



Building the Beloved Community Public Safety Project



Statement of Impact of Our Work

Comments by Commissioner John Harrington, Minnesota
Department of Public Safety
February 2022

How will the learning from our diverse congregations will be distilled and delivered to police agencies? How will this work make a difference?

Our work will make a difference in at least three ways.

- 1) **Inform decisions related to Police Training Statewide.** The Department of Public Safety (DPS) through the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) provides police training for the 400+ local and tribal law enforcement agencies in the state of Minnesota. What we learn from this project will inform the BCA's ongoing training for police departments in topic areas to include character-based hiring, police procedure, and tactical training. Additionally, the results of our work will also be shared with college programs. The results of our work together will be shared in spaces where decisions are made related to the training of current and future police officers in our state.
- 2) **Inform Legislative Discussions about Traffic Stops and Other Key Policing Issues.** State agency leaders participate in a variety of discussions with legislators during the legislative session. The insights your congregations provide as a result of these dilemma discussions will be made available for Commissioner Harrington as the Beloved Community project progresses. The Commissioner relayed the importance of hearing from as many voices as possible, from communities across the state, on these real-life dilemmas that police are being asked to solve. The Commissioner is looking forward to being able to have much more robust conversations with legislators as a result of our work, and he intends to showcase our work in those conversations.
- 3) **Impact on State Patrol Action Plan Re: Traffic Stops.** The Minnesota State Patrol, which is a division of the Department of Public Safety, is one of the leading voices on traffic enforcement. They're right now working on advanced research with academic partners about traffic stops. The results of this project are informing and enlightening adjacent conversations about traffic safety happening with important partners also working to tackle these dilemmas. Commissioner Harrington looks to our input about how we can conduct traffic stops safely so that both the officer's safety and the citizen's safety are kept highly in mind.

One More Thought. The Commissioner noted that what he heard in our very first session validates work of the Police-Involved Deadly Force Encounters Working Group, which began more than two years ago. He shared that the group's recommendations emphasized the value of life. And that was a primary value that drove public policy as legislators and officials were creating the police reform bill. The Commissioner stated it is his hope that our work will give him the kind of understanding that helps build the next level of research and policy so that we can in fact, not just talk about a beloved community, but instead we can actually start implementing some of this work to truly build a beloved community.