



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Brooklyn Park partners with Wilder Research to ensure equity in public safety

On Monday, city council voted to hire St. Paul based Wilder Research

Brooklyn Park, (MN) – 12/4/2020 – Mayor Jeffrey Lunde announced today that the City of Brooklyn Park will partner with Wilder Research to evaluate policing, community safety, and violence prevention. The analysis will include reviewing community metrics and outcomes related to systemic inequities and examine law enforcement’s potential impact.

“Brooklyn Park is one of the most culturally rich areas in the Midwest with more than 50% BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) and 1 in 5 of their residents born in other countries,” said Mayor Lunde. “We have always worked to have understanding between officers and our diverse community members. Hiring Wilder Research is a proactive approach to see if there is anything else we can do to continue building trust between our officers and community members.”

Wilder Research will:

- identify areas where police are doing well and areas of improvement, with special focus on policing best practices and race equity issues
- analyze other community metrics and outcomes related to systemic inequities and their impact or connection to public safety, including the impact of law enforcement
- conduct an analysis of root causes of violence in the community and recommend strategies to address them holistically as a community.

At the end of the evaluation, the Brooklyn Park City Council will receive a report that will include data driven recommendations for addressing violence holistically and recommendations for improving policing in the City of Brooklyn Park.

“Wilder Research is honored to be partnering with the City of Brooklyn Park in this important effort to examine and address systemic inequities that impact the safety of its residents, particularly

populations that are underserved, unserved or harmed by existing systems,” said Julie Atella, research scientist at Wilder Research and co-researcher on the study.

After the death of George Floyd the City Council assigned the city’s Human Rights Commission and the police department’s Multicultural Advisory Committee with developing recommendations around police reform. They also reached out to community members for feedback on police reform and racial justice through four community listening sessions. Hiring Wilder Research, which has specific topic area expertise on program and system evaluations of the criminal justice system, is one of the final steps before any formal recommendations are approved by City Council. The evaluation is set to begin this month and be completed in 2021.

About Wilder Research:

Wilder Research, a division of the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation in Saint Paul, Minnesota, is a nationally respected research and evaluation group. Our mission is to improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities through research and evaluation. As a community-focused organization, we work collaboratively with our clients to examine issues and the effectiveness of programs and services, and provide credible information and data that can be used to improve services, plan for the future, allocate funds, revise policies, and increase public awareness about critical issues.

About Brooklyn Park police reform:

Brooklyn Park Police have been recognized nationally as a model for police reform. The department, along with Brooklyn Center Police Department, began a Joint Community Police Partnership in 2005 that has grown to include many other suburban cities. With more immigrants moving to the community, Brooklyn Park Police have worked to address community needs. From there, several policy changes and programs been created to improve community policing, click the link for more details: <https://www.brooklynpark.org/police-2/community-oriented-policing/>