

# **An External Review of the State's Response to the Civil Unrest May 26 – June 7, 2020**

A Presentation Prepared for:

Minnesota House of Representatives,  
Public Safety and Criminal Justice  
Reform Finance and Policy Committee

March 31, 2022



# Agenda

- Purpose of review
- Overview of methods
- Limitations
- Select recommendations and rationale



# Purpose of review



Objectively evaluate

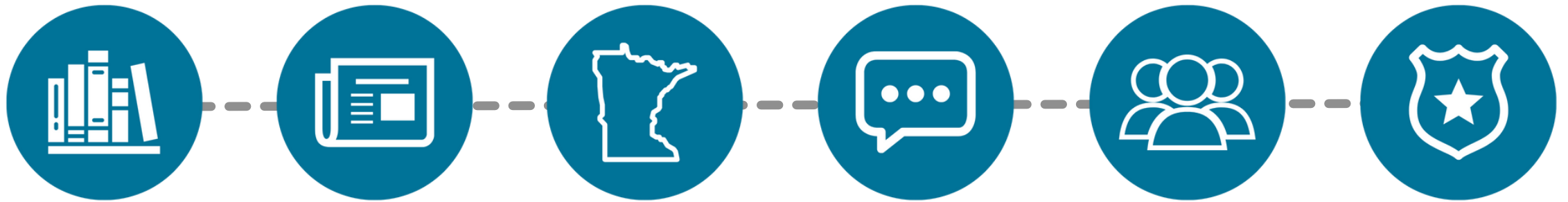


Identify actions and options



Provide recommendations

# Overview of methods



# Limitations

- Time frame
- Key informant interviews
- Related events and pandemic

# Critical overarching recommendations

- ✓ Strengthen multi-agency coordination systems
- ✓ Improve coordination and relationships with local jurisdictions and the media
- ✓ Lead efforts to address tensions between law enforcement agencies and communities through intentional trust-building efforts, police accountability and transformation, and education



# **Summary of Selected Recommendations**


With a Focus on Recommendations  
with Policy Implications

## Recommendation 1: Strengthen multi-agency coordination

- Develop a unified multi-agency incident management system that is understood by participating agencies
- Establish a clear chain of command
- Develop a unified and coordinated communication system among participating agencies early on
- **Seek funding from the Minnesota Legislature to implement multi-agency emergency response and mutual aid training**



**Unified command is the only way to operate in situations, but if it is not practiced regularly, it can be challenging – especially on the front end when you have multiple people in charge trying to make decisions.**  
**– *State Law Enforcement***




## **Recommendation 2:** Inform and support development and compliance with model crowd management and use of force policies and training to be used consistently among law enforcement agencies across the state

- The legislature should determine the role of DPS in working with the POST Board to make progress toward the development and implementation of statewide standards for crowd management and use of force

“There are different rules of use of force, different training [for each law enforcement agency]. That’s a statewide problem. Law enforcement agencies were doing things that [name of metro area] wouldn’t do. ... When these law enforcement agencies come together and everybody’s got their different way of handling stuff...if there's a way to evolve this conversation it involves talking more broadly about the police reforms that need to happen in Minnesota and talking about training requirements, rules, and use of force requirements.”

– *Local government official*



## **Recommendation 8: Improve communication and coordination with local jurisdictions regarding requests for the Minnesota National Guard and other state assistance**

- Provide local jurisdictions with clear processes, guidelines, and support for making requests for Minnesota National Guard assistance
- Proactively offer support to local jurisdictions as a decision-making partner
- Identify opportunities to work with local jurisdictions that facilitate relationship building


**We need to follow the process,  
but we need to improve that process.  
– *State official***



“What is the human piece of [the state’s response]? What is people’s sense of what’s happened to our communities and businesses? There’s a lot of need there, too—for processes and ways of helping people, understanding their collective and individual experiences. My feeling that I’m left with is that if we are going to learn from this, there has to be some tending to our human experience—not just the practical part of how to do protection ‘next time.’”

– *Business owner*





## **Recommendation 14:** Lead efforts to reimagine policing, community safety, and public order policing in Minnesota and engage communities in law enforcement oversight and accountability

- Promote external and independent investigations into misconduct among local law enforcement agencies across the state
- Collect and report comprehensive data on the use of force
- Consult communities when designing and adopting new technologies

“There’s the actual response during the uprising and then there’s the role that the state can take in systems reform. ... This is not just one crisis. This came from problems deeply rooted in our systems. Both at a human level and a systems level, there is a need for reckoning with the history of racism in this state, the history of extracting and disinvesting from neighborhoods and communities. It’s hard to pinpoint what the state could have done in this particular instance that isn’t rooted in these bigger questions. I think the state could play a really powerful role in changing these systems that’s bigger than just this one person on this one day.”

– *Business owner*







# Questions?

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