

Milwaukee Common Council Community Impact Committee
(created 06/08/26 Ashley Harrell; updated 06/10/26 Tammy Rivera)

Assigned Task: Create 2–3 options for the initiative's name and definition that incorporate the full committee discussion — including the "community-led" framing, the biopsychosocial model, the exclusion of police PR/auxiliary work, and placing "non-policing" in the definition rather than the title.

Language pulled from resolution: MKE Community Impact Resolution-Immediate Adoption

- ***Whereas, It is the desire of the Council that the funds allocated to the MKE Community Impact Fund be expended through a resident-led, community budgeting program; now, therefore, be it***
- ***Further Resolved, All proposals shall be for non-police public safety solutions; and, be it***

Public safety: refers to the government's fundamental responsibility to protect citizens, communities, and property from dangers such as crime, natural disasters, and health emergencies

Non-Public safety: These approaches aim to reduce police-citizen escalations and redirect law enforcement to violent crimes, while offering alternative solutions like repair vouchers for broken lights

Proposed Initiative Names

- A. ***Community-led Public Safety***
- B. ***Community-led Public Safety Participatory Budget Initiative***
- C. ***Community-led non-Police Safety Solutions (Brook, Anita,***
- D. ***MKE Community Voices in Action Powered by Participatory Budgeting (Anita,***
- E. ***MKE Community-led Public Safety Solutions (non-police) powered by participatory budgeting (Bill, Tammy***
- F. ***Community-led Public Safety Solutions Powered by Participatory Budgeting (Brook, Amanda, Bill *****

Proposed Language for community communication

- The Community-Led Participatory Funding Initiative empowers residents to identify community priorities, shape funding decisions, and invest in solutions that reflect the strengths and needs of their neighborhoods. By placing decision-making power in the hands of those most impacted, the initiative fosters equity, trust, and shared ownership in creating lasting community change.
- The Community-Led Participatory Funding Initiative is a resident-driven process that ensures community members have a direct voice in how resources are allocated to address local opportunities and challenges. Through collaboration, transparency, and collective decision-making, residents help guide investments that strengthen and uplift their communities.
- The MKE Community-led Public Safety Solutions powered by participatory budgeting is a new initiative **to allocate funding to community non-police public safety projects**. The initiative is driven by city of Milwaukee neighbors, ensuring the voice of the community members who have the most lived experience and are the most impacted. Through

collaboration, transparency, and collective decision-making, **neighbors direct their taxes to fund safety** solutions. **Neighbors** identify and prioritize safety opportunities and challenges that reflect the strengths and needs of their neighborhoods. **Neighbors** share ownership **and provide accountability** in fostering greater equity, trust, strengthening and uplifting their communities, and creating lasting community change. **Non-police** refers to efforts that do not directly or by partnership fund law enforcement-centered or promoting activities. This initiative is a result of the African American Roundtable's six year "Liberate Mke" campaign, which was sponsored by Alderperson Coggs and successfully adopted in 2025.

- Define terms: community-led, holistic public safety, participatory budgeting, non-police
- Harrell add glossary

Plain Language Version (4th Grade Reading Level)

Community-led Public Safety Solutions (Powered by Participatory Budgeting) is a new program to spend money making Milwaukee safer. Public safety means keeping a community safe from harm. We can do this without using the police. The City of Milwaukee needs your ideas and your vote!

Milwaukee neighbors lead this program. You live here and you know your community best. Work with us to choose how your tax money is spent. Every neighborhood has strengths and challenges. What does your community need to be safe?

Think about the big picture. Public safety doesn't just mean responding to crime. We can fix things that make communities unsafe. Public safety means good jobs and stable homes. It means safe places for kids to play. It means seeing the doctor when you need one. And so much more.

This program is community-led. That means people who live here are in charge. This is your chance to decide what safety looks like in Milwaukee. This program uses something called "participatory budgeting." That means that:

- Neighbors name the problems in their neighborhood
- They come up with ideas to fix them
- Everyone votes on their favorite ideas
- The winning ideas get funded

The African-American Roundtable spent six years fighting for this program. They worked with Alderperson Coggs to get money in the hands of Milwaukee neighbors. This money is not for ideas that use police. We want to hear about other ways to keep people safe. No idea is too small or too big. It can be about making just your street safer, or about the whole city!

Plain Language Version (3rd Grade Reading Level)

Community-led Public Safety Solutions (Powered by Participatory Budgeting) is a new program in Milwaukee. It spends money on public safety. That means keeping a community safe from harm. We can keep people safe without using the police. The City of Milwaukee needs your ideas and your vote!

Milwaukee neighbors lead this program. You live here. You know your community best. Help us choose how to spend your tax money. Every neighborhood has strengths and challenges. What does your neighborhood need?

Think big. Public safety is more than stopping crime. Safety means good jobs. It means safe places to live. It means places kids can play. It means seeing a doctor when you need one. And so much more.

This program is community-led. That means people who live here are in charge. You decide what safety looks like. This is called "participatory budgeting."

Here is how it works:

- Tell us the problems in your neighborhood
- Come up with ideas to fix them
- Vote on your favorite ideas
- The best ideas get funded

A group called the African-American Roundtable fought for this program for six years. They worked with a city council member (Milele A. Coggs) to get money in the hands of Milwaukee neighbors. This money is not for ideas that use police. We want to hear about other ways to keep people safe. No idea is too small or too big. Your idea can be about making just your street safer, or about the whole city!

Resources to Support Language

- **MKE initiatives that support public safety**
- [414Life](#)
- Blueprint for Peace
- [Department of Community Wellness and Safety](#)