



# 2023 Listening Tour with Mayor Yemi & City Council

## Public Safety Feedback

### District 1

- Homelessness is on the rise, need CSPD and other services to help/enforce laws.\*\*\*\*
- Mental health issues need to be better addressed, including veterans' services.\*\*
- Citizens need to be able to provide more feedback / commentary on solutions for homelessness.
- CSPD needs more officers, better training.\*\*\*\*
- CSPD needs better pay (boost retention).\*
- CSPD provided 'respectful and positive response during Club Q shooting' incident.\*\*\*
- Need for more equitable access to CSPD support, services.
- CSPD needs to collaborate more with the public, neighborhoods, and non-profits.
- Neighborhoods need better fire mitigation / evacuation procedures / egress options.\*\*
- DARE (drug use prevention) is outdated; different, modern approaches are needed.
- 'Scare tactics' for drug use prevention don't work.
- Scared to use public trails in some areas of town.
- Homeless Outreach Program and Homeless Outreach Team teams are too small.\*
- Police need to focus more on de-escalation, not use of force.\*\*
- 'What will a new training center solve if we still have low police salaries, retention rates?'
- Need an independent 'citizens police advisory committee' to ensure police are accountable and assure community that they are being heard.\*\*
- CSPD does not respond or follow up on non-emergency calls.
- City needs a safe gun storage awareness campaign.
- 'Build another tiny home community for homeless individuals'.
- Enforce late night noise ordinance at Weidner Field.
- Need more code enforcement on 'absentee' landlords.

### District 2

- CSPD is understaffed and has unacceptably long wait times.\*\*\*\*\*
- Neighborhoods need better wildfire mitigation support / strategies.
- Citywide homelessness is a major problem.\*\*\*
- Homelessness should not just be a police issue – need mental health, drug treatment, drug testing to prevent accidental death.\*\*
- Need hospitals and other centers to house / care for mental health patients – not jail.
- Need more mental health resources.

- Property crimes (theft, vandalism) on the rise.
- Need 'park ranger system' for patrolling parks and trails.\*
- Parks / trail parking lots need more lighting for safety.\*\*
- Allowing tall wooden fences is major fire hazard.

### District 3

- Existing homeless shelters are not safe; users are 'scared into silence.'
- City needs a 'grievance procedure' for feedback/complaints about homelessness.
- Homeless outreach program run by the Fire Department is doing good work.
- 911 wait times are unacceptable.\*\*\*
- Homeless camps get cleaned up, but then quickly show up again at same sites.\*\*
- Off-leash dogs are dangerous to pedestrians, there have been dog attacks from off-leash dogs on school grounds.\*\*
- Citadel Mall is unsafe.
- Need mental health focused response team to deal with homelessness issues.\*
- Expand police academy.\*\*
- Need more police presence along 'nightlife' blocks of Tejon.
- Homeless camping in Monument Park and parks in Old Colorado City leading to people not using parks.\*
- 'Noise pollution' from non-compliant cars, motorcycles a major nuisance.
- Like the idea of tiny home villages to help with homelessness.
- Some homeless don't want to use existing shelters because of relationship w/ partner, having a pet, etc., which shelter rules don't allow.
- Petty crime (vandalism, graffiti) downtown Colorado Springs is a problem for businesses.
- Police should be required to keep 'running lights on' in their vehicles at night.
- Need mental health hospitals / institutions back.
- Police should feel empowered but must be held accountable – racism / trauma from police killings in the community is real and doesn't just go away.\*\*
- Strategically locate a Westside Homeless Outreach Center to create a resource center that would offer a warm space in the winter, on-staff nurse, mental health services, food distribution orgs. like Food to Power.

### District 4

- Police don't respond to car accidents or any other complaints.\*
- Need to 'deal with homelessness, not just push them from one place to another'.
- Fix existing problems with CSPD before bringing in new officers.
- Need more police to reduce response times.
- Gun violence is a problem in District 4.\*\*
- Need program for CSPD to connect with D4 community in different languages.
- Need more diversity in CSPD.
- CSPD policing 'not doing well' in SE; '16 year disparity in life expectancy in D4'.\*\*

- Police abuse – especially toward ‘teens of color in D4’.\*
- Police officers should have mandatory mental health / fitness evaluations.
- Don’t need more police, need better training and retention.
- Don’t need more police; ‘police just not focused on the right things’.\*\*\*\*
- Need community ‘peace officers without a gun like in Europe’.
- Need short-term mental health housing for people experiencing homelessness.
- No new police training academy.\*\*
- Need a commission for police accountability and transparency.
- Need more to be done for wildfire mitigation / climate change / extreme weather as a safety issue.
- Need more intentional recruiting for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) police officers in D4.
- Police should have a ride-along program for high schools and encourage its use.
- Need to ‘humanize police’ more.

## District 5

- What is being done to address homelessness and drugs / root causes of homelessness?\*\*\*\*\*
- Developers should be forced to fund homes / housing for homeless.
- Enforce existing laws regarding panhandling, camping, sleeping, and graffiti.\*\*\*\*\*
- Improve CSPD response times.\*\*\*\*\*
- Is there a community policing program?
- Need more cameras at intersections.\*\*\*
- Address causes of low staff retention at CSPD.\*\*
- Scooters seem dangerous.
- Knob Hill neighborhood is ‘no man’s land’; like ‘wild west.’
- City needs more street cleaning services.\*\*\*
- No enforcement of street racing.\*\*\*\*
- Inconsistent police presence in some neighborhoods.\*\*
- Palmer Heights neighborhood only sees police if a crime has been committed.
- Concerns about marijuana.
- Safety concerns on Rock Island Trail.
- Improve police training and psychological support, need training on anti-bias.\*\*\*\*\*
- Fire Department doing well.
- CSPD has been ‘disrespectful’ when dealing with situations in D4.
- Support higher salaries for CSPD. \*\*
- CSPD needs to recruit people ‘at a higher standard’ – especially with regard to mental health.
- Need more police presence on Pikes Peak Greenway, Monument Valley Park – homeless problem making these areas dangerous.
- Homeless camps are a fire hazard.
- Need more dedicated facilities for mental health.
- FireWise Neighborhood Plan is good.
- Need facility for those ‘released abusively from hospital.’

- Diversion services needed for those coming out of prison.
- Need supervised drug use site to prevent overdose and prevent usage in public.
- City needs to enforce loud mufflers for noise.
- Afraid to go to the Citadel Mall.
- No control of guns – dangerous for public and for police.

## District 6

- Police are too short-staffed\*\*\*\*\*
- Police and 911 response times are unacceptable\*\*\*\*\*
- Community has had too many deadly shootings, active shooters, and close calls at businesses and schools\*\*\*
- Public uncertain what defines an ‘emergency’ that will result in faster response times\*\*
- Police department underfunded, perhaps some bad actors included in ranks\*
- Public unclear if police can be called to deal with individuals experiencing homelessness\*\*
- Major camping issue in D6 near Walmart
- Prevent panhandling in traffic / medians\*\*
- Public wants existing laws (anti-camping, anti-panhandling, etc.) to be enforced\*\*
- Fentanyl becoming a major issue, particularly in communities experiencing homelessness\*\*\*
- How are kids being protected from fentanyl presence in drugs?
- State-level criminal justice reform needed.
- Significant danger from street racing and bike gangs on Powers\*
- CSPD job application is discriminatory to single-parent families and minorities.
- Mental health awareness / services should be better served by CSPD\*
- Need safe spaces for LGBT population.

## Virtual (Citywide)

- Good to see resources being spent on transitional housing near Las Vegas and Nevada Ave., specifically for women and women with children who are facing homelessness.
- City still needs more shelters for women and children.
- Support funding for the new police academy; work on messaging to convince voters.
- City needs to work on cleaning parks and waterways downtown from homelessness / camping, especially parks where children play.
- Can the City have a program for homeless individuals to make money by helping to clean public parks and open spaces?
- City needs a daytime homeless shelter, not just overnight shelters.
- Need more mental health and social support services, not more police or policing.
- Police and 911 response times are not good but “quantity does not equal quality”.\*\*\*
- Domestic violence is on the rise, lack of resources for victims.
- Get rid of American Medical Response and have Colorado Springs Fire Department take over.
- Illegal camping is a major problem ‘by Arteris & 8<sup>th</sup> Street Apartments’.
- Should have mental health specialists / therapists go on calls with police officers.
- Too many roadways being used for street racing.

- Expand the Homeless Outreach Team.
- Use social workers for non-emergency situations like Denver.
- Prioritize retention of police officers.