

Department of Justice's Collaborative Reform Initiative Update
by Mark Casey, City Manager

The Department of Justice (DOJ) – Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) continues to work with our police department as a part of their collaborative reform initiative for technical assistance. Most recently, the DOJ has sent subject matter experts in the field of community engagement and data and traffic analysis to evaluate the current community engagement efforts of the department and offer other innovative ways of connecting with the public, including youth and a social media presence. In addition, they are assessing department data and the tools the department has to collect information. The DOJ members have also taken the opportunity to ride on patrol with many officers, and converse with department staff as well as with community members.

In addition to their on-site work, the DOJ participated in a meeting at the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) with the LMC Executive Director and staff, along with the Mayor, Police Chief and I, to discuss how we can share St. Anthony's findings and lessons learned throughout the State of Minnesota. LMC represents 853 cities in Minnesota, most with police departments similar in size to St. Anthony. It is hoped that this process will not only bring positive change to our city, but serve as a best practices model for similarly-sized agencies across the state and country.

The mayor, city council and staff are excited to be part of this multi-year process of identifying issues and enhancing the relationships within the city. One of our fundamental goals is to create systems that are sustainable and able to become embedded within the fabric of our community.

It is critically important that we hear from all of you. If you wish to contact the core assessment team, here are three ways:

SaintAnthonyPD.CRITA@usdoj.gov

1-202-353-4400 (via the COPS Office technical assistance line)

The COPS Office
Attn: CRI-TA St. Anthony Assessment
145 N Street NE
Washington, DC 20530