



**INTERFAITH**  
**ACTION** OF GREATER  
SAINT PAUL



**Sisters of St. Joseph**  
**of Carondelet & Consociates**  
St. Paul Province

 **RAMSEY COUNTY**

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# **Housing Stability Community Engagement Virtual Town Hall**

## **Potential Family Shelter at the Provincial House**

**December 21, 2020**

## Welcome and Introductions



**Mee Cheng**  
Racial and Health Equity  
Administrator



**Ken Pelto**  
Program Specialist and  
Racial Equity and Community  
Engagement Member

## Courtesy Notice

- This town hall is being recorded.
- We are recording for documentation and language / translation purposes.
- We cannot get into specifics about client cases or discuss private and confidential information about residents we serve on this town hall.

## Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Opening Remarks
3. Background on the Housing Crisis
4. Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul
5. Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
6. Community Conversation
7. Closing

## Ground Rules and Group Agreements

- Be open-minded.
- Listen actively and respectfully when others are speaking.
- Speak from your own experience instead, use "I" instead of "they," "we," and "you".
- Respectfully ask challenging questions and refrain from personal attacks.
- Be engaged and provide feedback.
- The goal is not to always agree – it is to gain a deeper understanding.
- Be aware of your facial expressions – they can be perceived as disrespectful as words.
- Do not dominate the discussion, allow others to be heard.
- “Step up and step back”.

## Opening Remarks



**Chris Tolbert**  
City of Saint Paul  
Councilmember  
for Ward 3



**Toni Carter**  
Ramsey County  
Board Chair and  
Commissioner for  
District 4



**Rafael Ortega**  
Ramsey County  
Board of  
Commissioner for  
District 5



**Randi Ilyse Roth**  
Interfaith Action of  
Greater St. Paul  
Executive  
Director



**Sister Cathy  
Steffens, CSJ**  
Sisters of  
St. Joseph of  
Carondelet  
Province  
Leadership Team

## Subject Matter Experts



**Tenecia Trice**  
Ramsey County  
Supervisor of  
Homeless  
Services



**Sara Liegl**  
Interfaith Action of  
Greater St. Paul  
Project Home  
Program Director



**John  
Viktora-Croke**  
Sisters of St.  
Joseph of  
Carondelet,  
Director of  
Facilities



**Max Holdhusen**  
Ramsey County  
Interim Manager  
of Housing  
Stability



**Ricardo  
Cervantes**  
City of Saint Paul  
Department of  
Safety and  
Inspections  
Director

# Background on the Housing Crisis

## Background on the Housing Crisis

### **St. Paul is in a housing crisis, city council says.**

Here's what it's doing about it.

*Pioneer Press - July 19, 2018*

<https://www.twincities.com/2018/07/19/st-paul-city-council-affordable-housing-plan>

### **No St. Paul apartments available for families earning \$30,000 or less, report finds**

Pioneer Press - August 1, 2019

<https://www.twincities.com/2019/08/01/no-st-paul-apartments-available-for-families-earning-30000-or-less-report-finds/>

CITY OF SAINT PAUL & RAMSEY COUNTY  
COORDINATED RESPONSE TO HOUSING CRISIS EXACERBATED BY COVID-19



## COVID-19 Impact on Families

- Lack of available units
  - Eviction Moratorium
- Decrease in household income
  - Lay offs
  - Reduction in unemployment benefits
- Distanced learning
  - Lack of childcare for school aged children
  - Providing academic support

## Existing Family Shelter Beds and Referral Process

Recent Trends	Requesting Shelter	Total Existing Beds
2019	660	185
2020	484	247

- Only able to serve a fraction of the families in need of shelter
- No immediate shelter for most families
- Families are served by the Ramsey County shelter team
- Referred to shelter as beds become available

## Existing and Expanded Family Shelter Beds

Shelter	Pre-COVID Shelter Capacity	COVID-19 Capacity
Family Service Center	65	65
Hotel Shelter	80	80
Project Home	40	80
Voice of East African Women	0	22



**1. CONTACT**  
 Unsheltered family calls United Way at (651) 291-0211 or the Homeless Services Unit at (651) 266-7818.

**2. SCREENING**  
 Referral staff screens family for eligibility over the phone and notifies family if eligible to be added on the waitlist.



**Hotel Program**  
 Available for families living in inhumane environments while on the waitlist.

**3. WAITLIST**  
 Family is added to the family shelter waitlist and ensures the family is staying in a livable environment.



**4. FAMILY SHELTER**  
 Available space at a family shelter, and shelter staff reach out to the Homeless Services Unit for a referral.



**Family Shelter Center**  
 Maplewood, MN 55109

**Project Home**  
 Saint Paul, MN 55105

**Voice of East African Women**  
 Saint Paul, MN 55104

**5. HOUSING SUPPORT**  
 Referral to Coordinated Entry, Rapid Rehousing, Housing Support and other housing options.



# Family Shelter Referral Process

## **Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul**

**“Opportunity grows and poverty recedes when people of faith invest themselves in effective action to support our neighbors’ stability and economic mobility.”**

## Project Home Video



## Project Home Families and Operations

- 71 families served this past year – 130 children and 88 adults
- 87% of children aged 12 and younger
- No drop-ins or walk-ups – families referred directly to Project Home from the Ramsey County shelter team
- Formal intake process with a background check
- Staffed 24/7/365 with a minimum two trained staff on-site at all times

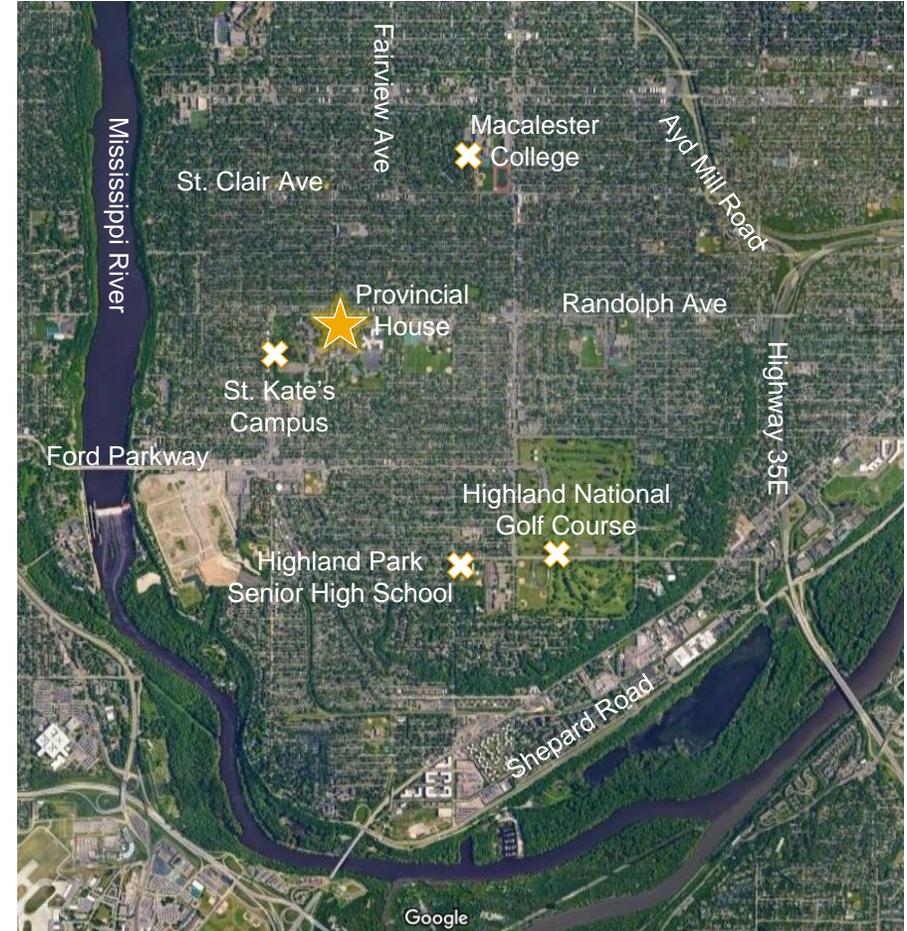
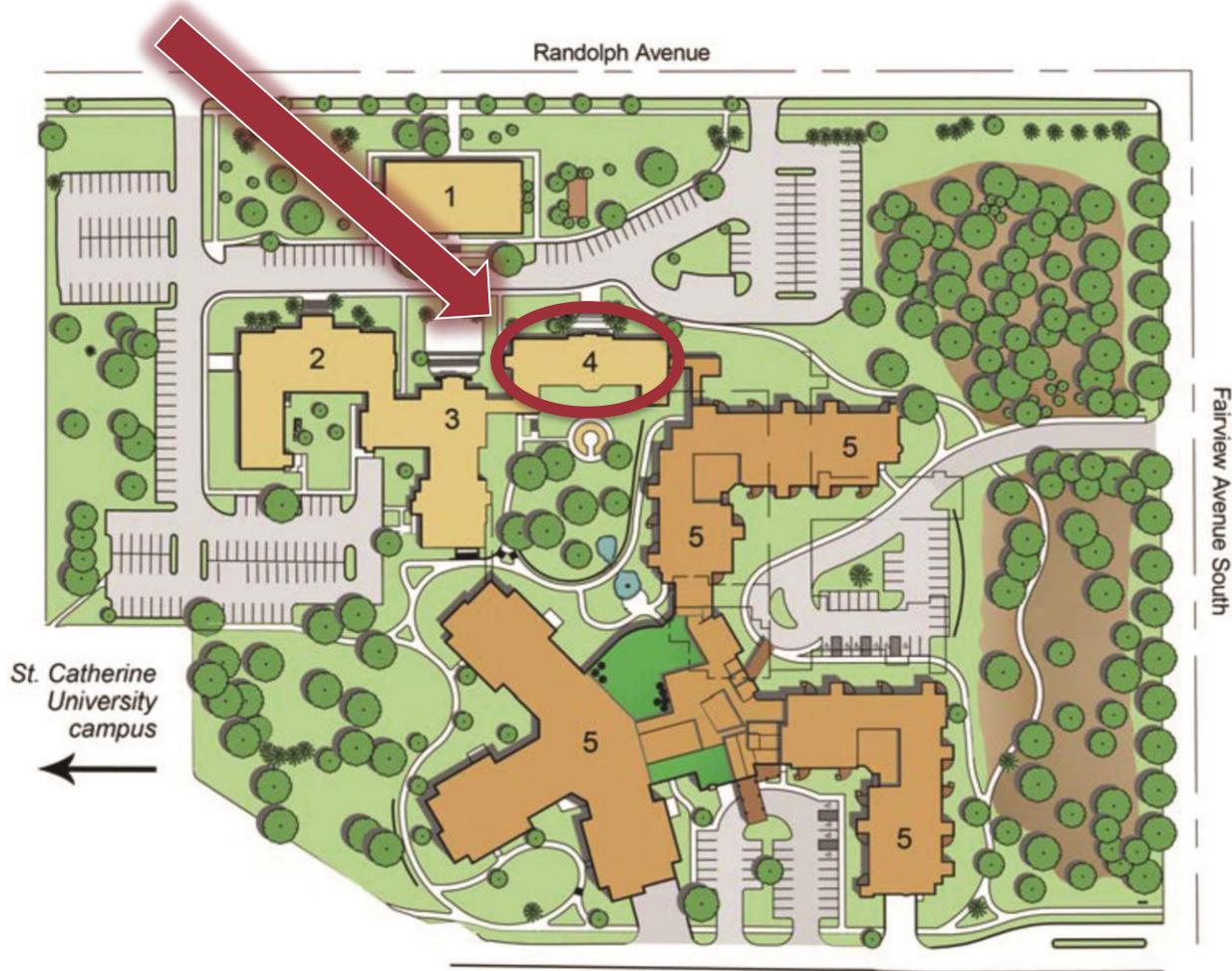
## Project Home at the Provincial House

- Approximately 20 families for an average 43-day stay
- No drugs, alcohol or smoking allowed
- Curfew / quiet hours from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- Designated outdoor play space for children
- Parking needs accommodated in on-site lot
- Volunteer opportunities for neighbors post-COVID

## **The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJ)**

Mission: Moving always toward the profound love of God and love of neighbor without distinction.

# The Provincial House

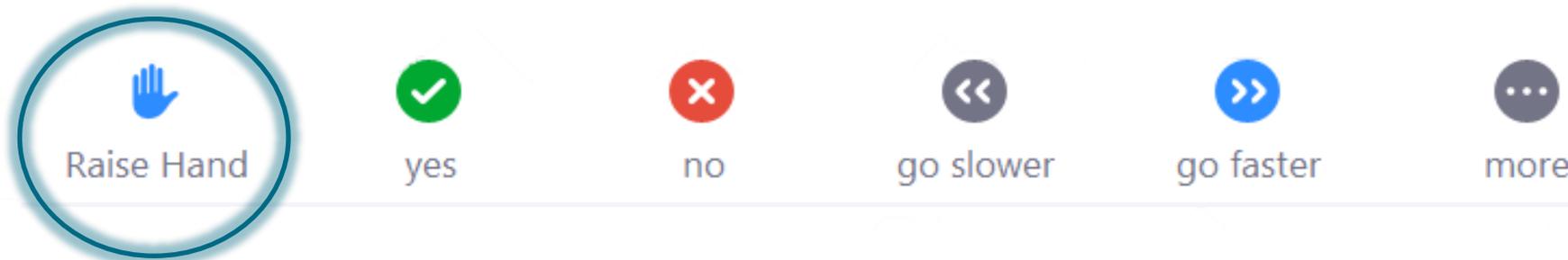


# Community Conversation

## *Project Home at the Provincial House*

## Conversation Structure and Ground Rules

- Structure
  - Mute when you are not speaking
  - Head nods or thumbs up when you agree
  - Utilize chat box for questions
  - “Raise” your hand to share
- Ground Rules
  - Be respectful
  - Be open-minded
  - Listen actively and respectfully when others are speaking
  - “Step up and step back”



# Stay Updated and Engaged

Next Virtual Town Hall:

Tuesday, January 5, 2020

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/96222033055>

# Housing Stability Webpage

COVID-19 Info  
County Services & Initiatives

- > Coronavirus Impacts on County Services
- > Form Drop-off Sites

Investment & Support Efforts (CARES Funding)

[Emergency Assistance](#)

[Home Meal Delivery](#)

Help for Those Experiencing

## Housing Stability in Ramsey County

Since 2019, a county and city staff workgroup has met regularly to develop and act on solutions that address a serious challenge many communities across the country are facing, including Ramsey County: unsheltered homelessness. The current COVID-19 pandemic and its subsequent economic downturn have only further exacerbated the present housing crisis.

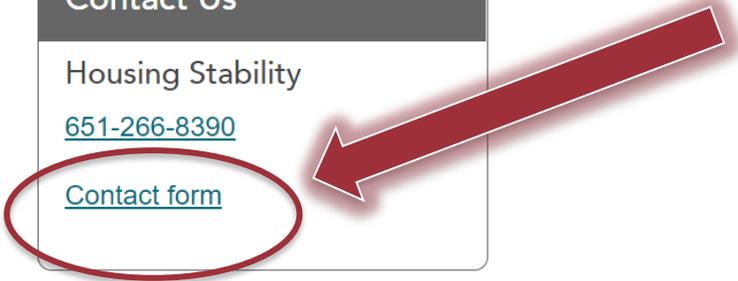
The pandemic has posed unique challenges for our shelter spaces, removing some existing capacity to apply safe social distancing guidelines and increasing the number of people experiencing homelessness in our community. There are currently more than 300 people sleeping outdoors across Ramsey County on any given night. Because of this, Ramsey County, the City of Saint Paul and other partners have been working quickly since this

### Contact Us

Housing Stability

[651-266-8390](tel:651-266-8390)

[Contact form](#)



## Contact Information

### City of Saint Paul

Chris Tolbert, Councilmember

[chris.tolbert@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:chris.tolbert@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

(651) 266-8630

### Ramsey County

[Housing Stability Webpage](#)

[Online Contact Form](#)

(651) 266-8390

### Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul

Sara Liegl, Program Director

[sliegl@interfaithaction.org](mailto:sliegl@interfaithaction.org)

(651) 983-6086

### Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

John Viktora-Croke

[jvcroke@csjstpaul.org](mailto:jvcroke@csjstpaul.org)

(651) 696-2563



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SAINT PAUL



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**of Carondelet & Consociates**  
St. Paul Province

 **RAMSEY COUNTY**

*A county of excellence working with you to enhance our quality of life.*

**Thank You!**