

Wed 7/1/2020 6:17 AM

I understand that the city council passed a resolution to have a year long study to determine the community process in reshaping safety.

I also understand that there is a charter amendment in process.

There needs to be only a study at this point – a real study.

Actions come after the study results are determined.--a 30 year resident of mpls,

Wed 7/1/2020 6:22 AM

Chair Clegg, Please do not vote to have the charter change regarding the defunding of MPD on the ballot this November.

We feel the council is over promising. Without a plan the City will be in total chaos.

Untie then Chief's hands. Give him an opportunity to make the changes necessary to create a police force we can be proud of.

Thank you for your time and thank you for serving.

Wed 7/1/2020 6:24 AM

Dear Commissioner Metge,

I am writing to ask you to not put the charter amendments that the council has requested on the ballot.

Citizens count on the Charter Commission to be careful and thoughtful about change to the bedrock of our city structure – the charter. We count on you to not be swayed by current politics, but to insure study and citizen input occurs before changes.

I am concerned that there is no specific plan (just an idea) for these changes that Council President Bender and the Council insist are needed. They want the Commission to put this on the ballot quickly. You need to ask for plan details. Council President Bender and the Council, all have made it very clear their intent is to get rid of the police department. Many meaningful efforts are taking place at the Legislature to resolve the current union and arbitration issues with Minneapolis Police. This charter change isn't needed for those. Other significant reform efforts are underway at the Minneapolis Police Department. Also, a charter amendment that allows the Council to abolish the police department is bad policy.

If you pass this, there will not be consultation with the community, which has concerns about the elimination of the police department.

Many of us in the city that watched the Council on the 2040 plan know only some citizens were listened to. Even with 10,000 comments against the 2040 plan Council President Bender and the Council disregarded us and passed the plan anyway with the changes they wanted.

There should be more than one public hearing on a matter of this importance. In this pandemic time with social distancing and the race by the council to shove this plan through - many folks will not have an opportunity to weigh in before this is passed. Also many folks aren't connected to technology to participate in ZOOM meetings.

Please do not put this on the ballot this year. Send the authors back to City Hall to work on a better approach.

Wed 7/1/2020 6:24 AM

Commissioner Metge

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Wed 7/1/2020 6:25 AM

I do not question the general intent of changing the charter regarding the police department in order to end police brutality and to improve the overall public safety for all citizens of Minneapolis, but the language in the current proposal is too vague. Consequently, it seems almost destined for failure or at the very least, becoming potentially divisive even among the majority of citizens who desire a paradigm shift in policing/public safety. Deferring to a volunteer entity(the Charter commission) to process all the feedback when there are 13 council members who are more than adequately compensated and staffed, but yet deny us citizens with details of each of their respective visions of a new Public Safety Department is an outrageous abdication of responsibility. Apparently this is in order to fast track the proposed charter amendment to be placed on this November's ballot when voters are focused on Federal offices. Further, it's ironic that the language in the proposed amendment of a new public safety department is to "consistently engage the public" regarding public safety concerns yet the Council's current actions defy this edict.

I would be much more positive about voting for a proposed amendment to the charter if the council and all stakeholders took a few deep breaths and then the necessary steps to ensure that any major changes to the charter would be done in a meaningful, substantive, and inclusive manner which will take a lot of time and work. Lives and well beings are at stake. Please get this right Minneapolis.

Wed 7/1/2020 6:47 AM

I have read through the proposed amendment at

https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/3882/MPD%20Charter%20Amendment%20Articles%20VII%20and%20Article%20VIII.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0b7jnuvBnNw2zUVWIn-s20kjPBFMIM_nwpCnXrOq13I-4huJoTWu_qoR8

I think that you need to come up with a more detailed plan before you put this to a public vote. The points that I am concerned about

1) All language about a licensed public safety group has been removed. I am concerned that this makes it possible for our public safety to be made up of people that have no particular training for the job they are doing.

2) I do not see a term limit on the director of public safety like there was on the police chief.

3) The fire department needs some way to get protection like they did during the recent unrest. Removing the ability for the fire department to direct the police leaves them unprotected and does not allow them to do their job to protect people and property from fire.

4) You have not come up with replacements for sections 7.3.1.C, 7.3.1.D. As such I am concerned about public health.

5) The new section 7.3.1 specifies that the public safety directory cannot have law-enforcement experience. I think this is a bad idea. We really do need law enforcement.

We need the City Council and the rest of the government to wake up to reality and hold people accountable. This is both police and civilians. Letting people burn the city with no consequences is not the way to go. Letting the homeless take over our parks is not the answer. Get them into shelters and mental health facilities and drug rehab programs. You can't keep just letting people do whatever they feel like. Yes we have freedoms because we live in America, but we can't let one person's freedom remove another person's freedom. This is why there are laws in place. Policies like this are turning our city into a state of anarchy.

Wed 7/1/2020 8:38 AM

Hello, I am a Ramsey county resident who often works in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. I am an Artist, an Educator, and an Organizer. As a Black American I live in the reality of our over-policed-state.

Therefore, I support the move to change the charter and replace the MPD with a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We should be building capacity for other trained personnel to commit their expertise and strategic thinking to eradicate the conditions that underlie the brutal "justification" of a militarized police force and terrorization of black and brown communities.

The City Council does not have to wait until a November public vote to begin the change residents (and the nation) is calling for now!

Wed 7/1/2020 9:09 AM

I support this.

Shall the Minneapolis City Charter be amended to provide for the establishment of a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and to remove the Police

Wed 7/1/2020 9:56 AM

Mr. Barry Clegg: Chairman, Minneapolis Charter Commission

I am writing to you to urge the Charter Commission to not include the proposed Charter Amendment to defund the Minneapolis Police on the November election ballot.

Rationale:

1. There is no town, no city of any size that does not recognize and therefore commit to the support of and utilization of a police force for maintaining civil order. Changing the charter would eliminate any mandate by the city to sustain this commitment. In my opinion, to eliminate a fundamental commitment to policing is reckless and irresponsible.
2. We know that on any given day there are a percentage of individual citizens who make personal decisions and/or act on established addictions that threaten the protection/safety of other's properties or lives; that there are a percentage of individuals who choose violence as a means to resolve personal conflict with individuals and/or institutions; and that there are individuals who choose criminal and violent behaviors and patterns normative to their life and lifestyles. All of these categories threaten the safety and welfare of the general citizenry and require professionally trained, identified peace keepers to protect and intervene on behalf of the public.
3. Changing the Charter has substantive impact on city mandates, accountabilities, and lines of authority. Therefore, any consideration of this magnitude requires thorough and comprehensive process. The City Council certainly has the right to call for, engage in the review of and consider potential adjustments to the Charter. But my observation with our current Council is that they are carelessly trying to advance an agenda and thereby circumventing thorough process. And for them to appeal to the public to just "trust them" (the Council), well they have not earned my confidence at this time to grant them un-checked open-space to engage in their civic experiment. So far there has been inattention to and, therefore, inadequate details for both a process for full communal discernment as well as the proposed alternative system that they may be suggesting. This is poor leadership and irresponsible to the people they are called to serve.

I have been a resident in North Minneapolis for 27 years. While I do feel strongly a need for substantive reform/restructuring of our current police department as well as consideration of additional strategies regarding public safety for all the citizens of Minneapolis, we also cannot afford further failure in public safety. My opinion is that November 2020 does not allow adequate time for sound process around the proposed amendment, which then could become the seedbed for careless actions that we will regret for a long time as a whole city.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and for your attention to your responsibilities as a Commission with our city.

Wed 7/1/2020 10:36 AM

ATTENTION: Do not dismantle the police until there is a rational plan for public safety in this municipality to replace the police organization. Doing so is the worst kind of idiotic knee jerk reaction and just plain nuts.

Wed 7/1/2020 10:40 AM

Good Afternoon, While I do not live in Minneapolis proper, I do live in one of the suburbs, and I frequently come to Minneapolis itself to dine, shop, work, and attend activities - both adult functions and with my children. Additionally, I have friends who reside in Minneapolis, and friends who send their children to schools in the city area.

While I can understand the desire to improve the relationships between the citizens of the city and the police department, I cannot even remotely understand why you all think that defunding the police will result in less crime, better relationships, and improved safety for people who enjoy the city. I'm also

appalled at the hypocrisy of the three city council members who have used security at tax-payer expense. If you think that the rest of the residents and visitors do not deserve the safety of the police department, then "you" also need to step away from any type of security. At the very least - refund the tax dollars and put it into the community as you are suggesting should be done with money used from defunding the police.

In the even that there is no longer a police presence in Minneapolis, I will be finding different ways and places to spend my money and will not support anything that has to do with Minneapolis and the short

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Commissioner Rubenstein, Please do not vote to have the charter change regarding the defunding of MPD on the ballot this November.

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Untie then Chief's hands. Give him an opportunity to make the changes necessary to create a police force we can be proud of. Thank you for your time and thank you for serving.

Wed 7/1/2020 12:33 PM

To the Minneapolis Charter Commission, As you consider a response to the proposed Charter amendments relating to the Minneapolis Police Department, you should think about the impact hand guns have had on the behavior of law enforcement personnel in Minneapolis.

With hundreds of handguns in the hands of citizens of Minneapolis, every law enforcement officer begins each day with the knowledge that every contact they have with a citizen whose conduct draws the attention of law enforcement may also be an interaction with someone who possesses a handgun. That inevitably changes the behavior of every law enforcement officer. And not for the better.

And that realization will be present no matter how the charter dealing with police structure is designed.

It is my recommendation/conviction that that the Charter Commission construct a realistic gun control provision for submission to the voters and that the effective date of the amendment be stated this way: "The effective date of this charter provision is the effective date of state legislation permitting the charter of Minneapolis to include this provision."

I have not spent sufficient time — nor consulted with others — on what the substance of the charter amendment on guns should contain.

But I have given much thought to the question of what it should contain to improve the chances of the Legislature enacting an authorizing amendment to the state statute that preempts local gun controls. The charter provision should apply only to residents of Minneapolis and only when they are within the Minneapolis city limits. That would mean the controls would not only have been approved by a vote of the citizens of Minneapolis, but also that the provisions would apply only to those citizens and only when those citizens are within the city.

The foregoing would, I believe, make it difficult for legislators to deny to Minneapolis citizens the right to have gun regulations that apply only to them and only when they are within the city and only after a citizen vote for those regulations.

Rational gun regulation would do more to moderate police conduct than any other thing.

Wed 7/1/2020 12:34 PM

Please don't make a decision today about amending the city charter to remove the police department from city government. There needs to be much more public discussion of such a significant measure, in my opinion. As the city council plans to hurriedly come up with a detailed plan before the November election, passing the recommendation today would mean too little consideration would be put into the proposal. A plan of this magnitude needs to be carefully thought out. We've seen too many kneejerk reactions on the federal level dealing with the pandemic. Please set an example of careful, thoughtful consideration and wait until next year to send this to the council. I fear such a quick decision could ultimately make the Minneapolis situation worse because officials may be unable to get all the necessary information, including views from all sides and examples of how cities around the world handle public safety. Or they might not propose a detailed plan, which would be even worse.

Wed 7/1/2020 12:35 PM

Dear Charter Commission Members, As a context for my comments I have been a resident of the city for almost 60 years and have paid reasonably close attention to how the council and mayors, from Art Naftalin to Jacob Frey, have functioned, and except for Stenvig have known them personally.

The city council's stampede to abolition of police department and replace it with "something else" without an explanation of what "something else" is, and without meaningful public hearings, lacks transparency and accountability. It is irresponsible, arrogant, and disrespects the residents of

Minneapolis. The idea that 13 council members and the mayor would be running the new department is as ludicrous as having 14 mayors run the city.

Rather, the charter should be amended to centralize executive authority and responsibility in the office of mayor including authority to appoint staff. Legislative authority, including adoption of the budget, should be vested in the council subject to mayoral veto. The council's responsibility to confirm mayoral appointees should be limited to a few senior positions. Other than confirmation of some senior officials the council should have no executive department responsibilities. This division of authority and responsibility ensures proper checks and balances.

The charter commission should also give consideration to reducing the number of council members from 13 to 11, or some lower number, and making it a part time position just as the legislature is part time. Please consider my suggestions as you contemplate amendments to the city charter.

Wed, Jul 1, 2020 11:35 AM

Dear Charter Commissioners,

June 23, 2018: Thurman Blevins was killed by an MPD police officer.

June 29, 2018: At a City Council meeting, a notice of intent was given to introduce, at the next meeting of the City Council, a Charter amendment that would transfer some power over the Minneapolis Police Department from the Mayor to the City Council.

May 25, 2018: George Floyd was killed by an MPD police officer.

June 12, 2018: At a City Council meeting, a notice of intent was given to introduce, at the next meeting of the City Council, a Charter amendment that would, in part, transfer some power over the Minneapolis Police Department/Division of Law Enforcement Services from the Mayor to the City Council.

In both cases, the Council tried to rush the process in order to get these proposed Charter amendments on the upcoming November ballot.

In the first half of 2018 and 2020, before each of those killings, no such Charter amendment proposals were introduced. Depending on your position, you could call these proposals "positive responses to an issue made manifest by a recent tragedy"; "impulsive responses to community rage at a recent tragedy"; or "opportunistic attempts to seize additional power."

*Correction: The May 25 and June 12 dates, of course, were in 2020, not in 2018. Sorry.

Wed 7/1/2020 12:38 PM

Dear Charter Commissioners,

I'm a lifelong resident of Minneapolis, 61 years old, and a white woman.

I support the proposed charter amendment on public safety, and would vote YES if it goes on the ballot in November.

I have a TON of questions about it - timeline, specifics, etc. - but support it in principle and would vote YES.

Thanks for your service on the commission. I really appreciate it.

Wed 7/1/2020 12:56 PM

Thank you for chairing the Charter Commission. I appreciate your dedication. I am writing to ask that you give Minneapolisians additional time to respond effectively to the charter change being proposed today, as well as to make suggestions for charter improvements.

Wed 7/1/2020 12:57 PM

The Minneapolis Charter Commission will meet today at 4 p.m. in a special meeting. The agenda is short - one item - to amend the charter to remove the Police Department from city government.

4. Proposed Charter amendment related to community safety and violence prevention This link
open a new window(CH2020-00014)
 1. Considering a proposal to amend the City Charter to address the creation of a new Charter Department to provide for community safety and violence prevention, and the removal of the Police Department as a Charter Department, Article VII and Article VIII. If you think, as I do, that this is too short a timeline to consider such a far-reaching change to our city, send a quick email now to Chair Barry Clegg and/or ViceChair Jan Sandberg asking for opportunity to hear more voices from the community.

Wed 7/1/2020 12:58 PM

Today is too short a timeline to consider the far reaching, many pronged amendment concerning the Minneapolis Police Dept. I would urge you not to do so without much more citizen input

Wed 7/1/2020 12:59 PM

While I am all in favor of reforming or even restructuring the policing function in Minneapolis, there is not nearly enough information available about how such a new system would look like to vote "Yes" in November. I suggest the Charter Committee and MPLS City Hall set up a committee including a diverse group of citizens to develop the concept for a new public safety body in MPLS. This should then be presented to the voter in November for a charter change vote.

Wed 7/1/2020 1:01 PM

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Please consider my suggestions as you contemplate amendments to the city charter.

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Thank you for your time.

We need more time to deal with the long range issues facing our city. A fair discussion of the Police Department needs more time.

Wed 7/1/2020 1:03 PM

Sir: Please get more community input BEFORE considering this far reaching change to our city. Thank-you.

Wed 7/1/2020 1:03 PM

Dear [REDACTED], Thanks for your thoughtful note. I agree with your position. We do need important reforms in the Mpls PD, but we also need a PD that protects the public and does so with more humane and more engaged community oriented practices. The proposed Charter Amendment is unlikely to achieve the changes we need to make MPLs a better, safe and just community, one that advances opportunity and a strong quality of life for all of our residents. To use the words of a great writer, this is a solution that is "simple, neat and wrong!" With you and many others, I think there are more promising and timely options to achieve a better vision and future for the future of MPLS. This proposal should not be placed on the ballot this fall without time to achieve more direct reforms in the MPD and in our community practices, strongly advocated by the Chief and the Mayor.

I am not on the Charter Commission, but I think that you should send your note to Barry Clegg who chairs the Commission.

Wed 7/1/2020 1:03 PM

Dear Charter Commissioners:

The charter amendment from the city council is not well thought through. The creation of the current system was done by Mayor Don Fraser after two years. The present charter has the mayor in charge but the city council has input through the Executive Committee for management and the City Council for policy.

Yes, we do need a police department. Yes the police department needs reforming. No we do not need a committee in charge of day to day management. The charter amendment implies the city council will manage the new department.

We have a fine police chief, Medaria Arradondo, who many councilmembers want to remove or demote. This will delay the reforms needed in the department immediately not a year from now. Removing our first African American police chief is troubling.

The charter amendment does not guarantee a police department!!! I am convinced the city needs sworn officers to keep us safe. The business community also believes we need a police department to protect their investments. The business community pays over 50% of the city's property taxes. Without their investment the city will be difficult to finance. Property taxes are already high.

This charter amendment threatens the safety of us all. Since the council has proposed this amendment, violent crime has increased by 47% in a month.

We need to spend time this year studying the proposals and then placing a reform package on the ballot if is needed.

Wed 7/1/2020 1:05 PM

To the Minneapolis Charter Commission,

As you consider a response to the proposed Charter amendments relating to the Minneapolis Police Department, you should think about the impact hand guns have had on the behavior of law enforcement personnel in Minneapolis.

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Wed 7/1/2020 1:05 PM

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Wed 7/1/2020 1:06 PM

Please read this and pass it on to other Charter Commission members. Thank you.

The Minneapolis City Council has proposed a charter amendment to abolish the police department. I am appalled that so many council members would use words like “defund” and “dismantle” and “abolish” the MPD. That has rankled lots of people — especially the police, I’m sure. Now that the police have been insulted, at least some of them are less likely to respond quickly and professionally to 911 calls. There have already been incidents in our Powderhorn/Central neighborhood where this has been the case. Therefore, I implore the Charter Commission to consider not abolishing the MPD, but drastically overhauling it, with reforms acceptable to all those black and brown people aggrieved in the past. Let there be no more murders like George Floyd’s. Thank you.

Wed 7/1/2020 1:35 PM

This proposal to remove the Police Department from the city government should not be passed hastily. Let's have more community voices heard and more time to mull over the best course of action before a definitive vote is taken.

Wed 7/1/2020 1:37 PM

Mr. Clegg and Ms. Sndberg,

I wholeheartedly agree that law enforcement in Minneapolis needs to be drastically changed. And I understand elected officials' eagerness to demonstrate movement toward that goal.

However, I fear that haste will result in ill-considered action.

As I understand the proposal before the commission, it would allow the city council to put to the voters this coming November the question of whether it should proceed to create a new department and do away with the current police department.

I propose that the Charter Commission grant the City Council's request but with the additional term "effective January 1, 2021." This would demonstrate progress but also due regard for the complexity of the issue and the seriousness of missteps. It would have the question to the voters no sooner than November 2021. By that date, the council could be expected to have received ample citizen input and given consideration to details and implications too easily overlooked. The council could then offer the voters a much clearer and more detailed picture of what they're deciding on.

Wed 7/1/2020 1:37 PM

Respectfully, please consider an extended discussion period for so important an issue.

As someone who spent their career driving change or being "victimized" by it, good results never, ever, in my experience, come from haste. Legitimate, necessary change, has its own momentum and logic that is not dissipated by thoughtful consideration.

This is the time for change but it needs to be done correctly, thoughtfully, or the opportunity will be lost again for who knows how long. Unfortunately, great harm has been done to our community for a long time and we should not squander the opportunity to turn this current pain into meaningful, sustainable change.

Rarely, if ever, have I seen successful change happen from the outside or from the top down. All stakeholders need to be engaged from the very first discussion through all the steps of visioning, planning and execution. This kind of change process works.

I am not keen on being policed under a hastily considered "experiment". I am wholeheartedly behind the idea that policing needs reform, that some police behavior needs to be constrained and immediately accountable, and that police are not always the best response to every public safety challenge.

I also know that my neighborhood, Loring Park, faces increasing challenges to public safety from public drunkenness and intentional intimidation, to increased assaults, burglaries, aggressive panhandling, random gunfire, the recent carjacking of my neighbor

Wed 7/1/2020 1:38 PM

We know you will be receiving many emails claiming you are moving too fast, but we think over 200 years is long enough. We support the change of the charter so that reasonable change can happen.

I have tried to explain to people that this is just a vote to allow us to vote in the fall to change the charter to no longer require said amount of police per person....but somehow the FEAR always wins.

Best of luck with your decision. Please be as transparent as you can be. And please address the WHITE PEOPLE FEAR that is out there around this issue. Thank you!

Wed 7/1/2020 1:38 PM

Dear Barry Clegg, I am writing because I am deeply inspired by the recent community commitment to reevaluate what makes us safe in our neighborhood and cities and how we can transform to extend safety to ALL, specifically addressing the harrassment and brutality people of color, black people, and indigenous people have been and continue enduring at the hands of the police.

It has become apparent that as a community we are ready to make deep and lasting change and that means being able to amend the Minneapolis Charter such that new investment in public health and safety can thrive and the corruption and violence perpetuated by the MPD is stopped.

I envision a community that acknowledges safety is a collective effort and not one size fits all. I believe that when we create and nurture systems that focus on trauma informed violence prevention and de-escalation, housing and mental/physical health care, and restorative and transformative justice, we become active participants in safety and fear and separation become less and less powerful.

I urge you to move this matter forward by allowing a vote on amending the charter. It's time to take a new approach to fund life and defend black life!

Wed 7/1/2020 1:39 PM

Dear Chairman Clegg, We are writing to encourage you to NOT allow the proposed amendment to go forward at this time. The city charter allows the city council to work with the office of the mayor and chief of police as well as community leaders to facilitate reforms. The proposed charter is too open-ended, vague and no explanation has been provided too justify a charter change at this time.

We would further encourage the city council to work within the existing city structure, and with the citizens of Minneapolis to listen and learn for a reasonable period of time in order to be given a clear direction.

Wed 7/1/2020 2:03 PM

Good afternoon,

It is a difficult time in the city, the country, the world. I want to begin by acknowledging that.

I am a resident in Minneapolis. And I could not be more disappointed, confused, or quite frankly terrified of your decision in conjunction with the city council to defund/disband the police.

While I am in the process of doing my part to educate myself about the injustices my black and brown brothers and sisters have gone through, I cannot stand by and watch my safety and well being be put to a vote that will likely be used for political clout.

I am a young single woman who moved to the city in January. I was SO eager to move to Minneapolis, a city filled with countless activities, businesses, culture, and opportunities. While it's been a challenge getting acclimated to the city due to the pandemic, I finally saw the light at the end of the tunnel and was eager to explore the city as things began to open up and life slowly transitioned to a new-normal.

Then the horrific killing of George Floyd happened. I honestly could only get through the first few seconds of the video before I had to turn it off. Nothing about that was right, just, fair, or moral. Certainly the police officers involved should be given a punishment in which justice is fairly served. That is something everyone can agree upon.

Following the death came the riots and protesting. One particularly hard night for me was May 28th. An initially peaceful protest ended the night on my street (Marquette & 4th) in a less peaceful manner. For hours and hours I heard shouting, glass breaking, explosions from tear gas, cars zooming by, horns honking.... I watched people spray painting buildings, crashing in glass doors and windows, and jumping

in and out of cars. I watched the Police/National Guard stand by as people screamed in their face and disrespected them – no rash action was taken, they stood stoic and allowed people to exercise free speech, that turned into vandalism. In the distance I watched the fires from the Third Precinct 3 miles away. I listened to the news trying to report the madness from across the city. Living alone, with my family 700 miles away and only a handful of new acquaintances/coworkers in town – I felt isolated and scared. My fears were a breach of my building, my building being set on fire, etc. In all seriousness, I feared for my life. The rational part of me knew that I was on a high enough floor in a strong building, so I would probably be okay. But reason went out the window as I watched the horrific acts unfold below. And I wasn't even at the epicenter of the worst parts of town where true destruction happened... South Minneapolis, Uptown, etc.

The only solace I had that night, was that there were dozens of brave and dedicated law enforcement officers & National Guardsmen/women standing guard. Had it not been for their protection, certainly more than the glass doors of my building would have been broken.

I also work downtown and am an active contributor to the local economy. As I've already seen businesses pull out of Minneapolis, I anticipate dozens more to leave the city should our councilmen and women put political statements above the safety of its constituents. Without loved businesses to work from and spend money in, the economy of the city will suffer. There will be no reason to live here or visit.

I am writing with certainty that if the City makes the irrational and inconsiderate decision to defund or abolish our Police Department, I will move out of Minneapolis. You may not care about me, as one resident. But I hope the voices of my peers in the community looking for safety and security are heard loud and clear.

Give us a better option. Give us a plan. Give us safety and security.

Thank you for hearing my concerns. I do understand the times are unprecedented, but I urge the council to consider the safety and well being of constituents before putting this up for a vote.

Wed 7/1/2020 2:20 PM

Chair Clegg and Commissioners: I write today to express my sincere opposition to the Minneapolis City Council action to amend the Minneapolis City Charter (Council action "Amending Article VII of the City Charter) to eliminate the police department.

While I am in support of police reform, I do not believe that the City Council's action will serve this purpose. The City Council has not put forth a plan to replace the police department and only promises to develop a plan. This is not how prudent governance should be done. It is rash and dangerous.

Furthermore, the City Council action muddles accountability for carrying out reform by removing the authority of the Mayor and placing it into the hands of the City Council and Mayor. In order to drive reform, we need an executive to drive this change and not a Council who may dither or fail to reach consensus, further delaying implementation of meaningful reform.

Finally, the proposed action makes no commitment to have a law enforcement function in the City. As a long-time resident of Minneapolis, this is a dangerous proposition. All neighborhoods, including those neighborhoods calling for meaningful reform, count on effective policing to keep their communities

safe. As you take this matter up, I implore you to take a measured and thoughtful approach that is more fitting with the good governance practices that make Minneapolis the envy of many other cities.

Wed 7/1/2020 2:25 PM

Dear Charter Commission: I would like to provide feedback on the proposed amendments to Article VII and VIII of the City Charter. I am deeply concerned with the lack of public engagement and the myopic lens that the council has applied to our current and historical police issue. I feel strongly that the current proposal may sooth some emotional pain and anger many feel, but it is more demagoguery than realistic. Ultimately, if put in place I am confident it will create real harm to the viability of our city and cost many more lives. Given the importance of what needs to be fixed and the consequences of getting it wrong, I would aggressively argue that this discussion needs to be public, informed and thoughtful – not rushed and “news worthy”. The current path and proposal before the Charter Commission lack basic details, public engagement or even a tenuous connection to the reality of urban life in our city.

No one can deny that our city is in crisis and needs change. But the idea that we need more bureaucracy and fewer police is more about grabbing political wins than trying to push for real change. Minneapolis is a historically proud progressive city. Our past actions haven't made this a safer city or more equitable. So I agree that there is an absolute need for change and accountability. We have an opportunity to re-think how the police vs social workers are deployed. We have an opportunity to step through an open door asking us to change. But abolishing the police, cutting personnel (which is required as it is ~90% of the police budget) will lead to less support for our communities not better support. It will mean we will lose our most diverse officers from the communities in need (younger, less tenured in the union will be the first to go). Adding a holistic public health-oriented approach “layer” to oversee peace keeping is disconnected from the world we live in. If you need evidence that there is a clear need for peace keeping look no further than last several weeks in North Minneapolis and Uptown. Look no further than the damaged caused by people from Minnesota, not “out of towners”, who burned my old neighborhood and destroyed stores of two of my good friends.

Discussion of the benefits of this proposal say that the problem is too hard to fix from within – the police can't be fixed. The discussion turns to Camden as a prime example. However, Camden is a city of 70k people. More importantly, in the end Camden ended up with more police officers rather than less. If the city council really wants to make a change and make the city better, they need to work harder, think more deeply, be braver, and engage more people. We need to understand how we can make our police force better, more accountable, more connected. Put a real plan in place. I truly fear the current course of the City Council will make Minneapolis less safe and push even more away from our city. Please be practical. Please put real ideas of change and accountability on the table. Please help by making the City Council take the time and engage the public on changes that will make the city better rather than push half-baked ideas to get them on the national news

Wed 7/1/2020 2:27 PM

I see this question is being asked, and we are still in favor!

Shall the Minneapolis City Charter be amended to provide for the establishment of a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and to remove the Police Department.

(Yes or No)

You can view the full ordinance language through the following link. *Language crossed out is verbiage to be deleted from the current charter and language that is underlined is verbiage that has been added.*

https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/3866/MPD%20Charter%20Amendment_VII%20062420%20Final.pdf

Jul 1, 2020, at 1:18 PM

We know you will be receiving many emails claiming you are moving too fast, but we think over 200 years is long enough. We support the change of the charter so that reasonable change can happen. I have tried to explain to people that this is just a vote to allow us to vote in the fall to change the charter to no longer require said amount of police per person....but somehow the FEAR always wins. Best of luck with your decision. Please be as transparent as you can be. And please address the WHITE PEOPLE FEAR that is out there around this issue.

Wed 7/1/2020 2:28 PM

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While I am in support of police reform, I do not believe that the City Council's action will serve this purpose. The City Council has not put forth a plan to replace the police department and only promises to develop a plan. This is not how prudent governance should be done. It is rash and dangerous.

Furthermore, the City Council action muddles accountability for carrying out reform by removing the authority of the Mayor and placing it into the hands of the City Council and Mayor. In order to drive reform, we need an executive to drive this change and not a Council who may dither or fail to reach consensus, further delaying implementation of meaningful reform.

Finally, the proposed action makes no commitment to have a law enforcement function in the City. As a long-time resident of Minneapolis, this is a dangerous proposition. All neighborhoods, including those neighborhoods calling for meaningful reform, count on effective policing to keep their communities safe. As you take this matter up, I implore you to take a measured and thoughtful approach that is more fitting with the good governance practices that make Minneapolis the envy of many other cities.

Wed 7/1/2020 2:32 PM

Chair Clegg and Commissioners: I write today to express my sincere opposition to the Minneapolis City Council action to amend the Minneapolis City Charter (Council action "Amending Article VII of the City Charter) to eliminate the police department.

While I am in support of police reform, I do not believe that the City Council's action will serve this purpose. The City Council has not put forth a plan to replace the police department and only promises to develop a plan. This is not how prudent governance should be done. It is rash and dangerous.

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Wed 7/1/2020 2:33 PM

Mr. Clegg, As a long-time Minneapolis resident, I am seriously concerned that the actions of the City Council to amend the City Charter are being rushed forward without a complete assessment of a cohesive strategy that will involve and include all voices at the table. It appears to me that the City Council has taken upon itself to rush into a decision made almost entirely on its own without proper input from City residents are that they are listening only to a select few voices in their rush to make sweeping changes.

I acknowledge and confirm that change must occur and we must now lay the groundwork for making those substantive changes. However, I feel that the Council in its zeal to appear that it is being responsive is rushing to a conclusion that has not been properly vetted.

I would urge that this amendment not be approved and that there be a clear public process with significant input from many voices before this goes out to a referendum on the ballot.

Wed 7/1/2020 2:34 PM

Dear Peter Ginder,

I am writing because I am deeply inspired by the recent community commitment to reevaluate what makes us safe in our neighborhood and cities and how we can transform to extend safety to ALL, specifically addressing the harrassment and brutality people of color, black people, and indigenous people have been and continue enduring at the hands of the police.

It has become apparent that as a community we are ready to make deep and lasting change and that means being able to amend the Minneapolis Charter such that new investment in public health and safety can thrive and the corruption and violence perpetuated by the MPD is stopped.

I envision a community that acknowledges safety is a collective effort and not one size fits all. I believe that when we create and nurture systems that focus on trauma informed violence prevention and de-escalation, housing and mental/physical health care, and restorative and transformative justice, we become active participants in safety and fear and separation become less and less powerful.

I urge you to move this matter forward by allowing a vote on amending the charter. It's time to take a new approach to fund life and defend black life!

Wed 7/1/2020 2:34 PM

Dear Commissioners,

Please take the time to study and plan out before you change the charter for the city.

I believe we need to respond quickly, but I do not think that we need to revise the charter.

I am for a stronger Mayor not a stronger city council.

Wed 7/1/2020 2:48 PM

My wife and I are 13-year residents of south Minneapolis, and lifelong Minnesotans. We love Minneapolis and our neighbors. In the past weeks my we have cleaned up looted streets and businesses, led gatherings for prayer at 38th and Chicago where George Floyd lost his life, stood behind community members and business owners, and helped with food distribution in the neighborhoods where grocery stores have been destroyed. Many of my dear friends are Black pastors we support and many of them agree with us and us with them. We will do all we can to back Black pastors and their concerns on these matters. Which I will now address:

I am deeply grieved by the murder of George Floyd on top of years of police bias, wartime mentality, corruption, and apparent lack of police accountability. I have wept over the lives impacted by hate and destruction.

Things must change. In particular, the power of the police union should be further limited. Qualified immunity leaves bad eggs in positions of power, even after years of abusing residents and furthering toxic police culture.

Deeper relationships with the community MUST be developed so trust can be built between neighbors and police officers.

I, along with my wife are deeply concerned with the proposal put forward by the City Council to remove the police dept. from the city charter. Minneapolis is no stranger to violence, both outside forces of oppression and chaos from within. Our city needs a police force that is accountable for its actions. A power vacuum that will exacerbate an already growing problem is the last thing we need.

A just government requires checks and balances. The balance of power in our city already tips towards the city council. The proposal moves the Police Dept/Community Safety and Violence Prevention away from the mayor and under the authority of the city council, giving even more power to an already powerful city council.

Further, the proposal lacks any sort of actual plan. We want change. Why not create a plan of what actually would replace or remodel the police dept, and allow residents to vote on something concrete? The current proposal gives the city council a blank check to do whatever they would like. What reason do we have to trust the council to create a plan we trust and approve? If they have a plan, why not allow citizens to vote on it? Why not use the coming months to solicit feedback from residents, and shape a concrete proposal?

This current proposal lacks transparency and clarity while holding the power to drastically alter our city for decades to come. Why rush such a seismic change created by people who appear to have reacted to a crisis rather than responded in wisdom and openness?

We have a police chief who knows the city, knows the police dept, and is committed to change. Why would the city council not instead rally behind the chief to bring about change rather than burning it all down?

It is easy to tear something down. It requires hard work and creativity to build a new thing.

Building something worthwhile requires patience, discipline, a close eye on reality, and commitment. Our city has experienced enough destruction in the past month. We need leaders who will work to build our future with vision, precision, and accountability. The current proposal lacks all three of these things. We are faced with problems created by those with power using it violently against our community without accountability. The City Council response apparently is to give themselves more power with less accountability, with the assumption that violence is not an issue in our community. The fallout of this approach will be predictably devastating to those most vulnerable in our city. We must do better.

Finally, we will do whatever is necessary to build consensus with our concerns as we live in a condo building with 31 other owners and our neighborhood as we go door to door sharing our concerns.

Wed 7/1/2020 3:00 PM

It appears that the Minneapolis City Council request to defund the Minneapolis Police Department is a political response to a very serious issue. As a citizen of Minneapolis, we need a police presence in the city. We also need a crisis team that can handle the non-police issues. There are too many guns on the streets that demand a level of police presence.

I would like to see language that would prohibit the police union. That has been a major issue for decades.

It will take a major effort to have language that the City Council and the citizenry will agree on. Good luck.

I have lived in the Loring Park neighborhood for over 30 years. It is sad to see the current situation.

Wed 7/1/2020 3:11 PM

Citizens and the police should not be penalized for the actions of a few.

Doing away with the police department is just plain insanity! Crime is already going up. It sounds like you are declaring open season on law abiding citizens or are so far detached from reality you talk to the furniture in the chamber as if you're in Pee Wee's Playhouse. Flowers don't sing and dance! Wake up! Grow up! Or is this something worse and you have it in for everyday people. Bad guys respect strength!

Wed 7/1/2020 3:17 PM

Dear Commissioners: Please let Minneapolis residents vote on the future of community safety in our city.

I am a mom of two young kids as well as a middle school educator. For myself, my family, and the children and families I work with, I envision a community where we have a say in how we are kept safe -- including defining who and what actually keeps us safe -- where we collectively develop and build the response systems that best serve the safety challenges in our community and invest in people, not police. Where we get to decide as a community where to put dollars to fund safety through a variety of

avenues that center humanity, that include a variety of trained professionals, to increase the city's repertoire of safety measures and reduce violence.

The mandated police per capita percentage defined in the City Charter is an absolutely arbitrary number that the people of our city did not have a say in determining, whenever that was determined. We deserve to have the chance to remove the barriers of the charter language to give us the flexibility to create a system that works for all the residents of this city, with ongoing community input. Minneapolis is a new city after the death of George Floyd and the Uprising, events built on a long history of police brutality and lack of care and safety for the Black and Native people of Minneapolis, as well as the violence we recently saw them unleash on peaceful protestors of all races. We will not stand for the status quo, and the people deserve to vote on whether the percentage should be changed as one piece of building a safer and more just city.

I have been protesting since George Floyd's death, trying to deeply internalize what it must feel like to never feel safe calling on armed authorities for help or in an emergency. Police do not represent safety for many Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color in our community. Why should we continue mandating a random decimal point of staffing funding for a body that for many, represents the opposite of safety -- fear and death? Let the people vote on whether that arbitrary number is worth keeping, or whether we are ready to have the ability to truly imagine and implement a new, broader vision of community safety that includes more than just armed law enforcement.

As the governing document of our city, the people deserve to have a say on that document and the chance to vote on any updates necessary as our city evolves and changes. We deserve to engage in a process that doesn't contain arbitrary barriers to creating a more equitable and versatile public safety system. Please don't tie our hands.

Please support the expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that we can exercise our democratic right to vote on a significant barrier to re-imagining public safety in our city.

Wed 7/1/2020 3:45 PM

I dont understand the new City Charter regarding disbanding the Minneapolis Police Force. First of all what you are proposing to vote on does not make sense you have crossed out what was the rule of law and capriciously and arbitrary wrote in your own opions...first of all for this city or any city to survive financialy, socially, trust, freedom. From fear, hunger, want and keeping business and residents staying safe. We need a Police Department with corrections and removal of officers who should not be Police Officers...I have lived I. Minneapolis for 76 years and in that time I have seen bad cops.However, by the same token i have got to know and work and meet many great Police officers throughout the City Of Minneapolis.. life long resident.

Wed 7/1/2020 3:51 PM

I am writing regarding the news regarding the rush to get a vote on the November 2020 ballot regarding the city charter and the police department. I am absolutely and fully opposed to rushing to get something on the November 2020 ballot.

I do fully support a great deal of change in the MPD, in the training, policies, and the culture, and that momentum needs to continue. I support the idea of a year-long study to to determine what changes

would be most likely to be beneficial and successful. There already seem to be numerous changes currently being discussed and implemented that show promise, and they should be allowed to move forward without plans to vote in November - 4 months! - on whether or not to remove the police department from the city charter hanging over the process.

Some changes within the MPD need to and can be implemented now, indeed Chief Arradondo has already started making changes. As the success or failure of these changes and any others are evaluated in addition to any conclusions that can be drawn from a year-long study, appropriate and well-considered proposals for changes to the city charter can be planned for 2021. I think it is irresponsible and reckless to rush into changes in the city charter for 2020.

I also think some research and effort should be put into changing the union culture and leadership in the Minneapolis Police Federation. I read the letter written by higher ranking MPD officers condemning Chauvin. They say they represent "hundreds" of MPD officers. Is there enough outrage and appetite for change for there to be a union vote regarding leadership? If the goal of this hasty and vague city charter change was to eliminate the Police Federation, I think watching for change within the union over the next year would also be useful.

I know I will not be forgetting what has happened, and that change must happen. I will continue to follow developments within the police department and the city government. I will not forget, this time it's different, and I will pay attention to see that it will be different going forward. Pushing to vote in 4 months to change the city charter frankly seems to be a simplistic knee-jerk reaction by the city's leadership and would be irresponsible and reckless.

Wed 7/1/2020 4:00 PM

Dear members of the Commission:

Please tell the City Council to go jump in a lake. They are grabbing more power for themselves without first getting the community's input regarding whether we want the whole police department to be abolished and replaced, by who knows what. Something this drastic and this self-serving needs to be called into question.

This action of making the police accountable to 14 council members makes it less accountable to the voters, because it is much harder to vote out 14 people than to vote out just one mayor. It is a big political scam.

If they want to grab this power, make them have to work to earn it from us voters first. They should have to argue for it. They should have to convince us that they are worthy to have that kind of power, which, considering that they are taking it before we even know what is to replace the current department, they are expecting us to just take it on faith that what they will dream up will be better than what we have now. I'm sorry, they don't deserve that kind of faith

Wed 7/1/2020 4:17 PM

You do not have a plan that protects the residents of the city. If this passes, we who oppose it will organize

Wed 7/1/2020 4:40 PM

Dear Minneapolis Charter Commission Members:

My Council Member, Andrew Johnson, gave me your email address information so I could provide you with my technical suggestions. I support the goals of the writers of the proposed Charter amendment establishing a new Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. I am a long-time Minneapolitan living in the 3rd Precinct. My neighborhood was affected by the recent unrest. However, I am concerned that some of the wording of the proposed changes will have unintended consequences. My aim is to suggest changes that improve readability. I'm assuming that if this language is part of a vote on the ballot, the wording will become very important.

I have not had time to do a deep read, but my comments are:

1. Refer to (a)(1) second sentence regarding qualifications of the Director of Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department. The existing sentence states that the director candidates will have non-law enforcement experience in community safety services, including but not limited to public health and/or restorative justice approaches. My fear is that no candidate could actually show this type of experience and you would unintentionally narrow your candidate field. Perhaps a way of getting at what the writers are seeking is to require each candidate to demonstrate that they will apply non-law enforcement holistic public health or restorative justice approaches as examples. Or have a sentence that lists out the characteristics a candidate must demonstrate. The writers might also add in the goals of this new department. What is its mission? And by "non-law enforcement", do you really mean to exclude someone who does have law enforcement experience when they might meet all the other ideals and approaches? "Law enforcement" is a very broad term.
2. Refer to (a), first sentence, second line. Sentence states the council must adequately fund and consistently engage the public. I suggest removing "adequately" and "consistently" because the words add qualifiers that might be confusing and distracting. Thank you for your time.

Wed 7/1/2020 5:35 PM

To the Council,

The language in the proposed amendment to the Charter is too vague. This lack of specificity makes the new system of public safety we are trying to create vulnerable to all the problems that already exist in the police department as it stands.

How are we going to hold the 'department of community safety and violence prevention' accountable? What can we do to ensure that this department is unbiased and cannot be corrupted by political or financial incentives? It is dangerous to assume that every peace officer will always act peacefully.

It is imperative that there is protocol for listening to community voices in this accountability process. How can we ensure that complaints and feedback are taken seriously and responded to in a timely fashion? An equitable system for community feedback must be written into the Charter. Not just feedback from those with the means to make their voice the loudest, but a system where every voice is heard and every complaint is taken seriously. What disciplinary action will be taken when complaints are submitted?

As it stands, it is far too easy for the new language in the Charter proposal to be abused. We must be more specific.

Wed 7/1/2020 6:13 PM

Hi Barbara---I wanted to thank you for so bravely advocating for slowing down the pace at which this asinine proposed amendment is moving. It is leaders like you who are so important during this crucial time. For the first time in the past couple weeks since this has arisen, I was able to feel proud and heard for what my representatives said and brought to the table.

I am personally strongly against this measure but even if others aren't, this extremely drastic step needs to be taken at the correct pace (which I think you identified) and heard from all parties and community leaders especially because the proposal has no real details about what will happen if this passes.

Please feel free to pass this on to the others that also spoke up in favor of your voice.

Wed 7/1/2020 6:17 PM

This action is a shameless power grab by The city council. It is unacceptable to act without providing a plan for their constituents review and allowing an appropriate comment period.

The proposed amended Charter language is so vague that it seems to mislead for the sole purpose of creating a system of corruption and political patronage which will dominate its practical implementation. There is no evidence replacing professional, sworn law enforcement officers (who are well trained) with political patronage and political pressure tactics will improve security and safety. In fact, almost all evidence both contemporary and historical points to an opposite result.

In short, while "Defund the Police" has gotten all the attention, the practical impact of the Charter amendment appears to be twofold A. Introduce a new *civilian* bureaucracy under the Council responsible for public safety and B. make any traditional sworn law enforcement officers report up to this bureaucracy (and presumably not the mayor). In shorter, Chief Rondo will have 13 bosses, not 1, and be constantly maneuvering with outside political priorities (aka Payola) to get resources for dealing with domestic violence, group terror, and gun crime that requires serious law enforcement training. The problems with this genre of hyper-political law enforcement scheme and the history of corruption in patronage systems like this are so lengthy (think Tammany Hall) it would take a 200 page post.

This is decidedly NOT the Camden situation, where NJ Governor Christie transferred authority over the PD to the County and the cost savings meant practically doubling the law enforcement officers. The Council seems to have no intention of handing the MPD to Hennepin county and saving money, but rather taking money from LEOs for political priorities.

Wed 7/1/2020 6:31 PM

Hi [REDACTED]---I wanted to thank you for so bravely advocating for slowing down the pace at which this asinine proposed amendment is moving. It is leaders like you who are so important during this crucial time. For the first time in the past couple weeks since this has arisen, I was able to feel proud and heard for what my representatives said and brought to the table.

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Please feel free to pass this on to the others that also spoke up in favor of your voice.

Wed 7/1/2020 6:33 PM

Dear Chair Clegg:

I am a resident of Minneapolis. I believe the proposed vote in November 2020 on the proposed amendment to the Charter is premature. The oversimplification of gravity of the amendment for a public vote does not provide the public with sufficient information to cast an informed vote. What is the Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department? How will it be organized and staffed? What is the cost of this significant modification to the City's infrastructure? How much time is forecast to complete this transformation? Most importantly, how will the safety of the public; businesses; buildings; city infrastructure; schools; transportation facilities; and the like be affected? How will this amendment affect other provisions within the charter; City ordinances; and Minnesota state statutes? How will the department heads within the City be affected? How will this amendment affect the various insurance policies of not only those of the City but all the property owners within the City? Will there be one person in charge; what title would this person have; or will persons of governing responsibility be subject to a myriad of other persons having a superior title? Finally, is this the best solution to the problems manifest in Minneapolis? For example, would the City benefit by amending the Charter from the present weak mayor style to strong mayor governance?

As a voter, I want to know before I vote what I, and my fellow residents and local businesses, are creating with a simple vote of "yes" or "no". I ask the Charter Commission to develop substantial additional information before it approves the proposed amendment language or altogether new language to send Minneapolis in a new direction. This can not be accomplished if the vote is in November 2020.

For full disclosure, I am proud to relate I was a member of the Charter Commission for approximately nine years.

Wed 7/1/2020 6:46 PM

Dear Commissioners:

Please let Minneapolis residents vote on the future of community safety in our city.

I am a mom of two young kids as well as a middle school educator. For myself, my family, and the children and families I work with, I envision a community where we have a say in how we are kept safe -- including defining who and what actually keeps us safe -- where we collectively develop and build the response systems that best serve the safety challenges in our community and invest in people, not police. Where we get to decide as a community where to put dollars to fund safety through a variety of avenues that center humanity, that include a variety of trained professionals, to increase the city's repertoire of safety measures and reduce violence.

The mandated police per capita percentage defined in the City Charter is an absolutely arbitrary number that the people of our city did not have a say in determining, whenever that was determined. We deserve to have the chance to remove the barriers of the charter language to give us the flexibility to create a system that works for all the residents of this city, with ongoing community input. Minneapolis is a new city after the death of George Floyd and the Uprising, events built on a long history of police

brutality and lack of care and safety for the Black and Native people of Minneapolis, as well as the violence we recently saw them unleash on peaceful protestors of all races. We will not stand for the status quo, and the people deserve to vote on whether the percentage should be changed as one piece of building a safer and more just city.

I have been protesting since George Floyd's death, trying to deeply internalize what it must feel like to never feel safe calling on armed authorities for help or in an emergency. Police do not represent safety for many Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color in our community. Why should we continue mandating a random decimal point of staffing funding for a body that for many, represents the opposite of safety -- fear and death? Let the people vote on whether that arbitrary number is worth keeping, or whether we are ready to have the ability to truly imagine and implement a new, broader vision of community safety that includes more than just armed law enforcement.

As the governing document of our city, the people deserve to have a say on that document and the chance to vote on any updates necessary as our city evolves and changes. We deserve to engage in a process that doesn't contain arbitrary barriers to creating a more equitable and versatile public safety system. Please don't tie our hands.

Please support the expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that we can exercise our democratic right to vote on a significant barrier to re-imagining public safety in our city.

Please let us vote.

Wed 7/1/2020 6:51 PM

Move the charter amendment forward and let's re-imagine community safety in Minneapolis.

Wed 7/1/2020 5:51 PM

Dear Andrea,

Please reform rather than defund the MPD. The system is broken and needs to be restructured.

Bad cops need to be removed from policing and national registry needs to be established.

IF you are able to do this, you will be admired by all of us, Minnesotans, Americans and World Citizens.

Wed 7/1/2020 7:32 PM

Dear Minneapolis Charter Commissioners,

Please amend the Minneapolis charter to replace the Minneapolis Police Department with a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention! Since the commission has only 150 days to review this proposed amendment, and it is important to let the people of Minneapolis make their own choices in the November vote, I urge you to review and approve it now. Let the community decide!

Wed 7/1/2020 9:33 PM

> I am concerned with the direction the City Council is taking to defund and eliminate the Police Department, including fast tracking the charter amendment process. It appears they are working to force a quick vote on a very complex issue with significant implications. Please stop or slow down this charter amendment process.

> As a 34 year Minneapolis resident and a business person, the direction the City Council is taking on this issue is causing us to worry about the ability to sustain the quality of life for this great city. For the first time in 34 years, we have started to consider housing options outside the city limits. We would prefer to be Minneapolitans.

Wed 7/1/2020 11:07 PM

If this goes to a vote, council will be embarrassed. If I'm wrong, you'll see tens of thousands flee Minneapolis. You'll be personally named in legal suits, and you'll lose. This is lunacy and it's time to admit that.

Thu 7/2/2020 5:36 AM

I know this is late. But I believe the study should be done first to determine what can be done and how before the charter should be voted on. This is a entire system change and it there are so many levels of current policing that will have to be re structured. Make an informed choice

Thu 7/2/2020 5:37 AM

To the Minneapolis Charter Commission,

As a long time member of the Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, founder and director of New Americans Youth Soccer Club centered in South Minneapolis and having read the full text of the proposed amendment to our City Charter, I am imploring with you not to move forward with the Council's amendment to the City Charter that would allow for the removal of the Police Department in Minneapolis.

New Americans Youth Soccer Club is almost exclusively made up of 140+ East African children in Minneapolis and has used Stewart Park in the Midtown Philips Neighborhood as its main practice field for up to 4 days/week through the summer and fall for the last eight years. During the last eight years, New Americans Youth Soccer Club has encountered multiple instances of crime and the Minneapolis Park Police's quick response has provided protection and comfort. One example was when someone fired a gun at the park while we had practice, the Minneapolis Park Police not only came to make sure everyone was safe, but also stationed an officer at the park for the next week. This simple act of police presence provided a sense of safety to our club and community. Another time, someone assaulted one of our staff members after he was asked not to walk through our field during our game. The Minneapolis Park Police were there quickly and found the culprit a few blocks away.

New Americans Youth Soccer Club believes that reforming safety and law enforcement in our community is absolutely necessary. As the director, my intention has always been to build a relationship between the club and the Minneapolis & Park Police. We've held many community events to build rapport between the two sides, from forums and panels to opportunities to connect at our annual banquets or barbeques. It is through these opportunities that develop the trust and bonds that have helped reshape not only how our young East African players view the police but their families and the community as well. New Americans Youth Soccer Club asks that the City Council not continue with its current course, but rather meet with community members and gain their feedback before making such a pivotal decision that will have long lasting ramifications.

While New Americans Youth Soccer Club has appreciated its partnership with the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board, if the current plan to abolish the police continues, we will have no choice but to search out other venues for our program. This decision was not made lightly, but the necessity of safety and protection for our 140+ players and families outweighs any logistical or financial obstacles to find a new location for the club.

On behalf of New Americans Youth Soccer Club

Thu 7/2/2020 6:05 AM

Good evening,

I am reaching out this evening as I am very disheartened by the Minneapolis City Councils' proposed charter amendment, which I believe is political theatrics, distracting from reasonable, actionable, transformational reform of Minneapolis Police.

To that end, I oppose the Minneapolis City Council action to amend the Minneapolis City Charter (see attached Council action "Amending Article VII of the City Charter). My reasons for opposing the Minneapolis City Council action to amend the Minneapolis City Charter are as follows

The proposed charter change:

1. Eliminates the police department with NO REPLACEMENT. Right now the Council does not have a plan. It only promises to develop the plan and how to implement it in the future.
2. Muddles ACCOUNTABILITY. It eliminates the authority of the Mayor and invests oversight by a Director of Community Safety and Violence Prevention who would report to the Council and Mayor. If there is a Division of Law Enforcement Services, "the Director of Community and Violence Prevention shall appoint the director of the division of law enforcement services, subject to confirmation by official act of the City Council and Mayor." This puts in place 15 "bosses" which means no boss. This also makes authority more distant and less accountable to the electorate.
3. Makes NO COMMITMENT to have a law enforcement function. The proposed Charter Change states: "Division of Law Enforcement Services The Council may maintain a division of law enforcement services, composed of licensed peace officers, subject to the supervision of the department of community safety and violence prevention." This removes from the current Charter language that City Council must establish, organize and otherwise provide for these departments...a police department.

This is a major change to our city government and should not be rushed. We need the Charter Commission to have a thorough, robust, inclusive public assessment prior to a vote of the electorate. The Charter Commission does not have the final say on whether an amendment goes to the voters. The Charter, however, does give the Commission some discretion on the timing to discourage proposals that do not give the voters an informed choice. The people must know what public safety and law enforcement functions will be provided by the city. Striving to eliminate structural racism must have prompt action; reforming our police dept must have prompt action; addressing our societal needs of housing, education, health care, mental health, the environment must have prompt action; NOT this Charter Change.

Thu 7/2/2020 6:05 AM

I hope the Charter Commission will do due diligence in scheduling a number of hearings on the Charter amendment proposed by the City Council. relative to changes to the Minneapolis Police Department. There are a number of proposed changes, in addition to creating a new department and placing the police function as only one of those under new leadership that needs to be considered. i

can't imagine how the Commission can proceed and have creditability without examining the implications of these proposed changes to the future of the city. Maybe we should put the entire function of maintaining peace under direction of the City Council in the same way the charter organizes all other functions of city government. The direction for and accountability for performance can then be spread over 13 elected leaders none of whom can be clearly accountable for performance. I like the new name of the proposed department but I'm not sure what it means apart from reducing accountability for the policing function and adding to the number of expensive supervisory positions each of which will be protected by Civil Service?

Thu 7/2/2020 6:51 AM

Dear Chair Barry Clegg,

I am the Senior Criminal Justice Campaigns Director at Color Of Change and I represent more than 2 million members. Our members join Reclaim the Block and Black Visions to call on the Minneapolis Charter Commission to move the proposed charter amendment forward and let Minneapolis voters decide Minneapolis' future.

You can find the public campaign and more details here.

Please reach out for any questions at [REDACTED]

Here is the letter that our members are sending you:

Dear Minneapolis Charter Commission,

I am standing with Color Of Change to demand that you move the proposed charter amendment to disband MPD forward. Our fight for #JusticeForFloyd isn't over, and we will continue to hold you accountable and demand that you use your power to defend Black lives and let Minneapolis voters re-imagine community safety.

Just four days ago, the Minneapolis City Council voted unanimously to approve a potential ballot measure to change the city charter and dismantle Minneapolis' police force.

Minneapolis remains in desperate need of meaningful action and visionary leadership that meets the gravity of this moment. The people of Minneapolis stand with the City Council. We need you to stand with us, too.

More than ever, we need you to lead. I'm writing to ask you to make clear that you stand with the people of Minneapolis and move the charter amendment forward. We're still watching, and we will hold Minneapolis leaders accountable — today, next week, and beyond. Approve the charter amendment as written and let Minneapolis voters decide Minneapolis' future.

And here are the senders of the letter, along with their comments: [REDACTED]

Thu 7/2/2020 7:34 AM

Thank you for holding these open sessions asking for the citizen's thoughts regarding the removal of a city police department. [REDACTED] and I live in West Phillips and currently our ward representative has resigned and our position on the City Council is empty, leaving us without a voice on these important issues and other concerns that will come up in the next year.

Our immediate response to "defunding" or removing the police in our city would be a NO vote. We are aware of ongoing concerns, and the death of George Floyd was not the first time problems in the policing system surfaced in Minneapolis. However, it seems extreme to throw out and blame the entire police department for these problems. It would be more prudent to determine the dysfunction in its entirety and then create a plan of how to solve those problems. Preparing for other services and governmental agencies to support the policing services.

We do not believe the Federation is the problem, they are just the scapegoat and an easy target for blame. In general, the police department like many large organizations, needs a "tune up" - regularly and that seems to have been missing for some time. To say all is bad is an injustice to us, the police officers and every citizen in the varied neighborhoods throughout our city.

Mayor Frey and the City Council, Lisa Bender as President especially, have let us down. In our most trying time you failed to provide the level of safety we deserve and depend on. As a group of former student protesters, citizen agitators, so called progressives - you have failed to LEAD at a most important time. As city leaders you have to be able to determine the scope of change needed. We know change is difficult, but we look forward to solutions that will assist getting good policing in our city.

We want to be on the record as saying the current city leadership cannot be trusted to develop a comprehensive plan as required. The skills needed to repair the damages done are not present in today's mayor's office or the City Council boardroom. We plan to become more involved in finding new leadership for our city and to involve our tax paying neighbors in these efforts. We deserve the service of people like ALL of us who know and appreciate the function of our local government.

Thu 7/2/2020 8:40 AM

Minneapolis' strong Council/weak Mayor system already is dysfunctional. Rather than reforming and improving our PD's potential genuinely to protect and serve, the proposed creation of a larger new multifunction department — reporting not to an accountable executive (a mayor) but to this disparate body of 13, while shrinking and subsuming the essential PD itself — is a recipe for disaster. Vote NO on the creation of new bureaucracy — reform the police department by other means, eg transferring it to Hennepin County and requiring vast new, annual trainings of all its officers coupled with swift power to fire "bad apples".

Thu 7/2/2020 8:44 AM

Dear Minneapolis Charter Commission,

The people of Minneapolis deserve a meaningful community process to re-imagine health and safety that is not blocked by the City Charter. For years, the Charter has been a barrier to addressing the

atrocities perpetrated by the Minneapolis Police Department because it restricts the city council's ability to hold MPD accountable. The Charter also restricts how the City practices public safety by requiring a minimum number of MPD officers. Neither of these barriers exist for any other City department.

It is in our democratic right to ensure proper oversight and accountability from our public departments. The demands for change in public oversight are not new and they should not wait: we deserve greater oversight over public departments that we pay for, as several Council Members have pushed for.

The best community solutions must be viable, without barriers embedded in the City Charter. A meaningful community process to re-imagine healthy, safe communities cannot wait. Without the chance to amend the City Charter this year, the best community solutions may not even be viable.

The work to engage Minneapolis residents and stakeholders in a path forward must start now—and it must include a 2020 ballot initiative. The City Charter belongs to the people, and we deserve a chance to exercise our democratic voice.

I am standing with Color Of Change, Black Visions, and Reclaim The Block to demand that you advance the proposed charter amendment to disband MPD.

More than ever, we need you to lead. I'm writing to ask you to make clear that you stand with the people of Minneapolis and move the charter amendment forward. Our fight for #JusticeForFloyd isn't over, and we will continue to hold you accountable and demand that you use your power to defend Black lives and let Minneapolis voters re-imagine community safety.

Thu 7/2/2020 8:48 AM

I non concur with the proposed amendment. Without a thoughtful up to a 1-year period in which a way forward is thoroughly discussed, I believe this amendment is premature. Especially with regards to organization, funding, and power. In addition I see no discussion on timing of implementation of the amendment. Would the police be immediately abandoned upon passing of said charter amendment. All in all, while I believe changes need to be made, this rush forward is VERY VERY bad idea.

Thu 7/2/2020 8:54 AM

Dear Mpls Charter Commission,

I read with interest the article in today's Star Tribune & feel strongly that this is a critical decision for the city of Mpls & the greater Twin Cities and encourage you to take as much time as is required to "get it right". I am sure you will feel pressure to move quickly from the City Council with the November election upcoming, but their proposal is very lacking in details regarding what would replace the MPD.

I am not a resident of Mpls, but our bank finances many properties in Mpls & has many small business customers in Mpls. As cited by Mayor Frey there needs to be improved policing accountability in the future & a city council with 14 members would have a very difficult time providing true

accountability. It's also very important that residents & businesses can all feel safe in the city & that police & fire are able to respond timely when they feel threatened. If they don't feel safe or they question the future values of their properties, there is nothing to stop these businesses, homeowners, and residents to relocate to another metro city.

Based on the recent behavior of Office Chauvin, it's clear that the MPD is in need of reform at a minimum, which would include a less powerful police union. These too are important changes. It seems that MPD chief Arradondo has the confidence of the Mpls black community, the community as a whole & should be provided the opportunity to evaluate & implement these important changes.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my opinion.

Thu 7/2/2020 9:23 AM

You know this looks like a Trump action! No plan, no idea, no vision, just this is broken, worst situation ever. Folks can't tell you what they are going to replace, how it will work, what it will do, Have no use for the statistics and experience that the police have been using for the last what 30-40-50 years. IMHO this craziness, unexpected consequences all started with the "War on Drugs" (a political gimmick) it became a war on the minority communities, it was also the rise of street gangs, and where do they make their money "drugs", the police have been taught that the minority communities house the gangs, and that is where the crime is. Defund the gangs by treating the drug issue and maybe things will change. No one is saying our police couldn't use some extra training especially on de-escalation, we are saying, that depending on who is looking, minority communities do not get equal justice, from regulation enforcement to street traffic. We got our problems, but perhaps raising expectations for the less well off instead of lowering them is the path we should be taking. Perhaps with higher expectations we will get higher performance. But to blanket statement that we are going to defund our police and take a chance on walking into the unknown abyss, I think not!

Thu 7/2/2020 9:54 AM

I am a longtime resident of Mpls and I currently live in the 3rd precinct. I think the disbanding of the Mpls police department is a ridiculous idea. It is clearly a knee jerk reaction, with no consideration of reality, by a city council that feels guilt and powerlessness over an event that never should have happened (killing of G. Floyd). When there's a problem within a system you don't throw the baby out with the bathwater, you get down to the business of changing that system. The first thing that needs to happen is deal with the police union, which has too much power. Go to the heart of the problem. Look around at what's been happening in many parts of the city since the tragic event of Floyd's death: violence, lawlessness, disregard for human life. We need police now more than ever. It can be a better department. Get busy.

Thu 7/2/2020 9:56 AM

I wanted to share this article with you if you have not seen it: <https://www.startribune.com/some-minneapolis-black-leaders-speak-out-against-city-council-s-moves-to-defund-police/571594012/?refresh=true>

It is clear the city council has not done any diligence whatsoever in contacting their community members. I believe this responsibility now falls on the charter commission to pick up the ball that the city council dropped.

Thank you to those of you that stood up and advocated for slowing down the timeline and trying to make this drastic action correctly and thought-out.

Thu 7/2/2020 10:38 AM

To the Charter Commission: I am opposed to ending the MPD. The best idea in my mind is getting rid of Bob Kroll & the union to change the way police are trained. No more "Kroll bullies". Also the arbitration process contributes in a big way to bad behavior. We're already known as Murderapolis; do we want to continue to live in a city where it appears that laws mean nothing? I don't. Bringing back the gang task force also sounds like it should be given some serious thought. Reform is good, just do it with some serious thought.

Thu 7/2/2020 10:45 AM

Good evening,

I am reaching out this evening as I am very disheartened by the Minneapolis City Councils' proposed charter amendment, which I believe is political theatrics, distracting from reasonable, actionable, transformational reform of Minneapolis Police.

As a resident of this community, who has utilized the police when a person unknown to us set a fire on our deck while my family slept upstairs, including my two small children, I unequivocally believe that a police force, acting with respect and restraint, is essential to our society.

To that end, I oppose the Minneapolis City Council action to amend the Minneapolis City Charter (see attached Council action "Amending Article VII of the City Charter). My reasons for opposing the Minneapolis City Council action to amend the Minneapolis City Charter are as follows

The proposed charter change:

1. Eliminates the police department with NO REPLACEMENT. Right now the Council does not have a plan. It only promises to develop the plan and how to implement it in the future.
2. Muddles ACCOUNTABILITY. It eliminates the authority of the Mayor and invests oversight by a Director of Community Safety and Violence Prevention who would report to the Council and Mayor. If there is a Division of Law Enforcement Services, " the Director of Community and Violence Prevention shall appoint the director of the division of law enforcement services, subject to confirmation by official act of the City Council and Mayor." This puts in place 15 "bosses" which means no boss. This also makes authority more distant and less accountable to the electorate.
3. Makes NO COMMITMENT to have a law enforcement function. The proposed Charter Change states: "Division of Law Enforcement Services the Council may maintain a division of law enforcement services, composed of licensed peace officers, subject to the supervision of the department of

community safety and violence prevention." This removes from the current Charter language that City Council must establish, organize and otherwise provide for these departments...a police department.

This is a major change to our city government and should not be rushed. We need the Charter Commission to have a thorough, robust, inclusive public assessment prior to a vote of the electorate. The Charter Commission does not have the final say on whether an amendment goes to the voters. The Charter, however, does give the Commission some discretion on the timing to discourage proposals that do not give the voters an informed choice. The people must know what public safety and law enforcement functions will be provided by the city. Striving to eliminate structural racism must have prompt action; reforming our police dept must have prompt action; addressing our societal needs of housing, education, health care, mental health, the environment must have prompt action; NOT this Charter Change.

Thu 7/2/2020 10:46 AM

Hello,

I am writing to strongly urge you to keep Chief Aradondo as head of the police department; that the mayor and NOT the city council make final decisions regarding the police; that citizens from the Black, Native, and LGBT communities be strongly involved. I believe we need police as one contingent in a totally retrained, re-educated department. Issues of economic, educational, safety disparities must also be addressed as fundamental.

I do not support the city council in this area.

Thu 7/2/2020 11:07 AM

The time is now for a decision on whether or not to amend the city charter. The people of Minneapolis have a right to vote on this in November. Too many times has "trying to get it right" been used as an excuse to delay or prevent meaningful change from taking hold. We can't let perfection be the enemy of progress.

Thu 7/2/2020 11:44 AM

If you are going to put this on the ballot at all, please delay it until November 2021. That way, the proposal and its authors on the city council will face the voters at the same time.

Thu 7/2/2020 1:09 PM

My husband and I wish to join others in recommending a thoughtful, thorough discussion by varying constituencies before rushing into action about Charter changes. Stay involved and informed and make sure your decision is a wise one.

Thu 7/2/2020 1:32 PM

Dear Minneapolis Charter Commissioners -

I write to join my voice with all who are asking you to allow the people of Minneapolis to vote in the upcoming November election, on the future of public safety systems. Please expedite your approval of

the Charter Amendment language so that roadblocks in the Charter are removed and people are allowed to vote.

The Charter must be changed to establish a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention and remove the rigid requirements that keep Minneapolis Police Department locked in place. If the charter is changed, MPD will not be dismantled overnight; instead, the charter change will begin a thoughtful transition to a department that actually keeps our communities safe.

People throughout the state of Minnesota, throughout the country, and indeed throughout the world viewed the video of George Floyd's murder. We are all watching you now. We are asking what Minneapolis will do.

Equally important, we are asking what we each must do, wherever we live, to meaningfully re-imagine public health and safety. Each of us has both a moral and a civic responsibility to act. We look to you for leadership in this moment. We all must take leadership moving forward.

Demonstrations, protests, testimony, calls, letters, and community discussions are happening all over the state. All of us want to live - and want our children to live - in communities where there is safety, peace, a chance to grow and to be part of a future that includes, respects and works for everyone. We do not want Black, Brown, Indigenous, Immigrant or other community members to be targeted due to the color of their skin. We do not want harassment, brutalization or injustices perpetrated against people anywhere.

In Minneapolis, the problems of the Police Department run too deep and have proven too resistant to change. It is time to amend the Minneapolis Charter. It is time to let the people vote.

Thu 7/2/2020 2:07 PM

To the commissioners, I own 3 restaurants in Minneapolis and I'm very concerned with the notion of disbanding the police. I would say that there is a very loud minority and taking this as everyone wants it wouldn't be a well informed notion. I do not live in Minneapolis, even though I did for 10 years, I do own businesses and I employ 220 people, many of whom live in Minneapolis and I'm concerned with the spike in crime recently. How could the city council or the commissioners vote for this. I'm all for reform and things need to change, there is no doubt about that but I believe that this would be a major mistake and I do not want to see the history of this great city that I care about so much be tarnished. Thank you for listening and I sincerely hope that you take in all opinions here and not just the most vocal.

Thu 7/2/2020 2:09 PM

Dear Minneapolis Charter Commission,

I have been a Minneapolis resident since 1996. I care for everyone in my community of all races, religions and sexual orientations. I also care for our Police in Minneapolis as they have helped out in many situations where help was greatly needed.

I care about my fellow citizens and family. I write to you urgently, to please NOT approve the Minneapolis City Council's amendment to the city charter, section 7.3. Some reform can happen to better the organization in some ways that it needs bettering. But this should be done WITH our police department, not in place of it.

There has been such an uprising in violence this summer. I really don't think cutting back and re-organizing the whole thing is a good idea. People don't feel safe, we can't send our kids to the park and

don't feel good about the city we live in right now. Please don't make it more vulnerable. There HAS to be a better way to work together instead of defunding/abolishing it completely.

Thu 7/2/2020 3:54 PM

Dear City of Mpls Charter Commission,

As a resident of the City of Minneapolis since 1983, I am deeply committed to our city, its vitality and its safety.

I am writing to share my concern about the proposal to eliminate the Minneapolis Police Department.

Do I believe the MPD needs overhaul and reform? Absolutely, yes!

Do I believe in the holistic concept of “defunding” whereby various duties currently carried out by the MPD would be shifted to other professionals more capable and experienced in handling them (e.g. mental health, high school safety and supervision, etc.)? Again, yes. I believe this is absolutely the right direction to take.

Do I believe the Minneapolis Police Federation and its leader Bob Kroll are a foundational part of the problem and a huge barrier to change? Again, YES!

Despite these beliefs, I am not in support of fast-tracking the dismantling of the MPD. We must move swiftly, yes, but we must get it right. If a flawed plan is pushed through it will do more harm than good.

The MPD needs an overhaul and it needs to happen quickly. And the Police Federation and Bob Kroll need to go. But pushing through a slap-dash dismantling plan by including it on the November ballot is not prudent.

The MPD needs dramatic reform and reinvention. Baby steps and tactical change will not be enough. As we proceed with reform our leadership must consider the critical importance of language. We need look no further than today's societal and vitriolic divisiveness over “conservative” versus “liberal” or “red” versus “blue” to appreciate what a flashpoint the wrong word can be. “Defund” and “dismantle” have come to mean very different things than intended to many of our citizens — in the Twin Cities and beyond. So to not use them clearly and with careful definition is dangerous and may fuel an already out-of-control fire.

We need change. Frankly, we need dramatic change. But trying to shove through a weak or flawed plan is not the solution. Let's do this right, Minneapolis.

Thu 7/2/2020 4:14 PM

Just read the proposed charter amendment. Wow! I think it's a little drastic. To abolish all of the police force? I am all for the appropriate professionals responding when and where they are needed, including the police. What will happen or who will respond to the most violent of crimes? This does not seem to be addressed and frankly, it scares me

Thu 7/2/2020 4:15 PM

I am a Minneapolis city resident (since 1956) and I love Minneapolis. Now I am worried because I do not know what you are doing to my city. Please watch this Carrie Boomer Heinrich video concerning kids in our parks and talk about what happened in Jordan Park. You need to come up with a plan that considers all of Minneapolis residents: our backgrounds, our needs, our goals; so start listening to us. We have a police department to protect and serve us, and I believe that we need a police department to protect and serve us. So please figure out a way to make that work. If you are a city council person, you need to figure out what we need and work toward making that happen and stop doing what you need. Respectfully.

Thu 7/2/2020 4:47 PM

I do not support amending the city's charter and placing all power and funding over the police force in the hands of the city council. The council has already demonstrated poor judgement and ineffectiveness in the way their proposal was communicated...resulting in chaos and confusion. The idea of spending a year gathering input is not addressing the current urgency to make immediate changes ...some of which have already been initiated by the mayor and police department.

It seems there are a cast of thousands clamoring to "fix this problem". There are lawmakers at the state and federal levels trying to pass laws, and a variety of city and activist organization working on the problem. However, I'm not seeing a common definition of the actual problem.... is it abolishing police brutality? Great, I'm all for it. Should the police not be allowed to use deadly force to protect themselves and others? I'm certainly not in favor of insisting officers be killed or otherwise harmed by violent offenders. How exactly are they supposed to restrain those who would harm them? Officers put themselves in harms way, to protect others and elected officials need to show them respect and set an example for others.

Public safety is a huge topic, requiring specific objectives and measurements of success. All this energy needs to be channeled in an orderly fashion, and right now....it looks like redundancies abound.

I believe the police force is doing many things right, and should be given credit by communicating what those things are. It appears the police force has become a lightning rod for unruly mobs and activists who screech their demands and hatred under the guise of peaceful demonstrations, who take delight in creating fear, chaos and destruction among actual taxpaying citizens.

Take a look at New York....is that what you want to unleash on Mpls?

Thu 7/2/2020 5:40 PM

I am a public school teacher who lives in Minneapolis. In my 25 years of teaching I have watched communities both small and large fall apart. I have been inside of many problems children, the poor and people of color face. I have learned quite a bit but I have a lot more to learn. When a productive step shows itself as an option I recognize it. You are now able to take one of these steps for our city. Please help our city. Please help me help small children.

I am writing to urge you to let residents of Minneapolis have the opportunity to vote on the future of our public safety system.

No matter the color of our skin or where we come from, all of us deserve to live in a community where we feel safe and our lives are valued. We deserve to live peaceful, happy, healthy lives in spaces where communities of color, particularly Black community members, are not targeted, harassed, brutalized, and murdered by our public servants. Despite good-faith efforts to reform, years of evidence show us that the problems of the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) are deep.

We as a City cannot tolerate the police brutality and mistreatment of the public from our Police Department. While the chilling murder of George Floyd was the loudest wake-up call, I know there are many other instances of violence and abuse, especially towards Black and Native American members of our communities. Rampant and even indiscriminate tear-gassing and firing on the public, protestors, and journalists by Minneapolis Police are further evidence that our Police Department is not squarely under the control of our democratically elected leaders or the official chain of command.

The people of Minneapolis deserve a meaningful community process to re-imagine health and safety, without encountering the barrier of outdated language in the City Charter. The people of Minneapolis deserve a City Charter that does not block our local elected officials from carrying out the will of the people.

For years, the Charter has been a barrier to holding the police department accountable because it prohibits city council oversight. The Charter also restricts how the City supports public safety by requiring a minimum amount of staffing. Neither of these barriers exist for any other City department.

The City Charter belongs to the people, and we deserve a chance to exercise our democratic voice.

Please support expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolitans can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election. Please, let us vote.

Thu 7/2/2020 5:41 PM

The whole "charter amendment" process is so unnecessary and is very rushed. It's impossible for the citizenry to learn the potential consequences (good or bad) of these changes in time to weigh in.

I especially oppose stripping the mayor of his/her power to run the police. This is a power grab by the Unfabulous Five. Just say no.

Thu 7/2/2020 6:09 PM

At the end of a long day of competing agendas from our governing bodies, I am particularly encouraged by the discussion and actions of the Charter Commission.

Chair Barry Clegg began the meeting with a educational picture of what the commission does, what actions it can take re the charter, who else plays a role, and what the alternatives are for the commission, the mayor, and the council. Quite a tutorial. Especially significant was their method of appointment - chosen by the Hennepin County judges - nonpartisan, based on what each member can contribute to the whole. Reassuring.

Also reassuring were the comments of Black leaders in Minneapolis following up this meeting in the StarTribune, criticizing the Council for its rush and for undermining Arradondo, our Black chief of police. These leaders include Steve Belton, Urban League; Nakima Levy Armstrong, former head of Minneapolis NAACP; Brian Herron, Pastor of Zion Baptist Church; and Sondra Samuels, head of Northside Achievement Zone, who called the council's charter proposal "premature, immature, and dangerous."

The commission will invite the council members who proposed the charter change to testify at its next meeting on July 8 at 4 p.m. about what the changes will mean for city governance. Clegg was tasked with appointing a subcommittee, to be chaired by member Andrea Rubenstein, of five members to arrange meetings and receive public input. I am a bit unclear about the next meeting after July 8th but I think it is in early August. The commissioners were not to be forced to hurry - several said this is too important to be rushed.

The process was important - the commissioners were attentive - the charter is in thoughtful hands. (and p.s. they promise their visual will work for July 8th. Today, only the audio did).

Thu 7/2/2020 6:32 PM

Please do not rush to push through a charter change to defund the police. To do this would be irresponsible.

Thu 7/2/2020 7:07 PM

I beg of you, do not eliminate the Police Dept! If anything, we need more police on the Streets, especially Downtown. The public is afraid to go Downtown because of the loitering of troublemakers Downtown. And, now they are invading Uptown. If we do not have Police we will lose tourist business, and people going to ball games, baseball, football, basketball! People who want theater, the Guthrie, dance at the Cowles Center. The council people who took that oath of defunding are irresponsible! Sucking up to Mob intimidation! Are you going to let Mobs rule the City? Give every Police person a psychological test, if they have a tendency of brutalizations or racism fire them! If they have too many complaints against them fire them. And, school them constantly about police brutality and racism! If you do not have confidence from the public about peace and security you will lose the city, and any and all tourism and Downtown activity! Be committed to the citizens of the city! Not to Mobs!

Thu 7/2/2020 7:21 PM

I urge the Charter Commission to fast track the proposed amendment on the Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. By getting this on the ballot for the November election, the Commission will endorse a public and democratic process. For me this is key.

Also key is transformation of Minneapolis' concept of community safety and violence prevention. I believe that for too long we have "outsourced" the ideal of community safety and left it for the police to deal with. As community we have abandoned our responsibility. This works in in a system that is constructed to benefit white people but totally fails in and for communities of color.

I believe that we are at the right moment to make a definite break with the history of policing and that we need to start from scratch. The track record of MPD demonstrates that attempts at reform have not been successful. After Jamar Clark was killed five years ago the Minneapolis police department under pressure undertook a series of reforms proposed by the Obama administration. In 2015, they brought in a procedural reformer and implicit bias champion to lead the National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice, a three-year, \$4.75m project to use data collection, social psychology and police community dialogues to repair and strengthen the frayed relationship between cops and communities. Following that, Minneapolis implemented a series of training programs designed to professionalize policing to reduce abuses that might trigger more protests. Officers were trained in how to respond to mental health crisis calls, how to de-escalate confrontations with the public, how to be “mindful” in dangerous circumstances, and how to be more self-aware of their implicit racial bias. In 2018, the department even wrote a report, Focusing on Procedural Justice Internally and Externally, to highlight the broad range of procedural reforms they had implemented. It hasn’t worked.

In light of all this, it is clear to me that we need to redefine what community safety is and hire a whole new division to carry this out. Former police officers can apply for a job but they need to commit to the new vision and be the best candidate.

There is urgency here. Under the current system, BIPOC people are killed and brutalized by the current police force every day. The sooner we get this in motion by putting it on the ballot the sooner we can make the needed changes. The proposed amendment begins the process. It does not have to spell out each detail. It shouldn’t. We, the community should.

Thu 7/2/2020 8:55 PM

I am extremely against the concept of having the Police Department under the direction of the City Council. I wish it to remain under the Mayor’s direction. It does not seem plausible that it can function well otherwise.

I have written several emails to my City Councilman saying that the knee jerk reaction of “disband” the Police Department without any sense of a plan is madness.

Having just rereading “Ghettoside” by Jill Leovy, I appreciate very much the need for proper policing in all communities. And-I support all “decent” policemen and believe that the vast majority are “decent.”

So-keep the direction of the Police Department under the direction of the Mayor’s office and, if possible, remove Bob Kroll.

Thu 7/2/2020 9:13 PM

I’m for the amendment to the charter even if the plan to replace the Police Dept isn’t completely developed before the vote.

Thu 7/2/2020 9:38 PM

While I do not live in Minneapolis, I often go into Minneapolis to various places and I have family who live in Minneapolis. I think it's important that more time is needed to hear from all Mpls communities and specifics about how policing and safety will be handled in the city before placing the question on the Nov ballot. I feel the community needs to voice what they feel is important in keeping their community safe.

Thu 7/2/2020 10:04 PM

Yes, please change the language in our charter that is specific to the police department.

Thu 7/2/2020 10:19 PM

Good evening,

As a 12-year resident and homeowner in Minneapolis, I have taken a keen interest in the proposal to replace the Police Department. Especially so, as my neighborhood (Phillips) has seen a significant increase of crime, violence, and unrest. My wife and I are fond of walking our neighborhood, but we now largely stay inside out of fear. While I am conscious of significant issues within our Police department, I have grave concerns with the current proposal. In particular:

- Specificity – this amendment is billed as a new model for public safety. However, it offers few details on what this new department will be like. If voters are being asked to embrace a change unprecedented in a modern American city, we need to know more details about what it will look like.
- Trust –there is a lack of trust in the police department. However, the lack of specificity in this proposal means the City Council will have a large scope to mold this new department as they see fit. Frankly, the City Council has not gained my trust recently, and certainly not enough to let them attempt such a significant change.
- Timing – public safety is the lowest I've seen since moving to Minneapolis. This does not seem to be the time for such a significant change. The handoff to a new department would almost certainly involve a worsening of the situation, and I'm not sure we can afford that right now.
- Reform – as far as I can tell, few people are upset that we have a police department. Rather, they're upset at the abuses within our police department. Why are we addressing a corruption and abuse problem with such a significant structural change?

The bottom line: Minneapolis residents are scared right now, and they want to feel safe. They have concerns about our current Police department, but need reasons to believe this new department will be better. I see little reason to believe it will. Unless these objections can be addressed, I intend to oppose this amendment and encourage others to do the same.

Fri 7/3/2020 4:49 PM

That is insanity . Who will come when someone needs the police in case of a violent act ? Think before you act please .

Fri 7/3/2020 7:01 AM

> I got a chance to review what seems to be the change from The Citizens for Loring Park email so I will respond from that assuming it's correct.

> It looks like the Council wants to create a new department that MAY (really?) form a police department. It doesn't say what else is in this department and describes its purpose with vague terms straight out of a new age handbook. Notably absent is any role for the Mayor, so it seems it will be overseen by the entire Council. It looks like part of the purpose is to take a weak Mayor system and make it weaker which I think is the wrong direction. Management by committee just dilutes accountability. Also, it appears this new department may overlap others and there is no clarification as to how this would be resolved.

> This way too open ended with a lot of questions. It feels like the Council got carried away with slogans and didn't do the harder work of putting substance to them.

> As it is, I would vote no.

Fri 7/3/2020 7:02 AM

I've been listening to the black and brown communities in Minneapolis who have been fighting against police brutality for years now. They have made it very clear that they do not support this amendment to the charter because it jumps the gun and hurts them more in the long run. You need to listen to these leaders and activists because what they want is NOT what you have written out in the charter. They call for the defunding and restructuring of police, but not the abolition of it. Listen to the people! If you approve this charter amendment, you will be hurting the people that you claim you're trying to protect.

Fri 7/3/2020 8:16 AM

We the citizens of Minneapolis are entitled to the Public Safety Department for which we pay taxes. The members of this Department should be trained Officers of the Peace. Broadly stated, their main goal should be to protect life and property, as well as to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the purpose of inspiring trust in their ability to perform their role in the interests of their constituents and law-abiding visitors. The City receives tax dollars from people and businesses of all colors and owes people and businesses of all colors policing with empathy, respect and without bias for or against any skin color or ethnicity.

Citizens should comport themselves with dignity and respect in the presence of officers of any ethnicity or skin color or gender affiliation.

This is my simple, direct vision of a respected and effective police department. The conduct of officers should be consistent with the culture, values and mores of the City of Minneapolis and they should never debase their office with excessive abuse of force (as it appears Officer Chauvin did). They should respect and empathize with the constituents of their Precinct and should be able to carry on a respectful conversation without reaching compulsively for the holster.

At the same time, I don't believe Officers of the Peace must perform the role of psychologists and social workers. I have known of psychiatrists and social workers who have been attacked by patients exhibiting outbreaks of mental illness. We cannot afford to place our public servants at such a risk, especially with the conceal and carry laws we have (allowing people to carry concealed weapons)!

During a time of coronavirus, officers have a role along with the overtaxed healthcare system in bringing peace and order to our city streets, homes and communities.

We may need to change the evaluation system of officers, to incorporate expectations of more respectful behaviors towards the struggling, the least, and the lost of our communities. Bad officers with low self-esteem who compensate by bullying passive and/or emotionally vulnerable citizens should be identified and corrected (using progressive discipline), at the risk of losing their jobs.

The council should focus its defunding efforts totally on the Police Officers Federation, headed by Bob Kroll. We should all put our City's interests first, and those who refuse to compromise dangerous positions that undermine the proper professional development of police should not be allowed to have a part in the reimagining of Minneapolis's police force.

By the same standard, those who rashly insist on defunding (instead of improving the Minneapolis Police Department) should not succeed. Revising the City Charter in a de jure way is not as critical as redrafting the job description of the Minneapolis Police and rewarding those with the dignity, strength and true measure of devotion to deserve the respect of their constituents. Thank you for reading and considering my views.

Stay well and serve so that you will never regret what went down during your watch. Thank you for serving the City of Minneapolis!

Fri 7/3/2020 9:00 AM

Good afternoon, I am writing to support the new Public Safety amendment being on the November ballot. This is not "too soon" it is long overdue. Please expedite the process however needed to allow us to vote to defund and disband the MPD in November.

Fri 7/3/2020 12:51 PM

Dear Ms. Rubenstein, I ask you, as a member of the Minneapolis Charter commission, to act expeditiously to allow the vote on the city council's proposed amendment to the city charter, regarding police and the creation of a new Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Minneapolis can't wait, we need to be able to vote on this amendment in November. Thank you for the work you do on behalf of our city.

Fri 7/3/2020 2:20 PM

Dear Council-members, Concerning the problem of reforming law enforcement in Minneapolis, it seems clear that there should be a good compromise solution that would provide a healthy combination of better selected and trained police--including better paid, to attract better candidates--along with improved public health intervention capacity, coordinated with law-enforcement personnel who are trained to protect all present at any site where intervention is needed. Rather than doing away with police or police departments entirely, which would be unwise and probably unachievable anyway, the City Council should revise its proposals to incorporate such provisions as just described. Thank you for your consideration.

Fri 7/3/2020 2:44 PM

Dear Mr. Clegg, I am writing to ask that the charter commission take time to consider changes to the charter as it relates to the elimination of the police department. This is a major change to our city government and should not be rushed. It should not be on the November ballot.

Transformational reform of the Minneapolis police is essential and urgent. However, this charter amendment is a distraction from other, more critically needed action.

I believe we have to have a thorough, robust, inclusive public assessment prior to a vote of the electorate. Citizens must know what public safety and law enforcement functions will be provided by the city. Striving to eliminate structural racism must have prompt action; reforming our police dept must have prompt action; addressing our societal needs of housing, education, health care, mental health, the environment must have prompt action. Those issues need immediate attention, not the charter amendment.

My concerns are that the proposed amendment eliminates the police department without a replacement, muddles accountability, and makes no commitment to have a law enforcement function. Thank you for considering my concerns.

Fri 7/3/2020 2:45 PM

Dear Mr. Clegg, I ask you, as chair of the Minneapolis Charter commission, to act expeditiously to allow the vote on the city council's proposed amendment to the city charter, regarding police and the creation of a new Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Please approve the amendment as submitted. Minneapolis can't wait; we need to be able to vote on this amendment in November. Thank you for the work you do on behalf of our city.

Fri 7/3/2020 3:43 PM

Members of the Charter Commission, Thank you for requesting public comments on the proposed revision to the City Charter. I am submitting a copy of a recent letter I sent to my Council Member, Cam Gordon. As expressed in the letter, my husband and I have concerns about the process and implications of the Council's proposal, while maintaining our strong support for rooting out the systemic racism embedded in the MPD.

Council Member Gordon,

My husband and I have been strong supporters of yours since moving to Mpls eight years ago. Like you, we're personally committed to ending systemic racism, and fully support your priority to seek drastic reform of the Mpls Police Department (#1-#2 strategies in your e-newsletter).

We are encouraged by the Council and Mayor's recent resolution to pursue a "year-long process of community engagement" regarding the future of the MPD.

However, we have concerns about the Council's proposal to end the MPD, by amending the city charter through "an unconventional, expedited process" (June 27 StarTribune). Your priorities #4-#6 (e-

newsletter) call for major changes in the city charter, including an notable expansion of the Council's authority; these ideas are embedded in the Council's fast-track proposal.

We're confused. Submitting such a far reaching proposal in order to meet voting timelines appears to contradict your recent pledge to seek extensive community input. (If you requested input from your constituents before writing this proposal, we're not aware of it).

We are fearful that the Council's focus on championing a ballot question will prove divisive, as opposing forces recruit and rally citizens to support their side of the measure. Spending energy and resources to win a referendum question seems antithetical to the lengthier, but ultimately necessary process of deep listening to a wide range of constituents. We're concerned that there will be fewer resources and less energy devoted to true community engagement: the hard work of facilitating difficult conversations, studying other models of public safety, and taking future-oriented, constructive actions to eliminate systemic racism.

More than one leader has stated that we have only one chance to get this right: we must seize this opportunity to root out systemic racism. Is an expedited ballot measure the Council's response to "getting this right"? Or is this a solution designed to meet an August filing deadline?

We're confident that you'll utilize your 14 years of City Council on behalf of Ward 2 residents to continue tackling the multiple, complex facets of systemic racism in the MPD. Now, more than ever, we urge you to collaborate with Mayor Frey and Chief Arradondo, who have learned excruciatingly hard lessons during this past month. Each of you has valuable life experiences, creative ideas, and commitment to create a better Minneapolis; We are confident that your collective talents and wisdom can be harnessed to navigate a path forward for all of us.

Fri 7/3/2020 4:14 PM

Please do NOT advance to the November ballot the proposed amendment that would remove the police department from the Minneapolis charter and replace it with a community safety and violence prevention department. This proposal would go far beyond needed police reform; it also would shift more power to the city council, a body that already wields too much power and has no members elected at large. The citizens of Minneapolis need to see much more concrete detail before moving forward with this significant change. The council proposes to spend a year engaging the community in discussion. Let's have that discussion before we amend the charter. To rush it through would be reckless. Meanwhile, we can move forward with police reform on several fronts

Fri 7/3/2020 4:19 PM

A very bad idea!

Fri 7/3/2020 7:47 PM

Dear Mr. Grinder, I am writing to ask that the charter commission take time to consider changes to the charter as it relates to the elimination of the police department. This is a major change to our city government and should not be rushed. It should not be on the November ballot.

Transformational reform of the Minneapolis police is essential and urgent. However, this charter amendment is a distraction from other, more critically needed action.

I believe we have to have a thorough, robust, inclusive public assessment prior to a vote of the electorate. Citizens must know what public safety and law enforcement functions will be provided by the city. Striving to eliminate structural racism must have prompt action; reforming our police dept must have prompt action; addressing our societal needs of housing, education, health care, mental health, the environment must have prompt action. Those issues need immediate attention, not the charter amendment.

My concerns are that the proposed amendment eliminates the police department without a replacement, muddles accountability, and makes no commitment to have a law enforcement function. Thank you for considering my concerns.

Fri 7/3/2020 7:48 PM

Dear Mr. Ginder, I ask you, as a member of the Minneapolis Charter commission, to act expeditiously to allow the vote on the city council's proposed amendment to the city charter, regarding police and the creation of a new Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Please approve the amendment as submitted. Minneapolis can't wait; we need to be able to vote on this amendment in November. Thank you for the work you do on behalf of our city.

Fri 7/3/2020 7:49 PM

Dear all, I am a public school teacher who lives in Minneapolis. In my 25 years of teaching I have watched communities both small and large fall apart. I have been inside of many problems children, the poor and people of color face. I have learned quite a bit but I have a lot more to learn. When a productive step shows itself as an option I recognize it. You are now able to take one of these steps for our city. Please help our city. Please help me help small children.

I am writing to urge you to let residents of Minneapolis have the opportunity to vote on the future of our public safety system.

No matter the color of our skin or where we come from, all of us deserve to live in a community where we feel safe and our lives are valued. We deserve to live peaceful, happy, healthy lives in spaces where communities of color, particularly Black community members, are not targeted, harassed, brutalized, and murdered by our public servants. Despite good-faith efforts to reform, years of evidence show us that the problems of the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) are deep.

We as a City cannot tolerate the police brutality and mistreatment of the public from our Police Department. While the chilling murder of George Floyd was the loudest wake-up call, I know there are many other instances of violence and abuse, especially towards Black and Native American members of our communities. Rampant and even indiscriminate tear-gassing and firing on the public, protestors, and journalists by Minneapolis Police are further evidence that our Police Department is not squarely under the control of our democratically elected leaders or the official chain of command.

The people of Minneapolis deserve a meaningful community process to re-imagine health and safety, without encountering the barrier of outdated language in the City Charter. The people of Minneapolis deserve a City Charter that does not block our local elected officials from carrying out the will of the people.

For years, the Charter has been a barrier to holding the police department accountable because it prohibits city council oversight. The Charter also restricts how the City supports public safety by requiring a minimum amount of staffing. Neither of these barriers exist for any other City department.

The City Charter belongs to the people, and we deserve a chance to exercise our democratic voice.

Please support expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolitans can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election. Please, let us vote.

Sun 7/5/2020 11:49 AM

I am against the city council taking over the police dept. You don't as a group know how to govern, let alone run a police dept. It seems more and more obvious that you are capable of setting policy that you think sounds good , but really have no idea how to run a city. What are you all doing about homelessness in the city, now that the park system seems to be picking up the slack for your lack of attention and policy making? It's disgraceful and discouraging. You all need to get your act together or get out of the way for people that are effective at governing.

Sun 7/5/2020 2:13 PM

I believe we need to substantially change/ abolish the MPD but to come up with a specific plan during a pandemic and by Aug 21 is plain stupid. Not enough time for citizen input. Pls make sure this gets done correctly the first time or we will have a really bad situation on our hands

Sun 7/5/2020 2:14 PM

The city council has put no effort or thought into how it will protect the citizens of Minneapolis and are asking us to trust they will figure it out.

Please don't allow this to happen. This isn't a bike lane this is the safety of our families and our communities. Something this serious should not be decided without planning. Lives are at risk.

Sun 7/5/2020 3:06 PM

Dear Commissioner Rubenstein, have been a homeowner in the North Loop for the last twenty years. I do not support the proposed charter amendment of Articles VII and VIII to provide for the establishment of a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and the removal of the Police Department as a charter department.

Sun 7/5/2020 9:31 PM

Council Member

I am against a plan to Defund the Minneapolis Police department I am for holding Police officers accountable for breaking the law.

Please figure out a plan to work with our current police officers..

The Minneapolis city council has had the power to make changes and haven't ... and should accept some responsibility for current events in the city.

I feel the Minneapolis city council members and the mayor are speaking poorly about the Minneapolis police and are making the city less safe.

I Love this city and feel your actions are destroying it.. Please rethink your actions

Sun 7/5/2020 2:13 PM

I believe we need to substantially change/ abolish the MPD but to come up with a specific plan during a pandemic and by Aug 21 is plain stupid.

Not enough time for citizen input.

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Sun 7/5/2020 3:06 PM

Dear Commissioner Rubenstein,

I have been a homeowner in the North Loop for the last twenty years.

I do not support the proposed charter amendment of Articles VII and VIII to provide for the establishment of a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and the removal of the Police Department as a charter department.

Mon 7/6/2020 8:16 AM

In the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd, and the protests and the destruction, it is clear that there are serious problems with accountability and public safety regarding the police department. It is also clear that voices of color have not been listened to. And that the inequities lived by people of color have ignored.

The city's lack of appropriate response and lack of leadership inflamed the tenuous situation. As a citizen who lives two blocks from Lake Street, this has been a frightening glimpse into a leadership void.

Now the city council has embraced a slogan with a deadline, one that currently has nothing behind it. It does not speak of leadership or of forward thinking - only of retribution toward law enforcement as an

entity. How about making listening to citizens, especially citizens of color, first, and working on a brand later?

I have worked in a social service setting, and know that public systems are stretched beyond thin, social workers are overloaded, services and reimbursements are inadequate, and regulations are tangled and often contradictory between city and county. To blithely say social services will immediately take the place of policing is awe-inspiringly thoughtless. Those social systems barely are funded now, and current leadership has not tackled these issues any more than it has the situation regarding our homeless population. Yet all of these issues are part of a web and all touch of public safety.

Please take the time to listen to people, to evaluate resources, to reckon with the road block to police accountability presented the police federation's leadership. I want a real-world plan for a workable and equitable system of public protection, not a knee-jerk slogan with a deadline.

Mon 7/6/2020 8:27 AM

The vote of the City Council to defund the police was rash and irresponsible. They were not thinking of the City of Minneapolis but were instead attempting to grab prestige and power in their attempt to “grandstand” in this turbulent time. I am sure that some are already thinking of how it will look on their political resume as they move higher up in the political arena.

As a lifelong Minneapolis resident, I was appalled by the Council's lack of planning and foresight. Their cry to “Defund the Police” with no SOLID PLAN to move forward is ridiculous. Once you move forward, it's so much harder to move back again—“You can't put the genie back in the bottle.” I agree that the police need reform and maybe scrapping the whole department and restarting from scratch is the answer, but you don't make a decision like that without first doing extensive research. Recent events around the country have only proved that we, as a society, CANNOT get along without a strong police presence.

The job the police do is probably the hardest in society. Every day, they put their life on the line for US. A split second decision can end their life or the life of someone else. I cannot believe the stress of their jobs. They are reviled and criticized whether a job is well done or thoroughly mishandled. Yet they continue to come to work.

The police, cannot, however, have complete freedom to carry out the law as each sees fit. They need to be held to higher standards than the general public because of their legal ability to use force. They also cannot be so closely scrutinized that every decision they make is questioned and picked apart. Why would anyone choose to work under those circumstances? The line is fine between too much and too little power. We have to protect BOTH the citizens and the police.

I see the logic in the fact that police should not have to handle every situation from a noisy neighbor to murder. I have read and agree that many of the calls the police handle could be better taken care of by other professionals like social workers. My father suffered a nervous breakdown many years ago and a social worker on the scene would have helped much more than two armed men in his living room.

But who to send when someone calls 911? The need for more training of 911 Operators will be great. Their decision on who to send after a brief, often frenzied conversation, with someone at the other end of the line could be the difference between life and death--whether a citizen dying at the

hands of the police or a social worker dying at the hands of a citizen. Will we hold them accountable if they choose incorrectly and someone dies?

At the very top of all of this and in power of the whole program, we do not need a committee of zealots. We need ONE person, such as a mayor (and I am not a fan of Jacob Frey), who will take responsibility for the decisions—either right or wrong. This one person who can be voted out if the people so see fit. Committee rule can be close to mob rule and in this situation, I don't see much difference. Removing one person from a committee by vote will often yield little or no change.

Mon 7/6/2020 8:31 AM

Please do not get rid of the charter ratio. Please enact a plan of reforms to the department.

I understand there are problems, and yes they need to be addressed. The Union being dislodged from the department is needed a reform for example. I have heard the MPD Chief Speak, he seems to have ideas that should be followed up on.

The residents don't want this. Specifically those in North Minneapolis. Star tribune has done a decent job covering this.

Lisa Clemons a MPD Officer would be a person you should speak with.

I do support reforms. Many kinds and depths.

I do not support abolishment. I do not support the City Council with their vague plans. They have shown to be very unqualified for this. They do not have a plan. Please do not give them a blank check to act at a knee jerk reaction.

Please do not support this and please what you can to steer common sense into this.

Mon 7/6/2020 10:15 AM

Just read the proposed charter amendment. Wow! I think it's a little drastic. To abolish all of the police force? I am all for the appropriate professionals responding when and where they are needed, including the police. What will happen or who will respond to the most violent of crimes? This does not seem to be addressed and frankly, it scares me

Mon 7/6/2020 12:32 PM

Dear City Council, Please do not abolish the police. We do need the police for homicides, tracking drug traffic, etc.

However, I ask you to reform the police department. Research what other cities have done and what has worked and what hasn't worked. Listen to the broad spectrum of our Black, Brown and Indigenous members of Minneapolis, including our first Black police chief.

Some cities have had all police reapply and go through a thorough extensive background checks and if there is any link to white supremacy groups, they don't rehire them. Please remove Bob Kroll. His upfront connection to white supremacy groups has NO place in ANY police department.

It is time to re-think the police department with a well thought-out plan (seeing what has worked other places), listening to our Black, Brown and Indigenous members of the community and for anti-racism to be at the forefront in this reform.

Mon 7/6/2020 3:21 PM

Fear!!! I will make this short. I work in downtown Minneapolis a 15 minute walk from my home on Loring Park. When I work late it's so bad downtown I have to Uber home costing me almost 30 dollars a week. I work extra hours to make up for the Uber trips. Even when I walk home at six or eight at night when it's still light it's chaos. I walk in fear in my own city. My partner was doing homework in the park when a group of men at approximately 1:00 PM surrounded her holding a bottle of vodka. Saying things like "are you scared of us" "no ones gonna protect you now" They groped her and she having PTSD in all froze. A man saw this and flagged down a police man but he did not stop. So the man went over to the group and my girlfriend and so the group then began to wonder off to harass someone else. I personally I had experience a when walking to work in the morning a African American running right into intentionally while laughing. In order to show intimidation. One man jogging stopped and immediately called me a racist names and said that no one would protect the white man to watch and my time has come. He said that the black man now has all the power. He pushed me and ran off. There are people laying passed out drunk in the streets. Pissing in public in front of kids. Why is no one addressing the problem that it's not ok to commit crimes and also think you will get away with because of what I personally see is a lack of respect of authority and the plain fact police afraid of any controversy. Look at the shootings too! Look at powder horn park. The homeless. Yet vulnerable persons are out of control. It's like Thompson square park when I lived in NY. Til the police came in and tore it down. Let the police do their job. It's not ok to rape minors, shot pregnant women. It's not ok for Mass Shootings in Uptown. It's not ok for all the shootings in the north. Killing, assault, rape, hate is not acceptable and no matter how much you have been repressed you should not these things are horrible acts. Why won't the African American community stand up and say no more. To not take advantage of this situation not to feel empowered but look as chance to come together as a community as a whole. Why can't we get the word to stop the violence and grow together no matter what race or background. We are all humans with the same needs. Just as we need to get rid of white bigotry and racism and denounce it. We to denounce all hate and violence too. It does not look good for our movement and especially not good for our community. We need understand the sensitivity of our people and understand their needs but also while enforcing our laws that allow us to be safe. I wish I had the money to hire private security. However I can't do it I live in fear while my taxes dollars goes to helping the privileged city council to live fearless. That's a whole another issue. My question is what is being done? What can be done? What community organizations can we reach out to protect our community? Because the city council sees fit that's everything that's going on is ok? Can you give me ideas? I wanna feel safe again in my city !

Mon 7/6/2020 3:28 PM

Greetings Members of the Commission, I respectfully write, as a long-time resident of Minneapolis and someone who has dedicated most of my adult life to public service in our community, in opposition to the amendment being placed on the ballot this fall.

While something needs to be done to address problems in our police department, including but not limited to crimes against citizens, adopting an amendment that allows city leaders to not provide community safety with a police department is not a city that will attract the diversity of individuals that

make Minneapolis great today nor is it conducive to both enticing and keeping current residents and businesses.

The race to put this on the ballot in 2020 makes little sense and is too a mistake.

Such an amendment will not make city leaders better leaders and it will certainly not make our community safer for those who live and work here today.

Much can and should be done to improve the current situation with our police department and the disparities that exist in our community, but this, as it is proposed, is not the answer.

Thank you for your service to our City and for your attention to this important matter.

Mon 7/6/2020 3:33 PM

We need to abolish the police for their reckless behavior that has gone unchecked ever since they have started. We need to use the money that we over fund them with for better use than militarizing them. Please get rid of the police and replace them with specialized trained groups for certain emergency situations.

Mon 7/6/2020 3:46 PM

From people I've spoken with and many, many posts on NextDoor, I'm not seeing support for defunding the police force. Many speak out in favor of reform, more training, perhaps more housecleaning and some support of the police by instructed professionals on domestic and mental health calls. However, I am not hearing and am personally not in favor of defunding our police force.

The City Council seems to have rushed to judgment on this issue and is becoming increasingly unpopular in Minneapolis. The Council may find themselves defunded rather than the police if they don't come up with a more city-wide supportive rhetoric on this issue.

Please listen to your constituents and make a more informed recommendation. We need to be together on this issue, not more divisive.

Mon 7/6/2020 3:50 PM

Members of the Minneapolis Charter Commission,

I'm a Minneapolis resident writing to ask you to support the proposed charter amendment on a timeline that allows the question to be on the ballot for this coming November. The charter commission has an opportunity to support democratic action for public safety in expediting this process, and the ballot question is supported by the full city council and many community members. To delay your response would constitute a pocket veto by an unelected body, which I'm sure you agree would not reflect the good governance values this body upholds. I look forward to your recommendation that the proposed amendment be up for a vote this November.

Mon 7/6/2020 3:55 PM

Council Member Cunningham

In reply to your recent email on the council's plan to re-imagine our police department:

First, I want to share with you the experience that my best friend's 5 year old grandson had. My friend's son is a Minneapolis cop. He is white, his wife is black. Their son, Tony, was playing with some neighborhood kids. They told him that his Dad was racist. They told him that his Dad was a crummy cop. He ask what racist meant. They told him that his Dad hated black people. Tony says "Hey, but I'm black". Those kids told Tony, yeah, & he hates you because you're black & that the city was going to get rid of the cops because they are all bad. Tony came home, sobbing out of control. He is afraid that is Dad is a bad cop. He's afraid his Dad hates him. He's afraid that those kids will hurt him. This kid is FIVE years old and because of the city council's rantings, he thinks his Dad hates him. Shame on you.

I read the email that you sent giving your view of "re-imagining" our public safety. I've compared this to the Powderhorn Park "Big News" rally. Wow, what a change! You had council members calling, to not only defund, but to DISMANTLE our police department. You had Ilhan Omar there flapping her lips about dismantling the corrupt police department. All of you were demeaning the police officers & calling them corrupt. All of you are were ranting & smiling & celebrating this "Big News". Not once, did any of you offer a cohesive plan for accomplishing this. Oh wait, yes, you did. The Charter change. You are asking us to give the irresponsible city council total control over law enforcement. You, who have SO much experience in law enforcement, are going to say yes or no the our safety. Then, after this momentous announcement, you go back to your little world, all smug & satisfied, & hire private security, of which taxpayers foot the bill. What hypocrites.

I have absolutely NO representation on this council. You are so focused on your knee-jerk reactions to the current headlines — pandering for re-election votes. Your actions do not represent ALL of the people of your ward. Living in North Minneapolis, I hear gun shots frequently. We have had bullets come thru windows & others lodged in the side of our house. I have seen a 16 year old die on the front lawn of my neighbors house — and, no, not from a cop's gun, but from a black gang member. I have dealt with the police in domestic violence situations. They de-escalated the situations & brought them to a safe end. I don't think a social worker would have been effective in these cases because of the level of rage that was present.

I believe the council saw an opportunity to grab power over our local government, & therefore, over the residents. I have expressed my concerns to the City Charter Commissioners & I hope & pray that they do not approve your request for the charter change. Before we give something as important as our safety to an irresponsible city council, we need a VERY cohesive plan to evaluate, because, once you get this power & control, we, the residents, are screwed.

Chief Arredondo can & will do a fantastic job of re-organizing our police department, if, the mayor & the city council will allow him to. He & 90% of his staff are good people. Let him devise a system to weed-out the "Chauvins" on the force. Let our Chief do his job, of which he is infinitely qualified for. Keep your political noses out of his business.

Mon 7/6/2020 4:17 PM

I am a resident of the 3rd Ward, I have voiced my concern and have commented on the proposed charter amendment but my comments seem to be going to deaf ears given I am not supporting what the Council wants.

Where are the details????? How does the Council expect anyone with any common sense to agree with this vague proposal. The Council is rushing this to get it on the ballot and given the lack of details can open up for all kinds of power grabbing by the Council. This is a clear dereliction of duty and when I see words like "MAY" vs "MUST" (section 7.3 - B) is alarming.

I hope that the Committee pushes back and tells the Council to think through this. I would never have been able to put a proposal with such vagueness out to one of my clients and if I did, I wouldn't be allowed to ever write a proposal again. Appreciate the committee taking the needed time to push back to the City Council on this.

Mon 7/6/2020 6:07 PM

We are in the midst of a major spike in violent crime , defunding the police is foolish and irresponsible . Yes , police reform is necessary , work towards that goal . The city council does not have a viable plan to replace the current Police Dept. . I am absolutely against any measure which would abolish the MPD . Ward 9

Mon 7/6/2020 5:24 PM

Dear Ms. Rubenstein, I ask you, as a member of the Minneapolis Charter commission, to act expeditiously to allow the vote on the city council's proposed amendment to the city charter, regarding police and the creation of a new Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Minneapolis can't wait, we need to be able to vote on this amendment in November. Thank you for the work you do on behalf of our city.

Mon 7/6/2020 7:21 PM

Good evening, I am writing with comment/questions that myself and other communication members would like to share for plans moving forward. We attended the public event in Powderhorn Park and want to make sure everyone I was with is able to get their voices heard. We came up with the following:

How can we be involved moving forward in the decisions and creating?

How do we defund if the Mayor isn't on board? Tell us more on the veto process.

What kind of people will be involved in protecting the community?

What is the time map of defunding and rebuild?

Is there a commitment to capping police budget during current moment during the planning process?

What would education for departments on public safety include?

How can youth be involved in forefront and ideas for their voices to be heard?

What is going to happen to the police who are currently employed?

How can we keep people safe while police are still running? (Concerns about police being extra angry with changes and process)

Can other cities/states be involved? What does this look like if yes?

What happens with jurisdiction if only Mpls?

Mon 7/6/2020 7:28 PM

I would like the following comment to be included as part of the Wednesday, July 15 Public hearing on the proposed public safety charter amendment.

As a Minneapolis resident, I want to make it clear that I am adamantly opposed to any alteration of the Minneapolis City Charter to remove and/or redefine the requirement to maintain our police department. Further, this proposal should not be allowed on the ballot until a detailed plan is in place of what we are moving to, how decisions going forward will be made, and who will make those decisions. I firmly believe we can achieve meaningful reform without any changes to the city charter. Further, the council has made it their personal vendetta to rid our great city of our police force and I believe they are no longer acting in the city's best interest.

If this proposal were to pass, the city council has made it clear they will defund and dismantle our police department and they have no plan in place. Not only is this dangerous, but to entrust this small group of people that do not have the background in public safety is careless.

I ask that you not allow this proposal to be on our ballot and instead push the council to make reforms with our current charter in place.

Mon 7/6/2020 7:32 PM

Why not include the mayor, chief of the police, and the police union president in the conversation about change within police department? When I was a union rep we worked with management to bring about change that was beneficial for the institution and the employees. Also invite other police to be part of changes that are needed. They might have good ideas and also have ways the communities can help. Also council members can drive along with the police to walk in their shoes. I am not for defunding the police, who will try to protect us in our communities if they are not there.

Mon 7/6/2020 7:34 PM

I am writing in reference to the campaign to Defund the Police. The primary civic responsibility of the city council is to keep their citizens safe. To fail to do that is irresponsible. This new platform seems to be instituted to please an angry mob. Obviously, there is a problem within the police department or George Floyd wouldn't have been killed.

Our community has been through so much in the last month! I live a little over a mile from Lake Street and I experienced fear in my home for the first time during the days of rioting. I don't like the feeling of fear, and I don't want anyone else to ever feel unsafe in their own homes.

There are some systemic issues that need to be addressed within the police department. There needs to be change with things like Police Union Reform, especially the ability to discipline or terminate offending officers. But, I feel that defunding seems too radical.

Violence is on the rise. There have been 111 shootings and 8 deaths in the last month. I've been watching what is happening at Powderhorn Park and I realize we can't operate without police. I have a friend who lives close to the George Floyd Memorial. Their neighborhood had collectively decided not to call the police, but that seemed to embolden bad behavior, which gave them several nights of unrest and damaged property. It seems necessary to have a police presence to curb behavior.

I know that three of you can relate to these concerns, because you hired private security to feel safe. My question is what will happen to the rest of us? I think we need to slow down and do some research. Careful consideration must be given to the consequences of every action taken or not taken.

Mon 7/6/2020 7:39 PM

Please reject this proposal. We need a lot more community buy-in before doing something like this rather than common-sense police reforms. I fear that for many Councilmembers, this is an excuse not to do the real work.

Mon 7/6/2020 7:52 PM

Please require the City Council to draft and submit a detailed plan of how the current police function will be operated if their plan to remove it from the City Charter is approved. Then the entire package can be put to a vote.

Putting it to a vote now, without knowing a detailed alternative plan will be giving us only half the information we need to make an intelligent decision on this matter.

Mon 7/6/2020 7:57 PM

Please require the City Council to draft and submit a detailed plan of how the current police function will be operated if their plan to remove it from the City Charter is approved. Then the entire package can be put to a vote.

Putting it to a vote now, without knowing a detailed alternative plan will be giving us only half the information we need to make an intelligent decision on this matter.

Mon 7/6/2020 9:07 PM

You have no plan. Your comments were reactionary and not thought out. You did not even consult with black leadership to find out what was important to them.

There needs to be reform, the bad cops need to be held accountable but we need a police force.

Your irresponsible comments have contributed to the current rash of violence in the city. COVID 19 is no longer my biggest worry, being a victim of violence is. If someone is breaking into my house I don't want to call a social worker or my neighbors. No police, anarchy.

Your disrespect for the good police will cause them to leave or retire early. Guess then we don't have to worry about defunding do we?

I will vote against this if given the chance.

Mon 7/6/2020 9:09 PM

Hello, I am respectfully submitting my vision for Minneapolis. It can be found below. Thank you.

I have been in a relationship with an amazing African American woman for 9 years. I am a white guy. We have a 4 year old daughter together, plus my beautiful stepdaughter. We live in a suburb of Minneapolis.

My cousin has been a Minneapolis police officer for more than 10 years. My fiancé's family is cousins by marriage with the Minneapolis Police Chief. Policing in America has to change.

Below, is my vision for how this could work. Above all, I want our daughters and all their cousins to grow up in a safer world for all people.

The statistics don't lie. U.S. police kill more people in days than other countries do in years. Racism, corruption and misconduct has flourished. By design, these cops who abuse their power are protected and shielded by the thin blue line rather than held accountable.

Our current system hasn't evolved with the times. It must be abolished. In its place, we build a smart system that is a better reflection of the healthier concepts of serving, protecting and helping people of our communities in the modern era.

Creation of New Autonomous Agencies with Expertise and Advanced Specialization

Right now, the average police officer is spread too thin. When 911 is called, the dispatcher has to make a choice between fire/rescue, paramedics or police (often some combination is deployed). If your house is on fire or a loved one is having a heart attack, there is no confusion about who should come to help.

The police on the other hand are expected to handle literally everything else. Too much is expected of them, and they are failing. No one could be expected to succeed under this setup. Violent situations, burglary, mental illness episodes, sexual assault, domestic disturbances, suspicious activity, the list goes on and on. Each of those areas requires expertise. One person can't possibly be proficient across all of those spectrums. Yet generally under the umbrella of "police," they are expected to carry that burden. We need to break up their responsibilities so highly specialized people can work to the highest degree of performance possible.

The dispatcher would make a decision how to respond to an emergency with a broader set of more specialized tools. Each of these agencies would be as different from each other as the fire department is from the paramedics and police now. They would be new, entirely independent agencies with separate budgets, separate leaders, separate access and community-driven accountability.

Each agency would have their own unique uniforms, tools and modes of transport. Each of these are autonomous emergency responders, as different as Fire/Rescue and the Paramedics are to the current police now.

1. Therapy Medics. This group of responders are mental health professionals trained on how to handle calls about self-harm and suicide, distress from psychotic episodes, drug and medication overdoses, patients off their medicine, the homeless and mental health safety checks. They are a life-line to getting medical and therapeutic help in dangerous situations, working closely with paramedics when appropriate (whose focus has historically been on physical emergencies rather than mental ones). Their job is above all "assistance and aid" while they calm a victim. They are the first response in helping the victim navigate a mental healthcare system designed for an eventual path to recovery or at least stabilization.

2. Tactical Response. These are highly trained/highly-skilled officers specializing in de-escalation, containment and stabilization. They are called to handle danger including active shooters, reports involving a weapon, robbery, burglary and hostage situations. Utilizing advanced methods developed in other countries, they disarm perpetrators with precision. Lethal force is rarely applied as a completely last resort when other options are exhausted. If a situation involves a mental health component, they

assist under the leadership of the Therapy Medic who orders where a tactical response is required to bring a situation under control. Tactical Response is one of only two agencies allowed to carry lethal weapons. De-escalation is their primary guiding principal for every situation.

3. Traffic & Patrol. With a focus on highways and roads, streets and sidewalks, this agency is the only group with a regular daily presence in the community. They are responsible for enforcing speed limits, road signs, general public safety and parking violations. When they directly observe criminal activity or if they discover a person with a warrant for arrest, their job is to trail and/or safely detain the perpetrator utilizing de-escalation techniques, contacting the proper agency and awaiting their response to handle the situation. Their tools are only for tracking and detainment, but they are a direct line to other agencies to ensure a fast response.

4. Family Medics. This agency has jurisdiction in cases of child endangerment, sexual assault, domestic/spousal abuse with a cohesive support system to help all members of its community. They are professionals trained in modern methods for handling very sensitive situations to minimize a victim's pain and embarrassment. The biggest revolution here is not only treating the victims in an emergency situation with care but also treating the perpetrators with a new holistic approach as well. In many cases, the perpetrator was once a victim of some other crime that was never properly addressed. So they work closely with Therapy Medics when appropriate in an effort to not only rectify the current incident but also reduce future problems by putting all people involved on a path to a therapeutic/healthful recovery.

5. Legal Investigation. This group takes criminal and legal matters to their logical conclusions. The cases begun from other agencies including fire, paramedics and the newly aforementioned agencies are followed up by skilled professionals using methodical detective work. They question suspects and witnesses and collect information as they assist in building a case for the criminal justice system where the attorneys and courts eventually take over. All other agencies are trained to collect and preserve appropriate evidence which is then passed to this agency for followup as required. This is the only agency capable of arresting and charging a perpetrator. Lethal weapons are a part of their arsenal. Once other agencies have an identified suspect detained, a legal investigator makes the arrest when appropriate.

New Community Residence Requirements

Each of those agencies will require some percentage of its responders to actually reside in the community they are serving. As of 2017, only 8% of Minneapolis police officers resided within the city limits. A white officer from a 99% white suburb driving 40 minutes to serve in a city with a population that is only 40% white and 60% other ethnicities will be less likely to relate to the culture of the city. We need service professionals who have a vested interest in serving their own communities.

However, we need outside accountability to ensure locals don't participate in corruption. We can't have local agencies looking the other way about certain things, and hopefully a certain percentage of outsiders would strike this balance. Maybe it's 60% resident, 40% non-resident. All I know 8% is far too low to be effective upstanding protectors of a community.

Accountability and Review Board

Each agency in every city will answer to city, county and state-level boards that continually and regularly review complaints. When there is evidence an officer of any agency has committed a crime, the result is

immediate review by the city counsel. If they determine misconduct, the officer is immediately charged and entered into the criminal justice system as any other citizen would be.

Likewise, a new culture is cultivated that encourages accountability to fellow responders. Historically, the "thin blue line" of the police has shielded their own from criminal action at all costs. Instead, like virtually every other industry, the good ones will actively assist in weeding out the bad. Complaints of fellow responders will be immediately reviewed and handled appropriately including termination of employment and/or criminal charges.

Anytime a citizen is killed by a responder (no matter how it happens), the responder is automatically put into detainment while an initial investigation happens with expediency. No more paid leave while days/weeks pass for a more thorough investigation. If the killing is somehow determined to be justified, new procedures must be immediately researched and enacted to prevent that type of response from ever occurring again.

The counsel members will have term limits to minimize the possibility of long-term corruption. They are a mix of local citizens from the city and the wider county voted to the board along with representatives with experience as responders (either actively serving or former duty). This will ensure a wide perspective to reach a just consensus.

Conclusion

I've begun to see other groups/individuals/community leaders hinting at some of these things as they discuss police reform and/or abolishment. The best possible ideas should always win out, whether that's mine or someone else's. My hope is only that these ideas, and others like them, become a part of the conversation on how to move forward in a new world without police.

Tue 7/7/2020 6:08 AM

Members of the Minneapolis Charter Commission,

I'm a Minneapolis resident writing to ask you to support the proposed charter amendment on a timeline that allows the question to be on the ballot for this coming November. The charter commission has an opportunity to support democratic action for public safety in expediting this process, and the ballot question is supported by the full city council and many community members. To delay your response would constitute a pocket veto by an unelected body, which I'm sure you agree would not reflect the good governance values this body upholds. I look forward to your recommendation that the proposed amendment be up for a vote this November.

Tue 7/7/2020 8:26 AM

Considering Defunding! Those of you proposing to defunding Police are not doing what us, the voters want! Please stop!

Tue 7/7/2020 8:34 AM

Do not dismantle our police dept. We need a solid law enforcement community . The charter amendment is not in the city's best interest . This is being rushed with out the proper over sight .

Tue 7/7/2020 8:44 AM

Dear City Council: Our Police Dept may benefit from additional training and cultural sensitivity BUT there are many good cops, excellent cops, in the MPD who do not deserve the city eliminating and replacing our MPD.

PLEASE, Let's not "throw out the baby with the bath water!"

Minneapolis is already (incorrectly) seen as either a laughingstock or a racist place across the country due to recent events but the move to defund, disband, and replace the MPD with law enforcement of a different name only adds to a tarnished (and currently poor) reputation for the city of Minneapolis.

Please just improve the MPD as it is.

Moreover, it is fine to add social workers or other mental health staff BUT because such staff would not know in advance how violent or volatile a situation might become, they'd still need to be accompanied by law enforcement who could handle any escalation to violence that might occur. It won't be efficient in the regard, although the skills may be useful. Maybe just add the negotiation and de-escalating skill set to MPD training?

Tue 7/7/2020 9:07 AM

Hi - I live in South Minneapolis and work downtown.

I want to disband the existing police union and have far fewer police so we can have more help for homeless people and mentally ill people. I also believe of course that we need a small number of actual police but let's make sure they are well trained and accountable and that disciplinary actions are public info.

Finally, I am so tired of the downtown council taking extraordinary steps to always do the wrong thing. Mpls cops wouldn't even direct traffic downtown when we had road construction everywhere. They harass homeless people. I don't think we need to bow down to the police again because of anything at all the downtown council says.

Tue 7/7/2020 9:49 AM

Hello, my name is [REDACTED] and I live in the Longfellow neighborhood a few blocks from the former 3rd precinct. I would like to express my support for the proposal to put policing in the hands of the city council and away from state government. Please vote yes on this proposal as it will better protect the lives of our Black community and brown neighbors. Please know that myself and many others are watching these votes to decide who to elect for the next term.

I appreciate all the work that you do, thank you!

Tue 7/7/2020 9:50 AM

I am a Minnesota citizen. My family are 4th generation Minnesotans. My wife and I work downtown (U.S. Bank and Wells Fargo). I urge you to maintain proper funding for the Minneapolis Police Department. We will not feel safe going to work and walking the streets downtown if the police do not have the power to enforce the law and stop / arrest the " thugs " who think they run our city !

Tue 7/7/2020 9:50 AM

Please do NOT advance to the November ballot the proposed amendment that would remove the police department from the Minneapolis charter and replace it with a community safety and violence prevention department. This proposal would go far beyond needed police reform; it also would shift more power to the city council, a body that already wields too much power and has no members elected at large. The citizens of Minneapolis need to see much more concrete detail before moving forward with this significant change. The council proposes to spend a year engaging the community in discussion. Let's have that discussion before we amend the charter. To do otherwise would be reckless. Meanwhile, we can move forward with police reform on several fronts.

Tue 7/7/2020 9:51 AM

Put the Peace back into "Peace Officer".

We still need a police force and it is short-sighted to eliminate them without a solid plan to replace them. Calls for "abolishing Police" and "De-funding Police" have emboldened criminals, caused a sudden rise in violent crime and fueled right-wing backlash. Call it "reform" while rooting out systematic racism.

Why did some police abandon the community they were hired to protect? Peaceful protestors should be protected. Arsonists and looters should be stopped. What can we do?

- 1) End qualifying immunity. No one should be above the law. Police need to be held accountable for their actions, charged and prosecuted. A permanent database should be kept of all use of force that can be shared with other precincts to prevent the hiring of fired officers.
- 2) Officers at a scene are supposed to intervene and report misconduct. They need to be trained to do so. Keep body cameras on and recording. Police should make their statements before reviewing their videos or conferring with others. We need whistleblowers to report misconduct and abuse of power on and off duty.
- 3) Demilitarize Police. Training should emphasize negotiation and safe de-escalation. The Police Federation should not be allowed to offer military tactic training that had been eliminated by our last two Police Chiefs. Guns should never be used on unarmed non-violent people. After each incident actions should be reviewed. Police who don't play by the rules should be fined, fired, and or charged.
- 4) Ban choke holds, teargas and rubber bullets.
- 5) Police should live in the cities they work in. We can transition into this. Fire bad apples. Those that do not live in our city must do unarmed community service in the neighborhoods they serve and be paired with Community Partners like social workers or mental health workers.
- 6) Hire and train minority police. All officers need better training and continuing education.
- 7) Partnering officers with Community Partners and negotiators makes a lot of sense. Civilian review boards are important.

Tue 7/7/2020 9:52 AM

Dear Commissioners:

I just read in a local newspaper a quote from a commissioner saying that the only feedback she's received on the charter amendment to replace the MPD is that this change is moving too quickly.

I am a Minneapolis resident and homeowner (Ward 4) and want to let you know that I do not believe this change to the charter is moving too quickly. On the contrary, I believe it's decades overdue. Our city has been experiencing police brutality for decades. Numerous reform efforts have been tried over that time, and the MPD has shown itself to be unreformable. Please allow the charter amendment to move forward and be placed on the November ballot.

Tue 7/7/2020 9:52 AM

Members of the Minneapolis Charter Commission,

I'm a Minneapolis resident writing to ask you to support the proposed charter amendment on a timeline that allows the question to be on the ballot for this coming November. The charter commission has an opportunity to support democratic action for public safety in expediting this process, and the ballot question is supported by the full city council and many community members. To delay your response would constitute a pocket veto by an unelected body, which I'm sure you agree would not reflect the good governance values this body upholds. I look forward to your recommendation that the proposed amendment be up for a vote this November.

Tue 7/7/2020 9:53 AM

Chairman Clegg,

The momentum created by decades of violence by public servants against the public have necessitated the removal of the offending systems from our local government at the root. This amendment is a single step – an opportunity to realize true equity, empower communities, and divorce Minneapolis from a wildly punitive force that has not only failed to protect but actively terrorized underserved segments of its community for generations.

Don't mistake momentum for results. Minneapolis wants this. The world needs this.

Tue 7/7/2020 9:54 AM

My name is [REDACTED]. I'm a Minneapolis resident in Ward 7.

I'm emailing you today to urge you and the rest of the the charter commission to give the people of Minneapolis the opportunity to vote on the amendment of Article VII and VIII of the City Charter to create a new Charter Department to provide for community safety and violence prevention and to remove the Police Department as a Charter Department.

This amendment passed city council unanimously and represents the first steps toward addressing an issue of great importance to all Minneapolis voters. To deny us the opportunity to see the start of real change prompted by the movement started in George Floyd's name would be to deny both the egregiousness of the murder of George Floyd and the voices of the citizens who spoke up for change in its aftermath. As charter commissioners acting in the name of the public, it is your duty to make this

charter commission available for vote this August 21. To do any less would make you derelict in your duties as a representative of public interest, citizen of Minneapolis, and member of a community that cares about its people. Please do the right thing and give me the opportunity to vote on this amendment. Thank you.

Tue 7/7/2020 10:13 AM

This angers Me!

“There is a full systemic structure that needs to change, that has for decades, for generations, hindered black and brown people. It’s everything from the way our economy is set up, to our schools, to our healthcare system, to yes, the way that we do policing.

Those Words right there are half of what Starts and Causes most of the Problems we are seeing!!! IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT BLACKS, BROWNS! ITS EVERYWHERE and From ANY AND ALL RACES!!! NOT just Blacks! So MAYBE you should start by including EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE , who deals with the Same Issues!!! You, and Mainly the F... up Media are the Ones that start the Racism BS just by Focusing on the BLM!!! EVERY LIFE MATTERS !!!! ❤️🙏

Tue 7/7/2020 10:19 AM

When fourteen people are in charge, nobody is in charge and what you get is chaos. That is what we have. We need to be changing the charter to provide more power to the mayor and less to the council with strong controls and requirements to work together. Mayor Frey is young and inexperienced, but smart and well meaning. Mayor Hodges and Mayor Rybak were more experienced but equally hamstrung by the structure and the Council. It is impossible to lead of city the size of Minneapolis without a strong mayor. That mayor should use all resources, including the council, the state, other city departments (police, fire, etc.) the business community and community leaders as advisors and he/she should collaborate with all of them. But, at the end of the day, the mayor needs to be able to lead and make decisions. The current structure is completely dysfunctional.

Covid-19 was certainly not something anyone could have predicted or prevented. If Governor Walsh hadn’t stepped up and taken control through executive action, our dysfunctional state government would still be arguing whether Covid-19 is real and if businesses should close or open. It took a strong leader with a functioning and competent team to take charge and move the whole state forward. We don’t have that in the city of Minneapolis. The council and the mayor don’t even seem to talk to each other and the council is so interested in pandering to the radical left that they’ve left the vast majority of the city without representation.

We moved from the suburbs into the city last year and we are seriously regretting our decision. We are putting our condo back on the market while there is a chance of selling it. If your irresponsible charter amendment to “defund the police” passes, you will see mass exodus of middle and upper-middle class residents leave the core city and broader Minneapolis – this fantastic, beautiful and successful city – will become Detroit.

Ask the residents of North Minneapolis if they want to rely on social workers to fight gang violence. Ask the restaurant owners (the ones that haven’t already closed up for good) if they can make it if suburbanites don’t come downtown to eat because they are afraid. Ask the few remaining retailers on the pathetic Nicollet Mall how the crime and vagrancy and violence outside their doors is impacting

their business. Ask our arts organizations if they can survive if suburbanites won't come downtown to see a play or go to a museum? Ask our business community if they will be investing in growth downtown Minneapolis given our increased crime rates and less safety for their employees. Ask potential businesses who have a choice of Minneapolis or any suburban location or even out of state if safety and functional government matter.

You still have time to back off your ridiculous charter amendment and get back on track. Work to reform, not defund. Work for more police – but much better police – who have time and are able to do truly neighborhood based/community based policing. Work for supplemental resources like drug and alcohol treatment and conflict resolution experts and social workers AND much, much better training of police. Work for getting rid of the bad police and getting rid of Krall. Work for better selection processes and attracting higher caliber people into police departments – people who want to help protect, not aggressively beat and kill people. Work for better education and better support for families. Do something productive and get off this ill conceived, poorly thought out, charter amendment that has no plan.

Stop grandstanding and working for a narrow band of the population and work for the good of the broad population. We all do better when we all do better. The vast majority of white, middle-class and wealthy Minneapolis residents want our poor, minority, immigrant residents to succeed and live full, good equitable lives. We all do better when we all do better. If we didn't, we'd live in Bear Path – a gated community. We love the diversity and energy of the city. But we want to feel safe too. We don't want our black neighbors beat and killed by police. We don't want our minority children failing in school and lured into gangs. We want good jobs and stable families and great schools for everyone. But none of that will happen if everyone feels unsafe. And make no mistake, without safety, white people will leave the city. Businesses will leave the city. The tax base will collapse and the city will decline dramatically. Covid-19 started the decline. The riots after George Floyd's murder furthered the decline. The dysfunction of the council and the city government, in general, will be the nail in the coffin. It may already be too late for downtown Minneapolis but it isn't too late for the greater city.

Put your self-interests aside and do your jobs. Represent the whole of the city. Work for functioning government and a great police force and stop working on an amendment that is sure to fail and is taking a ludicrous amount of time, money and energy that could be spent fixing and rebuilding and repairing our damaged and declining city.

Tue 7/7/2020 10:24 AM

My opinion... get rid of Bob Kroll and you have solved 1/2 the problem.

Don't disband, get rid of bad apples, retrain police you have and again, get rid of Kroll!

Tue 7/7/2020 11:06 AM

I am strongly against making a decision to place an amendment on the November ballot to defund Mpls police. It is much too soon to gather community input and to present a viable plan to the voters. If a vote is asked for prematurely, I doubt it will be supported, and thus, delay any real improvement of policing. While I strongly support overall of the Mpls police department, and removal of violent police officers, defunding should not be done without a viable plan of replacement and much community discussion. I live in St Paul, but I travel to Mpls frequently to spend time with family, visit

grandchildren's schools, participate in sport events, shop, and eat out (pre-pandemic). I hope Mpls leaders will soon begin a community-involved process to reduce racism, poverty, and provide better security to the people of Minneapolis and those who visit the city. Thank you. St. Paul

Tue 7/7/2020 11:08 AM

At this point I would not vote for the amendment to the city charter as there are significant details lacking on certain of the changes. The following is the list of items that I think would need to be addressed for these issues. While I commend the City Council for taking quick and decisive action related to this, as well as not being afraid to challenge the status quo. However, the amendment as written is frankly disappointing for its lack of detail and glossing over certain things that would seem relatively key.

1. Some funding ratio of minimum headcount as a proportion of population should be maintained.
2. The need for two administrative officials is unnecessary and will add cost and bureaucracy. There is only a need for one director and can oversee both divisions
3. Requiring licensing for officers but not other department members seems incongruent. The function of other members (mental health, counseling, etc) is as important or more important to have licensing and oversight.
4. What is the escalation and decision making protocol when use of force or deployment of additional resources is made? Today this is clearly the Mayor, if we were to have a similar instance of civil unrest in the future from the draft charter I can not follow how things get escalated and who ultimately makes the decisions
5. You also remove the taxation language from funding, which seems like funding would then all come out of the general fund - given what I imagine will be a more expensive solution it seems counterintuitive to remove this language.
6. Appointment of department directors does not specify a term, it would seem that would be necessary, otherwise what is the process to remove and/or reappoint people to those positions
7. Also why is the appointment process not detailed similar to Fire and other officials?

Tue 7/7/2020 11:22 AM

I would prefer that the Mayor, rather than the City Council, remain in charge of most aspects of the Police Department. I would rather that the entity be called a "Police Department" rather than a "Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention."

I would rather see changes and improvements made to the Police Department within the current structure, rather than turn over most responsibilities for the Department to the entire City Council. The proposed amendment does not specify sufficient details as to the exact responsibilities and limits of the proposed Department. However, putting the operation of the equivalent of a police department under City Council supervision, as proposed, strikes me as an inappropriate and unwieldy transfer of power from the Mayor to the City Council and its staff.

Thus, I oppose the proposed amendments to the City Charter.

Tue 7/7/2020 11:35 AM

I live alone in south Minneapolis and I would be scared to death to not know the police are out there if I need them. This whole thing has gotten so out of hand. I still want our police officers to protect us. 99%

of our officers are wonderful. From now on the good officers need to tell when a bad officer doing wrong. Not cover it up.

My vote is to keep our police just the way they are. I want to thank all of them for putting there lives on the line. It's not an easy job. Thank you Margie Sorlien Sent from my iPad [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the City of Minneapolis. Please exercise caution when opening links or attachments.

Tue 7/7/2020 11:45 AM

I fully support the proposed amendment to the Minneapolis charter relating to the Minneapolis Police Department. It lays important groundwork for making changes to the policing system in our city and building public trust. Please complete your processes with the urgency required to get the amendment before voters as soon as possible.

Tue 7/7/2020 12:05 PM

I live in Uptown and am writing to you to ask to not disband the police.

I understand a social worker may work for a situation where no knives/guns are at play... but for anyone who is armed and dangerous a social worker will not be enough. We need the police.

Look at what occurred in Georgia or Seattle in Chaz. Death rates were significantly higher in their autonomous zone that it ever was outside of it. (Comparing deaths to days).

It's embarrassing how non law abiding our country has become, and how many people accept that. We look like a shit show.

Tue 7/7/2020 12:27 PM

My representative is Cam Gordon. Cam, I have lived in seward for 30 years, love the progressive attitude of the area, and have voted for you every time, please listen. I am very concerned that as a citizen, I cannot determine what you have in mind to replace the police department. We citizens deserve to be able to see what the council has in mind to replace the current police system. It reminds me of Trump wanton to get rid of Obamacare, having NO plan other than abolishing it.

It reminds me of privatizing prisons, rather than implementing prison reform with accountabilities and better training of guards. The private prison was a right wing idea, and hasn't worked at all. Please consider keeping the current police chief as an agent of reform, and come up with some concrete progressive ideas of real reform, the idea of some private security force seems fascist to me, not progressive.

Tue 7/7/2020 12:37 PM

Dear Charter Commission Members,

I write in opposition to the proposed amendment. I think it is poorly considered and based on my experience, will cost lives, and not at the hands of Minneapolis Police.

First, I have never had a doubt that Black Lives Matter. Maybe that is because I attended Minneapolis Central High School from 1968-1971, very racially tumultuous years in our country and city. The first

time I heard the phrase Black Lives Matter, I knew exactly what it meant. I understand and believe in the Debt. I knew brought it with me when I joined MPD in 1975.

I used that experience during my 40 year police career, 28 years with Minneapolis and 12 years as the Chief of the University of Minnesota Police Department. I always tried to be unfailingly respectful to everyone. However, I was well aware of the historic stress between African Americans and the police. As a result I approached working with black citizens with that in mind. As I rose in rank, I tried to model that for those I led, had candid conversations, and made expectations clear. It moved me also to serve for over 30 years on non-profit boards serving Minneapolis communities, including six years on the Minneapolis Urban League Board.

One of the changes I believe must occur for the Minneapolis Police Department is losing the identity of Law Enforcement Officer, as only 15% of their service is to enforce the law. Police Officer or Peace Officer is a more apt term.

Having said that, I have grave concerns about losing the policing capability we currently have. Two often cited examples where civilian professionals would be a better choice than police response are Domestic Violence and Mental Health Crisis. In a controlled and safe scene a domestic violence advocate or a mental health professional would no doubt be preferable.

Domestic violence calls are often not controlled or safe. There is usually great emotion, conflicted loyalty, often alcohol or other chemical use involved. They happen in every neighborhood at every hour of the day. The most potentially lethal time for a survivor of domestic abuse is when the decision is made to leave the abuser. Police officers are on duty around the clock, have communication, and must be fit enough to aid the victim/survivor. They need to understand the dynamics of domestic violence.

MPD has been a leader in responding to Domestic Violence. From 1980-1982, MPD engaged in the Domestic Violence Experiment. In partnership with academic researchers, over a two year period, it was proven the best predictor of reduced future violence was arrest. The same result was found in cities where it was replicated. I was part of that experiment. Later I would serve for six years on the board of the Minneapolis Domestic Abuse Project. Most do not realize that the majority of our clients are men. For the most part they were motivated by the arrest and order of the court into the DAP program to deal with their anger and other issues. There are many success stories.

Regarding Mental Health, in a controlled situation, it would no doubt be preferable for a trained mental health professional to respond. However crises are often uncontrolled and happen around the clock. Mental health crises often do not get called in as mental health. An officer needs to be able to recognize appropriately respond.

The MPD record on responding to mental health crises was not always good. I was the Deputy Chief of Services in 1999 and 2000. During an eleven month period Minneapolis Police shot and killed three people in crisis; Rocco Dandrea, Alfred Sanders, and Barabara Schneider. Advocates, the public at large, and certainly the families were incensed. Chief Robert Olson tasked me to find better ways to respond and prevent additional tragedies. I discovered Memphis was a leader, having created a successful Crisis Intervention Team program. We sent our Academy Director and our Department Psychologist to Memphis. They came back highly recommending we develop our own program.

With the partnership of Senator Paul Wellstone's Office, the Hennepin County Crisis Center and Adult Protection, as well as non-profits serving people with mental illness such as NAMI and TASKS Unlimited we succeeded in training 20% of our patrol officers in the 40 hour curriculum, about 120 officers at that time. The result has been a great reduction in the need for officers to use any force, especially deadly force.

When I became the Chief at the University, I was surprised to learn how frequent mental health response was for University officers. First, young adulthood is a frequent onset period for major mental illnesses. One in five students now come to the University with a mental health diagnosis, often with medication. Secondly, as a huge public campus, the U was a destination for the homeless, who often had MI and/or CD issues. Officers frequently intervened in crises. Sometimes this involved talking or even restraining and rescuing someone attempting to jump from the Washington Avenue bridge. On a number of occasions officers shed the vest and utility belt to jump into the river to save people from likely drowning.

The point again, is we must rely on the police to be present, trained, and able to respond to these types of emergencies and others. What I learned in my policing career developed a passion to help those with mental illness and police response. As a result, in retirement I have joined the boards of directors of two non-profits, TASKS Unlimited in Minneapolis and Minnesota CIT, that provides the majority of crisis intervention training in Minnesota for police officers.

Lastly, I would add that my wife was a Hennepin County Social worker for 34 years with a mental health caseload. Everyone I have ever spoken with said she was an excellent social worker. She was assaulted three times, once pretty seriously. She developed a good sense for danger visiting homes and residential facilities. If she felt danger was present, she would request an officer accompany her. The officers were grateful that a social worker would be in the community and assume responsibility so they didn't have to. Barb said she never had a bad experience with the officers, either in Minneapolis or the suburbs.

Believe me, I am aware the culture of MPD needs reform. I was one of those rare officers who grew up in Minneapolis, lived here while a police officer, and continue to live in the city. Our officers need to really appreciate and respect all citizens.

I also know Chief Arradondo well. He was Chief Olson's executive officer when I was a Deputy Chief. We worked closely together. I have great respect for his character and ability. We were both Minneapolis Central kids. We need the Council's support for him to make needed change, Like our Chief, MPD must serve with humility, compassion, and commitment.

Tue 7/7/2020 12:58 PM

Dear City Clerk Carl,

I am writing to express my concern about the pace of change our City Council is proposing for amending our Charter by Nov 1. I have heard so few of the important details that we all deserve to hear before making a choice that can lead to replacement of the significant capacity and infrastructure of MPD.

I am 100% on board with substantive and prompt changes, like major restrictions on use of force, more officers from communities served, more social workers in the department and more social workers on

calls/on the streets. I support more funding in communities for youth programs and facilities, food and housing security, mental health, education, and more.

How would thoughtfully developing measures for prompt change around these important issues do anything to delay much needed policing reform measures based on sound policy?

On the other hand, I think we should be very wary, if not outright suspicious, that this speeded up timeline is being proposed just months before the election and only a handful of weeks before the primary. That is prima facie evidence of an incompetent process and appears a poorly disguised maneuver by Council Members who are up for re-election to make a name for themselves on a larger stage without doing the necessary hard work and deliberation to properly serve our communities' public safety interests.

The public's energy and motivation for substantive, equitable change are there for us all to embrace and move forward with. But we cannot waste this golden opportunity to develop thoughtful, sustainable solutions. City Council members are asking us to follow an uncharted path, ill defined and poorly illuminated with only a short time to try to educate citizens on a fundamental change in a critical function of our city services and public safety governance.

Politicians who try to ram through such profound change in a short period of time do a disservice to their own constituents who are owed a more thoughtful response.

If charter amendment is the indispensable ingredient to meaningful policing reform, rather than propose a change to the charter for the November 2020 ballot, why not take a year to engage in a more thoughtful, deliberate and inclusive process?

Do City Council members not trust their own constituents enough to make the right choices after being educated for a reasonable period of time on what they are being asked to change?

For all the world, that's what it looks like to me: politicians are afraid they won't get public support for their proposed charter amendment if they don't push it through before the voting public has a chance to understand what they are being asked to change.

I also suspect some Council Members feel they have permission from a public fed up with systemic racism in our government to fast track the change. Those Council Members who believe they have already taken the pulse of the entire voting public regarding policing are in fact following their own prerogatives and those of a minority of extremely vocal constituents.

There simply has not been, nor is there adequate time before the August primary to have the sort of public dialog required to fully present the case, especially in light of all the other changes we've had to endure and absorb to meet the challenges of twin pandemics, COVID 19 and systemic racism in policing.

I'm sure the Charter Commission takes the issue of police reform seriously, and its mandate would seem to be to scrupulously review game changing proposals from politicians on the campaign trail. The proposals would dramatically change the structure and function of city governance without providing ample time for broader based collaboration and conversation on how best to accomplish our goals of sound policy that promotes safety and equitable treatment for all citizens.

We cannot have a good process in such a short time on such a far reaching proposal.

Why not hold the vote in 2021 after more deliberation, ideas and feedback from all parties?

Tue 7/7/2020 1:14 PM

To whom it may concern,

I reside at [REDACTED] Logan Avenue South, and I am one of the owners of a 125 year old law firm that has resided in downtown Minneapolis for that century. Today, my law firm has several hundred employees. Minneapolis needs a safe environment and a city government that takes measured steps when making significant changes in governance. To that end, I have reviewed the charter proposal and I do not believe it should be put up for a vote in November. I disagree with the proposed charter amendment for multiple reasons, and I encourage the commission to take a closer look at the issues presented.

Speed: Based on my review, the changes are broad and sweeping—too broad and sweeping to happen in a matter of months and be put up for a vote in the City of Minneapolis. Redistricting schools and the 2040 plan took several years and a lengthy study for a proposal to get passed. This is an even bigger change, and should be tabled and studied properly. We have all witnessed how rash decisions in Minneapolis in recent months—such as the Park Board allowing parks to be used as homeless camps—are leading to unrest, instability, increased crime and a less inviting environment for businesses and residents alike. Let's not make another move in haste that leads to unintended consequences. The City Council has not put forward a good argument as to why the charter amendment must go up for a vote now, instead of being put through a formal, adequate study.

Lack of Details: the proposal seeks to change our entire policing and safety structure with no accompanying supporting materials showing how those changes would be implemented. That plan would not be part of the charter amendment, of course, but color needs to be given to the rationale behind the charter amendment via a safety and policing plan. Simply put, the cart is before the horse. The City Council should develop a plan, and then seek the charter amendment commensurate to enact that plan. This structure would lead to a more sustainable, well-planned result for our city.

Mass Governing: Placing the power for policing and public safety in the City Council is not an effective method of governing such a large city. The changes are broad and sweeping and takes control away from the Mayor and gives it to the Council. The Councilmembers each receive a fraction of the vote of the public - all citizens have the ability to vote for the Mayor.

Specific Provisions:

1. The funding minimum is deleted. To have stability and ensure everyone is on the same page for decades to come, the City of Minneapolis should maintain a minimum dollar requirement of funding for policing. The phrase "adequately fund" is vague and ambiguous and could lead to wild changes year over year as council members get voted in and out. That creates a lack of stability in our community.
2. The proposal states "the Council may maintain a division of law enforcement services, composed of licensed peace officers, subject to the supervision of the department of community safety and violence prevention." This provision should not say "may," it should say "must." A city of our size must have police officers. Crime escalated after the City Council announced "disbanding the police." Police serve a role in this community and any community I

want to be a part of. For a city of our size to have stability, there must be a division of law enforcement services.

3. The double confirmation by the Director of Law Enforcement Services is duplicative and will add bureaucracy. The Mayor, an official elected by all citizens of Minneapolis, should have this function.
4. It should not be absolutely required that Individuals eligible to be appointed as director will have non-law enforcement experience in community safety services, including but not limited to public health and/or restorative justice approaches. This is too detailed and may not be applicable in a few years. This entity should strive to create an amendment that can travel with time, not just simply address what some individuals are upset about in 2020.
5. There should be terms for the appointments, to increase stability and consistency.

Tue 7/7/2020 1:16 PM

Am not in favor of this new amendment the city council bears responsibility for allowing the police Department to get so out of control look from within first

Tue 7/7/2020 1:54 PM

I do not believe that defending the police is the answer I believe that there has to be great changes to the police Union and other measures. The city council said at the start of all this that they would defund the police department even before you all have it plan on ways to do that. Falling under pressure from groups and organizations an radical extremist.what plan do you have that will keep the community services and the community safe. I am a taxpayer and I vote. The protesters that destroyed our community are among young people that do not pay taxes and typically do not vote remember that.if the city council does not do the right thing I will organize a coalition to make sure that they are voted out of their office.

Tue 7/7/2020 2:00 PM

Dear Charter Commissioner,

Let's be clear: this proposal is a power grab by a city council representing a fringe of city residents against a mayor with more widespread support. It is wrong and dangerous.

The council would eliminate the police department, currently run by the mayor, replacing it with a department of Community Safer and Violence Prevention "prioritizing a holistic public health approach," whatever that is. The council would appoint the director.

So would there be any real police? Maybe not. The proposal says the city council "may maintain a division of law enforcement services, composed of licensed police officers." May, not shall. If the division were created, it would answer to the practitioners of holistic public health in the department. Even if the council decides that having some kind of police presence is a good idea, the proposal discards the minimum requirements for staffing. We should assume that the council majority has no commitment to keeping a minimum police force.

The mayor mishandled the civil unrest following the death of George Floyd. But that doesn't justify stripping the mayor's office of all but ceremonial powers.

The charter commission should reject this reckless proposed amendment. If passed, it will result over time in an exodus of businesses and homeowners from the city. It's going to be hard enough to rebuild Lake Street with the current strong council government and its weak-minded thinking.

Tue 7/7/2020 3:30 PM

Hello,

I'd like to voice my support for putting the new city charter before the voters in November. Time is of the essence.

Tue 7/7/2020 3:39 PM

The purpose of even proposing this ammendment is to appease over-the-top activists. I hope to see it delayed for as long as is required for people to calm down and start talking sense.

As it stands now, it's a blank check to shut down our police department and replace it with... whatever "holistic" and "health-oriented" means. Would we be deputizing chiropractors?

Tue 7/7/2020 3:57 PM

Hello,

I am a Minneapolis resident and I would like to provide my feedback on the proposed charter amendment the Council wants put on the ballot.

In 2018, this same Council wanted to have control over the MPD. They rushed through to request this from the Charter Commission. At that time, the Commission requested the Council to do the research and work first. Here we are two years later with another request without doing the research and work. This request should end no differently. This is a dangerous and immature move that they have done before.

Also, I cannot locate the research, work and results from the task force from 2018. Where can residents obtain this information? My Councilmember will not respond to me.

Tue 7/7/2020 3:59 PM

I strongly support proposed changes to the system of policing in the city of Minneapolis. I believe that it is essential to do away with the current police department, whose union makes it impossible to hold accountable violent and racist cops. As cases such as the deaths of George Floyd and Philando Castile have come to light, I have become extremely reluctant to call 911, fearing that the actions of the police may lead to a far worse outcome than any action that might prompt a 911 call.

I hope that the change to policing includes employing social workers, (mental) health workers, and peace officers who are trained in de-escalation techniques, are not equipped with military equipment, and have effective oversight from city official or civilians rather than a reactionary police union. I am appalled that so few complaints against Minneapolis police have resulted in any kind of action. The current situation is a threat to our community and an embarrassment to our generally progressive city. The city of Camden has shown this can be done successfully; let's follow their example!

Tue 7/7/2020 4:31 PM

Can we change the charter to decrease the power of the city council instead of the police department?

Stick to building more and more bike lanes and charging .05 for grocery bags and leave the business of actually running the city to someone with some common sense.

Maybe address the issue that no one will go downtown anymore. Steve Fletcher is delusional. Without a viable downtown the city is dead.

Now that we are paying for protection for 3 members to a company that is run by someone who is not licensed after being forced to shut down his previous security company you should all be ashamed of yourselves for not knowing this head of time. More money well spent. You wonder why people don't want the city council with more power?

Tue 7/7/2020 4:35 PM

Council Council,

As a Minneapolis resident, I respectfully disagree with your proposal to amend the city Charter. This act is the first step the council is taking in disbanding the police, and I could not disagree more with the direction several on the council are moving in.

We have lived through a hellish weekend of rioting, where no police were available, and the criminals took note. Many vehicles with no license plates drove at high speeds through our neighborhood and bad actors robbed our stores - because they knew the police would not come. The radical experiment to "dismantle the department" has played out over a very long and scary weekend in the aftermath of the George Floyd tragedy, and the criminals responded. The rioters didn't make it down to the Holiday or Walgreens on Hiawatha and 46th street, but some opportunistic thieves sure did.

Where were the protests near the 34th Ave S business area? Some of those businesses, like the Speedway, were vandalized, but many were saved by my courageous neighbors who risked their personal safety to scare off thugs after curfew - because the police did not come. So we have indeed tried to live in a city without police, and the criminals showed up, and they will continue to show up if defunding the police is the approach you choose to take.

Thank you for your service to my City as a council member, and I hope you take into consideration all of the people who call Minneapolis home before casting your vote.

Wed 7/8/2020 11:35 AM

Dear Council Members,

I am a resident of Minneapolis having grown up just blocks from where I currently live. Since my family moved here in 1972, police violence has been an issue. I still remember quite clearly my two brothers being beaten up by police in 1986 while attending a party near Lake Nokomis. Despite efforts by previous mayors nothing much has changed in terms of the attitudes of many policemen. There is a culture of disregard for basic human rights and dignity that permeates the Minneapolis Police Force. Unfortunately no amount of training is going to undo that culture.

For this reason I support efforts by the City Council to abolish the police and create a public safety entity that supports the safety and security of the communities in which they work. A completely separate unit should be created to deal with issues of mental health. The public safety entity should require that a large percentage of its staff reside in Minneapolis in order to ensure that the staff have connections to the communities they are supporting.

While this effort will take time, we should move forward in a very quick and timely manner. We can't wait any longer for reform. 150 years is enough. Please use all of your energies and capabilities to advance this important reform.

Tue 7/7/2020 5:42 PM

Commissioners,

I am asking, pleading with you to NOT defund the MPD. There need to be some changes made, but we need the MPD. Our city council is doing with this just as they did with the 2040 plan. Their minds are all made up and they listen to no one but themselves. If I am understanding this correctly, you commissioners can put a halt to this nonsense or at least have an impartial voice in the process.

I am not very good at expressing my thoughts, but please keep our MPD intact.

Tue 7/7/2020 6:46 PM

My question is: when you remove the Police from City Charter where exactly is MPD placed? Under whose jurisdiction.

Not one person in my neighborhood (Lowry Hill/Kenwood) is for defunding police.

Nor are we in favor of paying extremely high property taxes and having our neighborhood inundated with homeless drug addicts. Child molesters, etc. The car breakins and thefts in this neighborhood are almost a nightly offense and not. Cop to be aeen.

Tue 7/7/2020 7:58 PM

To whom it may concern,

I reside at [REDACTED] Summit Avenue, and am an attorney practicing at a law firm with an office in Minneapolis. Minneapolis needs a safe environment and a city government that takes measured steps when making significant changes in governance. To that end, I have reviewed the charter proposal and I do not believe it should be put up for a vote in November. I disagree with the proposed charter amendment for multiple reasons, and I encourage the commission to take a closer look at the issues presented.

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time I heard the phrase Black Lives Matter, I knew exactly what it meant. I understand and believe in the Debt. I knew brought it with me when I joined MPD in 1975.

I used that experience during my 40 year police career, 28 years with Minneapolis and 12 years as the Chief of the University of Minnesota Police Department. I always tried to be unfailingly respectful to everyone. However, I was well aware of the historic stress between African Americans and the police. As a result I approached working with black citizens with that in mind. As I rose in rank, I tried to model that for those I led, had candid conversations, and made expectations clear. It moved me also to serve for over 30 years on non-profit boards serving Minneapolis communities, including six years on the Minneapolis Urban League Board.

One of the changes I believe must occur for the Minneapolis Police Department is losing the identity of Law Enforcement Officer, as only 15% of their service is to enforce the law. Police Officer or Peace Officer is a more apt term.

Having said that, I have grave concerns about losing the policing capability we currently have. Two often cited examples where civilian professionals would be a better choice than police response are Domestic Violence and Mental Health Crisis. In a controlled and safe scene a domestic violence advocate or a mental health professional would no doubt be preferable.

Domestic violence calls are often not controlled or safe. There is usually great emotion, conflicted loyalty, often alcohol or other chemical use involved. They happen in every neighborhood at every hour of the day. The most potentially lethal time for a survivor of domestic abuse is when the decision is made to leave the abuser. Police officers are on duty around the clock, have communication, and must be fit enough to aid the victim/survivor. They need to understand the dynamics of domestic violence.

MPD has been a leader in responding to Domestic Violence. From 1980-1982, MPD engaged in the Domestic Violence Experiment. In partnership with academic researchers, over a two year period, it was proven the best predictor of reduced future violence was arrest. The same result was found in cities where it was replicated. I was part of that experiment. Later I would serve for six years on the board of the Minneapolis Domestic Abuse Project. Most do not realize that the majority of our clients are men. For the most part they were motivated by the arrest and order of the court into the DAP program to deal with their anger and other issues. There are many success stories.

Regarding Mental Health, in a controlled situation, it would no doubt be preferable for a trained mental health professional to respond. However crises are often uncontrolled and happen around the clock. Mental health crises often do not get called in as mental health. An officer needs to be able to recognize appropriately respond.

The MPD record on responding to mental health crises was not always good. I was the Deputy Chief of Services in 1999 and 2000. During an eleven month period Minneapolis Police shot and killed three people in crisis; Rocco Dandrea, Alfred Sanders, and Barabara Schneider. Advocates, the public at large, and certainly the families were incensed. Chief Robert Olson tasked me to find better ways to respond and prevent additional tragedies. I discovered Memphis was a leader, having created a successful Crisis Intervention Team program. We sent our Academy Director and our Department Psychologist to Memphis. They came back highly recommending we develop our own program.

With the partnership of Senator Paul Wellstone's Office, the Hennepin County Crisis Center and Adult Protection, as well as non-profits serving people with mental illness such as NAMI and TASKS Unlimited we succeeded in training 20% of our patrol officers in the 40 hour curriculum, about 120 officers at that time. The result has been a great reduction in the need for officers to use any force, especially deadly force.

When I became the Chief at the University, I was surprised to learn how frequent mental health response was for University officers. First, young adulthood is a frequent onset period for major mental illnesses. One in five students now come to the University with a mental health diagnosis, often with medication. Secondly, as a huge public campus, the U was a destination for the homeless, who often had MI and/or CD issues. Officers frequently intervened in crises. Sometimes this involved talking or even restraining and rescuing someone attempting to jump from the Washington Avenue bridge. On a number of occasions officers shed the vest and utility belt to jump into the river to save people from likely drowning.

The point again, is we must rely on the police to be present, trained, and able to respond to these types of emergencies and others. What I learned in my policing career developed a passion to help those with mental illness and police response. As a result, in retirement I have joined the boards of directors of two non-profits, TASKS Unlimited in Minneapolis and Minnesota CIT, that provides the majority of crisis intervention training in Minnesota for police officers.

Lastly, I would add that my wife was a Hennepin County Social worker for 34 years with a mental health caseload. Everyone I have ever spoken with said she was an excellent social worker. She was assaulted three times, once pretty seriously. She developed a good sense for danger visiting homes and residential facilities. If she felt danger was present, she would request an officer accompany her. The officers were grateful that a social worker would be in the community and assume responsibility so they didn't have to. Barb said she never had a bad experience with the officers, either in Minneapolis or the suburbs.

Believe me, I am aware the culture of MPD needs reform. I was one of those rare officers who grew up in Minneapolis, lived here while a police officer, and continue to live in the city. Our officers need to really appreciate and respect all citizens.

I also know Chief Arradondo well. He was Chief Olson's executive officer when I was a Deputy Chief. We worked closely together. I have great respect for his character and ability. We were both Minneapolis Central kids. We need the Council's support for him to make needed change, Like our Chief, MPD must serve with humility, compassion, and commitment.

Tue 7/7/2020 8:37 PM

Jill,

I am a Minnesota citizen. My family are 4th generation Minnesotans. My wife and I work downtown (U.S. Bank and Wells Fargo). I urge you to maintain proper funding for the Minneapolis Police Department. We will not feel safe going to work and walking the streets downtown if the police do not have the power to enforce the law and stop / arrest the " thugs " who think they run our city !

Tue 7/7/2020 8:39 PM

Commissioner Garcia

The proposed Charter amendment language is too vague. The changes it asks for are fundamental—and there is no clear plan for what and how the new proposed department would act to keep the public safe in a new way. I am solidly for reform of the police department—BUT NOT THIS LANGUAGE. The intention here is good—and needed—and so is a solid plan—with much more citizen input and involvement.

Minneapolis resident

Tue 7/7/2020 9:07 PM

Good evening,

I own a condo in the Whittier neighborhood of Minneapolis. I moved to Minneapolis in 2016 after graduating college for a job.

I am sending this email to voice opposition to removing the police department from the city charter. First of all, the details of the Public Safety Commission are unclear. I do not think we should make a change without the next steps detailed out.

I do support more training and reform in the police department. For example, policies should be in place to remove officers who have a record of unacceptable behavior.

However, because of the high levels of violent crime in our city, we cannot simply replace officers with social workers or mental health workers. I would support more social services to help people, however, we need many police officers to protect the citizens of Minneapolis. The sad reality of America is that there is a lot of violence that occurs, and this does require people who are capable of responding to it.

The bottom line is yes there are some bad officers, but there also is undeniably a lot of danger in the city that requires an armed officer to combat it.

I cannot imagine that I am alone in believing this, and if this occurs I'm not sure I would wish to live in Minneapolis any longer. Thank you for taking the time to read this, and please think about the safety of Minneapolis residents.

Tue 7/7/2020 10:31 PM

No police? Who is going to protect you?

You have the cart, way out in front of the horse.

Defund the police union, that's where the problems are.

Wed 7/8/2020 7:04 AM

I strongly support real reform of the MPD.

I support legislation to reduce the power of the police union.

I do not support the fashionable idea of defunding the police or reducing police numbers. The citizens this is intended to help will be the most harmed. There are better ways. City council is abdicating responsibility, more interested in keeping your jobs than doing your jobs.

Wed 7/8/2020 8:09 AM

Please do not allow this to happen. Criminals are already starting to take over our city knowing that MPD's hands are proverbially tied. Very few but the looney city council want to see MPD defunded or dismantled. No doubt there needs to be some changes made, but getting rid of MPD is not the answer. Making them report to 14 "bosses" will be a disaster. Do not allow this to happen.

Wed 7/8/2020 9:53 AM

Hello,

My family lives in the Lynnhurst neighborhood and strongly oppose the effort to defund the police. A vast majority of the police are good people and the actions of a few do not justify removing the police department from the Charter. Such an effort shows and unfortunate lack of creativity and ability to deal with the situation and come up with real solutions. I will definitely vote against the incumbent in the next election and will likely actively campaign against the incumbents for the first time in my life. The idea of defunding the police is irrational and will result in more crime.

Wed 7/8/2020 10:48 AM

I am totally opposed to this foolish and naive proposal put forth by an inexperienced city council which apparently doesn't understand that the defunding and reorganization of our police department is likely to result in dramatic increases in criminal activity in Minneapolis. Our criminal activity is already increasing rapidly in 2020, and this will only promote this trend. Further, this proposal does nothing to protect our citizens and keep us safe. What a failure in leadership!

Wed 7/8/2020 10:58 AM

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Wed 7/8/2020 11:36 AM

The murder of George Floyd wasn't the first warning siren to draw attention to our city's longtime failures with policing and racism. We need to heed the warning sirens, instead of waiting for yet another tragedy.

As a Minneapolis resident, I urge the Charter Commission to allow the charter amendment to be on this November's ballot. Please give all city residents the chance to vote on our public safety now.

The charter's current mandatory minimum of 750 police officers for our city's existing population doesn't give Minneapolis flexibility to change public safety. The MPD structure, with its potent union, inhibits meaningful reform. Minneapolis mayors and police chiefs have tried unsuccessfully to reform policing. Amending the charter is a step toward systemic change.

The Minneapolis Police Department has failed to protect and serve too many people for far too long. Black, Brown and Native American residents, continue to be both under- and over-policed

- Reports show that Minneapolis police use of force is seven times higher for people of color than for white people.
- People in North Minneapolis report they can't get police to come when they call
- Our current police system cannot seem to disrupt or handle the more than 220 shootings in Minneapolis this year
- Consider the 1700 untested rape kits, spanning 30 years, that Minneapolis police reported in November

We need a better form of public safety that will work to protect all of us, in every part of Minneapolis.

Putting the amendment on this fall's ballot allows all members of our community to create a public safety system that's not beholden to the traditional policing methods. Now, we expect police to deal with societal issues, including mental health, chemical dependency and homelessness, that could be better addressed by other city workers, including health care workers, homeless outreach staff and city ambassadors. We need a more inclusive public safety system less focused on armed responders.

Minneapolis residents deserve to get to vote on how our city, our lives, should be protected. We deserve public safety that is truly about protecting and serving.

Wed 7/8/2020 11:59 AM

I am opposed to moving oversight of police to city council. We need to strengthen the mayor's office not weaken it.

Wed 7/8/2020 12:04 PM

Commissioner Clegg

The proposed Charter amendment language is too vague. The changes it asks for are fundamental—and there is no clear plan for what and how the new proposed department would act to keep the public safe in a new way. I am solidly for reform of the police department—BUT NOT THIS LANGUAGE. The intention here is good—and needed—and so is a solid plan—with much more citizen input and involvement.

Wed 7/8/2020 12:22 PM

Congratulations city council and mayor you have turned us into Chicago. Your Permissive policies against the criminals have them running wild. You had a chance earlier to add more officers but you failed. It seems you have abdicated your responsibilities. Some People I know are going out to buy handguns. I visited Fleet Farm and the ammunition and guns are flying off the shelf. You CAN arrest your way out of this. Do not believe the Whiners, including the chief. Have a wonderful Chicago day.

Wed 7/8/2020 12:37 PM

Good afternoon. First, thank you for your willingness to serve our city, and for your commitment to reading the comments you receive ahead of your meeting today.

I am writing to ask that the Minneapolis Charter Commission decline the proposed amendment to the City Charter which has been made by the City Council re: transferring control of public safety from the

Mayor's office to their purview. As a resident of Minneapolis, I feel this change would dilute the necessary separation of powers in the City and concentrate too much authority with the Council.

Thank you for your time and your service to Minneapolis.

Wed 7/8/2020 1:08 PM

To the members of the Minneapolis Charter Commission:

I am writing to urge you to let residents of Minneapolis have the opportunity to vote on the future of our public safety system.

As a resident of South Minneapolis not far from where George Floyd was murdered, I have become aware of the transformation deeply needed in our city, and felt the birthing pangs of a new reality. We are ready to imagine and build something new — a world where all people can feel safe calling for help. We must live into this moment.

Despite good-faith efforts to reform, years of evidence show us that the problems of the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) are deep.

The people of Minneapolis deserve a meaningful community process to re-imagine health and safety, without encountering the barrier of outdated language in the City Charter. The people of Minneapolis deserve a City Charter that does not block our local elected officials from carrying out the will of the people.

The City Charter belongs to the people, and we deserve a chance to exercise our democratic voice.

Please support expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolitans can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election. Please, let us vote.

Wed 7/8/2020 2:51 PM

Stop this insane amendment to defund the MPD now!! Without MPD MPLS will become a nightmare where property taxes and crime will soar and property values will crater.

Wed 7/8/2020 3:06 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to recommend approval of the proposed charter amendment to replace the text pertaining to a "police department" with a new department as named and proposed.

Doing so would better align the city organization to the present day, provide needed flexibility, authority and accountability of this significant share of the overall city's budget, and help address the deep and historic problems of the Minneapolis Police Department.

Thank you for recommending this step be taken so the voters can decide.

Wed 7/8/2020 3:10 PM

Hello council members,

I am going to be watching this meeting today. I'm a Powderhorn home owner and I want the opportunity to vote on police funding/ limiting Mpls police funding this fall.

I am learning about what defunding could look like in the future. I'm not sure how or if it could really work, but I do fiercely believe if we put the resources into our community that we use to over fund the police, we can create a safer and more connected community.

I don't think the police can nor have they done this job very well despite efforts to reform eliciting bias and de-escalation practices.

Also, I'm horrified to really understand the extent of the funding we give to the police departments and how little schools, physical healthcare, and mental healthcare is funded in comparison.

I'd like to see this amendment y'all are talking about and voting on today ON THE BALLET IN NOVEMBER.

I believe this can encourage more clarity and conversation about how communities could support safety, appropriate care, and appropriate responsiveness to non-violent crime and/or mentally ill behavior locally more effectively.

I think it is time to think outside the police box.

I will be watching and talking with my neighbors. Please give us voters a chance to decide where our tax dollars go.

Wed 7/8/2020 3:15 PM

Proposing a charter change before citizens see a solid plan for replacing the current police department is the worst possible way to govern.

"Trust us, it will be something great" is not acceptable. Withdraw that and get to work on the new system -details.

Until we see that, I will not vote for the charter change and will actively campaign against it. This, as a lifelong DFLer.

Wed 7/8/2020 3:28 PM

Barry,

Below was sent to Mayor and Council. Since I could not find a comments section on the Charter site, I would appreciate your sharing with others on the Commission, or letting me know where to post this for Commissioners.

I strongly recommend that the Commission not place any Charter Amendment on the 2020 ballot.

While I totally support those dealing with obvious problems in city policing, the proposal only adds possibilities for confusion, loss of credibility, and loss of public safety if enacted in the time now being considered.

My concerns are based on:

1. Time scale proposed- Charter or Constitutional issues must not be decided on expedited schedules, leaving constituents out of the process. Support needs to be built in a large majority of the community, not just 51%. We all were taught it best not to make major decisions when passions are running high.
2. Covid concerns- The community is still adapting to the pandemic, assuring less attention to any proposed Charter change. During the remainder of 2020, all elected officials have to be focused on Covid-related issues, such as school re-opening, homelessness, food security, and business closings, as well as security.
3. Complexity- The limited detail accompanying the proposed Charter change indicates it will complicate city operations. Action is being proposed without a plan, leaving one to have dozens of questions such as:
 - How are other departments and their authority changed? (fire, health, civil rights)
 - How can citizens hold a Director of Law Enforcement accountable when having to go through 15 people to accomplish change?
 - What is the cost of proposed changes relative to current budget?

It is very possible to deal immediately with many of the changes being demanded by the public, even during the pandemic. The Mayor and Council have to work together to get it done. A Charter change can be a possible outcome of that work, but it cannot reasonably be done this year. Please do not approve placing this proposed change on the 2020 ballot.

Wed 7/8/2020 3:28 PM

Dear City Charter Members,

I am asking that you decline the proposed amendment by put forward by the city council: re: the elimination of a police department from the City Charter and the transfer of responsibility for public safety from the office of the Mayor to the City Council. It seems like the City Council is trying to push this through too quickly, without any alternative plan, and without visibly broadcasting where constituents can provide their impute, all in attempt to increase their power.

The city council's silence on the dramatic uptick in gun violence and armed robberies indicates even they know this is a bad idea. Unfortunately I think they are selfishly sticking with this virtue signaled agenda because they got a lot of attention nationally and they would be embarrassed if they changed course. The fact that they are using private security at the taxpayers expense instead of MPD is beyond hypocritical and should indicate a need for police. I would support defunding parts of the police budget (ie: mental health). While I do recognize there are improvements we should work to make, I do also recognize that the current "police" model does seem to work well for the overwhelming majority of Minneapolis residents and businesses.

As a Minneapolis resident I am concerned about the power concentration the city council would have as a result of this proposed amendment. As it relates to the unintended consequences from this proposed amendment I believe that the parts of the city that can afford private security will hire it (like our City Council), the parts that cannot afford private security will become over run with crime and

drugs. Minnesota will almost certainly adopt some form of "castle state" legislation, and gun ownership will continue to soar. Simply put: this amendment will further subjugate the very demographics the city council thinks it would help. We're barely 45 days since our city council vote signaled to eliminate MPD and there has been a dramatic increase in violence. This amendment literally ignores MPLS's history in the mid-90's when the city was overrun with gang violence.

Wed 7/8/2020 3:34 PM

I have a home in Ward 3. I think the police should have more funding, not less. I don't feel safe downtown anymore and having less police or some kind of pseudo "Social Police" will be a disaster. I cannot stress enough how much reducing the police presence in Minneapolis is a bad idea that will wreak havoc on Downtown Minneapolis for years to come until sane City Council members are finally voted in and the Police force is reestablished. Do not use Minneapolis for your progressive social science project, it will fail utterly and have tragic consequences for the poorest communities of Minneapolis.

Wed 7/8/2020 4:50 PM

>> I'm writing this a week after my neighbor suffered a home invasion in her Linden Hill's home. 3-4 men entered her home in the early morning, threatened her with a gun, and stole her car. Thank goodness, she and her husband weren't harmed! This, along with a shooting in Uptown, gun fight during a kids football practice and countless car, bike and property thefts in our city has made me question living in Minneapolis.

>> I'm against defunding the Minneapolis Police Department because the plan is too ambiguous right now, and doesn't address how the city council plans to keep our citizens safe as crime rates soar. While I may or may not agree with some of the objectives of said plan, I need to see a clear, coherent report before making a decision. Members of the city council are using tax payers money to foot the bill to hire private security to protect them. We as tax-paying citizens deserve the same right to safety. Let's do this correctly, and exercise due diligence so we have a plan that's rational and works.

>> Safety first!

Wed 7/8/2020 4:51 PM

Minneapolis City Council,

I'm writing this a week after my neighbor suffered a home invasion in her Linden Hill's home. 3-4 men entered her home in the early morning, threatened her with a gun, and stole her car. Thank goodness, she and her husband weren't harmed! This, along with a shooting in Uptown, gun fight during a kids football practice and countless car, bike and property thefts in our city has made me question living in Minneapolis.

I'm against defunding the Minneapolis Police Department or getting rid of it because the plan is too ambiguous right now, and doesn't address how the city council plans to keep our citizens safe as crime rates soar. While I may or may not agree with some of the objectives of said plan, I need to see a clear, coherent report before making a decision. Members of the city council are using tax payers money to foot the bill to hire private security to protect them. We as tax-paying citizens deserve the same right to safety. Let's do this correctly, and exercise due diligence so we have a plan that's rational and

works. Please do not defund or get rid of the police! Also do not make changes to the city charter!
Safety first!

Wed 7/8/2020 4:55 PM

I do not support the amendment proposal for the following reasons:

1. No clear chain of command with checks and balances. I worked inside a large corporate structure for many years and can tell you that "shared responsibility" between mayor and council of 13 will not work.
2. The council competence is questionable based on the announcement of their pledge to disband and defund the police without gathering feedback first. I do not like the permissive attitude toward those who burn and loot, and appearance of listening only to the loud voices of BLM and other activist groups. Most of the council members lack any significance experience is managing large budgets, and setting policies for multi-layered issues. Changing charters at this time is a poor idea, given the considerable confusion and unrest already caused by this group.

Overall, police reform is important and I think the police chief should get support and respect required for him to make the necessary changes.....none of us want to see another tragedy.

However, there are other pressing priorities....such as the homeless taking over city parks. Failure to get control of public safety will lead to lawlessness, and taxpayers moving out of the city taking their tax dollars with them.

Wed 7/8/2020 5:00 PM

I live in the 13th Ward of Minneapolis. I am vigorously opposed to the Minneapolis City Council's proposed amendment to remove the Police Department as a Charter Department for several reasons. I request that the Minneapolis City Charter Commission not put this forward to the November 2020 ballot.

The first and most important reason I am vigorously opposed is that this proposed amendment is being rushed through the process without careful study and public discussion. The proposed amendment was crafted in 30 days. The proposed amendment is a knee-jerk reaction to a challenging and sad incident. A change such as removing the Police Department is a monumental transformation that requires accurate fact gathering, meticulous analysis, and precise conclusions derived from the facts and analysis. From this process comes the development of a strategic plan, and finally an effective implementation. The City Council is not qualified to undertake this process, let alone ram through a major change to the Charter. A logical approach would be to retain a qualified and experienced independent third-party consulting firm to navigate the City Council through the process.

The second reason I am opposed is that this rushed proposal is a clear violation of the fundamental democratic process. As I already stated, this is a monumental change, and will have major ramifications to not only the City of Minneapolis, but the State of Minnesota. It is crucial we get this right. The City Council needs to do the work and spend the time. The City Council needs to provide the appropriate public forum. The City Council needs to conduct a transparent process. The City Council needs to have a plan. The City Council has done none of these things.

The third reason I am vigorously opposed is very practical. Crime in Minneapolis has escalated significantly. Nearly every day there are reports of shootings and violent crime across the City. As a

recent example see the Star Tribune article on 7/2/2020 "At Practice, a Hail of Bullets." AT PRACTICE, A HAIL OF BULLETS Children at football practice were caught in a crossfire. Downtown is rapidly losing its appeal. Businesses are starting to move out of the City. The light rail system is unsafe. How can eliminating the Police Department possibly reduce crime?

The next reason I am opposed is that many leaders in the Community are opposed to this amendment. Mayor Fry is not only opposed, he has asked for more police funding and was turned down. Several other Community leaders including Nekima Levy Armstrong, Steven Belton and Pastor Brain Herron to name a few. I refer you to the Star Tribune article on 7/2/2020 "Voices of dissent on ending MPD." Voices of dissent on ending MPD These experienced leaders have a lot more knowledge than I do, and I listen to their opposition.

Finally, we have a "weak Mayor and City Council" governance structure. I personally think this is one of the roots of the problem on this whole topic. Neither the Mayor nor the City Council really has the authority to govern effectively. However, the Mayor is broadly elected by the entire City of Minneapolis. Whereas, the City Council members are elected by each separate ward. I am completely opposed to giving the City Council more power, which this proposed amendment will do. These people are not broadly elected, and this system does not really hold them accountable.

For these reasons, I am strongly opposed to the proposed amendment, and I urge the Charter Council to require a thorough due diligence on this topic before any change is put forth.

Wed 7/8/2020 5:18 PM

Hello,

I am a resident of Minneapolis, and am outraged that this proposal is even being considered. The City Council is asking to amend the city charter, but does not have a cogent plan in place. If the city charter is to be amended, isn't it incumbent upon the party asking for the amendment to at least have a specific explanation of what the changes will be, versus having the temerity to ask for a blank slate to alter the charter any way they like? These individuals have taken advantage of a fractured community and trying times in an effort to grab even more power than they already have. Unlike the mayor, who had to earn a majority of votes in the city of Minneapolis, this is a council composed of individuals that earned less than 5,000 votes in a specific Ward, yet yearn to have as much, or more, power than the mayor.

The safety of our community is not a political cudgel to be used by people that lack the qualifications to run a police department, that refuse to go on ride alongs with the police that serve their communities, and preach to us about our perceived privilege while using taxpayer funds for their own personal protection teams. They are to blame for underfunding the department, causing the officers to work long hours dealing with dangerous individuals, and witnessing domestic and sexual abuse, to the point where they have PTSD at the same level as the members of the military.

Please send a strong message to the City Council that using public outrage to grab power is not their role, and that they should focus on making sure we have the services that are needed to run a city.

Wed 7/8/2020 6:35 PM

Commissioner,

I am a lifelong resident of Minneapolis and a homeowner. I do not support the proposal to change the city charter in order to eliminate the MPD.

Having me call a different number to report a car accident is not a meaningful reform. I am concerned about having people who are trained to handle the most violent situations in our city ready to keep residents safe.

Wed 7/8/2020 7:03 PM

I am opposed to the defunding of the Police Department and the proposed amendment change. The City Council has been reactive and has provided no guidelines or ideas how this proposed change will be implemented. This appears to me to be totally irresponsible and is not in the best interests in the City of Minneapolis. I also believe this proposal is only about the egos and self interest of its members. You do not have my support.

Wed 7/8/2020 8:28 PM

All, some thoughts on the 2020 city budget in light of the significant cuts that must be made. These brief comments do not address specific expenses or line items, rather, here are my broader thoughts as we look forward:

First, a focus on core city responsibilities - public safety, infrastructure, affordable housing. In other words, "stay in your lane" and support what only the city can do. Second, a prioritization on what is "essential". We learned quickly in March and April what was essential-healthcare, food supply, first responders, transit, education. Gaps in those areas were revealed. What needs to be shored up?

This is the time to identify process efficiencies, just as businesses are doing. It's the time to reevaluate priorities, just as families are doing. If there are redundancies, say in parks programming and school programming, are both needed? Do we need two big fireworks events in the summer? Are there programs that have declining participation/interest?

CM Lisa Goodman included a comment in one of her email updates, early in the pandemic, that rightly acknowledged there would be pain, and not every small business, arts initiative and restaurant would survive the economic fallout of Covid. I agree.

Wed 7/8/2020 8:38 PM

I believe the proposed charter amendment should not go to vote until the public is able to attend public meetings in person, and a clear detailed plan of what the new department would entail is given to voters.

The Mpls city council is asking for the power to dismantle the MPD and have the possibility of having no police, when there is NO plan of what they want to replace the MPD with. They all say they will take a yr to get community input to create a new plan, which means they do not expect to have a plan until next summer or later. That means if this charter amendment goes on the Nov 2020 ballot voters will be asked to give the city council more power and the ability to create ANY replacement for MPD they

want. Voters will have no idea how this increased power given to the city council will be used. Many might think they are voting to allow them to drastically reform the police, when in reality we could have no police at all or a skeleton crew with no data or precedent to know if their plan could even work.

Currently we are getting mixed messages from the city council. They pledged to work towards a "police free future" to the world, yet some (like my council rep Andrew Johnson) are saying we will still have armed officers to respond to violence. Yet other council members such as Ellison and Bender have been rather vocal about their desire to have no police. Ellison recently tweeted, "Police have a monopoly on "public safety", and they leverage that to keep folks feeling they're "needed". We need to end that monopoly." And Bender said in a CNN interview when asked who would respond to a burglary in progress, "... That comes from a place of privilege..." So how are we as voters suppose to have any idea what the city council will do with their increase in power?

Quote Tweet!

I believe the city council is rushing the process to dismantle and replace MPD, despite having no clear plan, in order to get on the ballot for Nov 2020 because they know larger numbers of young voters will turn out because it is a presidential election yr and before the steam goes out of the defund/abolish the police sentiment that came from the riots. I also believe they want to pass this quick before individuals and groups come out against their plan to dismantle the MPD. For example the violence prevention group A Mothers Love held a press conference yesterday saying the city council has refused to speak with the founder Lisa Clemons despite the fact she works with crime victims and trying to end gun violence in Mpls. They want to keep the MPD and work with the police chief on police reform.

Most importantly we are in a pandemic which limits the participation some in Mpls can have in this discussion. We can not have in person public meetings due to the pandemic. Citizens need cable, and or high speed internet to view city council TV, and need to be computer literate and have access to high speed internet to participate.

All members of the Mpls city council have repeatedly stated they will take a yr to gather input from the community to develop a plan. I propose that you force them to do just that BEFORE we vote, not AFTER we vote in 2020. Please make sure that all citizens of Mpls are able to give their voice and to become more informed on this issue before voting. Democracy only works with an informed active public.

Thu 7/9/2020 5:20 AM

To the members of the Minneapolis Charter Commission,

My wife and I are writing to urge you to let residents of Minneapolis have the opportunity to vote on the future of our public safety system.

As white people we cannot accept that for many members of our community the color of their skin or where they come from can deprive our fellow community members of feeling safe and that their lives are valued. We all deserve to live peaceful, happy, healthy lives. Communities of color, particularly Black community members, should not be targeted, harassed, brutalized, and murdered by our public servants.

Despite good-faith efforts to reform, years of evidence show us that the problems of the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) are deep.

We as a City cannot tolerate the police brutality and mistreatment of the public from our Police Department. While the chilling murder of George Floyd was the loudest wake-up call, we have known that over many years there have been many other instances of violence and abuse, especially towards Black, Native American, Somali and mentally ill members of our communities. Rampant and even indiscriminate tear-gassing and firing on the public, protestors, and journalists by Minneapolis Police are further evidence that our Police Department is not squarely under the control of our democratically elected leaders or the official chain of command.

The people of Minneapolis deserve a meaningful community process to re-imagine health and safety, without encountering the barrier of outdated language in the City Charter. The people of Minneapolis deserve a City Charter that does not block our local elected officials from carrying out the will of the people.

For years, the Charter has been a barrier to holding the police department accountable because it prohibits city council oversight. The Charter also restricts how the City supports public safety by requiring a minimum amount of staffing. Neither of these barriers exist for any other City department.

The City Charter belongs to the people, and we deserve a chance to exercise our democratic voice. We also demand that there be significant participation by members of communities of color and consumers of mental health services in the process of fashioning the proposed charter amendment. It should not be a project carried out by the white community alone or even mainly.

Please support expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolitans can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election. Please, let us vote.

Thu 7/9/2020 7:19 AM

Dear Commissioner Giraud-Isaacson,

I own a home here in South Minneapolis. Less than a mile from the 3rd precinct.

If you have a concern regarding the legality of the charter proposal, negative effects on the structure of governance in Minneapolis - OK. Do your job, register that concern, return the proposal to the council.

But please, don't tell us out here - who have seen and felt and smelled and heard firsthand the consequences of existing government dysfunction around police - that now you're the experts on when enough "thought" or "process" has gone into this proposal. That your status quo is so hallowed and burnished by nobility that you get to decide unilaterally to keep it propped up.

I got tear gassed, I heard the pain in so many voices, I stayed up worried about my neighborhood every night, I watched MPD officers rain down ordnance on protestors, I saw a huge part of my neighborhood burn because MPD officers slowly murdered a man in the street.

I want a vote. That's my job as a resident, to play a part in deciding which way we go from here.

It sure as hell isn't YOUR job to take that vote away. If your commission does a pocket veto on this proposal, a proposal supported **unanimously** by councilmembers, after a **global uprising** demanding change, you will place an incredible stain on the charter commission itself.

Thu 7/9/2020 8:16 AM

Commissioner Clegg,

I am a lifelong resident of Minneapolis and a homeowner. I do not support the proposal to change the city charter in order to eliminate the MPD. The murder of George Floyd was tragic and the officers should be charged with murder. Watching people destroy the livelihoods of business owners, seeing the increase in crimes at Powderhorn Park, and our current crime levels, for which a U.S District Attorney has had to step in, leaves me with zero faith that the city council members have the ability to ensure public safety.

Thu 7/9/2020 8:17 AM

I support you advocating for a longer measured time to do our due diligence !
We need much much more public comment and these future Zoom calls do not cut it - in addition I would like to hear from the police and their perspective on what they are encountering - grew up in NYC - lived in Atlanta for 26 years - we move here 3 years ago - Cooler heads need to prevail and we need the police to be part of this conversation ... I am going to The 1st precinct tomorrow to introduce myself and do A deep dive ... this seems so adversarial. I have no history here but we love it in downtown Minneapolis

Thu 7/9/2020 8:19 AM

Chairman Glegg:

Has the Charter Commission scheduled the second public hearing, please, on the proposed police defunding amendment and if so, do you know the date?

Thu 7/9/2020 8:20 AM

Hello Dan,

I have been living on Kenwood Parkway for 20+ years. My brother is also a police officer in the 4th Precinct. I thank you for your question to the city council today about wanting to hear from the police before making any vote. Alondra Cano's answer did not answer your question. Before anyone can make an informed vote we should know what the plan is. I for one would like to know how they intend to provide safety for the residents of Minneapolis. If someone is breaking the law you think a person is going to stop if confronted by a community member? Without police is there no consequences for people breaking the law? They mentioned they already added some programs to the neighborhood but they don't have the funding to expand. What are these? I could see adding people to the police force such as social workers as they discuss to assist on certain calls but without police and consequences it will never work. People will stop visiting Minneapolis. They already have!! I stopped going downtown because it's unsafe.

I've been having conversations with neighbors and friends about what is going on. I'm very much concerned how the city council wants to defund and replace the police department. How are they involving the police department in the changes they want to make? Anyone I talk with who is for this or who just says there needs to be change I ask them if they have been on a ride along. I think anyone who is involved in making such drastic changes needs to do several ride alongs in different precincts and different times of the day. See what the officers deal with and they can ask themselves how they would

handle the situation. Talk to the officers. It is the best way to see both sides. The police and the community. How can the city council propose such drastic measures without having the information.

I have been on several ride alongs in North Minneapolis. Daytime, midshift and overnight. EMS was never without an armed officer. I don't see this changing. I've seen 5 police officers trying to help a man who was drunk and possibly on something. It took 5 of them to hold him so he would stop hurting himself until the paramedics got there. He was bleeding and banging his head on the stone wall in front of a liquor store. He was half the size of George Floyd and was hysterical. He had unbelievable strength. Another call we were responding to an OD. The woman who was there with the girl who needed help could've been fine without officers but it was the 5 large men that came from the back of the apartment one by one. The officers were there so the EMS could do their job without worrying about family or whoever is at the house interfering. Talking with these men we learned that each of them has been shot before. So we were right to have concern being in the home. These are just a few stories that I know the city council has not thought about.

The city council wants control. They want to defund and dismantle the police department. Everything being talked about is how bad the police are and their use of force. Nobody is talking about how to teach and talk to the community about not breaking the law. If you don't break the law you and don't talk back to the police you won't have to deal with them. The city council is praising criminals and telling them it's ok to break the law. Look what's happening at Powderhorn Park. I will not be one who will hand over the keys to my house or car. I will not walk away if someone is breaking my house. That is my property, my home that I worked very hard for. That is not privilege as Lisa Bender would say. I pay taxes to have a police force that I can rely on if something happens.

Look at the increase in violence across the city! Where was Lisa Bender when 11 people were shot in Uptown. What about North Minneapolis and the increase in the shootings. The city council wants to defund and dismantle the police. The mayor let the 3rd precinct go. They are telling the city that they do not support police and they do not have their back. As an officer you are going to be very careful out there. The increase in crime is not a result of the police but a result of the City Council, the Mayor and the Governor.

As far as the city council thinking that officers should live in the precinct where they work should not be on the table. I spoke with a park police officer who grew up in the 4th precinct. She used to work in the 4th precinct and live there and finally had to move. Having to pull over friends and family was not good. Arresting people and then they find out where you live they can make life unsafe. An officer sees a lot and they need to have time to decompress in between shifts. An officer would have to be on 24/7 if they lived in the precinct they work. I personally would hate to have my brother live in Minneapolis. I'm happy he has a place to go to decompress and not be reminded of everything they see and deal with at work. It is important for his health and I think it makes him a better officer. He comes back fresh and ready for his shift.

Bottom line is I don't think the City Council has the knowledge or experience to make such decisions. I don't believe they have the best interest of the residents of Minneapolis. They are praising criminals and punishing the hard working, law abiding citizens. From the meeting I listened to today I have no confidence in them working with anyone on their agenda. They have a one track mind. They want us to vote yes for something we have no idea what it would look like. Vote yes and then trust they do what's right? Not ok!!

I do not include Lisa Goodman in my thoughts about the city council.

Please 'VOTE NO' in August.

Thu 7/9/2020 8:22 AM

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Ward 3. I demand that the charter commission accept the proposed changes to the charter so the issue can be voted on by the citizens of the city.

Our city is being tortured daily by police officers who don't even live here and Dan Cohen wants to hear from the police and their union? Why? They don't get to decide policy anymore, we didn't elect them and I'd also add that we didn't elect the charter commission either. Actual Minneapolis citizens have spoken out on this issue for months, people are dead/injured at the hands of police, and our ELECTED council members listened to the city so we can actually change.

If the commission doesn't move forward with the UNANIMOUSLY proposed changes (in time to get it on the ballot), they will be actively impeding democracy. Please know that future blood spilled and lives shattered by our corrupt police will lie squarely at the feet of the charter commission if you suppress the voice of the people. Do you want the blood of another George Floyd on your hands?

Have the courage to do what is right,

Thu 7/9/2020 9:29 AM

I write to request that you do not allow the critically important process of reforming the police department to be rushed. The proposed changes are not specific enough to allow voters to make a good decision on how to vote and leave too much up in the air. It is very concerning that a decision would have to be made by voters with this little information, and yet with such far-reaching consequences.

Thu 7/9/2020 9:40 AM

Dear Charter Commission, I live in Ward 8 at [REDACTED].

As currently constructed, after having listen to many members of the Minneapolis Black Community, I will not be voting for this current charter amendment even if it should appear on the ballot.

Having been involved with this issue of policing in Minneapolis quite intensely for the past 6 years, I have come to believe that our current city government officials are quite incompetent. This charter amendment is yet another example of this. They are putting forward this massive change without one shred of a clear plan of what comes next. They cannot even seem to keep straight what is the timeline for these changes. On the one hand they say they want to have a year long conversation with the city. On the other they say that they want these changes in place by May 2021. Which is it? And if they have to write the necessary ordinances in the next few months, who is going to do that and whose input are they going to use? Why do they not have a single concrete idea or proposal that they are putting forward for us to address?

I believe that the police department needs serious change. I also know that there are many things the Council could be doing right now but aren't. What we really need is another slate of Council members. But we definitely don't need a poorly thought out, completely undefined new charter amendment.

Thu 7/9/2020 10:21 AM

Please do not remove the police department.

We need them.

At the same time, we need major fundamental changes in how they act, and how they're held accountable.

Thanks, resident of 4th Ward/4th Precinct

Thu 7/9/2020 10:29 AM

All –

Thank you for your hard work and commitment to Minneapolis throughout multiple crises. These are unprecedented times and thankfully you have stepped up in an unprecedented way. I am so proud to work with you.

As you know, the challenges we face today have forced difficult decisions across our enterprise. Over the course of the last several months, City staff from across the enterprise have been working to identify significant cost-saving opportunities to help bridge a massive \$156 million revenue shortfall.

Earlier this year, we started that process with a series of steps that reduced our 2020 spending by \$58.2 million. That still left us with nearly \$97.8 million in unaddressed losses. Today, we laid out a plan to address that challenge. Beyond what we can support with cash reserves and efficiencies, we also must rely on furloughs and we anticipate very few layoffs as a last resort.

Our Labor Relations director has been in close touch with each of the 22 unions that represent City employees and we have made great progress. Understanding that the situation may still change between now and the final adoption of this budget revision, I want to acknowledge and thank all our employees who volunteered for budgetary leave. As a result of the nearly 19,000 hours they volunteered, the City was able to capture \$600,000 in savings, or roughly the equivalent of half a furlough day per employee. Still, in order to minimize reliance on layoffs, we will need to move forward with furloughs across all departments.

We are proposing no more than six furlough days for any employee between now and the end of the year, with most employees experiencing less. I will be taking a voluntary pay cut equivalent to the percentage of pay lost by the greatest number of furlough days. Under the current plan, these furloughs will begin in August. Those who volunteered for budgetary leave will see those hours credited against their required furlough days.

Tomorrow Micah Intermill, the City's budget director, will provide an overview on the budget to council and field questions. On July 14, there will be a public hearing and on July 17, the Council will begin marking up the proposal and vote on a final, approved 2020 budget revision on July 24.

As the budget moves forward, we know that you will have many questions about how these cuts will affect your work, your paychecks and your colleagues. Do not hesitate to reach out to your department manager or your Human Resources business partner (generalist) for answers to these questions. We will also do our best to be as transparent and proactive as possible to address your concerns.

I know this comes at a time when many of you are working harder than ever before in your career. I cannot begin to thank you enough for your service and your commitment to our extraordinary city. I truly believe that working together to share the pain of our revenue challenges we will be able to help our city thrive in the years to come.

Thu 7/9/2020 11:39 AM

I believe it is critical for city council members to actively seek out the feedback of communities of color on this issue. Their opinions are historically underrepresented and it's not enough to just post a place online for people to comment. City council members should be door knocking or finding other ways to reach out to these communities in person before further processes are undertaken.

Thu 7/9/2020 11:15 AM

Hello Charter Committee,

Before the charter can be amended, it is critical that a plan is laid out for what the new public safety model would actually look like, how it would operate, how it would effectively transition from the existing model, and most importantly how safety of Minneapolis citizens would still be the utmost priority.

Without this knowledge and understanding for Minneapolis constituents, it is too preemptive to vote to change the charter. This is the epitome of getting the cart before the horse. It is extremely irresponsible and quite honestly negligent to vote on a sweeping change to the existing model without a clearly defined plan of the way forward and one in which Minneapolis citizens play an active role in developing. Changing the charter without this clear plan and the ability of experts in these fields and Minneapolis constituents to weigh in is not a successful path forward.

I fully recognize that changes are needed to this existing model and there are several of the underlying principles of these changes that I would wholly support. But while I support these values of change, how can I responsibly vote for it without the practicalities of a well-laid out plan.

Beyond the overwhelming concern on voting for a change without a plan, here are additional concerns of the charter change at this time:

1. This puts too much power in the Minneapolis city council. A democracy is based on the balance of power. Taking this power away from the mayor and fully shifting to the council is an enormous change and one that I do not have the confidence or trust in the existing council to develop a successful operating model. We the people of Minneapolis deserve that this new model is developed by experts in the field and not by those voted in at a time when such a sweeping change was not in the realm of possibility.
2. A related point to this to highlight my growing distrust of the council's ability and lack of expertise in this field is that since announcing the intention to disband the police, violence has escalated dramatically in our city and the council has failed to acknowledge or address this. All the while using taxpayer resources to save face and hire private security when MPD is already paid to do this. What this illustrates to me is that MPD is of vital importance to our community and while reallocation of funds to true public safety and community building are needed (mental health, homeless, prevention education, etc), the police are needed for violence & security...bottom line.

3. All Minneapolis citizens deserve to feel safe in our city. Black, White and other People of Color. Our city and our nation have a lot of work to do to rebuild trust with POC and particularly the Black community. I support shifting funds from MPD towards community building and other new public safety programs, but funds must remain for the police. Violence occurs in all communities regardless of color and all citizens need to be able to rely on a security force should there be violence in our neighborhoods. I am incredibly fearful that if this goes away, average citizens will take this security on themselves leading to an explosion of gun ownership and vigilante justice. The police force needs to exist (and become more educated) to avoid this. Another concerning outcome would be that wealthier communities would hire their own private security (like the council has already done) to be protected while poorer communities could not afford this ability. This would only lead to a greater divide in our city and additional inequities.

At the end of the day, I love this city and I want to see it continue to be a better steward for all of its citizens. It is of critical importance that we know, understand, have the ability to impact and then vote on a proposed plan BEFORE the charter can be amended. Please be practical, be responsible and do what's right for the city. Develop a plan first before any charter change is requested.

Thu 7/9/2020 11:28 AM

Hello - With regard to the proposed Charter Amendment, I'm all for the reform and making our communities safe for all, but the language you are using in the amendment needs to change. A police force should NOT be an option, so please remove any language that would imply that it "may" be funded or drastically reduced. As a South Minneapolis resident, waking up every morning to the continued and escalating gun violence throughout our city raises great concern with me, as I'm sure it does for most residents. When you're talking radical changes without a plan, in the midst of all this, it doesn't sit well. It feels like our safety isn't the top priority.

I will also reiterate, this feels EXTREMELY rushed. Form a solid plan but do it after listening to ALL your constituents and if more time is needed to create a plan that works properly, then more time should be taken and let's not rush something through. Also, make sure there's a back-up plan.

Thu 7/9/2020 12:20 PM

Dear Barry, thank you for your leadership on the Charter Commission and for the thought and work that I am sure you are putting into the proposed charter amendment regarding public safety in Minneapolis. Thank you for considering my input on the proposed amendment. I understand the desire to move quickly to change policing in Minneapolis. However, moving to amend the charter before developing an alternative structure - and in particular moving for an August 21 decision before any alternative structure understandable to voters can be developed - bothers me.

It seems to me that in November I might be voting to remove the police requirement in the charter before I know answers to questions like these: Will there be armed law enforcement officers in the new department? How many? With what type of authority to use armed force? Commanded by whom? What will a new restorative justice division look like? How extensive will it be, and how might it operate? What will the command structure and organization of a new department look like? How will authority over the new department be divided between the mayor and council? Is there any room for

discussion on the question of authority over the department? What would funding of the various elements of the new department look like?

I would prefer to have many of those proposals ironed out before voting on the charter amendment. In other words, I would like my vote to be a choice between two proposals (the current system, and a new one that has been reasonably fleshed out). Right now, it looks like the choice will be between the current system and one that we do not understand and cannot define. I would be happy to wait until November of 2021 to vote on changing the charter, when the Council has had time to tell us what our actual options are.

Thu 7/9/2020 12:21 PM

Hello Charter Committee,

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Without this knowledge and understanding for Minneapolis constituents, it is too preemptive to vote to change the charter. This is the epitome of getting the cart before the horse. It is extremely irresponsible and quite honestly negligent to vote on a sweeping change to the existing model without a clearly defined plan of the way forward and one in which Minneapolis citizens play an active role in developing. Changing the charter without this clear plan and the ability of experts in these fields and Minneapolis constituents to weigh in is not a successful path forward.

I fully recognize that changes are needed to this existing model and there are several of the underlying principles of these changes that I would wholly support. But while I support these values of change, how can I responsibly vote for it without the practicalities of a well-laid out plan.

Beyond the overwhelming concern on voting for a change without a plan, here are additional concerns of the charter change at this time:

1. This puts too much power in the Minneapolis city council. A democracy is based on the balance of power. Taking this power away from the mayor and fully shifting to the council is an enormous change and one that I do not have the confidence or trust in the existing council to develop a successful operating model. We the people of Minneapolis deserve that this new model is developed by experts in the field and not by those voted in at a time when such a sweeping change was not in the realm of possibility.
2. A related point to this to highlight my growing distrust of the council's ability and lack of expertise in this field is that since announcing the intention to disband the police, violence has escalated dramatically in our city and the council has failed to acknowledge or address this. All the while using taxpayer resources to save face and hire private security when MPD is already paid to do this. What this illustrates to me is that MPD is of vital importance to our community and while reallocation of funds to true public safety and community building are needed (mental health, homeless, prevention education, etc), the police are needed for violence & security...bottom line.

3. All Minneapolis citizens deserve to feel safe in our city. Black, White and other People of Color. Our city and our nation have a lot of work to do to rebuild trust with POC and particularly the Black community. I support shifting funds from MPD towards community building and other new public safety programs, but funds must remain for the police. Violence occurs in all communities regardless of color and all citizens need to be able to rely on a security force should there be violence in our neighborhoods. I am incredibly fearful that if this goes away, average citizens will take this security on themselves leading to an explosion of gun ownership and vigilante justice. The police force needs to exist (and become more educated) to avoid this. Another concerning outcome would be that wealthier communities would hire their own private security (like the council has already done) to be protected while poorer communities could not afford this ability. This would only lead to a greater divide in our city and additional inequities.

At the end of the day, I love this city and I want to see it continue to be a better steward for all of its citizens. It is of critical importance that we know, understand, have the ability to impact and then vote on a proposed plan BEFORE the charter can be amended. Please be practical, be responsible and do what's right for the city. Develop a plan first before any charter change is requested.

Thu 7/9/2020 12:21 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am a resident in MPLS very concerned with the recent charter proposal to change the policing structure in MPLS. It is too rushed and lacks details to be put on the November ballot. The few details that have been included appear to shift decision making power within the current government and dismiss expertise/experience; which should only be considered after thoughtful discussion amongst ALL stakeholders. While I appreciate the sentiment behind the request and agree there is a real need to change the current policing system/structure, in this time of COVID, heightened violence, and polarizing politics, we do not need one more issue crammed on the November ballot. If the change to the police force is to be meaningful, there needs to be time, and calmer emotions, when addressing it.

I hope you take my concerns into consideration.

Thu 7/9/2020 12:23 PM

Minneapolis Charter Commission -

By declaring its goal of abolishing the Police Department and failing to articulate any details on how the proposed department replacing the Police Department would function, the City Council has nailed its true colors to the mast of anarchy and lawlessness.

Anyone reading the Council's proposed amendment can see that the City Council doesn't have a clue on how the proposed department would operate or function. Not only is the City Council acting with a knee-jerk reaction, the Council has a twisted and perverted belief we are living in a utopia. We are not living in a utopia.

City Council members want to abolish the Police Department for the residents of Minneapolis, and yet they use city funds to pay for their own private security. THE HYPOCRISY!

The city of Minneapolis needs a functioning, well-trained police department. Without it, the city is doomed to experience lawlessness and violence that will negatively impact every underlying structure of our society.

Without law and order, murders, rapes, assault, robberies, home break-ins, arson, and gang activity will increase. GREATLY. Increased lawlessness will drive residents and businesses from the city. Insurance companies will not want to insure property except at high premiums or deductibles. Banks will not want to provide loans.

Do not abolish the police department. Make changes to the existing structure, as necessary.

Do not recommend that the Council's proposed amendment changes be put to a referendum on this year's ballot without requiring the City Council to spell out in detail how it's proposed department will operate and function. Minneapolis City residents deserve better than utopian whims of the City Council.

Thu 7/9/2020 12:23 PM

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I am a resident in MPLS very concerned with the recent charter proposal to change the policing structure in MPLS. It is too rushed and lacks details to be put on the November ballot. The few details that have been included appear to shift decision making power within the current government and dismiss expertise/experience; which should only be considered after thoughtful discussion amongst ALL stakeholders. While I appreciate the sentiment behind the request and agree there is a real need to change the current policing system/structure, in this time of COVID, heightened violence, and polarizing politics, we do not need one more issue crammed on the November ballot. If the change to the police force is to be meaningful, there needs to be time, and calmer emotions, when addressing it.

Thu 7/9/2020 12:57 PM

I live in the western suburbs and have enjoyed dining theatre and baseball shopping in Minneapolis and am going to stay away from Minneapolis since you are disbanding the police Department. Am not going to trust an untrained community member to come to my aide if I get shot or someone with me gets shot or stabbed. Nope. I'll go to Chanhassen dinner theatre for a play or Old Log Theatre in Excelsior. There are many bars and restaurants in the western suburbs and we don't have to be worried about being shot or the like and can still enjoy. Used to love going downtown but I along with many suburbanites will not go to Minneapolis without the police to protect us.

It's terrible to hear all of the shootings in Minneapolis since police aren't there to protect.

City council people, you have made a grave error in your choice to disband the police. Stupid damn idea.

Pull your heads out of your — — — or wherever they are. Allow Common sense To prevail. The businesses and in Minneapolis will suffer if you keep heading in the same direction.

Thu 7/9/2020 1:29 PM

I am writing to you regarding the proposed amendment to the City charter. I am both a resident of Minneapolis and have a business located in Minneapolis. In my opinion this proposed amendment to the city charter is an unresearched and rash reaction to what happened to Mr. Floyd and is an attempt by many on the council to pander to far left leaning groups. It appears that the city council has conducted very little research, if any, as to what the potential repercussions of this change will be or how the city will deal with the massive crime issues that will undoubtedly occur as a result of the removal of the traditional police department. You are already starting to see increases in the crime rates as criminals know that there will be no police to arrest them. They do not care about political or theoretical movements and will take full advantage of the void this amendment will create. If this amendment passes, you can guarantee that crime in this city will be rampant, businesses will leave, and this beautiful city that we all know will be no longer.

In my opinion this amendment is being rushed through without any actual details as to how this new structure will work, or without research as to whether it even will work, because the members of the council know that with more time the public will not support it. You are playing a very dangerous political game and the individual citizens of Minneapolis are suffering.

There is obviously an issue with the police department in Minneapolis and officers do not appear to be accountable for their actions. This issue definitely needs to be addressed, and perhaps the whole police union should be abolished. Eliminating the police department, however, is not the answer.

Thu 7/9/2020 3:55 PM

Hello,

I am a Ward 5 Resident in Harrison and I have to express my significant concern and objection to this charter amendment and the way this is being handled by the city council. I have been tremendously disappointed with the lack of communication from the council and the lack of effort taken so far to talk with the public before moving forward with action. The order of operations is really backwards here, we've jumped to dismantling MPD with no clear plan. I've been directed to MPD150, reclaim the block and Camden, NJ as a case study. These are all extremely different outcomes and no one seems to have any stated principles for what is to come next after the MPD is gone.

The amount of violent crime has been an issue in Harrison for years and we've been trying to work as a community to make it better. This included partnering with law enforcement on ways to work together to help those who need it and approach situations with sensitivity, understanding and a desire to help. In the last month, crime is up dramatically and there have been multiple stabbings and shootings within 100 yards of where I live as well as dozens of young kids and long time Harrison residents that are the bedrock of our community. People are terrified of what is happening here and now I am being asked as a neighbor to pick up the slack and help protect those around me. While I am happy to partner to keep my community safe, the silence from my rep and the city council on this is deafening. I have to hear on CNN, Twitter or other national news outlets to understand what is happening in my city and that frankly isn't fair. Where is the direct communication to residents? I have been an active member of my community and have attended/listened in on a number of city council meetings.

Our community is hurting and I hurt with it. I was devastated and angered by what happened with George Floyd and continued police brutality issues that plague not only this city, but the country. Our neighborhood has gotten together multiple times to grieve and talk about how we build a safe and prosperous community. Our Ward 5 rep has not attended any of these meetings, nor returned my phone calls, nor attended any neighborhood association conversations. This is not only a missed opportunity, but a sign of a lack of engagement with everyday citizens coming together.

Going forward, I want to hear regular and repeated communication on the specifics of this plan directly from my rep or the city council. Specifically, I would like to hear how the plan addresses current dramatically increasing crime rates and continued emergency support for citizens in distress or that witness dangerous crimes. I want to know specific actions my rep is taking to work with my community on crime prevention, community building and partnerships with law enforcement.

Thu 7/9/2020 4:40 PM

To all Charter Commission members -

I want to thank you for your continued diligence in discussing the City Council's proposed charter amendment. After listening to yesterday's Commission meeting with invited Council members, I continue to be extremely concerned about the vague nature and true intent of this rushed amendment.

1) People keep using the name of George Floyd as the motivation for this amendment, yet this amendment does not in any way address how police conduct themselves during the process of arresting someone. How police arrest someone is the ONLY thing that ultimately affects police use-of-force cases, and that will be the case for as long as we have even a single police officer making arrests within the city limits. While there are valid arguments regarding when or if someone is arrested, that is still sidestepping the national problem of how to safely do it when it when an arrest does indeed become necessary. It is critical right now that primary reform or changes be centered the real issue that has thousands of people marching in our streets.

2) It is greatly disconcerting that the City Council continues to misstate their current level of authority within the existing charter. Whether that is deliberate to bolster their case or if they have incorrectly applied their authority in the past and been shut down or if they truly don't know how much authority they have, I don't know. Regardless, it does not increase my willingness to give them more power.

3) CM Ellison's blaming the media for creating a false narrative that the council wants to abolish the police was very disappointing. Multiple council members have been deliberately using the words "abolish", "dismantle", and "end" repeatedly and on the record. Trying to deny the documented evidence of what has been openly stated once again does not inspire confidence in the council's intentions.

4) CM Cano's attempt to already paint disagreement with this specific amendment as "privileged" makes me deeply concerned about the rhetoric to come once this amendment makes it onto the ballot. There are already changes being implemented to improve our police system. There will be many more implemented long before November. They are an even wider variety of changes that can be implemented once the Council sets the budget for next year, with or without a charter amendment. I already fear that there will be widespread propaganda that a vague and unsupported amendment is the

only way to bring about change and, bluntly speaking, that it will be portrayed that any disagreement with that amendment will be considered to be racist.

5) The City Council continues to claim they are switching to an “evidence-based” system yet they have provided no evidence for that system and to my knowledge this system has never been tried anywhere in the United States. The Council is asking for a whole lot of faith from us in trying an untested system with no Plan B and no way to reverse course if it doesn’t work.

6) According to the MPD/911 Workgroup that has been studying possible non-police responses to 911 calls in Minneapolis, the calls that can easily be re-assigned represent perhaps 15% of call volume and they “don’t really anticipate this resulting in immediate capacity savings for MPD”. This underscores my skepticism of the claim that nothing substantial can be done or tried without the ability to make enormous cuts to police staffing.

Even if the Council ultimately overrides you, your continued efforts to be pragmatic and rational in finding the best way for all of us to move forward are greatly appreciated. I appreciate that you are taking the time to weigh the merits and nuance of the amendment to ensure that it goes beyond virtue signaling and instead creates the change that our community needs.

Of all the ideas that have been discussed so far, the one I personally most support is Commissioner Abbot’s proposed alternative amendment giving the Council the ability to conduct a full Pilot version in part of the city. Working the glitches and unforeseen problems out of an untested new system in a semi-controlled way makes way more sense than just trying something citywide to find out if it works or not.

Everyone in Minneapolis supports crime prevention. Everyone wants to see crime rates go down. Everyone wants to have calls for help be answered by people that are actually able to provide the help needed. Everyone wants to see the need for police reduced. Everyone wants the police to respond appropriately in the times when they are needed. There is no dissent on any of these items. If the City can prove its ability to do all of these things, it will have the unanimous support of its citizens.

Giving the City Council the ability to implement a massive reduction to, or elimination of, the police force without having a plan, without first addressing the prevention part of crime prevention, without understanding how much the new approach will cost, and without the support of a large part of the community could ultimately end up being catastrophic. There are much better and safer ways to proceed.

Thank you very much for your time and your efforts to keep things moving in a better direction.

Thursday, July 9, 2020 4:29 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis, I demand that you give us the chance to vote on the public-safety charter amendment unanimously put forward by our elected city council members. Do not make us wait a year or more to begin the process of building a public safety apparatus that actually keeps us safe. How many more of my Black neighbors will be murdered by the MPD in that time? While you hesitate, lives are lost. The MPD has proven itself to be a hostile occupying force that is utterly immune to reforms. Every day it remains at large in our city is painful. Act now.

Thursday, July 9, 2020 1:06 PM

After listening to your meeting yesterday about the proposed public safety charter amendment, it became very clear that the concerns of the commission are not based upon their roles as charter commissioners but upon personal opinions regarding the amendment itself. The Charter Commission's role is not to make policy, it is to ensure good government and to administer the charter. To hold up a ballot question because you have an opinion about the amendment is irresponsible and destructive to democracy. Please provide your recommendation on time to let the people of Minneapolis decide for themselves.

Thursday, July 9, 2020 1:20 PM

I ask that the Minneapolis Charter Commission **vote against the proposed amendment** to the City Charter, which has been made by the City Council regarding the elimination of a police department from the City Charter and the transfer of responsibility for public safety from the office of the Mayor to the City Council. As a resident of Minneapolis, I feel this change would **concentrate too much authority with the Council** and dilute the necessary separation of powers in the City of Minneapolis. Additionally, it would **decrease public safety** in the interim and fail to address the root issues of systemic racism in our community.

I urge you to **vote against the hurried proposed amendment and reject any hurried proposed revisions** to the same until the necessary steps have been taken to explore a viable alternative plan for our existing public safety policies and police department. At that time and not before, this issue can be brought to the voters.

Thursday, July 9, 2020 2:27 PM

I am a teacher in Minneapolis. I read about all the violence and lawlessness that has occurred since city leadership decided to defund the police and I am afraid for my students who live in some of the more violent areas. Yes, we obviously need some changes. No doubt. But to fully defund the police seems horribly short sighted. I hear recommendations for people to start buying guns so they can at least protect their own families. I already have friends who have moved out of the city because of the anxiety their children were experiencing. (My friends were African American - it was not "white flight") I believe if you truly defund the police and violence continues to rise, you will have a mass exodus of people fleeing your city.

Work with the police, find out what they need to keep themselves and the community safe.

Thursday, July 9, 2020 2:57 PM

I am a resident of Minneapolis and I believe the City Council's amendment should be left to the voters to decide THIS YEAR. We elected our City Council and they have made a proposal to meet the people's demands; un-elected gatekeepers slowing down the reform process is unacceptable. This commission stifled charter reform efforts in 2018/2019. Since - people have died, thousands have marched, and parts of my city have burned. Making residents wait a year or more before they can vote for necessary change is cruel and dangerous. I do not think you took your positions to stifle the will of the people. Please, allow us to vote this year.

Thursday, July 9, 2020 3:03 PM

I live on the Northside and think that seeing the police all but abandon their duties creates such an unsafe environment that we cannot wait a year before voting on changing the charter. This is a people's vote and should be left to the people. Stalling this is clearly an attempt to stall momentum and in that way you have been successful in taking the power from the people. You all should reconsider and realize the power you wield ought to be wielded by the many and not the few.

Thursday, July 9, 2020 3:07 PM

I ask that the Minneapolis Charter Commission vote **against** the proposed amendment to the City Charter, which has been proposed by the City Council regarding the elimination of a police department from the City Charter and the transfer of responsibility for public safety from the office of the Mayor to the City Council.

While I agree wholeheartedly that we need to overhaul the Minneapolis Police Department and stop the militarization and racist policing, I do not believe the City Council has done their job in considering this rushed proposal. This change would concentrate too much power with the Council, most of whom we did not elect, fails to put forth any plan on how they will address the root issue of systemic racism in our community, and has not been given the thoughtful, careful and rigorous vetting necessary for the safety and well being of our communities.

I urge you to vote AGAINST this rushed and careless proposed amendment. Until necessary steps have been taken to explore viable alternative plans for our existing public safety policies and police department I ask you to reject any further proposed changes to our charter.

Thursday, July 9, 2020 3:10 PM

The police system is broken. We need to change it, and now is the time to ask the questions that lead to that change. We MUST vote to permit changes. From what I understand, NO ONE on the Charter Commission lives in North or Northeast. You do not know what it looks like here. You do not know what we need. What you can do to combat racism, oppression and marginalization is LISTEN to the oppressed. We know what we need.

Right now? We need a public safety system that takes care of its' community - and it is appallingly clear that the police force has utterly failed in this capacity. Despite adding 8 officer positions last year, violence is up. The current system sends an armed police response to situations they are not, and CANNOT, be trained for - there are simply too many scenarios for any single response group to be appropriate for them all. And we have, in this moment, a chance to address it.

Put the charter amendment on the ballot. It is your responsibility to listen to the city you serve, as the City Council is doing.

Thursday, July 9, 2020 3:21 PM

I am a resident of Minneapolis in Ward 8, and I urge you to support the proposed amendment. Citizens deserve to feel safe in our city, and to vote on this amendment in November 2020.

Thursday, July 9, 2020 4:06 PM

I ask that the Minneapolis Charter Commission vote against the proposed amendment to the City Charter, which has been made by the City Council **regarding the elimination of a police department from the City Charter and the transfer of responsibility for public safety from the office of the Mayor to the City Council**. As a resident of Minneapolis, I feel this change would concentrate too much authority with the Council and dilute the necessary separation of powers in the City of Minneapolis. Additionally, it would decrease public safety in the interim and fail to address the root issues of systemic racism in our community.

I urge you to **vote against the hurried proposed amendment and reject any hurried proposed revisions** to the same until the necessary steps have been taken to explore a viable alternative plan for our existing public safety policies and police department. At that time and not before, this issue can be brought to the voters.

Thursday, July 9, 2020 4:27 PM

I am a resident of Minneapolis, Ward 9. I support the amendment to remove the MPD as a part of the Minneapolis Charter.

Please send this important and timely amendment to vote as soon as possible. Holding it up ignores the wishes of many Minneapolis residents and their hopes for a better, brighter future.

Fri 7/10/2020 12:56 AM

Dear Commissioner,

I ask that the Minneapolis Charter Commission vote against the proposed amendment to the City Charter, which has been proposed by the City Council regarding the elimination of a police department from the City Charter and the transfer of responsibility for public safety from the office of the Mayor to the City Council.

While I agree wholeheartedly that we need to overhaul the Minneapolis Police Department and stop the militarization and racist policing, I do not believe the City Council has done their job in considering this rushed proposal. This change would concentrate too much power with the Council, most of whom we did not elect, fails to put forth any plan on how they will address the root issue of systemic racism in our community, and has not been given the thoughtful, careful and rigorous vetting necessary for the safety and well being of our communities.

I urge you to vote AGAINST this rushed and careless proposed amendment. Until necessary steps have been taken to explore viable alternative plans for our existing public safety policies and police department I ask you to reject any further proposed changes to our charter.

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from the City Charter and the transfer of responsibility for public safety from the office of the Mayor to the City Council.

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I urge you to vote AGAINST this rushed and careless proposed amendment. Until necessary steps have been taken to explore viable alternative plans for our existing public safety policies and police department I ask you to reject any further proposed changes to our charter.

Fri 7/10/2020 12:58 AM

To the charter commissioners,

I am a resident of SE Minneapolis and am urging you to support a charter amendment now. We cannot wait another year. We need you to provide the people of this city with the right to vote in this election cycle. We have seen what stalling and postponing result in— massive uprising and destruction. I am urging you to support the amendment. Will you commit to this?

Fri 7/10/2020 12:58 AM

Hello,

I am a citizen of Ward 2 of Minneapolis, and I want to express to you my support for the proposed amendment to the city charter. I believe that it is time to dismantle MPD and reimagine public safety in our city, and I believe that citizens should be able to vote on this proposed amendment to the charter as soon as possible. I do not believe that waiting on this is a good idea.

Fri 7/10/2020 12:58 AM

The current police in Minneapolis needs reform and to address societal racism...I do not support the proposal to amend the Minneapolis charter to remove the police department...I do not like the idea of having the city council having more power over the mayor as it is...I support Arredondo to lead us with the mayor in an effort to transform the department....ilana favero

Fri 7/10/2020 12:59 AM

DearAndrea,

I ask that the Minneapolis Charter Commission vote against the proposed amendment to the City Charter, which has been made by the City Council regarding the elimination of a police department from the City Charter and the transfer of responsibility for public safety from the office of the Mayor to the City Council. As a resident of Minneapolis, I feel this change would concentrate too much authority with the Council and dilute the necessary separation of powers in the City of Minneapolis. Additionally, it would decrease public safety in the interim and fail to address the root issues of systemic racism in our community.

I urge you to vote against the hurried proposed amendment and reject any hurried proposed revisions to the same until the necessary steps have been taken to explore a viable alternative plan for our existing public safety policies and police department. At that time and not before, this issue can be brought to the voters.

Fri 7/10/2020 12:59 AM

I live on the Northside and think that seeing the police all but abandon their duties creates such an unsafe environment that we cannot wait a year before voting on changing the charter. This is a people's vote and should be left to the people. Stalling this is clearly an attempt to stall momentum and in that way you have been successful in taking the power from the people. You all should reconsider and realize the power you wield ought to be wielded by the many and not the few.

Fri 7/10/2020 1:00 AM

Hello,

I am a resident of Minneapolis and I believe the City Council's amendment should be left to the voters to decide THIS YEAR. We elected our City Council and they have made a proposal to meet the people's demands; un-elected gatekeepers slowing down the reform process is unacceptable.

This commission stifled charter reform efforts in 2018/2019. Since - people have died, thousands have marched, and parts of my city have burned. Making residents wait a year or more before they can vote for necessary change is cruel and dangerous. I do not think you took your positions to stifle the will of the people. Please, allow us to vote this year.

Fri 7/10/2020 1:00 AM

Andrea—

I read your comments in the paper this morning. You are spot on. The council is asking us to give them a blank check. Hold the listening sessions and tell us what they propose to do, in exquisite detail. After the horrific events of the last month I cannot imagine that there is anyone who does not believe that reform is required. That is not the issue. The issue is what does that reform look like. I'd like to know that before I consent to it. And I would like some assurance that the unintended consequences of any actions have been considered before it is implemented.

Fri 7/10/2020 1:00 AM

Hi Andrea,

I want to add my voice as a long time resident of Minneapolis.

I am opposed to dismantling our Police Department.

I am In favor of needed reforms. Reforms are best handled by coming to the table and working together rather than a dismantling approach.

Putting a quick vote out in November is not a healthy solution.

Also, I am not in favor of the city Council getting more power over the mayor.

The current president, Lisa Bender, already has too much power with radical ideas that don't serve the

needs of our city. Her style does not bring harmony.

Thank you for your consideration in this Urgent manner regarding the health of our city.

Fri 7/10/2020 1:02 AM

Dear Andrea, thank you for your leadership on the Charter Commission and for the thought and work that I am sure you are putting into the proposed charter amendment regarding public safety in Minneapolis. Thank you for considering my input on the proposed amendment. I understand the desire to move quickly to change policing in Minneapolis. However, moving to amend the charter before developing an alternative structure - and in particular moving for an August 21 decision before any alternative structure understandable to voters can be developed - bothers me.

It seems to me that in November I might be voting to remove the police requirement in the charter before I know answers to questions like these: Will there be armed law enforcement officers in the new department? How many? With what type of authority to use armed force? Commanded by whom? What will a new restorative justice division look like? How extensive will it be, and how might it operate? What will the command structure and organization of a new department look like? How will authority over the new department be divided between the mayor and council? Is there any room for discussion on the question of authority over the department? What would funding of the various elements of the new department look like?

I would prefer to have many of those proposals ironed out before voting on the charter amendment. In other words, I would like my vote to be a choice between two proposals (the current system, and a new one that has been reasonably fleshed out). Right now, it looks like the choice will be between the current system and one that we do not understand and cannot define. I would be happy to wait until November of 2021 to vote on changing the charter, when the Council has had time to tell us what our actual options are.

Fri 7/10/2020 1:02 AM

Dear Commissioner Rubenstein,

I own a home here in South Minneapolis. Less than a mile from the 3rd precinct.

If you have a concern regarding the legality of the charter proposal, negative effects on the structure of governance in Minneapolis - OK. Do your job, register that concern, return the proposal to the council.

But please, don't tell us out here - who have seen and felt and smelled and heard firsthand the consequences of existing government dysfunction around police - that now you're the experts on when enough "thought" or "process" has gone into this proposal. That your status quo is so hallowed and burnished by nobility that you get to decide unilaterally to keep it propped up.

I got tear gassed, I heard the pain in so many voices, I stayed up worried about my neighborhood every night, I watched MPD officers rain down ordnance on protestors, I saw a huge part of my neighborhood burn because MPD officers slowly murdered a man in the street.

I want a vote. That's my job as a resident, to play a part in deciding which way we go from here.

It sure as hell isn't YOUR job to take that vote away. If your commission does a pocket veto on this proposal, a proposal supported *unanimously* by councilmembers, after a *global uprising* demanding change, you will place an incredible stain on the charter commission itself.

Fri 7/10/2020 8:26 AM

To all Charter Commission members –

I want to thank you for your continued diligence in discussing the City Council's proposed charter amendment. After listening to yesterday's Commission meeting with invited Council members, I continue to be extremely concerned about the vague nature and true intent of this rushed amendment.

1) People keep using the name of George Floyd as the motivation for this amendment, yet this amendment does not in any way address how police conduct themselves during the process of arresting someone. How police arrest someone is the ONLY thing that ultimately affects police use-of-force cases, and that will be the case for as long as we have even a single police officer making arrests within the city limits. While there are valid arguments regarding when or if someone is arrested, that is still sidestepping the national problem of how to safely do it when it when an arrest does indeed become necessary. It is critical right now that primary reform or changes be centered the real issue that has thousands of people marching in our streets.

2) It is greatly disconcerting that the City Council continues to misstate their current level of authority within the existing charter. Whether that is deliberate to bolster their case or if they have incorrectly applied their authority in the past and been shut down or if they truly don't know how much authority they have, I don't know. Regardless, it does not increase my willingness to give them more power.

3) CM Ellison's blaming the media for creating a false narrative that the council wants to abolish the police was very disappointing. Multiple council members have been deliberately using the words "abolish", "dismantle", and "end" repeatedly and on the record. Trying to deny the documented evidence of what has been openly stated once again does not inspire confidence in the council's intentions.

4) CM Cano's attempt to already paint disagreement with this specific amendment as "privileged" makes me deeply concerned about the rhetoric to come once this amendment makes it onto the ballot. There are already changes being implemented to improve our police system. There will be many more implemented long before November. They are an even wider variety of changes that can be implemented once the Council sets the budget for next year, with or without a charter amendment. I already fear that there will be widespread propaganda that a vague and unsupported amendment is the only way to bring about change and, bluntly speaking, that it will be portrayed that any disagreement with that amendment will be considered to be racist.

5) The City Council continues to claim they are switching to an "evidence-based" system yet they have provided no evidence for that system and to my knowledge this system has never been tried anywhere in the United States. The Council is asking for a whole lot of faith from us in trying an untested system with no Plan B and no way to reverse course if it doesn't work.

6) According to the MPD/911 Workgroup that has been studying possible non-police responses to 911 calls in Minneapolis, the calls that can easily be re-assigned represent perhaps 15% of call volume and

they “don’t really anticipate this resulting in immediate capacity savings for MPD”. This underscores my skepticism of the claim that nothing substantial can be done or tried without the ability to make enormous cuts to police staffing.

Even if the Council ultimately overrides you, your continued efforts to be pragmatic and rational in finding the best way for all of us to move forward are greatly appreciated. I appreciate that you are taking the time to weigh the merits and nuance of the amendment to ensure that it goes beyond virtue signaling and instead creates the change that our community needs.

Of all the ideas that have been discussed so far, the one I personally most support is Commissioner Abbot’s proposed alternative amendment giving the Council the ability to conduct a full Pilot version in part of the city. Working the glitches and unforeseen problems out of an untested new system in a semi-controlled way makes way more sense than just trying something citywide to find out if it works or not.

Everyone in Minneapolis supports crime prevention. Everyone wants to see crime rates go down. Everyone wants to have calls for help be answered by people that are actually able to provide the help needed. Everyone wants to see the need for police reduced. Everyone wants the police to respond appropriately in the times when they are needed. There is no dissent on any of these items. If the City can prove its ability to do all of these things, it will have the unanimous support of its citizens.

Giving the City Council the ability to implement a massive reduction to, or elimination of, the police force without having a plan, without first addressing the prevention part of crime prevention, without understanding how much the new approach will cost, and without the support of a large part of the community could ultimately end up being catastrophic. There are much better and safer ways to proceed.

Thank you very much for your time and your efforts to keep things moving in a better direction.

Fri 7/10/2020 9:58 AM

Hi Barry,

It's been quite a long time since we worked together at Rider Bennett! I hope this finds you well.

I just wanted to check in with you quickly in your role as Chair of the Minneapolis Charter Commission. I'm wondering where the Commission is in its thinking around a charter amendment for the November election regarding the police department. I am in support of such an item on the ballot.

Fri 7/10/2020 12:13 PM

Hello,

I DO NOT support the current amendment changes proposed by the Minneapolis Council.

In particular the number of peace officers per per resident has been struck.

Bear in mind your actions to reduce the number of peace officers will result in more crime being committed. These crimes will affect the poor and minorities disproportionately.

Laws must be enforced...or work to get the laws changed. The vast majority of police officers are good, so don't overthrow the system over a minute few.

I frequently patronize businesses downtown on weekend nights with friends. Your actions will likely affect whether I continue this.

In addition, I have two daughters who live in south Minneapolis and I am very concerned for there safety. They support and rely on police officers to keep them safe and to be there when needed.

Fri 7/10/2020 3:15 PM

The recent meeting between the Charter Commission and the Minneapolis City Council can be best described as a debacle. It was abundantly clear that the lack of a plan for what will be done if the proposed changes to the charter make it to a vote disturbed the Charter Commission. You all experienced the type of responses that the council provides to their constituents if they do not align with their approach. They have a complete disregard for any view other than their own and if you differ then you are not thinking correctly or are woefully shortsighted.

The commission offered proposed changes to the language and were totally blown off. Once again, this group seems to firmly believe that lacking a public safety plan is an advantage versus a dangerous and unnecessary risk.

Change is 100% needed which should go through Chief Arradondo. I have more faith in him than any single councilmember.

I would urge the commission to either vote against the addition of the charter amendment or push off the decision until the Council comes forward with an actual plan.

Fri 7/10/2020 5:56 PM

Dear Charter Commission Members,

For background on my comments I have been a building owner/operator in North Loop of Minneapolis for almost 20 years.

This city council's rush to abolition of the police department and the desire to replace it without planning and thoughtful discussion is without a doubt the most reckless decision making I have EVER seen in my life. Where are the public hearings? I find it ironic that the police are requested to protect protests to defund, not to mention the private protection that several city council members have enlisted (at no personal financial cost) since they made this hasty decision. Their decision making is irresponsible, thoughtless, arrogant, and does not truly take into account the safety for the residents, employers and visitors of Minneapolis. To no wonder, crime is already on the rise since these careless comments. Some of the council members egos are feeding off of their new national fame based on their Twitter feeds – please note Ward 3's Twitter retweet. Note that at the 4:55 minute mark he knowingly lies that the MPD abandoned the 3rd Precinct. We know this is incorrect and that this was a decision the Mayor made on the morning of June 30th. How the Minneapolis city council and mayor have handled this situation since May 26th would be laughable if I didn't work here and live nearby.

The charter should be amended, but not in the way that the city council is asking. We need to centralize executive authority and responsibility in the office of mayor. The charter commission should also look

into reducing the number of council members from 13 to 11. This should be a part time position just like the state legislature. Thank you for reviewing my comments.

Sat 7/11/2020 11:42 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

Apparently the council is going to spend the next year trying to come up with a plan. In my opinion we can wait until next year to vote on a charter amendment, after we see what the plan is. There hasn't been enough money funded for mental health and homeless before this. Just taking it from the police and putting it towards those isn't going to solve the problem. They need to come up with new sources of money, and also increase the funding of the police.

Sat 7/11/2020 1:35 PM

We are residents of Minneapolis who have been closely following what the city council has proposed in their desire to defund and potentially abolish the police department.

We want to be on record as completely - 100%- opposed to this idea. While acknowledging the need to have some police reforms, we cannot dismantle the department. We need our men in blue very badly. The communities that will suffer the most from this proposal are the lower income areas who are already seeing increases in the crime and homicide rates. This is only going to spread to the rest of the metro area. I recall in the '90 that Minneapolis was dubbed Murderapolis by the media. We are trending that way right now and doing away with the police will only embolden criminals.

We are counting on cooler, more thoughtful minds to prevail in this dispute. My hope is the Commissioners will be those minds. Please consider this input in the seriousness with which it is made.

Sat 7/11/2020 2:21 PM

Dear Jan and Andrea and other members of the Charter Commission,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed change in the City Charter relative to the police department.

First, thank you for being on the Commission. Your public spirit and public service are greatly appreciated.

I wholeheartedly agree that policing in the city of Minneapolis must change to provide safety and violence protection for the community. I disagree that that city council's proposal is the answer. I am especially swayed by the opinions of Black leaders I know and respect, who are also opposed to this change. In addition, I believe it is untenable for a 13-person committee to manage such an important city resource.

In my view, the change we want to see can be achieved without changing the charter.

Sat 7/11/2020 4:22 PM

To the council. What is wrong with all of you? Those of us that own property, myself in NE, have and continue to work to pay the bills, taxes and your salary and are now afraid to use light rail, go for a walk and even do yard work because of your ignorant announcement of plans to defund the police. What do you think is going to happen to property values? People are talking of moving out of here. Will you

please educate yourselves. Look at pictures of Detroit- do you not think think the same thing can happen here? I feel like the weak and the criminals are running the show. For the love of God get rid of your egos. The country is NOT looking to The supposed leadership (the city council) of Minneapolis to show them the way. You are not “ the saviors “that are going to show everyone the way. Across the country most are laughing at you- we have become a joke.

Your arrogance is Mind boggling. You need to start listening, apologise for your hubris and get down to business -To repair this city that criminals have tried to destroy. (And it is the city council’s attitude that has given the criminals carte Blanche to basically do what they want- criminal activity is criminal activity no matter what color you are - start treating all the same and enforcing all are treated the same - you all are the ones that are fanning the flames of prejudice - it makes me sick.) You are also fanning the flames of anarchy.

Take a hard look at yourselves and if you can’t help this city - please resign.

All I can do is pray for this city and that is what you all need to do but my guess is you all will laugh at this last statement. I do feel sorry for those that laugh. Good Luck

Sat 7/11/2020 4:45 PM

Dear Jan and Andrea and other members of the Charter Commission,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed change in the City Charter relative to the police department.

First, thank you for being on the Commission. Your public spirit and public service are greatly appreciated.

I wholeheartedly agree that policing in the city of Minneapolis must change to provide safety and violence protection for the community. I disagree that that city council's proposal is the answer. I am especially swayed by the opinions of Black leaders I know and respect, who are also opposed to this change. In addition, I believe it is untenable for a 13-person committee to manage such an important city resource.

In my view, the change we want to see can be achieved without changing the charter. Thank you for listening.

Sun 7/12/2020 12:09 PM

I do not personally live in Minneapolis but I live south of it. My family and I come to Minneapolis a lot for different reasons. But after hearing you guys blatantly dismiss our police like they do nothing is a seriously issue. This will destroy your city.. you will lose so much business because people will no longer feel safe there. My husband and I already said that if you guys decide to do this that we would no longer be coming up there to do our shopping or bring our kids up there to site see. I know many other people who have said the same thing!! Please do the right thing and make sure your city is safe with bringing back the police force!!!

Sun 7/12/2020 2:54 PM

Although I agree with your decision to defund the police...and I have to admit like many others, I was resistant because it sounds like you are eliminating the police. After further research I understand that there will still be police, but you want to lessen some of their roles. BUT MOST PEOPLE STILL THINK YOU

ARE GOING TO ELIMINATE the police. You need to change the wording if you hope to get bipartisan support...

Even Gazelka is using this as reason to stop police reforms, stating "disbanding the police is not a goal they plan to pursue."

Gazelka noted this assessment was based on the decisions of the Minneapolis City Council.

We are not blocking police accountability measures"

"We refuse to defund or dismantle the police"

If you could use the words "reform" or "improve" it would not scare people so much.

Reform is definitely needed but with all the current shootings in MPLS this is again not helping.

Let's get police accountability measures through the legislature first!

Trump is running an ad about police defunding, that a lot of people will believe.

You need to let citizens know there will still be a police force, or you get too much resistance.

Sun 7/12/2020 7:56 PM

Dear City Charter Members,

I am asking that you decline the proposed amendment by put forward by the city council: re: the elimination of a police department from the City Charter and the transfer of responsibility for public safety from the office of the Mayor to the City Council. It seems like the City Council is trying to push this through too quickly, without any alternative plan, and without visibly broadcasting where constituents can provide their impute, all in attempt to increase their power.

The city council's silence on the dramatic uptick in gun violence and armed robberies indicates even they know this is a bad idea. Unfortunately I think they are selfishly sticking with this virtue signaled agenda because they got a lot of attention nationally and they would be embarrassed if they changed course. The fact that they are using private security at the taxpayers expense instead of MPD is beyond hypocritical and should indicate a need for police. I would support defunding parts of the police budget (ie: mental health). While I do recognize there are improvements we should work to make, I do also recognize that the current "police" model does seem to work well for the overwhelming majority of Minneapolis residents and businesses.

As a Minneapolis resident I am concerned about the power concentration the city council would have as a result of this proposed amendment. As it relates to the unintended consequences from this proposed amendment I believe that the parts of the city that can afford private security will hire it (like our City Council), the parts that cannot afford private security will become over run with crime and drugs. Minnesota will almost certainly adopt some form of "castle state" legislation, and gun ownership will continue to soar. Simply put: this amendment will further subjugate the very demographics the city council thinks it would help. We're barely 45 days since our city council virtue signaled to eliminate MPD and there has been a dramatic increase in violence. This amendment literally ignores MPLS's history in the mid-90's when the city was overrun with gang violence.

Sun 7/12/2020 8:40 PM

Charter Commission -

I ask that you please take the time needed to ensure due diligence is given to this charter amendment. This is one of the biggest decisions made in the city and so the time to review should align with that.

The language is misleading. Many in the community think support of the amendment is to support defunding the police when in truth, Reclaim the Block (who influenced the amendment) clearly states defunding is a tactic to abolish the police. If you took a poll today, I assure you the confusion around what people are voting on would be astounding. And putting it on the ballot without clear language and vetted community input is not the right course of action.

We all want to be on the right side of change and MAJOR change is needed but my ward hasn't held a community meeting prior to or post the creation of this amendment and Ward 6 is not even represented. This is not the people's amendment.

The Charter Commission is the only body that can ensure due diligence is done for an amendment of this magnitude.

I will be entering my name as someone who has a question for the public hearing and my question will be - how many community sessions did each ward hold to develop this amendment and based on that, does the commission feel one public hearing is enough to have an opinion on whether to reject, approve, or propose an alternative.

Mon 7/13/2020 12:35 AM

My name is [REDACTED]. I have lived in Downtown Minneapolis for nearly thirty years now, so am very familiar both with the good things that are happening as well as the NOT good things that are happening in Minneapolis on any given day as I frequently walk on Nicollet Mall to go to the Orchestra, shop at Target, get on a bus or the train... I can tell you that defunding the police will only HURT the City and make living conditions here far LESS safe as, while I have seen what happens when there are no or not enough police to answer calls already: When Block E existed, it was quite dangerous to walk on Hennepin Avenue as there were gang members selling drugs by the light rail stop on 5th and Hennepin, there were more muggings and robberies when there were no police around!!!! The whole area suffered greatly until there were MORE people out and at restaurants, bars and businesses as it becomes more difficult for criminals to get away with anything when there are MORE people to SEE them doing bad things!!!!

My point is simply this: We NEED to go BACK to Community policing where there are Police out walking "the beat", WALKING the streets daily, getting to know where the problems are, listening and acting on what we, the Downtown/COMMUNITY residents are telling them and showing that the streets are NOT their territory, but OUR neighborhoods!!!! While I realize that MUCH more needs to be done to reestablish trust and to educate Officers so that they are able to do their job well and be a resource for those that may need help, whether for mental health, homelessness or an issue that may lead to more problems down the road....

I would LOVE to see a dedicated space, maybe downtown in a closed store or restaurant space, where a Youth Community Center be opened where ALL are Welcome but where there are metal detectors and x-ray machines to allow kids a place to learn that it is how you "play the game", not about WHO wins or loses, that will help them learn how to succeed, that matters!!!! Also, there should be a

peer mentoring program as well as job training provided at said Center as this will benefit both the Children and the Community, perhaps even leading to a decrease in gun violence which will benefit the police as well?! I appreciate your allowing me to comment on the possible defunding of the Police.

Mon 7/13/2020 8:01 AM

Minneapolis Charter Commission:

I have been a resident of Minneapolis for seventeen years, living in Ward 11 for the past fifteen. I see the need for reform of the city's law enforcement function. I am glad to see the attention being paid to this issue by the state, the mayor's office, the City Council, and MPD itself. I am submitting this comment out of concern regarding the City Council's proposed amendment to the Charter regarding CH2020-00014, related to community safety and violence prevention. I summarize my three main concerns regarding that proposal below.

First, the amendment does not address the fundamental changes that need to take place to reform law enforcement in Minneapolis. According to Councilwoman Jenkins, "We can change the name of the public safety, we can change the makeup, but until we address racism nothing is going to change." (See <https://www.kare11.com/article/news/local/minneapolis-city-council-plan-to-replace-minneapolis-police-department-open-for-public-comment/89-8b87a698-29f5-4f56-95ce-895c1127c60e>) It is clear that not even the Council believes the amendment will, of itself, have any effect on public safety.

The primary effect of the amendment, in my view, is a renewed attempt by the City Council to grant itself broad control over law enforcement reforms. I reviewed the Council's comments regarding its similar 2018 charter amendment, and its comments now. I have yet to see a compelling argument as to why the Council is in a better position than the Mayor and MPD Chief at managing law enforcement or effecting reform. I also watched your July 8 questioning of some Councilmembers on this issue. I believe the answers from those Councilmembers were unpersuasive. For example, the fact that some citizens believe the Council has control over MPD policy is not, of itself, a reason to grant the Council that control. The Council admits that it does have some influence through the budgeting process, and has not explained why that influence is inadequate. I have submitted an email to my Councilmember requesting clarity on the Council's position.

Second, the amendment does not adequately define the Council's vision for law enforcement in Minneapolis. (For example, what size force does the Council envision? Will armed officers respond to emergency calls? What changes to use of force regulations would be in place?) That may be because there is no singular vision, even within the Council. Despite Council reassurances that it is aligned as to its vision for law enforcement, that does not seem to be the case (see, e.g., <https://www.startribune.com/minneapolis-city-council-bid-to-end-the-police-department-proceeds-despite-wave-of-violence/571477002/>). The amendment removes the requirement for a law enforcement function within the City government, and would allow that body to drastically change policing without further voter input (including but not limited to abolition of city law enforcement altogether). This reduces the certainty of the proposal, and does not engender confidence that public safety is a priority of the Council.

I appreciate the Commission's July 8 questions to Council members regarding the need for greater definition of the Council's vision for law enforcement. The explanation from the Council that specifics

would be addressed later by ordinance was unconvincing. Minneapolis residents deserve to know what we are voting for. The Council members admitted during questioning that such further definition would not be presented to residents for a future vote.

Minneapolis has seen a drastic increase in violent crime this summer. Passing a charter amendment while a new law enforcement function remains undefined will only encourage continued violence, by undermining the authority of existing law enforcement. Any new law enforcement function must be defined and ready to be in place as of the effective date of any change to the Charter. The Commission's question analogizing abolition of the MPD to abolition of the Affordable Care Act with no plan for its replacement was well placed.

Third, the current timeline proposed by the Council is not sufficient to adequately consider the Charter Amendment. Given the seriousness of the issue, the major changes in separation of powers proposed, the lack of definition of the solution proposed, significant additional consideration is warranted. I encourage this Commission to (1) engage the Council further on the above concerns, (2) engage Mayor Frey and Chief Arradondo regarding their views regarding both law enforcement reform and separation of powers, and (3) consider alternative proposals that separate issues of police reform from changes in Council and Mayoral responsibility. I do not see how a thorough vetting of the proposed amendment, including these steps, can be accomplished within the timelines proposed to place this question on the November 2020 ballot.

In sum, the fundamental question presented to the Commission, and ultimately to city residents, regarding this charter amendment is not only "does the City of Minneapolis want to reform its law enforcement model?" but also "is the City Council the appropriate entity to control the law enforcement function of the city?". The Charter Commission must consider both of these issues in full, which will require significant deliberation. If it decides to move forward with a ballot question, these questions should be taken separately. If, as a threshold question, the Council is determined to be the most appropriate entity to manage law enforcement, it is only then appropriate for citizens to determine whether the Council's modification of law enforcement structure is appropriate. As to that second question, it would be incumbent on the Council to define its vision for reform in a far more detailed manner so its plan can be intelligently considered by city residents.

Minneapolis residents have expressed a desire to reform our law enforcement function. If the Council does not provide a satisfactory answer to the question of why it is the appropriate entity to manage Minneapolis law enforcement, but this Commission believes some ballot initiative is important to put before city residents to allow us to have a voice in the reform process, I believe the alternative proposal from Commissioner Giraud-Isaacson is preferable to the one presented by the Council. While that proposal also leaves the state of law enforcement largely undefined, it does require the city to maintain a department of law enforcement, and focuses the question on law enforcement reform while maintaining the status quo with respect to Mayor-Council separation of powers. That ballot question would also not work at cross-purposes to steps taken by the Mayor and MPD to address police reform in recent days (<https://knsiradio.com/news/local-news/task-force-designed-guide-changes-minneapolis-police>).

I thank you for your consideration of these comments, and appreciate the careful, deliberative attention that this Commission is giving to this important issue.

Mon 7/13/2020 8:55 AM

Members of the Charter Committee,

I write to ask you to take a courageous step for the City of Minneapolis. The world is watching our response to the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers. We have the collective responsibility to act together to defend Black lives.

I support the Minneapolis City Council's unanimous decision to amend the City Charter to establish a department of community safety and violence prevention. The Minneapolis Police Department has demonstrated they are not capable of reform. Prior attempts at police reform have failed. What is the solution? More of the same? Are we to just sit back and hope that some day the police will stop killing innocent citizens?

Continuing the status quo is not acceptable.

Amending the City Charter to allow the creation of a new system of community safety is the first step in our responsibility to stop continued police killings.

I sincerely entreat you to allow the citizens of Minneapolis to vote on the proposed Charter amendment in the November 2020 election.

Mon 7/13/2020 9:13 AM

I have lived at 1778 James Avenue South and worked downtown for more than forty years. I am familiar with issues of public safety in both the downtown and uptown areas of Minneapolis and have reviewed the charter proposal. I do not believe it is suitable for a vote in November, principally because no plan has been developed for the voters to consider. I believe most residents agree that significant public safety reforms are needed, but not all reforms would require a charter amendment. It would be irresponsible to ask the voters to vote to dismantle what we have without knowing what would replace it.

In addition to my general concern about the uncertainty the proposal raises, I have the following specific concerns:

1. Public safety for all citizens is our city government's most important responsibility. The mayor is the only city officer elected at large, so the mayor must be accountable for public safety and therefore needs the authority to designate the person responsible for ensuring public safety. If that person reports to the City Council, that person effectively reports to no one. Even the President of the City Council is not accountable to any voters except those in the President's own ward, and that will be true of any city council president in the future. As an example, fewer than 5000 voters elected the current President of the City Council.
2. The funding minimum should not be deleted. The phrase "adequately fund" is vague. Many residents believe that public safety has not been adequately funded for years. We need a minimum.
3. The proposal gives the City Council the right but not the obligation to maintain a division of law enforcement services, composed of licensed peace officers. A city of our size must have a division of law enforcement services to ensure public safety for all of its residents. Violent crime escalated immediately after the City Council pledged to "disband the police."

4. We do not need City Council confirmation of both the Director of Community Safety and the Director of Law Enforcement Services. That would likely lead to dispersal of accountability and disfunction. If we are to have both positions, we must give the Director of Community Safety the authority and accountability for the selection of the Director of Law Enforcement Services.
5. Individuals eligible to be appointed as Director of Community Safety should not be required by City Charter to have "non-law enforcement experience in community safety services, including but not limited to public health and/or restorative justice approaches". This is too detailed for a city charter provision. If the Mayor or the City Council wishes to require that particular experience in connection with any appointment, they may do so as part of the appointment process.
6. There should be terms for length of the appointments.

In my opinion, the proposed charter amendment is an unneeded distraction to achieving the meaningful reform we desperately need now. Merely proposing it increases uncertainty, and passing it without plan in place risks chaos. Our elected officials need to bring two things to our discussion of reform: clarity and urgency. So long as uncertainty over public safety, however defined, is allowed to persist, our residents will continue to suffer from increased violence, and our City will remain a dead zone for investment, jobs and residents. That is, we will not see any new ones, and the existing ones will drift away.

During my forty-plus years downtown, the number of Fortune-500 Companies headquartered here has been cut in half. Our retail downtown has been decimated. Now COVID has wiped out our sports, restaurants and theaters, and our parks have been converted to unsupervised homeless shelters. We cannot begin to cope with this magnitude of adversity if we cannot first assure all of our residents and employees that they will be safe in our City.

Mon 7/13/2020 10:24 AM

Hi, As a resident and voter in the 10th ward, I would urge you to support the city council's proposed amendment to the city charter. I also would request that you not step in to prevent democratic processes from happening by introducing a one year delay to legislative changes clearly popular with city residents. Manipulating and suppressing voting on a change meant to allow healing and the leadership of Minneapolis on a national stage will not be looked upon kindly by myself or many of the residents. Please listen to and abide by the voices of those in the community. Let us vote, do not strip us of our rights.

Mon 7/13/2020 10:25 AM

Commissioners,

I live in Bancroft, and I am writing to urge you to approve the Public Safety Transformation amendment for inclusion on the ballot in November.

This amendment seems to be fairly weak soup, but it is an essential change for the changes we need to make to policing in Minneapolis. You are all aware of the reform efforts from recent years. All failures, where police violence is concerned. We haven't changed the police culture one bit.

This amendment will keep the momentum for change going. To prevent the citizenry from voting this year on this matter will send a discouraging signal that, once again, Minneapolis is unwilling to grapple with a tough problem. Let the voters decide, in November.

Mon 7/13/2020 10:26 AM

Commissioner Clegg,

I am very concerned about the charter amendment that the Minneapolis City Council has proposed to create a new Charter Department for community safety and violence prevention and removing the Police Department as a Charter Department.

I think the Charter Amendment is poorly conceived and worded and was proposed in a rush due to the calendar. I think that the charter amendment is an excuse for not taking action now. The resolution starting this charter amendment passed June 12. Since then, nothing is happening and all the attention is on the charter amendment. But the amendment won't take effect until May 1, 2021. And given how vague and imprecise it is, it may very well fail.

What if, instead, action by our city government was begun NOW? Why can't reforms start NOW? Suppose the city IMMEDIATELY established a seven-member Public Safety Reformation Task Force made up of the Mayor, the Police Chief, the head of the Minneapolis Office of Violence Prevention, and four Council Members named by the City Council. Suppose that Task Force were charged with, in the words of the Council resolution, "creating a transformative new model for cultivating safety in our city." Suppose that Task Force were to hold weekly public press conferences reporting on its progress and concrete steps being taken each week. Suppose the Future of Community Safety Work Group that is supposed to be formed by July 24 were used to provide the task force with input from the community as this goes forward.

I am also concerned that placing this amendment on the ballot is a no-win proposition. If it passes, no one seems to know what's going to happen. (There were no real answers to the commission's questions at your July 8 meeting.) If it fails, how will people who think this is going to solve everything feel? How will they react. Will things be worse than before.

Mon 7/13/2020 10:27 AM

Commissioner Clegg:

I was able to watch part of the meeting on 7/8 between the city council and the charter commissioners. I have some comments. Please share this with the other members.

CM Ellison implied that those of us contacting the Commissioners were getting our information from the StarTribune and were misinformed. To get the "real" information, we must be talking to our council members. Well, to clear this up: I contacted the Charter Commissioners after watching the city councils Powderhorn Park "Big News" rally and reading their proposed charter change. I do not read the StarTribune EVER. Since their big news rally, they have tried to back-pedal on what they mean by "defunding" the police. They have sent emails re-explaining what they intend to do. Their Powderhorn Park rally was nothing like these emails. They have an agenda that does not fit Minneapolis and the problems the city is facing.

The Commissioners suggested splitting the ballot question into two areas. One on the police and one on the city council's authority. The response was swift and clear. They need to know EXACTLY how that would be worded. They need the FACTS on what this would mean and how it would work. This was interesting because when the same council members were asked about getting the public safety plan hammered out before putting this on the ballot, they said, the final details do not have to be in place before the council gets this authority over public safety. They said that they could take the next year to come up with the plan. WHY do they need a definite plan on their authority question, but the residents can vote based on ambiguity? This is another example of their hypocrisy.

Finally, they say that community members are in favor of giving over our safety to the city council and a non-law enforcement director. Black leaders have come out against this saying that the impact on the underserved neighborhoods would be extremely detrimental. I believe the council members are representing themselves with their rhetoric with the ultimate goal of extending their political careers. They do not care about the safety on the near north side. They have private security for, probably, as long as they want it. We will have a "reimagined holistic public safety program". Who will protect the social worker that goes in on a mental health call and then that call goes bad? Who will protect the public safety person who handles a routine traffic stop and it goes bad? The council feels that we don't need the answers to how this will work. We just need to give them carte blanche over our safety. Once they have this power and control, we will not be able to take it back. Chief Arredondo is a good cop. He is qualified to weed-out the bad cops and build a stable foundation for Minneapolis public safety. The council says they are willing to "listen to some of the rank and file of the MPD". Shouldn't it be the other way around where Chief Arredondo will listen to the rank and file of the city council and make changes?

If this goes to the November ballot, the council will word it in a way that is non-threatening. They will make it sound like it's no big deal. But, their agenda is a big deal. I don't know who can stop this train wreck. I have taken a gun class and will purchase a weapon in the coming weeks because I am worried and I am scared. I have had gang violence in my front yard. Bullets lodged into my house and through my windows. I saw a 16 year old kid lose his life in my neighbor's front yard. Minneapolis needs a strong police department not a city council with an underlying agenda to dictate who will respond to emergencies. I have never felt so unsafe in my entire life. The council's irresponsible action should not be rewarded with such power and control.

Mon 7/13/2020 10:29 AM

Dear Commissioner Clegg:

I am writing to urge you to let the residents of Minneapolis vote on the charter amendment that was unanimously proposed by our elected city council. I appreciate the charter commission's desire to hear from residents and deliberate over possible wording changes; I recognize the important consultative role of the commission; and I believe that you were appointed to your positions because of your insight.

However, if the commission's desire is to let the residents of Minneapolis decide how they would like to proceed, the best way to do this would be to allow a public vote on this amendment in the 2020 election when voter turnout is expected to be high. I'm sure we can benefit greatly from the recommendations

and input of the commission, but I do urge the commission to provide these with an urgency that is commensurate with that expressed by our citizens and elected leaders.

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Mon 7/13/2020 10:31 AM

Members, Minneapolis Charter Commission

As a consequence of the sad events that have impacted the citizens of Minneapolis, nay the World, you are in a very unique position, with a once in a lifetime spotlight.

The existing political system has you focused on working at the edge, rather than working on the underlying fundamental issue itself; the administration, management and direction of all of the Departments of the City, including the Police Department.

I mean no criticism of the current and past Council Members who are constrained by the long existing governance apparatus.

The fundamental management issues of the Police Department, as with all Departments are a direct consequence of the antiquated Chicago type Ward system of governance.

You should not overlook the real cause of fractionalized decision making and direction of all the departments, including the Police Department.

Currently the Police Department is being separated from the basic issue of overall City direction and management.

When everyone is in charge, no one is in charge.

The clear solution is to create a modern system of governance for the Citizens of the City of Minneapolis. There are many examples of modern city governance systems available to model. Then and only then will we be able to efficiently manage governance of our major city.

The Charter Commission is an appropriate vehicle for creating an opportunity for the citizens to voice their opinion on what form of governance should the City implement to carry us to the always undefined 50 year future.

Let's not be led to nibbling at the edge. Let's take the time to fix the real issue.

The Charter Commission can and should concentrate its wisdom in offering a "best practices" solution to the Citizens; to take the time and produce the information required to give citizenry the opportunity to select a modern, representative and efficient type of governance system. A "best practices" system to administer, manage, direct and oversee the City of Minneapolis, to the benefit of all Departments and its common weal.

Mon 7/13/2020 10:32 AM

I believe the charter amendment should not be changed because it is unnecessary according to city councils vague plans, and if it is put to a vote it should not be until the public is able to attend public meetings in person, and the city council has a clear detailed plan of what the new department would entail is given to voters.

The Mpls city council is asking for the power to dismantle the MPD and have the possibility of having no police, when there is NO official plan of what they want to replace the MPD with. The closest they come to a plan is to replace police with professional mental health, domestic abuse, etc.

The best model for this is Cahoots in Eugene, OR which has operated for 30 yrs. They send a team of a medic and a crisis worker trained in behavioral health to "respond to noncriminal calls...to provide deescalation or crisis assistance in cases where a police response may be necessary." Cahoots was able to replace 20% of calls to police and less than 1% of calls to Cahoots need police assistance as well. That means that the police force could be replaced by approximately 20% but we still need 80% of our current police force to enforce laws and respond to violence in progress.

Our current police force in Mpls is 892 sworn officers and 175 non sworn employees. According to latest census data and the city charter minimum requirement is 730 police employees. If we were to reduce our current police force by 20% that would be 714 officers. That is a difference of a mere 16 officers from what the Cahoots data says we would need if we no longer have police respond to non criminal calls. I can only imagine that we could find good use for those extra 16 officers to investigate sex assaults and murders and certainly does not call for a change in the city charter giving the council more power.

While the CAHOOTS model is the closets model to the proposed model to replace police, this model still requires police. David Zeiss co founder of CAHOOTS said in an CNN article, "Partnership with police has always been essential to our model. A CAHOOTS-like program without a close relationship with police would be very different from anything we've done. I don't have a coherent vision of a society that has no police force."

I therefore propose there is no reason to change the charter to allow for less police or NO police based on the fact the only ideas the council has given for replacing the police are closest to the CAHOOTS model which could be started at anytime according to CAHOOTS data without dismantling the MPD or having less police than the charter requires. Why don't they try the CAHOOTS model AND focus on reforms such as deescalation training that has been successful in Camden NJ?

The entire council says they will take a yr to get community input to create a new plan, which means they do not expect to have a plan until next summer or later. That means if this charter amendment

goes on the Nov 2020 ballot voters will be asked to give the city council more power and the ability to create ANY replacement for MPD they want. Voters will have no idea how this increased power given to the city council will be used. Many might think they are voting to allow them to drastically reform the police, when in reality we could have no police at all or a skeleton crew with no data or precedent to know if their plan could even work.

Currently we are getting mixed messages from the city council. They pledged to work towards a "police free future" to the world, yet some (like my council rep Andrew Johnson) are saying we will still have armed officers to respond to violence. Yet other council members such as Ellison and Bender have been rather vocal about their desire to have no police. Councilman Ellison recently tweeted, "Police have a monopoly on "public safety", and they leverage that to keep folks feeling they're "needed". We need to end that monopoly." And Bender said in a CNN interview when asked who would respond to a burglary in progress, "... That comes from a place of privilege..." and never answered who would respond. So how are we as voters suppose to have any idea what the city council will do with their increase in power?

I believe the city council is rushing the process to dismantle and replace MPD, despite having no clear plan, in order to get on the ballot for Nov 2020 because they know larger numbers of young voters will turn out because it is a presidential election yr and before the steam goes out of the defund/abolish the police sentiment that came from the riots. I also believe they want to pass this quick before individuals and groups come out against their plan to dismantle the MPD. For example the violence prevention group A Mothers Love held a press conference yesterday saying the city council has refused to speak with the founder Lisa Clemons, formerly a police sergeant, despite the fact she works with crime victims and trying to end gun violence in Mpls. They want to keep the MPD and work with the police chief on police reform.

Most importantly we are in a pandemic which limits the participation some in Mpls can have in this discussion. We can not have in person public meetings due to the pandemic. Citizens need cable, and or high speed internet to view city council TV, and need to be computer literate and have access to high speed internet to participate.

I honestly do believe we need reform in the MPD even before Floyd, Justine Damond (a white women) called the police because she thought she heard a women being raped in her alley and was killed by a police officer (black muslim) simply because he was spooked by a loud noise. Clearly the MPD has a problem of using excessive force. I do NOT however think we need to change the city charter to make the changes necessary to the MPD.

All members of the Mpls city council have repeatedly stated they will take a yr to gather in put from the community to develop a plan. I propose that you force them to do just that BEFORE we vote, not AFTER we vote in 2020. Please make sure that all citizens of Mpls are able to give their voice and to become more informed on this issue before voting. Democracy only works with an informed active public.

Mon 7/13/2020 10:32 AM

I am a resident of south Minneapolis and I strongly urge you to support the Establishing Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department Charter Amendment being placed on the November ballot. Please let the voters decide how our City should move forward.

Mon 7/13/2020 10:33 AM

Dear Commissioners,

I have lived in Minneapolis for decades, and I have been horrified every time that the MPD and neighboring law enforcement agencies have committed yet another act of excessive violence against our citizens. The recent murder of George Floyd was the final straw, and I cannot understand how past practices have been allowed to reach this point.

Fundamental change is absolutely essential.

However, I am writing to you today to ask that the Minneapolis Charter Commission vote against the proposed amendment to the City Charter, which has been made by the City Council **regarding the elimination of a police department** from the City Charter and **the transfer of responsibility for public safety from the office of the Mayor to the City Council**. I feel this change would concentrate too much authority with the Council and dilute the separation of powers in the City of Minneapolis. Additionally, it would further decrease public safety in the interim and fail to address the root issues of systemic racism in our community.

I urge you to **vote against the proposed amendment** and **reject any similar efforts** until the necessary steps have been taken to explore a workable and realistic alternative to our existing policies and police department, at which point a more reasonable case can be put forward for public vote.

Mon 7/13/2020 10:37 AM

To the charter commissioners,

I am a resident of SE Minneapolis and am urging you to support a charter amendment now. We cannot wait another year. We need you to provide the people of this city with the right to vote in this election cycle. We have seen what stalling and postponing result in— massive uprising and destruction. I am urging you to support the amendment. Will you commit to this?

Mon 7/13/2020 10:37 AM

Hello,

I am a resident of Minneapolis and even in my few years of living here, I have been made to feel unsafe and have witnessed countless others being made to feel unsafe at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department. The people of Minneapolis deserve a say in how we are protected, and what I and many others are saying is that we do not trust, do not feel safe, and do not feel protected by the MPD. We are being given a chance of building our own future, and I implore you to show solidarity in making that happen. I am strongly urging you to support the proposed amendment to the Minneapolis City Charter and allow Minneapolis residents to vote for their own futures.

Mon 7/13/2020 10:38 AM

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Minnesota resident. I am asking you- as a member of the Charter Commission- to let Minneapolis residents vote on the amendment to change the city charter. The residents of the city have the right to decide what measures truly promote their safety. The Charter

Commission should not prevent this amendment from reaching the ballot for a vote, as this goes against your duty to protect the interests of Minneapolis residents.

Mon 7/13/2020 10:39 AM

I am writing to oppose the current proposal to change the Minneapolis charter to delete requirements for a police department. While I strongly support major reforms restructuring of policing policies for Minneapolis, I believe this charter change is premature and not helpful to those goals at this point. There is no doubt that policing in Minneapolis is broken. The killing of George Floyd is only the tip of the iceberg indicating an ingrained culture of longstanding systemic racism inside this city's police force that is horrific and must be addressed. I know there are Mpls police with the right temperament for doing this difficult work, but as evidenced by the murder of Mr. Floyd, there are too many without that temperament in influential positions and that has to be changed. Yet this charter proposal seem to lack a clear plan as to how that change would be accomplished. It does not appear to be accompanied by a plan describing how any new public safety department would be organized, how it would operate, how it would be governed, and how it would be staffed. Because it authors seem disorganized and unable to articulate a clear vision, I would certainly have to vote against such an amendment at this time and I believe it will fail if put forward at this point. Further, the proposal appears to eliminate the position of Chief Arradondo, who has been a respected pioneer and leader in trying to combat racism and to implement police reforms. This would be a huge mistake and set back, you could search the nation and not find anyone as uniquely qualified and talented for the tasks needed ahead.

There are many excellent proposals for police reform being considered in efforts led by Attorney General Keith Ellison and Commissioner John Harrington that could be a place to start but we have heard nothing from those proposing this charter amendment about building on recommendations from these experts. Proposals such as use of innovative community policing and de-escalation techniques, stronger definitions and limits on excessive force, stronger firing authorities and disciplinary actions, licensing requirements, increased public accountability, stronger community involvement, police engagement with programs aimed at youth crime and gang prevention, changing the leadership of, involvement, role and relationship with the police union, more involvement and use of mental health professionals instead of so many killings of people who are clearly mentally ill, eliminating the militarization of police, stronger links to expertise and enhancement of resources to address substance abuse and homelessness, and even the Camden model where police were fired and only those who met new standards hired back should be considered. With these types of reforms and others that communities and experts might create, Chief Arradondo would be finally given the tools needed to implement the change that is needed. If these types of reforms (or other reasonable proposals) are part of what is meant, council members should take the time to work with communities to develop and present a detailed plan that outlines what is included so we know what we are voting on prior to any charter changes.

In addition to the systemic racism, we have seen a steady decline in confidence in the police to be effective at its basic job of maintaining safety and solving crimes. I have been a home owner in the Lyndale neighborhood for 35 years only two blocks from the 5th Precinct and have never experienced the level of shootings, assaults, car and mail thefts, robberies, vandalism, etc. that we have seen in the past few years and it is even worse in the past few weeks. There are constant complaints on Nextdoor from neighbors of all colors and economic conditions about getting no or late responses from police, or

of police being disinterested or dismissive of available evidence such as video or photos of suspects. My elderly husband was robbed and assaulted on our doorstep a few years ago, police did come out but when we tried to provide photographs of the suspect taken by a neighbor, it was ignored and the case was closed. (Later on the day of the assault my husband suffered a severe stroke which led to his eventual death). Many people are either afraid of the police due to past experience, knowledge of or observance of frequent racist related overreactions or lack of reaction, or have no confidence in the police actually doing anything helpful to stop neighborhood crimes, let alone dealing effectively with the rise in what appears to be the spread of gang related shootings and violence across both north and south Mpls neighborhoods in recent weeks. Something is broken here in basic policing as well.

As an older white woman who grew up in a law enforcement family and worked for state government for 40 years but is shocked by the ongoing killing of people of color by police across the nation let me tell you my current unfortunate and probably unfair impression of the Mpls police: My friends and relatives with sons of color have to fear them because they threaten their children's lives or kill people for no reason during traffic stops (Philando Castile-though that was not in Mpls), they ride around in cars and maybe drive through the alley if called, we seldom see them out of their cars unless they are having coffee at a restaurant, and if they do take a report they are immediately discouraging about finding the perpetrator or seem oddly disinterested in details that would help catch them and they are also potentially dangerous because they have both guns and a lack of judgement (as in the case of Justine Diamond). I think we need more funds for new forms of policing, not defunding of public safety functions, and this must include resources for stopping the racism as well as building trust through more integration and involvement with neighborhoods in both crime prevention and solving of crimes committed.

I am even more fearful of comments made by various supporters of police defunding, that neighborhood watch groups should play a role in substituting for some police functions. I would not trust such groups to be able to take on such responsibilities or to have the professional skills to play that role. If the level of discourse and lack of consensus exhibited in conversations on Nextdoor and other such communication platforms are any indication, it could lead to intrusiveness, judgementalism and conflict between neighbors. Of course neighborhoods must be involved and consulted, but they should NOT be made responsible for core policing functions.

Though I am just one voice here, I know from discussions with friends and neighbors that my views are not extreme and that many other Mpls residents share them. Thank you for considering my comments.

Mon 7/13/2020 10:40 AM

Hello,

I am a citizen of Ward 2 of Minneapolis, and I want to express to you my support for the proposed amendment to the city charter. I believe that it is time to dismantle MPD and reimagine public safety in our city, and I believe that citizens should be able to vote on this proposed amendment to the charter as soon as possible. I do not believe that waiting on this is a good idea. Thank you for your time

Sunday, July 19, 2020

Please approve the amendment put forward by the city council. Your job is to assess the language and legality of an amendment, NOT to evaluate it for its implications or effectiveness for our city. The people of Minneapolis need to vote on this issue on November 3rd. If it isn't a good proposal, that will be clear at the ballot box. Let the debate continue. Approve the amendment.

Mon 7/20/2020 8:27 AM

Please support Councilmember Cano's and Councilmember Cunningham's proposed amendments, as well as an immediate \$45 million divestment from MPD Protections for workers - no more wage freezes, furloughs or firings - and homes for all - deep investments in affordable housing instead of cuts!

Mon 7/20/2020 8:11 AM

I strongly support the Charter Amendment to abolish the current Minneapolis Police Department and create a new Department of Community Security and Violence Prevention. I urge the Charter Commission to place the proposed amendment on the ballot to let the people vote. We have a historic opportunity to make a dramatic improvement in our city. Please pass the Charter Amendment on to the ballot.

Sunday, July 19, 2020 10:52 PM

Please take the full 150 days to reply to the City Council regarding the recent City Charter amendment (CH2020-00014). There are two primary reasons for taking the full allotted time are:

1) **we are in a pandemic** with limited participation options, detailed in the following three paragraphs, and

2) this amendment is extremely important and worthy of a lengthy public dialogue

All City Council, and Charter Committee, meetings are now virtual. These virtual meetings limit the ability of residents to participate in the meetings. To view the meetings one of the following is required:

1) Comcast cable, 2) CenturyLink cable or 3) broadband internet to view City Council TV. While I could not find any statistics on the percentage of households with cable TV, approximately 20% of Minneapolis households lack access to broadband internet¹. This lack of broadband access coupled with reported declines of cable TV subscriptions lead me to believe a sizable portion of the population is being left out of these discussions.

In addition to the lack of access to meetings there is also a technology issue. During the meeting on July 15th I was having technical issues while trying to watch the proceedings via City Council TV. After being connected fine for the first few minutes, right before the first public speaker was about to begin, I was disconnected received a message that read, "The live stream is either down or has ended." While refreshing I continued to receive a message of "Cannot load M3U8: 404 Not Found". After about 10 minutes of refreshing and relaunching I was finally able to connect.

When I was reconnected, there were quite a few people who were called on who did not respond. The issues I was having with the livestream makes me wonder if people who had the call-in number were also having connection issues. I was not keeping track, and you probably have this in the meeting notes, but about one-fourth to one-third of the people called upon to speak did not answer. Strangely, after

one of the speakers, I believe his name was Dylan, mentioned that he believed there technical difficulties preventing some people from connecting their phones, the feed on City Council TV stopped again, but this time I was unable to reconnect. My US Internet fiber internet was working fine during these disconnections, so I am not sure why the meeting was disconnected.

Given that this proposed charter amendment will have a profound impact on both the safety of the Minneapolis residents and health of the Minneapolis economy, a thorough and engaging discussion is needed. The City Council has only provided extremely vague buzzwords about what they see as the future of public safety in Minneapolis. We, the residents of Minneapolis, deserve a plan of what public safety in the city will look like before we are asked to change the charter.

Please provide your final recommendation during the November 4th Charter Commission meeting, and not before. This will ensure that we have a long, thorough public dialogue, hopefully including in-person meetings, prior to this amendment going **on the November 2021 ballot**. When the proposed amendment is on the ballot, I will likely vote "No".

Sunday, July 19, 2020 9:46 PM

I am a resident of Powderhorn Park Neighborhood and live 2 blocks from the George Floyd Memorial and 4 blocks from Powderhorn Park (and the encampments). There is a lot of crime happening in my neighborhood and the city: muggings, shootings, car jackings, rape, sex trafficking, and open air drug deals.

I am on the fence about amending the charter to defund the police and replacing them with a Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department. Since the discussion of defunding the police has been happening the police have stopped responding to calls unless someone is "stabbed or shot." (A quote from a sergeant after calling 911 because of a threatening neighbor.) The MPD has a culture problem that begins with Bob Kroll. So while I don't want to get rid of the police I don't know how we can reform the department with the current union and union leader.

I support Police Chief Medaria Arradondo and I support the reform points put out by the Communities United Against Police Brutality. <https://www.cuapb.org/> See:

[Report: WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO END POLICE VIOLENCE?](#)

[Understanding the Minneapolis City Council Charter Amendment](#)

I understand that the amendment to the charter is to begin the process to discuss with the community the alternatives to community safety and violence prevention. I also understand that the city council views this as a requirement to even begin discussing alternatives. I do have concerns about the wording in the amendment. So I'm not sure what should come first, an amendment to the charter or community meetings about how to move forward. I don't think we've had enough time to discuss the wording of the amendment and how the wording of the amendment will affect the development of a new department.

Sunday, July 19, 2020 4:02 PM

My name is [REDACTED], I am a Minneapolis resident and kindergarten teacher at Nellie Stone Johnson school. I live in Ward 10. I grew up here and have a deep care and concern for the wellbeing of our city.

I was surprised and disappointed on July 8th by the Charter Commission's response to City Council's proposed ballot measure. It seemed that allowing residents a right to vote on our own city's Charter would be an easy decision, and I was caught off-guard by the pushback I heard from Charter members.

Commissioners' role is to represent the interests on the people, which in this case very clearly includes allowing us to vote, *in this year's election*, on this change. Withholding this opportunity from citizens (even for the time being) would prove irresponsible and is not in the best interest of the community.

I hope all Commission members will consider this thoughtfully and make the decision that reflects our interests. **We want to vote.**

Sunday, July 19, 2020 3:13 PM

Please vote no on the City Council's proposal to amend the City of Minneapolis charter to end the requirement to maintain a police department.

"Shall the Minneapolis City Charter be amended to provide for the establishment of a new Community Safety& Violence Prevention Department and to remove the Police Department."

-There is NO new plan to replace the current Charter. Language the Council uses regarding defunding and denouncing the current Charter is so vague or nonexistent that resident taxpayers have no idea what they would be voting for in its place; it promises us nothing!

-Residents don't need to support or pay for an experiment. We don't need any pilots, expensive studies, or more wasted tax dollars. We need and deserve real plan and directed action now! Mayor Frey was elected, Police Chief Arradondo was appointed to his position and they should direct this effort.

-The Minneapolis Police Department should report directly to the Mayor and the appointed Police Chief for the utmost accountability and transparency NOT to thirteen Council members which will only muddy the order and direction.

-This proposal creates a Police Union Labor conflict with the City of Minneapolis. The DFL has long promoted workers rights and fair labor throughout Minneapolis and City departments, but now they want to dismantle this group of union labor? The Council has broken talks and communication for any negotiation creating loss of good faith effort or support for City employees.

-We need a professional highly educated qualified police department led by licensed seasoned professionals.

-We already have funding for social services, housing, schools, and non-profits working with underserved communities. They serve in their capacity, but we also need resources specifically directed for a strong MPD. Reducing the police budget and capacity will not make a less criminal element that is currently running rampant.

-Dismantling and defunding police signals to criminals that they can and are welcome to operate here.

-All residents need to have an opportunity to see and participate in this process. How is the City Council reaching out to all its citizens to have a voice? I have grave concerns like much of what this Council has done in the recent past that only activists are being heard and are directing the conversation. The majority of residents can't or don't know how to participate. It is not even clear on the City website how

to contact anyone regarding this Charter issue. I have been getting information through the Star Tribune.

I have no trust or confidence in this Council to act in a mature or appropriate manner in for the best interest of all residents. We have been rocked by the murder of George Floyd and the recent unrest in the midst of Covid-19. The Council is using this unfortunate series of events to succeed where their previous attempt to take over the MPD failed. They have pushed through the 2040 Plan, changes to rentals, and small businesses with their best interests and some activists in mind, not the majority of City residents. Their understanding of how the world works seems purely academic, and lacks real life experience.

I am a 30 + year renter, homeowner (both North and South Minneapolis), and former landlord/property owner. Over the years the City and MPD have let down and cost our communities more than I can write. Police no longer respond for unlawful livability issues or more serious crimes, or if they do, it is not in a timely manner. When they do show up they are not professional, are patronizing, condescending, and rude or worse as we all know. We pay some of the highest taxes in the country for this poor treatment. It is almost intolerable to live here and quite frankly, if the good goes, I need to think about leaving too; why stay? Experiencing illegal fireworks night after night, loud music, certain neighbors participating in unlawful behavior and terrorizing good neighbors, people disobeying traffic signs and speeding has all gotten worse and no one stops it. Shootings, car jacking, assaults, drug use, break-ins, prostitution are now the norm. Travel on the bus or light rail is filthy and perilous.

And yet...

-We all need police. The City Council is currently using private security and gets more than residents? Right.

-Police must be greatly reformed. They must be educated and highly trained for their very difficult job.

-There are bad cops in the MPD led and protected by a Union 'leader' that has their interests, not our community and this creates a conflict of interest. I would like to see Bob Kroll step down. We need to bridge our police department to that of the community.

-We need more police than we have. They can't do a good job for us if they are tired, overworked, and have only enough staff to respond to the very worst crimes. We need all hands on deck to make this a better place to live and work.

-We need to plan for retirement and attrition to bring new hires on now or we will not have a seasoned workforce in the near future.

-We need officers that are diverse and mirror Minneapolis.

-We need officers that are from our communities not just those that are hired, live and drive in from the suburbs. Create incentive for MPD to live, work, raise their families, and spend their paychecks in Minneapolis.

-Police deserve equipment and weapons that are better than the criminals.

-Police deserve to have respect and support of their employer and communities for them to enforce and be successful in their work.

-Federal grants for policing should be matched by the City. Let's return Federal dollars that we pay in to help us get a better police force.

-Businesses and employees in Minneapolis need to have surety that they will be protected. We must retain and attract businesses for our community to thrive, not drive them away.

-Visitors and tourists need to know that we are committed to their safety. We have spent considerable resources for places like MCC, Target Center, Twins ballpark, and the US Bank Stadium. People WILL stop coming if they are made to feel unsafe and unwelcome.

As we witnessed the recent hasty and uninformed decision allowing homeless to 'camp' in parks by a few activists and the Park Board that has backfired, the change in the Charter with little or no plan will have no better outcome. Please make your choices wisely, the future of our community depends on it.

Mon 7/20/2020 7:47 AM

I'm very concerned that the decision to change how public safety works has been made too quickly and without enough planning. I'm a web developer and I've worked on a few large web projects that had a longer planning and design period - and these decisions are so much bigger.

I appreciate that many believe that now is the time for change and we should act while the political will is there. But I think other actions can be taken immediately while allowing time for more planning and discussion about restructuring public safety.

Immediate actions I'd suggest:

- Of course outlawing chokeholds has already been done (thank you). Is there anything else that typically results in death or major injury that could be banned?

- Banning stops for driving while black, walking through a white neighborhood while black, etc. I think this is a major contributor to distrust and anger at the police, and contributes to the racism already in the force. It's a vicious loop - get scared or angry at the police for this treatment and the next stop could understandably be a problematic one, fed by fear or anger. Which will then contribute to more racism. I've lost the reference, but I read about a police force that requires a specific action by an individual in order to justify a stop and the officer needs to document the reason clearly.

Long term:

This police chief could be a real model for us going forward: <https://richmondconfidential.org/2015/12/08/chris-magnus-the-man-that-changed-richmond/>

This 2014 Facebook post summarizes his point of view:

The man holding this [#BlackLivesMatter](#) sign is Richmond (CA) police chief Chris Magnus, whose department has not lost an officer or killed a citizen since 2007, the year after he took over. This is not an accident, this peacefulness is the direct result of his leadership. Police departments across the country should be looking to his department as an example to be followed.

'Chief Magnus changed the department from one that focused on "impact teams" of officers who

roamed rough neighborhoods looking to make arrests to one that required all officers to adopt a "community policing" model, which emphasizes relationship building.

"We had generations of families raised to hate and fear the Richmond police, and a lot of that was the result of our style of policing in the past. It took us a long time to turn that around, and we're seeing the fruits of that now. There is a mutual respect now, and some mutual compassion."

Violent crime also went down dramatically.

- I know there are other issues to be addressed, especially getting rid of officers with a history of abuse and perhaps that's the reason you're looking at dropping "police" for "community safety", but it's not reassuring to have the plan for this to be so vague.

One last note: can you please call it something else besides "defund the police" - it's an absolutely terrible slogan. The right will use it to talk about the crazy liberals who don't believe in keeping people safe. Nearly everyone I know has had a "what the hell" reaction to the slogan. I know it has national traction, but maybe Minneapolis changing it would get the rest of the country to think about changing it too.

Saturday, July 18, 2020 12:20 PM

Thank you for chairing the Charter Commission and playing this vital role in city governance. I write to you as a fellow Minneapolis lawyer and resident.

I implore the Commission to continue studying and working on this critical issue and NOT to approve it for the November ballot. This proposal fails the basic measures of good government: it lacks both specifics and accountability.

This proposal would replace our police department with a department of community safety and violence prevention, but provides no details about the new department. Reviewing three questions and answers from the Q&A section of the Minneapolis City website on the amendment only reinforces this conclusion. Is there a legal analysis of the proposal? Not yet. Is there a fiscal impact analysis of the proposal? No. Is there a racial equity impact analysis of this proposal? No. How can anyone possibly evaluate the replacement system when no details are provided? Particularly during a pandemic when the city is facing tax revenue decreases and expenditure increases, it would be irresponsible to approve such an open-ended proposal. The amendment should fail for lack of specifics.

Likewise, the proposal lacks accountability. Under the current system, the police chief is appointed by and answers to the mayor, and the mayor is elected by and answers to the voters of Minneapolis. Under the proposed system, the new director would answer to the City Council, and each City Council member would answer only to the voters in his or her own district. Having thirteen bosses instead of one will ensure confusion and discord rather oversight and accountability. This is the City Council trying to usurp the mayor's role. Rather than eliminating accountability, I would instead invite any or all of the five city council members supporting the amendment to run for mayor and face city-wide accountability.

Rather than approve this proposed amendment or any substitute proposal for a vote, I beseech the Commission to take the full 150 days to study the matter and submit a report with detailed recommendations on what a replacement proposal should contain.

Saturday, July 18, 2020 1:17 PM

First, Thank you for your leadership and willingness to look for real change that will benefit the wonderful city of Minneapolis. I am a Minneapolis resident.

Transformational reform of the Minneapolis Police is essential and urgent. I continue to believe that this Charter amendment is a distraction from the critically needed action.

I oppose the Minneapolis City Council action to amend the Minneapolis City Charter for these reasons.

The proposed charter change:

1. Eliminates the police department with NO REPLACEMENT. Right now the Council does not have a plan. It only promises to develop the plan and how to implement it in the future.
2. Muddles ACCOUNTABILITY. It eliminates the authority of the Mayor and invests oversight by a Director of Community Safety and Violence Prevention who would report to the Council and Mayor. If there is a Division of Law Enforcement Services, " the Director of Community and Violence Prevention shall appoint the director of the division of law enforcement services, subject ot confirmation by official act of the City Council and Mayor." This puts in place 15 "bosses" which means no boss. This also makes authority more distant and less accountable to the electorate.
3. Makes NO COMMITMENT to have a law enforcement function. (SCARY SCARY) The proposed Charter Change states: "Division of Law Enforcement Services The Council may maintain a division of law enforcement services, composed of licensed peace officers, subject to the supervision of the department of community safety and violence prevention." This removes from the current Charter language that City Council must establish, organize and otherwise provide for these departments...a police department.

This is a major change to our city government and should not be rushed. We need the Charter Commission to have a thorough, robust, inclusive public assessment prior to a vote of the electorate. The Charter Commision does not have the final say on whether an amendment goes to the voters. The Charter, however, does give the Commission some discretion on the timing to discourage proposals that do not give the voters an informed choice.

We the people must know what public safety and law enforcement functions will be provided by the city. Striving to eliminate structural racism must have prompt action; reforming our police dept must have prompt action; addressing our societal needs of housing, education, health care, mental health, the environment must have prompt action; NOT this Charter Change.

Mon 7/20/2020 7:43 AM

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a homeowner living in the Lyndale neighborhood in Minneapolis, and a local schoolteacher and parent.

I wanted to first thank you for your service to our city, which under normal circumstances, I can imagine, is much work performed without much fanfare or recognition.

I'm writing to weigh in on the Charter Commission's work on the process of bringing to the city's voters a referendum on amending the charter to foster changes to public safety. I appreciate the commission's desire to engage communities, especially via neighborhood groups, and to ensure the process is done well. At the same time, given the specific nature of the proposal; what I think we can all agree to be the singular circumstances that gave rise to it; and the fact that the City Council unanimously made its wishes known on the matter, I urge you and the commission to seek to move with urgency on this matter.

Sun 7/19/2020 9:26 PM

As citizens of Minnesota we firmly and solidly reject the proposal of the Minneapolis City Council to defund the police and to reform the entire department into a Public Safety Team.

Your City Council is reacting to one event when you should have been dealing with events, serious discipline matters, and choices of hiring when they happened. Your personal need for bodily protection (aka city council members use tax-payer funds for personal protection). The proposal must include that all public officials (from Governor down to local leaders...including the city council) must give up any right, any tax-payer paid security, and any armed security. Otherwise you continue to live a two-faced, privileged council team.

In all my years in Minnesota and as a former resident of Hennepin county I am appalled at the actions of the Mpls City Council. As an officer of the MN District Courts, I find that 99.5% of the police, sheriff, and State Trooper departments are solid, caring, and protective people.

If the council goes through with this "Defund the Police" proposal, we have arranged for an enormous pushback group calling for "DEFEND THE POLICE." Keith Ellison failed in congress and is a further failure in taking a stand in public for the police of Minneapolis. My friends living just blocks from George Floyd's death live in fear that the police will not be patrolling and caring for the domestic and gang events in the area of Chicago.

Your council is reacting to the Mob and Thugs who are pushing their agenda which seems to match your radical ideas. I hear the phrase "Reimagine the police" but I have yet to fully see how you are going to do this and still deal with the people we see in the District courts who are there with major crimes, felonies, guns, drugs, and more.

From the governor on down in our system of government, you all have failed the people. You no longer serve, but you seek control and a new form of socialism.

You will see a major pushback and hopefully a complete defunding and dismantling of the Minneapolis City Council.

Sunday, July 19, 2020

Please approve the amendment put forward by the city council. Your job is to assess the language and legality of an amendment, NOT to evaluate it for its implications or effectiveness for our city. The people

of Minneapolis need to vote on this issue on November 3rd. If it isn't a good proposal, that will be clear at the ballot box. Let the debate continue. Approve the amendment.

Sunday, July 19, 2020 7:09 PM

Members of the Charter Commission I am writing to you about the current efforts to revise the operation and control of the Minneapolis Police Department. The City Council has failed to give adequate notice to the public and has failed to articulate a plan for the way forward.

We must require an evidence based approach to make changes in the MPD. An extensive audit of the current functions is required. How many cases are approaching the statute of limitations for any crime are pending?

What is the nature of the relationship between MPD and : FBI, ATF,BCA, County Attorney and City Attorney? An audit would look at all functions of MPD and detail the nature and impact of anticipated disability claims and where the impact will necessitate replacement.

To simply support the breaking up of the MPD will expose the City to claims of unfair labor practices.

Our City, nation and world have been through a very devastating season. As the appointed body charged with making decisions that are impacting our City Constitution I urge you not to be arbitrary. We need to be thorough and thoughtful. We need to look at every function of MPD.

The facts are that we need the Mayor to stay in command and control of the current MPD in order to examine the impact of labor agreements, state law and administrative law on the function of MPD and the retention and departure of more than 100 officers according to media reports. Retirements and attrition will add to this number. Let the public know what is going on and base decisions on evidence not election cycles.

Sunday, July 19, 2020

Please approve the amendment put forward by the city council. Your job is to assess the language and legality of an amendment, NOT to evaluate it for its implications or effectiveness for our city. The people of Minneapolis need to vote on this issue on November 3rd. If it isn't a good proposal, that will be clear at the ballot box. Let the debate continue. Approve the amendment.

Sat 7/18/2020 4:34 PM

I am disheartened by the continued lack of fiscal transparency and integrity in the City's budget process. As some of you know I have advocated for an end of the abuse of special funds and set asides. These gimmicks from streetcar funds to the Downtown Assets Fund and to the complete failure of any true accounting of the city's sales tax revenues and their use hide the choices you are making or failing to make during your budget deliberations.

I have attached an editorial printed in the Star Tribune at the time the parks/infrastructure proposal was adopted four years ago. I note that no one is even suggesting that during these unprecedented times you might need to scale back park improvement projects or street projects funded by this 30 million dollar per year program. I realize it was enshrined in ordinance but your hands are not tied. Any agreement reached with MPRB (which you may know quite likely violated the City Charter) was not made with a future pandemic in mind.

You have millions sitting in a streetcar fund while you are contemplating furloughs and cuts to basic city services. You are leaving the “value capture” district in place costing at least five million dollars annually for a streetcar no one wants and no one else will fund. You are leaving approximately five million dollars more in ongoing funds for “Downtown Assets” primarily being used for even more subsidies to Target Center and US Bank Stadium. Finally you are funding the Commons to the tune of approximately a million dollars per year.

If you wish to give all of the above priority over the basic city services you now aim to reduce at least do so honestly in the sunshine of your public hearings and public deliberations. I doubt any of these hidden policy choices could survive the daylight of transparency and public debate.

If you fail to have complete transparency as to all of the funds available to the City to address these shortfalls your budget process will be a sham.

You still, even now, have a chance to do the right thing.

Sat 7/18/2020 2:54 PM

To all involved in making this decision:

I'm very concerned that the decision to change how public safety works has been made too quickly and without enough planning. I'm a web developer and I've worked on a few large web projects that had a longer planning and design period - and these decisions are so much bigger.

I appreciate that many believe that now is the time for change and we should act while the political will is there. But I think other actions can be taken immediately while allowing time for more planning and discussion about restructuring public safety.

Immediate actions I'd suggest:

- Of course outlawing chokeholds has already been done (thank you). Is there anything else that typically results in death or major injury that could be banned?
- Banning stops for driving while black, walking through a white neighborhood while black, etc. I think this is a major contributor to distrust and anger at the police, and contributes to the racism already in the force. It's a vicious loop - get scared or angry at the police for this treatment and the next stop could understandably be a problematic one, fed by fear or anger. Which will then contribute to more racism. I've lost the reference, but I read about a police force that requires a specific action by an individual in order to justify a stop and the officer needs to document the reason clearly.

Saturday, July 18, 2020 1:22 PM

Thank you for serving on the Charter Commission and playing this vital role in city governance. I write to you as a fellow lawyer and Minneapolis resident.

I implore the Commission to continue studying and working on this critical issue and NOT to approve it for the November ballot. This proposal fails the basic measures of good government: it lacks both specifics and accountability.

This proposal would replace our police department with a department of community safety and violence prevention, but provides no details about the new department. Reviewing three questions and answers from the Q&A section of the Minneapolis City website on the amendment only reinforces this conclusion. Is there a legal analysis of the proposal? Not yet. Is there a fiscal impact analysis of the proposal? No. Is there a racial equity impact analysis of this proposal? No. How can anyone possibly evaluate the replacement system when no details are provided? Particularly during a pandemic when the city is facing tax revenue decreases and expenditure increases, it would be irresponsible to approve such an open-ended proposal. The amendment should fail for lack of specifics.

Likewise, the proposal lacks accountability. Under the current system, the police chief is appointed by and answers to the mayor, and the mayor is elected by and answers to the voters of Minneapolis. Under the proposed system, the new director would answer to the City Council, and each City Council member would answer only to the voters in his or her own district. Having thirteen bosses instead of one will ensure confusion and discord rather oversight and accountability. This is the City Council trying to usurp the mayor's role. Rather than eliminating accountability, I would instead invite any or all of the five city council members supporting the amendment to run for mayor and face city-wide accountability.

Rather than approve this proposed amendment or any substitute proposal for a vote, I beseech the Commission to take the full 150 days to study the matter and submit a report with detailed recommendations on what a replacement proposal should contain.

Jul 18, 2020 12:59 PM

Thank you for serving on the Charter Commission and playing this vital role in city governance. I write to you as a fellow Minneapolis resident.

I implore the Commission to continue studying and working on this critical issue and NOT to approve it for the November ballot. This proposal fails the basic measures of good government: it lacks both specifics and accountability.

This proposal would replace our police department with a department of community safety and violence prevention, but provides no details about the new department. Reviewing three questions and answers from the Q&A section of the Minneapolis City website on the amendment only reinforces this conclusion. Is there a legal analysis of the proposal? Not yet. Is there a fiscal impact analysis of the proposal? No. Is there a racial equity impact analysis of this proposal? No. How can anyone possibly evaluate the replacement system when no details are provided? Particularly during a pandemic when the city is facing tax revenue decreases and expenditure increases, it would be irresponsible to approve such an open-ended proposal. The amendment should fail for lack of specifics.

Likewise, the proposal lacks accountability. Under the current system, the police chief is appointed by and answers to the mayor, and the mayor is elected by and answers to the voters of Minneapolis. Under the proposed system, the new director would answer to the City Council, and each City Council member would answer only to the voters in his or her own district. Having thirteen bosses instead of one will ensure confusion and discord rather oversight and accountability. This is the City Council trying to usurp the mayor's role. Rather than eliminating accountability, I would instead invite

any or all of the five city council members supporting the amendment to run for mayor and face city-wide accountability.

Rather than approve this proposed amendment or any substitute proposal for a vote (including your proposal to cut the police department in half and also create a separate public safety department), I beseech the Commission to take the full 150 days to study the matter and submit a report with detailed recommendations on what a replacement proposal should contain.

Friday, July 17, 2020 10:20 AM

Greetings members of the charter commission. The proposed amendment makes some sense in the creation of a transformed public safety plan. However it is all about creation and not about results of the creation and therefore accountability. Accountability is just assumed. And that assumption cannot be trusted. There is specific precedent of no accountability in the lack of follow through of the federal report about the police received under Hodges and Harteau just a couple of years ago. If the recommendations from that report had been followed and changes implemented, it would have surely saved Floyds' life and all the other agony. Yet the mayor and the city council have totally ignored it. My city councilman even said at a meeting last week that "well a new mayor and a new police chief come on board and it's not their thing, they dont see the point of looking at a past report ". That seems highly unethical and irresponsible. I recommend that you address the issue of accountability and responsibility as an ethical imperative with intentional language. Otherwise, the proposed amendment will be just words with no meaning. At this point citizens need more meaning. We have lost too much already to trust empty words.

Thank you for your work on this project.

Saturday, July 18, 2020 1:44 AM

I was going to write: "Don't be bamboozled. The [Community Safety and Violence Prevention Charter amendment proposal](#) is an attempted coup by the City Council, masquerading as greater democracy because citizens can vote on it, and as greater transparency because MPD policies will be openly debated." But with the poison pill of an optional police force, and ballot language "to remove the Police Department," no sane person believes this will pass if put on the ballot. So you should be asking: why is the Council proposing this?

- Is it because they are deluded and think it *could* pass in November?
- Is it because they're pandering to demonstrators in the streets expressing their outrage at the killing of George Floyd?
- Is it because they're simply trying to crush the police union?
- Is it because they want it to fail, so they can say, "Well, we tried"?
- Is it because they're using the Charter referendum process just to generate discussion?

If the answer to any of those is "Yes," you should do everything and anything you can to keep this off the ballot.

On the other hand, Commissioner [Giraud-Isaacson's second substitute proposal](#) removes the only barrier in the Charter that is preventing the City Council from moving toward its goal of a holistic, public-health-oriented public safety model. If you believe the [City Attorney's memo of 2018](#), Council members will have sufficient legislative and other tools to accomplish their goals as described in Policy 84 of the [Minneapolis 2040 Plan](#).

In addition, it certainly is awkward and inappropriate that the minimum staffing level of a City department is prescribed in the Charter.

And finally, such a proposal could pass if put on the ballot. The Council's proposal clearly can not.

Recommend the Giraud-Isaacson substitute proposal.

Fri 7/17/2020 5:09 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis, I am pushing for systemic change to limit the Minneapolis Police Department's (MPD's) influence in the city. I am proud to see divestment from MPD by the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Public Schools, the Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board, and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, to name a few. I believe that additional divestment will contribute to the well-being of our city and I therefore petition that **towing procedures should be carried out by an agency other than the MPD. Armed police officers are not necessary for the towing of improperly parked vehicles in Minneapolis, and should be replaced by a different official body.**

Referring to the Minneapolis Police Department policy and procedure manual, section 7-700, Vehicle Impounding and Towing.

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/policy/mpdpolicy_7-700_7-700

Residents of Minneapolis have been repeatedly horrified by the actions of the MPD, most recently including the murder of George Floyd and the ensuing countless incidences of police brutality towards peaceful protestors. Multiple public statements by Bob Kroll have shown support for the four charged MPD officers, as well as the encouragement of violent counter-protest tactics, which demonstrate an antagonistic attitude from the MPD toward residents of Minneapolis.

Given officers' history of violence toward residents of the city (and the police union's endorsement of immunity for police actions), **the city council of Minneapolis should eliminate as many interactions as possible between the MPD and residents of the city. Towing citations are unnecessary interactions between MPD officers and residents that may result in injury or death.** Therefore, the city council should create a separate body of unarmed city employees who can write citations and work with towing companies to tow improperly parked vehicles, rather than sending armed, potentially violent MPD officers into neighborhoods, places of worship, schools, and businesses.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message in an ongoing effort by the people of Minneapolis to build a more peaceful and prosperous future.

Friday, July 17, 2020 10:20 AM

Greetings members of the charter commission. The proposed amendment makes some sense in the creation of a transformed public safety plan. However it is all about creation and not about results of the creation and therefore accountability. Accountability is just assumed. And that assumption cannot be

trusted. There is specific precedent of no accountability in the lack of follow through of the federal report about the police received under Hodges and Harteau just a couple of years ago. If the recommendations from that report had been followed and changes implemented, it would have surely saved Floy's life and all the other agony. Yet the mayor and the city council have totally ignored it. My city councilman even said at a meeting last week that "well a new mayor and a new police chief come on board and it's not their thing, they don't see the point of looking at a past report". That seems highly unethical and irresponsible. I recommend that you address the issue of accountability and responsibility as an ethical imperative with intentional language. Otherwise, the proposed amendment will be just words with no meaning. At this point citizens need more meaning. We have lost too much already to trust empty words.

Thank you for your work on this project.

Thursday, July 16, 2020 9:32 AM

We are not in favor of "defunding the police". This is a rush to judgement. We also do not think it prudent to rush a vote in November to our city constituents. Police reform is needed, but in a manner that brings us to the table to work together for necessary change. This aggressive city council proposal divides and brings about more dissent into our community. It also is viewed around the country. Those officers that serve honorably, of which is the majority, should not be branded with those that need to be removed. Positive change is one that listens and looks at all of the needs. Right now, we are in crisis modality. Take the right course of action, listen and begin to heal this city.

Wednesday, July 1, 2020 6:10 PM

I am a resident and homeowner of Minneapolis for 20 years.

I share this with you to demonstrate our deep knowledge of the community, its history, its people, its organizations, institutions, and its police practices. Also, demonstrating our commitment to this place we call home, built our life and plan to continue to serve to the indefinite future with hopefully being buried here. On the subject of mortality we are both in our mid-forties and see ourselves living here for another 40-50 years God willing.

My request is that you support the proposed Charter Amendment to eliminate the Police and replace it with the Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Furthermore, that you move this forward so that it can meet the November ballot deadlines.

I had a very illuminating discussion yesterday with your fellow Commissioner Lyall Schwarzkopf. The points raised for not supporting the amendment did not convince me that this was not needed after all.

There are many reasons for supporting the amendment and here are some of them:

1. Timeliness of the change is critical. The people of the city have been stewing for a long time with the way the police conduct their service. We have come to point of an irreparable relationship with the police after multiple mayors, police chiefs, and others promising reform and things done differently without seeing any recognizable change of behavior and practice.

2. The police service is poor, harsh, and not a tangible service to the community. People complain all the time of slow or no responses, inadequate preventative action, lack of trust to handle the situation correctly, and as we have so tragically seen negligent criminal behavior.

3. The current police are so entrenched that reforms do not alter their practice. This only leaves the community the option of starting over for public safety, security, service, and law enforcement.

4. People understand the union is the main obstacle but restarting with a new department will at least give a chance to restructure the contract terms. And it will allow an opportunity for a new hiring and selection process.

5. There is an immense appetite for this change represented by unanimous support of all democratically elected Council Ward members representing every corner of this city. The mayor does not appear to back the amendment but most likely he would be voted out for another term if he keeps this position. The one-two (Mayor and Chief) current structure of police management is not working as evidenced by the city citizens. The elected Council officials are representing their constituents overwhelming desire to see this change. America and Minnesota should honor the wishes of a fair and just outpouring of their citizens wishes for their self-governance. Appointed officials should not poise an undue obstacle to a reasonable demand of the people.

6. Let the public decide for themselves on the November ballot. This is a core tenet of our country and identifies us as a functioning democracy. If we do not have this option, then what have we become? What is the outlet of a people if their representatives move an issue forward in a civic fashion following the rules established but in the end are denied their voice be honored by an un-elected small group?

7. Trust the public (defined in this specific case as the residents/voters of Minneapolis' policy/government). People can decide their own destiny and form of government they wish to be used with their tax dollars for their response units. Government officials and departments are to be supported by and support the community. If the Commission chooses to circumvent this bedrock of society then what is the inevitable outcome?

8. Do people think it will be easy or not messy with the transition? Answer is no. We are all mature intelligent adults that understand the consequences of our decisions. We are taking on a monumental change because we see monumental dysfunction from the rank and file police of this city.

9. Why not wait to study the issue more? Because we have been waiting already too long. Because the people know the issues, recognize the perils, and understand better than anyone that does not live in this city or experience what the average city dweller experiences. The process will be long and difficult no matter what. Let's start the process now, this summer, and see what the results are on the November election.

10. Did people feel this way previously or did this spring up since the murder of George Floyd? People have been feeling this way for a very long time. Our patience is up. The social contract with police has been severed. People want a new department and way of doing things no matter the pain the change will surely create. It will be worth it. It is absolutely necessary. And there are not any other options since everything else has been pursued and failed.

These are some of the reasons. I expressed others to Commissioner Schwarzkopf and I believe she heard me. Do you have any questions for me that I can address?

Can I count on your support of the proposed amendment and let the capable and public serving Council proceed with the process?

Wednesday, July 1, 2020 6:10 PM

I commend you stepping up to lead the subgroup of the proposed amendment. It is always appreciated that people take on the extra leadership to deal with issues for our community.

From the meeting today, there was the comment that many people have saying this process is happening "too fast!" I want to make the counterpoint that there are many people saying this needs to happen now and move with great speed. Here are some additional reasons beyond the ones listed below for keeping this process moving swiftly so that a vote can happen in November 2020:

1. There are factions in the state that feel as they are owed to keep the police status quo. These are out-state lawmakers, friends and family of police, anti-liberal political individuals and groups, and individuals that only spend their time in Minneapolis for work downtown, hanging out by Bde Maka Ska lake, downtown, or work downtown. These individuals and groups are 1) not citizens that pay the salaries of the police or a rightful voting member of this jurisdiction; 2) have conflicts of interest since they may be trying to save their police family or friends reputation or livelihood; 3) have alternative political agendas that could be self-preserving or seek to use a bargaining chip in larger out-state politics; and 4) only see the police in a sanitized version that protect security for large entertainment events, low crime homogeneous areas, and routine business affairs downtown.

All this entities offer a skewed or even illegitimate voice in this conversation and decision. They should not be allowed to hijack the worthwhile and just reasons for asking for this change.

2. Minneapolis rightfully so is having a spotlight shown on us for our truly awful racial disparities and neglect of pursuing sexual violence perpetrators. Besides it being plainly morally wrong, it's downright embarrassing that we can't get this right. This amendment is one meaningful and concrete way that we correct this injustice. Please know that if the police were getting most (nobody expects perfection) things right, then the public would not be out in the streets every day, putting their lives on the line to get this change done. We need the poor police work to stop. We need to tackle racial disparities head on. We need a force that deals effectively with sexual violence. We need change beyond a Mayor, Chief, and Council. In fact, that is why we elected all these reform-minded officials to enact reform that they promised us they would do.

3. We are not talking about voting on this amendment overnight in the immediate aftermath of the emotionally outcry of George Floyd's death. We have four months to deliberate, argue, petition, rally, and contemplate the choice on the ballot. Think about how many editorials and neighborhood blog posts will be written between now and November. Think about how many rallies and public forum debates will be held over those four months. It will literally be an everyday occurrence on multiple levels. That is enough time. In reality, one of the criticisms leveled at our American system is that we talk, talk, and talk endlessly about issues that people have made up their minds about a long time ago. It comes across as needless, archaic, and mostly a tactic of opposition to never allow real reform to take place.

It is a new era with electronic communication. People are able to spread information in seconds and people are accustomed to responding to issues very quickly than in-person or snail mail forms of communication of the past.

4. Are supporters of this amendment (like myself) just trying to steamroll this through to keep their momentum and ultimately gain voter approval at the polls? Answer is no and yes. Truthfully, I don't know if this strategy will work. There could be backlash of people that just think this moved too fast. The police and the mayor may have a silent majority in the wings waiting to show their dominance.

However, truthfully it momentum is important to me and I don't want to lose this opportunity of public will to enact a fairer system of law enforcement and public safety. There is no sin in wanting a better, more just, more transparent department that we consider so integral to our overall quality of life and perspectives of functioning democracy. So no and yes.

In conclusion, I hope you see the wisdom of moving this issue forward to meet the November ballot. As always, please let me know any questions about any of my statements in the case that something needs clarification or different perspective.

Monday, July 6, 2020 1:06 PM

I am writing today to urge you to move the proposed charter amendment on public safety swiftly along, so that it may be put on the ballot this November. As a fellow citizen of Minneapolis and resident of the Minnehaha neighborhood, I believe we need to have a chance to vote on this important city charter amendment.

People in Minneapolis have been calling for changes to how the Police Department operates for many years now, and the lack of such action in the past has brought us to where we are today: a department which is unaccountable and regularly engages in conduct that make our city less safe, especially for people of color.

I find it telling that the elected city council passed this amendment unanimously, on a 12-0 vote. The level of elected government closest to the people in our city has decided to move this amendment unanimously because they sense the urgency and recognize the many years of work that have led to this point. Please support their work and allow the citizens of our city the opportunity to vote on a path to change this November.

I have seen suggestions that the amendment is overly prescriptive, but my reading of it is quite the opposite: This amendment offers the city council greater flexibility in addressing public safety, freeing them from overly restrictive provisions which could hamper reform, while allowing them to continue to engage with the community over the specifics in the year to come.

Again, I urge you to act on the charter amendment by the August 5th meeting, in order to allow us to vote on the amendment this November. It would be irresponsible to hold up reform efforts and deny the citizens of our city a vote this year.

Mon 7/6/2020 3:56 PM

Our city council has seriously failed to even hold regular meetings in the past to address safety and police accountability issues. We need to get this right. We need to LISTEN and engage with BIPOC neighbors and really understand what Minneapolis needs. We need to have Chief Arradondo engage with leaders in cities like Denver who have made strides with professional mental health teams in the city who are dispatched and are trained to help and not kill our most vulnerable citizens. We need true reform to stop deadly use of weapons and ketamine when officers freak out in fear. We truly need police who want to do the right things and are not bullied by white supremacists in a police union. We need accountability from mayor Frey, Governor Walz, the Minneapolis city council who literally ABANDONED me and my neighbors for DAYS while white supremacists terrorized our cities...while the firefighters couldn't do their job...you owe us money back on taxes for that failure. You owe the Northside so very much more for decades of neglect. Do the prudent thing: LISTEN and allow our BIPOC citizens to LEAD on this very important issue. We need to improve the city for EVERYONE. The current city council has a chance to do the right thing and not shove some stupid idea through...LISTEN to what is needed. Let new voices be heard. Stop systemic racist policies. Hold yourself and the MPD accountable for REAL change. We need affordable housing, healthcare, police who lead with knowledge of the neighborhood and not through fear. We need to invest in our BIPOC businesses and our students. The Minneapolis city council needs to hold themselves accountable to expect the best from the city and do better for its citizens. The time to get this right is NOW. Take the right amount of time to get it right. Do your homework.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on this important work.

Thu 7/16/2020 2:23 PM

I attended the virtual Charter commission meeting yesterday and had access through the City TV website for several minutes, and then it was cut off for a long time. I got a short access after about 30 minutes, and then lost it again. My access to other websites was uninterrupted so I know my personal internet connection was fine.

I would like to recommend that the meeting from yesterday be held again or rescheduled, and am copying the City Attorney to ensure that open meeting laws were met.

The proposed charter amendment is very significant and it is critical that City residents have the opportunity to hear and participate in meetings in real time as policy is being shaped. If this cannot be done then the proceedings should be delayed until a time that access can be achieved.

Thu 7/16/2020 10:39 AM

I listened to the public hearing last night, July 15. It seemed to me that most of the comments made were from white people, which I also am. I believe strongly that any changes need to be with the significant input of black and brown people, with these people leading the discussion. They suffer the most and having recommendations and proposals made that are led by white people reinforces systemic racism. If we are serious about change, let's step back as white people, and listen and be led by the recommendations of the black and brown community.

Thu 7/16/2020 9:11 AM

As a voting community member in south Minneapolis I am writing in to voice my support for the initiatives of Reclaim the Block and the Black Visions Collective to defund the Minneapolis Police Department. I am a psychologist at HCMC and I have seen the impact of police brutality on our community as it manifests through mental illness. We need to be funding housing, mental health, and education to create equity and justice. Let Minneapolis be a leader in the movement towards change.

Saturday, July 11, 2020 8:48 PM

I am writing to urge you to let the residents of Minneapolis vote on the charter amendment that was unanimously proposed by our elected city council. I appreciate the charter commission's desire to hear from residents and deliberate over possible wording changes; I recognize the important consultative role of the commission; and I believe that you were appointed to your positions because of your insight.

However, if the commission's desire is to let the residents of Minneapolis decide how they would like to proceed, the best way to do this would be to allow a public vote on this amendment in the 2020 election when voter turnout is expected to be high. I'm sure we can benefit greatly from the recommendations and input of the commission, but I do urge the commission to provide these with an urgency that is commensurate with that expressed by our citizens and elected leaders.

Sun 7/12/2020 2:54 PM

Although I agree with your decision to defund the police...and I have to admit like many others, I was resistant because it sounds like you are eliminating the police. After further research I understand that there will still be police, but you want to lessen some of their roles. BUT MOST PEOPLE STILL THINK YOU ARE GOING TO ELIMINATE the police. You need to change the wording if you hope to get bipartisan support...

Even Gazelka is using this as reason to stop police reforms, stating "disbanding the police is not a goal they plan to pursue."

Gazelka noted this assessment was based on the decisions of the Minneapolis City Council.

We are not blocking police accountability measures"

"We refuse to defund or dismantle the police"

If you could use the words "reform" or "improve" it would not scare people so much.

Reform is definitely needed but with all the current shootings in MPLS this is again not helping.

Let's get police accountability measures through the legislature first!

Trump is running an ad about police defunding, that a lot of people will believe.

You need to let citizens know there will still be a police force, or you get too much resistance.

Sunday, July 12, 2020 10:16 AM

I am very concerned about the charter amendment that the Minneapolis City Council has proposed to create a new Charter Department for community safety and violence prevention and removing the Police Department as a Charter Department.

I think the Charter Amendment is poorly conceived and worded and was proposed in a rush due to the calendar. I think that the charter amendment is an excuse for not taking action now. The resolution starting this charter amendment passed June 12. Since then, nothing is happening and all the attention is on the charter amendment. But the amendment won't take effect until May 1, 2021. And given how vague and imprecise it is, it may very well fail.

What if, instead, action by our city government was begun NOW? Why can't reforms start NOW? Suppose the city IMMEDIATELY established a seven-member Public Safety Reformation Task Force made up of the Mayor, the Police Chief, the head of the Minneapolis Office of Violence Prevention, and four Council Members named by the City Council. Suppose that Task Force were charged with, in the words of the Council resolution, "creating a transformative new model for cultivating safety in our city." Suppose that Task Force were to hold weekly public press conferences reporting on its progress and concrete steps being taken each week. Suppose the Future of Community Safety Work Group that is supposed to be formed by July 24 were used to provide the task force with input from the community as this goes forward.

I am also concerned that placing this amendment on the ballot is a no-win proposition. If it passes, no one seems to know what's going to happen. (There were no real answers to the commission's questions at your July 8 meeting.) If it fails, how will people who think this is going to solve everything feel? How will they react. Will things be worse than before.

Sunday, July 12, 2020 10:14 AM

I live in Bancroft, and I am writing to urge you to approve the Public Safety Transformation amendment for inclusion on the ballot in November.

This amendment seems to be fairly weak soup, but it is an essential change for the changes we need to make to policing in Minneapolis. You are all aware of the reform efforts from recent years. All failures, where police violence is concerned. We haven't changed the police culture one bit.

This amendment will keep the momentum for change going. To prevent the citizenry from voting this year on this matter will send a discouraging signal that, once again, Minneapolis is unwilling to grapple with a tough problem.

Let the voters decide, in November.

Sunday, July 12, 2020 10:10 AM

I am very concerned about the charter amendment that the Minneapolis City Council has proposed to create a new Charter Department for community safety and violence prevention and removing the Police Department as a Charter Department.

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Sunday, July 12, 2020 10:14 AM

I was able to watch part of the meeting on 7/8 between the city council and the charter commissioners. I have some comments. Please share this with the other members.

CM Ellison implied that those of us contacting the Commissioners were getting our information from the StarTribune and were misinformed. To get the "real" information, we must be talking to our council members. Well, to clear this up: I contacted the Charter Commissioners after watching the city councils Powderhorn Park "Big News" rally and reading their proposed charter change. I do not read the StarTribune EVER. Since their big news rally, they have tried to back-pedal on what they mean by "defunding" the police. They have sent emails re-explaining what they intend to do. Their Powderhorn Park rally was nothing like these emails. They have an agenda that does not fit Minneapolis and the problems the city is facing.

The Commissioners suggested splitting the ballot question into two areas. One on the police and one on the city council's authority. The response was swift and clear. They need to know EXACTLY how that would be worded. They need the FACTS on what this would mean and how it would work. This was interesting because when the same council members were asked about getting the public safety plan hammered out before putting this on the ballot, they said, the final details do not have to be in place before the council gets this authority over public safety. They said that they could take the next year to come up with the plan. WHY do they need a definite plan on their authority question, but the residents can vote based on ambiguity? This is another example of their hypocrisy.

Finally, they say that community members are in favor of giving over our safety to the city council and a non-law enforcement director. Black leaders have come out against this saying that the impact on the underserved neighborhoods would be extremely detrimental. I believe the council members are representing themselves with their rhetoric with the ultimate goal of extending their political careers. They do not care about the safety on the near north side. They have private security for,

probably, as long as they want it. We will have a "reimagined holistic public safety program". Who will protect the social worker that goes in on a mental health call and then that call goes bad? Who will protect the public safety person who handles a routine traffic stop and it goes bad? The council feels that we don't need the answers to how this will work. We just need to give them carte blanche over our safety. Once they have this power and control, we will not be able to take it back. Chief Arredondo is a good cop. He is qualified to weed-out the bad cops and build a stable foundation for Minneapolis public safety. The council says they are willing to "listen to some of the rank and file of the MPD". Shouldn't it be the other way around where Chief Arredondo will listen to the rank and file of the city council and make changes?

If this goes to the November ballot, the council will word it in a way that is non-threatening. They will make it sound like it's no big deal. But, their agenda is a big deal. I don't know who can stop this train wreck. I have taken a gun class and will purchase a weapon in the coming weeks because I am worried and I am scared. I have had gang violence in my front yard. Bullets lodged into my house and through my windows. I saw a 16 year old kid lose his life in my neighbor's front yard. Minneapolis needs a strong police department not a city council with an underlying agenda to dictate who will respond to emergencies. I have never felt so unsafe in my entire life. The councils irresponsible action should not be rewarded with such power and control.

Mon 7/13/2020 12:35 AM

I have lived in Downtown Minneapolis for nearly thirty years now, so am very familiar both with the good things that are happening as well as the NOT good things that are happening in Minneapolis on any given day as I frequently walk on Nicollet Mall to go to the Orchestra, shop at Target, get on a bus or the train... I can tell you that defunding the police will only HURT the City and make living conditions here far LESS safe as, while I have seen what happens when there are no or not enough police to answer calls already: When Block E existed, it was quite dangerous to walk on Hennepin Avenue as there were gang members selling drugs by the light rail stop on 5th and Hennepin, there were more muggings and robberies when there were no police around!!!! The whole area suffered greatly until there were MORE people out and at restaurants, bars and businesses as it becomes more difficult for criminals to get away with anything when there are MORE people to SEE them doing bad things!!!!

My point is simply this: We NEED to go BACK to Community policing where there are Police out walking "the beat", WALKING the streets daily, getting to know where the problems are, listening and acting on what we, the Downtown/COMMUNITY residents are telling them and showing that the streets are NOT their territory, but OUR neighborhoods!!!! While I realize that MUCH more needs to be done to reestablish trust and to educate Officers so that they are able to do their job well and be a resource for those that may need help, whether for mental health, homelessness or an issue that may lead to more problems down the road....

I would LOVE to see a dedicated space, maybe downtown in a closed store or restaurant space, where a Youth Community Center be opened where ALL are Welcome but where there are metal detectors and x-ray machines to allow kids a place to learn that it is how you "play the game", not about WHO wins or loses, that will help them learn how to succeed, that matters!!!! Also, there should be a peer mentoring program as well as job training provided at said Center as this will benefit both the Children and the Community, perhaps even leading to a decrease in gun violence which will benefit the police as well?!

I appreciate your allowing me to comment on the possible defunding of the Police.

Mon 7/13/2020 9:13 AM

I have lived at [REDACTED] James Avenue South and worked downtown for more than forty years. I am familiar with issues of public safety in both the downtown and uptown areas of Minneapolis and have reviewed the charter proposal. I do not believe it is suitable for a vote in November, principally because no plan has been developed for the voters to consider. I believe most residents agree that significant public safety reforms are needed, but not all reforms would require a charter amendment. It would be irresponsible to ask the voters to vote to dismantle what we have without knowing what would replace it.

In addition to my general concern about the uncertainty the proposal raises, I have the following specific concerns:

1. Public safety for all citizens is our city government's most important responsibility. The mayor is the only city officer elected at large, so the mayor must be accountable for public safety and therefore needs the authority to designate the person responsible for ensuring public safety. If that person reports to the City Council, that person effectively reports to no one. Even the President of the City Council is not accountable to any voters except those in the President's own ward, and that will be true of any city council president in the future. As an example, fewer than 5000 voters elected the current President of the City Council.
2. The funding minimum should not be deleted. The phrase "adequately fund" is vague. Many residents believe that public safety has not been adequately funded for years. We need a minimum.
3. The proposal gives the City Council the right but not the obligation to maintain a division of law enforcement services, composed of licensed peace officers. A city of our size must have a division of law enforcement services to ensure public safety for all of its residents. Violent crime escalated immediately after the City Council pledged to "disband the police."
4. We do not need City Council confirmation of both the Director of Community Safety and the Director of Law Enforcement Services. That would likely lead to dispersal of accountability and disfunction. If we are to have both positions, we must give the Director of Community Safety the authority and accountability for the selection of the Director of Law Enforcement Services.
5. Individuals eligible to be appointed as Director of Community Safety should not be required by City Charter to have "non-law enforcement experience in community safety services, including but not limited to public health and/or restorative justice approaches". This is too detailed for a city charter provision. If the Mayor or the City Council wishes to require that particular experience in connection with any appointment, they may do so as part of the appointment process.
6. There should be terms for length of the appointments.

In my opinion, the proposed charter amendment is an unneeded distraction to achieving the meaningful reform we desperately need now. Merely proposing it increases uncertainty, and passing it without plan in place risks chaos. Our elected officials need to bring two things to our discussion of reform: clarity and urgency. So long as uncertainty over public safety, however defined, is allowed to persist, our residents will continue to suffer from increased violence, and our City will remain a dead zone for

investment, jobs and residents. That is, we will not see any new ones, and the existing ones will drift away.

During my forty-plus years downtown, the number of Fortune-500 Companies headquartered here has been cut in half. Our retail downtown has been decimated. Now COVID has wiped out our sports, restaurants and theaters, and our parks have been converted to unsupervised homeless shelters. We cannot begin to cope with this magnitude of adversity if we cannot first assure all of our residents and employees that they will be safe in our City.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mon 7/13/2020 10:24 AM

As a resident and voter in the 10th ward, I would urge you to support the city council's proposed amendment to the city charter. I also would request that you not step in to prevent democratic processes from happening by introducing a one year delay to legislative changes clearly popular with city residents. Manipulating and suppressing voting on a change meant to allow healing and the leadership of Minneapolis on a national stage will not be looked upon kindly by myself or many of the residents. Please listen to and abide by the voices of those in the community. Let us vote, do not strip us of our rights.

Monday, July 13, 2020 5:24 PM

Thank you for your work as a Minneapolis Charter Commissioner. I am writing as a long time resident of South Minneapolis, Ward 13 and Precinct 6. You and I have met over the years in our neighborhood and especially at our caucus meetings.

I strongly support putting the City Council proposed Charter Amendment on our ballot in November. I encourage you to vote for expedited approval of this amendment as a result of the Commission's review process.

The Minneapolis Police Department as an institution has perpetuated violence and mass incarceration against Black people in our City. This has been true for decades and the public murder of George Floyd and subsequent uprising has underlined this point. We the people of Minneapolis deserve a chance to vote on this proposal to begin the process of building a better anti-racist system of public safety and violence prevention in our City. The current Charter language would impede our ability to do so through our elected officials on the City Council. The current language in the City Charter (especially the minimum force resident to police ratio) constrains our ability to utilize democratic action to change the regime of public safety in our city. Since the impact of that has fallen most harshly on Black people - we deserve a chance to vote that language out of the charter.

Please vote for expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolitans can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election.

Thanks again for your work on the Commission and for your consideration of this matter.

Mon 7/13/2020 11:59 PM

Removing the police as a charter is a great idea. But your council needs to find solutions for why crimes happen. We could be the first major city to introduce UBI(Universal Basic Income) for Minneapolis

residents. The \$200 million that will be defunded from police can partially go towards that. People commit crimes due to poverty, lack of income, and desperation. If people and youth have a UBI to spend on their dreams and necessities, why would they commit crimes? They would not have time to. If you want to rehire mpd when they're dismantled, the officer must have 0 complaints and 0 lawsuits filed against them. That includes any scared citizen who never reported an officer. Release all police information to the public so citizens can come forward against police brutality. Also 24/7 video and audio recordings of every police shift has to be on and publicly available after every shift. If not turned, the officer has to be written up and fired if they're involved in an incident that was not recorded. Police in Minneapolis MUST be licensed like nurses, doctors, and hair dressers. No exceptions. Police in Minneapolis must be individually insured as a whole force and not paid for by city taxpayers. Minneapolis must be required to background check any new police hires who may have previous police jobs complaints and be made public for every new hire. For example, flyers mailed to residents about the new police hires and their background. End qualified immunity in Minneapolis for police, Colorado already has but at a broader level and more officer accountability than Colorado's policy. Reopen every case Minneapolis police is involved in a death of a citizen, with independent investigators that are not city or state employees. If the charter is passed to remove Minneapolis police. The council must fast track the gun ownership applications of citizens. We are the first major city to do this and there will be TONS of outsiders, disgruntled ex police, and kkk groups coming to the city to prove the council wrong in the abolition of police.

Mon 7/13/2020 11:15 PM

As a citizen of MPLS for the past 35 years I am opposed to the proposal of removing the police department. Any additional public services to improve safety and well being for all citizens would be welcome but I would feel unsafe without the police.

Mon 7/13/2020 9:34 PM

a few comments for the consideration involving creating drastic improvements within the Police Force in the Twin Cities.

First and foremost, why was Chauvin even allowed to serve in the Mpls PD with something like 16 infractions in his work file...??! Not only do we as a society hold Chauvin accountable for the murder of an innocent citizen, but we should hold his supervisor accountable for this horrendous act. The city is prosecuting the other 3 cops that were involved in the incident, but truly, how does a cop with a history of violence get to show up for work every day and have his supervisor(s) be let off the hook when he actually murders someone.

Allow the public to see Chauvin's work record, and then allow the prosecutors to go after a few more "admirals" that have been steering this corrupt ship for far too long now.

I would think each policeman (police woman) should have 3 strikes before they're out. That's how it works in many institutions. A Union should never allow bad deeds to occur indefinitely. This turning of the other cheek seems all too similar to the "silent" movement from one parish to another when a priest sexually assaults someone. The "protection" of the predator within an organization, no matter what the organization is, NEEDS TO STOP!!!!

As history has shown, the more infractions a public servant performs and gets away with, the violence and predatory behavior just increases over time.

So I also want to hold Chauvin's boss responsible for the death of an innocent man. My question to Chauvin's boss is simply this: How long has Chauvin had a violent behavioral problem while working within the police force?

TWO:

Different training needs to occur within the police force. De-escalation techniques need to be learned and implemented instead of moving into rapid and violent force against citizens that are showing problematic behavior, but whom are unarmed and or otherwise defenseless. How is it ok for a cop to go and shoot and kill someone's pet dog in their fenced backyard because the dog is barking too loud. I am single and live alone and if someone shot and killed my dog for barking that would be the equivalent of someone murdering my one and only child.

THREE:

we need to get guns off the streets and out of the hands of people that clearly shouldn't own or operate them. The stats are there. The stats are evident that we have, and have had for some time now, a HUGE problem for lack of gun control. Do this in tandem with the work of solving the problems of a police force that is not working very well. The lack of gun control is a part of the systemic problem overall.

FOUR:

Create advocacy groups of all natures to start aiding in the de-escalation of crime in the Twin Cities. In Faribault, the Hope Center is often called by local police when dealing with a victim of sexual assault. The male cop is often relieved to have a female sexual assault advocate on the scene to comfort and advise in the aftermath of an assault. The advocate then often helps the victim with many of the legalities post assault, freeing up the police to perform other jobs. In the same vain, advocates could be called upon during domestic disputes, or people who need help during a psychotic break, or people who are experiencing withdrawal from drugs. As we have seen in a handful of recent and avoidable deaths of black people by white cops, the situation turns deadly because the black citizen fears for their life when confronted by a white cop. The scenarios become deadly simply because the black citizen does not trust the white cop. And the white cop does nothing, or does not have the training to de-escalate the situation. This deadly scenario just keeps repeating itself, over and over.

I will never forget the time my younger mentally handicapped brother was handcuffed in the middle of the night and thrown into the backseat of a cop car, then transferred into a psych ward - put in a straight jacket.... etc. There are no words to describe how horrific this was for my brother to experience, and for his family to witness. He was severally mentally retarded, and scared out of his mind.

So, create task forces OF ALL KINDS - to start aiding and assisting in these various scenarios that we will be faced with in life. I bet you wouldn't even have to finance many of them, people at this time are happy and interested in volunteering and wanting to make the world a better place.

Someone who is suicidal should not be then shot dead by a cop. This is simply the incorrect and socially unacceptable outcome. That person who is threatening to kill him or herself and is then shot dead by a cop belongs to a family somewhere.... has parents, or a husband, or wife, or children.

FIVE:

Do not ever allow a cop to respond to a 911 call when they've just worked consecutive shifts in a row with little or no break inbetween. This is just a disaster waiting to happen. Case in point, the Australian woman who was shot by a Mpls cop in an alley behind her home. The cop had worked the graveyard shift(s) before he was on duty that night - and he used just totally unreasonable mental processes that evening - including shooting directly over his partners body, out the window - at the very person who made the 911 call. The same cop, who is now in prison, also had a handful of infractions in his work file. Again, the pattern will eventually lead to escalated violence when predatory behavior is ignored within the work force. I believe the shooting of this innocent and lovely woman could have been avoided altogether. It was also upsetting to note the attempts of the police force to cover up his actions directly after he shot and killed the Australian woman.

All ranks and members of the police force need to hold each other accountable, and no cover ups for ill behavior should go unpunished.

Mon 7/13/2020 7:59 PM

This is a comment on the City Budget that will be discussed at the meeting on 7/14. As a resident on Minneapolis, I ask that the council stay true to their commitment to defund MPD by cutting the police department's budget. I ask that you cut the budget by \$45 million, and use that money to fund housing and social services (which prevent crime) and maintain employment for city employees. The money can be cut from any and all areas that promote militarization, including SWAT, and redundant areas. MPD has a terrible track record, and the city deserves better.

Monday, July 13, 2020 5:14 PM

Thank you for your work as a Minneapolis Charter Commissioner. I am writing as a long time resident of South Minneapolis to strongly support putting the City Council proposed Charter Amendment on our ballot in November. I hope you approve this as a result of your review process.

The Minneapolis Police Department as an institution has perpetuated violence and mass incarceration against Black people in our City. This has been true for decades and the public murder of George Floyd and subsequent uprising has underlined this point. We the people of Minneapolis deserve a chance to vote on this proposal to begin the process of building a better anti-racist system of public safety and violence prevention in our City. The current Charter language would impede our ability to do so through our elected officials on the City Council. The current language in the City Charter (especially the minimum force resident to police ratio) constrains our ability to utilize democratic action to change the regime of public safety in our city. Since the impact of that has fallen most harshly on Black people - we deserve a chance to vote that language out of the charter.

Please vote for expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolitans can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election.

Thanks for your time and consideration of this matter.

Monday, July 13, 2020 4:54 PM

I had the opportunity to watch the Charter Commission meeting of July 8 and would like to urge you and your fellow commissioners to decide as soon as you can about whether or not you'll recommend this proposed amendment to be put on the ballot for voters in Minneapolis to decide this November. I encourage you not to delay because of the urgency of this matter.

It was my impression that Charter Commissioners, for the most part, had their questions answered, and they will have another opportunity to do so at the public hearing meeting this Wednesday, July 15. I understand that they may also contact council members directly as well. In light of this, I strongly urge the Charter Commission to approve that the amendment go on the ballot this fall.

Some of the Commissioners seemed to have concerns that the City Council was moving too fast. On the contrary, this structural change is long overdue and people of Minneapolis have been working on this for years.

Please approve the amendment for the ballot this fall. I believe, along with the Minneapolis City Council and many of Minneapolis' residents, that it is the way forward.

Mon 7/13/2020 4:10 PM

Last night and early this morning both gas stations on Johnson Street were robbed at gunpoint. I am curious as to how something like this would be dealt with differently by a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. It took the police 30 minutes to respond to the 18th and Johnson St incident because there was a shift change (according to the station employee). My sense is that the police are overworked, disgruntled, and understaffed.

The police department obviously has some serious problems but I can't help but wonder if defunding them will only create more issues. It feels like the city council and the mayor are just throwing the police department under the bus to satisfy public opinion. Last fall when you denied them funding that might have been a good time to take the opportunity to bring in new training, officers, and change the culture of the department. Instead you punted.

Ultimately the mayor and the city administration are in charge. Maybe the wholesale changes that are needed go beyond just the police department.

Mon 7/13/2020 3:53 PM

First of all, I want to thank you for your service. You have a tireless and many times thankless job, but I am very grateful for what you do.

On that note, I am writing to you because I would like to help my city. I have lived in Minnesota my whole life—I grew up in the suburbs and moved to Minneapolis when I was 18 years old where I have lived ever since. In fact, I live in South Minneapolis about a mile and a half from the third precinct. I am a wife and a mother of three young children who I would like to see grow up in a safe, peaceful and tolerant world.

I work with an organization called The Way to Happiness Foundation which has as its goal to create a safer society, accomplished through distribution of a book called The Way to Happiness. This book was originally published in 1981 and contains twenty one precepts that set a standard of conduct which can be followed by anyone of any race, color or creed. The purpose of the book is to help arrest the current moral decline in society and restore integrity and trust to humankind. Where this book is widely distributed, it brings about a safer, less violent environment based on these common sense principles and values.

There are many ways the message of The Way to Happiness is spread, principal among them being a continual stream of books out into the society. Distribution of the book makes a safer, more stable individual and thereby family, group, neighborhood, city, state and so on.

This has been successfully accomplished in many areas of the world.

We also have a local group which you might be familiar with, MAD DADS, who have spread the message of The Way to Happiness for several years now. Below is an article about some of their efforts.

<https://www.thewaytohappiness.org/newsletter/volume4/issue3/twth-joins-mad-dads-for-a-better-city.html>

Perhaps one of the biggest success stories comes from Columbia, where their own police and military force distributed millions of booklets throughout the country which resulted in a completely changed country.

<https://www.thewaytohappiness.org/newsletter/volume4/issue3/colombia-gives-a-lesson-to-the-world-thanks-to-maria-lara.html>

I can understand if you might wonder how a book can make a difference, which is why I would love the opportunity to sit down with you and show you the materials as well as how a successful campaign could be carried out.

Please let me know if you have any questions and if there is a time I can meet with you.

Monday, July 13, 2020 3:23 PM

I ask that the Minneapolis Charter Commission vote against the proposed amendment to the City Charter, which has been made by the City Council **regarding the elimination of a police department from the City Charter and the transfer of responsibility for public safety from the office of the Mayor to the City Council**. As a resident of Minneapolis, I feel this change would concentrate too much authority with the Council and dilute the necessary separation of powers in the City of Minneapolis. Additionally, it would decrease public safety in the interim and fail to address the root issues of systemic racism in our community.

I urge you to **vote against the hurried proposed amendment and reject any hurried proposed revisions** to the same until the necessary steps have been taken to explore a viable alternative plan for our existing public safety policies and police department. At that time and not before, this issue can be brought to the voters.

Monday, July 13, 2020 12:56 PM

I am working tomorrow evening during the Budget Committee's Public Hearing, so I am hoping to voice my concerns via email.

First off, I want to thank Councilmembers Bender, Cano, Cunningham, Ellison, Fletcher, Gordon, Jenkins, Johson, Palmisano, and Schroeder for your leadership in taking up the torch and making steps towards reimaging public safety in Minneapolis.

As a resident of Minneapolis in Ward 2, **I am calling on you to cut \$45 million from MPD's budget.** This is a necessary next step towards transforming public safety, made all the more necessary by the many urgent needs in our city exacerbated by the pandemic.

On Saturday, I volunteered at the encampment at Powderhorn Park. If you haven't yet volunteered at that site, I encourage you to do so. That site is an urgent reminder of the Twin Cities' housing crisis, and the need for other essential services like health care and resources for survivors of addiction. I know that these issues can feel insurmountable, but when I think of next steps, my mind goes straight to the reallocation of MPD's budget to fund these vital services.

As you head into tomorrow's meeting, I want to keep this question at the front of your minds: **What does this city need more of—funds to support residents experiencing homelessness, or mounted patrols and police PR departments?**

Thank you for your time and—to some of you—your continued leadership.

Mon 7/13/2020 2:38 PM

As a homeowner and citizen of Minneapolis, I am very interested in your ideas about divesting the MPD. I am all for a more just police force where accountability is enforced. Is there a way that future officers of the MPD could carry their own insurance policies? It seems to me that this would solve taxpayers paying out in settlements by bad cops. It would also add another layer of accountability that the people of this city desperately need to see. I'm all for an educated police force that look like the communities they serve. Cops should have to have a good education beyond a high school diploma. I also believe good cops should be paid well. They have a difficult job. Thank you for your time.

Monday, July 13, 2020 1:10 PM

I am writing to express my support for the proposed amendment to establish a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and to remove the Police Department. Our city charter "defines the powers and authority of the City, granted by the people." The people of our city have, very vocally, voiced their dissatisfaction with the Minneapolis Police Department in its current form. We can no longer continue with a system that has repeatedly failed our community, in profound and deeply harmful ways. If the authority of the MPD is granted by the people, we must be able to vote to change that authority.

The language in the current charter regarding the police department constitutes a barrier to any real change in how we address public safety, particularly the minimum staffing requirement. The proposed amendment opens up possibilities for our community, it starts a process of asking what it would really

mean to be safe in our city. We must begin this process with all the urgency of this moment--it is essential that the city be allowed to vote this fall.

As a committed Minneapolis citizen and a parent with deep roots in our community, I ask you to give the voters the opportunity to make this change. Please approve the proposed amendment.

Mon 7/13/2020 1:48 PM

As a citizen of Minneapolis, I wanted to share my thoughts regarding the City Council's proposal to change the city charter regarding our police department. Let me preface my remarks by saying that I agree with the need to reevaluate options for keeping our community safe and addressing the root causes of violence and crime. That being said, I am opposed to the idea of abolishing or significantly reducing staffing levels of our police department. Sadly crime and violence are a reality in our city, and I for one am thankful that we have law enforcement professionals that are equipped and trained to capture and help prosecute those who break out laws. Without this deterrent force, our community will not be safe and citizens and businesses will chose to live elsewhere.

What I would prefer to see are initiatives that focus on the following:

- **Increase the level of accountability for bad police behaviors** – Police officers that abuse their power and authority should be removed from the department and punished. Let's not have a few "bad apples" tarnish the reputation of the entire police force. Effecting this change will almost certainly require a change in union representation and due process.
- **Hire Police that live in our community** – Persons who live in Minneapolis will likely be more invested in making our community a better place to live and work. Ideally, assign Police to patrol their neighborhood and those nearby their home.
- **Have Police spend less time in cars and more time walking the streets** – This approach will enable citizens to get to know officers as regular people and not just symbols of power and authority. It will also help officers better understand the needs of their local community and engage appropriate social workers and other professionals to address issues or tensions that might later lead to violent criminal behaviors.
- **Supplement our police force with a network of social workers and professionals who can address the root cause issues that lead to criminal behaviors** – Don't ask the Police to be social workers. They aren't trained for this responsibility and are likely ill-suited to address these needs. Rather give them additional support so that they can focus on their primary responsibilities – enforcing existing laws.

I acknowledge that several of these ideas will require additional funding. I'm ready to step up and pay my fair share of the costs associated with these ideas. I believe that other Minneapolis residents will be willing to join me if these investments improve that safety and livability of our beautiful city.

Thanks for this opportunity to voice my opinion.

Monday, July 13, 2020 12:32 PM

I want to voice my disappointment over the Commission's behavior in their July 8th meeting with city councilmembers. What I witnessed in that meeting was an unelected body interfering in a democratic

process by raising inappropriate concerns and proposing alternative amendments. More than that, the behavior of certain commissioners felt extraordinarily patronizing, as they centered their own concerns instead of listening to the voices of those impacted by police violence—which the council's proposed amendment honors.

I don't intend to be patronizing in return, but I do feel the need to remind you that the sole job of the Commission in this case is to determine whether the council's proposal is appropriate to the charter. Your job is not to block these democratic processes or propose alternative amendments because NONE of you are democratically elected. Your job is not to center your own opinions and biases. In that meeting, I did not witness a Commission responding to this critical moment. What I witnessed was bureaucrats actively gatekeeping.

When tens of thousands of people took to the streets last month—and continue to take to the streets today—that was and is a peoples' referendum. It is painfully obvious that this amendment deserves to be on the November ballot. Please stop impeding on this democratic process. We cannot wait for this vote any longer.

Monday, July 13, 2020 11:37 AM

I have lived in Minneapolis for all but 5 of my 42 years and am familiar with issues of public safety in both the downtown and uptown areas of Minneapolis. I have reviewed the charter amendment proposal and do not believe it is suitable for a vote in November, principally because no plan has been developed for the voters to consider. I believe most residents agree that significant public safety reforms are needed, but not all reforms would require a charter amendment. It would be irresponsible to ask the voters to vote to dismantle what we have without knowing what would replace it.

In addition to my general concern about the uncertainty the proposal raises, I have the following specific concerns:

1. Public safety for all citizens is our city government's most important responsibility. The mayor is the only city officer elected at large, so the mayor must be accountable for public safety and therefore needs the authority to designate the person responsible for ensuring public safety. If that person reports to the City Council, that person effectively reports to no one. Even the President of the City Council is not accountable to any voters except those in the President's own ward, and that will be true of any city council president in the future. As an example, fewer than 5000 voters elected the current President of the City Council.
2. The funding minimum should not be deleted. The phrase "adequately fund" is vague. Many residents believe that public safety has not been adequately funded for years. We need a minimum.
3. The proposal gives the City Council the right but not the obligation to maintain a division of law enforcement services, composed of licensed peace officers. A city of our size have must have a division of law enforcement services to ensure public safety for all of its residents. Violent crime escalated immediately after the City Council pledged to "disband the police."

4. We do not need City Council confirmation of both the Director of Community Safety and the Director of Law Enforcement Services. That would likely lead to dispersal of accountability and disfunction. If we are to have both positions, we must give the Director of Community Safety the authority and accountability for the selection of the Director of Law Enforcement Services.

5. Individuals eligible to be appointed as Director of Community Safety should not be required by City Charter to have "non-law enforcement experience in community safety services, including but not limited to public health and/or restorative justice approaches". This is too detailed for a city charter provision. If the Mayor or the City Council wishes to require that particular experience in connection with any appointment, they may do so as part of the appointment process.

6. There should be terms for length of the appointments.

In my opinion, the proposed charter amendment is an unneeded distraction to achieving the meaningful reform we desperately need now. Merely proposing it increases uncertainty, and passing it without plan in place risks chaos. Our elected officials need to bring two things to our discussion of reform: **clarity and urgency**. So long as uncertainty over public safety, however defined, is allowed to persist, our residents will continue to suffer from increased violence, and our City will remain a dead zone for investment, jobs and residents. That is, we will not see any new ones, and the existing ones will drift away.

Mon 7/13/2020 10:49 AM

I didn't vote for a single person on the charter commission. I did vote for my city councilperson. Please implore the charter commission to let residents vote on the charter change. Thank you.

Monday, July 13, 2020 10:28 PM

First, thanks for your work on the Charter Commission.

I wanted to write to say that I believe strongly that the Community Safety amendment should be on the November ballot. I understand the commission's hesitancy to rush into a major change like this, but the historical outcry against the MPD should be enough evidence that people aren't ready to wait years for this change.

From a personal standpoint, I've never felt more proud of our city as when the City Council announced their commitment to revamping how policing happens in our city. It made me feel like drastic yet sensible change is possible in our city, something that seems rare anywhere in the US!

Again, thanks for your efforts, and I hope you will be able to find a way to get this on the ballot in November.

Monday, July 13, 2020 6:03 PM

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a resident of ward 10 in South Minneapolis. I am writing to you today because I support the charter amendment proposed by the City Council, and I implore you to vote 'yes' so that it may move forward and the Minneapolis public can vote on it in November. Minneapolis voters, and not unelected commissioners, should be the ones deciding the future of our city. If we are to

enact meaningful change, and end police violence, we must amend the City Charter. Thank you for your time.

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:43 AM

I had the opportunity to watch the Charter Commission meeting of July 8 and would like to urge you and your fellow commissioners to decide as soon as you can about whether or not you'll recommend this proposed amendment to be put on the ballot for voters in Minneapolis to decide this November. I encourage you not to delay because of the urgency of this matter.

It was my impression that Charter Commissioners, for the most part, had their questions answered, and they will have another opportunity to do so at the public hearing meeting this Wednesday, July 15. I understand that they may also contact council members directly as well. In light of this, I strongly urge the Charter Commission to approve that the amendment go on the ballot this fall.

Some of the Commissioners seemed to have concerns that the City Council was moving too fast. On the contrary, this structural change is long overdue and people of Minneapolis have been working on this for years.

Please approve the amendment for the ballot this fall. I believe, along with the Minneapolis City Council and many of Minneapolis' residents, that it is the way forward.

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 5:26 PM

Please do your job by listening to your constituents. I demand that you change the charter so that the MPD is not a requirement. The MPD does more harm than good, please defund and dismantle the MPD as promised. A Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention could be established if you remove the rigid requirements that the MPD stay locked in place. The community deserves to be a part of the process. Let us vote on this issue!

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:03 PM

I listened to the public safety committee working group's meeting today, and I wanted to voice my utter disapproval of the idea of hiring a third-party consulting firm to attempt to provide a measure of public opinion on the proposed charter amendment.

The most accurate and unbiased measure of public opinion would be a vote of the citizens of Minneapolis on this measure, and I encourage you to do everything possible to allow this vote to occur in November 2020.

Sat, Jul 11, 2020 at 9:47 PM

I am writing to urge you to let the residents of Minneapolis vote on the charter amendment that was unanimously proposed by our elected city council. I appreciate the charter commission's desire to hear from residents and deliberate over possible wording changes; I recognize the important consultative role of the commission; and I believe that you were appointed to your positions because of your insight.

However, if the commission's desire is to let the residents of Minneapolis decide how they would like to proceed, the best way to do this would be to allow a public vote on this amendment in the 2020 election

when voter turnout is expected to be high. I'm sure we can benefit greatly from the recommendations and input of the commission, but I do urge the commission to provide these with an urgency that is commensurate with that expressed by our citizens and elected leaders.

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:40 PM

I write to strongly urge the Commission to complete its review of the proposed Community Safety and Violence Prevention Charter Amendment in time for the amendment to be referred to voters in November 2020. The horrific killing of George Floyd not only exposed the brutal actions of the officers on the scene, but it also highlighted dangerous dysfunctions within the Minneapolis Police Department and the City's current public safety approach that are long overdue for sweeping change. Thousands of Minneapolis residents and millions of people across the world courageously raised their voices calling for the overhaul of systemic racism and police violence.

The Minneapolis City Council responded to calls for change with a vision to transform our city's public safety system to more effectively respond to emergencies and incidences of community harm using a holistic, public health approach. The disgraceful treatment that George Floyd endured from city employees in response to a call about the use of an alleged counterfeit \$20 bill is one example of the many ways our public safety system functions discriminatorily, as well as inappropriately to situations that could be resolved using alternative, dignified interventions and unarmed personnel.

The proposed charter amendment, which includes the creation of a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention, is one step forward that our City Council is seeking to advance systemic change.

Residents of Minneapolis regardless of where they stand on the proposal deserve an opportunity to vote on this amendment this year. The recent historic levels of activism on the topics of public safety and policing in Minneapolis provide a compelling public interest to expedite the process by which the Commission does its work to ensure that voters can take up the proposed amendment this year.

As a Minneapolis resident, I am looking to all bodies of governance in my city to be responsive at this moment, and hear the diverse voices calling for change.

Our city's policymakers have put forth a path forward. The Charter Commission should recognize the extraordinary moment, and allow for Minneapolis residents to evaluate this proposal for themselves and vote on it this year.

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:56 PM

I am emailing as a Minneapolis resident requesting that you allow us to vote on the charter amendment in November. We have seen blatant police violence towards protestors, journalists, and residents and should have a voice in our own safety. I am hoping to see the amendment on our ballot this fall so we can shape our own community and create equitable safety together.

Tue 7/14/2020 8:13 AM

I'm a resident of south Mpls, have owned a home here for 25+ years. The idea of defunding the police department flies in the face of any logic that might support such a move. Judging from neighbors' comments on NextDoor and talking with them, as well as listening to community leaders from north

Mpls, NO ONE is in favor of this proposal. The uptick in shootings is directly caused by the standdown of the police. What we need at this juncture is some adults on the council who might be able to make decisions which benefit all the citizens, especially those in the community who won't be able to leave the city. The rest of us are seriously contemplating moving to a community where common sense still seems to be in place.

Tue 7/14/2020 3:17 AM

I cannot support the proposed charter amendment as it is currently written. I think it is too vague and open-ended and contains elements that are, if adopted, certainly counter productive. Having a police department run by a committee is not good for accountability or the execution of laws and ordinances. I would prefer to keep the current structure - with the mayor - police chief - in charge. The current proposal is too open-ended and vague and not well thought out. I do favor reforms of the police department, I do believe we have to address the systemic racism in our police department and society at large. But I do not think we should rush into something that is so vaguely construed as this current proposed change in the city charter.

Tue 7/14/2020 1:18 AM

As a resident of Ward 4, it's clear to me that my neighborhood is over-policed, and that people of color bear the brunt of this circumstance. Every time I see someone pulled over by the police, someone in handcuffs, someone being detained in any way, it's a black or brown person. And it hasn't escaped my notice that as a white person who's lived in McKinley since 2006, despite a style of driving that's been anything but cautious, I've been pulled over exactly once-- for accidentally having my brights on-- and at no point during that occasion was I treated with any sort of disrespect, nor did I have any cause to feel fear of any kind, especially fear of bodily harm or murder. That's white privilege, facilitated by systemic racism.

As our communities are experiencing widespread housing and job insecurity, rising rates of domestic violence, and healthcare systems pushed to the breaking point, we can't afford to keep pouring resources into an unaccountable police department. In the midst of a pandemic and an economic crisis, it's more critical than ever to fully fund affordable housing, healthcare, real solutions to violence, and addiction services.

I call for the defunding of the Minneapolis Police Department, and for its resources to be diverted toward an approach to public safety rooted in public health. The vast majority of calls MPD responds to don't require the presence of someone wielding a firearm, a can of mace, and a tazer. More than anything else, our citizens experiencing crisis and trauma need engagement with professionals trained in non-violent de-escalation and mental health counseling. It's time for a new direction in Minneapolis. We can't go back.

Tue 7/14/2020 11:13 PM

Your city is disgraceful to society, this country and the world. Police men and women risk their lives to protect and serve to keep citizens safe!!! Clean up your city and help the less fortunate! Defund other programs and leave the police force alone and protect them for a change. How dare you defund the men and women who give their lives for your city!!!! Fix the problem another way city council of clowns.

Shame on you!!!!

Tue 7/14/2020 10:36 PM

The city of Minneapolis needs its police force . To remove it from the city charter is dangerous and irresponsible . Do not allow the current city council to defund the MPD . The city has been experiencing a major spike in violent crime , we need our police force now more than ever , Reform Not Defund.

Tue, 14 Jul 2020 20:54:18

As a constituent of the 2nd ward and a resident who lives within a mile = of the third precinct I am in favor of allowing Minneapolis voters to be = heard on the charter amendment to change the status of the police department. While I am not certain of the most efficient of effective means to bring racial justice to bear in Minneapolis, I do know that the culture of the MPD needs to change. I support officers living in the city. I support officers being accountable to the laws they are sworn to uphold. I support officers feeling safe and supported in their role in Minneapolis. I support gun control. Please don't stand in the way of change. Help us find a way to make things work better for everyone, especially our residents who have suffered injustice and been ignored for so long.

Tue 7/14/2020 9:10 PM

I applaud the desire to have more services directed to prevention and non-police services when mental health and social work services are more appropriate.

However, I feel this is being rushed into without time to really discuss, and figure out unintended consequences. One of which is fear from a certain segment of the citizenry, This might lead to more "white flight" which can increase the difficulties currently being seen.

DO NOT lose sight of the goal, yet proceed in a thoughtful manner. Make sure all voices are heard and listened to, adjustments made. There are very bad feelings and mistrust about the 2040 plan when comments were made, and little was perceived as being adjusted based on the comments. Please be careful not to duplicate that situation and further expand that mistrust.

Tue 7/14/2020 8:48 PM

I'd like to add my voice to the many voices of community members in the city council meeting today to ask the city council to reduce the Minneapolis police budget by \$45 million. I encourage the council to invest in strategies that actually keep our community safe--such as affordable housing, jobs (including those for city employees), and mental health services--instead of investing in a failed strategy of violent policing that has repeatedly makes our communities less safe.

I would echo the recommendations of community-led organizations like Black Vision and Reclaim the Block in some effective ways the city could cut funding from MPD, such as eliminating the SWAT team (we saw first-hand the violence of this group and the way it terrorized residents during the uprisings), to eliminate duplicate departments (such as records), and to defund police PR and recruitment.

Tue 7/14/2020 8:10 PM

1) Do not accept the current proposed amendment for the November election; rather I suggest you insist that the Minneapolis City Council do the hard work of presenting a realistic option about policing to Minneapolis residents after they given this topic the serious deliberation that is required.

2) Do not allow for dismantling of the Police Department without a considered study of what that actually means, what alternative options may exist, and where compromise may be found. For example, has the City Council reviewed the union contract with the MPD to see what immediate changes can be made? And, how can they possibly suggest that the Chief of Police should report into the City Council (this may be the worst idea I have heard in years! No-one can succeed with 14 bosses who are "at war" over how to direct the city's direction).

3) Please appoint a task force, comprised of business leaders, community leaders, the police chief and other police members, to work through potential solutions and to provide Minneapolis residents with realistic and actionable solutions.

4) Please consider drafting a charter amendment that will allow for a STRONG mayor and a WEAK City Council.

We are in danger of losing Minneapolis residents who no longer feel safe in this community and will leave (it doesn't help that the Park Board has turned over the parks to the unsheltered without appropriate safety protections for unsheltered residents and neighbors); there may be a tremendous impact on tax revenues. And, what about the potential loss of our strong Fortune 500 business partners who have so generously supported our State?

I appreciate your (unpaid) service and hope that you will continue to look for and provide a structure for appropriate review of this situation and not support a last ditch effort by the Minneapolis City Council to dismantle the Police Department without offering a critical review and potential solutions. They should provide residents with a plan - not the hope of a possible plan!

Tue 7/14/2020 7:58 PM

As a taxpayer-citizen of South Minneapolis I urge your council to retain the police department.

Certainly it needs overhauling, but to completely destroy the law maintaining arm of the government in Minneapolis shows a lack of understanding of human nature and common sense.

The behavior of some of the citizenry since the death of George Floyd demonstrates a lack of restraint.

Rape, robbery, trespassing private property, drug dealing and other offenses are on the rise, further demonstrating the baseness of human behavior when law enforcement is not present.

Most police officers are fine individuals who desire to serve their fellow human beings, not abuse them.

It appears many council members have knee-jerk reactions to the mob rioting.

Wisdom, caution, and patience to formulate a balanced, just and fair approach to peace keeping would be preferable to law-less-ness, which seems to be the order of the day since the Floyd murder.

Please re-consider disbanding the police department.

Please consider an overhaul of the department, with perhaps citizen oversight, and citizen participation and even ending the Police Union.

Tue 7/14/2020 7:45 PM

I am writing to you as a resident of Ward 11 to voice my support for cutting the Minneapolis Police Department by \$45 million and reallocating those funds to services that actually protect our community health and safety. The Minneapolis City Council pledged to defund the MPD. This is your opportunity to stand by your promise. Minneapolis residents, and the rest of the country, are watching you and what you choose to do next. I am urging you to make the right choice.

I want to see the \$45 million in funds removed from MPD to be invested in affordable housing, harm reduction, education, and violence prevention programs. We currently have hundreds of our unhoused neighbors sheltering in Powderhorn Park after being displaced several times by MPD. They are in need of housing, harm reduction equipment, food, clothing, and other basic needs supplies. Our City has the resources needed to care for these people, including many empty hotels in our city. Funding MPD cannot take precedence over caring for our neighbors, particularly during a global pandemic.

We are in the midst of a global pandemic, racism that the Hennepin County Board has proclaimed a public health emergency, and a housing crisis. Police do not keep our communities safe. Reforms have not been shown to be evidence-based in terms of reducing racist police violence and terror. We have a chance to re-imagine public safety and to invest in community-based violence prevention together, as a community.

I look forward to seeing your response. Thank you for your time.

Tue 7/14/2020 7:18 PM

This is an exciting time for our city and country. I am a White Middle Class Gay resident of South Minneapolis. I will attend the forum on the 15th, but I want to lend my whole-hearted support to working to change Public Safety here so that it is more thoughtful and mindful of the true needs of its citizens, and completely reduces or eliminates the possibility that anyone would come to any harm in the process of conflict resolution.

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 6:30 PM

Tomorrow, you will be considering the creation of a new Charter Department to provide for community safety and violence prevention.

My neighborhood and community members have taken it upon ourselves to finding answers as to why things are the way they are. And so many honest discussions about our implicit bias, our beliefs, and our values have come to the forefront. We are growing and connecting from block to block, learning more about this city's history, the names we see stamped on our neighborhoods and streets and learning there is so much more below the surface of things. And we believe we need to expose those foundational injuries and injustices that have for so long influenced so many generations without us actually understanding why or how. But the truth is there and needs to be a part of all of these discussions.

And so to you I ask that you read the following letter. Look into the background links I myself just learned about, and ask yourselves if this is not long LONG overdue. A systemic change in how we agree to be towards one another. And an example to the rest of our country and indeed the world, how through the ashes we rise stronger, and more united. We ALL.

.....

Dear Commissioners,

I am a MN born Black American. I grew up in St. Paul in a "nice" neighborhood and now live in an area of South Minneapolis. Neither of which, 100 years ago, would I have been allowed to live in. Instead my family would have been forced out by vandalism, harassment, and even threat of lynching. All based on the supreme court upheld practice of racial covenants, which as I'm sure you're aware, reserved this area for the exclusive use of white people.

Let us not forget this key historic event in our Minneapolis, MN history. As it directly impacts the bias and racist slant our police department, and even the communities of this city have grown up with as a foundation to how we treat one another. As I like to say today, these are the ingredients in the cool-aid we've all been fed for generations. That people of color are irresponsible, drive down property values and bring crime into otherwise "Nice" neighborhoods.

It is no wonder the police force, which has its own history of embedded foundational racism, continues to thrive off of the funding and accepted strong armed tactics our city and its residents have grown to tolerate and in some cases promote. It is an underlying agreement our businesses, communities, and labor force installed and practiced less than 100 years ago.

I searched for and found a meeting recording of the charter commission in June where this Charter amendment was discussed. Having listened to the proposal put forth by the council members, and the offers of alternative amendments by your fellow Commissioners, as well as the questions and further discussion that took place in the later portion of the meeting. I am more confident in the change agent suggested by the City Council members in the amendment I heard and have since read more about. But during the meeting, I feel the discussion had forgotten the aforementioned attempts by our city to install a NEW NORTHERN JIM CROW.

Without these types of historical practices, brought to bare, and included in the public dialogue about where racial bias, aggressiveness towards non whites, and inequity was allowed and promoted willfully in Minneapolis and shortly after across the country, there will remain a "Not us" attitude, and attempt to solve problems using money and big data. But it is intention and example that has always been the path towards this country's change. As seen by several states using the racial covenants to create and maintain their own ghettos - and also why you see the uprisings after George Floyd's murder spread so swiftly to every corner of our country.

And people like myself, who grew up believing like William H. Simpson who thought he should be able to live his dream of home ownership here, only to be met by hate and anger, which erupted into the race war of 1909, RIGHT HERE in Minneapolis.

<http://historyapolis.com/blog/2014/02/24/minneapolis-race-war-1909-prospect-park/> and subsequent practices put in place with racial covenants one year later.

It is we who now have more and more rights, more and more money, more and more ability to stand up and voice our needs. We collectively dispel that which was for so long forcefully inflicted, and wrongfully dismissed as "Not us". Those in positions of historic power have forget perhaps HOW that power was wielded not so long ago, and why.

"The premises hereby conveyed shall not at any time be conveyed, mortgaged or leased to any person or persons of Chinese, Japanese, Moorish, Turkish, Negro, Mongolian or African blood or descent. Said restrictions and covenants shall run with the land and any breach of any or either thereof shall work a forfeiture of title, which may be enforced by re-entry." See the actual redlining map of Minneapolis and St. Paul. THIS HAPPENED HERE. <https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=12/44.973/-93.358&city=minneapolis-mn&area=B16>

It is we who grew up believing the statement that "All men are created equal" meant something, and stand together now raising fists and signs reminding those "Not us" folks that not only do "All lives matter" but that NO LIVES Matter if it isn't equally true that "Black Lives Matter" !

AND SO...

Pick up this torch. allow this new fuel of justice and healing to work its way into the systems of change. And not by little incremental data driven steps when there is need and plenty of evidence and data to support that BIG steps are available, and necessary.

I will be listening to the meeting tomorrow. And I would like to hear the message that systemic change IS needed, and that "You're willing to do so...NOW"!

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 6:19 PM

Dear Barry Clegg, Jan Sandberg, Peter Ginder, and the other members of the Minneapolis Charter Commission,

I am writing to urge you to approve the amendment to the charter, and have it put on the Nov 2020 ballot.

I have lived in Minneapolis since Sept 1999, I own a home near 38th & Chicago, and I work in natural foods. I love this city, and I feel that we have a unique opportunity to make our city a wonderful example of cooperation and justice.

We need transformation of our public safety, because the police continuing to operate as they have is harming our city and our communities. I support the amendment and want to vote for it. Please give us the opportunity to vote on this in November. I understand that change is scary, but we need to make big changes, and without changing the city charter, the city government is hemmed in, and unable to make meaningful changes to the police department.

I also would really like to know who decides the wording, for how this will look on the ballot. Is that wording decided on by you? I would like to know who is involved in that process, because wording can have an effect on how voters will respond to the measure.

I will be attending the virtual meeting tomorrow. Thank you for your service.

Tue 7/14/2020 7:11 PM

I am writing to you because the Conference ID# I was given for this committee meeting was invalid preventing me from speaking with you.

What I wanted to say was I strongly urge you to start defunding the MPD now for the emergency budget you are currently working on. This will be a proud moment in your lives to know that you did not dilly dally around this issue, that you kept your word to the people and did the right thing.

The police do not need SWAT and canine units. They do not need duplicitous departments to obscure evidence and clog up an already bogged down system stretched to its limit during a pandemic. Most of all they do not need any more funds for recruitment. You have pledged to defund them. The place to start pulling funds for this emergency budget would be in their public relations. The plan is to decrease their numbers not bolster them.

We need money for housing, health care, mental health, and violence prevention efforts. How much were they last given, 193 million? Take \$45 million and put it to a step in the right direction. A step you said you will take. Don't go back on your word. Start now and join your communities in making this city a better place.

And also please fix these online meeting issues. I've been watching the meeting and a lot of people like myself were unable to get through to speak.

Thank you for your service to our city.

Tue 7/14/2020 7:10 PM

I am a resident of Ward 7. I am writing to urge the Minneapolis City Council to follow through on their word of pursuing the defunding of the MPD. I was at Powderhorn Park when several council members stood up in solidarity with community members making defunding and divesting from the MPD an actional item in their agendas. You have proven that you are not taking this seriously by cutting only \$50,000 from this year's budget. That is less than even 1 police officer's salary. I propose making a \$45 million cut from MPD's budget in support of community organizers. This money should be put into an emergency budget that will address our communities' urgent needs: housing, paying city workers, mental health support, defunding police terror tools (canine unit and mounted patrol), defunding police PR and recruitment. I don't want more policing, we want less. I want for the money to be taken from MPD and put where it matters, where actual needs are. I want you to put your money where your mouth is. I want you to LISTEN to your community and act. Be an example. The world has their eyes on Minneapolis right now in reaction to the footage that caught George Floyd's murder. What are you doing in response to this? How will you make me continue to be proud of my city and neighborhood? Thank you.

Tue 7/14/2020 7:09 PM

Thank you for your time. As a resident of the Lyn-Lake neighborhood, I am requesting that you work to cut the Minneapolis Police Department by \$45 million. Instead of funding the problematic MPD, please reallocate these funds to youth programming, housing, hygiene stations for our unsheltered relatives, employment, and community programs that are not rooted in the systemic racialized killings of Black,

Indigenous, and People of Color's lives. The reallocated funds must go to programs that redistribute opportunities to Black, Indigenous, and POC communities.

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 5:26 PM

I apologize for my delay in writing but I do feel it is necessary to contact you.

I watched the meeting with the commission and city council members last week and I must say that I was extremely offended at the behavior of the city council members towards you. What I saw in this meeting was a city council who has absolutely no intention of transparency and absolutely no respect towards others. It became very clear to me that the city council has a plan with changing the charter and no intention to share that plan. What they are clearly doing is trying to get the change pushed through so they can take away everyone's opportunity to question them about their plans and motives. I find this behavior highly concerning and absolutely do not trust the council. If they can treat you, members of the charter commission who they are trying to sway, with such disrespect and rudeness, imagine how they treat their constituents. I am asking you to please vote against the city council and save the residents of Minneapolis.

Tue 7/14/2020 5:27 PM

We can not believe you would even consider getting rid of the police department. Do you live in Minneapolis, do you see all the crime that is going on and has been for countless years. Why do you think some of the police officers are so jumpy? Watch the news sometime! Instead of getting rid of the police, let's consider getting rid of some of the inept city council members. The remaining city council members should have to do ride alongs with the police every night in north and south Minneapolis. I doubt you would still have any answers to help them do their jobs. We feel bad for all the good people in north and south Minneapolis and we're sure they wouldn't want to do away with police. They are being murdered nightly.

We have lived in north east Minneapolis for over 30 years. We love our home, but because of your inability to see past your office window and are considering to get rid of the police, now we have to start considering moving out of Minneapolis.

Tue 7/14/2020 5:14 PM

I have spent a lot of time thinking about the situation we face in our city. While I have always been an advocate for city living (vs. living in the suburbs) and have been amazed (for the 32 years of my living in Minneapolis), how beautiful, clean and in general, safe it is. Sadly, what has come to the forefront of our consciousness is an underlying and pervasive ugliness of racism and bias that many of us white residents have comfortably been blind to. Here are my thoughts and suggestions to improve our city, help people heal and move forward in a constructive manner:

1. **Do not rush** to disband or defund the MPD. Take the time to truly study the input from your residents and city leaders. Compiling all this in a span of 4-5 weeks and package it up in August for a November vote seems rushed, particularly when many people are so misinformed and will not fully understand the ramifications of what they are voting for/not voting for come November. The world is watching- this needs to be done right.

2. **Our City Council has been irresponsible** with their public comments-particularly when the majority stood in Powderhorn park on stage and declared to the world to disband the MPD. This felt like pandering and a knee jerk reaction to the riots leaving people feeling angry and confused. Additionally, when questioned about the uptick in violent crime in the city so far this summer, Lisa Bender made the comment that “there is always an increase of violent crime this time of year”. Again, irresponsible, an excuse and unacceptable. Since then, families have lost loved ones and friends to an even greater increase in violent crime in the Black community. This is due to the fact that people believe there is no longer a police force out there and has become an opportunity for gun wielding gang violence to get out of control and unfortunately in the path of innocent bystanders.

3. **Many Black leaders** have vocalized they are very opposed to disbanding the full police force. There must be law enforcement to deal with violent crime, robbery, guns, burglaries, etc.

4. **Rebuild public trust in local law enforcement:**

- Honor the requirement for the majority of Mpls police to live in the areas they serve. They need to know their community.

- Keep Police Chief Arredondo in place. Give him the support he needs to serve the community

- Recruit in the community for people of color to serve in public safety roles

- Oversight of police should be taken away from the Mayor and City Council- can't lead by committee this way. It has been ineffective. Select a leader (for whatever the new law enforcement body looks like) by someone **with law enforcement experience**. Need someone like the Head of DPS, John Harrington - experienced, calm, collected, empathetic, knows and understands the law

- Restructure the Police union. They have too much power. What was established to protect employees has become a culture of protecting the police from being accountable

- Require implicit bias training. Learn how other communities in the US and around the world have done this successfully. Stop warrior type policing

- Re-establish what the police department's role is- specify a role which focuses on gun violence, violent crime, robbery, burglary. Build other departments to deal with mental health issues, be a back up to social services to deal with domestic violence issues.

- Establish a different enforcement division to deal with automobile moving violations, parking tickets, and other non-violent issues- the MPD does not need to do this

- Provide mental health services for overwhelmed and stressed officers. Do not allow them to work security jobs outside of the force where they work long hours in an added stressful environment. This stress adds to the combative, strained and violent behavior of some officers when they are working in the streets. You currently have a force under extreme pressure, some are leaving, filing workmen's comp. claims. Must deal with the morale of the good cops!

5. Beyond the issue of the MPD, **Minneapolis needs to deal with the racial disparities in our community**. Too many people of color are profiled at traffic stops, busted for low level drug crimes and end up in an unending spiral of incarceration, joblessness, homelessness, lacking hope and becoming more and more angry at the system that continues to beat them down

6. **Establish a path for economic growth to people of color:** education, job training; clear their record of misdemeanor crimes so they can work and live, as well as opportunities for obtaining small business loans

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 3:59 PM

I ask that the Minneapolis Charter Commission vote against the proposed amendment to the City Charter, which has been made by the City Council **regarding the elimination of a police department from the City Charter and the transfer of responsibility for public safety from the office of the Mayor to the City Council**. As a resident of Minneapolis, I feel this change would concentrate too much authority with the Council and dilute the necessary separation of powers in the City of Minneapolis. Additionally, it would decrease public safety in the interim and fail to address the root issues of systemic racism in our community.

I urge you to **vote against the hurried proposed amendment** and **reject any hurried proposed revisions** to the same until the necessary steps have been taken to explore a viable alternative plan for our existing public safety policies and police department. At that time and not before, this issue can be brought to the voters.

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 3:10 PM

I am a resident of Ward 12 in Minneapolis who strongly believes that the City Council's amendment should be considered by Minneapolis voters this year.

I believe we have a golden opportunity for change in our city. I have never seen my neighbors so engaged. We might not all have the same opinions, but we are meeting each other, having hard conversations, and educating ourselves on the issues. We are ready for a vote on the proposed amendment.

The past few months have left me feeling more than the average amount of rage. The murder of George Floyd, though incredibly tragic, was not surprising. This was hardly the first time I had seen evidence of racist, brutal policing by MPD. This was also not the first time I had thought to myself, while these officers are chasing down nonviolent crimes of poverty, murders are going unsolved. Rapes are going uninvestigated. Public safety is not being served. All of this is to say, if the commission does not allow for a vote on the proposed amendment, I will still have rage in reserve. The commission blocking a public vote on this issue would be a crime in itself.

I appreciate you taking the time to consider my opinion.

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 3:01 PM

I am a MN born Black American. I grew up in St. Paul in a upper middle class neighborhood and now live in an area of South Minneapolis that 100 years ago I would have been forced out of by vandalism, harassment, and even threat of lynching. All based on the supreme court upheld practice of racial covenants, which as I'm sure you're aware, reserved this area for the exclusive use of white people.

Let us not forget this key historic event in our Minneapolis, MN history. As it directly impacts the bias and racist slant our police department, and even the communities of this city have grown up with as a foundation to how we treat one another. As I like to say today, these are the ingredients in the cool-

aid we've all been fed for generations. That people of color are irresponsible, drive down property values and bring crime into otherwise "Nice" neighborhoods.

It is no wonder the police force, which has its own history of foundationally embedded racism, continues to thrive off of the funding and accepted strong armed tactics our city and its residents have grown to tolerate and in some cases promote. It is an underlying agreement our businesses, communities, and labor force installed and practiced less than 100 years ago.

I searched for and found a meeting recording of the charter commission in June where this Charter amendment was discussed. Having listened to the proposal put forth by the council members, and the offers of alternative amendments by Commissioner Abbott and 1 other, as well as the questions and further discussion that took place in the later portion of the meeting. I feel the discussion has forgotten the aforementioned attempts to install a NEW NORTHERN JIM CROW.

Without these types of historical practices included in the dialogue about where racial bias, aggressiveness towards non whites, and inequity was allowed and promoted willfully in Minneapolis and shortly after across the country, there will remain a "Not us" attitude, and attempt to solve problems using money and big data. But it is intention and example that has always been the path towards this country's change. As seen by several states using the racial covenants to create and maintain their own ghettos - and also why you see the uprisings after George Floyd's murder spread so swiftly to every corner of our country.

And people like myself, who grew up believing like William H. Simpson who thought he should be able to live his dream of home ownership here, only to be met by hate and anger, which erupted into the race war of 1909, RIGHT HERE in Minneapolis.

<http://historyapolis.com/blog/2014/02/24/minneapolis-race-war-1909-prospect-park/>

It is we who now have more and more rights, more and more money, more and more ability to stand up and voice our needs and dispel that which is forcefully inflicted, and wrongfully dismissed as "Not us" by those in positions of historic power but forget perhaps HOW that power was wielded, and why.

It is we who grew up believing all men are created equal meant something, and stand together raising fists and signs reminding those "Not us" folks that not only do "All lives matter" but that NO LIVES Matter if it isn't equally true that "Black Lives Matter" !

AND SO...

Pick up this torch. allow this new fuel of justice and healing to work its way into the systems of change. And not little by incrementally little steps where there is need and plenty of evidence that BIG steps are available, and necessary and even finally have DATA to show for it.

Because if the death of George Floyd wasn't Data enough, then don't forget to include all the lives of innocent Black men, women, and children who continue to be killed and imprisoned after 911 calls where armed officers were NOT necessary, and tactics and techniques used came from a mindspace of "You don't belong" rather than "how can I help".

I will be listening to the meeting tomorrow. And I would like to hear more of a "systemic Change IS needed, and we're willing to do so...NOW" perspective. Otherwise, the path is more of the same.

Tue 7/14/2020 2:11 PM

I write as a resident of South Minneapolis to urge you to move the proposal the City Council has agreed upon to dismantle the current police department & establish a new Department of Safety & Violence Prevention through to the ballot.

We have seen over & over & over again that reforms are not working, they do not address the racist violence that the MPD continues to perpetuate. Nothing short of dismantling the current system & enacting a new model, based on the brilliance of community members & the long work of abolitionists, will bring changes that we desperately need & have needed since the inception of the MPD. Minneapolis is in a unique position to do something different, to show that there are great possibilities to live in this world grounded in community power, support, anti-racist values, and active models of transformative justice.

I urge you to move beyond your fear, as I push myself and my neighbors to move beyond ours, and take a step that is actually meaningful.

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 10:56 AM

You have emboldened criminals and forced a need for more police NOT LESS.

We are aware of the need for change now. We were just blissfully going about our lives unaware. We get it now.

You have made your point. Instead of making sure EVERYONE is afraid to live here, work incrementally to make lives of BIPOC better-- but you will not get criminals to just lay down their guns because you are putting more money into housing and less in policing.

They are increasing the lawlessness in the face of Reclaim the Blocks efforts and other groups.

Criminals are not aligned with these efforts. And they won't be.

DO NOT CUT POLICE BUDGET. WE NEED POLICE!!!!!!

Right now we are in a terrible state and it will take time to make changes to allocation of funds to make the lives of POC better. But for right now--

The police are not able to respond in a timely manner to all the crime happening here. Do something about the chaos!

You need to get this under control before you cut the police budget.

If you do not get the crime under control, we will turn into Chicago, Gary or Detroit.

People will leave, more and more businesses will relocate or go out of business.

We will be a shell of the great city of Minneapolis we were. I used to be proud to say I am from Mpls. Not anymore.

Yes there is a problem, you need to work within the system, get rid of the bad apples. Change the culture.

DO NOT CUT POLICE BUDGET. And stop taking our tax dollars to fund your special security--the ultimate hypocrisy and insult in the face of this issue. Fund your own security out of your pockets--we don't want or support this controversial effort you are making (does not apply to you Mayor) so deal with it with your salaries.

Tue 7/14/2020 12:03 PM

As a middle class white woman, I have had a few encounters with the police, and I didn't feel unsafe during any of them. My children attended a Minneapolis public high school, and as a white person, I never worried about the police being onsite. I thought it was a good thing. I was wrong. I am a veteran, I have a BA in criminology and a Masters in leadership, and I worked briefly in a federal prison, so I thought I understood these issues. I was wrong.

We talk about facts, but how many of us have dared to *feel* those facts? Over twelve million black people were kidnapped and brought to this country like property, murdered, tortured, separated from their children and spouses and families, raped and worked to death with no regard for the sanctity or sovereignty of their lives. While my feelings aren't important to this discourse, yours might be if this history doesn't move you. While emancipation "freed" nearly four million black people, it made absolutely no provision for their future--where to live, a way to earn a living, no legal protections, no vote, no way to obtain the most basic necessities of so-called American life. Reading the "news" from those early years shows that even Northern whites who argued for emancipation held and propagated the belief that blacks were inferior morally and intellectually, beliefs that continue to plague and even condemn to death black people today. Even the most pro-police among us can agree that the situation facing newly "freed" blacks was grave from the first moment.

Flash forward to what we face today. That perceived "value" gap between blacks and whites has been firmly institutionalized in the matters of housing, employment, the justice system, education, and policing in this country. Those opportunity gaps coupled with persistent bias against blacks have left their communities in vulnerable states that have been perfect breeding grounds for crime, while simultaneously providing a scapegoat and a low-cost workforce for the rest of America. If a group of people are denied access to the so-called American Dream through traditional means available to the rest of us, they will ultimately seek that dream by any means available to them.

While I despise the actions of these particular police officers and many others, the police on the whole in this country are merely doing their "jobs," enforcing the laws that criminalize black behavior disproportionately, using the tools they've been given and authorized to use--not the least of which are their "service" weapons. Disbanding and/or defunding the police is like docking the tail of a rabid dog; the dog in this case is rampant and institutionalized racism.

Not only must we eliminate callous police violence and murder, but we must do more to empathize with the millions of black people in our country who have encountered racism in nearly every area of their lives. We need to engage in honest and public conversations with young people about the true plight of black people in America, and raise them differently than some of us were raised. We need to fight for a higher minimum wage, access to healthcare for every American, and better educational access for the

poorest among us. We need to stop freezing black people out of "good" neighborhoods and schools. We need to stop reading stories of black crime and assuming that the three quarters of a million black people currently incarcerated had it coming. We need to stop reading stories of police shootings of black people and assuming they had it coming. We need to ask ourselves whether poverty in our country, which greatly disproportionately affects people of color, is something we're comfortable with or something we want to address. Police incident reports should be trustworthy, and yet they're not--even in this case where lengthy and clear bystander video shows the reality of this death, police continue to claim alternative facts that would seemingly justify their actions. Police violence and even execution of black people often stopped and detained for no legitimate reason must stop in this country. We must do more than demonize the police, and instead focus on the complex causes of their violent encounters with American citizens who happen to be black.

While this great national conversation and evolution takes place, we must attempt to greatly reduce the number of armed individuals authorized to use deadly force in our communities. We must acknowledge that blacks are living in a very different America than the rest of us. We should be spending the resources that we are currently spending to maintain what amounts to a domestic army on the communities that need it the most. We should be educating every American about bias and racism beginning in primary school and in the home, as well as the workplace, the armed forces, and anywhere else that racism lurks or alternatively--is proudly expressed. We should be trying to deeply understand the America of people of color, and fight for them as hard as we'd fight for ourselves. Thank you for your consideration.

07/14/2020 9:31 AM

I oppose the charter amendment that changes how the police are managed. I don't oppose the change to delete the specific percentage of officers. I am confused by adding a new office to the Charter, is it necessary to have it in the Charter?

My experience responding to disasters has taught me that having clear lines of responsibility is key no matter how small or large the emergency is. There are a whole series of national documents covering the mitigate, prepare, respond, recovery phases of disasters. From a single family fire to issues involving communities, and multiple states, the Strategic and Operational Planning Overview ([PLAN](#)), the National Incident Management System ([NIMS](#)) and the Incident Command System ([ICS](#)) govern how first responders , private companies, tribal agencies, local and state agencies and volunteers work together during minor and major issues. I am very apprehensive about the change proposed to the Mayor's authority over the Police.

I am also for change, but what is being presented reminds me of a "guess what is behind the curtain" game. There isn't a comfortable level of detail to understand the plan or compare what's proposed to other cities that have "re-imagined" their police departments.

Tue 7/14/2020 10:25 AM

Thank you for holding a public budget meeting with safe ways for residents of Minneapolis to participate in the discussion.

I am writing to you today to voice my opinions on where I would like to see our taxpayer's hard earned funds dispersed throughout the city.

First and foremost, defund the Minneapolis Police Department. Redirect these funds to community run/resourced programs that have adequate support for mental health response teams, patrols, harm reduction teams and community outreach programs.

Secondly, there should ways be a focus on the public school system.

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:35 AM

The Minneapolis City Council's push for a charter amendment to create the Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention, appears rushed and driven by emotion. The Council's vague and rambling responses to specific questions posed by various members of the Charter Commission a few days ago did nothing to dispel the sense that the Council is acting rashly, irresponsibly and only considering points of view that reinforce their own. Many of our friends and neighbors have expressed similar concerns and are hoping that the single mindedness and obdurate sanctimony of the Council will be tempered by a thoughtful rebuke from the Charter Commission. Please do not approve the inclusion of the charter amendment in the November election.

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:55 AM

I am writing as a concerned citizen requesting that the utterly crazy ballot initiative attempting to eliminate the requirement to maintain a police department never be allowed to make it to the ballot. In the hysteria following the murder of George Floyd, it's entirely possible that this initiative will pass and then all hell is going to break loose. Our citizens need to be protected from their own mob mentality and from their utterly incompetent and pathetic city council whose only answer to citizens concerned about what the response to a home invasion would be under a police-free city structure is "that question comes from a place of privilege." What a JOKE!!! I implore this committee, which seems to have the power to prevent or at least delay this initiative from ever reaching the ballot, to please exercise its power to do so and serve as the gatekeepers all advocates of a safe city need to keep this city from descending into chaos. We absolutely need police reforms. But we absolutely also still need a police department. Don't let this snowball keep rolling into an avalanche!

Sat, Jul 11, 2020 at 9:54 PM

I am writing to urge you to let the residents of Minneapolis vote on the charter amendment that was unanimously proposed by our elected city council. I appreciate the charter commission's desire to hear from residents and deliberate over possible wording changes; I recognize the important consultative role of the commission; and I believe that you were appointed to your positions because of your insight.

However, if the commission's desire is to let the residents of Minneapolis decide how they would like to proceed, the best way to do this would be to allow a public vote on this amendment in the 2020 election when voter turnout is expected to be high. I'm sure we can benefit greatly from the recommendations and input of the commission, but I do urge the commission to provide these with an urgency that is commensurate with that expressed by our citizens and elected leaders.

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:00 PM

I listened to the public safety committee working group's meeting today, and I wanted to voice my utter disapproval of the idea of hiring a third-party consulting firm to attempt to provide a measure of public opinion on the proposed charter amendment.

The most accurate and unbiased measure of public opinion would be a vote of the citizens of Minneapolis on this measure, and I encourage you to do everything possible to allow this vote to occur in November 2020.

Wed 7/15/2020 10:55 PM

My name is [REDACTED]. I'm a resident of Minneapolis. I strongly urge you to allow an amendment of the city charter go up to vote to eliminate the Minneapolis Police Department. It is undemocratic to allow unelected people decide for the people what should or should not happen in our city. Allow the people to vote for themselves. What are you afraid of?

Wed 7/15/2020 10:03 PM

My family would like to see the amendment to be able to change the police department on the ballot in November. Minneapolis needs to start making moves toward equality for its residents.

Wed 7/15/2020 9:32 PM

With listening to the Public Hearing today July 15, 2020, it is obvious the public supports this Council's unanimous proposed amendment.

You have been presented a compelling proposal and movement. The proposal has been supported by a myriad of reasons and justifications. It is following the process.

If you decide to not support this amendment or worse choose to extend your review, you risk putting lives and property at risk since there is little doubt that the community will not be satisfied unless they have a chance to vote on the amendment in November 2020.

Lives at risk because as one caller said "if you have been on the streets recently, you would know it is a powder keg out here!"

This is my experience and observation too. If you subvert the democratic option this election, the outcome will be disastrous with violent eruptions, destruction, and civil uprising. The mayor has little power to mitigate these spasms of civil uprising. The police are violence agitators and will contribute to more disorder. White supremacists and criminals are looking for any opening or disunity to take advantage of the city.

I'm not saying this as a threat in any way. I'm telling you this because of the reality of the situation from a front yard observer to the climate in this city. This is serious stuff I'm talking about!

We are lawfully demanding we have a choice this year. I appreciate your review and doing your duty but this proposal is sound and supported widely. Please see the urgency and just cause behind this. We the citizens recognize all that it represents. Trust me. Trust us.

Wed 7/15/2020 8:57 PM

I live in North Minneapolis in the fourth ward. I strongly object to the notion of dismantling the police department. I also strongly object to running the police department by committee. The police department can be changed, improved; we have a Chief of police that the city trusts and respects. In my opinion, we do not have a city council that the city trust and respects. At this point, you can't make it better but you could make it worse by further undermining a Chief, who people respect and supporting a council that have no plan for moving the City forward. That is opposite of 'Progressive'.

Wed 7/15/2020 8:32 PM

I am a resident of the 13th Ward and am writing to urge the Charter Commission to move the proposed amendment to reimagine public safety to a vote in the fall. We as residents deserve the opportunity to vote on how we want our city to operate, and to create a vision of public safety that serves all members of our community.

Wed 7/15/2020 8:11 PM

I'm sure you have received many comments on both sides of this debate. It's a lot to sift through, but this is the job of a council person. I commend you all for taking on the responsibility and I hope that you are upholding the integrity of the position.

We have to keep working towards a dramatic restructuring of the way policing occurs in this community. Clearly, having an outside force is not working. You've seen the videos and read the testimonies. There is a gang mentality, an "us vs. them" mentality that is propagated within the MPD, let alone the entire policing system in this country, that is frankly toxic. No one is asking for chaos, or mob rule, or "anarchy". There are clearly better ways to keep people safe.

As an arm of the state, I'm sure the police are piling the pressure on you. But you need to think about the people you've been elected to represent, or else you are disgracing your seat, pure and simple.

Wed 7/15/2020 8:08 PM

I just wanted to leave a possible suggestion for council members regarding a temporary or even long term solution that would alleviate some police brutality. I am currently a resident and property owner in Powderhorn Park near Lake Street and have noticed that many of the police patrolling the streets here are not from South Minneapolis and are driving around in patrol cars for the most part. To help acclimate them with the community and improve public relations and safety, wouldn't it be beneficial to have them instead WALK the streets like they do in many other major cities with assigned blocks? I believe that this would lead to police actually getting to know the people who live in the community they work in as well as what tends to go on block by block.

Wed 7/15/2020 7:31 PM

Longfellow, Seward, Nokomis and surrounding neighborhoods are organizing and have created block groups as a result of the Minneapolis protests and uprisings addressing systemic racism in the wake of the George Floyd murder by Minneapolis police.

We're trying to transform the Minnehaha-Lake

street (and surrounding) areas from exclusively consumer-oriented, car-dependent, 1950s-style shopping mall, "commercial business district" that's becoming increasingly gentrified, a monoculture, and segregated.

We envision transforming and rebuilding Minnehaha-Lake into a safe Cultural Corridor, that's welcoming, inclusive, diverse, people friendly, walkable, bikable, environmentally sustainable, and economically viable for local, independent, and cooperative stores, non-profits and social services.

This includes replacing 50% of Target parking lot, which lies unused, and other corners and lots which now lie flattened and bulldozed, into green space, city art, murals and the like, music, festivals; and to transform the 3rd Precinct Police Station into the George Floyd Restorative Justice Center.

We also believe there is strong community support for Minneapolis City Council's unanimous vote on June 26 to change the cities Charter such that the Minneapolis police department will be replaced with a new "Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department", which will "have responsibility for public safety services, prioritizing a holistic, public health-oriented approach."

https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/3866/MPD%20Charter%20Amendment_VII%20062420%20Final.pdf.

All of these critically needed measures would integrate surrounding communities- black, brown, Native American, all people of color, and whites-all groups of whom are currently quite segregated, especially geographically (by neighborhood, housing), and educationally (de facto school segregation).

07/15/2020 10:39 AM

We(I) oppose the Minneapolis City Council action to amend the Minneapolis City Charter (see attached Council action "Amending Article VII of the City Charter). My reasons for opposing the Minneapolis City Council action to amend the Minneapolis City Charter.

The proposed charter change:

1. Eliminates the police department with NO REPLACEMENT. Right now the Council does not have a plan. It only promises to develop the plan and how to implement it in the future.
2. Muddles ACCOUNTABILITY. It eliminates the authority of the Mayor and invests oversight by a Director of Community Safety and Violence Prevention who would report to the Council and Mayor. If there is a Division of Law Enforcement Services, " the Director of Community and Violence Prevention shall appoint the director of the division of law enforcement services, subject ot confirmation by official act of the City Council and Mayor." This puts in place 15 "bosses" which means no boss. This also makes authority more distant and less accountable to the electorate.
3. Makes NO COMMITMENT to have a law enforcement function. The proposed Charter Change states: "Division of Law Enforcement Services The Council may maintain a division of law enforcement services, composed of licensed peace officers, subject to the supervision of the department of community safety and violence prevention." This removes from the current Charter language that City Council must establish, organize and otherwise provide for these departments...a police department.

This is a major change to our city government and should not be rushed. We need the Charter Commission to have a thorough, robust, inclusive public assessment prior to a vote of the

electorate. The Charter Commission does not have the final say on whether an amendment goes to the voters. The Charter, however, does give the Commission some discretion on the timing to discourage proposals that do not give the voters an informed choice. The people must know what public safety and law enforcement functions will be provided by the city. Striving to eliminate structural racism must have prompt action; reforming our police dept must have prompt action; addressing our societal needs of housing, education, health care, mental health, the environment must have prompt action; NOT this Charter Change.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

07/15/2020 11:46 AM

I am opposed to the charter change. To me, it's analogous to changing the US Constitution to fix one otherwise fixable problem. It's a bad idea. I am in favor of reforms in the police department. It seems the current contract with the police union needs to be mutually agreed to be stricken in whole or part and then renegotiated in order to get that done. True leadership in our city would be to apply pressure to renegotiate the contract. I believe if leadership would begin a campaign to strike the contract there would be wide public support. Kroll probably needs to go.

We need to get this figured out quickly. The ongoing uncertainty is killing our wonderful city. I have never considered leaving Minneapolis until now and I hear the same from neighbors and friends. I am keeping an eye on real estate in the suburbs, but really don't want to leave this city I love. We can expect far less tourism, conferences, conventions and the like being slated for Minneapolis even after the COVID-19 crisis is behind us, if we continue to appear unresolved and unsafe.

07/15/2020 12:33 PM

I want to support our police dept with some changes. I know you will be an excellent representative.

Wed, Jul 15, 2020, 4:30 PM

I'm writing as a member of the community, to give my full support for the proposed charter amendment.

Since I cannot attend to meeting today, please know that I and my family stand fully behind the changes in the charter that provide the clarity & access for us to transform our city's approach to public safety together.

It makes a huge difference to be able to participate in publicly accountable, transparent, responsive process. Thank you for hearing the voices that have so long been unheard & under-represented in these systems. May our tax dollars be well utilized here in service of the whole community rather than protecting the status quo in the interest of certain groups.

This step is one of many necessary steps in the right direction of reparations in a system too long loyal to injustice & imbalance. May these steps unfold in peace with the tide of justice giving momentum & may the wisdom of true listening provide sustainability for the long-game.

Wednesday, July 15, 2020 6:12 PM

I urge you to responsively approve and submit the proposed charter amendment -- to create a department of community safety and violence prevention -- to the general ballot for residents of Minneapolis to vote on in November. Police brutality is nothing new, rooted in violent histories of slave catchers and patrols, but has reached a boiling point in our community this summer with the murder of George Floyd near our building at 38th and Chicago. The time is now for our whole city to have a say on how we move forward with violence prevention and community safety in our neighborhoods, and the first step in that process is putting the charter amendment up for popular vote in November.

I also support the amendment because I believe in defunding the police, and directing resources to public health, housing, and social services instead. I know from firsthand experience that we need alternatives to violence prevention and community safety that do not rely on escalation and policing. My debit and credit cards were stolen in late October this year, and when I tracked down where the fraudulent transactions were made on my card, I figured out that a young person, no more than 15 years old, had taken my wallet in order to feed their family. After confirming my identity, the restaurant owner allowed me to view security footage when the transactions were made, and what I saw was a whole family ordering food. In that situation, repair did NOT look like the criminalization or punishment of this family to me. It looked like that family having what they needed, having food on the table. No one deserves to be punished for not having food -- a basic human need.

Our city needs to understand the root cause of crime -- people not having what they need, and centuries of violence. Let us be bold and visionary and make history. Let Minneapolis take a powerful step for a new vision of what community safety looks like.

Please submit and approve the charter amendment before the election. I am ready to vote, and so are my fellow coworkers and community members!

With hope and despair, for justice for George Floyd.

Wed 7/15/2020 6:06 PM

I am a constituent in Alondra Cano's Ward and would like to demand that you move the 45 million from MPD to affordable housing.

Wed 7/15/2020 6:04 PM

Can't believe you're suggesting to defund the police department!

You don't represent me! Will do everything in my power to make sure none of you get re-elected!

Wed 7/15/2020 6:03 PM

My name is [REDACTED] and I vote AGAINST the proposed amendment CH2020-00014.

I am in favor of Minneapolis residents voting on what is best for our city. This decision should not be up to just city council members. I feel that board members presented this at a time when emotions ran

high and now, with Covid-19, the opportunity for residents to how they feel is restricted, even with on-line meeting tools. The number of participants and speaking time is limited.

I am in favor of police reform, which is much needed. Living in a city with gang violence and other crimes warrants the need for a police department.

Also, the city council needs to provide a detailed layout of what a community safety and violence prevention team would look like and how it would operate.

A city without a police department will spark a rise in crime.

Wed 7/15/2020 6:01 PM

I strongly urge you to put the charter amendment on the ballot this fall.

The citizens of Minneapolis should be allowed to vote on this charter amendment. Policing was started out of racism and continues to be plagued by it. The City Council needs the charter amendment by August 5th to embark on a longer community-driven process to redefine what policing could look like for me and my family.

Please let us vote. Get it on the ballot by August 5th.

Wed 7/15/2020 5:49 PM

I am now listening — with some alarm -- to your July 15 public hearing after having listened to last night's Budget Committee public hearing (which essentially was all about MPD).

Based on the many false facts I'm hearing tonight during your meeting and last night from public commenters regarding MPD and this charter amendment, we have a problem with lack of understanding of what is going on here. This should be very concerning to you. I urge the city and charter commission to take time to engage in some real public education on this topic, taking into consideration that not all voice can engage online and the city's technology often fails. It's clear some of your commenters have never read the proposed amendment, don't understand what would be on the ballot, and don't understand what a yes or no vote means. I am appalled by the lack of factual information that is circulating. This is apparently moving much too fast, and there has been no legitimate, unbiased/neutral/factual/expert educational process on this amendment or the overall topic. It's every person for him/her/their self. We are in danger of operating this city solely on emotion unless the city, including the charter commission, takes action to launch some broad community outreach/Q and A sessions or educational presentations. When has any of that taken place on this topic? Never.

Please do not fall victim to this emotional rush, regardless of your opinions on the actual amendment itself.

Wed 7/15/2020 5:38 PM

I am writing to you as a member of South Minneapolis to make a comment in support of the proposed charter amendment for community safety. This is an important opportunity for community members to have a meaningful say in the direction that our community moves towards an antiracist, holistic and just safety system. We cannot waste any more time allowing a policing system to inflict violence onto Black

and Brown members of our community, the time is now to open the gates towards radical change and radical healing.

Wed 7/15/2020 5:36 PM

I am opposed to the charter amendment because there is no specific plan to replace the police department. I understand that there will be a department of community safety and violence prevention and a law enforcement department. Who will be the members of this law enforcement department and what are their plans to prevent violent crime and property crime in the city? Please reject this amendment for lack of specifics. Defunding the police without a plan is insane. Thank you.

Wed 7/15/2020 5:32 PM

I am a Minneapolis resident and I support the charter amendment and letting the people of Minneapolis vote on this as a ballot initiative. The time is now for change.

Wed 7/15/2020 5:29 PM

As a member of Ward 11 I am joining the call to put amending the charter on the ballot this fall to no longer require the existence of the MPD, allowing investment into community resources that actually address the root causes of violence and poverty. The MPD is an organization that has failed over and over again to keep our communities safe despite funding increases and countless reforms that have resulted in the unabated terrorizing of predominantly black, queer, and trans members of our communities, as well as an assault on people suffering from poverty, homelessness, and mental illness.

We do not need an armed force that has terrorized the very community it claims to protect. Simply put, the notion that police keep us safe and that reform works is not evidence based.

This is your opportunity to fulfill your pledge to serve our city by supporting the citizens of Minneapolis in deciding the what community and public safety looks like.

Our communities need and deserve care and investment, not terror.

I look forward to your response. Thank you.

Wed 7/15/2020 5:29 PM

I do not support the proposed change to our city charter. If this does move forward it needs to be voted on by the residents. Thank you.

Wed 7/15/2020 5:18 PM

Please, please , please, let us pause to think about changes in the police department. Policy changes are definitely needed, but upending an institution requires more thought than the City Council has been willing to give it. Pause and think.

Wed 7/15/2020 4:52 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis, and having been born here and lived in several of the city's neighborhoods, I would like to request that the Charter Commission should reject the current amendment allow the City Council to manipulate the MPD. I use the word manipulate due to the fact that there has been so much rhetoric given to the public on what is actually the end game where the

future of the MPD is concerned. First it was “defund” then “dismantle”. One of the council members has shared articles on social media with verbiage such as “imagining a police-free Minneapolis”, or “creating a police-free future on real time.” It is confusing and until all of the Minneapolis citizens have a clear idea of what the actual plan is, what departments or programs will be affected, we cannot agree to this. There are far too many factions that contribute to racism in the city that need to be addressed. What about the judicial system? Will that be addressed or are we going to strictly focus on a diminished number of LEO’s? How will community programs deal with the drug cartel problem that no one in this town talks about? I lived in Arizona for 8 years. Cartels only answer to consequence. Many of the problems such as cartel activity and road rage shootings have become a problem here. And as they don’t make the headlines here YET, to deny their existence is going to lead to problems in the long run. The fact that the USA has not been able to get a grip on the problem of drug additions no matter what resource you throw at it doesn’t give me much in the way of faith that they we all of a sudden have a plan to eliminate it. Look, I have no problem with the MPD making changes. That is long overdue. I haven’t heard whether or not MPD has adequate mental health services for the employees. Will that be a part of the plan to combat any nefarious sentiment in the department? We also forget that there are good LEO’s. We don’t see the police officer who administered CPR to Calvin Horton Jr on Lake Street the second night of the riots in the regular media. In the age of Covid19, how many of us will be prepared to rush into danger to save the lives of other people? However, back to the amendment, in fact, experimenting with the public safety is dangerous. Usually it is the most vulnerable of our community that bears the brunt of these impulsive decisions. For example, and my impetus in writing this, has been the MPS decision to get rid of the SRO’s. My son is in a wheelchair. Has been since he was 3. He cannot run from danger. There was carjacking two weeks ago a few houses down from us. How am I going to get someone who can’t walk out of a car? You think that someone stealing a car is going to wait for me to pull his wheelchair out of the back and load him into it? Many physically impaired MPS students are clustered in schools. In the event of danger such as an active shooter, how do you get a group of children in wheelchairs, who use walkers out of harm’s way? If you think an active shooter is unlikely, why do they have drills? What if the danger is coming from outside of the school? I see they are trying to hire a Public Safety Specialist, but they can have a degree in anything. Which means that person will have to be hired and trained. And establish new protocols. School is starting soon. Parents should not have to wait for a plan to keep the kids safe, period. Are we going to have to wait to see the results of our crime rates after the police force has been reduced? And at what cost? With companies no longer requiring people to be on a site, our real estate market is going to take a dive, especially downtown. If the crime rate continues as it has been, the city will not attract new businesses. And that money that we need desperately for education and community efforts. We need those jobs. Racism and socioeconomic status is inextricably linked so we need jobs. And what about those business owners who are trying to rebuild on the North side and Lake Street? They need that area to be safe to provide for people to come support them. Right now, people are living in fear of crime. There is unending footage on social media of crowds getting in the way of the police now. And while recent events have caused lack of faith in the police, this can’t continue or people will continue to be hurt. Families won’t get closure when police can’t complete an investigation. Many of them innocent. It is not on the right side to the people of Minneapolis to hold us hostage right now to agree to an unclear vision that may or may not work. There are too many unanswered questions at this point.

And if nothing else, consider everything you hear about Brazil. Their present leader, even though he was known for his highly offensive nature prior to the election was still elected. Why? The rise of violent crime and his promises to crack down on it.

Wed 7/15/2020 4:51 PM

This charter amendment should **not** be placed on the ballot unless the proposed change includes some preset level for a required police force is included. The required level could be less than the current requirement, but there needs to be some minimum level of a police force. The city council should not have complete discretion on what level is required. As written, I would vote **no** if it was on the ballot in November.

Wed 7/15/2020 4:40 PM

I'm a resident of Ward 3 and am writing to voice my full support for the proposed amendment. Opening this issue up to the general public this November is the only equitable thing to do-voters should be able to make their desires known. This is a decision that shouldn't be made by any city appointees- it should be decided by the democratic process.

My fiancé and I are in full support of abolishing the violent, murderous Minneapolis Police Department. An organization so rotten cannot be reformed through incremental measures. 150 are now filing PTSD claims that taxpayers are expected to fund. Where can brutalized and terrified citizens apply for free handouts like these? I've seen friends maimed, terrorized, and murdered by this pathetic joke of a police department, and enough is enough.

A Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department, built by community based participatory deliberation, is the only way for our city to heal, grow, and move forward. My household will be voting in favor of the amendment, and I urge the council to make the right decision. Let the people of Minneapolis decide.

Wed 7/15/2020 4:21 PM

We are not in favor of "defunding the police". This is a rush to judgement. We also do not think it prudent to rush a vote in November to our city constituents. Police reform is needed, but in a manner that brings us to the table to work together for necessary change. This aggressive city council proposal Divides and brings about more dissent into our community. Those officers that serve honorably, of which is the majority, should not be branded with those that need to be removed. Positive change is one that Listens and looks at all of the needs. Right now, we are in crisis modality. Take the right course of action, listen and begin to heal this city.

July 15, 2020 2:55 PM

I'm writing in regards to today's Charter Commission hearing on the proposal to dismantle the MPD. Since I won't be able to attend the hearing, I wanted to share this with you all as this proposal continues to be developed.

While I fully support defunding the MPD and putting those funds into better safety and development programs, I also think it is imperative that while we reimagine public safety we ALSO have community oversight of the MPD as long as it still exists, as well as community oversight over any other body that

comes after the MPD that will be responsible for enforcing laws and responding to crimes. White supremacy and government-sponsored brutality will only be eliminated in these realms through proper community oversight from people who represent all of our city, including those who are Black, brown, and from all different socioeconomic backgrounds. Communities United Against Police Brutality (CUAPB) has done ample work to provide recommendations for what such an oversight body could look like. I hope it will be taken seriously, and that an oversight body satisfactory to our diverse community will be implemented as soon as possible.

Wed 7/15/2020 3:49 PM

I strongly oppose the amendment to end and replace the Minneapolis Police Department charter. The idea is incredibly alarming given the brazen shootings and other crimes happening in Minneapolis (not to mention the tent encampments and associated sexual assault, violence and drug use). I think bad guys are feeling emboldened by police pulling back after the murder of George Floyd and the riots that followed. I believe this amendment would make things worse and our city might not be able to come back from it.

Wednesday, July 15, 2020 2:55 PM

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While I fully support defunding the MPD and putting those funds into better safety and development programs, I also think it is imperative that while we reimagine public safety we ALSO have community oversight of the MPD as long as it still exists, as well as community oversight over any other body that comes after the MPD that will be responsible for enforcing laws and responding to crimes. White supremacy and government-sponsored brutality will only be eliminated in these realms through proper community oversight from people who represent all of our city, including those who are Black, brown, and from all different socioeconomic backgrounds. Communities United Against Police Brutality (CUAPB) has done ample work to provide recommendations for what such an oversight body could look like. I hope it will be taken seriously, and that an oversight body satisfactory to our diverse community will be implemented as soon as possible.

Wed 7/15/2020 3:37 PM

I DO NOT support changing the charter or defunding the Police. I think it is time to RECALL the Mayor and City Council members, just like we are doing with Walz!

Wed 7/15/2020 2:45 PM

You are acting irresponsibly to rush putting changing the city charter on the ballot. People need details - not pipe dreams of how a new structure might run. You are wasting time and energy that could be used to form committees to help support new training and education in police academies and forces now in effect. How can we redirect some 911 calls for the mentally ill and also the addicted? figure it out! We have asked our police to answer every problem in the city. That's your fault. Don't blame them. They obviously need more training in racial sensitivity. So help! Work with the police chief, not against him.

Wed 7/15/2020 2:34 PM

The work I do in the cultural sector fuels Minnesota's economy and so everyday I am in witness of the types of support people need to thrive, what thrives when it is given public dollars and vice versa. We know that one of the biggest stalwarts in the conversation on public safety is the issue of the unchecked and unbalanced power of the police force; and many wish to shift resources away from this entity towards other mechanisms and programs that would contribute more to public safety. In order to do that, I need you to do your jobs and give Minnesota residents the right to vote on that. Give us the option to declare what kind of community we want to live, work and play in. I am writing today to support the proposal made by Reclaim The Block, Black Visions Collective, Color of Change and other Black and Brown community leaders to amend the City Charter so that we can make wise public investments and create better community safety policies that affect our lives and the services we pay for. Without your action on this NOW, we won't get to hear the best solutions and investments regarding safety and violence prevention, ways to reduce harm, or ways to decriminalize. The stakes are TOO HIGH. The Minneapolis City Council voted unanimously for an amendment to the City Charter on June 26. To this end, I am calling on both Mayor Frey and the Charter Commission to join the entire Minneapolis City Council to approve the amendment NOW. Let us vote!

Wed 7/15/2020 2:15 PM

Do not get rid of the Mpls Police Dept;

Reform and re-educate!

Wed 7/15/2020 1:43 PM

The charter should not be changed under any circumstances. The city council has been against the police department from its inception and are the ones that actually need to go. You can see what's happening in the city right now after the mayor and the city council have weakened them and do not stand behind them. How many more people need to be shot before you understand that the police are doing a vital job for this community and we need them! More police officers should be hired, you can't do that kind of job with Community activist and neighbors. To think you can do that is just ridiculous!

Wed 7/15/2020 1:29 PM

After living in the twin cities for 50 years, my husband and I spent 12 years out of this state before choosing to return to MN to retire. We had a few months of enjoying living downtown Minneapolis and all this city has to offer: parks, trails, walkability, before the civil unrest. We were sickened by the Floyd murder, but also deeply troubled by the slow response of law enforcement during the riots. We can't have racist murderers as police officers, but not having a police department would be a reason to move out of Minneapolis. We need a police department. We don't want a social worker or mental health counselor to respond to a 911 call. We need well funded and well supported officers in our community. We think a lot of wasted time, effort and money is going into defunding police versus what we believe should be happening: systemic reform of the system. When a teacher is accused of sexually abusing a child, for example, we don't get rid of public education. We get rid of the teacher: prosecute, examine background checks, systems and reviews. While that example is not the same as taking a life, it is destroying a life. De-escalation initiatives are a good start for police reform; they also need new hiring practices, ongoing education, and perhaps most importantly thorough supervisory evaluation and

accountable reporting of existing officers, as well as anonymous peer review and reporting. Let's invest in helping them fix what's broken. A glut of home sales is already beginning downtown. Retail opportunities have pulled out. We personally don't know anyone who thinks defunding police is a good idea. We feel the city council has grabbed media coverage to create a voice for themselves and will be voting in favor of silencing those voices and replacing them with voices of reason for reform. If it weren't for Covid- we'd be going door to door grabbing signatures opposing their efforts.

Wed 7/15/2020 1:26 PM

I don't think the police reform is well thought out when I see things like this:

(1) **Director of Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department.** The Mayor nominates and the City Council appoints a director of the department of community safety and violence prevention under section 8.4(b). Individuals eligible to be appointed as director will have **non-law enforcement experience** in community safety services, including but not limited to public health and/or restorative justice approaches.

Please do not box in the reform efforts with constraints such as, **non-law enforcement experience**. Law enforcement experience should not be deemed disqualifying. For example, I have no reason to believe our current police chief could not fill the role described above.

I believe policing needs to change yet do not support its elimination.

Wed 7/15/2020 1:15 PM

I am asking that you please postpone the possibilities of changing our city charter until more research and understanding is clarified for the public. At this time I could not vote in favor of any changes in November because there just is not enough information as to what, how or why we would be changing our city charter or what the plan or options of plans for our future. It could potentially give too much discretion in to the hands of a few for these changes.

We have one chance to get this right, please do not force this issue without proper due diligence.

Wed, Jul 15, 2020 at 9:11 AM

As a longtime Minneapolis resident in the Lyndale Neighborhood, and voting citizen, I represent many in asking for clarity in the specific measures that will be taken in implementing a reduced police presence.

A. We need transparency on who will be counseling an implementation and integration of many areas, including mental health and social services that may point to housing and education. What is the process you will use?

B. With little control reenforcement in this often violent society, how will those involved in intervention know they can approach a domestic situation without risking their own safety?

C. Will the city pilot some aspects in current circumstances, in order to gain experience before drawing up a credible plan?

D. Are you following a template, other examples? Every city has its own history, demographic, but who are you communicating with in communities where changing the stature of police works?

I am behind defunding the police, but your constituents need to know this is more than an idealistic vision in order to make our community look better than we have these past months. Dismantling the power of the police union immediately would make huge changes.

Residents have heard gunshots (Not just fireworks) in our neighborhood increase several times a week. There seems to be no reason or result of these shots, at least that is reported. We know many neighborhoods have to suffer this to great harm, when none should. There are a lot of people with guns who should not be carrying them and I am concerned this will increase, if those who think safety will be diminished without police presence.

Please listen and be thoughtful, rational and communicative so citizens can understand the value of defunding the police department.

Wed 7/15/2020 12:04 PM

The Minneapolis Charter Commission's job is to determine whether the proposal is appropriate to the charter. It is not the Commission's job to govern nor block a democratic process from happening. The uprising following George Floyd's death was a referendum on the police department, even if it didn't take place in City Hall. Thousands of us took to the street. Now, the Commission must do its job and let Minneapolis residents make their decision at the ballot box. We cannot wait another year.

Wednesday, July 15, 2020 11:36 AM

As a former member of the Civilian Police Review Authority in Minneapolis, a neighborhood association chair and a member for four years of the Minneapolis Neighborhood Community Engagement Commission, I wanted to share my thoughts about current events in Minneapolis impacting public safety and policing.

The Minneapolis Charter Commission must take as much time as necessary to allow for substantial and robust community engagement to occur!

I along with many Minneapolitans want to see transformative and significant changes to the way in which our city handles public safety. Minneapolis has the unique opportunity, as the epicenter of calls for changes to policing in America, to take the lead on this important and necessary work in a thoughtful and inclusive way.

Sadly, I believe recent action by our City Council will cause much of this momentum to be stalled and potentially stopped, something I know Minneapolitans don't want to see happen.

My core issue with the proposed amendment now before the Minneapolis Charter Commission is that the timeline for public engagement (July 1st to August 14th) is entirely too short to offer Minneapolis the best chance to have a proposal with broad support. The accelerated timeline is bad for Minneapolis, primarily because it is a bad way to make good public policy.

Does this timeline demonstrate a want by our City Council to have a vibrant and diverse discussion about policing in Minneapolis? Or does it feel as though a majority of our elected City leaders already know the answers and aren't interested in hearing from us? My belief is that the latter is true, and that truly causes me concern and frustration.

In the midst of summer (a traditionally tough time to have robust engagement) and a global pandemic, public engagement will potentially be depressed in a way that will lead to a charter amendment proposal that will not be its best possible self.

I'm asking the Minneapolis Charter Commission to not rush its important work and to take all the necessary time it needs to craft language that represents the views of all Minneapolitans.

Wed 7/15/2020 10:44 AM

Changing the Charter does not defund or eliminate MPD. What it does allow is for the residents of Minneapolis to have a community discussion about how we want to protect our communities. The charter is outdated and does not allow the city to take the necessary steps to even begin this discussion. Our emergency services such as the fire department does not abide by outdated population calculations to provide the necessary level of services that are needed to help the city during emergency services. By putting the proposed charter change on the November 2020 ballot is the right thing to do and is democracy in action. Let the residents decide how we want the public safety discussion to proceed and allow our voices to then be heard by the Mayor and City Council. If the Commission decides to not allow a vote on the charter change you are silencing our voices and as appointed commissioners are making decisions for all the residents of Minneapolis. I strongly urge you to vote to allow the amendment change as requested by the Minneapolis City Council be allowed on the November 2020 ballot.

Wed 7/15/2020 10:36 AM

Please let the people vote. The uprising was a referendum on the police department, even if it didn't take place in city hall. Thousands took to the street, now the Charter Commission must do its job and let the community decide at the ballot box. We can't wait another year.

Please give the city of Minneapolis a chance to vote yes on the amendment.

Wed 7/15/2020 10:35 AM

I write from various perspectives to oppose placing the current proposal on the upcoming August ballot.

I have lived in Minneapolis from 1980 to 1988 and again from 1998 to date. I currently live in the Third Precinct. I am a white woman, 64 years old. I retired from teaching law five years ago. I have taught a wonderfully diverse group of people over the decades, and I have worked with Black youth in volunteer capacities. My husband taught students of color for decades. We have Black relatives, including a biracial nephew. So the issues with the MPD are deeply concerning to me.

But the proposed amendment is not, in my mind, a helpful step towards a well considered solution. The legislature and the Human Rights Department are pursuing action, with the cooperation of the mayor and police chief and governor. I see these as appropriate avenues for change at this time. I am concerned that key BIPOC leaders are opposed to the amendment. I am also concerned about maintaining public safety at this time.

I am especially opposed to the vagueness and hastiness of this amendment. When this idea first surfaced, my council member indicated that it would not be presented for a vote until 2021 when details were known. At a minimum, this is the course the Council should be expected to follow before the voters should be called upon to vote. This amendment is not ripe for the ballot.

Wed 7/15/2020 9:51 AM

I agree strongly with the comments former Deputy Mayor David Fey has made. I urge you to ensure that the ballot initiative moves forward to change the language in the City Charter in the fall. Transformative

change to the Minneapolis Police Department is long overdue and necessary to the safety of our community. As Mr. Fey has stated, it is vital that we:

1. Remove the required number of officers and the dedicated tax funding mechanism;
2. Move the re-envisioned Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department under the control of the City Council, similar to the Fire Department.

The current charter is outdated and does not allow the City to take the necessary steps to enact the change our community desperately needs and deserves.

Wed 7/15/2020 9:18 AM

For all those folks that want to defund the police, perhaps they can tell me who we should send, or what we should do about the 10-15 rounds that were fired off outside my front door last night! Send in a Phycologist or perhaps a welfare worker? Seems those of us in mainstream Minneapolis aren't supposed to have a voice, just minority or fringe groups. You know us folks that are 36 year + homeowners and tax payers, do we get a voice in this? We have spent that time trying to put the north side back together, and now these (defund) including my councilman seem intent on throwing all that work down the tubes, and with a wish and a hope will come up with a better plan! Why don't they focus on defunding the gang bangers, some of us don't find it ironic that what close to a dozen other folks, pregnant women, teenagers, adults, have been murdered, children shot, in Mpls. Since George Floyd, but the outrage over those murders is "zero" why is that don't those lives matter, why don't they address the elephant in the room? The police are not the majority of the problem, just an easy target. It would appear these folks actually want to help[the criminal's and gang bangers take over the city!

DEFUND THE CRIMINALS NOT THE POLICE!

Question: How do we know if our opinion is being read/heard, or do we have to be on one of the city hall meeting phone calls?

Wed 7/15/2020 9:10 AM

I oppose the proposed Charter revision by the Minneapolis City Council. We need to fund, even increase funding for our police department to ensure they are all well trained and able to keep our community safe no matter what the color of skin someone is. The council seems to be rushing into something that isn't well defined. Let them come up with a detailed plan with what they would like to do and then do a trial run. We don't need to change the charter in order to do that.

Wed 7/15/2020 8:55 AM

I live in powderhorn neighborhood. I support the changes to the charter. The charter commission should not hold this up. Thank you.

Wed 7/15/2020 8:16 AM

I am a resident in Ward 6 and was writing in regarding the push to immediately remove 45 million dollars from the MPD budget. Recent events and demonstrations - along with MPD's brutal track record of murdering and terrorizing our community (especially black and brown folks) - have shown that MPD

do longer has the trust of the people of Minneapolis, nor are they effective at keeping the people safe. As such, it is imperative that we immediately start the process of divesting from the police.

Wed 7/15/2020 8:15 AM

I am a 5th ward citizen and would like to request information about the defunding of the Minneapolis Police.

1. Does the City Council have the overall expense for making the changes to our Police Department?
 - a. Attorney fees?
 - b. Renaming? Documents, etc.?
 - c. Changing all naming on police cars and police stations?
 - d. 911 programming?
 - e. Cost to set up other departments to perform the functions taken away from the police?
 - f. Are you raising taxes again? (We can not afford higher taxes in Mpls)
 - g. Private security for the City Council? (while taking security away from the citizens)
2. Who is paying for the all the expenses related to the proposal?
3. Will the City Council take a pay cut to cover any of the expenses?
4. Will the budget be available for public review before and if the proposal is put on the election ballot this fall?

Please respond as soon as possible.

Wed 7/15/2020 6:27 AM

I am writing to urge you to let the residents of Minneapolis vote on the charter amendment that was unanimously proposed by our elected city council. I appreciate the charter commission's desire to hear from residents and deliberate over possible wording changes; I recognize the important consultative role of the commission; and I believe that you were appointed to your positions because of your insight.

However, if the commission's desire is to let the residents of Minneapolis decide how they would like to proceed, the best way to do this would be to allow a public vote on this amendment in the 2020 election when voter turnout is expected to be high. I'm sure we can benefit greatly from the recommendations and input of the commission, but I do urge the commission to provide these with an urgency that is commensurate with that expressed by our citizens and elected leaders.

Wed 7/15/2020 2:32 AM

As a constituent of the 2nd ward and a resident who lives within a mile of the third precinct I am in favor of allowing Minneapolis voters to be heard on the "charter amendment" to change the status of the police department. While I am not certain of the most efficient of effective means to bring racial justice

to bear in Minneapolis, I do know that the culture of the MPD needs to change. I support officers living in the city. I support officers being accountable to the laws they are sworn to uphold. I support officers feeling safe and supported in their role in Minneapolis. I support gun control. Please don't stand in the way of change. Help us find a way to make things work better for everyone, especially our residents who have suffered injustice and been ignored for so long.