

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- 1. State Law Enforcement used tactics that were often perceived as escalating.** The majority of community members and business owners who participated in this review said that a weakness of the state's response was their prevalent use of what was often perceived as escalating tactics during the unrest. As noted above, the State Law Enforcement's actions on the ground during the unrest were largely viewed as antagonistic, unhelpful, and counterproductive to bringing about calm and community safety.

It's pretty easy just to go over to someone spray painting a building and say, "Hey, please don't do that." Most people are just embarrassed to be caught and will stop. I saw someone trying to kick in the window of the post office and just yelled, "Hey, we don't mess with the post office! People need to go there to pay their bills and get their checks!" They looked up and saw me and ran away. It became increasingly hard to do any of that kind of intervention because there was just so much tear gas, grenades [distraction devices], and [less lethal munitions]. – Business owner

- 2. Community members felt abandoned by law enforcement agencies; some perceived racism and discrimination in these gaps in law enforcement presence.** Many community members and business owners talked about the state's lack of attention or assistance, at times saying that they felt abandoned because the state and other law enforcement agencies decided to focus their efforts on other areas of the Twin Cities. Some respondents noted this as racism in the state's response, explaining their perception that State Law Enforcement prioritized the safety of areas with more White residents and more White-owned businesses.

I couldn't check on my business because my wife was 8 ½ months pregnant. I was worried it would trigger her ending up in the ER. It felt like we were less important than Target. We should have been protected. – Business owner

There was huge inequity [in the state's response]. Frankly, there was just actual racism in that response. They wanted to protect property downtown. They wanted to protect the big properties like Target and the like—which they failed at—but they weren't concerned about what was going on in the Northside. ... Our own community had to step up. ... That's what our community had to do because the state had no response for us. They didn't have resources to help us. And so even in their focus on property, there was the usual division and racism there. "Property" meant White property and White property owners. It also skewed heavily toward large institutional property owners. The mom and pop stores, the barber shops, they weren't getting any love from the state. – Community leader

- 3. Communication and engagement was lacking between law enforcement and community members and business owners.** In addition to feeling abandoned by the lack of law enforcement presence in their neighborhoods, many community members and business owners talked about the lack of communication and engagement from government, in general, regarding questions they had or the kind of support they wanted. Many business owners in particular mentioned wanting more