

# Hazel Crest Police Department

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## \*\*\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*\*\*

Mayor Vernard Alsberry and the Village of Hazel Crest today announce their partnership with Simsi, a company committed to helping community voices become the central part of community problem solving informed by real-time data. Simsi will be working with the Mayor Alsberry and the Village of Hazel Crest to utilize local data analyses and insights for addressing issues important to the local community in ways that meet community expectations.

This process will start over the next few months and will last close to two years. Simsi has a nationally recognized model that has won several awards and has been lauded as a best practice in data-informed and community-engaged problem-solving and service delivery. Community involvement, community voice, and community guidance is key to the success of this work. Mayor Alsberry and the Village of Hazel Crest are committed to transparency and cooperation with the community to provide the data and local resources needed to make this a successful endeavor.

Throughout the next few months there will be several café style conversations, and learning sessions, open to the community within the Village of Hazel Crest and surrounding areas to become more familiar with the program and its focus on public safety. Mayor Alsberry and the Village are committed to transparency at all stages, and will make data and related activities available to the community. As the initial project partners work on identifying goals to accomplish, the data needs and opportunities for community participation will expand. Programming will be multifaceted and public safety will be co-produced with multiple local stakeholders and perspectives involved.

Ultimately the data and outcomes will be part of a larger Village of Hazel Crest initiative to create expansive transparency tools that will be accessible by the community for their ongoing utilization as well. More information about these and other goals will be shared regularly, and also driven as desired by events that facilitate receiving community needs and requests. The Village of Hazel Crest will be additionally supported by Research Improving People's Lives (RIPL), a tech-for-social-impact nonprofit that works with governments to help them use data, science, and technology to improve policy and lives. RIPL scientists and engineers will help the Village understand and unlock its data for insights, and deliver access to accurate, timely data for Hazel Crest community members and policymakers.

It's a very exciting time, and Mayor Alsberry and the Village of Hazel Crest are looking forward to co-producing meaningful outcomes with the community to address our most important and pressing issues in equitable and socially-just ways. Our initial efforts will focus on transparency in public safety through community engagement. Information on meetings centered on receiving input from community members and stakeholders will be posted on the Village of Hazel Crest website, the e-newsletter, and other forms of community information sharing in the coming weeks. We look forward to working together with our residents on this innovative, unique, and impactful transparency project.

For additional information, email Chief Mitchell Davis at [mdavis@villageofhazelcrest.com](mailto:mdavis@villageofhazelcrest.com).

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