

included those located along major business corridors affected during the unrest, such as the Lake Street corridor, the West Broadway corridor, the University Avenue corridor in Saint Paul, and the intersection of 38th Street and Chicago Avenue where George Floyd was murdered. Of the local business owners, most (89%) have been operating in the Twin Cities for more than 10 years, and about two-thirds (67%) said that their business experienced significant or severe damage. In our interviews and focus groups with community members and business owners, we prioritized recruiting participants from communities highly affected by the unrest and Black community leaders and business owners.

Numerous community members and business owners framed much of the civil unrest that occurred as a justifiable reaction to the murder of George Floyd and a response to a history of racism and discrimination against Black Minneapolis residents. That said, numerous community members and business owners likewise noted that they do not condone the destruction and violence during the unrest.

*I ask the question: What is the presenting problem? What is the issue that's being presented, with the knowledge that there are always multiple systemic issues that lie behind the presenting problem? George Floyd's execution was the presenting problem. What the state did was only to address that in a very poor way, a very White supremacy way. The community has called for a long time to look at the systemic disparities that are happening with our community. – Community leader*

Many local business owners expressed frustration with the lack of communication about what was happening and lack of assistance from the state and other law enforcement agencies about what they could do to assist in peace-keeping efforts. Several business owners talked about feeling as though they were abandoned during the unrest and that, as of May 2021, they were still waiting for assistance or follow-up from police and elected officials regarding damages their businesses sustained in May and June 2020. Immigrant business owners, in particular, appreciated the strong response from the Minnesota National Guard when they arrived but were unclear about some aspects of the Guard's role in their communities.

*In my case, we were left without any help. We would call the police and they never responded. We were left to fend for ourselves. That's my experience. – Business owner*

*For the most part, the immigrant business owners on Lake Street really, really wanted the National Guard here. They felt vulnerable, physically threatened by what was happening on Lake. They were happy to hear the National Guard was coming. The National Guard was deployed to Lake and Minnehaha, but then they retreated. ... I don't know why they were pulled. I heard from residents and business owners who were upset that they were leaving. – Local government official*

On the other hand, several community members saw the paramilitary presence from State Law Enforcement and the Minnesota Guard as making a bad situation worse for them and their communities. Many community members and some business owners described State Law Enforcement and the Minnesota Guard as antagonistic and unhelpful when they were present. Some community members,