

FlashVote helps you make a difference in your community

Survey Results: Public Safety

 Survey Info - This survey was sent on behalf of City of Grand Rapids to the FlashVote community for Grand Rapids, MI.

These FlashVote results are shared with local officials

131

Total Participants

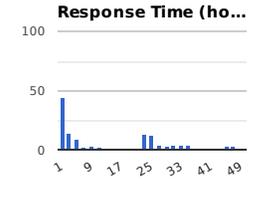
123 of 335 initially invited (37%)
8 others

Margin of error: ± 9%

Applied Filter:
Locals only

Participants for filter:
95

Response Time (ho...



Started:
Sep 21, 2020 11:39am EDT

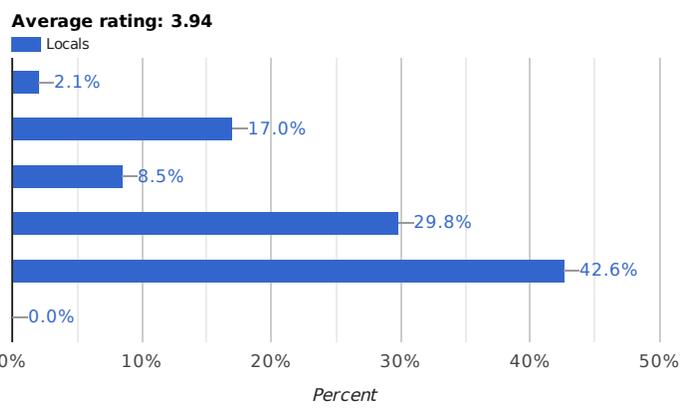
Ended:
Sep 23, 2020 11:38am EDT

Target Participants:
All Grand Rapids

Q1 Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel living in your neighborhood:

(94 responses by locals)

Options	Locals (94)
Very Unsafe (1)	2.1% (2)
Somewhat Unsafe (2)	17.0% (16)
Neutral (3)	8.5% (8)
Somewhat Safe (4)	29.8% (28)
Very Safe (5)	42.6% (40)
Not Sure	0.0% (0)

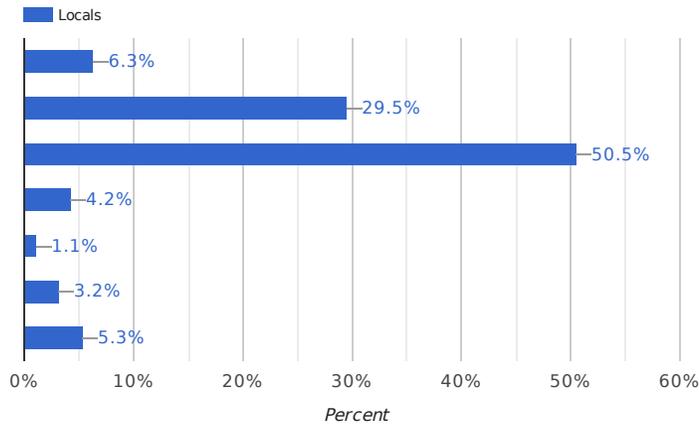


Q2 Which best describes the police presence in your neighborhood?

(95 responses by locals)

Options	Locals (95)
I'd like a lot more police presence	6.3% (6)
I'd like a little more police presence	29.5% (28)
It's about right	50.5% (48)
I'd like a little less police presence	4.2% (4)

Options	Locals (95)
I'd like a lot less police presence	1.1% (1)
Not Sure	3.2% (3)
Other:	5.3% (5)



presence feel
 police
 safe see never

I'd feel more comfortable with police presence if I had more confidence in their training.

I live in a very safe neighborhood with minimal problems on the West side.

Police do not prevent crime, so their presence does not increase feelings of safety

Only see police when needed in my community

I'd like mental health professionals and social workers to work closely with neighbors on issues

Q3 Which best describes your personal interactions with Grand Rapids Police Officers in the last 12 months?

(95 responses by locals)

Options	Locals (95)
I haven't had any personal interactions	57.9% (55)
I've interacted and been treated fairly	36.8% (35)
I've interacted and been treated unfairly	4.2% (4)
Not Sure	1.1% (1)
Other:	0.0% (0)

We need to listen to each other and work together to improve public safety and build community trust in the Grand Rapids Police Department.

Thanks for the Grand Rapids Police Department excellent personnel and management.

End qualified immunity for our officers and work on a transition plan to remove some of the things officers have to respond to and put them into the hands of other community professionals.

With the recent uptick in gun crimes I think it would be a big mistake to downsize the police department. Clean things up where necessary.

Living down town I think a department other than police needs routine interaction with the homeless community which seems to have grown considerably in the last 3 years.

The department should publicly announce that they're going to try to weed out the "bad cops" and actually do it, if there are any in an effort to ease social unrest.

The police need to connect with neighborhood leaders and open storefront presence all on a positive basis to marginalize the disorderly v

If we had regular officers that spent time in the neighborhoods instead of in their vehicles might promote a more local small town feel. Instead of an interference.

I would like a survey done by neighborhood asking these questions and I would like to see the results by neighborhood

More police officers doing community policing and getting out and knowing the people in the neighborhoods. Not just coming to the neighborhoods when something goes wrong.

More actual police officers are needed in order to respond to call for service and be proactive to eliminate current issues. GRPD has for years and continues to operate well under the national average for number of officers per capita and this needs to change. Additionally specific training for officers needs to change to include more in the social non criminal areas ie mental illness, personal behaviors, domestic mediation, conflict resolution etc. In order for this to happen money is needed. You can't expect the police to be better with less training, less money or limited resources. GRPD should be judged on GRPD history and actions on what is best for Grand Rapids not on a broad generalized theory based on a national platform elsewhere by a small squeaky wheel.

My experience was with a GRPD Detective regarding an apartment property theft with several tenants involved. No one ever came to the property. Inconsistent communication between property mgt., police and residents. Feel GRPD would have, could have served the community better by being present or holding a community meeting re: filing independent complaints, safety and security, chance of having property returned, plan for increased presence, etc. This is a difference I encourage GRPD to consider. Please show up. Thanks.

I think that the police department is asked to do too much, and should be more narrowly focused, and funding allocated to other groups who can handle those issues with better outcomes. I also believe that police culture is toxic and often racist; our society's whole approach to recruiting, training, and on-the-job culture and behavior w/in law enforcement needs to be addressed and rectified for greater societal equity.

The significant increase in gun violence in the 49507 zip code is due to systemic injustices. Having more police is a response to the violence but is not preventative. More programming to meet needs must be developed

I would encourage the city commission to provide more resources to the Police department. I am disappointed in Commissioner Reppart, Jones, and Ysasi with how unsupported they've been of the PD. I am also sickened how thr Third Ward business owners have been treated by the City Commission. They City Commission has ignored Ward 3 problems, especially the panhandling.

The Police Chief's wife should not engage in social media conspiracy theories as she has often done in the past few months. She is fear mongering her neighbors and creating a sense of mistrust within the city with these actions.

We need an agile and quick-responding graffiti response team or dedicated person or communicate to the public that it is ok to cover graffiti . Not 311 and then they get to it whenever/if ever. That Ostero has not been caught after THOUSANDS OF TAGGINGS is insane.

More preventative actions. I continue to see dealership after dealership being robbed, could some officers talk to the other dealerships on how to better safeguard themselves against theft? At this point, we have so many stolen cars on the road contributing to the recent drive by gun fights/shootings I'm not sure what to do. How are these cars not found soon after thefts? I realize there are bigger issues, but when there's no follow-up to package thefts, car break-ins, why wouldn't people continue to partake in minor crimes that likely escalate to larger ones? On the preventative note, FOLLOW UP ON PERSONAL PROTECTION ORDER VIOLATIONS. If these were enforced in any way, it may prevent a few murders. This is a problem nation wide. I personally filed a PPO, the man assaulted me later so it was escalated to a No Contact Order, and the police in GRPD station made fun of me for reporting the violation and doubted me at every step. Ridiculous, and lucky I didn't end up another statistic.

They are great, always very helpful

Redirect funding from the war on drugs to better training for officers - how to subdue people without using a gun, hand-to-hand combat/martial arts training, etc.

without any knowledge of recruiting practices of the GR Police department, but higher pay and educational requirements would help in acquiring the right hires.

I'm not if the answer is reallocating resources. I think the larger problem is the police union. Police should be appropriately reprimanded when they violate citizens' rights. The union protects bad police officers.

The thought of defunding our Police would make me move away from Grand Rapids. Petty crime and gun violence seem to be increasing which is part of a Growing City Keep us safe

Resources mean more than just money/funding—Education and training for interactions and race relations.

Neighbor dispute and harassment resolution services needed such as intervention services, counseling and penalties for non-compliance or continued harassment and misbehavior.

Please collaborate with network180 and other agencies to bring in mental health and substance use professionals, and teach your officers about de-escalation, motivational interviewing and the crisis cycle. I promise it will help. I am a social worker who works with the same populations you do.

They are doing the best they can. Bad apples always exist and they're needs to be a better way to hold them accountable, but overall I will always back the blue.

I'd like to see more 'foot patrols.' I live downtown & never see officers outside of their cars unless it's for an event.

Social workers should be an integral part of police intervention. As a social worker myself i have been able to de escalate situations that would have otherwise ended up with unfortunate outcomes.

I feel safe and have a good relationship because I'm white. I don't think my black friends would say the same. I would love to see police getting to know neighborhoods on foot with no agenda except relationship building.

1. Reallocating some police resources to mental health professionals, peer advocates, and others is recommended. 2. The high percentage of police officers who do not live in the city is cause for alarm and distrust. 3. Hire more minority persons in the police force.

20 years ago, GRPD officers seemed to have The Attitude - verbal judo and all that. In the last ten years or so, the personal or work-related interactions I've had have been unfailingly kind, respectful, and professional. I've often commented to others about that.

We had homeless people living under an underpass near our place where people walk to grocery store and restaurants. It took several calls before they were removed and barricade put up so homeless couldn't sleep in the over pass ledge. We also have random motorcycles ride through the parking structure Attached/next to our building -Riverhouse- and when calling to complain took it was out of their jurisdiction.

As for the previous question, I couldn't select any of the options confidently. Another option would be this: perhaps police resources could be allocated better to confront the growing violence problem in SE GR.

I am Caucasian, born in the USA. My personal experiences have all been pretty good, even when I've received a speeding ticket. However, I was saddened when a refugee friend from Congo called me, terribly upset, and told me that her daughter (late teens) had been hit by a car while walking (causing a concussion that was treated at the hospital ER), and the driver didn't stop. My refugee friend reported that she called the police, but she was treated rudely and nobody was willing to come to the scene. She thought it was because she is black and doesn't speak English very well. I was disappointed to hear this about the GR Police Department. Even if there was another reason why nobody was willing to go and talk to this mother and daughter, it left the impression that the police don't care much about black people.

If GR defunds the police I will move out of the City

Suggest more PSA-style updates on dept focus - initiatives - in specific communities & internal development

Work with mental health professionals to help ensure better outcomes when police are called

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