Emily Koski intends to

use the research on the City's attrition issue to create and fund new strategies in the upcoming biennial budget cycle.

Of Note:

- All residents who responded with specific concerns/issues received a response from the Ward 11 Office about the concern/issue.

CONCLUSIONS

The "Resident Brainstorm: Let Your Ideas Shape Our Priorities" survey met its objectives/goals of direct collaboration with residents yielding insights into their ideas and goals. The feedback was used to inform Council Member Emily Koski's decision-making process, ensuring alignment with community needs and aspirations. Moving forward, the Council Member is committed to maintaining communication channels, keeping residents updated on progress, and actively engaging with residents ongoing to keep plans and priorities up to date.