



REDESIGNING PUBLIC SAFETY IN ST. LOUIS

Community Newsletter



Happy Black History Month! February is a time to acknowledge the rich and remarkable history of Black people in America, despite the oppressive systems they've been forced to navigate on a daily basis. Black History Month is a time to recognize the activism, scholarship, and achievements of those who inspire the work we do today. Our fight for justice, equity, and change builds on a legacy of struggle for Black liberation centuries in the making.

This month, we are excited to launch our new quarterly ***Redesigning Public Safety in St. Louis Community Newsletter***. This newsletter will allow us to keep you informed on our continued partnership and work in the City of St. Louis, share useful resources, and—most importantly—hear directly from you!

Who We Are

The Center for Policing Equity (CPE) is a racial justice non-profit that protects, supports, and empowers communities—particularly Black and Brown communities—to redesign their public safety systems. CPE provides leaders with data, stories, and relationships to facilitate change that's bold, innovative, and lasting. **We do science to promote justice.**

CPE offers, amplifies, and advocates for solutions that center the expertise, priorities, and safety of Black and Brown communities. We work collaboratively with communities to provide strategic partnerships, products, and services that support their advocacy efforts, reduce harm done to their communities, and empower them to redesign their public safety systems.

CPE's Partnership with St. Louis



CPE has been working with community groups, the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD), and city representatives to redesign public safety in St. Louis since 2016. We have analyzed extensive data on policing behaviors, policies and practices in the city, identified opportunities to reduce racial disparities in policing outcomes, and leveraged community feedback into recommendations for building more equitable public safety systems.

During this time, we have valued the leadership of Dr. Dan Isom, Interim Director of Public Safety, and wish him success in his new role. We look forward to working with his successor, Charles Coyle, as we continue our work in St. Louis. This work is outlined in our report: [Reimagining Public Safety in the City of St. Louis: A Vision for Change](#).

Since the release of our report in April 2022, CPE continues to support ongoing public safety redesign efforts by working with community members to guide the implementation of the report's recommendations. Currently, this includes:

- **Implementation** of the City of St. Louis Public Safety Collaborative supported by Data-Informed Community Engagement (DICE).
- **Exploration** of a robust, holistic response to intimate partner violence (IPV) and domestic violence (DV).
- **Facilitation** of a working group to recommend updates to the SLMPD's use of force (UoF) policy.
- **Continuation** of the SLMPD Protocol Review working group focused on creating mental health response policy recommendations.

More information about these initiatives and our work in St. Louis can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Community Engagement

Community is the foundation of CPE's public safety redesign recommendations for the city. Our Community Engagement

(CE) team uplifts community members' voices, lived experience, and wisdom to help redesign public safety in ways that are holistic, just, and equitable.



Last October, CPE participated in the two-day [Elevate Conference](#). At the conference, we facilitated pod sessions to update participants about our work in St. Louis, share quantitative data on racial disparities in SLMPD's policing [as outlined in our report](#), and elevate community sentiment. A link to the presentation can be found [here](#).

Our CE team is looking forward to returning to St. Louis and would love to connect with you! In the meantime, if you are interested in meeting with us virtually, please [fill out this form](#) or email us at STLcommunity@policingequity.org.

Community Spotlight

The St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission (VPC) works to reduce violent crime in the region by promoting and advocating for coordinated, well-resourced policies, support systems, and interventions among area governments, institutions and agencies that serve individuals and families most at risk of violent crime.

Check out the recent coverage of their [Stop, Lock & Drop It \(SLDI\)](#) campaign below. If you are interested in hosting an SLDI Rally for youth in St. Louis, please contact Zenique Gardner Perry at zenique@stlareavpc.org.



VPC is also partnering with Dr. Punch of [The T / Bullet Injury Related Program](#) and [The Black Healers' Collective](#) to offer a community Healing House event at St. Mary's High School on Saturday, March 4, 2023. This is part of a series of events centered around community healing, that was organized in response to the school shooting hoax that occurred at their campus on November 20, 2022. More information about this event can be found below.



Gathering For

OUR HEALING

SATURDAY, MARCH 4TH

ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL
4701 S. GRAND BLVD

1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

WHEN WE HAVE BEEN COLLECTIVELY SHAKEN TO OUR CORE BY VIOLENCE AND TRAUMATIZING EVENTS, WE MUST LEAN INTO COMMUNITY TO START THE HEALING PROCESS. ALL ARE WELCOMED TO JOIN: STUDENTS, FAMILY, STAFF AND NEIGHBORS

BLACK
HEALERS
COLLECTIVE

STLVPC
WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER ST. LOUIS



Community Resources

At CPE, we use science to create levers for social, cultural, and legislative change. Communities across the country look to CPE for evidence-based solutions to public safety redesign that can achieve safer policing outcomes, be readily adopted, and drive meaningful change. Here's some relevant tools, resources, and publications for you to check out:

- [Reimagining Public Safety in the City of St. Louis: A Vision for Change Report](#)
- [St. Louis Redesigns Public Safety Blog Post](#)
- [Redesigning Public Safety: Traffic Safety](#)
- [CPE Data Brief: Putting Policing Data to Work](#)
- [CPE #JusticeNerds GoodReads Group](#)

[Click here](#) for CPE's full resource library and [sign up here](#) to receive CPE's latest announcements, insights, policy briefs, blog posts, and more.

We'd Love to Hear from You

Want to share an announcement, an upcoming event, or other local resources related to public safety redesign in St. Louis? Please [complete this form](#) for potential inclusion in a future newsletter.

In community,

The Center for Policing Equity



Center for Policing Equity

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If you received this newsletter as a forwarded email and would like to join our mailing list, [please sign up here](#).