

September 1, 2022

Community Members and Partners,

On February 16, 2022, the undersigned came together to address carjacking and violent crime in the Twin Cities. MN HEALS 2.0 follows an effort twenty-three years ago to unite public, private, and non-profit sectors behind a strategy to combat homicide and violence in the Phillips neighborhood in Minneapolis. We began MN HEALS 2.0 with a retrospective from two founders of the original HEALS – the former executives of the General Mills and Honeywell Foundations, Ellen Luger and Pat Hoven. We learned from them that public safety gains could be achieved quickly and effectively with a cross-sector approach.

We first adopted a focus on carjackings, which have only been tracked as a distinct category of robberies for the last two years. We heard from all parts of the criminal justice system on practices like case assignment, risk assessment for youth for detention, and sentencing practices. Immediate adjustments were made during the first two months of MN HEALS 2.0:

1. The Hennepin County Attorney's Office blocked out prosecutions to a special team.
2. The Juvenile Court, led by Judge Mark Kappelhoff, blocked out carjacking cases to a judge on a rotating basis (not always the same judge).
3. United States Attorney Andrew Luger announced in May that every federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office would take on violent crime cases in addition to their other work, and this increased capacity included the prioritization of violent carjacking cases committed by suspects ages 18 and older. The Hennepin County Attorney's Office retained juvenile cases.
4. Detention policies were reviewed with all MN HEALS 2.0 members and assurances given on detention for suspects.
5. The State of Minnesota has increased its mutual aid into Minneapolis, with a campaign focus on motor vehicle stops.
6. All Hennepin County suburbs have embedded social workers with police departments.

Carjacking cases submitted to the Hennepin County Attorney's Office for review are down, but clearance rates remain low and carjacking crimes in Minneapolis have only levelled by most estimates; thus, MN HEALS 2.0 continues a focus on carjackings. The reforms made by all parts of the criminal justice system have changed the consequences felt by youth and adult suspects, and clearance rates are the next issue to address. Minneapolis serves as the focal point for carjackings – over 70% of these crimes have been committed in Minneapolis or by Minneapolis residents. As a result, the MN HEALS 2.0 focus has remained on the City of Minneapolis for now but will have suburban initiatives highlighted at the September meeting.

U.S. Attorney Andrew Luger and Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman have convened their senior teams and mapped out an operational plan to most effectively share prosecutorial responsibility across Hennepin County. The County Attorney's Office has launched a Chief's Roundtable, which allows police chiefs across Hennepin County to conduct case reviews with the

chief civil and criminal deputies from the Hennepin County Attorney's Office. Public criticisms from one law enforcement jurisdiction to another have subsided, with increased prospects for mutual aid.

County Attorney Freeman has served as the convener for MN HEALS 2.0 since its inception, with an open invitation to the group to appoint more permanent leadership. He remains convinced that this will emerge from the group before the end of the year. Freeman has stated that it is a privilege of his office to host and prepare agendas and materials for such a committed group of leaders across sectors.

After polling the growing MN HEALS 2.0 membership in May 2022, County Attorney Freeman recommended that the MN HEALS 2.0 workplan be broken down across three committees between meetings of the assembly. Amanda Harrington (Program Director for Be@School, a Hennepin County Attorney's Office program) leads the Early Intervention Committee. Louis King (CEO of Summit Academy) leads the Prevention Committee. Professor Mark Osler (University of St. Thomas School of Law) leads the Response to Violent Crime Committee.

Each committee reported on their progress at the MN HEALS 2.0 meeting on August 15, 2022. Those progress reports are available upon request.

The Prevention Committee has recommended a plan to expand embedded social workers and expand technology across the County.

The Early Intervention Committee has proposed an evaluation framework for proposals into HEALS, with now-approved recommendations on programming.

The Response to Violent Crime Committee's report is embedded in Mark Osler's report into HEALS below.

MN HEALS 2.0 is supported by a research partnership with the University of St. Thomas School of Law, headed by former federal prosecutor Mark Osler. Osler recommended the following MN HEALS 2.0 workplan for the remainder of the year, rooted in an emphasis on a core goal of addressing serious violent crime with urgency:

1. Address the outstanding warrants in Minneapolis for serious violent crimes and those most likely to commit them. Renew the U.S. Marshal's Task Force and encourage other task force activity. In a time of police shortage, multi-jurisdictional task forces are more important than ever and harmonizing policies between jurisdictions, as demonstrated by the U.S. Attorney, is crucial to maintaining mutual aid and partnered resources.
2. Improve clearance rates. Osler emphasized that no intervention more immediately prevents future violence than clearing the streets of those who have committed violent crimes. Even drug or weapons interdiction, for all its long-term benefits, cannot compare with the public safety gains earned by improving the homicide, carjacking, and violent crime clearance rates. Minneapolis homicides currently have a clearance rate of 38% and carjackings of 12%. The Response to Violent Crime Committee report proposes an immediate infusion of investigators into MPD to help address this. The U.S. Department of Justice has funding available through Project Safe Neighborhoods that

may be used to increase investigative capacity within MPD. Osler invited MPD to coordinate with this infusion of investigators and offered his committee's help going forward. Chief Amelia Huffman accepted the invitation at the August 15 meeting.

3. Continue geographic focus. Osler noted that the hot spot efforts in Minneapolis may lead to regional gains in increasing the clearance rate and executing outstanding warrants.

Convener Freeman welcomed Minneapolis' new Community Safety Commissioner, Dr. Cedric Alexander, Minneapolis Police Chief Amelia Huffman, and Minneapolis Police Department Chief of Staff Christopher Gaiters and sought comments. Chief Huffman endorsed the plan for resources devoted to clearance rates and warrants. Dr. Alexander advised MN HEALS 2.0 members that crime rates in the Twin Cities were based on the recent experience of residents and mirrors what is happening in other cities. Nobody can expect this to change dramatically – at least until 300 police officers are recruited and in place. Dr. Alexander understands that the recruitment effort must make the difference in the end but will take time. Thus, better use of technology and offers of assistance from agencies and the private sector are welcome in the meantime.

Convener Freeman has directed staff to prepare the September agenda with a focus on suburban police department initiatives, including embedded social worker practices, and streetracing prosecutions and penalties.

MN HEALS 2.0 members will meet again in September. Agendas and minutes are available upon request.

Signed,

Members of MN HEALS 2.0

Amanda Harrington	Jackie Cherryhomes	Mark Osler
Amiin Harun	Mayor Jacob Frey	Council Member Michael Rainville
U.S. Attorney Andrew Luger	Commissioner Jeff Lunde	Dr. Michael Walker
Angella LaTour	Reverend Jerry McAfee	Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman
Ann Rainhart	Mayor Jim Hovland	Bishop Harding Smith
Antonio Smith	Julie Wicklund	Sandra Filardo
Carrie Scardigli	Justin Terrell	Simon Trautmann
Catherine Johnson	Council Member LaTrisha Vetaw	Steve Cramer
Charlie Weaver	Lee Sheehy	Chief Tim Hoyt
Chela Guzman-Wiegert	Council Member Linea Palmisano	
Chief of Staff Christopher Gaiters	Lisa Bayley	
Chief Correy Farniok	Council Member Lisa Goodman	
Emy Johnson	Louis King	