

Submitted

Comments/Questions for the Listening Session

Hello - I wanted to thank you for hosting the session last night, and also apologize for how emotional I was when it was my turn to speak. I was the second community member to speak and I fear my frustration and anger over this entire situation overshadowed the concern I have for the safety for everyone in this community. I am not protesting or involved in rapid response, but I am very supportive of the schools and my neighbors and I am helping with carpooling and funds. I have lived in Heights for 17 years. I own another house in Zimmerman that I use as a cabin that is twice the size of my house here and we would fit in it so much better, but I do not want to move out of this community or raise my kids somewhere else. We love Heights. We love the diversity. We love the teachers in the schools. There are issues in the community, but the people care about each other and care about solving them. I am not angry with the police or city in Heights, but feel frustrated that our rights are being trampled on, and feel like we are sitting ducks, waiting to be the next Renee Good or Alex Pretti. As a healthcare worker I am devastated that this happened to one of ours, and more so by the hate from the community, when 6 years ago we were heroes after everything with COVID. I carpool other kids in the community to school right now, and I am heartbroken for the kids I am driving every day who are in tears and scared they won't see their parents when they get home from school. I am also scared what will happen if someone tries to stop me while these kids are under my car, and I have my own children in the car as well.

I would like to offer an idea, which may not be possible, but I would ask you to consider. What I heard last night is that you are not resourced enough to station police in enough places to help people feel safer. Community members are being intimidated and our rights are being trampled on. We have a volunteer fire fighters force; can we explore an adult police explorer force or deputized community service officer program or volunteer police force? I could do research to see if other programs exist and write a proposal and training plan to bring to the council and police. We have family that were police chiefs as well we could consult with (Mike Sittari Edina and then he worked at FEMA before retiring and Stefany Good-Sittari Medina then Hennepin County Sheriff deputy sheriff under Stanek) and I am a System Director of Supply Chain at Fairview and I work in the HICS structure as our Logistics Chief, so I feel I have the skillset to help with this.

Also, if there is the thought of setting up therapy services at the community center for trauma recovery for our kids at all after this is all over, I know art therapists and others I can ask to help and get involved. Not only from Fairview, but from elsewhere. My mom is also a hypnotherapist and does crystal bowl healing energy sessions for people who are into that and she will donate her time.

2026-01-28 10:29:03

Thank you. I know you did not sign up for this. None of us did. And we are all trying to help, and we are scared too.

2026-01-27 22:03:07

What resources do families have if they are unable to work because of fear.

I am unable to attend in person. My wife and I purchased a home in Columbia Heights in 2024 and are choosing to put down roots and raise our family here. We are proud of how many in the community have stepped up to help and protect vulnerable neighbors. I want to thank the city leadership for being supportive- please keep up the support- AND I want to call on you to do more! Urge the surrounding city leaders to do more and be better. Collaborate across city boundary lines. Hold other Minnesotan leaders accountable to the Constitution and to the ethics of public safety and policing. This is a crisis that we are all living in together. We must urge one another to live and act humanely amongst our neighbors.

2026-01-27 16:41:57

Thank you for this meeting. Do you have any statistics on resident flight from the City (not including abductions) and what the economic damage is, currently? Also, do you have a sense of the prospects and future plans for economic recovery?

2026-01-27 16:31:43

I cannot attend the event; I need to protect my mental health. Original comment sent via GMAIL Jan 25, 2026, 5:29 AM. Additional comments Jan, 27, 2026: I declined to be trained as local Host for the 50101 Bridge Brigade. I was seeing posts & comments that violate the rules (#7) for the Columbia Heights Peaceful Community Group AND the National/State 50101 Movement. Some of the suggestions could hurt local working people in our community.. This event is limiting who can attend and targeting a small portion of all residents of my community. Not Cool. I am watching the todays Gov Walz interview with The Bulwark Podcast as my listening session. I want to watch a press conference from my local leaders fighting just like him.

What I expect from my City: Example of the action that HELPS the entire Columbia Heights community.

Example: Out of respect for the entire Columbia Heights community, the City of Columbia Heights has suspended enforcement of the winter parking ban effective today.

2026-01-27 14:00:50

Enforcement will resume if snowfall exceeds 2 inches. The scheduled Winter Parking Town Hall will not take place on Tue., Jan. 27, and has been postponed until further notice.

2026-01-27 13:38:04

How can we garrentee our schools, students, teachers, and parents are protected? Is there a better safety plan?

I am saddened and frustrated to see the impacts the increased federal agent presence has had on our community. I'd like to hear more from community members who have been affected to give them space to speak. I would also like to hear more from community reps on what they are doing locally to improve things.

2026-01-27 13:10:16

Thanks for holding this, I hope to attend. One thing I would love to hear from the city is if you are tracking reports of residents taken and what happens to them. I know people are sending reports to the attorney general but I think it would be great if we are or are able to keep track of what is happening in our city. And also if the city is compiling video of ICE violence / illegal actions. Thank you!

2026-01-21 17:33:26

Why are we closing down American schools to protect illegal immigrants from the Law! My kids missed three days of school already because of this. American students shouldn't be punished! Keep politics out of the schools!

2026-01-21 17:19:53

What does the city plan to do to help protect the immigrants in our community from ICE abductions that are being conducted with no due process under the Constitution?

2026-01-21 17:15:32