2021 Richmond Public Safety Project

Hunter Wasser

Presentation Overview

1. Refresher of project goals
2. Review of RPD activity data
3. Walkthrough of survey responses
4. Summary

Project Goals

Four Points of Research

- Investigate the actual role of RPD
  - Activity data from 2013–2019
- Gauge Richmond community's awareness about RPD's activity
  - Survey responses compared to activity data
- Ask Richmond community what role they *want* RPD to play
  - Survey responses
- Understand what changes the Richmond community would like to see
  - Survey responses

RPD Activity Data

About the Data

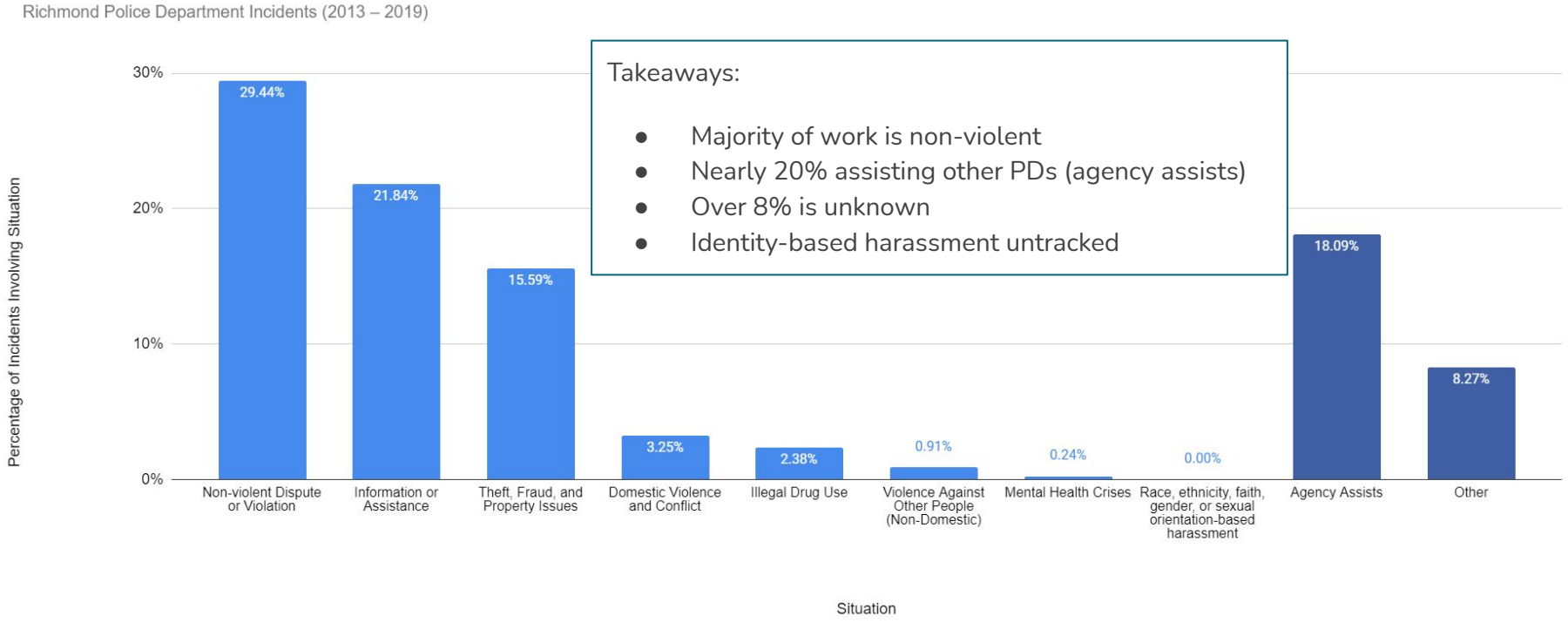
- Data comes from police reports dated 2013–2019
- Reports track law “incidents;” times when police responded to a situation
- Split into Incidents and Traffic Stops
  - Analyzed separately
- Included write-ups
  - Potential selection bias
- Missing data
  - 149 two-week periods, 114 reports

51.28%

Amount of RPD incidents in two largest categories:

- Non-Violent Dispute or Violation
- Information or Assistance

Incident Activity Data



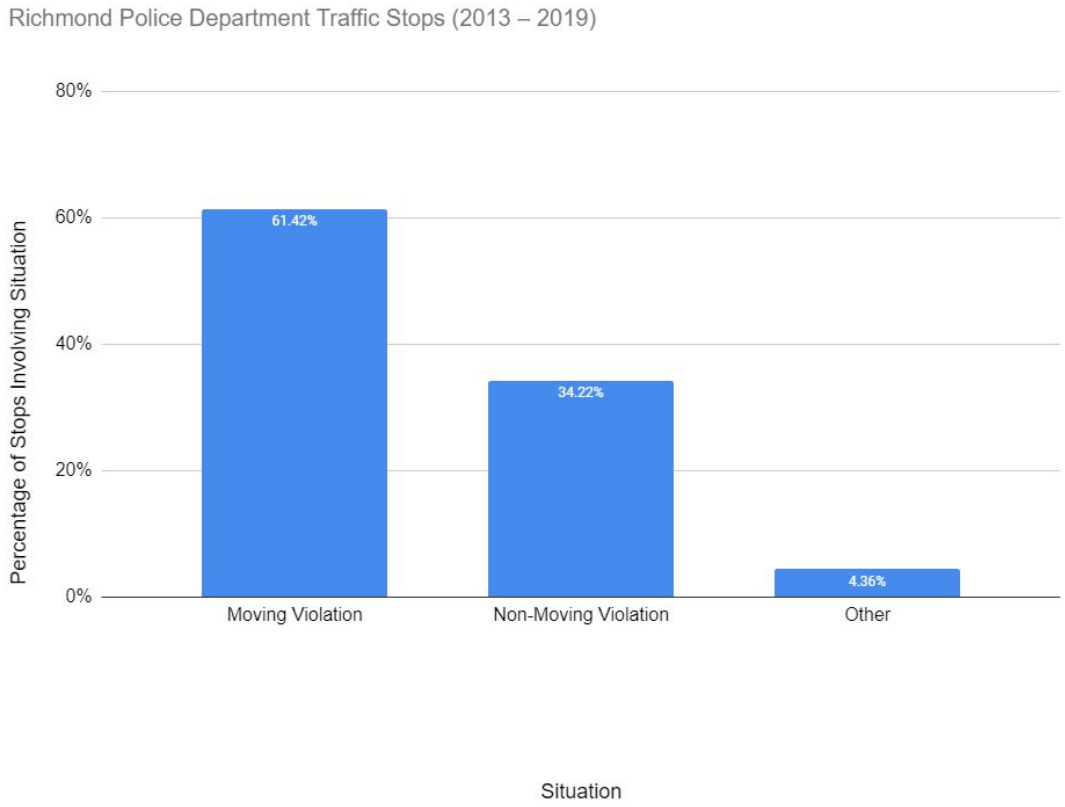
Takeaways:

- Majority of work is non-violent
- Nearly 20% assisting other PDs (agency assists)
- Over 8% is unknown
- Identity-based harassment untracked

Traffic Stop Activity Data

Takeaways:

- Most stops are for moving violations
- **76.48%** of moving violations are for speeding
  - 46.98% of all stops

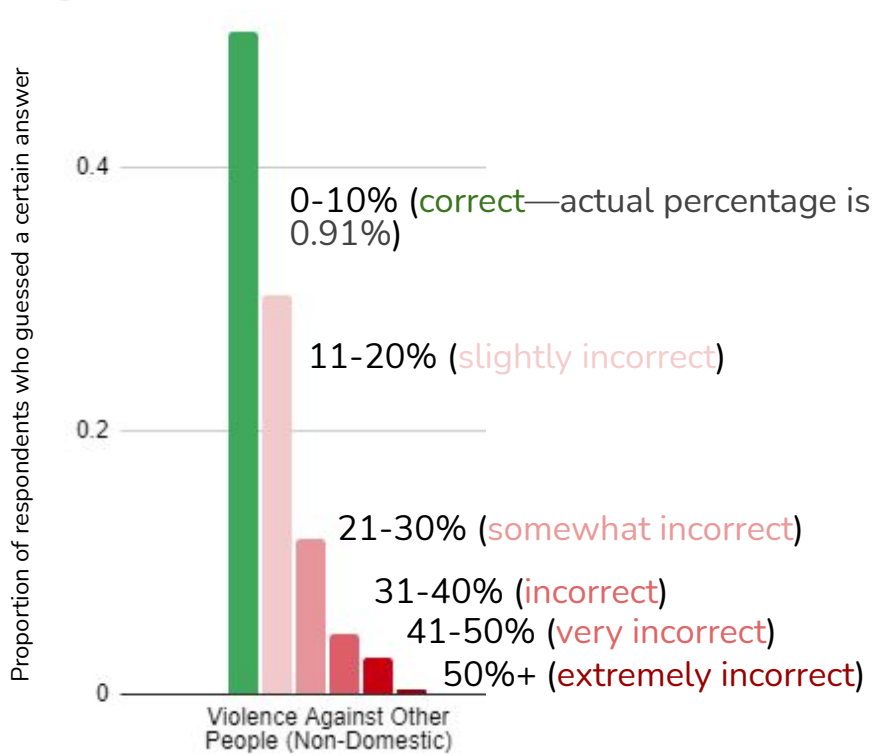


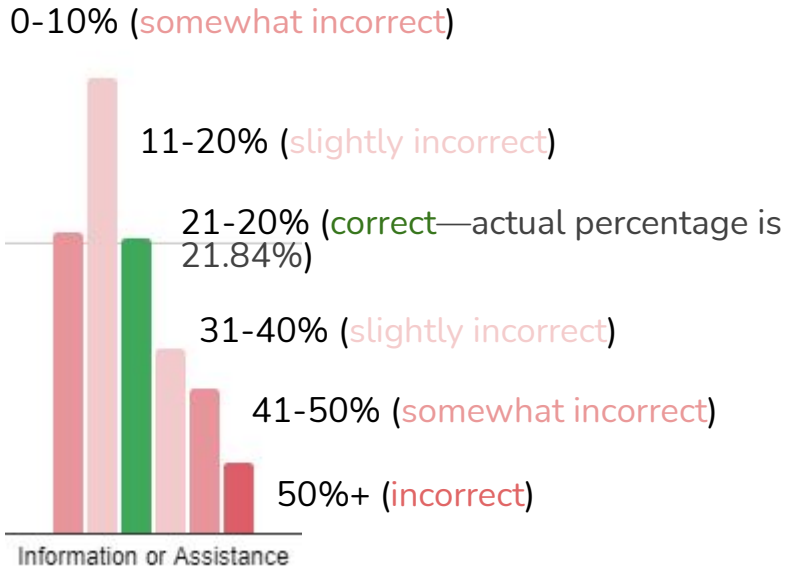
Survey

About the Survey

- Responses collected over July and August, 2021
- Sampling method: convenience
- 564 responses, 290 usable
    - Partial responses, responses from non-stakeholders
- Investigates community awareness, priorities, and visions

How to Interpret the chart



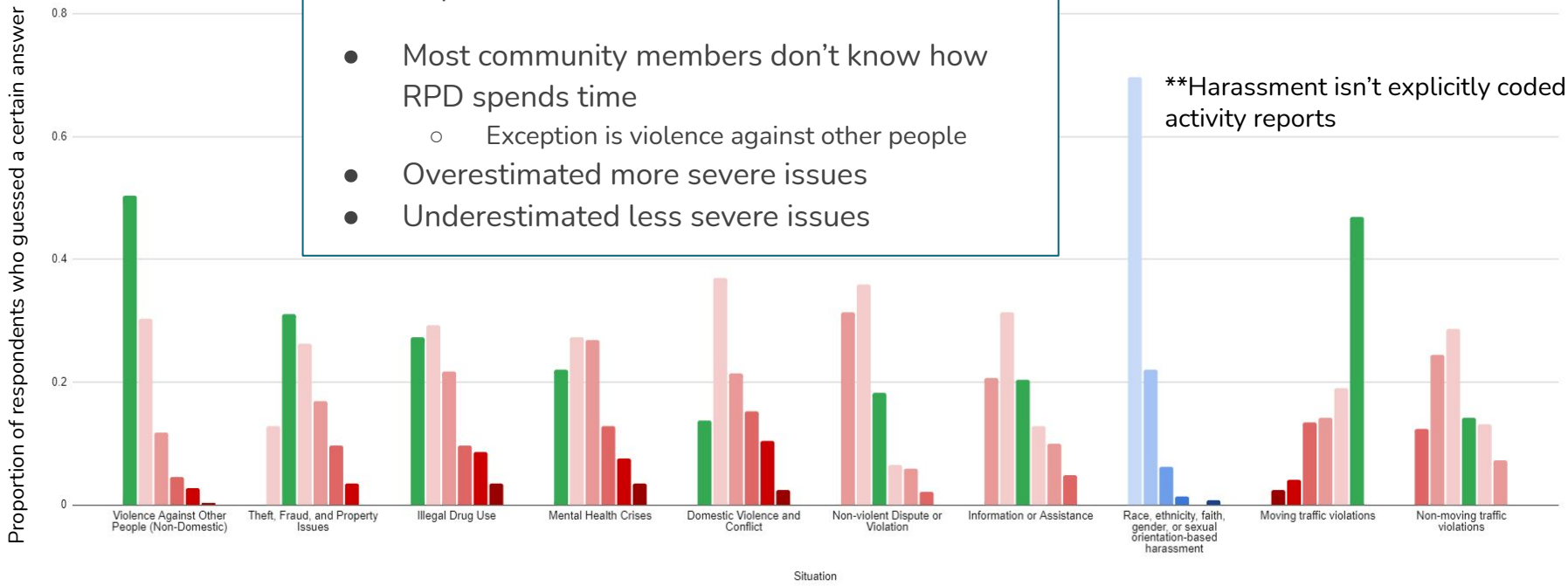


Community Awareness

Takeaways:

- Most community members don't know how RPD spends time
  - Exception is violence against other people
- Overestimated more severe issues
- Underestimated less severe issues

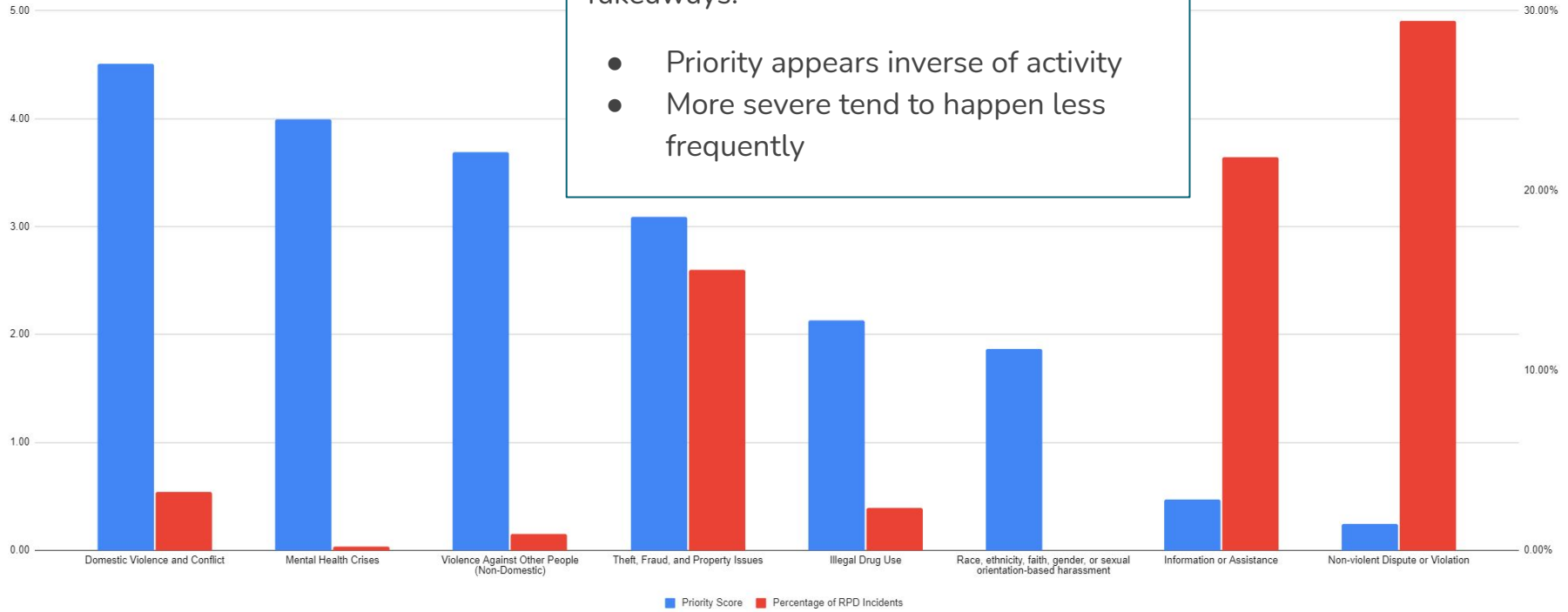
**Harassment isn't explicitly coded in activity reports



Community Priorities

Takeaways:

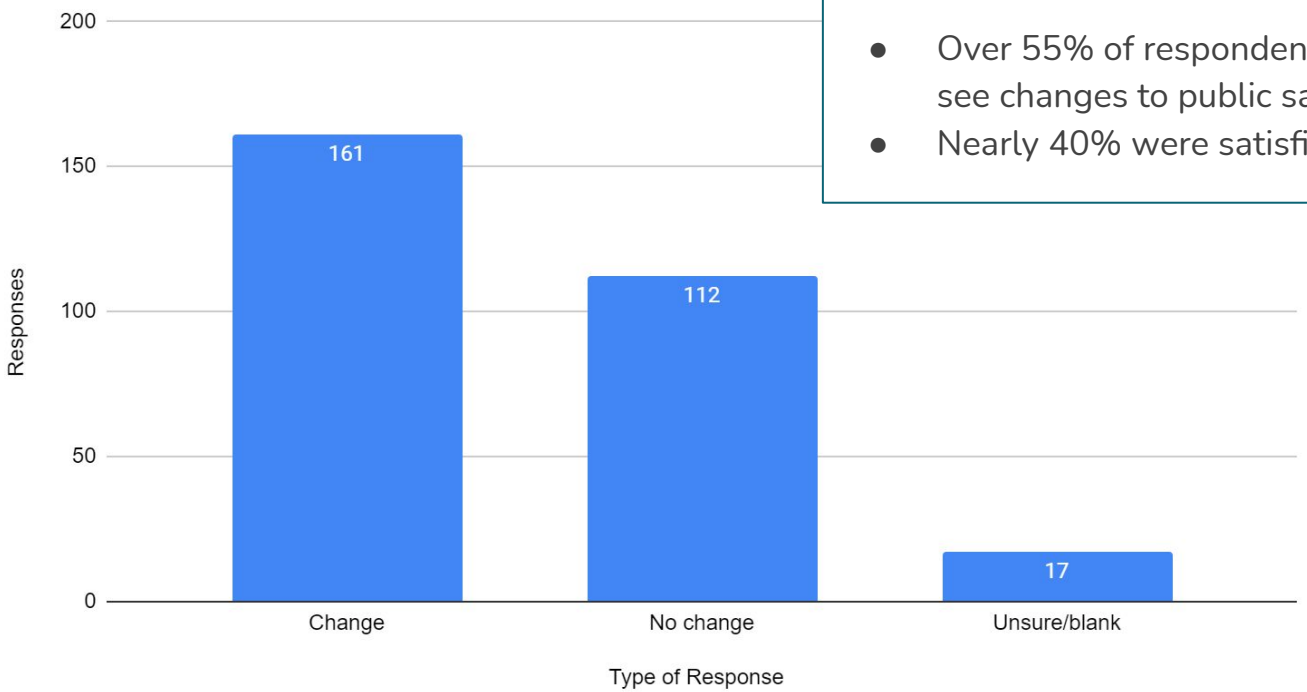
- Priority appears inverse of activity
- More severe tend to happen less frequently



161 (55.52%)

Amount of respondents who suggested a change to public safety in Richmond

Community Visions



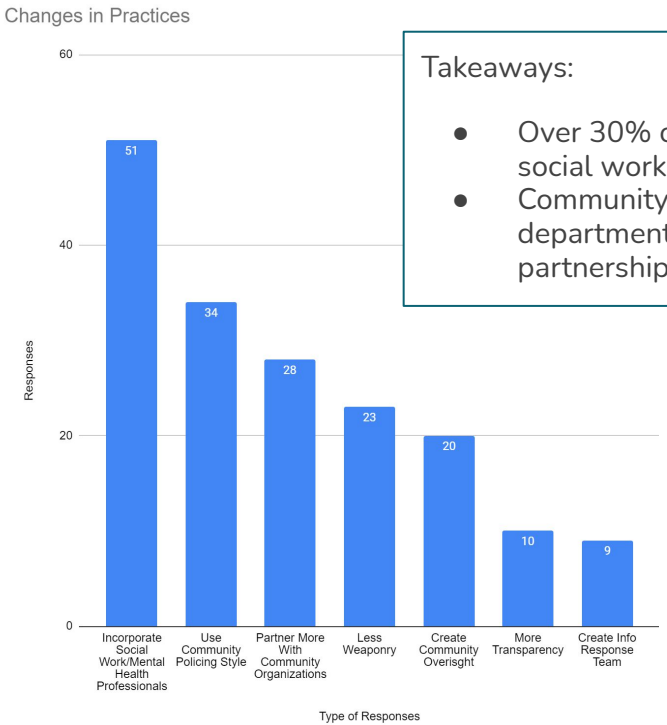
Takeaways:

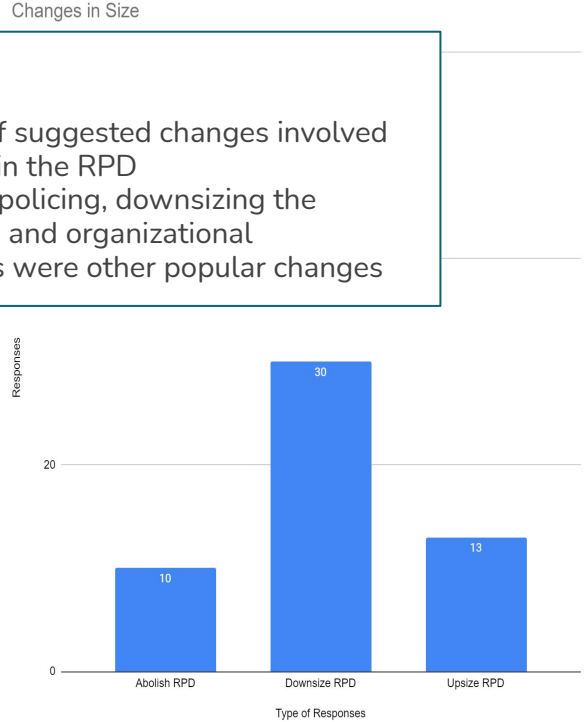
- Over 55% of respondents wanted to see changes to public safety
- Nearly 40% were satisfied

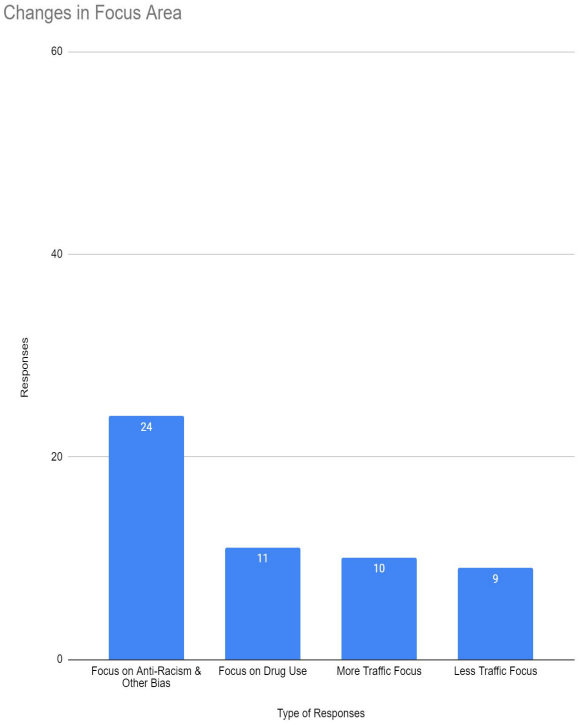
Community Visions cont.

Takeaways:

- Over 30% of suggested changes involved social work in the RPD
- Community policing, downsizing the department, and organizational partnerships were other popular changes







1. **Most incidents involve information, assistance, or non-violent disputes**

2. **Community awareness of RPD's work is low**

3. **Community priorities do not align with focuses of work****

4. **Community members want to see changes**

Questions, comments, or concerns?