

7/3/2020 10:44:57 AM

I am afraid of what will happen when the police are "defunded" or "abolished" (the unclear and inconsistent language around this issue is infuriating and confusing). I am comparing this issue to what happened back in the 60s and 70s when mental health asylums were disbanded and community-based options were supposed to take over (group homes, day treatment, etc). However, even though some funding was funneled to create these community-based options, not enough was funded. So now we are left with a gap of care that has impacted thousands of individuals, people who should be in groups homes or mental health institutions are now on the streets, homeless, addicted to drugs, and struggling to survive. Community-based options do work when implemented correctly. However, we as a country have had a history of really sucking at implementing them. How will Minneapolis know that no MPD is working? How are you going to measure that? How will you ensure that the money that would have went to funding MPD actually makes it to these community-based programs, instead of lining some politician's pocket? Why are we funding personal security for a select few, while debating taking away the security of the general public? And since Hennepin County Sheriff Deputies will be picking up the slack that is created by disbanding MPD, isn't that worse to have people who don't really know or live in the community police it? Why can't we keep the MPD, get rid of the police union, and re-hire and re-train people who are from the communities they would be policing? Don't disband MPD totally, but maybe take away the military equipment, and use that funding for community options? It is not right that tax money is being used for personal security guards. While I don't live in Minneapolis, I work here. I come here regularly to do things (I live in Saint Paul). If this amendment is passed to disband MPD, I'm sorry but I think many people will be making a mass exodus out of this area. If interested in the effect of community-based care: https://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/74710/E82976.pdf

7/3/2020 10:46:28 AM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police!

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want.
Ward 6

7/3/2020 10:48:14 AM

I read the full proposal for the amendment of the City charter to empower the creation of a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. I support this proposal with the caveat that public money be wisely redistributed to address the underlying foundations of racism that have created over time and unhealthy culture.

My stake is: I am a 24 year MPLS teacher, retired now, grandmother of two biracial kids, blessed with great school opportunities, who wants to see children grow up in a healthy Minneapolis

This is my second comment today! Ward 11

7/3/2020 10:49:17 AM

Mpd has proven itself to be brutal and unaccountable. Remove MPD and replace it with a civilian run department of community safety and violence prevention.

7/3/2020 10:49:38 AM

I am completely opposed to the Proposed Charter amendment related to community safety and violence prevention (CH2020-00014). While I welcome programs to benefit the community and address much needed change, I am wholeheartedly against removing the police department.

7/3/2020 10:51:38 AM

I stand in solidarity with Reclaim the Block in their demands. We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want.
Ward 10

7/3/2020 10:52:47 AM

This amendment cannot wait another year. There are lives at stake for everyday MPD is allowed to protect their own "bad apples". As stewards of the community you should be aware of the statistics making it clear that police officers are more likely to be domestic abusers, that white supremacists have infiltrated police departments all across the country, officers are untrained in the law, and routinely break the law and their own policies. Reform is not possible when the police break their own rules as they currently stand. Now is the time to fight back. We cannot tolerate an inept and willfully malicious presence in our city any longer. The will of the people is clear. We cannot wait. We will not wait. Every police officer is complicit, the entire system is corrupt. Protect the people and put the amendment on the ballot! Ward 6

7/3/2020 10:53:16 AM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Ward 6

7/3/2020 10:54:14 AM

Let the people vote on the charter! Its our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want.
Ward 8

7/3/2020 10:54:36 AM

Hell no!

7/3/2020 10:56:48 AM

Hello! Thank you for taking the challenging steps toward defunding and rethinking policing in our city. While I think it's very brave and inspiring of the Council to bring this topic to the national stage and lead a revolutionary movement, these proposed changes are long overdue and justice cannot continue to wait. The community--particularly Black and Indigenous community members--deserve to be a part of the process. Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to

determine the kind of city we all want. Thank you for your hard work as elected officials in a revolutionary time, and for being accountable to the needs and safety of the community. Ward 4

7/3/2020 11:04:21 AM

We recently moved to downtown Minneapolis and have purchased a new condominium. We are extremely concerned about the consequences of eliminating the police force. The people who will be most adversely affected are the poor and vulnerable, those least able to protect themselves. Also, please consider the consequences of losing businesses with headquarters in Minneapolis. How will they recruit and retain their workforce without a basic level of safety and security? The economic consequences will be devastating for the city. Property values will decrease, thereby affecting property taxes. The solution isn't an all or nothing approach. Rather it requires working with the police union to eliminate the cops who have lost the ability to see humans in each individual they encounter. There should also be a recognition that they are constantly seeing the worst people in our society and additional resources should be available for supporting their physical and mental health. What if we supported our police force instead of vilifying them?

7/3/2020 11:04:42 AM

In the hopes of creating real and true public safety for everyone in Minneapolis, I urge you to change the city charter that protects police and eliminate the Minneapolis Police Department. We must listen to the most vulnerable in our communities who ask for support and funding for a civilian run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. There is ample evidence that policing and the criminal justice system perpetuate systemic racism, let's all work to dismantle this together. Ward 2

7/3/2020 11:06:02 AM

We have a duty to protect and serve the interests of all the people in our communities. We have seen time and time again that the police do not follow that same duty. It is time to remove a broken system and replace it with one that serves everyone and truly keeps us safe.

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

- We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police!

- We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 4

7/3/2020 11:09:38 AM

we can't wait another year! both for ourselves and as an example to the rest of the country. PLEASE put this amendment on the ballot this november. as citizens we deserve the change to shape a more meaningful and just version of community health and safety. Ward 5

7/3/2020 11:09:44 AM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter. Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police!

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want.

7/3/2020 11:09:48 AM

Our Police Department is neither worthy nor appropriate for this city. What follows must not be beholden to what we have now.

7/3/2020 11:10:32 AM

justice vor Minneapolis

7/3/2020 11:10:56 AM

For over 40 years I have lived and worked in the Minneapolis area, and like many others I know, I have been increasingly wary of going into popular areas of the city such as Uptown, Hennepin Avenue and North Loop because of street crime. That, however, is nothing compared to the violence taking place daily in our residential neighborhoods.

This being the case, it is troubling to hear the City Council propose “defunding” or “disbanding” the police. Without a clear alternative in place, we are left to imagine the Council’s vision of a safe Minneapolis. Maybe like the CHOP district in Seattle?

It is nice to imagine a community that doesn’t need police, but to think that law enforcement can be safely and effectively carried out by local activists and social workers is to deny reality. There will always be situations in which danger must be countered by force, and these situations are not always predictable or avoidable.

If there is a realistic, well-thought-out plan for providing public safety in the absence of a police department, then the council needs to come forward with specific details ASAP. If, however, this is just trendy rhetoric, the council needs to stop it, engage with and assert control over the existing police department. Until one of these things happens, people are going to avoid, or even abandon, this city.

7/3/2020 11:13:44 AM

No more cops in our communities! The police bring only violence and fear into neighborhoods all across Minneapolis and we do not need them. Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Ward 6

7/3/2020 11:20:03 AM

This amendment is critical for seeking justice for George Floyd. The only way to ensure that Black people do not continue to die at the hands of the police is to create community oversight of the police, and reduce the number of police in general.

7/3/2020 11:22:53 AM

Minneapolis, and cities across the United States, need transformative changes in structure. Let's invest in our people. Let's invest in communities, rather than policing. It is clear that the current system is not working, as too many deaths could have been prevented. Let's change that. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/3/2020 11:23:34 AM

The nation's eyes are on the Minneapolis Police Department and we are outraged by the treatment of Minneapolis residents at the hands of the MPD. We are calling upon the City Council to acknowledge the damage the MPD has done to residents (most especially those who are black or POC) and work to eradicate the systemic racism embodied in the Police Department. Approve the proposed charter amendment, establish a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department – it is the first necessary step to rectify the wrongs perpetuated against black citizens of Minneapolis for decades.

7/3/2020 11:24:22 AM

I am opposed to Section 1. Article VII, Section 7.2(a) of the Minneapolis City Charter amendment.

I am opposed to 7.3 that would disband the police

I am opposed to 7.3.1 that would eliminate the police chief

I am opposed to creation of a department of community safety and violence prevention

This proposal will further exacerbate the lawlessness that is occurring in Minneapolis as witnessed by the significant increase in shooting and murders since the George Floyd riots.

This proposal will further exacerbate unsafe conditions that exist in Minneapolis for all residents with low income individuals and persons of color bearing the greatest burden.

This proposal will exacerbate an exodus of law abiding citizens and businesses from Minneapolis with subsequent erosion of tax base and further demise of City Quality of Life.

This proposal will further erode the safety of public transport with subsequent decrease in ridership and increase crime on public transport.

This proposal will make public parks and spaces unsafe.

This proposal will increase the number of conceal and carry permits with subsequent increase in death or injury as individuals seek to protect themselves given that this proposal will erode individuals security and well being within the city. Ward 13

7/3/2020 11:25:51 AM

We have a democratic right to determine how our city is made safe and livable for all citizens. After years watching members of law enforcement display brutality, excessive force, and abuse of power, Minneapolis citizens have lost trust in the force enlisted to keep our city safe. When the citizens of a city feel threatened or unsafe in the presence of law enforcement meant to serve and protect, it is a sign that law enforcement has become a detriment to the city. It is time to put the safety and well-being of our community in the hands of social workers and other well-trained individuals who respect all human lives. It is time to eliminate the system that is not working and work toward a new Department of Human Safety and Violence Prevention. Ward 13

7/3/2020 11:26:20 AM

As someone residing outside of Minneapolis, I wholeheartedly agree with the many Minneapolis residents: we don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention that uses proven community safety strategies and is shaped by community. Any police that continue to

exist will be under the control of this new civilian department. It should not be those who are armed and often don't even live in the communities they're policing to make decisions for those communities. It's long overdue that communities make decisions on what's best for them.

As someone residing outside of Minneapolis, I wholeheartedly agree with the many Minneapolis residents: we don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police!

Minneapolis residents deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects their democratic right to determine the kind of city that THEY want. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/3/2020 11:28:32 AM

We must re-imagine public safety in our city by listening to our communities -- especially those most impacted by police violence. And, if at the end of the process of listening and envisioning what this could look like, we decide we need to significantly reduce police presence or eliminate it fully, we must have the ability to do that at the city level. We need to let the people of Minneapolis vote in November to amend the City Charter so we have any chance of following through on the final plan to keep our communities safe. It will not be a legitimate process if the City Charter hampers the City from making any of the changes constituents have worked so hard on. Please put the vote to the people this November. Ward 11

7/3/2020 11:32:46 AM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in the Minneapolis city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police! The people of Minneapolis deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of community people want to live in. It's time that our country actually fulfills its promise of "for the people, by the people." I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/3/2020 11:32:48 AM

I am in favor of this charter revision. I think it is a good first step in addressing the much needed changes to policing in Minneapolis. I look forward to the city working with the community to address the needs of all residents in a transparent and cooperative way moving forward with a focus on health and community development services over policing. Ward 1

7/3/2020 11:34:22 AM

My fellow community members and I do not want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter. Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention, which commits itself to an anti-racist, anti-transphobic, and pro-immigrant agenda that protects everyone in the city and not just the wealthy white folks who fear skin color and difference. My fellow community members and I do not want more police in our communities either. Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum number of police, which will give us the chance to begin a defunding and dismantling process in the coming years. My fellow community members and I deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year, or another ten years. Let the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter and respect our democratic right to determine the kind of

city we want. Do not kowtow to corporate interests and the interests of wealthy white landowners who built their wealth on labor exploitation, segregation, and stolen land. Police uphold these historical violences, and we cannot let them continue to prop up a dying, landed gentry minority. Ward 10

7/3/2020 11:36:18 AM

absolutely not... are you nuts?!?!

7/3/2020 11:43:11 AM

I strongly support this amendment!

I believe that the training of officers of the Law Enforcement Division or the Department of Public Safety should be very different from the training of police officers. They should be trained in nonviolent de-escalation methods. I also believe that they should not carry any weapons or at the very least not carry guns. The department as a whole should have no militarized equipment. Such equipment currently owned by the police department is extremely expensive and utterly useless. It does nothing to encourage public safety and is instead a threat to public safety as it is used to terrorize Black communities.

There must be a clear and concerted effort every step of the way in creating and establishing this department to make it anti racist and in complete opposition to the methods of the current police department. The way the police department terrorizes communities of color is a threat to public safety and creates crime rather than preventing it. A simple rebranding of the police department will not suffice. I believe even well-intentioned people may inadvertently fall into that pitfall, so it must be actively and intentionally avoided.

Finally, I believe that the budget of the Department of Public Safety should be significantly less than that of the current police department and that money should instead, as many have already pushed for, go to education, housing, and welfare. As is a well established fact, eliminating poverty is the best way to prevent crime and encourage public safety. Preventing crime from ever taking place is far more beneficial, effective, and cheap than dealing with crime after it has occurred. Ward 8

7/3/2020 11:43:36 AM

I believe residents need to know what this means. I, for one, don't know what it means. Does this mean no more police? Does it mean the city council manages the police department?

All I know is that there have been multiple requests for more protection of our properties which continue to be vandalized and the police are too busy killing young black men to respond to calls and reports of thefts and breakins in our Minneapolis neighborhoods.

I do believe we need a complete overhaul, but I'm not sure the city council is qualified to do that. I don't even believe the city council is qualified to manage the city planning processes. Adding new bike trails is not as important as solving the more important issues facing our city. It's time to overhaul the city council as well.

7/3/2020 11:46:14 AM

I urge the commission to put the amendment on the ballot this November. We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 6

7/3/2020 11:49:03 AM

With respect, the dismantling and/or de-funding of the police department in Minneapolis is a terrible idea, without basis in REALITY. The lawless element of our society will capitalize on their being less law and you will see crime rates across the board skyrocket.

Clean up the police department. Reign in the power of the police union. Fire bad officers. Do the hard work of making the sad situation in Minneapolis better with common sense solutions rather than signal your own virtue all while you're protected by private security at the public's expense.

Make the city safe and citizens and businesses will want to stay. De-funding or dismantling the police will do the exact opposite of that. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/3/2020 11:50:25 AM

I want to see an additional amendment added making the mpd and bob kroll pay for the cleanup efforts of the destruction of the city that they caused. Ward 9

7/3/2020 11:54:40 AM

The charter amendment must go on the November 2020 ballot. Please let us decide how to create safety in our communities. We do not to continue protecting a brutal, unaccountable police department. The charter requirement for a minimum number of police must be removed. Thank you. Ward 10

7/3/2020 12:03:40 PM

The behavior of certain police officers has been horrifying, but the solution is not to get rid of the police department. Certainly, the community needs some form of policing. It is true that much of the police work could be more efficiently, safely, and effectively handled by other types of first responders, online report forms, and traffic cameras for traffic violations. But not all police functions can or should be handled this way. For those situations in which actual police presence is required, we need to:

- a) maintain a police force in some form (although possibly with reduced numbers if other employees can provide much of the current services) and
- b) provide much more oversight and training for officers to avoid tragic situations (Note, that this is likely not racial discrimination training as that seems not to be very effective)

This article has some thoughtful points about possible approaches:

<https://www.minnpost.com/community-voices/2020/07/obvious-doable-solutions-for-obvious-problems-in-the-minneapolis-police-department/>

7/3/2020 12:10:04 PM

If Minneapolis removes the police, I would no longer go to Minneapolis.

7/3/2020 12:14:15 PM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum number of police!

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want.
Ward 1

7/3/2020 12:14:37 PM

I don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter. Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

I don't want more police in our communities. Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police.

People most harmed by the MPD and policing deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year. Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 10

7/3/2020 12:16:34 PM

Dear Charter Commission Members, We cannot wait another year or longer to begin the process of remaking public safety in our city. This is the year that citizens will be voting to determine our future course, and police department change must be part of the choices on the ballot if we are to retain any public faith in political processes. We absolutely cannot create the reforms that are needed within the constraints of the existing city charter which requires a certain percentage of police officers, and keeps the existing police union in power to negate any reforms adopted by our city council and implemented by our mayor.

Please do your part to keep momentum going. Your failure to push forward and put the charter amendment on the ballot despite tight timelines will damage public confidence in the political process and ultimately increase the threat to public safety in Minneapolis and around the country.

The amendment creates an important process, rather than a pre-determined solution, and so is actually a best practice for community engagement and local problem-solving, not a deficiency. Please expedite its inclusion on the November ballot.

As a state public servant and a union member, I am actively trying to explore authentic engagement processes in my own work. So I understand how it can be both an uncomfortable and an absolutely necessary approach to inclusive and effective problem-solving. I also understand how required processes and timelines can be used as excuses to slow momentum and fend off needed change. Please do not allow this to happen, because failure to put the amendment on the ballot is a danger to our democracy. Ward 7

7/3/2020 12:18:11 PM

I support this change to the charter. The binding police language currently in the charter is an impediment to the change in public safety I want to see and the public deserves. We need our hands untied to create a better way forward. I'll be paying close attention to the hearings next week. Thank you, Ward 2

7/3/2020 12:26:31 PM

I would hope that if the amendment for the Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department is voted in, this would eliminate the police union power over the new department and dissolve the current arbitration system for accused police officers? Ward 7

This amendment has far too little information, lacks a clear vision on what a Department of Community Safety would be and how it would structure itself to prevent the same problems we have now. HOW will renaming and restructuring prevent systemic racist structures and racist individuals from using the new department as a force to control POC? Not a rhetorical question there-- I am literally asking for the HOW to be clearly laid out in a plan; without that piece figured out and clearly stated in a charter amendment, it leaves room for the same problem of systemic racism to pop up again like cutting the head off the hydra. GET SPECIFIC. I can understand that council members are worried that taking more time, getting more specific will slow down the process of change, BUT LISTEN TO POC COMMUNITY MEMBERS who are more than worried, they are SCARED that this amendment will open the door to a whole new system of people with power to destroy them and who ignore or have no power to address actual crimes occurring in our community. I advocate for the following:

- defund and demilitarize the police force.

- fire all officers. Make them reapply. Do not rehire those who have a history of excessive force. They should have to be extensively screened for racist attitudes and how aware they are of unconscious bias. Screening for impulse control skills. Do not hire back any officers who are members of unions with known racist ties (Police Officers Federation). Do not hire any officers who are white and live outside Minneapolis. I would be interested to hear from actual POC in Mpls about how they would feel about POC officers who live outside the city being allowed on the force.

- basically follow Camden NJ model

- keep Cheif Arradondo. He knows and has actual ties to the community

- with the money saved by demilitarizing police, use those funds to invest in education, economic supports, health, for those most proportionately disadvantaged by racist systems.

- mandatory therapy for all officers. I am a mental health provider. When I've met/interacted with police officers (both on and off duty) not a single one I've ever met was emotionally, mentally, or socially well, regardless of whether they would qualify for a formal diagnosis. Let me repeat: all officers I have ever met or interacted with are observably unwell; the way the job is currently structured accepts trauma building up without care or treatment as the norm, which is not only downright stupid and callous, it sets up a perfect recipe for continued brutality and trauma in the officers own homes and in the communities they are supposed to be helping.

- fund actual mental health providers as responders to mental health calls.expand mental health crisis teams (COPE, county crisis lines). Have community members who have a frequent history of mental health calls identify which officers they have interacted with were actually somewhat helpful. Incentivise these identified officers to be part of a specialized unit that support mental health provider responders as needed. Create a sort of think tank or center for research and development made up of 75% mental health providers and 25% officers who already have shown they have SOME skill in this area, where they can collaborate and think and talk and design protocols and share expertise in order to develop the needed and yet unsolidified paradigm for how to approach mental health crisis calls when there is a concern about keeping people safe.

7/3/2020 12:30:46 PM

I am opposed to the proposed amendment, 7.3. I do NOT support defunding police.

1. People in vulnerable communities (North side) are speaking out that they do not want police defunding.

2. Gun violence has increased since this proposal.

3. This proposal will be damaging to the city - as business will close, real estate values will decline, leading to downward spiral and reduction of property tax base. Ward 3

7/3/2020 12:31:32 PM

I am a resident of Ward 8 in Minneapolis and I am strongly in favor of making these amendments to the City Charter. Ward 8

7/3/2020 12:38:17 PM

I am in full support of the charter amendment to disband the Minneapolis police department and create a department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Police do not keep our community safe, and actively enact violence against citizens. The MPD should not exist and this charter amendment is a step that we must take to ensure they don't. Do not let this amendment die. Ward 10

7/3/2020 12:43:59 PM

I'm writing to express support for the amendment which moves to dismantle fully the Minneapolis Police Department. However, it is of utmost importance that police officers, or former police officers, are not allowed to serve or be part of new solutions for community safety and violence prevention. The police is not just a department, but a subculture, and allowing it to take root in a new plan for public health will undermine our efforts to create a more just and equitable society in the Twin Cities. Please follow the lead of Black Visions Collective and make sure that you are fully abolishing the police, not allowing it to continue in some new form. Ward 7

7/3/2020 12:44:11 PM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Ward 4

7/3/2020 12:46:27 PM

My daughter lives in Mpls. I worked downtown for 10 years and my wife did for 35 years. We still visited the city regularly after our retirement, but will not return because of safety concerns. I worry for my daughter's safety every day.

You're proposing a change to the city charter for the purpose of eliminating the Mpls. police dept. As far as we know, you do not have a solid plan for it's replacement. Without specific details on what would come next, I cannot imagine why the 13 city council members should be given this kind of power. It is a very emotional time for the city right now. Please don't let recent tragic events cause you to make irrational decisions that will have severe consequences for law abiding citizens. I get the frustration, but we need policing. Like it or not, there are bad guys in our world. We all need the protection of the police. Reforms of the cops certainly make sense, eliminating them does not. What life experience or expertise do council members have that qualifies them to make these kinds of extraordinary changes?

I believe you are well intended, but please, use your common sense. Eliminating cops will hurt the people you claim to be most concerned about. Poor people and minorities in our most diverse areas will suffer the most from this. You are already losing control of the city. Recent broad daylight street crimes are spiking. It seems that police are already being pulled back, perhaps indirectly, by the current mood in the city. Demonizing all police is only making it worse. Shouldn't city leaders be working to find ways to heal the wounds and mistrust of police instead of adding to it?

Mpls. used to be a great city. Please don't turn us into the South side of Chicago or Detroit.

Thank you Rick S. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/3/2020 12:46:58 PM

I am in favor of voting on a charter amendment this year to remove the requirement for police. This amendment can't wait until next year. The lives of our community members depends on it. Ward 12

7/3/2020 12:51:19 PM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police! We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 2

7/3/2020 12:52:10 PM

Hello, My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a resident of Los Angeles, California.

Although I don't live in Minneapolis, I don't think that this amendment can wait another year. There have been countless murders of innocent black men, women, and children. By passing this, we can prevent death and violence immediately.

I don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in my city, or your city charter! By eliminating MPD, and creating a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention, we can invest more in our communities and spend money more wisely.

Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum number of police. Every person in Minneapolis deserves to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city you and I want.

Please take this into consideration and make the change people have been waiting for for decades. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/3/2020 12:53:17 PM

Dear Charter Commission, I live in the Bancroft neighborhood of Minneapolis and support the proposed amendment to the city charter to create a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention to replace the current police department.

The killing of George Floyd, and the Police Department's response to peaceful protests, along with the ongoing and emerging stories of systemic racism in the the city's policing, lead me to believe that the

department in its current form isn't redeemable. We need to start from scratch, and envision a department and a city that truly cares for the safety and dignity of all residents.

Charting a new course will be unsettling, and there will be bumps along the road. But clearly, the current course is not working. I am excited about living in a city that is striving for something better and more just in public safety. I strongly support the proposed charter amendment. Ward 8

7/3/2020 12:56:35 PM

Justice cannot wait for another year: let the people decide how to create safety in our communities!

- We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

- We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police!

- We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 5

7/3/2020 12:56:40 PM

This idea is absurd. Our city is in complete chaos and the council members want to blame all of this on the MPD while taking 0 accountability. The members should be disbanded. What have they accomplished during their terms? Nothing! Not Cunningham or Ellison have appeared at any of the murder scenes like the Predecessors.

7/3/2020 1:05:46 PM

Involve citizens Black lives matter

7/3/2020 1:06:58 PM

NO. Please do not forward this amendment question to the upcoming general election ballot. This is far too big of an issue to rush through the process with zero input from the citizens of Minneapolis. Amending our charter is a big deal, and there is a reason why the process should be measured and deliberative.

The city council has not done their homework, and is trying to force change which would only reduce police accountability.

Please be responsible, and do not allow this proposed charter amendment to move forward. Thank you.

7/3/2020 1:07:12 PM

I understand people's anger and distrust with the police department. However, a complete disbanding of the police department frankly scares the hell out of me. It is simply an invitation to thieves, burglars, and lawlessness. What we need is big-time reform. Real reform, not just lip service. This will not be easy. I propose something like what Camden, New Jersey did. Fire the entire police department and rehire with a very strict vetting process. The first question I would ask is what they thought of the murder of George Floyd. If the respondent says the officers involved did nothing wrong that person will not be hired. We also need a civilian review board and officers need performance reviews like people

get on most jobs. That would vet out crap like Derek Chauvin. Like most unions, The Poice Union needs big-time reform. The present system allows to many bad cops to stay on the force.

7/3/2020 1:08:55 PM

I support this charter amendment. We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! I believe we should eliminate MPD, and this amendment is the first step in that process. We should then create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

Minneapolis residents deserve to be a part of the process, and people have endured the racism and violence of the MPD for too. Justice cannot wait another year. Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 9

7/3/2020 1:16:31 PM

Please don't wait!!! Justice cannot wait for another year: let the people decide how to create safety in our communities. We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police! We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 4

7/3/2020 1:16:55 PM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police!

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 7

7/3/2020 1:18:59 PM

We need to keep the police department

7/3/2020 1:19:29 PM

Minneapolis is paying attention! As a registered voter, I want to be able to vote yes on this amendment in November! This would be positively life changing for so many in Minneapolis! Ward 10

7/3/2020 1:19:43 PM

I believe that the Charter Commission must decide to add the charter amendment to the ballot for November 2020. The residents of Minneapolis deserve a say in the future of our communities, and we can't wait another year. Let us vote and express our wish to eliminate the Minneapolis Police Department and replace it with a civilian-run Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention. Ward 7

7/3/2020 1:22:31 PM

As a white woman, Minneapolis raised, and a parent... I have been listening to the voices of Black people and our community, especially on the North side, and here's what I've been hearing: "Please don't get rid of the police! Save Chief Arradondo, and do not get rid of him. We need police to be able to investigate gun violence and bring justice when people are murdered." I agree with what they are saying.

My stance is: Do NOT remove the Police Department.

I want Chief Arradondo and Black community leaders to initiate reform. I want the police union to have less power, and Bob Kroll has to go, because Minneapolis residents are not being helped by his actions. They are being harmed. Right now, the Mpls Police Department is working to enact change and they need more support, and even more good local officers from the community to help achieve those goals of Chief Arradondo. Listen to what he is asking for. He's asking for more officers.

There does need to be a community safety fund to help victims of domestic violence have access to security cameras. Police need to back off and stop harassing Black people, stop following young Black men who are just walking home from the barber shop. Some police officers need to be fired or incentivized to retire early. Police need to be incentivized to live in Minneapolis, for example with a generous housing allowance. I don't support removing the Police Department.

7/3/2020 1:27:05 PM

I don't reside in Minneapolis but I'm commenting anyway because I think this Charter Amendment is so crucial to creating real public safety in Minneapolis. If adopted, it will also be a model for other cities including my city, Sacramento California. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/3/2020 1:29:08 PM

My husband and I have lived in our home in Minneapolis for 28 years. We are moving because of the council's poor judgment and their treatment of the MPD! The disappointing leadership of the city is irreversibly ruining our parks, safety, and community of a civilized and diverse neighborhood!

7/3/2020 1:29:56 PM

Hi, As a resident of ward 10 for the past 8 years (shout out East Lowry Hill!), I fully support the proposal to replace the police with a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. We need a system that works with and for the community to de-escalate situations and provide real social help. What we do NOT need are paranoid and warrior-minded men with guns who think shooting is the solution to every problem. The police do not make me feel safer; in fact, they are a menace who rarely even live in the communities they serve. This goes beyond a few "bad apples," it's the whole bunch, which is why reform won't work.

I know there will be lots of hyperbolic, Fox-news-watching commenters who think this proposal will lead to anarchy, because they have the privilege of not understanding what interactions with the police are like for the Black community. They ask "who will protect us?" without understanding it's the police that have been killing black and brown people in the streets with near impunity for generations.

We need real change and progress and I believe this is a step in the right direction towards justice for George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and the far-too-many others who have been murdered at the hands of the police. #BlackLivesMatter Thank you. Ward 10

7/3/2020 1:30:10 PM

The proposed amendment is good. I like the emphasis on public health and problem solving as a primary element of public safety. The removal of a funding formula allows for flexibility which is helpful to get money where it is needed for each particular budget year. For those who lament the lack of detail, I would suggest that the City Charter is more like a Constitution. It lays down the foundation, with the details to be filled in by Ordinances and other actions which can be changed more quickly as the need arises. Ward 3

7/3/2020 1:31:37 PM

I want to feel safe in my community. Justice cannot wait another year. Let the people decide how to create safety in our communities! We don't want more police in our communities. Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum number of police.

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. The people deserve to be part of the process! Ward 7

7/3/2020 1:32:40 PM

Hello, Since its inception, the Minneapolis Police Department has acted out a racist agenda. A long history has shown us that the MPD is not here to protect the safety of Minneapolis citizens rather it has shown us brutality and the inability to reform. I do not want the MPD to be a part of this city any longer.

I want to replace the MPD with a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Please let the citizens of Minneapolis vote on the charter amendment on the November 2020 ballot as we deserve the right to determine what kind of city we want to live in. Ward 2

7/3/2020 1:37:34 PM

Good Afternoon, My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Powderhorn Park, Minneapolis. I am writing because I want you to know that I believe it is imperative that the Charter Amendment be on the November ballot. I am strongly in favor of a department of Community Violence and Safety Protection that is driven by community members and NOT the Minneapolis Police Department. Therefore MPD needs to be removed as a required department in order for Minneapolis community members to come together and create these new measures of safety and accountability FREE from police brutality. I also believe it is necessary to remove the required ratio/minimum for police. More police DO NOT make me feel safe and in fact create the opposite effect, especially for my family and friends that are Black and/or POC. I have seen beautiful ways that my neighbors have come together over the last month to care for each other and keep each other safe WITHOUT any police involvement and I am convinced that there are neighbors who are ready to be a part of the new Community Safety and Violence Prevention Committee and that this would be an effective and inspired next step. Please give us this chance to demonstrate how we can care for each other without police and let the community vote on this charter in November! Ward 9

7/3/2020 1:39:26 PM

I couldn't be more disappointed in our City Council as they punt this ill-defined proposal to our November elections. Remove/abolish/defund is not leadership and since they 'bravely' stood on the stage to announce their resolution

<https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/3810/Transforming%20Community%20Safety%20Resolution.pdf>), now as the winds blow a different way they want to wait 4 months or more and then create committees to dither on this. The City Council's quick zig now be followed by a long drawn out zag. Be adamant for police reform, and maybe work with the Mayor and the Police Chief instead of against them. It's absurd and hoping for fresh City Council leadership November 2021.

7/3/2020 1:39:46 PM

We want to feel safe in our community and we deserve to be part of the process. We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter. Justice cannot wait another year. We need real change NOW. Let the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter to determine the city they want!

7/3/2020 1:50:55 PM

My name is [REDACTED], I grew up at [REDACTED] Humboldt Ave N, and lived in Mpls for 26 years. I attended South High School. My parents grew up at 3606 Russell Ave N & 4435 Logan Ave N, and lived in Mpls for 50 years. I have many relatives that still reside in Mpls. I now live in Denmark Two and visit Mpls frequently.

My ex fiancé is a Lieutenant for the 4th precinct. One of the reasons we never married is due to the fact that a career in law enforcement is so incredibly challenging, especially for the city of Mpls. I knew that it would forever change my fiancé and that it would not be a simple happy life for me and my family.

I do commend, and thank God for our law enforcement in America.

These men and women as well as their families give the ultimate sacrifice to serve us all.

Removing the Police Department is insane. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/3/2020 2:00:24 PM

Dear Minneapolis Charter Commission,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of the Powderhorn Park neighborhood of Minneapolis.

I have lived in this city my entire adult life, and I care deeply about its future. That is why I urge you to approve and move forward the proposed charter amendment for voter approval in this year's election.

While there are many reasons that I support the changes proposed by the city council, I want to focus my comments on the responsibility this body, the Charter Commission has in this moment.

The City Council, as an elected body who answers directly to the public, and in our political system should reflect the will of the people. In contrast, the Charter Commission is an appointed group, unaccountable to voters, and therefore does not reflect public opinion.

Therefore, the Charter Commission must not obstruct this amendment, which has the overwhelming public support, as demonstrated by the council vote. Denial would be obstruction. Delay would be obstruction. Doing so would undermine the public's already wavering trust in local government.

For Minneapolis to be a true democracy, the Charter Commission must allow this amendment to go to the voters in this year's election. If it does not because the Commission chose to deny or delay the City Council's proposal, it would mean that the Charter, and the policies it requires would no longer be the will of the people, but a relic maintained by an undemocratic group of 15 people.

I am sure the members of the commission joined this body because they are committed to upholding democracy. That is why, I am confident the members of the commission will remember that democracy is the very way that we fix problems, come together and heal from tragedy.

In short, if Minneapolis is truly a democracy, then we must allow it's citizenry to vote. If we, as residents of the city, are truly citizens and not subjects, we must be given the opportunity to vote.

I implore the Commission to approve the Council's proposal and allow for the voters to decide. We are watching. The world is watching. Do the right thing. Ward 9

7/3/2020 2:04:18 PM

Please let people decide how to create safety in their own communities. We don't want a unaccountable police department. Please eliminate MPD. This cannot wait another year! I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/3/2020 2:06:55 PM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police! We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 1

7/3/2020 2:11:37 PM

I urge you to let the citizens of Minneapolis decide collectively how to create safety in our communities. Please don't push this out another year--too many lives have been harmed and snuffed out with our current system. Ward 8

7/3/2020 2:24:12 PM

What is actually at issue here is an attempt by the City Council to put a referendum on the ballot this November so that voters can decide whether to reorganize a city department that has failed in nearly every way imaginable for decades - including the current failure to stop the much-discussed rise in shootings in the city, despite having suffered no cuts to their funding or other restrictions. There is no justifiable reason to delay this, and doing so would only indicate a contempt for the voters of this city by denying them the ability to push for meaningful change in a concrete manner. Ward 10

7/3/2020 2:26:52 PM

I support voting on this amendment in Minneapolis this fall. Justice cannot wait another year. Let the people be a part of the process to design the kind of city we want to be a part of - and one that does not include a brutal, unaccountable police presence. Ward 12

7/3/2020 2:34:22 PM

We need to protect ourselves from the Police.

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter. We want to eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Let us lead. Ward 3

7/3/2020 2:38:19 PM

I do not feel safe in any city with out law enforcement and feel that you need more law enforcement then you had. I also feel you need to change the character of the police department and have a good Chief of Police to do that. You do not need to dismatle the Police Department. Work with what you have as they already know the city.

I will not go to the city when there is conflict or I feel unsafe. We go frequently to the downtown area for Twins games and theater and dinner but honestly, won't go if you are messing with the police department so I don't feel safe. They have a great presence. We also visit outskirts of downtown, Powderhorn Park area, MIA area -- so want to feel safe. Miss going there right now as there is just too much going on. We also have family on the West side of 94 off Dowling. Not a place I want to travel right now with all the unrest. Also, frequent flyer to the NE area for bars and art!

7/3/2020 2:40:26 PM

I support this proposal and believe it is of immense importance that this proposal be voted on by the community.

7/3/2020 2:41:27 PM

I would like the police department to make changes not be removed.

7/3/2020 2:41:59 PM

I strongly support eliminating the MPD and creating a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. I support removing the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police, and I support the people of Minneapolis voting on the charter amendment Ward 9

7/3/2020 2:57:13 PM

I strongly support this.

7/3/2020 2:57:45 PM

I strongly support this proposal.

7/3/2020 2:58:17 PM

Minneapolis deserves to Defund the police and reallocate that money to more necessary services that serve the public rather than instill fear. The city has a huge homeless problem, clear wealth disparities and many other issues that the police are not qualified to handle. Listen to the people and do what is right.

7/3/2020 3:04:55 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I wanted to write to the Charter Commission to declare that as a long-time resident of Minneapolis, I fully support the introduction of this amendment to the charter and putting it to a ballot initiative in November.

Creating a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention that allows for a re-imagining of this facet of public life speaks to the values of many Minneapolitans. We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! We don't want more police in our communities! I am requesting that we remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police! We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year!

Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. I want to live in a city that doesn't send armed police to every crisis situation and puts its citizens in harm's way. I want to live in a city that ends cash bail, that doesn't criminalize poverty, that supports its citizens through social services instead of social control, that doesn't prosecute non-violent drug offenses and other non-violent offenses that toss our citizens in jail, and that responds to the needs of our communities of color. Ward 3

7/3/2020 3:09:06 PM

Please see the letter to Council Member Steve Fletcher below regarding the upcoming proposed Charter Amendment. Ward 3

Attachment:

Dear Council Member Fletcher,

I have been in attendance at your most recent 3 meetings, and I have also attended the Charter Commission meeting this week. I have been following the recent developments and proposals by the City Council very carefully.

As I have previously stated, it is almost a certainty that there is a broad consensus among residents that we need a transformation and reform of the current public safety approach in the City of Minneapolis. That includes many of the things that I have heard you advocate for, and I agree with wholeheartedly, including appropriate personnel responding to calls. That could include a variety of public safety officials ranging from law enforcement personnel, social workers, community leaders, public health workers, etc. While not unique to Minneapolis, we have the opportunity to lead the nation and need to address the structural racism that permeate throughout the city services and within the community.

However, there are many areas where I differ greatly from your point of view and that of many of the members on the City Council. I would like to inform you that at the present moment, if the Charter Amendment was on the ballot this coming November in its current form, I will vote 'no' to the proposed revisions. Here is why:

1. I have significant concerns on the approach the Council is taking and do not believe the actions being taken match with the words that you are speaking regarding true transformation. It will merely shift the problem. Instead we need to resolve all of the issues of public safety and work towards ending systemic racism in an integrated way. It is my perspective, based on what I am reading, hearing, and meetings I've attend that the Council has already made a determination of their decision to abolish the police force. This is the opposite of encouraging discussion, and gives the impression that the Council is pandering to

their constituents when they already have made the decision. The Council is not listening to the community. Former City officials, current constituents and community leaders have all spoken out about the proposed actions and yet there seems to be little redirect from the Council's actions. You indicated yesterday that the overwhelming majority of your constituents have reached out to indicate they want MPD abolished. Where are these constituents? I find it difficult to believe you are only hearing this in private communication. This has certainly not been the overwhelming perspective of any of the meetings or calls I've participated in - in fact it's the opposite or a request to be more methodical and thoughtful about the process.

2. There is absolutely no reason to change the Charter to implement the changes of creating an integrate department of public safety that includes a police force. The only provision that requires modification is perhaps the one regarding the requirement of a minimum number of police officers based on population. The rest of the changes that you propose could be done regardless. And, it's disheartening to hear almost every suggestion made by constituents and former public officials completely or partially rebuffed. Given this, one has to wonder why the revisions are so sweeping, broad, and also why the Council feels necessary to pull the accountability for decision-making from the Mayor and give it to themselves. This is a conflict of interest and has every appearance of a power grab. While each Council member individuals receives on a fraction of the vote, every citizen has the opportunity to vote for the Mayor, and he should have the authority - because we gave it to him. I'd advocate for an Amendment that completely restructures the Government of the City and pulls power away from Council members and gives it to the Mayor where it belongs. This would then require the Council to actually represent the citizens rather than act in their own self interests. I'm not impressed with the decisions the Council has made regarding Nicollet Mall, Hennepin Ave., or the 2040 proposals. Furthermore, the Council President has been an ineffective and poor leader. In addition, the notion that we would not require the head of this department that could also include a police department (although we all know the Councils true intent) to not have law enforcement experience is outrageous. No high quality law enforcement personnel is going to come work for a public health official with no experience in policing. For example, would you want the Head of Surgery at your local hospital to not have a health care background? I think not.

3. The council is naive in its thinking and plan for what it would take to stand up an entirely new division and department. There is at least a 2-3 year timeframe required before any such department would be fully functional. In the meantime the plan by the Council is to privatize MPD. Just exactly does that fix the systemic racism and issues related to police brutality? It's kicking the can down the road. All during a time where we have over 100 MPD officers claiming disability due to PTSD so they can collect worker's compensation until retirement which will be a huge expense to the City. Perhaps they also realize the city intends to fire them all - even the good cops, and a police chief that appears to be beloved and respected by all (aside from the fact that he is from here). Find another way to either abolish the Federation, get rid of Bob Kroll, and negotiate a contract that separates leadership from the Union. You indicated you have decades of experience negotiating union contracts. I anticipate that you could surely be innovative and come up with more than just the proposed solution of abolishing the police - which also happens to transfer more power to the Council away from the Mayor.

If we want to be better, we need to do better. That means real transformation, not just moving the pieces around without addressing the root cause of the problem and so far, this proposal by the City Council is a distraction from the real and important work at hand. I implore you to really listen to the constituents. You have a leader in the current Chief who is a good one. However, he has not received the support he needs from the Federation, and he clearly doesn't have the support from the City Council. He is left with the impossible task of trying to do his job and institute the changes that actually

would begin to transform the department without the resources and support he needs to do so. That's on the entire Council, and I would add that you also haven't been supportive enough of the Mayor.

I'll leave with the words in the published article authored by Walter Mondale, Sharon Sayles Bleton, Bob Bruiniks and others. 'We have an opportunity brought about by tragedy but it is an opportunity we can't waste. Minneapolis can become a model for the nation by rethinking the mission of policing. Only then can Minneapolis fulfill this moment and develop a new, bold model for a safe, inclusive community'.

The question for the entire Council is whether you can put aside your personal biases, egos, and political aspirations and do the right things for the entire city, state, and the nation? I certainly hope so. Everything is riding on this and we all want to have faith in you.

Regards

7/3/2020 3:09:50 PM

Hello, I fully support the charter amendments. In the decade I've lived here, MPD has paid out \$10M+ in settlements while not significantly reducing crime. Thousands of rape kits went untested. Bob Kroll has publically boasted over being sued 11 times, along with being the target of 54 complaints, none of which resulted in any discipline. In doubling-down on the hard-line 'warrior' actions and rhetoric in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, MPD has proven that they absolutely do not care about Minneapolis or the people that live here. MPD has avoided reform for decades, and they no longer deserve any more time to do so. They leave us no other choice other than dismantling and rebuilding from the ground up into an organization that can better serve the needs of all of our citizens. Ward 1

7/3/2020 3:12:12 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I wanted to write to the Charter Commission that as a long-time resident of Minneapolis, I fully support the introduction of this amendment to the city charter and putting it on the November ballot.

Creating a new a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention speaks to the values of many Minneapolitans. We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! We don't want more police in our communities! I am requesting that we remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police!

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. I want to live in a city that doesn't send armed officers to every crisis situation and puts its citizens in harms way, that ends cash bail and the criminalization of poverty, that protects its residents through robust social services rather than social control, that doesn't prosecute non-violent drug offenses or other non-violent offenses and tosses our residents in jail, that doesn't put its immigrant communities in danger and threaten undocumented folks with deportation, and that responds to the needs of its communities of color. Resident of Ward 3

7/3/2020 3:13:48 PM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police!

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want.
Ward 1

7/3/2020 3:15:34 PM

Removing or dismantling the police force, may have a greater purpose, because the killing and shooting of unarmed and the non protocol acts against black citizens or people of color have been plaguing this city and country for years. The police brutality has been lethal in the way they use aggressive ways to deal with black and people of color for decades and centuries better training and communication of all they are disposed to protect the community without aggressive approaches and ready to subdue us soon as they hear it's an African American. There's less communication and more not listening. They aggravate the accused into escalating by bad tactics and some on purpose. There are more racist tensions in the force to the badge suppose to represent protection for the community. It looks as if it's a killing force. Under the law. Is this going to be a better use of using its power and authority to change the brutality, in whatever way will serve the people and hold them accountable and responsible for their actions if they are wrong in their actions against the people. If they use due process over no process of their crimes under the law. Accountability is needed no matter what charges come about. Fairness of prosecution but not unfairness and truth. Is

7/3/2020 3:16:24 PM

I APPRECIATE AND VALUE OUR LOCAL POLICE..... In my opinion, there is nothing broken here to fix!
Ward 7

7/3/2020 3:16:28 PM

I emphatically disagree with abolishing the police department! Do not go through with this.

Instead, I believe that the police union should have less leverage in how the department is run and officers who repeatedly flout their positions. That "thin blue line" contains actors who have no business being officers. Adjust training toward law enforcement, not a warrior mentality. Their overseeing communities; officers should patrol where they live.

I suggest the Council focus on issues that have led to deadly clashes with police. Instead of removing the police department, add another department (separate from the police) that addresses community safety through resources for mental health, family services and addiction. Most of the conflicts between the police and the public is due to someone needing treatment for mental illness or addiction (or resolving domestic disputes).

Staff this added department with trained professionals from Hennepin County's Human Services. These specialists have the expertise, knowledge of and means to best manage these issues. Have them engage neighborhoods and community groups so citizens know who to call or where to turn when dealing with addiction, mental illness or domestic violence. This would free up the police to concentrate on what they're trained to do: handle crime and keep our city safe.

Neither the City Council nor any community has any skill/expertise or training in preventing violence. To have them establish or maintain public safety through this proposed Community Safety & Violence Prevention department is misguidedly idealistic, unsustainable and may create a situation that does more harm than good.

7/3/2020 3:20:00 PM

The model of policing in Minneapolis and nationwide is structurally antiquated at best and more realistically, an inherently racist, outmoded, and harmful system. No longer should it be enshrined in our Charter as a necessary component of public life. We have the great privilege of looking to data as a foundation for the argument. And in this case the data is clear – the police don't serve the purpose they are meant to serve. In fact, they actively defy their calling to protect and serve the citizenry. The system that enables them must be reconfigured. The first step in this process is this amendment to the Charter.

Minneapolis citizens deserve to be part of the process that determines how they are protected. Government is not meant to pass down strictures onto an expectant population. Democracy demands a more equitable dialogue between the governed and the governing. This begins by meeting the public in their cries for justice. We do not need a specific proportion of police officers to private citizens. In fact, it is very likely we don't need police at all. We must first dismantle the laws that enforce continued police presence in order to test this transformative and wholly hopeful vision for society. Only by aspiring towards the society we want in the immediate sense will we see any progress towards a more just and equitable quality of life for all. Ward 5

7/3/2020 3:22:04 PM

I do not reside in Minneapolis, but I have seen enough of what has been going on with an unaccountable and militarized police department and I am sickened by it! I am for DEFUNDING the MPD and coming up with a new civilian lead Safety and Violence Prevention department. Remove the Charter requirement of minimum # of Police. BIPOC and Marginalized communities deserve to have their voices heard and to be a part of the process!!! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the Charter is their democratic right. They should be able to have a say in the kind of city they want to live in!! I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/3/2020 3:33:29 PM

The City Charter is akin to the US Constitution. Changes to the charter should not be rushed through a process just because there is an election pending. Time needs to be given for all community groups to weigh in on any proposed charter amendment, especially one dealing with a key aspect of the governments responsibility to its citizens - PUBLIC SAFETY.

The actions of a rouge city council, which may affect this great city for years and decades to come, need to be thoroughly vetted, which may not play out until the next City Council election, when hopefully will be replaced with rational minded individuals - that truly have the best interest of the City in mind.

I short, I do not support a the proposed change to the charter. Ward 11

7/3/2020 3:34:48 PM

Please please vote yes! Be the start of a historical change in our country, and how we enact justice. I would love to see Minneapolis become an example for others to follow. But justice cannot wait another year! The time is now. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/3/2020 3:50:45 PM

We need police. They need to pass psychological evaluations, be well versed and well trained in de-escalation and dealing with mental health issues. They need to take intercultural development and unconscious bias training, and evaluations regularly. We need to be protected from criminals by a force that actually scares criminals and works as a deterrent to crime. But the people who make up that force

need to be chosen because they are the best, highest qualified. Then they need constant oversight, training and development. And they need to be very well paid for this difficult, demanding job!!!!

7/3/2020 3:56:44 PM

Charter Commission, As a resident of Minneapolis, I stand firmly behind City Council's proposed charter amendment as a crucial first step toward full abolishment of the Minneapolis police department. The amendment must be put in front of voters this November — meaningful and far-reaching changes cannot wait another year.

Recent events have made it abundantly clear that our city and its most targeted residents need a public safety initiative that is community focused and that is held accountable to leadership from the community.

The current police department has proven itself to be excessively brutal and lacking in respect for the dignity, rights, and lives of Black and brown Minneapolis residents. It has been allowed to operate without appropriate accountability for too long.

I stand behind the elimination of MPD and the creation of a new, civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Ward 10

7/3/2020 3:56:53 PM

We should NOT be getting rid of the police, our neighborhood was burned to the ground if anything more money to the police for better training. It was terrible watching our community burn and be looted with no response. You get ride of the cops people will move away 100%. Ward 12

7/3/2020 4:04:25 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 community discussion. Let's have that discussion before we amend the charter. Meanwhile, we can move forward with police reform on several fronts. Ward 13

7/3/2020 4:20:32 PM

Please move forward with the proposal to create a new community safety and violence prevention department so that I may vote on the change to the city charter in November 2020. Ward 8

7/3/2020 4:20:51 PM

Dear City Council, I have lived in Minneapolis my whole life and am deeply committed to seeing this city become a just and equitable place for all of our residents. Unfortunately, there are huge disparities within our city. Much of these disparities and inequalities can be traced back to the over-policing of our Black and Brown citizens (see the New York Times's article, "Minneapolis Police, Long Accused of Racism, Face Wrath of Wounded City"). The police have, time and again, shown that they cannot keep our community safe. They are unaccountable and the job itself all-too-often attracts people who would rather have power than serve their communities. This new charter must remove the minimum number

of police officers. We need a civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. The citizens of Minneapolis deserve to be able to vote on the charter.

Please amend the charter to ensure the highest-possible justice for all the victims of police brutality and a better quality of life for all Minneapolis residents. Ward 7

7/3/2020 4:21:49 PM

I support the City Council's proposed charter amendment to create a new department that law enforcement/police would be under. Please approve this so it can go on the ballot. We need this ASAP!

7/3/2020 4:29:36 PM

What we need is more police not less. With the WCCO report of the possibly of 25% of the MPD claiming PTSD disability. In my opinion the crime rate will rise in all categories.

7/3/2020 4:33:57 PM

I am standing with the voices from Reclaim the Block and other initiatives that don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter. I implore you to eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

Please remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police in our city! The community deserves to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Thank you. Ward 10

7/3/2020 4:35:08 PM

I favor root cause mitigation for violence prevention, stronger mental health care, addressing poverty, homelessness and unemployment. Criminalizing and policing these issues does nothing to fix the root causes, it costs the taxpayers more, and it too often takes away peoples' freedom for preventable issues. I demand that we put this measure on the ballot in 2020. Justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 3

7/3/2020 4:50:25 PM

I want the Charter Commission to move forward with the Establishing Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department (Legislative File 2020-00668) proposal and not delay the proposal.

Minneapolis needs structural changes in how the police force operates and this proposal will allow those changes so that the city can become a better, safer place for all its citizens.

This proposal should be on the ballot this year to allow citizens to vote on how they want their city to operate. Ward 12

7/3/2020 5:00:35 PM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum number of police!

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want.

7/3/2020 5:07:16 PM

Hello! I am a resident of the Whittier neighborhood of Minneapolis and I support changing the charter to defund the police and instead fund community organizations and health services. Thank you, Ward 10

7/3/2020 5:10:47 PM

We need to see this amendment through. The time is now to abolish the police! Ward 8

7/3/2020 5:17:00 PM

I believe the police force as is is inherently corrupted by systemic racism and is not protecting and serving the people of Minneapolis. We need a new way of responding to emergencies with multiple community resources and civilian review.

7/3/2020 5:17:07 PM

I believe the police force as is is inherently corrupted by systemic racism and is not protecting and serving the people of Minneapolis. We need a new way of responding to emergencies with multiple community resources and civilian review.

7/3/2020 5:18:04 PM

I support this amendment to provide for community safety and the disbanding of the police department/ police funding. Ward 3

7/3/2020 5:23:11 PM

It is important that the a sd siton of a "public safety department" is vastly different from the police department, and is completely destructured from the og police built from a completely different system, and puts the lives of the people before anything else(including property!) Ward 4

7/3/2020 5:23:17 PM

I think the time is right to get this charter amendment on the ballot to create a new public safety department. The election will give us all a chance to ask questions and discuss options. Ward 8

7/3/2020 5:25:40 PM

I support this proposed amendment since it gives us the ability to strive for a better future rather than maintain the status quo which actively harms many in our communities.

7/3/2020 5:27:14 PM

I fully support the amendment to provide for community safety and to disband the police department/end police funding.

7/3/2020 5:32:45 PM

I strongly support this proposal!

7/3/2020 5:32:56 PM

I support a question on the ballot to vote to remove the MPD and replace with a new system of safety and violence prevention in Minneapolis.

7/3/2020 5:41:13 PM

For a safer and more excepting environment. We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police!

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want.
Ward 1

7/3/2020 5:42:16 PM

We need the amendment now. Too many of our neighbors are being murdered by police to wait.
Ward 2

7/3/2020 5:44:06 PM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police!

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want.
Ward 3

7/3/2020 5:44:12 PM

I strongly support the proposed charter amendment to be placed on the ballot this November. I live in St Paul but am in Minneapolis frequently and we need big change.

7/3/2020 5:45:36 PM

I am encouraging the Commission to expedite the review s the voters can decide this Fall on the proposed Charter changes.

Minneapolis Police have a long history of both brutality and "reforms", including their recent participation in the National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice. The issues can not be trained away.

The residents of Minneapolis deserve an opportunity to decide or themselves if pther models -- such as that proposed by the Council.. Please let our voices be heard in a timely manner Ward 2

7/3/2020 6:14:10 PM

I hardly know where to begin, but it was a very positive move letting the public weigh in on the Minneapolis police department. It would be a massive, massive mistake to defund the Minneapolis police department! Why on earth is the city Council kowtowing and even thinking of such a ridiculous idea? There are very, very few bad cops just like in any profession there are a couple of bad apples. 98% of the police officers in Minneapolis, St. Paul, surrounding suburbs and everywhere else are good cops and give their lives to protect and serve! Abolishing the police opens the doors to lawlessness and Mayhem everywhere! The problem is not with the police department, it is with the public and their disrespect for the law and other citizens. I support law-enforcement 1,000,000%!

7/3/2020 6:17:56 PM

Minneapolis has the opportunity here to pave a brave and much-needed new path for community safety in this country. Please put the Charter amendment on the November ballot. Too many Americans have been suffering and dying at the hands of police, with no accountability or justice, and there's no more time to wait. I would also encourage you to remove the police minimum in the Charter. The goal is to eventually not have any police as they are currently known, so you should enable the goal at the beginning of this fight. Let's not hold on to the vestige of racism that is the police. It's time start anew with the community. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/3/2020 6:30:56 PM

I'm writing to express my full support of this amendment to the City Charter. As a resident of South Minneapolis I know that radical change is necessary and that it is needed now. I also believe in the persistence of this movement: I along with many others am committed to holding our City Council accountable to their promise of abolishing the MPD, and forging ahead in a new police-free future built directly according to the wants and needs of the community. Ward 6

7/3/2020 6:34:44 PM

As a Minneapolis citizen, I would like to see law enforcement evolve into a community oriented safety and violence prevention department. I am in favor of using any form of non violent crisis management tactics to defuse any tense moments in which a citizen is taken into custody after breaking the law. We are at a moment that is crucial in redefining community safety, and this could be the first step towards creating a tangible platform to make cities safer.

7/3/2020 6:36:59 PM

We cannot wait another year. We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police!

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/3/2020 6:37:05 PM

Please don't defund the police. We need them and more of them. Ward 6

7/3/2020 6:44:05 PM

End the police to citizen ratio requirement, we don't want more police, especially not with the current police force as it is, which has long been killing and harming innocent citizens without accountability. We don't want MPD to exist any more! We want community control of the police so we can shape an equitable justice system that treats citizens fairly regardless of race, gender, sexuality etc. Amend the charter!

7/3/2020 6:44:32 PM

Don't turn your backs to our Cops! 1 rash move by 1 cop in years any you push this insane charter? WTF!
Ward 4

7/3/2020 6:45:02 PM

I am in full support of removing the violent and unaccountable Minneapolis police department from the city's charter. In its place, a new community centered public safety model can be established. One that is not rooted in white supremacy and that routinely harasses the most vulnerable members of our city. More police, more department funding, and more military grade equipment is NOT the answer to improving the safety of our citizens. We deserve a government and a public safety apparatus that actually protects and serves us and is accountable to us. Do your job, remove the police from the city charter. Ward 10

7/3/2020 6:54:15 PM

Work for the good cause should and must not be delay! What is done in Minneapolis for the welfare of all hard working people, specially in that harsh Covid-19, to fund them for their lives, health, education, housing, food and clean water, is fundamental obligation of any democratic government. Instead of only putting all hard working citizen tax payer money into only one, police department is no where demonstrate humanity, and democratic principal. But only shows brutality and ignorances. Ignorances that inflame and maintain and nurture hatred, racism toward, notably African Americans, and hurt all of us across the nation.

7/3/2020 7:07:42 PM

I know this late but am hoping it will still be recorded.

I am in full support of drastic action to address our out-of-control police force. I believe defunding is the correct course of action. For my part, I understand the potential need for some sort of law enforcement even after reinvesting the bulk of our police budget in community support. I would support a continued existence of some sort of police-type agency, but with some massive changes and caveats. Not only should it be a very small fraction of the size with much longer, stricter, more nuanced training, but it should it should be demilitarized. In fact, I would suggest that most of those agents should not carry guns. An even smaller, more specially trained unit with strict protocols should be the only ones with weapons. Officers in this "force" should receive regular therapy and be subject to much stricter performance expectations (no more officers with multiple conduct complaints). They should also report up to the new department focusing on community welfare, with citizen oversight included.

Given that police rarely stop violent crime, the majority of law enforcement we need is detective-type work so that people still have help when they are victims of crime. Of course, we should also be looking into restorative justice for the perpetrators, but that is another discussion.

7/3/2020 7:33:57 PM

Although this may be a uncertain and possibly even scary idea, I think it's the right move. We really should've been investing in all these alternative ways of serving the people and fixing problems to begin with, but it's hard to get people to spend more money and taxes on things that aren't police. So now that the police budget has swollen and the department itself has become corrupt and broken it's time to put that money where it belonged in the first place.

Best of luck. We're counting on you to make the right decision.

7/3/2020 7:45:02 PM

Please prioritize this proposed amendment. This city has been asking for change, and this first step is critically important. I ask you to please ensure that this amendment is included on the ballot by the August 21 deadline to ensure that we can begin this change as soon as possible. Additionally, we hope that the community will continue to be involved as these decisions are made, ensuring that the perspectives of those voices that often go unheard, such as people of color, especially Black and Indigenous POC, Latinx, and other marginalized groups, as well as younger voters, which are groups that are frequently cut out of the political process. Thank you for ensuring that we can move forward to have a chance to make lasting, positive change for our community. Ward 10

7/3/2020 7:51:37 PM

I want the city charter updated to remove the requirements for a police force. Let the people vote on a charter update that removes such requirements and allows us to replace MPD with something that serves the community and not its own interests. Ward 12

7/3/2020 8:08:25 PM

I am not a Minneapolis Resident, but I work in downtown Minneapolis. Abolishing the MPD and replacing with a Community/Civilian run system would be incredibly irresponsible. Defunding and completely rebuilding the MPD with Chief Arradondo in place would make the most logical sense and have other areas of the city services handle certain cases that may not require MPD involvement. But furthermore, get more feed back from the citizens and businesses in Minneapolis about what to do and what they want.

7/3/2020 8:11:04 PM

Hello! I don't live in Minneapolis, but I wanted to take a moment to share how disappointed I am in the violence and brutality being practiced by the Minneapolis Police Department toward city Minnesotans, especially Black residents. I strongly believe that a militarized police department is not the best way to ensure community safety, and that communities should be empowered by municipalities and states to create programs that will ensure their own safety. Additionally, I believe the funding currently allocated to police departments would contribute much better to community safety if it were diverted to education, job creation, physical healthcare, mental health services, suicide/domestic abuse/sexual assault hotlines, and dedicated community defenders. With this in mind, I urge the Charter Commission to approve the amendment to the Charter for appearance on the ballot this fall. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/3/2020 8:27:11 PM

As a citizen, we don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! I urge public officials to eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention as it would serve the community immensely, and eliminate fear people of colour, and minorities overall face in our community. Ward 10

7/3/2020 8:29:20 PM

For far too long police officers have not been held accountable for their actions in this country. Too many lives, particularly Black and Indigenous lives, have been taken as a result of police officers escalating situations, and acting with violent force in situations where it wasn't warranted. For many communities the police are not sources of safety, but rather sources of fear.

The city of Minneapolis has tried reforms in the past, and George Floyd, Philando Castile, and Jamar Clarke were still murdered. The history of the police force in this country is rooted in systemic racism, and reforms will not work--you cannot reform a system that has been built on faulty ground. The only solution is for it to be dismantled, and to have a new model put in its place.

There are other professions that are far more qualified to respond to many of the concerns in our communities that police respond to. We have the opportunity here in Minneapolis to lead the nation in developing what a revolutionary model for community safety and violence prevention. We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter. Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police.

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year. Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want.
Ward 12

7/3/2020 8:34:18 PM

(in St.Paul) I CAN'T BELIEVE we're having this conversation! This is a recipe for disaster, ANARCHY (and Sharia Law in Mpls where FGM routinely happens already and a blind eye to abuse cases), and no a social worker's car outside high schools to deter violence! When is someone going to shake me and to wake me up?!! I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/3/2020 8:40:21 PM

The police is well needed but is in serious need of reform we have too many officers with more than 3 strikes against them. The education of the officers shouldn't be shorter than my education to be a barber, make them reapply and we keep those that are worthy to be cops (less than 3 incidents). It also should be a way that the pension is earned 3 strikes pension gone also

7/3/2020 8:40:33 PM

So I wanted to provide some feedback on the move to abolish the Minneapolis Police Department. I am a resident of Columbia Heights currently, but was a resident of northeast Minneapolis until a couple of years ago when an opportunity for much cheaper rent came up. I do plan on one day, hopefully, buying a house in northeast Minneapolis depending on what the public safety, and the housing market, looks

like. I want to share some of my point of view. While living in Minneapolis, I worked for nearly 4 years as a 911 dispatcher and I became exposed to just HOW much crime occurred in Minneapolis. Every night, but especially on nice, warm summer evenings - calls for domestic violence, shots heard, shootings, stabbings, fights, assaults, robberies, weapon complaints, stolen vehicles, felony thefts, arson, terroristic threats, indecent exposures, injury car accidents, and so on. TONS of these situations do not end up on the news, no one hears about them. So for the folks that think Minneapolis is safe.... Maybe it is in your neighborhood. During the summer time, these crimes are even worse, especially in the high crime areas.

I really do like the idea of having other types of resources respond to police incidents. Sometimes people need help with receiving referrals to other agencies, or introduced to other resources available. Police officers wear many hats...But they are not social workers, lawyers, mediators, counselors, etc. However, a 911 emergency where a person feels a threat for their safety? We can not have normal citizens respond alone to these calls. It would be unsafe for everyone involved, and imagine the liability for the city, if someone unarmed and without training goes to a call where someone is threatening another person and something goes bad.

Crime has been ABUNDANT in Minneapolis and has been increasing since the killing of George Floyd. Shootings, stabbings, homicides all over the city. The police department NEEDS to be available for these calls. Do they need to respond to 911 calls when the racist Karens of the block report "there are a group of young black men congregating, not doing anything specific, but it looks suspicious"? Probably we have the 911 call taker say, Karen, call back when something is actually occurring, we will not support your racist fear. Or reporting someone "doesn't belong in the neighborhood". Etc. Racism comes from all angles and all ends, not just the police department. A lot of our problems are with the citizens themselves.

But the police department has done wrong.

I really like the idea of sending social workers and really thinking "outside the box" for many calls that are currently handled by police. But the high-intensity, dynamic, life-or-death calls need an organized, armed, uniformed response. Random citizens without the right training who happen to be armed, have no union, have no way to be organized or identified, are going to cause more confusion and violence than necessary.

I do need to acknowledge that I am a white female, my parents were born in Minneapolis, and the experience of "life" is very different for me than it is for people of color. I acknowledge that and I am trying to learn more about the constant struggles of black americans, the disadvantages, is heartbreaking.

For example, I have never had the thought that my race might impact my ability to get a job. Get housing. I have seldom been followed around in department stores with staff thinking I'm going to steal. The thought has never ran through my head while I have been pulled over by police that I may be shot and killed by them. I have never thought before that I will be paid less than my counterparts because of what race I am. And these are examples of my white privilege. Things have to change across the board. Racism is part of the institution. Does this mean we do away with the entire system because it's pieces are broken?

7/3/2020 8:47:53 PM

The process to change the charter with regards to the Mpls police department is short sighted and rushed. Change in law enforcement is tragically needed, but to change the charter or rush to put it to vote is also a tragic issue within community processing and visualization of what we...citizens...not the city council want.

7/3/2020 9:00:32 PM

I am a single mother with a young daughter. We live in Minneapolis. Her summer programs have been cancelled due to Covid. I have not been feeling safe leaving her at home alone while I work during all the recent unrest. Yes, the police need reform and better training as well as better screening to hold the position. I believe we need MORE police so that burnout isn't so high. We need more mental health programs for police considering the PTSD they must have from all that they see. We need them to face the inherent racial bias that gets intensified with crime that tends to be in neighborhoods with inequalities. We need the police. Now more than ever with the recent spike in crime. We need to be able to call on them if we need them. But we also need them to be mentally healthy once they get there. We need them to be held accountable and to answer for their mistakes, and not only judged by their peers. We need them to live in the community they protect. We need them to have more positive interaction with the residents. Any organization that will take over and deal with the city's problems will eventually have the same issues the cops have. A lot of it is a result of the job itself. I do not think that getting rid of the police will do anything other than create disorganization and confusion and an avenue for the people creating chaos to commit more crimes and make this city more unsafe.

7/3/2020 9:02:35 PM

Please redraft this after consulting black leadership in our communities. They are speaking loudly about why this would be harmful, provide less accountability over law enforcement, and continue to exclude them in efforts at community (re)organization.

7/3/2020 9:10:44 PM

The MPD has proven that it is not capable of keeping our community safe far too many times. We don't want our city charter to protect them any longer- we can't wait another year for our voices to be heard and actually listened to. Imagine how many lives will be lost in that time frame for just WAITING! By allowing the citizens of Minneapolis to vote on the charter, will actually acknowledge our right to have a say in what we want for our city and ourselves.

We have been vying to be part of the process and part of the solution. We need a civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. It is clear that more police is not the solution, why fight fire with fire? Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police! Ward 9

7/3/2020 9:32:03 PM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter. Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want
Ward 2

7/3/2020 9:37:33 PM

Hello, I live in Bloomington. I think establishing a violence prevention office in place of a law enforcement office is a great and necessary idea. Some neighborhoods, namely neighborhoods with communities of color, are overpoliced when it comes to nonviolent crimes like drug possession and underpoliced when it comes to violent crimes like assault. The cops do not represent peace and safety for these communities but rather oppression and apathy. It's far better to prevent crimes by promoting community engagement and mental health than to punish crimes. People shouldn't be murdered over 20-dollar bills. Teenagers shouldn't get criminal records for smoking pot. They should be taken care of by members of their community who are licensed and adept at deescalation and counseling. Please defund the MPD and instead invest in community centers and this new department. It's a better solution from both a public health standpoint and an economic standpoint. Thank you. Ward 13

7/3/2020 9:42:08 PM

Good day. With all do respect, are y'all mad? Come on lord helps us, kids are dying every day and you want to get rid of polices?

Keep the police, get ride I'd like city leaders today! Ward 3

7/3/2020 9:44:28 PM

Keep the cops and public safety. Shrink the size if the student council. I mean City council. Gosh, you all really need to think before you speak. Ward 9

7/3/2020 9:46:58 PM

You can do better than this. As a single mom in south Minneapolis I am not asking to defund the police I am asking you to get rid of the racists and demilitarize it and do community policing. This is absurd.

7/3/2020 9:56:01 PM

Hello, I'd like to vocalize my desire for the city of Minneapolis to do everything in their power to add to the ballot a vote on a new community safety and violence prevention department. This is critical for the safety of all residents of Minneapolis. Racism in our city is a public health crisis and we cannot delay taking action on disbanding and defunding the police. Ward 2

7/3/2020 9:57:36 PM

Hello, this is my second comment. There is a lot of violent activity that does take place in Minneapolis. In the interest of everyone's safety, I hope this new program will include a highly trained anti-violence team that is armed with tasers and pepper spray. I don't think guns are necessary! But we need people who can intervene against violent offenders. Thanks for your time.

I also want to state that I grew up in South Minneapolis, at [REDACTED] Ave S. 55406, so even though I don't live there anymore, my mom still lives at that address, and this is very important to me. Thanks again.

7/3/2020 9:59:30 PM

I support the Minneapolis City Charter resolution to disband the police department. I believe community oriented solutions preventing crime will be more successful than policing. Ward 12

7/3/2020 9:59:38 PM

It is insane to remove the police department. We need protection and most police officers have been trained to do so at the risk of their lives. Violence will become rampant otherwise. I will move out of state if the council continues on their path of destroying our lives.

7/3/2020 10:05:12 PM

Do NOT Get rid of the police Department. Get rid of the police union and hold bad actors accountable. The community needs to be kept safe and part is I. The perception of feeling safe with a police department. The police union is the root of why police are not held accountable nor disciplined for indiscretions. Ward 13

7/3/2020 10:27:45 PM

We support police/law enforcement! The meaning of the word police is "... responsible for the prevention and detection of crime and the maintenance of public order."

Many wonderful men and women take their oath serious and put their lives in danger often, especially today with so much hatred being spewed. This has got to stop!

You remove law and order and you will receive chaos and madness which is already happening and will ONLY get worse.

7/3/2020 11:31:37 PM

I've lived in Minneapolis for the past 23 years, and I love it here. For the past 10 years, I've been aware of how white people get one system of justice and black people get another system. I've seen dedicated reforms enacted and pursued by the current and past police chief...and I've seen them get shut down by the union...and we've all seen a police trainer slowly suffocate a citizen who was handcuffed, on his belly, not resisting. That was a *trainer*...who then lied about why George Floyd was dead. The MPD clearly can't ensure high quality police officers. Officers of this reformed department don't provide a reasonable expectation of public safety. I don't trust cops to show up and make a difficult situation better.

Whoever answers the 911 calls of the future needs to be able to help, and people with body armor, guns, and a warrior mentality is not it.

Please proceed with changing the Minneapolis city charter to allow Minneapolis a department that will allow us to reasonably pursue peace and security in Minneapolis, as suggested by the City Council.

7/3/2020 11:32:15 PM

MN community members deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/4/2020 12:28:39 AM

I agree with this though we need a clear description of the training the "peace officers" will go through. It is no longer acceptable to have people who are supposed to protect us have less training than cosmopolitans. We expect transparency. With these added amendments i believe this is a great compromises Ward 4

7/4/2020 1:00:48 AM

I support replacing the police department with the new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. This change should be implemented as soon as possible for the safety of all Minneapolis residents. Ward 2

7/4/2020 2:21:43 AM

I strongly support this proposal!

7/4/2020 2:24:11 AM

I think you are out of your minds to have even pushed the issue this far. Welcome to the wild wild West in the Midwest you idiots, along with all of the lawsuits that unqualified citizen fuckwads are going to bring down on the city. I'm moving out of Minneapolis, have at it you animals, I hope you all kill each other. Ward 4

7/4/2020 3:06:39 AM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police!

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want.

7/4/2020 6:12:40 AM

I don't reside in Minneapolis, but I own property in NE Minneapolis, and resided there for many years. I'm highly in favor of rethinking our approach to public safety that empowers communities and trusts the citizens to take opportunities that will better their lives. People who are struggling, Black communities, immigrant communities, Latinx communities don't need policing making their lives more difficult. They need opportunities and services that will help them help themselves. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/4/2020 7:08:48 AM

I urge you all to move the charter amendment forward.

The people of Minneapolis deserve a safe community in which they have everything they need to thrive.

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum number of police!

The people have a right to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year. Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/4/2020 7:11:48 AM

It's necessary to deconstruct a racist, misogynistic institution: the police. Definitions of safety that are rooted in white supremacy have taken the lives of Black people for hundreds of years. If Minneapolis is to be a truly Safe place, it needs to protect Black lives. Protecting Black lives is IMPOSSIBLE with a police department because the institution and practice of policing are inherently racist, misogynistic, homophobic, transphobic, etc. Minneapolis needs to stand for more than the protection of White life and property; deconstructing the police department will recognize the humanity of Black people and is a necessary step to protect Black life.

Please consider this Charter amendment with the gravity that it holds. No profit or institution, let alone anything else, is worth a Black life. Thank you for your time. Ward 12

7/4/2020 7:16:27 AM

I absolutely disagree with the amendment to remove the police department. As the crime rate goes up each day and our officers are putting themselves in danger everytime they go to a call in hopes that the criminal activity will not turn fire on them, my family and friends fear for our safety more than ever before. Whichever officers are left after these riots and protests against them, THEY are the heroes that still want to fight for the SAFETY of our residents. They love their city. Please don't continue to make this a war against our police officers that want JUSTICE! I beg you to SUPPORT our police officers that chose to put on a bullet proof vest each day to keep our communities safe from harm. They also LOVE their city and do not want to see it in shambles. I suggest reform in their SENIORITY system. The individuals that have joined the force in the last 6 years have chosen this career path to make POSITIVE change in this world. Other officers that have experience and years in the line of duty also have that drive lack CONTINUOUS de-escalation and ethical training which should include follow through to assure that it is being utilized. I suggest a more extensive and continuous physical training that assures our officers are physically capable of using their bodies for forms of de-escalation tactics rather than their WEAPONS. This may be in the form of jiu jitsu. Those that are not continuously training physically run the risk of utilizing their weapons provided more often, which could put our civilians in grave danger. I also suggest a mental health check ins and screenings that are done on a YEARLY or even QUARTERLY basis based on their area's amount of calls or how often they may come in contact with traumatic incidents. Our officers are HUMANS that NEED mental health resources! That being said, there must be a reform in the system's psych evaluation tests. I URGE you to consider my suggestions. I am well informed on all sides of these issues and continue to learn more through discussions, observations, and my abilities to listen to others that opinions do not reflect my own. I want my neighbors of all colors to feel SAFE- that includes my black neighbors, any neighbors of any color, my neighbors that have or do serve in the military, and my neighbors that are POLICE officers. I appreciate this opportunity to speak on an issue that the media has filled our TVs and social outlets with biased opinions and one side to a very complex issue. Thank you.

7/4/2020 7:26:54 AM

I think that the police budget could definitely be put to better use, but I still feel it very necessary to have law enforcement present pretty much anywhere there would be potential danger. Police make me feel safe, and no community organization could make me feel the safety that police do. I think their funding should 100% be re-evaluated and put to much better use.

7/4/2020 7:51:29 AM

I am in support of changing the charter to remove the MPD and create a new department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention in its place. The safety of Minneapolis residents is at stake and it can not wait another year to be voted upon. It should be put on the ballot this year to allow to community to decide how it wants public safety to be handled. Ward 12

7/4/2020 8:01:07 AM

I believe that with police available this will make the community safer and knowing that we can count on them. We can improve the polices training that can affect the community and lives of others as well. I have family members that are policemen and they count on the safety of the community and I would like my own family to be safe for the future as well.

7/4/2020 8:04:43 AM

As a North Minneapolis resident, husband, and father of two small children I believe this amendment to totally abolish the police is wrong headed. I dont recall anyone speaking to our community or asking us what we thought was best. To be sure, the MPD needs to be defunded and rebuilt from the ground up. But what we do not need is to become some libertarian social experiment.

7/4/2020 8:32:32 AM

so much for going to Mpls anymore no Twins or other sports games.

7/4/2020 8:36:49 AM

I'm a resident of Longfellow and it is essential to me that MPD is disbanded. We deserve to vote on this in this year's election and to arbitrarily delay that is a form of voter suppression. Ward 3

7/4/2020 8:37:36 AM

The police department is a direct, immediate, and ongoing threat to Black lives. It does not protect or serve Black lives, instead it takes valuable resources away from communities in order to over-police based on the color of one's skin. Derek Chauvin murdered George Floyd, and the other officers allowed him to do so while community members tried to intervene. If we do not defund MPD, the system that sanctions state murder will continue to do what it has been designed to do: it will allow (read: fund and support) the murder of Black people. Listen to the community, and allow us the opportunity to vote on this amendment. Ward 3

7/4/2020 8:42:11 AM

This is not the time to be vague. There are black people being hung everyday now. Concentration camps on our borders. There are police breaking every aspect of the Geneva convention on their own citizens. Putting a half ass measure to rename the police makes me fucking sick. Now is the time for RADICAL change. Listen to your people. ALL TEN REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET. They are very clear and been

proposed many many groups. DO TOUR FUCKING JOBS IN FACE OF A GLOBAL PROTESTS MOVEMENT OR FUCKING FIND A NEW CAREER.

7/4/2020 8:45:14 AM

I am moving to Minneapolis for a PhD program in August, and I will be spending at least the next five years in Minneapolis. Knowing this, I can't be silent. We cannot wait any longer to divest from the PD. This must be on the November 2020 ballot. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/4/2020 8:46:53 AM

I believe the present is the time to make change for the future. We cannot wait to change our policing, the current system is brutal, violent and humiliating to people of color. Now is the time to defund the police and find out communities in order to limit the social ills we see today. Ward 5

7/4/2020 8:51:10 AM

The police department is a direct, immediate, and ongoing threat to Black lives. It does not protect or serve Black lives, instead it takes valuable resources away from communities in order to over-police Black and Brown people. Derek Chauvin murdered George Floyd, and the other officers allowed him to do so while community members tried to intervene. If we do not defund MPD, the system that sanctions state murder will continue to do what it has been designed to do: it will allow (read: fund and support) the murder of Black people. I support Reclaim the Block and Black Visions. Listen to the community and our interventions. I support a vote on this amendment to remove police as an entity protected by the charter. Cops are not an option. Ward 3

7/4/2020 8:58:20 AM

Will law enforcement officers still have access to guns if violent activity occurs? I love the focus on public health, and restorative justice!!

7/4/2020 8:59:46 AM

I'm for:

- * eliminating MPD
- * creating a civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention
- * Removing the requirement for a minimum number of police
- * Allowing people of Minneapolis to vote in November 2020 on the charter
- * Doing this NOW---we cannot wait. Ward 8

7/4/2020 9:05:24 AM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police!

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 9

7/4/2020 9:06:01 AM

This city is ready to make radical change in the way we keep each other safe - and in the way we allocate funds to do so. We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 3

7/4/2020 9:17:00 AM

The proposed charter amendment is a knee-jerk political punt to the voters. The council has spent zero time researching this. With this political stunt, the council can act like they tried next year when the run for reelection. However, the reality is that there is no plan and punting to paranoid voters will fail, but at least they tried... Send this amendment back to the council to do some real work. Our city charter is no place for political stunts.

7/4/2020 9:22:00 AM

Hello, In my opinion, the city council has rushed to this decision, and it is a mistake. Let me be clear that I do not think that this is the wrong decision, however, until we are able to definitively answer a question of "what happens when we call 911?" I do not think there should be any change made to either the city's existing charter, or to the current format in which police are employed by the city. In addition, I think that we are fortunate to have a police chief in Medaria Arradondo, and by enacting a new standard by which the chief would be required to have "non-law enforcement experience in community safety services, including but not limited to public health and/or restorative justice approaches." would both preclude our current police chief, and double down on the city council's already rash decision making. Please consider that not only small family owned businesses in the city still want a police force, many tax payers capable of moving to our nearby suburbs want the same. Thank you.

7/4/2020 9:28:17 AM

This has not been thought out, vetted by the public or provided real due process. How dare you try and make people vote for something confusing and vague in an attempt at political pandering. Minneapolis can and should do better. Real changes requires more transparency and inclusion.

7/4/2020 9:37:01 AM

I like the sound of this. Please understand, we do need some police officers as they currently exist, just not nearly as many and not as militarized.

Traffic violation officers.

Increase the number of social workers.

Check out how Norway handles their police force.

They must be trained in hand to hand combat. Only gun they have stays in the trunk of their car. Ward 8

7/4/2020 9:50:48 AM

The current policing system has proven time and time again that it cannot be reformed. We need to dismantle and restructure it from top to bottom.

7/4/2020 9:51:09 AM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want.

Ward 6

7/4/2020 10:21:42 AM

It is crucial that the council votes to bring this charter amendment to the November ballot. The people have spoken, in the streets and online, and demanded a civilian-led body to oversee policing and justice in Minneapolis. For far too long, a lack of true accountability has resulted in police violence and impunity. The city deserves a say in how it is policed, and this important step must not be decided behind closed doors. I urge you to pass the amendment and submit it for the November ballot. Thank you. Ward 1

7/4/2020 10:21:47 AM

I visit the downtown area a couple dozen times a year. I hold Twins partial season tickets. We visit Orchestra hall 5 times a year, out to eat, concerts, convention center events and such. I have already given the Twins and Orchestra hall notice that If City council defunds Minneapolis Police department, I will not renew and my family will no longer visit Minneapolis. Regards.

7/4/2020 10:22:18 AM

The MPLS City Charter should be changed in order to restructure and re-invent the current police department. The reestablishment of the public trust in policing depends upon decisive, concrete action rather than symbolic gestures, political rhetoric, and empty platitudes. Numerous other measures may be necessary. The Police Federation has repeatedly proven itself to be an obstruction to public justice and should be shunned entirely. Ward 2

7/4/2020 10:22:22 AM

As a resident of North Minneapolis I attended a community public safety meeting in Jordan neighborhood, where people were concerned about an uptick in social needs and violent crime. The police were there and had nothing to offer, nor a plan to respond.

It is disgusting that a department with a 193 million a year budget spends so little time and energy on the only real reason the public wants it - support in times of violent crime. This is the only function the police should serve, and honestly I believe that if it is, we will quite quickly realize we need something else for that as well.

National data published in the NY Times show that most police departments spend 4% of their time on violent crime. 911 calls in Minneapolis reflect that, only a 1/3 of them could have any need for handcuffs or a gun.

The research on violence is compelling as well - and a public health approach that you advocate is 100% correct.

I absolutely support the Charter Amendment - and hope you show the true leadership this moment requires. If the police budget is returned to the social supports that are needed we can expect a much safer city, as crime is caused by needs not being met, and failures to educate and engage each other on our biases and internalized hatreds.

Thank you for your work and lets make the revolution start in Minneapolis.

7/4/2020 10:23:13 AM

I live in Woodinville WA but am closely watching what is happening in Minneapolis, MN. You can be the leader in creating a new way to ensure public safety that is accountable to the citizens. I have relatives that live in Minneapolis and so am personally concerned about policing practice, things must change!!

Thank you for being brave, bold, and respecting all human life.

7/4/2020 10:31:28 AM

I support putting the charter amendment on the ballot to allow for the residents of Minneapolis to have a democratic say in how the city will proceed with community safety and violence prevention. Our current system of policing does not serve our community effectively and is and has been harmful to our BIPOC communities. Change needs to occur so that ALL of our communities are equally served, protected, and supported. Standish resident - Ward 12

7/4/2020 10:33:30 AM

I am fully in support of disbanding the Minneapolis Police Department. The MPD has lost all of my trust and I can assure you that I will never call them for assistance because they have demonstrated time and time again that they often cause more harm than good when called. We need to invest in institutions that promote public safety and health, not criminalization and escalation. I know that envisioning a world without police is scary for some because it is so different from anything we've ever known. But as AOC says, "we can be whatever we have the courage to see". And this moment in history demands that we be courageous, and envision a police free future. And you have the power to make that happen.

7/4/2020 10:41:49 AM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police!

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 12

7/4/2020 10:44:21 AM

Please accelerate the proposed amendment that would remove the Police Department and establish a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department.

This must be on the November 2020 ballot to ensure that Minneapolis takes urgent action to protect Black people in our community. We must make drastic changes to shift funding & action from the traditional police department and into a set of new community resources.

This must be accompanied by public education on the presence of the charter amendment on the ballot in a range of languages. All efforts must be made to counter fearmongering and uncertainty.

7/4/2020 11:02:24 AM

It's clear that Minneapolis needs a new public safety regime. We expect violent police officers to respond to non-violent but urgent situations like mental health crises and homelessness. I believe the new department of public safety as laid out by this proposed charter amendment will allow our city to diversify and improve our emergency response services.

7/4/2020 11:02:36 AM

It's clear that Minneapolis needs a new public safety regime. We expect violent police officers to respond to non-violent but urgent situations like mental health crises and homelessness. I believe the new department of public safety as laid out by this proposed charter amendment will allow our city to diversify and improve our emergency response services.

7/4/2020 11:18:59 AM

I suggest the changes to the proposed Amendment as shown in the attached red-lined file. My primary suggested changes are as follows: 1) Let's shorten the name of the department to "Community Safety Department" to make the acronym of the department shorter and catchier -- "CSD" and make the focus on "Safety" (which may, of course, include "violence prevention") (2) let's not be too restrictive about the credentials of the director of the CSD-- i.e., let's not insist on the credentials the director of the CSD must have. S/he may, but not need not have, non-law enforcement experience. S/he may have subordinates who have such experience, and (3) let's make the establishment of the law enforcement division mandatory (replacing "may" with "shall" in section 7.3(b)).

My #1 concern is that, if the amendment is to be approved by voters, a majority of the voters will want to know that inclusion of the law enforcement function within the department is mandatory. Ward 7

Attachment:

§ 7.3. (a) Community Safety Department. The City Council must establish, maintain, adequately fund, and consistently engage the public about a community safety department, which will have responsibility for public safety services prioritizing a holistic, safety and public health-oriented approach. (1) Director of Community Safety Department. The Mayor nominates and the City Council appoints a director of the department of community safety under section 8.4(b). Individuals eligible to be appointed as director may have non-law enforcement experience in community safety services, including but not limited to public health and/or restorative justice approaches. (b) Division of Law Enforcement Services. The Council shall maintain a division of law enforcement services, composed of licensed peace officers, subject to the supervision of the community safety department. (1) Director of Law Enforcement Services Division. The director of the community safety department shall appoint the director of the division of law enforcement services, subject to confirmation by official act of the City Council and Mayor.

7/4/2020 11:28:57 AM

Hello! My name is [REDACTED], I am an RN in Minneapolis and have been living here for over a decade. I would like to add my voice to the others calling for an end to MPD. There is no reason for the city to be spending the millions of dollars it does on this nonessential service. In fact, worse than nonessential - harmful! MPD makes my city UNSafe for my neighbors and myself. I would love to see

MPD be disbanded (which I know won't necessarily happen this time around) and the money be allocated to social services and public schools. Minneapolis citizens deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Thank you! Ward 8

7/4/2020 11:32:28 AM

It is remarkable that the city council is running headlong into making major changes to the city charter without significant public feedback or any plan. As a matter of fact the city council seems to revel in the fact that they have no plan.

I am an individual speaking on behalf of my family on this issue but there are many other groups that also oppose this approach which includes the presidents of the Minneapolis NAACP, Minneapolis Urban League, Northside Achievement Zone, Pastor Brian Herron and the Minneapolis Downtown Business Association, Downtown Improvement District, Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, Minneapolis Building Owners and Managers Association along with others.

This is a diverse group that believe that the city council is running headlong into the unknown without a plan and they reject this approach.

I would urge the board to reject this fast track approach which would then allow for a plan to be created by the council and the public for the future of policing in Minneapolis. Thank you for your consideration. Ward 3

7/4/2020 11:38:21 AM

Defunding the police department, in my view, is a horrible idea. The amount of crime has sky rocketed and will only get worse. I do not live in mpls but like to come in and eat at restaurants sometimes. With the crime you have, we won't be coming into Mpls.

7/4/2020 12:02:42 PM

Minneapolis should eliminate the MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention to holistically serve the needs of our community. We should remove the minimum number of police from the city charter. Residents should be able to vote on the charter change this year. Ward 12

7/4/2020 12:10:22 PM

While I don't live in Minneapolis but do visit there often, I believe dismantling the police is maybe the dumbest idea that I've heard in my entire lifetime. It's shockingly stupid. Without a healthy police force, who will people call when they need to be saved from criminals. Criminals will still exist. Property values are going to plummet because No One will move into Minneapolis and people will move out by the droves. . Business will close shop and move. You will be left with the shell of a city with an extreme high violence rate.

I know that I will definately stop coming into the city to visit the restaurants and arts.

Maybe do some reform such as teaching teamwork amongst amoungsf the police and lessen the hierarchical structure. Do bring in more psychologists. But NEVER eliminate them . VeryVery Stupid idea. Very!!!

7/4/2020 12:21:35 PM

We, as residents of Minneapolis, want to be a part of the process that decides whether or not we fill our communities with police who harm and terrorize communities, or if we work towards a model of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Make the vote to amend the charter a ballot measure that Minneapolitans can vote on. Ward 8

7/4/2020 12:51:55 PM

I am in support of this amendment.

7/4/2020 12:53:11 PM

Please get this charter on the ballot. Change must happen!

7/4/2020 12:59:46 PM

I support the amendment to remove the police department, and I believe this transformation needs to occur as soon as possible. The longer the commission waits to implement changes, the more time the MPD has to continue terrorizing the citizens of Minneapolis - specifically targeting Black citizens. I would like to urge you to continue moving these changes forward and not to recreate a "new" version of the police department where select people still have too much control and the violence enacted by police officers against Black people continues in a different form. The MPD does not need to be dismantled and then duplicated, it needs to be abolished completely. Focusing more on transforming social conditions to reduce the need for "criminal" behavior should be a higher priority than coming up with a replacement for the institution that runs on white supremacy. Please do everything possible to move this along swiftly without stalling progress. I hope that I will be able to watch Minneapolis become the forefront for tangible change in our justice system.

7/4/2020 1:06:52 PM

As a Minneapolis resident for four years, I wholeheartedly support this change to the city charter. We have seen time and time again that the MPD has been a terror and a burden to communities of color. I ask that the charter commission be responsive to the will of the people and allow us to vote on how we want our communities protected. Ward 10

7/4/2020 1:12:45 PM

Bye bye Minneapolis. There go the businesses and residents. I will think carefully before I venture into the City. Once respected and now feared. No Police Department? Oh that will go well. Good Luck.

Reform City Council with those with experience and without their own agendas and radical ideas. Get real! I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/4/2020 1:13:05 PM

I fully support disbanding the police/ending funding for the police department in Minneapolis. I approve of the proposed charter amendment to place a question on the ballot this November for allocated funds toward a Community of Safety and Violence Prevention Department. Police abolition is necessary for a safe community for all.

7/4/2020 1:26:48 PM

We don't want police in our community any longer! I want a justice system to prioritize health, healing, and support over punitive violence. The Minneapolis Police Department (and all American police departments) has shown itself to be incapable of addressing the systemic racism within their practices and structure, and I don't want this brutal force's existence to be protected by the city's charter. We have waited long enough for change with no progress and cannot risk another needless death at the hands of the state, the city deserves to be able to speak for itself on this issue and bring this amendment to a vote this year. Ward 6

7/4/2020 1:30:02 PM

I live in Burnsville, my wife works in Minneapolis, and I frequently go to Minneapolis for business.

One of my main concerns for rebuilding the Minneapolis Police Department is that it not simply be the MPD under a new name. All current officers should be terminated, at which point they can reapply, go through a thorough psychological screening process and full retraining before joining any new department of safety\violence prevention.

I understand it may require a phase out period, but the transition plan should be fully fleshed out as early as possible and built with input from community members and long time activists.

7/4/2020 1:36:04 PM

I fully support revising the city charter to disband the current Mpls police department, and use tax payer money to support community safety, including safe and affordable housing, mental health resources, health care, and the dignity of all Mpls residents - rather than funding civil suits for bad cops.

Any future community safety officers should reside in Minneapolis, there should be full transparency for any misconduct, and the officers involved in misconduct should not be able to rely solely on tax payer dollars to cover their civil suits.

The makeup of our community safety division should look like the communities they police; that is, there should be quotas than ensure women, people of color and indigenous people are represented in a manner that reflects the makeup of our city's population. If there is not a diverse enough pool of candidates, the city budget should ensure recruiting and training efforts are fully funded.

Thank you to the city council members who had the courage to bring this to the fore. Please do not wait for the city charter to change to make profound changes to the police department. Please use the current budget to start hosting and employing all residents and ensuring we all have the health care we need and deserve. Ward 13

7/4/2020 1:57:13 PM

Please put the charter amendment of Article VII, pertaining to the removal of the Police Department and creating a Department of Community Safety & Violence Prevention, on the ballot this fall! Ward 7

7/4/2020 2:17:29 PM

I respectfully ask that the charter commissioners do everything within their power to expedite the process of reviewing the proposed charter amendment, and approve it before the deadline for the November election. There is intense public interest in public safety and the Minneapolis Police Department due to the killing of George Floyd. Due to the presidential election this year, voter turnout will be enormous. The people of Minneapolis deserve to vote on the charter amendment this year. If

the charter commissions delays the amendment beyond the deadline for the November ballot, it will be an obstruction of democracy and amount to a pocket veto. I understand the deadline is fast approaching and I respect the job of the charter commission to review the amendment. Please do not use your appointed position on the charter commission to undermine the democratic process. Instead you can use your position to support our democracy and let Minneapolis voters decide the fate of this charter amendment.

7/4/2020 2:32:16 PM

Hi there, I am worried by the charter amendment - it was hastily written, needs more study and community input, and doesn't say who would be in charge of disciplining a new police force (under the "Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention").

Please strike all of the language of the amendment except for the piece that strikes the current charter requirement for the city to fund policing at .0017 x the population. Put this striking of the funding requirement on the 2020 ballot. Let a more robust, more carefully thought out amendment (with community input!) come on the ballot in 2021. Ward 9

7/4/2020 2:35:59 PM

I would like them to have more training. Also some therapy to handle all the pressures of such a tough job, even before all this new stuff came up. I also think there is benefit for having them in the schools! I think about the positive relationships there are making.

7/4/2020 2:40:59 PM

Ward 8

7/4/2020 2:43:45 PM

Hello, As an 11-year resident of South Minneapolis and dedicated, registered voter, I write in solidarity with our city's BIPOC leaders, demanding an end to the brutal, unaccountable police department of which is protected in our city charter. We must eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. We do not want more police in our communities! We demand the Charter Commission remove the charter requirement for the minimum number of police. We, the people, deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 12

7/4/2020 2:56:34 PM

I am a long time resident of the City of Minneapolis and I oppose the idea of eliminating the Minneapolis Police Department. As a Minneapolis resident, I like the idea of a police department protecting us from individuals that wish to harm us in any way. We need the police department and no change in the city charter is needed. I urge you not to add any such change to the city charter on any ballot in the future. Thank you. I am [REDACTED] Ave. N. Ward 5

7/4/2020 3:07:31 PM

Members of the Charter Commission:

I am writing in support of the proposed Charter amendment to create a department of community safety and violence prevention. The people of Minneapolis are forcefully demanding changes to the way

we police our community after the brutal murder of George Floyd at the hands of the MPD. The city charter, as it currently stands, serves as an obstacle to meaningful police reform in our city.

The proposed charter amendment doesn't do away with police; rather, gives the city council a framework to make deep, structural reforms to public safety that it has heretofore been unable to achieve. The people of Minneapolis deserve to vote on this change and move it forward as a city.

Ward 8

7/4/2020 3:22:20 PM

No to change charter to defund police.waste of time.

7/4/2020 3:22:42 PM

My name is [REDACTED] and as a constituent I am writing to express my support for the proposed amendment to remove the Police Department from the city Charter. Not only do I believe that American policing on the whole does not and has never existed to serve all of the residents of the United States, I also believe that specifically the Minneapolis Police department has failed this community time and time again. As the MPD 150 review shows, the Minneapolis Police have long terrorized this community, specifically Black, Brown, Indigenous and LGBTQIA+, Sex Workers and other marginalized people. Reforms have been tried and failed here and all over the nation. The existence of the Minneapolis police department has always been a crisis, and it is one we can with good conscience tolerate no further. This issue is of utmost importance, and I will continue to show support for the full dismantling of the MPD, including the changing of the charter. Thank you. Ward 9

7/4/2020 3:27:30 PM

The death of George Floyd was tragic and pure murder.

For the majority of our city council to leap to "de funding" the police department is absurd.

A review and changes are needed but no police is a recipe for disaster and we have seen a rise in violent crime already. Ward 7

7/4/2020 3:27:42 PM

I support amending the chart to ensure public safety beyond policing

7/4/2020 3:29:17 PM

DO NOT Defund!!! This will hurt the growth of downtown. Am seeing a number of drug deals every day starting about month ago. But as soon as bullets start flying here in Mill City area there will be flight to suburbs. What in the world are you all thinking??? Hello all you who have personal security that am paying for through extreme taxes!!!

7/4/2020 3:30:09 PM

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. Ward 5

7/4/2020 3:34:40 PM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 2

7/4/2020 3:35:25 PM

Hello, this is a very important time in Minnesota and US History and we have the opportunity as a city to show the country what is possible. Please:

- Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

- Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum number of police per citizen

- Finally, let us, the people of Minneapolis, exercise our democratic right to vote on the charter to determine the kind of city we want.

We demand and need a safe community for ALL. Ward 6

7/4/2020 3:59:45 PM

Im OPPOSED to "removing", "de-funding", "dismantling" the MPD.

Im frightened that the politically unbalanced city council is scrambling to appear to the local and national public and their political party constituents that they are taking proactive steps to try to eliminate prejudice, racism and violence against people of color from the men and women who enforce their laws.

No amount of policy or "dismantling" will end prejudice and racist thoughts and actions of which all human beings have evolved to instinctively have. The ONLY way to address that is to educate people that prejudice and racism begins within each and every one of us no matter our race or family status. People must learn to recognize it when it instinctively presents itself in our own thoughts and behavior. Teach people to recognize and think rationally about that thought so they can make the correct decision with it.

Laws that promote equal rights are absolutely necessary. But you cannot "policy" or "de-fund" prejudice and racism out of people. You must teach people to recognize it in themselves and take responsibility for themselves.

Don't compromise the safety of our community just to push a political agenda. There's more guns in this country than ever before. De-funding, dismantling, un-arming our law enforcement officers is irresponsible, folly and very very risky. MYSELF AND OTHER PRODUCTIVE AND LAW ABIDING CITIZENS WANT ARMED POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PATROLLING, SERVING AND PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY.

Lastly, to the elected officials that spoke at the press conference on May 26, specifically Council Member Andrea Jenkins. In my opinion, the words and tone you chose to use while speaking to our community about how they should feel and act towards one another, our public servants and our law enforcement officers PROMOTED GREATER DIVISION within our community. Telling/encouraging citizens who will be participating in street protests that they should be "angry" is like throwing a Molotov cocktail into a low income housing construction project without sprinklers in it yet. Telling/encouraging citizens to confront their neighbors and relatives and make demands is risking more conflict. You should had promoted peace, community and togetherness among all of us including our elected officials and law enforcement officers. Your words were incendiary and counter productive towards peace. If you all took a different tone, maybe, some small businesses would only be coming back from COVID instead of also pointless anger directed for selfish reasons of which you were horribly unprepared for. And now you're proposing removing law enforcement officers? Look how your children treat their city. They destroyed it with an "angry" mob.

Educate and encourage people to take responsibility for themselves, their thoughts and their actions.

Don't continue to divide our community by forcing us to vote on removing the police.

7/4/2020 4:00:42 PM

Please add proposed charter language to the ballot this year. Patience is no longer called for, and, frankly, crying for more time when so many in this city have been persecuted is an abomination. Please do your jobs, and serve all the citizens of Minneapolis. Ward 7

7/4/2020 4:14:11 PM

This change must be made to ensure the health and safety of our residents. Ward 5

7/4/2020 4:20:27 PM

I wholeheartedly support amending the charter and creating new peace officers. I believe that current and former police officers should be banned from these positions. Ward 3

7/4/2020 4:32:41 PM

I am in support of the proposed recommended changes to the Minneapolis City Charter in regards to the MPD and Public Safety. Please move this proposed charter amendment forward as soon as possible!

7/4/2020 4:33:14 PM

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want.

7/4/2020 4:43:31 PM

Toward the goal of improving our community's safety, the Council must take the important first step of putting their policing-related charter revisions on the ballot this year. Ward 2

7/4/2020 4:56:41 PM

Would someone please tell us how relabeling an essential function of government which policing is does anything to address the problems in the Minneapolis police department around racial bias and the loss of faith in police in the community. Why aren't we firing the bad actors including police federation head Bob Kroll? His statements are clearly worthy of firing. He's an officer in the department, not an authority unto himself. If there is an arbitration process by union contract that needs to be challenged so be it. Let's see how that goes in the current political environment. By putting a different label and an extended process in place around community safety there is not a clear pathway forward. We don't have a year to transform policing in Mpls. Maybe more importantly the proposal you are asking the charter to forward to the voters doesn't seem like a plan a citizen could even reasonably vote on. I bunch of additional bureaucracy & blurred lines of accountability does nothing to clean house in the police department. There is almost an implication that the whole police department is going to be disbanded. Really? What's the transition plan? Are you going to hire 1/2 the force back under a different label, peace officer, in a new structure? Do we want the current officers that are redeemable with proper leadership? Is there a plan to hire the skill sets that are envisioned in the new vaguely proposed structure. Take on the real problems and stop playing games with the under the guise of defunding the police. The council already had oversight, budgeting and other authority which it did not fully exercise. Yes, you'll have to take on the union, stop signing the settlements, etc., but sidestepping accountability with a go nowhere plan like this that gets you down the road a year with nothing in the meantime but confusion isn't a serious solution. Who is going to be heartened by this plan? Citizens & businesses, oppressed minorities or privileged white folks? I doubt any of those groups. I will continue to look for clarity in this proposal but my current reaction is this is a non-plan. As it currently appears asking citizens to vote for this non-plan whether it's at the ballot box or in other decisions they make like investing in a home or business, raising & schooling kids in Mpls is not fair question. Please do better. Get some help from the state or something. We have a grave situation to deal with and calling in the National Guard on a regular basis in the next year isn't going to work.

7/4/2020 4:58:47 PM

I would like the chance to vote on a change to the Minneapolis city which would support defunding the police. Ward 11

7/4/2020 5:02:16 PM

I'm very concerned about this proposal. We need more police, not fewer. If Minneapolis appears hostile to police, who will want to work here? If we don't have a motivated, empowered police force, who will keep bad actors from over-running the city? If the city isn't safe, who will want to live and work here?

I have no confidence in the city council or mayor. I will be voting for new leaders. Ward 2

7/4/2020 5:08:32 PM

We must act with urgency to defund and eventually dismantle the police. Since the inception of this racist institution that served to protect white property, apprehend enslaved people, and oversee lynchings, individuals of certain identities have benefitted from the disproportionate terrorizing and incarceration of others. Since then, our community has developed collective consciousness about the more coded, modern day injustices committed by the police and defended by their Union such as the habitual murder of Black citizens with impunity and collaborating with ICE to persecute undocumented neighbors. We have evolved past our need for police and can no longer overlook nor condone the damage done with an enormous segment of the budget that we the people generate with our tax dollars. That money will be much better used on community safety initiatives that actually solve problems, rather than threaten the people plagued by them. Any individuals who are currently police officers and are committed to the Black Lives Matter movement and advancing legitimate, community controlled safety initiatives can apply and be integrated into those new organizations. Any of those people that are currently officers and are more interested in defending white supremacy and the violence visited on BIPOC community members than legitimately protecting us have no business representing our city in the future. Ward 7

7/4/2020 5:23:08 PM

Please pass this amendment. It is vital to the safety of our community, as well as an example for other states to make necessary changes in order to protect black lives. I urge you to pass this amendment, and work towards removing Jacob Frey from office. Community safety is of utmost importance at this time. Ward 11

7/4/2020 5:25:22 PM

Remembering Mayor Charlie Stenvig, the description of the Mayor having so much power over the police gives me pause. Although the current situation has worked badly and needs to be changed, there might better be some kind of check on the Mayor's power by the Council.

7/4/2020 5:40:41 PM

I do not want this police department protected in our city charter! I have never had a good experience, not one time, with an MPD officer. Please change the charter requirement for the number of police so I can feel more safe walking the streets in my community. Let the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter and be a part of designing the city we want, with a civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Minneapolis can be a real change leader on this, and I want to be part of it! Ward 2

7/4/2020 5:47:46 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis, I support the change of the City Charter to establish a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and the removal of the rigid requirements that have kept the Minneapolis Police Department in place and untouchable. I don't want more police in our communities. The MPD continues to brutalize the very people they are paid to protect.

A safer and healthier Minneapolis will be achieved through a community-led process that centers and amplifies the experiences and voices of Black community members and lets the city's voters re-imagine community safety. We deserve to be a part of the process, it's our democratic right, and justice cannot wait. The time to vote on change is now. Ward 11

7/4/2020 6:10:56 PM

I support amending the charter. Changes are necessary to build a Minneapolis that is safe for all of its residents. As residents, we deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 3

7/4/2020 6:22:54 PM

I am writing to express my support for removing the language about police from the city charter. We cannot wait for this to be perfect, and need to take action now to prevent more death in this city. Hennepin County recently declared racism a public health emergency. This police department has proved again and again that it is racist beyond repair. The bad apples have spoiled the bunch. We need local community safety officers who are committed to protecting and serving all people and we need to reallocate funding to affordable housing, mental health services, and restorative justice. Let's make Minneapolis a city we can be proud of. Ward 11

7/4/2020 6:35:02 PM

Good evening MPLS City Council,

Having lived in Minneapolis until the age of 12 I considered it my hometown. I lived at 16th and Queen Ave N and attended Willard Elementary through 6th grade. I remember visits at school from the Minneapolis PD and their "talking car"; reminding us to not play Mountain Goat on the snow piles during the winter as we might well slide down into the street.

The Police were there to protect us, even in the 60's the North Side was a dangerous place, we could hear the riots on Plymouth Ave at night.

We had street fights, drug dealers and other kinds of crime in our neighborhood. My parents got fed up and we moved out.

I am very sorry to hear about your proposal to replace the Police Force. I can't understand what you hope to gain. Do some Police need to be relieved from duty? Absolutely! The Floyd murder should never have happened. Dissolution of the MPD is not the right response, we need to get back to some very basic issues like personal responsibility, and accountability, this includes everybody, especially you in leadership!

Please wake up, and get this figured out with real world action. I used to enjoy coming to Twins and Wolves games, I am letting you know right now, I don't feel safe taking my family downtown Minneapolis any longer. Used to love the city, but things have changed. Cottage Grove MN

7/4/2020 6:45:17 PM

I think the city council needs to take a step back and enlist the help of the communities that are being policed. Have some discussions with community leaders like Don and Sondra Samuels who have a lot of experience of living and working in the city, and they are African American. I think the city council reacted and acted prematurely on the vote to disband the police department. Does it need reformation? Yes. Does Bob Kroll and his cronies need to go? Yes. Enlist the communities to make a plan for reformation of the police force. Have a community enforcement. Mental health professionals. Please take the time to do this right. As Don Samuels said, this is like a mental health intervention in a family. You don't get rid of Mom (who you are doing the intervention on for her abusive anger) you go to therapy and work at it. Needs to be checks and balances in place, and the city council really needs to work with the communities. And seek out input from them.

7/4/2020 6:48:37 PM

I've lived in Minneapolis for the last 15 years. My wife has lived here for 14 years. We met here. We got married here. Any time we discussed long term plans, neither of us could think of a reason we would leave Minneapolis. When George Floyd died, we were horrified by the senselessness of his murder, but honestly we were not surprised. We've lived here long enough to remember Philando Castile, Jamar Clark, Terrance Franklin, and so many more. We were heartened to see the protests, and the talk of change. The protests that looted businesses, shot out windows, and burned buildings were nothing we'd care to repeat, but if they're what it takes to make for real change, so be it. We want to see our city change - we want to see the police be held accountable, we want to see our city help those who need it most, and we want to see our city lead the changes our country so desperately needs. However, everything about this proposed amendment seems like the wrong way to do it. When we heard about the proposal, it was the first time we seriously discussed leaving Minneapolis. We wanted you to know our reasons why.

- The City Council said they would spend a year gathering input from the community, talking to the people most affected by this, finding out what they want, and what would serve them best. Then, within a couple of weeks, they came out with what they decided. They didn't listen, and they lied when they said they would.

- There's nothing in it that fundamentally fixes any problems. Nothing about preventing a union that would force the city to continue to employ dangerous employees. Nothing about holding employees personally responsible when they hurt or kill people instead of making the city liable. There's nothing to keep the new "Law Enforcement Services Division" from becoming exactly what the Police Department is now, with a new name.

- If it passes, it would make for 6 months of lame duck police. A whole police department that knows that in 6 months they're out of a job anyway. 6 months where the city, not them, will get sued for what they do. 6 months for anyone who's qualified and has a clean record to get a job with another department, leaving everyone who's not. 6 months where the police department motto will go from "To Protect with Courage, To Serve with Compassion!", to "What are they going to do, fire me?"

- There's no transition period. On April 30th, every police officer we have is gone, and we get a new department that can start hiring people. It takes time to hire people, to set things up. That means our citizens are defenseless until the new department is set up. We saw what happened when our police were outnumbered during the riots. More people were hurt and killed. Our city burned.

- On May 1st, we'll have 800 former police officers who are newly unemployed during a time of record unemployment, with nothing better to do than remind us how much we miss having a police department. No one knows better what's well protected (or not), what's on camera (or not), who's most vulnerable, than they do. While 90% of them may be the most honorable individuals to walk the earth, I don't want to see what the other 10% can do. We need to fix the system, not turn the worst parts of it against us.

- Minneapolis isn't a sealed system. From the reports of outside forces coming in during the riots, and from the nation level political talk at the moment, there are a huge number of people who want nothing more than to see us fail. To see us try defunding the police, fail miserably in our execution of it, and serve as warning to others.

If we want to be an example for others, rather than a warning, we need to do this in a well planned and safe manner. We need to listen to the community and address the root causes. We need to make real changes, instead of causing chaos while we rename the problem. This proposal seems set up to sabotage this moment in history rather than honor and further it.

7/4/2020 6:53:51 PM

I have reviewed the proposed amendment to Article VII of the City Charter. It appears that there may be, at the City Council's option, a "division of law enforcement services" subject to the supervision of the department of community safety and violence prevention. I support the idea that we will continue to have law enforcement services, and I hope that including them in a public-health-oriented department will empower good police to do their jobs while resulting in fewer needless deaths and injuries to Minneapolis citizens.

That said, I do not think a structural change alone is enough; too much depends upon who happens to be elected Mayor and Council, and who is appointed Director of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. I trust that the structural change will allow those in charge to consider, and meaningfully implement, other needed reforms.

Many thanks for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposal. Ward 7

7/4/2020 7:22:03 PM

Please ensure this is on the ballot in November

7/4/2020 8:01:07 PM

I am fully in favor of the City Council's proposed charter amendment removing the Police Department while establishing a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. Too long has this city ignored the multitude of issues not only with the police force, but with the injustices faced by members of our city every day based solely on the color of their skin and often by those sworn to protect them. It is time for change, change that is long overdue, and this is a commendable first step.

7/4/2020 8:08:16 PM

I support wholeheartedly putting the public safety transformation charter amendment on the ballot this November. While any change to the charter is of course significant, the proposed amendment is only a small step towards real, meaningful transformation of public safety and in fact does nothing directly to the current police department except change its name. What it DOES do is allow for the possibility of greater change, by allowing for the formation of a additional non-police safety department and not requiring a restrictive ratio of officers to population. By shifting the foundations of public safety in

Minneapolis to allow for a system better designed to keep ALL of us safe, the Minneapolis city government would be taking a crucial first step--but only a first step--to meaningful change.

This charter amendment would only the beginning of a long process of community feedback and engagement, and envisioning and drawing up a detailed plan for transforming public safety here in Minneapolis. Thus it is crucial to put it on the ballot as soon as possible--we cannot wait another year just to take this small first step. Therefore I urge the Charter Commission to approve putting this amendment on the ballot, and to truly begin the long process of critical transformation of public safety here in Minneapolis. Ward 13

7/4/2020 8:56:46 PM

Greetings,

Together with thousands of people around the world, we demand that our communities invest in what we need: healthcare, education, housing, etc. We do not want our police departments who can not hold themselves accountable to continue running. We do not want a brutal police department protected in our city charter. Here are some demands from citizens of Minneapolis:

- 1) Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.
- 2) Remove the charter requirement for the minimum number of police.
- 3) Let the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter which respects their democratic right to determine the kind of city they want and deserve. Ward 1

7/4/2020 8:59:46 PM

Greetings, Together with thousands of people around the world, we demand that our communities invest in what we need: healthcare, education, housing, etc. We do not want our police departments who can not hold themselves accountable to continue running. We do not want a brutal police department protected in our city charter. Here are some demands from citizens of Minneapolis:

- 1) Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.
- 2) Remove the charter requirement for the minimum number of police.
- 3) Let the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter which respects their democratic right to determine the kind of city they want and deserve. Ward 2

7/4/2020 9:13:00 PM

Dumbest idea ever by elected officials! I'll move out of this messed up city and even be willing to take a loss on selling my home if this ridiculous proposal passes!

Wenonah Neighborhood Resident 35 years. Ward 11

7/4/2020 9:32:08 PM

Please ensure that the charter amendment is on the ballot this fall. Ending police violence cannot wait another year. If action had been taken, George Floyd and so many others could still be alive today. Rather than requiring an unaccountable police department that consumes a third of the city's budget, all while making communities less safe, voters should be given the choice of how they get to live in their communities. Ward 3

7/4/2020 9:43:26 PM

I am in favor of the amendment to the City Charter to create a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. I have always loved MPLS but was always struck by the way I saw non-white residents treated and would love MPLS even more if I saw this kind of attempt to right past wrongs.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/4/2020 9:51:22 PM

I fully support a vote on the proposed amendment.

7/4/2020 10:05:22 PM

I am paying attention and will not let this amendment to disband MPD die because of bureaucracy and short notice meetings. As a reminder the charter amendment should prohibit current or former law enforcement from leading the new department, and it should not create a new division for police officers. Ward 10

7/4/2020 10:13:10 PM

I am not in favor of how quickly you are moving things without having other things in place. Your harsh words and quick actions have caused waves in our police system that will have an effect on all of us in Minneapolis. We now have police stepping away from the force and we (the tax payers) will still need to paid them.

I can understand their stepping back, you have pretty much told them by your words and actions that they are of no use to the city and are all racists or violent. We need to attack the system-not people.

I have lived in Minneapolis for 40 years. I am concerned for our safety in the city. We are in a time of outrage and anarchy across the US. I am concerned that your words and actions have put our city in peril. You have denounced those that protect us and who are we going to go to when we need help now?

I am in favor for reform and change in the police system, incarceration and criminal system; but we need to be mindful of what we say and do to get there.

I know that several of the council members have received threats and now my tax money is paying for their protection. What do I do when I need protection? What will be my options? Are you going to hire a private protection firm for me?

I feel that you have spoken for all Minneapolis without taking any kind of consensus from those you represent.

7/4/2020 10:21:08 PM

I am in full support of the defunding and dismantling of the Minneapolis Police Department. I believe that the current work of MPD is too much for the officers' level of training, especially in regards to mental health, addiction, homelessness, and sex work. These systemic issues need to be addressed with more funding that support mental health services (specific to BIPOC folks), addiction recovery that is community-centered, long-term housing-first solutions for all who are unhoused and at risk of being unhoused, and interventions to address sex trafficking at its source: the traffickers. In regards to violent crime and property crime, MPD rarely resolves these crimes nor do they rarely intervene in a timely way, especially in neighborhoods that are predominantly BIPOC and low-income. It is imperative that those who are and have been most affected by police brutality, intimidation, and low response times are the folks who should be the predominant voices in shaping a new vision for public safety in the city. These communities are Black, Brown, Indigenous and People of Color. They are also queer (LGBTQIA+) individuals, those experiencing addiction, sex workers, and folks experiencing homelessness. This new vision for public safety needs to also NOT include current and former law enforcement as this would facilitate further distrust of the new public safety system. Ultimately, however, the work must not stop with MPD as racism is a public health issue and white supremacy must be dismantled in addition to its enforcer the MPD. Thank you all for your work.

7/4/2020 10:28:14 PM

I agree with this amendment. It needs to be put forward as an option for the public to vote on. However, the details of how the proposed replacement will be brought online should also be part of the conversation. Nothing should be haphazard or knee jerk. This alternative needs to be well researched, well thought out and to provide an actual solution to the existing problem, which is well documented police violence. We need a working alternative that solves the problem of systemic racist profiling while also keeping our communities safe. All of this needs to be included.

7/4/2020 10:29:34 PM

We need the police department in every city! Citizens are more fearful now than ever for their lives. Yes, there may be a few bad PO but what about the rest who took that oath to protect and serve? They know it's a dangerous job but still go out leaving their families wondering if they will be injured or shot on purpose.

Wake up people!! Get off your high horses and start working TOGETHER!! We are not seeing any unity since May 25. Officials have no backbone to stand up to those who are creating havoc and insisting on entitlement. They are spoiled children and will not stop until someone does.

7/4/2020 10:32:30 PM

There is so much crime in the city they need more police not less. People don't even feel safe to keep their businesses there or live there! Just because a couple of bad cops did bad things doesn't mean to take everyone else's safety away. Cops are people too! They don't even get paid enough to deal with half the people they have to deal with. I wasn't always a fan of police but so glad we have them! The people ruining the cities are what need to be controlled which nobody is doing a good job of because everyone whines about their rights

7/4/2020 11:04:22 PM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police!

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want.
Ward 12

7/4/2020 11:31:46 PM

The police have shown that can hold themselves accountable. For too long has their power gone unchecked which has allowed them to get away with murder for years. But then the aggressive display of power towards protestors where people were routinely shot with rubber bullets and tear gas which is a war crime according to the Geneva convention...the police need to be replaced with UNARMED peace officers for any nonviolent call. The police union must be disbanded. Ward 10

7/4/2020 11:35:47 PM

Getting rid of the entire police department in Minneapolis, a city of 350K adults and probably another 50K in children, is just plain insanity. A community of safety and violence prevention department??? Is that who will respond to domestic abuses, robberies, rapes, shootings in schools? Really? You think this is the answer? Even social workers won't go to a situation of domestic violence without contacting the police for back up.

Yet, the City Council found it ok to spend tens of thousands of dollars to protect themselves, yet still want to leave us without protection. What goes around, comes around. I vote a RESOUNDING NO! God help us. Reform? Yes. If you want to dismantle something to do with the police, maybe you should look at their union. Maybe the City Council needs reform, if they think this is ok to do to us.

7/4/2020 11:36:28 PM

This form looks so unofficial - which make me nervous to enter my info.

- Anyway, there needs to be good checks and balances on police or public safety officers. Like other professions, couldn't officers be required to carry liability insurance? If an office has too many conflicts against them they'd be let go. Officers currently have too much opportunity to abuse power. This needs correcting with regular checks on an officer's conduct.

- Officers should not be protected but actually held responsible for their actions. Public safety and protecting lives is most important.

- We also need to take racist laws off the books.

- Social Workers should be used for most situations.

- Guns are NEVER the answer. More guns only increase the chances of someone being shot.

- Use community policing as often as possible. Job promotions in policing often remove officers from a community they know to one they don't. All that knowledge goes to waste. Officers need to know community members and be invested in the community. Being a person in the community so the community sees officers as people too is important.

- Have checks and balances on corruption.

7/5/2020 12:00:21 AM

Hell! We need to reconstruct the police and rid it of white supremacy. But we still need the police.

7/5/2020 12:02:22 AM

Being a white middle aged woman I never really had strong opinions about the cops. That has changed. I don't trust them and believe they are not only more corrupt than not, they have no desire to serve and protect. get rid of the lot.

7/5/2020 4:24:46 AM

No . To abolishing the MINNEAPOLIS police department.

7/5/2020 6:55:31 AM

I do not believe that this amendment has been properly vetted and I do not believe it has considered the (possibly unintended) consequences. There have been Northside community members working on police reform, etc for MANY years. This amendment feels like a publicity ploy as there has not been meaningful engagement in the past. I urge you to slow down this process in order to have a comprehensive plan in place prior to amending the charter.

7/5/2020 7:21:25 AM

It is imperative that we, as a city, take drastic measures to change what policing looks like in order to have a safer and more accountable city.

We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police! Ward 13

7/5/2020 7:31:58 AM

the thought of less police is really scary. Tensions are up and violence seems to be up. People can't keep giving into these lunacy ideas. Please, give more training, maybe be more interactive in the communities. But please continue to protect our communities.

7/5/2020 7:55:17 AM

This is an absurd idea, plain and simple. I read a recent article that there will be Sharia police. You do realize that the US is a sovereign nation with ONE legal system, right?

Will there also be Antifa and BLM "community safety and violence prevention squads" for other areas? Will you forego your armed security and subject your neighbors (and yourselves) to this utopian vision?

Here is another point to consider. A recent survey of truck drivers shows over 70% will not deliver in "police free" zones. So, how will you fine folks get groceries and other goods to residents who lack the luxury of driving to get food and other essentials?

I will not provide my address because I do not want to have an early morning visit from some of your "peace keepers." If you succeed, you will only destroy the once magnificent city of Minneapolis.

7/5/2020 8:07:13 AM

I am a current resident of Longfellow in Minneapolis. I am writing to let you know that I support the proposed Public Safety Transformation Amendment to the City Charter and think the residents of Minneapolis should have the chance to vote on the Amendment in November.

Here is why I feel this way:

1. The Minneapolis Police Department has a long history of violence against Black and Brown residents of Minneapolis. Multiple attempts at police reform have failed to stop this racial violence. To me, it is clear that the only moral and sensible path forward is to dismantle and defund the MPD. This Amendment would be a starting step in the process to re-imagine public safety.
2. I imagine the Charter Commission is getting a lot of pressure about this decision from all sides, including the Police Union. I also imagine this pressure may make it difficult to determine the course of action that will be best for the community as a whole. The best and most tried and true way to get equal input from community members is through voting. The City Charter belongs to the people of Minneapolis, and we should have the opportunity to vote to change it. The community deserves the right to make this decision.
3. As a white person who grew up in rural Minnesota, I did not have any interactions with the police until I moved to Minneapolis. Since moving to the City 10 years ago, all of my few interactions with police have been negative and fear-inducing. I know that the primary thing that has protected me from police violence is the color of my skin, and that is unjust. I am telling you that I will personally feel safer living in a city without police.

I know dismantling the MPD will be a long, thoughtful, and, at times, difficult process, but I also know that this city is capable of such a process. I strongly urge you to approve the Amendment and allow Minneapolis residents to vote on it in November.

Thank you for your time and for all the work that you do. Ward 12

7/5/2020 8:48:23 AM

I am opposed in removing the police department. I want to see improvements in recruitment - hiring criteria, training and discipline process. I do realize and approve the need for other areas such as mental health access, outreach etc. But a police department including the name is still essential ... not everyone is guilty but not everyone is innocent. Ward 7

7/5/2020 8:55:31 AM

Regarding the defunding police proposal, let me know how that goes for you. Perhaps a smarter move is to get rid of the bad apples and retrain the others.

7/5/2020 9:11:48 AM

We do not need a new police entity, changing the name is not a substantive change, in contrary it is misleading.

What we need is a complete reform of the existing PD.

The creation of a new entity would leave a wrong message for the majority of people to follow that move in any other controversial situations that might affect our life. Re-inventing the wheel is not needed here and is overall not smart.

7/5/2020 9:17:23 AM

NO. Absolutely not. Do not remove police dept and replace with CSVPD. Knee jerk reaction without logic and appropriate thought. Who are you?

7/5/2020 9:18:17 AM

NO. Absolutely not. Do not remove police dept and replace with CSVPD. Knee jerk reaction without logic and appropriate thought. Who are you?

7/5/2020 9:27:07 AM

I am in full support of disbanding the police department. However, this cannot simply be the MPD under a new name. That would only be symbolic change and not true structural changes. The MPD must be fully let go and a new group rehired. If not, we do not fix the culture of racism and excessive force.

This new force must be created with leadership from community, specifically majority black, brown, and queer community. This new dept must be data driven and search for evidence based public safety measures. This group must focus on deescalation and actually keeping people safe, and their main tools can't just be excessive force and arrests

This new dept must be required to protect people and their rights, including their rights to protest and exist in the city.

7/5/2020 9:48:10 AM

Mpls. needs more police with more training. Do not abolish the police department.

7/5/2020 10:13:28 AM

Abolishing the MPD is an embarrassingly awful idea. People in high-crime areas don't want it, nor does anyone else who's actually thought the matter through. You can reform without "abolishing." Prepare to be defeated at the ballot box.

7/5/2020 10:16:02 AM

This is outrageous! You are merely succumbing to public hysteria. Decisions should not be made in the heat of emotion, but with calm reason. Ward 2

7/5/2020 10:23:11 AM

I support the changes to the city charter being proposed to be on the November ballot. Let the people decide to create a department of public safety and non-violence. It is unacceptable to prolong this and not have it on the November ballot. Ward 13

7/5/2020 10:46:58 AM

I wholeheartedly agree policing in Minneapolis needs to be "reimagined." Public safety is everyone's responsibility and we need all to be unified around this mission. This starts with having pride in our communities, holding each other to the highest ethical and moral standards and compassionately supporting those in need. I would love to see public rally cries, calls to action and ceremonies to to

decorate the community hero's among us. The kind and caring residents of Minneapolis will heed the call, band together and make the city of Minneapolis a model for what the power the people can do when it comes public safety. Thank you leading us down this path! Ward 12

7/5/2020 10:49:31 AM

Ensure that police officers that work in the city also live in the city. We need police officers that truly care about the community they serve.

Ensure that the right professional (Mental Health/EMT/Police Officer/Social Worker) responds to 911 calls based on what the call itself reports.

Ensure that officers are trained in de escalation as a primary strategy to keep peace.

Not all police officers need a lethal weapon to respond to calls.

Remove officers from the force that have repeated offenses of excessive force and other public complaints.

7/5/2020 11:21:38 AM

Please do not defund nor disband the police dept. I rely on them for the peace in my neighborhood. They keep me safe and it terrifies to think what Minneapolis would be like without them. The unopposed anarchy, riots, looting and mass destruction of the past month is devastating. Only criminals and those who back those who break the laws want the police gone. Allowing mob think of a relative few, many who don't even live here, to hastily change the Constitution of Minneapolis because they are riding this momentum would be a tragic mistake. I already shake at the bus stop downtown on the rare occasion I don't have a carpool home. I catch my bus by the library and am approached by 1-5 people always gimme, gimme, gimme. It's like being surrounded by sharks. I could be the One beat anytime. To disband the police I can live in fear in my own home everyday. I'm a 62 yr old woman, lifetime resident Minneapolis who just wants to work a few more years & retire in my relatively simple, peaceful life. Law and order are a part of a civilized society. Removing the police means chaos and anarchy. Minneapolis deserves better.

7/5/2020 11:48:29 AM

Our city needs a strong and well supported police department now more than ever. Things are out of control. I've lived in Minneapolis for roughly 25 years and we're on a fast downhill slide. The parks look like a refugee camp, graffiti is prevalent and law abiding, tax paying citizens don't feel safe. If the mayor and city council don't start focusing on the needs of the hard working majority that make this city function, Minneapolis will go the way of Detroit. Ward 11

7/5/2020 11:50:05 AM

I strongly support adding mental health professionals and social workers into the public safety system, and I support renaming the "police" department to the "Community Safety and Violence Prevention" department, as well as increasing its scope to take a more holistic approach. In particular, I support adding mental health professionals and social workers into the 911 system to ensure that requests from the public are routed to the correct responders within the department. However, I do NOT support removing the minimum funding levels stipulated in the current Minneapolis charter for peace officers, especially during a time in which we are seeing an increase in violent crime across the city. Additionally, home robberies in my neighborhood have been increasing year after year, and the existing peace officers have been stretched too thin to respond to these home break-ins in a timely manner. I cannot

support the reduction in funding for peace officers, nor diverting funding from peace officers to other professionals. I do support, however, increasing funding for both peace officers as well as for mental health professionals. This may very well require an additional funding source and/or tax increases and/or reduction in other city budgets. I also do NOT support the removal of the police chief role during the tenure of Chief Arradondo, who is a bridge builder and an advocate for diversity in the police department as well as interactions with our communities of color. I also do NOT support eliminating the mayor's control over the peace officers. We currently have a "weak mayor" system, and this is one of the few responsibilities remaining for the mayor of Minneapolis. We cannot strip the mayor of nearly all responsibilities without further discussion. Finally, the proposed charter amendment language is overly vague and appears to have been rushed to a ballot vote. I cannot support the current proposed charter amendment without greater thought and detail, and without some of the above points taken into consideration. I would like to see the city council work hard on an actual budget that shows an increase in funding for both peace officers as well as new mental health professionals, and I'd like to see this clearly highlighted in the larger city budget, including funding sources.

7/5/2020 12:59:13 PM

Non resident of minneapolis chiming in: I believe in this moment it is crucial we take steps in a imaging a world with a drastically reduced police presence. Currently the police are stretched too thin for what they are trained for, and we see the repercussions of this not just in the mistakes that get amplified and shared on social media but also in the daily lived experience of black americans. It is up to the people to decide how to create safety in their community. Thank you for listening I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/5/2020 1:25:03 PM

My objections to the proposed amendment CH2020-00014 on establishing Community Safety and Violence Prevention (CSVP) Department are threefold: department accountability, public safety, and budgeting.

1. The proposal removes existing checks against potential power abuse by the Director of CSVP. Specifically, no limit has been set for term length or number of terms served. Furthermore, the right of the Mayor to terminate employment of any department member has also been removed, leaving the hiring/firing decisions solely in the hands of the Director.

The amendment also does not propose any external, independent commissions to regularly audit and address irregularities in the Department. The omission makes it unclear who will be responsible for introducing the new regulations to CSVP – a responsibility currently held by the Mayor.

Furthermore, the jurisdiction of the new department is not well defined and the chain of command for reporting has not been established. What will be the interplay between CSVP and other enforcement agencies that are not part of MPD, such as Minneapolis Park Police or Metrotransit Police? How does CSVP fit with the Office of Violence Prevention - a department that is also described as "community-focused, public health approach"?

2. Included language states that law enforcement (LE) as optional – a potentially dangerous prospect Based on the proposal, the existence and maintenance of this division will be dependent on the agreement of the Director, Mayor, and the City Council. With a consensus that is unlikely to be reached in our polarized world, the path forward for safety in Minneapolis remains unclear. Who will oversee ensuring the safety of Minneapolitans in the absence of adequate political and financial support? Speaking as a first-generation immigrant, who has witnessed abuses of power in his country of birth, I say this question is of paramount importance.

The mission of the new department described as "public health oriented approach" is overly vague and open to interpretation by the Director. While I understand the goal to be focused on proactive, non-violent interventions, my concern is that that some entities may fall victim to the Director's disposition or personal beliefs – for example: homeless camps, or sex workers may suddenly become targets of the new department if the Director subscribes to the "broken windows" theory, and considers them public health issues. What are the safeguards to ensure that the practices that took so long to introduce into MPD will be carried over to the new departments? (use of the body cameras, no "warrior training", MPD data dashboard) How can the new practices, such as reducing racial bias, preferential local residency, and de-militarization be introduced?

3. The funding of MPD was previously linked to property tax - a provision that has been removed in the proposal. What then is the expected source of funds for the new department, especially given the current economic climate? If the Director chooses to create an LE division, who would oversee its financial control? Will it be one of the Directors, or will the LE funding be explicitly defined in the Minneapolis budget?

Given that the change from MPD to CSVP will not happen overnight, what is the proposed source of funds to support the transition, hire the new personnel, acquire equipment? All of this must be done while the current system continues to function. Assuming the new department will focus on de-escalation techniques, it will likely also require additional employees like social workers and healthcare professionals, further raising costs in the interim. Will these funds be raised through additional taxation, or sourced elsewhere in the budget?

I understand that some of these concerns may be addressed in the code of the new department, if/when it comes to fruition. Until then though, the City Council is requesting a \$200M blank check, and I cannot in good faith support this amendment.

7/5/2020 1:35:42 PM

Please review, recommend, and refer back the public safety charter amendment BEFORE the August deadline so the amendment can appear on the November ballot. Without this charter change, we cannot make the necessary changes to create greater public safety for all Minneapolis residents and visitors. We cannot wait any longer for change. In this situation, delays can literally be a death sentence for our black and indigenous neighbors. If the commission extends its review time past the ballot deadline, the commission sends the message that its members do not truly value the lives and safety of black and indigenous Minneapolitans. Placing the charter amendment on the ballot isn't the end; it's just the beginning of the community engagement process to create the new public safety department. I ask that the Commission not delay or stand in the way of that process. For years I have lived with (and paid for) a police force I am too afraid to call when I need help. Due to the horrendous decades-long history of misconduct by the MPD and shielding from consequences by the Police Union, we must make a big change to achieve safety for ourselves and our neighbors. Please recommend the charter amendment back to the City Council by the August deadline! Ward 11

7/5/2020 1:58:48 PM

While I fully support broadening 911 response options to include mental health professionals and other social support personnel, and to also broaden the use of unarmed enforcement personnel and other means (such as traffic light cameras) in non-emergency situations (e.g., traffic enforcement, reports of low-level non-violent crime) I have concerns with the breadth of the proposed charter amendment. Specifically, I am concerned that this amendment if passed will simply add another layer of bureaucracy

and as a result will reduce direct accountability. I am in strongly in favor of maintaining direct accountability from the head of community safety (regardless of title) to the mayor. Management by committee is ineffective at best and counterproductive at worst, and the mayor is the one elected official that is accountable to the city as a whole. Ward 7

7/5/2020 1:59:00 PM

Citizens deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want! Please lead by example and show us how this nation can be better served to protect Black and Brown lives.

7/5/2020 2:07:06 PM

Hello, I have emailed Jeremy S (the city council representative for the area that I live) twice asking and imploring him to include BIPOC Minneapolis Residents in the planning of changing the Public Safety Charter Amendment. As a multi-generational resident of this city, I do not support Defunding the Minneapolis Police Department. I do support Chief Arradondo. I do support Defunding and Restructuring the Minneapolis Police Department. Please, please, please include BIPOC Minneapolis Residents who have been working in the community and in the streets for years for equality and public safety.

7/5/2020 2:10:28 PM

It is time to change the charter NOW. The city has a responsibility to the safety of its citizens to completely rethink public safety. As it stands now more bad than good is done. This is long overdue and it should be done in a presidential election year to ensure the most people vote for a critical issue. Ward 10

7/5/2020 2:14:25 PM

I am a life-long Minneapolis resident. I am a 40-year old nurse practitioner. I am very concerned about the proposal to remove the Police Department. It is clear that our Police Department is broken, and if it were to remain, it would need deep and profound reform. At a minimum, institutions (like the police union) that protect and reinstate officers with violent histories would need to be dismantled.

If we do get rid of the Police Department such a step CANNOT be taken until a clear, realistic and reliable path forward is proposed. My concern stems from the lack of clear vision as to how the city will provide protection from violent crime in the proposed Safety and Violence Prevention Department. Who will we call when someone has broken into our house, who will we call when our family or children are at risk? Who will respond with speed and the appropriate skills to such events? Who will provide the important intelligence and detective work to thwart planned violent attacks on schools, houses of worship or individuals? Not until there is a thorough proposal that answers these questions and more can we afford to do away with our current Police Department no matter how flawed it is. Such a proposal CANNOT be based on lofty dreams for a more peaceful and just city. At a minimum it would need to be grounded on other successful examples of cities, states or countries where such endeavors have worked.

If it is true, as Mayor Frey states, that the new Head of Public Safety would have 14 people to whom they report, then this shows how deeply flawed and poorly thought out this proposal is at the outset, and we would be fools to move forward with it. How can a system work without accountability? Anyone who has any experience in large organizations knows that having several superiors to report to is a fast

way to loose good, qualified employees and is a sure fire way for any system to become inept due to bureaucracy.

As a final point, what is glaringly absent from all of the discussions, protests and turmoil since George Floyd's death is the fact American police officers are policing and armed public. This is unlike any other developed nation. The fact that the public has guns raises the stakes for all involved and raises the level of violence for the civilians and the police in any encounter. Not until this country recons with its obsession with guns and the right to bear arms will we see a more peaceful future. No matter the version of Public Safety that we construct, if the public is armed, we simply won't attain the level of safety and civility we so desperately desire. How come this issue gets so little attention? Are we really so blind or intimidated by forces like the NRA that we can't confront this? What can Minneapolis and Minnesota do to be leaders in the struggle to get rid of guns in the public's hands?

The current state of Minneapolis public safety is frail. Please move slowly and deliberately with the utmost attention to evidence-based reforms when it comes to changing our policing. Once a real and reliable solution that has buy-in from all of Minneapolis' residents is on the table, the path forward will be clear. The current proposal is rushed and poorly thought out. Please pause and take your time. The health and safety of our city's residents is too important to make mistakes.

Attachment:

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2020/06/04/how-to-fix-american-policing>

7/5/2020 2:17:39 PM

I am writing in favor of referring this amendment to voters in November and I am planning that I will vote in favor of the amendment. The major possibilities for reforming the current Minneapolis Police Department, including giving civilian oversight groups the right to impose discipline on police officers after an investigative process, allowing cities to require that police officers reside in the communities that they serve and changing the binding arbitration process currently in place for any police officers who are terminated are all currently prohibited by Minnesota state statutes. Serious reform of the Minneapolis Police Department that would improve the current situation will only happen if these statutes can be changed and the Minnesota Senate GOP majority has already made clear that they will not allow any of these statutes to be changed. The only way that these statutes can be changed is if the Democratic party wins a majority of the Minnesota Senate and also holds on to their majority in the Minnesota House and it is not clear that this will definitely happen in November. Given this situation, I believe that Minneapolis needs to take its own path and it appears that the only option for serious reform to happen is to replace the current police department with a new organization.

The only suggestion I have for changing the ordinance is that I think it should be less prescriptive about the background and experience required for the director of the new department. I think stating that the mayor would appoint candidates and the city council will confirm them should be enough. I understand the interest in selecting a director without a police background right now, but circumstances could change in the future and I don't think the city charter should be so defined as to not allow the mayor and city council to choose who they believe would be the best candidate for that position. I also think that our current police chief should be considered as a candidate for the new position and don't think he should be eliminated from consideration by prescriptive language in the charter amendment. Thank you for considering my comments. Ward 7

7/5/2020 2:26:51 PM

I grew up in the 13th ward of Minneapolis. I voice my support for the people of Minneapolis and urge the charter commission to create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention and remove the requirement for a minimum number of police. Justice cannot wait another year. The entire nation, if not the world, has their eyes to Minneapolis to see if you can make the visionary change we need to dismantle white supremacy in our communities. Now is the time to be on the right side of history as the city that stood up to police brutality and said "enough is enough." I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/5/2020 2:33:56 PM

Please create a Department of Community and Safety and Violence Prevention. We don't want more police in our communities that sometimes incite crime instead of prevent it. We ask you the charter to remove the minimum requirement number of police as well as demand to be part of the process to determine the kind of city we envision. Thank you. Ward 2

7/5/2020 2:34:42 PM

The Minneapolis Police Department has failed to protect our most vulnerable neighbors and has in fact done the opposite: officers have murdered people of color with impunity and without accountability. They have over-policed Black and Brown neighborhoods and contributed to the mass incarceration which shatters families and communities. I agree that drastic change is required, and I applaud the Minneapolis City Council's efforts to get this issue on the Nov. 3rd ballot. However, I also have concerns with the Charter amendment as it stands today.

I share Mayor Frey's concerns about accountability. Part of the reason MPD officers can so easily abuse their power is the lack of accountability and transparent reporting, and the ability for sanctioned officers to win jobs back through arbitration. Any proposed charter amendment needs to make it absolutely clear who is responsible for the actions of officers, employees, and directors of the new Department. Are they accountable to the entire City Council? If so, I'm concerned that the new department could easily become bogged down in bureaucracy and partisan politics. I think Mayor Frey is correct to ask that the Mayor continue to oversee the new department.

I also noticed the amendment removed all mention of term limits and funding. These are important questions that voters will have if the amendment makes it onto the ballot. Reading the amendment now, it seems as though the Director of the new department could very well serve for life, which is concerning if we are trying to eliminate abuses of power and increase accountability and oversight. This question would need to be addressed before I could vote in favor of the amendment.

The amendment allows the new Department the option of retaining some peace / police officers, but does not specify how many, or what the ratio of police to non-police employees will be. The amendment also stipulates that the Director of the new Department must have some non-law enforcement experience in public health or social justice. But it's unclear whether former law enforcement professionals would be eligible if they also had experience in the required fields. Again, these points of confusion need to be clarified so that voters know exactly what they're voting for in November.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the amendment does not address structural change beyond the mere removal of the Police Department. If police officers do remain as part of the new Department, it's especially important for structural changes to be addressed. What steps will be taken to improve officer accountability and counteract undue union influence? What are the avenues for structural change

among remaining police, and among non-police employees? How will systemic racism and mass incarceration be addressed?

It would be easy to fool ourselves into thinking that eliminating the police will eliminate the problems facing our city, but unfortunately it won't be so easy. Systemic racism permeates every aspect of our society, and it needs to be addressed head-on, from the beginning, if this new Department is going to succeed. I hope that the final version of the amendment speaks to this, and puts forward suggestions for concrete actions that will improve public health and safety for all Minneapolis residents.

7/5/2020 2:36:57 PM

We have tried and tried to push reform, deescalation trainings, "diversity" trainings, and this has not changed any statistics of violence acted on citizens by police. Police do not view citizens as those they are out serving, they view citizens as potential threats, this is escalated if the citizen is not white. Police protect private property in a more respectful way than folks in my community, and abolishing the police, and funding community-led organizations is the only way forward. I am a social worker, and social workers go out every single day and are confronted with situations they need to deescalate in many types of settings, and they do so successfully without firearms. Social workers have liability insurance so that if they injure someone directly or accidentally, they will be compensated. The police pay out millions every year of tax payer \$\$\$ that could be used to make our communities safer, could house the houseless, feed the hungry, and make our neighborhoods better. The system of policing has not been in the citizens best interests for decades, it is time to work toward a better future for Minneapolis. This needs to focus on harm reduction practices, decriminalizing all substances (all criminalization has been rooted in racism! Every drug!), and prioritizing housing the houseless members of our community.

7/5/2020 2:55:34 PM

I think this is a great idea.

7/5/2020 2:59:15 PM

I am in support of this being posed to the voters in November.

Is there an expectation that "licensed peace officers" hired under this new charter would be any different from those officers already in uniform? If they are the same officers, what are the mechanisms in place to remove them from their work should they use unnecessary force or should the data continue to demonstrate disproportionate petty arrests for people of color?

It must be that the Director of the Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department has ultimate authority over the "licensed peace officers" ESPECIALLY if they have served on the Minneapolis Police Department prior to creation of this new department. Unlearning entrenched patterns of behavior and hierarchy, as we have seen, are difficult.

The new department should immediately establish a process for a EXTERNAL & INDEPENDENT review of all incidents involving unnecessary or suspicious acts perpetrated by any member of the Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. It seems this should be specified in this charter

Thank you for consideration of my input. I look forward to voting on this in November 2020. Ward 12

7/5/2020 3:20:42 PM

I support the proposed amendment to the City Charter which would create a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention, removing the requirement to fund a police department. This is an essential step to ensuring our neighborhoods and communities are kept, safe, healthy, and prosperous.

The new Department should be created in a fair, transparent, and equitable manner that prioritizes restorative justice models and public health expertise. Its creation and implementation should be carried out only after significant community input is sought and a mode for ongoing civilian oversight is established. Ward 10

7/5/2020 3:25:30 PM

Please include the City Charter amendment on this November's ballot. This is an important issue that we should be moving forward with now, not waiting another year. Ward 10

7/5/2020 3:35:12 PM

Justice cannot wait! I am demanding that the Charter is on the ballot this November so that we can move towards a healthier and safer Minneapolis. Ward 9

7/5/2020 3:39:28 PM

I support the implementation of the community safety and violence prevention department. Please allow us to vote on the amendment this fall. Ward 7

7/5/2020 3:40:13 PM

Dear Members of the City Charter Commission: Thank you for your public service of sitting on the City Charter Committee. I am writing to urge you to place the amendment to remove MPD as a required city department and make police optional in the city, remove a required ratio of police officers to Minneapolis residents so we could begin scaling down police and establish a new Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention that uses proven community safety strategies and is shaped by community on the November 2020 ballot. Justice cannot wait for another year: let the people decide how to create safety in our communities.

I don't want my city taxes supporting the brutal, unaccountable police department currently protected in our city charter. I call on you to give voters a chance to eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

I don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum number of police so that the city can use resources more appropriately to resolve the issues on our communities!

Please support the democratic process in Minneapolis and keep the voters a part of this process.

Thank you for your work and please vote to put the amendment on the November ballot. We can not wait any longer for the change our community so desperately needs. Ward 2

7/5/2020 3:41:46 PM

I personally believe there should be some sort of police force. Without one, crimes and murder will skyrocket. The terrible actions of a few cannot be the reason for dismissing the entire police force. Cops sacrifice a lot during their jobs. What they need is a drastic increase in training. Training to de-escalate situations on a weekly basis.

7/5/2020 4:15:23 PM

Father you said in your word that you open doors that no man can shut and close doors that no man can open. I pray you close this door to defund the police!! I rebuke all plans to shut the police force down and I pray Lord that you would strengthen the police and i pray root out every wicked officer that is racist and is ungodly. I pray bring in godly police officers in Minneapolis. I pray help the police to protect the black community. I pray that you root out every council member who is wicked in Minneapolis and wants to bring in their agendas and bring in godly people in authority over this city in Jesus name. I thank you Lord that you have the last say and I pray though a man has many plans you turn their hearts like a watercourse in Jesus name to not let this proposal happen in Jesus name. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/5/2020 4:16:56 PM

I believe we should be allowed to vote to change the charter to allow us the flexibility to change nhow we are policed. It doesn't mean we will abolish the police entirely, but it gives us the flexibility to create a more humane system, free of the bullying of the police federation, that protects and enables abusive cops and the unfair system we have now. We can and must do better and this amendment gives us the flexibility to reimagine a system of policing that respects all of us and has the capacity to treat us all with respect and dignity.

7/5/2020 4:22:49 PM

Please do not abolish the police department!! Change, yes. Abolish, no.

7/5/2020 4:30:06 PM

We need police. I felt safer in Philadelphia than I do here in Minneapolis. It's terrible that I can't go outside for fear of my own safety. This has changed over the years. It's gotten much worse over the years, as more and more people stream in from Chicago. They are more aggressive, tough, and violent. Loring Park is now the hangout for increasing numbers of intoxicated people from the subsidized buildings nearby. They buy liquor at the liquor store.

1. Close the liquor store.

2. We need police in the park and on the Greenway.

Minneapolis should not abolish the police. It is naïve to think you can run a city with social workers and mental health workers. I am a psychiatrist who works in the emergency room at HCMC. Believe me we are the front line workers, you should talk to us first.

You need to realize that thugs and bad people run wild without police. Ward 7

7/5/2020 4:39:01 PM

I have lived in downtown Mpls for 3 years, and in the near north for 26 before that. In that time I have watched the city become a safer place for me, my family, our neighbors, and our community. That changed following the George Floyd protests and riots. I have watched since then as businesses already struggling with the impacts of covid were required to board up their doors again under pressure from a group or groups that seek to disband our police department. The message has been to defund or disband, not reform, not restore, not improve, not spread the effectiveness of the department. This is pure foolishness. In the weeks and months following this movement we have seen emboldened criminals, shootings happening constantly, robberies and carjackings day and night, crime sprees like I have never witnessed in all my time in Minneapolis. All this with just the idea that the police will be defunded or disbanded. We need our police. We need them to be well trained, well funded, and well respected in the community. We need community outreach and engagement with the police, and a reestablishment of the ideals that they exist to represent; peacekeeping. There will always be bad people, that is one of the unfortunate truths of humanity. We need representatives to stand in the gap when those people try to harm the innocent, and that is what our police are for. I urge the city council, for the sake of all of Minneapolis, not to disband or defund our police. For whatever an individual voice may count, I say no.

7/5/2020 4:47:09 PM

I believe that this amendment was hastily proposed as a reaction to the deep wave of protest in Minneapolis. While I laud the intent and acknowledge the need for change, I don't believe we have the vision as a community yet to make something new a success. Certainly no one I've spoken to feels like they understand what we are trying to build yet - the cart is decidedly before the horse. Instead it feels like an attempt to cancel culture our way out of generations of dysfunction in community policing.

I honestly believe that the only way out of this situation is to focus on a restorative justice process first - and then see what can be built from the pieces. There are real people with valid views across the city, with very little listening going on. EVERY mom need to feel like their children will be safe in our streets. Businesses genuinely need to feel like they can operate safely. Regardless of what you call them, law enforcement agents need the trust of the community, and to feel that they are part of the community. Relabeling a department is no way to prevent where we've landed now, and we are getting more divided in the meantime. Long term - how can we come to an understanding as a community of how we got to this moment, giving our police officers the opportunity to be heard even as we rightly amplify the voices of victims?

I don't believe there's a way around this problem, only through it. I think we have to think more broadly, more creatively, and more DEEPLY about how we heal the rifts that have emerged. None of this happened overnight, nor will it be solved overnight.

7/5/2020 4:47:18 PM

I want a safe community, city, and state!

7/5/2020 5:10:59 PM

I disagree with the removal of the Minneapolis police department and the creation of the community safety and violence prevention department for these reasons: with no law enforcement businesses will no longer remain in Minneapolis, truck deliveries will no longer continue within the city, the professional sports teams will leave, no bands or other large events will continue. People are afraid to go into the city

and many are pulling their students from the university. Minneapolis will become a Detroit- a dead city.
Ward 1

7/5/2020 5:21:16 PM

The amendment to the City Charter is the first step in enacting meaningful change in creating a community-led approach to public safety that centers the voices of those disproportionately affected by police violence. I support the vision of the Black Visions Collective and Reclaim the Block, and commend the City Council for their pledge to dismantle the MPD. There is still so much work to be done, and the momentum will only grow. Allowing voters to decide on the charter amendment will allow citizens to create the future we desire as a community. Please allow the charter amendment to be a question on the ballot this November.

7/5/2020 5:32:46 PM

I am against defunding the Minneapolis Police Department.

7/5/2020 5:43:18 PM

I support the change to the charter Ward 11

7/5/2020 5:51:08 PM

I sent a message yesterday. This is a follow up To my original message. Research is good.

This town of 170,000 replaced some cops with medics and mental health workers. It's worked for over 30 years.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/05/us/cahoots-replace-police-mental-health-trnd/index.html>

7/5/2020 5:56:59 PM

The people of Minneapolis deserve a community where safety is guaranteed for all residents and abuses of power by leadership are not permitted. This proposal is a necessary step in that process. The MPD has shown itself to be a threat to the people of Minneapolis and the government must hold law enforcement accountable. Removing the police department from the charter and creating a community-led safety department will make Minneapolis a better, safer place, and put the city at the front of a movement that is sure to continue in cities around the nation. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/5/2020 5:57:45 PM

I am a resident of St. Paul, writing with concern for our larger Twin Cities community and in support of the amendment proposed by the City Council to establish a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. This amendment would be a crucial first step to creating a Minneapolis truly characterized by safety and justice for all. Reform has not and will not suffice; it is absolutely critical that we reimagine our systems in order to fully eliminate police brutality, decrease incidents of gun violence, and commit to responding with practices proven to stop cycles of harm. Therefore, I strongly urge the Charter Commission to include this amendment on the November 2020 ballot. Twin Cities residents are paying attention and must be allowed a say in the future of Minneapolis. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/5/2020 6:03:00 PM

I am a resident of St. Paul, writing with concern for our larger Twin Cities community and in support of the amendment proposed by the City Council to establish a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. This amendment would be a crucial first step to creating a Minneapolis truly characterized by safety and justice for all. Reform has not and will not suffice; it is absolutely critical that we reimagine our systems in order to fully eliminate police brutality, decrease incidents of gun violence, and commit to responding with practices proven to stop cycles of harm. Therefore, I strongly urge the Charter Commission to include this amendment on the November 2020 ballot. Twin Cities residents are paying attention and must be allowed a say in the future of Minneapolis.

7/5/2020 7:09:06 PM

Commissioners, i'm writing to you as a advocate for Minneapolis. Our company offices downtown in Ward 7, and my profession is as an office leasing agent. I'm constantly promoting Minneapolis as an amazing city to live, work, and visit. The current increase in violence and the council members' ambiguity with the proposed charter amendment is having a drastically negative effect on how the city is viewed by prospective residents, businesses, and visitors. I have grave concern that if more clarity isn't given or a more thoughtful path to change with how policing is approached in Minneapolis isn't communicated, the negative economic and social impacts will continue to escalate.

Reform, yes. Disband, no. Clarity to reform, not ideas of what it a new system may look like. Ward 7

7/5/2020 7:32:45 PM

Define the 13 city council people. Madness. Re district into 7! Save our City. Define the city council Ward 5

7/5/2020 7:46:33 PM

I am against disbanding or defunding the police department. Crime is a problem in Minneapolis and has only escalated to the point that taxpayers are paying for private security for the same council members trying to disband the police. The level of hypocrisy is unbelievable. I am for law and order. For fair laws that are faithfully and consistently upheld regardless of race. Ward 3

7/5/2020 7:53:24 PM

I fully support abolishing and defunding the MPD and replacing it with a more equitable, nuanced system of community accountability that better meets the needs of each situation.

7/5/2020 7:53:57 PM

Hello! I believe that for the safety of all our residents, the Minneapolis Police Department must be fully defunded and abolished. The funding allocated to the MPD could greater serve our community if focused in the following areas:

Addiction recovery and rehabilitation services, School funding, Sustainable resources for unhoused people, PPE for our medical professionals, Financial support for families losing their housing or income due to Covid-19. Thank you for the chance to add my thoughts!

7/5/2020 7:57:51 PM

Don't defend your police department. That's crazy!! We need police! Ward 2

7/5/2020 8:02:26 PM

I've been discussing Eugene, OR's Cahoots group with my sister who lives in that city. They are well liked, well established, and she has made use of their effective and non-threatening services for another family member. We in the twincities have some free and income based clinics - CUHCCs Clinic, People's Clinic, OpenCities come to mind as valuable resources, and there are more. If some could be staffed up and financed for outreach, that could divert a chunk of emergency service calls away from a police department, which needs to not be in charge of events involving mental health and many other medical and social behavioral issues.

7/5/2020 8:14:17 PM

If the new department is to be responsible generally for community safety, then it would make sense for the fire department as well as the police department to be organizationally subordinate to it, as the fire department is also responsible for certain aspects of safety. Ward 13

7/5/2020 8:21:01 PM

I think this is the worst idea ever! To think that you'd blame all for the acts of a few is sheer bias.

But more to the point, I understand that this charter amendment would give you, the city council, power over the police department which you currently do not have. And in this case, I don't think you should. Can you yourself imagine having 14 bosses to please day in and day out. Its hard enough getting consensus among just a few let alone 14.

Can you imagine what is going to happen the first time a social worker is killed responding to a domestic violence or suicide call. No, No, No.

7/5/2020 8:53:08 PM

I fully support this charter amendment and am looking forward to voting for it. We have a chance to lead the way for the country and the world by setting an example of how to care for our residents and show compassion, and stop criminalizing things simply because they might make some people uncomfortable. Thank you for taking these steps, and let's keep this process moving. Ward 12

7/5/2020 9:09:58 PM

I am not in favor of eliminating the PD. I am very much in favor of cleaning house of the bad cops and the corrupt Union which covers up bad cops and reassigns them...sounds too much like the Catholic Church. Let the current chief do his job and support his efforts rather than undermine him. Start listening and focus less on your individual political careers

7/5/2020 9:44:58 PM

Will the police still have a presence for Target Field or Target Center events? If not, will the city refund season ticket holders and allow the pro teams to leave for a safer city? Ward 5

7/5/2020 9:45:33 PM

Please add the amendment to the ballot!!! Ward 8

7/5/2020 9:55:52 PM

Hello, I'm opposed to the abolishment of the police department and its replacement by the Community of Safety and Violence Prevention Department. The police department currently needs more public support, funding, and training, not less. I'm concerned that your new proposal is very light on details including any metrics for funding. I'm also worried that the focus on public health and/or restorative justice is focused on protecting the perpetrators of crimes, rather than concerned with the safety and justice for the victims. I would certainly like to see our city put forth resources for people with mental health issues, drug addiction, etc.. but abolishing the police department is not the way to do it. I'm disappointed to see that the city council already voted to abolish the police department before gathering the input from its city's residents, and seems to be bowing to the rioters who have been terrorizing our city for weeks. Many of those rioting are young, they aren't home owners, and they don't have children. Residents like my husband and me own a home in the heart of the city and have children we were hoping to raise here. If the violence, ever rising crime, homelessness, and other public safety issues aren't addressed soon, those of us who can, will leave. The way to combat these issues is with a well thought out plan on how to address public safety and through supporting our police department and other social services. The current plan is lacking any details and sounds like a watered-down, rebranding of what we already have. Please adequately fund and support our police department.

7/5/2020 10:09:14 PM

This charter amendment is a great step in the right direction, and should definitely be on the ballot in November for us to vote on. Ward 8

7/5/2020 10:10:15 PM

Do not "abolish" the police. Please consider police reform. The city council should be seeking out people of color as they consider reform. Chief Arradondo is an esteemed leader to be spearheading reform efforts. Let me say again though - CITY COUNCIL should be seeking out PEOPLE OF COLOR - and letting their voices be heard. Do not do something quickly in the name of "doing something".

7/5/2020 10:33:31 PM

Do not dismantle the police department. Real and fundamental reform is clearly necessary when the police can't seem to stop killing civilians. But dismantling the police department cannot be the answer.

7/5/2020 10:33:37 PM

Minneapolis Charter Commission,

Thank you for your work as a Commission. I am writing 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 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter, Ward 13

7/5/2020 10:35:50 PM

I often go into many different areas of Mpls to eat, use the parks, visit museums/theaters, go to ball games, visit friends. I drive through Mpls every weekday. I will definitely not feel comfortable taking my family into Mpls if you go through with removing the police dept.

I am fine with continued reform, de-escalation training, finding options to an arrest, etc., but DO NOT defund the police - and please give the good cops your verbal support.

For example, instead of arresting someone just to get their fingerprints, id, and have a record of their suspected criminal activity - why not have police use smartphone technology to do that on the spot for those that are willing and cooperating and are just going to be released in a few hours anyway? This might be useful especially during COVID. There will still be people that will not cooperate - but you might start changing the dynamic.

The city council's #1 job right now should be to restore order in the city and send a message that you will back up police that are doing the necessary work. Police brutality is different, I understand your objections in that regard. But you have so tied the hands of the cops right now that they cannot police the city - you are going to turn Mpls into a failed city when homeowners and businesses move out.

I'm sure there are individuals on the force that need to go, but please support your police and support your chief.

7/5/2020 10:54:43 PM

Several years ago I was confronted in Minneapolis by a man I didn't know who began talking at me and cat calling. He grew increasingly angry because I wouldn't look at him or stop walking and he moved close enough that I could feel his breath on my cheek as he yelled. Imagine my relief to see a Minneapolis police officer approaching me on the next block. I knew I would be safe simply because an officer was present, and I believe the man left me alone because he saw the officer, too. Who knows how the story would have ended had he not been where he was. I already felt nervous in Minneapolis. If I know the police force is going to be defunded, there is no way I'll be spending time in the city limits. My husband and I used to work downtown and lived in Northeast. I'm so grateful we're no longer there if the first responders won't be supported.

7/5/2020 10:55:16 PM

We need an increased law enforcement presence. Whether that be police officers or other specialists. The Camden model worked because they increased their officers by 60%.

7/5/2020 10:59:39 PM

This is a feel-good policy idea that will lead to more violence and more death. Policies should be based on data, and the data behind police defunding suggests defunding will make the situation worse. Lack of police directly leads to death. Look to Baltimore, look to St. Louis, look to cities that have already undergone this ordeal: they all experienced increases in violent crimes and homicides. The sole "success

story" of Camden, NJ, is being misleadingly reported on: they "defunded" their city police because they could not afford them, and quickly replaced them with a county police force nearly double the size (and Camden, while improved, is still the most dangerous place in New Jersey).

The experience of Baltimore and St Louis suggests it will also be the black community bearing the brunt of this violence. Floyd's death is a travesty, yes. But we cannot allow emotion or fear to override judgment, lest we inadvertently and needlessly create hundreds more victims.

Already in Minneapolis we are seeing a spike in violent crime and murder. We need both more police and better police in our communities. Add social workers, by all means. Add mental health specialists. But the world is messy, and at a certain point police will be needed.

7/5/2020 11:01:41 PM

All residents of Minneapolis deserve fair and equitable police protection and a day in court as well as equal sentencing and judgement by a jury of their peers.

Armed response is harmful in many cases we hear about daily when a lack of public services and social programs could have prevented having militarized police show up and put more citizens at risk.

I am disturbed and outraged to see peaceful attempts to bring light to these issues by the black lives matter movement were met and escalated by attacks with tear gas and rubber bullets. Further proof the system of law enforcement is toxic to its core and needs to be addressed.

We must end qualified immunity and give citizens the tools to demand accountability from officers and police unions. For a fair and just social contract with our fellow citizens.

7/5/2020 11:32:44 PM

Please listen to the voices in our community demanding that public safety should be in the hands of our community to figure out. Please do not give more money to the police and please defund the police!
Ward 12

7/6/2020 12:11:19 AM

Dear City Council Members,

Please consider the following strategies to promote safety and prevent violence.

Roles should be designated based on data on the types of situations police and other first responders usually respond to, with an increased focus on support for mental health crises, decriminalization and harm reduction for drug related issues, housing support (that allows for sufficient social distancing) for people in need of shelter, crisis teams for domestic violence situations, compassionate mental health and medical staff responding to sexual assaults, positive activities, skill, and career building options for at risk young people, etc. There needs to be more support for teachers and students to end the school to prison pipeline, for example, Collaborative and Proactive Solutions could be implemented in schools. All crisis and crime prevention staff should be trained in deescalation strategies. Work completed should be based on community need, not quotas, and it is important that each issue have sufficient staff and resources to address it.

It may be that a few police officers or some similar role will be necessary to address violent crime while the root causes are being addressed, however it is very important that the officers with any history of killing civilians (George Floyd, Philando Castile, etc.) not be allowed to work anywhere in this system. They need to be held to a higher standard for upholding the law, not get away with literal murder, which

may require changes in legal processes that make it easier to prosecute them, possibly public access to body camera footage with identifying features of civilians blurred, strong protections for whistle blowers, more training in ethics as part of their training, and training in anger management. They need to be able to show that they can deal with people (especially people of color) who are upset, without losing control. I am disgusted with MPD in general for the brutality against peaceful protesters and journalists, even if they were out past curfew, not showing respect, etc. The police are not protecting and serving the people, they are trying to use illegitimate force to crush dissent, and that is unacceptable. The government needs to listen to the people who are saying enough is enough.

One last thing, though it is about what happens after encounters with the police, it will help eliminate the need for police in the future. There needs to be an emphasis on reducing the number of people in prison for non violent offenses, as well as eliminating mandatory minimum sentences. Prisoners need to be allowed to keep their humanity by having access to adequate hygiene supplies, educational materials, and medical and mental health support. Some people need to be removed from society for public safety, but they should still be treated like human beings. The focus inside and outside of prisons needs to be on rehabilitation and helping people better themselves so they are less likely to reoffend. If a crime follows someone for the rest of their life, that decreases their chances for getting a job and housing and they may resort to crime again. The criminal justice system needs to be reformed so that people do not lose the right to vote and the ability to find work or housing once they are released. We cannot incentivize prisons to increase their numbers by allowing them to profit off of the labor of their prisoners.

There is a lot that needs changing, but I ask you to push yourselves to make as many of these changes as you are able, and then do even a little bit more, so that we can have a safer, more just society. Thank you.

7/6/2020 1:21:04 AM

We're still watching, and we will continue to hold #Mpls leaders accountable — today, next week, and beyond. Move the charter amendment forward and let voters decide Minneapolis' future:

<https://act.colorofchange.org/letter/mps-charter-commission-approve-amendment/?aktmid=tm18786460.vMTmYh&akid=a281685149.8655447.NURmBc&t=3&source=conf>

Do the right thing!

7/6/2020 3:00:22 AM

Eliminating the Police Department in the City of Minneapolis is a very poor decision. It jeopardizes my life & my Families lives & the lives of every other Citizen in this City. I believe this Council is overreaching its Political Power. This is not a decision that should be decided in the "Heat of the Moment"! Which is EXACTLY what this Council has done! Please, don't due this to this City, WE have done Nothing Wrong! Yes, the MPD, may need some Reform, but, work with them! Don't throw away their skill set, just to spend more money on a non thought out, untested Plan! WE the Citizens Deserve More!

7/6/2020 7:00:21 AM

The plan to replace the police department seems ill-advised. Racism has no place in our society or in our police departments, but I have not seen compelling evidence that it is rampant in the Minneapolis police department. Absent of that, the appropriate action should be to reform, not replace.

7/6/2020 7:02:44 AM

I do not understand how police are not needed in this city. This is absurd. One officer does not define all. There are wonderful police officers that give their heart and souls every day to the job. To be honest, I have no idea why they even stay working there. This whole thing is out of control.

7/6/2020 7:08:09 AM

I am not a resident but I do work downtown and have for decades. I'm curious if the mayor or any current city council member has done a walk from the Target Ramps through the skyways at 6 am on a weekday? See this is what real working people downtown do and I can attest it is not always an enjoyable walk or one in which you feel safe.

I'm also curious to learn if any of that same group has done a police ride-along late at night? You only seem to want to reach out to your community during day hours, however that's not the population causing the issues. Maybe if you stepped outside your comfort zone and experienced the city at these times your thoughts of police defunding / removing would change.

I say you put your efforts towards those creating the problems and stop pandering to those you want to hear or inactionable words.

7/6/2020 7:45:31 AM

I oppose putting a referendum on this fall's ballot regarding the proposed charter amendment that removes the police department. Language of the proposed charter amendment is ambiguous with regard to policing and other provisions and premature. Any referendum to change the city's charter should come after serious consideration, debate and detailing and after measures for deep reform of the police department have been explored.

I support deep reform of the police department -- Establishing a vision for a desired police culture, voiding all current agreements between police union and city and establishing new ones that will complement the desired culture, and making many organizational, operational, and staffing changes consistent with the desired culture.

I believe that Chief Arradondo and Mayor Frey in collaboration with city council and community stakeholders can achieve deep reform of the police department and in the process surface other ideas for safety and emergency response and begin the process of restoring trust between the police and the communities it serves.

7/6/2020 7:45:45 AM

I think that in some ways this issue is more about politics than public safety. I know that reform is needed within the Minneapolis Police Department. I would like to see a detailed plan for public safety and how the new system would actually work before committing to the change. As a resident and taxpayer in Minneapolis, I do not want my safety and the safety of other residents to be the subject of an experiment. I just do not think that the City Council has everyone's best interests at heart (e.g. They tell us to check our privilege and then have the City of Minneapolis pay for private security for them). Thank you for listening!

7/6/2020 8:27:29 AM

I am completely in favor of this proposal. For too long we've relied on violent enforcers to address societal problems that would be better handled by Social Workers, or mental health and medical professionals. It's time we accept the fact that most of the activity we designate as "crime" in our country is not violent, and therefore does not necessitate an aggressive response from armed forces who too often end up escalating the situation. We need a community care force that understands the issues within their neighborhood, and that is invested in the care and safety of their neighbors. Crucially, this includes the care of so called "criminals" that are often the community members who are most in need. I am not naive enough to think that there isn't some need for a branch of this safety force that can address violent situations effectively, but to take this approach with every incident is not only misguided, it has proven to be dangerous and deadly for too many in our community.

7/6/2020 8:37:12 AM

I encourage the Charter Commission to approve the proposal to amend the City Charter in a timely manner so that voters can vote on the charter amendment this November. Ward 10

7/6/2020 8:39:14 AM

I will vote no on your initiative to abolish the police department and set up something new. The police in our community are very valuable to us. They are not the problem. Criminals are the problem. We need strong, capable, well-trained police to protect our community. If anything, I would support more funding to the department to increase their training in de-escalation techniques, effective ways to deal with those resisting arrest, and so forth. We could have a stellar police department. I am mystified that you think the solution to one man unjustly dying and then a mob of people DESTROYING other people's businesses, a police precinct, neighborhoods, and statues, is to destroy the police department, rather than to stop the mob and bring the perpetrators to justice, and then prevent rioting, looting, and violence like this from happening again. Are people who live and work and build businesses going to be valued in Minneapolis, or are only mobsters going to be? If you abolish the department and form your own new thing, in your own liberal, progressive image, then we will leave Minneapolis. We won't pay for you to sit on the council and threaten the safety of Minneapolis residents. And rest assured, many people who could contribute to the city and build it up will leave. Are you trying to make Minneapolis into Baltimore? A city run by progressives and Democrats that is ailing, poor, unsafe, and sad? Take a look at Baltimore. Take a look at it's Democrat policies. Take a look at the crime and poverty there. Is that what you are trying to do? Stop this nonsense right now. Seriously.

7/6/2020 8:41:32 AM

I am not in favor of removing the Minneapolis police department or any police department. I do not want to be tasked with defending myself and my property - that is part of what my tax dollars are used for - so when I call 911, I expect help to arrive. And I do not want some neighborhood watch group showing up if my home has been burglarized or if I've been assaulted. I am in favor of listening and considering the use of mental health professionals assisting with mental health calls if the safety of the mental health workers can be assured. The public's safety is already compromised and talks of "defund the police" have only exacerbated the problem/issue. May calm and rational decisions and decision-makers prevail. I think the leaders have an obligation to listen to all voices, and not only those who are most vocal/loud.

7/6/2020 8:42:21 AM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Ward 7

7/6/2020 8:48:56 AM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police! We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 9

7/6/2020 8:57:33 AM

I do not want the charter changed.

7/6/2020 9:04:33 AM

I support defunding the police, not abolishing them entirely. Please re-invest the life money in services to the community such as affordable housing, mental health support, adoption counselors, services for the homeless, small businesses, child care and family support.

I am all for having any remaining police be under the direction of a local community safety board. Ward 12

7/6/2020 9:05:43 AM

Hello, I am writing to urge the Charter Commission to move ahead expeditiously to put the public safety charter amendment on the ballot for November 2020. As the Charter stands now, the city council has its hands tied and cannot make any meaningful change to MPD, its structure, or its existence. The change that the proposed amendment allows for is dramatic; dramatic structural change is what we are calling for and what is needed for our communities to be safe and successful for everyone. This amendment does not mandate drastic change immediately, we all know there would be a transition period, but this amendment must be passed in order for a transition period to begin. The democratic thing to do is to move along quickly with placing the amendment on the ballot; if Minneapolis does not truly want this change then the vote will show that. Ward 6

7/6/2020 9:11:28 AM

The current state of policing makes it absolutely necessary to get this amendment on the ballot as soon as possible! Please act swiftly and allow Minneapolis residents to make this decision based on our health and safety priorities.

I am prepared to vote yes on this charter amendment in August. Ward 10

7/6/2020 9:13:58 AM

If the city disbands the police force my family and I will no longer patron any establishment in the city. I would not feel like my family's safety is a concern especially with the rash of violence the city is currently experiencing.

7/6/2020 9:20:23 AM

My concern is that anyone joining the Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department may have implicit biases against Black and Brown bodies. This is INCLUSIVE to POC. Hiring individuals JUST BECAUSE they are POC and not looking into their social media or history can be incredibly detrimental to the cause.

For example, it was recently shown that the executive director of the Chinese Social Services Center in Minnesota (who is of Chinese descent) posted racist and anti-LGBTQ+ comments on her Facebook VERY RECENTLY (as early as mid June). She is a social worker, and might otherwise be considered for a position in this department. We need to really vet the people coming into this department, otherwise we're just renaming the Police Department.

7/6/2020 9:26:33 AM

I am very pro police abolition. I've never once seen the police de-escalate or help a tense situation, they always seem to just make it worse. The police are in over their heads and unequipped to do their jobs. The last time I had to call the cops it was because there was a Somali teenager OD'ing on heroin at the coffee shop I worked at.

I explained to 911 that this kid wasn't dangerous at all but needed naran asap. 10 minutes later a squad car pulls up (going WAY too fast), and two cops jump out of the car, startling the teenager. They immediately pull their guns and start screaming at him, and the kid faints and hits his head on the sidewalk. Luckily the paramedics weren't too far behind and got him on a stretcher. Cops ARE NOT NEEDED in situations like this. We don't need a bunch of trigger happy wannabe soldiers driving in from Edina to terrorize brown people. Ask anyone living in south Minneapolis and they'll tell you a story like this. We need trained professionals that ACTUALLY protect the community. They're too corrupt and worthless to reform, time to start over from scratch.

7/6/2020 9:41:12 AM

The current state of policing in Minneapolis has created an urgent need for significant changes to public safety measures. I support the City Council's proposed charter amendment. I am prepared to vote in support of the charter amendment in August. People, specifically BIPOC, are dying at the hands of the people who were supposedly sworn to protect them, change needs to happen now. Ward 10

7/6/2020 9:44:17 AM

Writing to strongly ask for letting the public safety amendment to be on the ballot on November. This is too important of an issue for Minneapolis to not let voters have direct vote/voice. Ward 12

7/6/2020 9:44:56 AM

I support replacing our current police department with an agency that can be held accountable for any excessive use of force — where force is warranted as a method of last resort — through an absence of qualified immunity and the establishment of civilian oversight.

7/6/2020 10:00:07 AM

I am in full support of the charter change, and am looking forward to the opportunity to vote on this measure.

After the death of George Floyd, it has become abundantly clear that we must reimagine what safety looks like. We should all have the chance to have our voices heard through this charter. Ward 8

7/6/2020 10:10:43 AM

Please vote "yes" on the charter amendment - we don't want an unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 1

7/6/2020 10:14:26 AM

As a concerned Minnesotan citizen, I do not want more history of brutality that is protected by our city charter. I am asking you to eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. I am not asking for more police in communities, or for a requirement of a minimum number of police. Citizens deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year. Letting the people of Minnesota vote on the charter respects our democratic rights to determine the kind of city that we want. Proven community safety strategies and a system shaped by the people is the way to go, please accept this amendment.

7/6/2020 10:39:49 AM

Hello, I urge the council to consider amending the Minneapolis city charter in respect to the minimum number of police officers to residents. It is an exciting time right now to change how we respond to problems in our city through social workers and other trained city workers who will not use violence but instead de-escalation. I recognize that at this time we cannot eliminate the police outright but we can amend the city charter to begin the process to a safer community for all of the people who live in Minneapolis. Please allow the citizens of Minneapolis to vote on this important matter. Ward 7

7/6/2020 10:40:51 AM

I am in full support of the proposed amendment and believe that it is a great first step to ending police brutality, holding police accountable for their actions, protecting our historically oppressed communities, and defunding the police. Ward 1

7/6/2020 11:02:29 AM

As a member of the community I want to share thanks and appreciation for the timely proposal of the new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. Nothing is more important than the correction of our current police department's grave errors and countless examples of discriminatory and deplorable "upholding of the law". THIS AMENDMENT IS VITAL FOR OUR COMMUNITY. After reading this proposed amendment, I'd like to reiterate my gratefulness for your hard work & representation of our concerns and needs. - [REDACTED] (27y.o. Female) Ward 13

7/6/2020 11:05:54 AM

I am concerned that the proposed amendment:

- (1) - lacks specificity regarding the role/responsibilities of the proposed new Department of Community Safety
- (2) - is confusing as to who is ultimately responsible for overseeing the Department i.e. Mayor or City Council
- (3) - does not really address any sort of transition - Is the police department disbanded on the day the amendment passes? how do we get from point A to point B is a major concern.

I realize that this proposal may represent a "first step". However I do not think it should proceed without more information about the "full package" regarding what comes next and how it will work.

The only part I do agree with is removing any specific funding level regarding staffing i.e. the formula for how many officers we need. Ward 3

7/6/2020 11:07:24 AM

Other than changing the name to a policing organization , you need to offer a more concrete path on how this would work. Too early to determine if this is a change in the right direction. I will oppose if sent to general election as is Ward 11

7/6/2020 11:09:52 AM

I want to see this on the ballot. I am in support of it. Ward 10

7/6/2020 11:10:12 AM

I would like to express my opposition to the City Council's proposal to amend the charter that enables dismantling the Minneapolis Police Department. The charter provides even more power to an already powerful City Council without any clear-cut plan on how public safety would be ensured in a post MPD world. Most of the proposed charter simply removes language the Council views as constraining without offering alternatives.

The language that has been added would require the leader of whatever new public safety organization emerges to have a background in public health and/or other non-policing areas. Such criteria would eliminate the possibility that Chief Arradondo would be a candidate. Does it really make sense to disqualify a highly-respected African American leader from consideration before we even know what he would be leading? It would appear that he as been caught up in the Council's zeal to dismantle the current system.

Lisa Bender was elected by the Council to be their president -- not the people of Minneapolis. My understanding is that she has received less than 5,000 actual votes. Yet the power she wields is disproportionate. More accountability is needed!

Finally, I am not opposed to systemic policing reform. Clearly it is very much needed. However, before I can give a blank check to the City Council to enact such reform, I need to see a PLAN. If they are truly leaders, let them work with stakeholders throughout the Twin Cities to develop consensus for a data-driven plan that ensures public safety rather than their current scorched earth "just trust us" idealism.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Ward 7

7/6/2020 11:21:27 AM

Dear Council Member,

Supporting and passing the charter amendment is an important first step in requiring more accountability from our police force. I would like to see a policing force more in touch with the community it serves and less prone to uses of deadly force. A new Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention that uses proven community safety strategies and is shaped by community is necessary. Support for this amendment going forward would also serve to show that the council is listening to its citizens. Ward 3

7/6/2020 11:50:12 AM

Please slow down and listen to all of us. Please get some feedback from us. Mpls has a police force whose job is to protect and serve the people. I want that to continue, we need a police force to protect and serve. Your job as city council persons is to figure out how to make that work. Do your job please. Ward 13

7/6/2020 12:03:33 PM

I am adamantly opposed to the amendment to remove the Police Department from the City Charter. Here's why:

- * This amendment was put together hastily, in a knee-jerk response to the events in our city. More input is needed from affected communities, especially POC, and the community as a whole.
- * It makes no sense to eliminate an important city service (the police) without a solid plan for moving forward without that service. To eliminate this service without a well reasoned replacement plan leaves a big gaping hole that will be filled in unpredictable ways.
- * Reform is different than elimination. I believe there is room for reform with the current police leadership. We don't need to throw out the whole department to enact meaningful reforms.
- * Let's examine how one council person, Lisa Bender, has such enormous power. She should be subject to accountability throughout the city, voting by more than one ward if she's going to make such dramatic changes in the city especially on her own without taking citizen input into account.

In summary, we need more citizen input, more time to figure out the best path forward utilizing research/data & input from a broad spectrum of the community before making such a dramatic change. We need to LISTEN to the community in a meaningful way and craft a response that brings people together. We can accomplish more transformation by being smart and thoughtful rather than quick and reactive. Ward 7

7/6/2020 12:10:12 PM

I would like to vote on this amendment in the November, 2020 election. Ward 8

7/6/2020 12:21:58 PM

I urge you to allow the charter amendment for a new public safety department, under the control of the council, to move forward to a vote. The people of the City of Minneapolis should be able to determine what our public safety looks like. Thank you Ward 9

7/6/2020 12:43:33 PM

The charter commission must give the people of Minneapolis the opportunity to vote on the amendment of Article VII and VIII of the City Charter. 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 by August 21. Doing any less would make you derelict in your duties as commissioners, citizens of Minneapolis, and people who care about morality, principles, and the feelings of others. Please do the right thing. Thank you. Ward 7

7/6/2020 12:44:37 PM

We need change. Let the people vote. Ward 12

7/6/2020 12:46:16 PM

We, the residents of the City of Minneapolis, have a real opportunity to create positive and lasting change in the realm of public safety and policing. I urge you to give voters the opportunity to reflect on the big issues we face today and vote to determine our next steps forward. Ward 12

7/6/2020 12:55:23 PM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Ward 11

7/6/2020 12:59:21 PM

I have been a Minneapolis resident for fifty plus years. I feel strongly that there are critical deficiencies within the Minneapolis Police Department but strongly oppose removing the Police Department from our city charter. With the leadership of our current Mayor Frey and Police Chief Arradondo, I believe significant changes can be made to correct current problems. Ward 6

7/6/2020 1:09:57 PM

-We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

-We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police!

-We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 1

7/6/2020 1:37:44 PM

Dear Charter Commission,

I am writing to encourage you to remove the police from the city charter.

justice cannot wait for another year: let the people decide how to create safety in our communities!

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter. Please Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We don't want more police in our communities. Please Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police!

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want.

Thank you for your consideration, Milo Ward 6

7/6/2020 1:38:00 PM

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want.
Ward 6

7/6/2020 1:40:09 PM

I am in full support of changing the charter to eliminate MPD. MPD has repeatedly shown that they cannot reform their practices and will continue to work against the people in our community. We need something better!

As the next steps are planned, it will be essential to open up more chances for the community to share their thoughts and visions for this change. We need to prioritize listening to organizations that have been working too advocate for this change (e.g. Black Visions, Reclaim the Block, CUAPB) as well as our BIOPC members. Howe neighborhood Ward 12

7/6/2020 1:44:10 PM

Commissioners,

The momentum created by decades of violence by public servants against the public have necessitated the removal 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. Ward 2

7/6/2020 1:53:29 PM

I approve of these changes, and look forward to voting on it this fall. Ward 12

7/6/2020 2:08:52 PM

I strongly support the inclusion of the public safety transformation charter amendment ballot question. The MPD's killing of George Floyd, the MPD's maltreatment of citizens and general attitude of impunity and resistance to civilian control, and the MPD's long history of violence and mistreatment of Black, Indigenous, and Minneapolitans of color has caused the Department to lose all credibility. The charter amendment would remove MPD's protected status from the city charter and create a new, accountable department for public safety. It would allow the city to create a new public safety department without police. It would allow residents to vote on and engage in a process to create a new model for safety in our community. Thank you. Ward 2

7/6/2020 2:17:01 PM

The police department required by our current charter has failed the citizens of Minneapolis in ways that have left deep scars on our city. Let us vote on this amendment that would return options for and control over our public safety to the people who live here and are doing the work to rebuild. Ward 6

7/6/2020 2:18:38 PM

I am absolutely thrilled to have the chance to submit this comment in favor of this proposed charter amendment.

Ordinarily, this would be where I would spout a lot of data about the disproportionate rate at which police officers in this country kill African Americans, re-traumatize and/or further traumatize assault victims, and send officers into stressful crisis situations with only the most perfunctory training in and commitment to de-escalation.

You already know these figures. At least, I hope you do. I hope the entire Charter Commission has taken the time since this amendment was proposed, if not before, to familiarize yourselves with the myriad reasons the people of Minneapolis want this amendment.

Instead of loading you up with facts and figures, I'll just remind you of the deplorable behavior of the Minneapolis Police Department during the civil unrest that followed the murder of George Floyd. Officers firing into crowds of peaceful protesters, arresting journalists, harassing medics. This is NOT acceptable behavior from ANYONE in a position of authority in Minneapolis.

If police reform worked, it would already have worked. Policing as it happens in this country, and in Minneapolis, is a deeply flawed, foundationally racist process that has no place being protected in our city charter. PLEASE, eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. PLEASE remove the charter requirement for the minimum number of police officers. PLEASE let the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter. Please respect our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 12

7/6/2020 2:33:18 PM

Two months ago I supported major police reform. Now, I can only see police abolition as the solution. This police department is violent and unaccountable. It is clear that the only way to make real reforms is through changing the City Charter. The police chief cannot control the officers or the union. The mayor is both unable and unwilling to meaningfully take on police power. Our elected representatives need the power to abolish or at the very least significantly alter policing in this city. This charter amendment is a necessary pre-requisite for that action to happen. Ward 7

7/6/2020 2:34:13 PM

I strongly support the addition of the proposed charter amendment on the ballot this year. We demand change now and the charter commission should not delay the process. We want a new model of building safety and that begins with amending the charter. Ward 8

7/6/2020 2:36:11 PM

As a citizen and homeowner in Minneapolis, I urge you to heed the calls for justice and better community policies and institutions. Along with many of my fellow citizens, we don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter. Eliminate the Minneapolis Police Department and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum number of police. We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Thank you, John W. Ward 3

7/6/2020 2:39:04 PM

We do not need another George Floyd! This amendment needs to be put up for ballot THIS YEAR, so more people do not get murdered. THIS YEAR. THIS IS URGENT. Minneapolis should not be spending 35% of its budget on militarized police! I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/6/2020 2:40:12 PM

It's time to have a new way to keep Minneapolis safe. Instead of trying to reform what there is in place now, it's time to start anew. Let's use and learn from what works around the country to establish a new public safety department. It is time for ALL people in our city to be able to be safe and FEEL safe. Time for lip service to end.

Let's ponder how spending much of what is spent on policing now could be spent on dealing with the reasons people are food, clothing, housing, job insecure. IF people don't need to worry about those things, we would ALL do better.

It is also critical that the Charter Commission reflect on this and make a decision so it can be on the ballot this year. It is not rocket science...do it now. Ward 2

7/6/2020 2:43:42 PM

I urge you to move the proposed charter amendment on public safety along, so that it may be put on the ballot this November. I believe it is crucially important for us to have a chance to vote on this important 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 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. Ward 12

7/6/2020 2:44:41 PM

Ward 4 needs police. We asked for them in the last budget and were ignored by our CM. Our CM does not represent US, he represents an idea he wants to push, likely from Chicago sensibilities. Please consider the will of the electorate in 2020 or you might not be around to know their will in 2021. Ward 4

7/6/2020 2:48:05 PM

The residents of Minneapolis deserve better community safety and community investment. We urgently need this Charter amendment on the ballot THIS YEAR, because police violence is not stopping. The Minneapolis Police Department is without accountability and you must include this amendment to remove the MPD as a required City department.

I further stand with MPD-150 and Reclaim the Block in demanding the Charter be changed to establish a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention and remove the rigid requirements that keep MPD locked in place. As the people of Minneapolis, we deserve a meaningful community process to re-imagine health and safety that is not blocked by the City Charter. 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. Ward 9

7/6/2020 2:48:58 PM

A week ago a stray bullet struck my house while I was home and it would have gone through the window I was sitting in front of if the door frame hadn't stopped it. Police can't stop this kind of thing, they only react to it. We don't need reactions that follow violence, we need to invest in preventing violence from happening in the first place. I fully support changing the charter to allow new ideas about public safety to be explored and implemented outside of the military mechanisms of the police department. Ward 4

7/6/2020 2:53:13 PM

I support the Charter Amendment regarding MPD and community safety.

I want a policing force that's accountable to the people it serves, that doesn't think it's above the law, and that doesn't cause more harm than it helps. I don't think the Charter requirement for a minimum number of police officers is necessary or beneficial, it should be removed.

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 7

7/6/2020 2:57:08 PM

Please put on the ballot this year the City Charter amendment making it possible for residents to vote on changing the City Charter to remove the Police and replace with a Community Safety and Violence Prevention. This is time sensitive as we need to capitalize and build on the momentum of citizen outrage so that we can avoid/prevent more violence. Ward 11

7/6/2020 3:01:38 PM

I support the amendment and would like to see the voters of Minneapolis vote on the future of our community. I request that the Commission act on the amendment THIS YEAR and without delay. Ward 5

7/6/2020 3:10:41 PM

I support the charter amendment. I want the Commission to approve the ballot in time to put it on the ballot this November so that I can vote YES for it. Putting this on the ballot this year while the public is engaged and we will have high voter turnout due to it being a presidential election year is the best way

to make sure that the community has the say in how we form and start to build a new and safer model of public safety. Ward 7

7/6/2020 3:12:51 PM

Charter Commission,

I urge you to act quickly and deliver your comments on the proposed amendment prior to the ballot deadline August 21. Policing in Minneapolis needs a drastic change--we have seen time and again how reform does nothing to change the structure of this department, as evidenced by the callous and racist murder of George Floyd in May. The people of Minneapolis are speaking, and we want change NOW. Allowing the Charter Amendment to be put on the November ballot and be subject to community vote is the first step in creating change that will benefit all citizens of our city. Do not delay your comments on this amendment. Ward 10

7/6/2020 3:17:14 PM

I fully support the proposed amendment. Fewer police and increased investment in community resources mean safer conditions for all residents. Ward 1

7/6/2020 3:24:18 PM

Having no police is a terrible idea. I will no longer continue to visit or spend my money in any city that allows its citizens to rule poorly and not to respect authority. It is too dangerous walk the street these days, specially with no Police presents.

Learn from Seattle's lack of Governing, two dead teenagers. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/6/2020 3:40:47 PM

Put the amendment on the ballot. Voters deserve the chance to choose.

It is urgent that this happens THIS year. The people of Minneapolis took over the streets demanding change now. The charter commission should not stall the process. Justice CANNOT wait another year.

We want a new model of building safety.

Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 12

7/6/2020 3:41:55 PM

Do not change the City Charter. You do not not get to make the city even worse than you have. Ward 1

7/6/2020 3:46:08 PM

I'm strongly opposed to the proposed changes in the MPD charter before a new plan is publicly discussed and broad public input is gathered, costs are identified and an action plan for implementation is in place.

While I strongly support changes to the police department and the increased treatment of various societal issues as public health issues, the language in the proposed change, and speed with which it is being pushed through are dangerously provocative and inadequately thought through.

Specifically, in addition to the rushed timing of this proposal:

I oppose the joint oversight of the new department by the City Council in addition to the Mayor. The City Council has proven, through its handling of the Mpls 2040 issue, that it does not take into consideration thoughtful, community input and is more set on imposing its own agenda.

Oversight by such a large group, and the further weakening of the Mayoral role, the one city-wide elected official, is unwise.

I oppose the insistence that the new chief of the department NOT be a police officer. Nonetheless, strong non-police leaders in the force could be greatly additive. Ward 7

7/6/2020 3:48:15 PM

I work downtown and the only thing that makes me feel safe With all the violence is the police presence. I am an autistic woman with anxiety. I don't want to work downtown if I am to feel unprotected and unsafe. I don't feel like a social worker can help someone being assaulted, besides finding resources after the fact.

7/6/2020 3:51:21 PM

I am a 40 year resident of Minneapolis and retired CEO of [REDACTED] headquartered [REDACTED] in downtown Minneapolis . I believe the amendment to create a new Community Safety and Violence Prevention Dept that would remove the Police Dept from the charters is poorly conceived and would likely bring further stress to our city.

Our police department is in need of meaningful reform and accountability so all of our citizens are safe and respected, our police chief is speaking directly to these issues.

The amendment lacks thoughtful details as to the functionality of the proposal and incredibly enough the authors of it are hiring private security for themselves and charging it to the tax payers . I believe this amendment is irresponsible and not in the best interests of our city. Ward 7

7/6/2020 3:53:58 PM

Dear Charter Commission,

I am writing to you as a concerned and caring citizen, to request that the City Charter amendment be an option on the ballot for the voters of Minneapolis in 2020. I am a Human Resources employee at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, a Whittier resident, and a volunteer at local homeless shelters, and it repeatedly saddens and angers me to watch a single, punitive "solution" (policing) be pushed to problems that require nuanced solutions, problems ranging from the opioid crisis to housing inequity/homelessness to affordable quality education.

Instead of trying to forcibly shove people into line with weaponized policing, let's ask civilians what problems they see, and what they need to feel safe and productive. From UMN grad students to homeless and unemployed individuals, the problems I see are the same over and over:

- need affordable housing close enough to where jobs, schools, colleges, and vocational training centers are
- need access to nutrition, for kids and teens as well as adults
- need affordable health care, including substance abuse detox and mental health care
- need productive, safe, welcoming youth spaces

By introducing the option of removing or restricting the punitive (policing) arm of local government, we will be able to work on feeding the actual needs of our community and helping people integrate safely and productively into our society. Ward 10

7/6/2020 3:58:03 PM

This charter amendment seems almost like a re-branding of the police department rather than the removal of it. I agree with sections 7.3 A and 7.3 A(1), but 7.3 B needs to be much more specific about the number of police "peace" officers and how they will be held accountable for their actions. Preferably there would not be any, or there would only be a very small number of them. 7.3 B(1) is concerning because it adds another layer of people between the director of the re-named police force and the city council/those who would hold them accountable.

There needs to be more specificity about those who will be replacing the police, such as social workers, mental health experts, and people trained in de-escalation and restorative justice. There needs to be more specificity about where and how much funds will go to the respective groups, and how other community programs will be integrated into this plan to prevent the conditions that lead to violence and crime.

We cannot just re-name the police department and add another layer of bureaucracy and expect that to solve the problem of systemic racism, injustice, and police brutality. Ward 10

7/6/2020 4:01:32 PM

Dear Charter Commission,

I am asking that you please support the proposed charter amendment and recommend that it be put on the ballot for voters to decide in November. Please do so immediately and without delay. Minneapolis residents deserve to have a say in the future of public safety in our city and we cannot afford to wait another year. Ward 10

7/6/2020 4:02:02 PM

Please allow the people of Minneapolis to vote on this issue in 2020. The people deserve the right to decide for themselves what public safety should look like in their city. Please do not delay this process for a year by taking the full time allotted to the commission to debate the amendment. This needs to be put to a vote while the reasons for the amendment are still in the public consciousness. Ward 10

7/6/2020 4:16:19 PM

Set up the police more like the Fire Department. Increase the number of small PD stations. Stop roaming squad cars. Use the surveillance you have to identify problems on the interstates/highways and then respond. Implement speed cams to understand what streets/roads have major speed issues. Deploy squads to those roads to quell the issue. You can use speed cams beyond issuing citations without an officer in place.

Also, respond to calls based on the level of force required. Garage/house break in call does not require armed to the teeth PD.

Train PD in different response areas. Armed responded based on the need from the call in. Psych/de-escalate PD for calls like that with no indication of someone being armed. Non-lethal armed investigative PD for after the fact investigations. Most calls are after the crime happened.

Minor offenses that can be ticketed by a force similar to parking police deploy them.

Match the response to the problem, not create a bigger problem by bringing in tons of force to every situation.

Take away lethal rounds from PD responding to calls that have no indication of needing lethal rounds. If that means still access to lethal rounds in the squad, or they have to call back up fine, but absolutely need body cams and they need to show initial response is only bringing non-lethals gear into a non-lethals call. Ward 1

7/6/2020 4:24:17 PM

Using the word "may" under Division of Law Enforcement Services is unacceptable. I wholeheartedly support a shift to invest in violence prevention, but with what seems like no plan for RESPONSE to the violence that many of us are living amongst is unbelievable. Last week people were shooting out windows at residences on my street and the police did not respond. The shooting continued on and off for two hours because no one would come to stop it. That was unacceptable and I want to see improvements in accountability and response in addition to investment in prevention. There are so many scenarios where violent crimes are occurring and a response would prevent further harm or death, but I don't see a plan for that. Also, what does adequately funded mean? How will this be determined? Ward 8

7/6/2020 4:25:27 PM

I would like to urge the charter commission to give the go ahead to this amendment and pass it on to the mayor and city council as soon as possible so it can be voted on this year. I am a twenty year resident in Minneapolis and the police here are out of control. It seems there is no limit to their power and they know it and they often abuse it and unfortunately many of the officers are racist and sexist. This has been an issue for a very long time and can not wait to be dealt with any longer. Many things have already been done to try to put some checks on them or to make improvements and they have all failed. It is time to try something new. The people of Minneapolis deserve better and they deserve to vote on this issue this year!

7/6/2020 4:26:07 PM

I support a YES ballot vote toward community-led safety!

I do not want a violent, unaccountable police department in the City of Minneapolis. Currently, our city charter protects this department and this language and protection needs to be removed from the charter.

The city needs to eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention that will actually serve our communities.

I absolutely do not want police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police!

Our communities deserve to be a part of the process! Let the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter and respect our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 9

7/6/2020 4:28:53 PM

Dismantling the Minneapolis police department will not fix the problem the city faces. The outcome of the city without police will result in killing the city as there will no longer be businesses, truck deliveries will cease, sporting events and concerts will relocate and nobody will feel safe.

7/6/2020 4:35:25 PM

I am not in favor of defunding the police. I feel a lot of pressure from my liberal friends to take this view. This makes me feel very afraid. I need convincing that this will prevent violence in Minneapolis and make our city safer. Clearly we need police reform. Right now I am just hearing a one sided argument for defunding the police and it makes me lose faith in my elected official. Ward 5

7/6/2020 4:38:06 PM

The current police department is doing more harm than good. I will be safer without them, and I say that as a more "protected" member of society, a middle-aged, middle-class, married, homeowner white woman. Our community safety system needs to be reimagined and rebuilt from the ground up. Current police members should not be allowed in the new system without extensive retraining, psychological evaluation, testing, and a history clean of police brutality allegations. Ward 8

7/6/2020 4:49:50 PM

Hello. I ask that the Charter Commission vote yes on the proposed Charter Amendment. Residents of Minneapolis deserve the opportunity to vote on the future of the police department in Minneapolis. Please vote yes on the amendment before August 21st so we can vote on this amendment in this years election. Minneapolis deserves the chance to shape our own future and now is the time. Ward 8

7/6/2020 5:02:15 PM

Public safety is a job for people who have been trained in law enforcement. Chief Arredondo is more than capable of regrouping the MPD. Appropriate training & enforcement of departmental policies are tools he can employ. The city council says they will dismantle, defund & disband our police department. They showed their agenda in the Powderhorn Park rally last month. They ranted & smiled & yelled that their goal was to do away with the MPD. They have presented NOTHING to explain how they will cover the violence. They use words like re-imagine & holistic approach to public safety. What the hell does that mean? They want all of this control over our police....in exchange for what? Please stop this charter change. Please do not let it go on the ballot in November. The council has put the cart before the horse. They demand but will they be held accountable when a woman gets raped; a child is beaten; a teacher is gunned down in a school? They have NO liability for making irresponsible decisions. They can go home with their private security, while we deal with their imaginations & holistic public safety. Please stop this insanity. Ward 4

7/6/2020 5:05:06 PM

This needs to happen now:

Remove MPD as a *required* city department and make police optional in the city

Remove a required ratio of police officers to Minneapolis residents so we could begin scaling down police

Establish a new Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention that uses proven community safety strategies and is shaped by community. Any police that continue to exist will be under the control of this new civilian department. Ward 8

7/6/2020 5:09:51 PM

My main concern is that the wording in the charter change is followed up with actual changes that will prevent us from getting the same old cops with another name. (See how they were called Peace Officers before? That didn't make things peaceful.)

We need open community oversight of whatever is coming next and that oversight MUST NOT be coming from within the department(s) or from a group that needs compliance from the department to do their jobs (e.g. prosecutors).

Any contracts, Union-negotiated or otherwise, must include clear paths to fire people who oppress citizens or otherwise neglect their duties. I understand that in some places, public employees aren't unionized, but the city would be contractually required to offer pay and benefits that match what has been negotiated by similar local unions. For example, MPLS social workers would receive pay and benefits that match what unionized social workers get in a local hospital or school district. I am wildly pro-union, but the police unions have shown themselves to be disgusting, supporting violence and racism in their members, rather than advocating for professionalism.

Another suggestion is that before a city employee could join the much smaller segment of employees who would have the power to arrest or the even smaller segment who would be armed sometimes, they would spend years working with city residents in other ways, (social worker, housing support, taking reports on theft or assault) so that when someone does need to be taken into custody, the person doing that would have had time to develop empathy and understand the roots of crime in our city. Additionally, residency requirements might help whoever is doing this work see us as human beings and neighbors, rather than an annoyance.

And I'll say it again: community oversight and control. Without that, as politicians come and go and this leaves the headlines, we will slowly end up with cops-by-another-name, which our communities cannot abide. Thank you. Ward 8

7/6/2020 5:20:30 PM

If you disband the police i'm moving out of the city that is crazy good and bad in all professions be it police or politics, Ward 1

7/6/2020 5:31:56 PM

For too long, city leaders have pushed our city's dollars away from our communities and to the MPD:

- The police don't prevent harm. At best, they show up after harm has happened. And often, they make things much worse.

- The murder of George Floyd has made it clear, once and for all, that the Minneapolis Police Department is unreformable and irredeemable. MPD has had more than 150 years to address our city's most urgent problems and have not solved them. It's time for us to take the lead.

People are demanding change. The charter works like the city's constitution and change at a constitutional level is what the people deserve, not another year of a bloated police

budget and an unaccountable department. Justice cannot wait another year.

PUT IT ON THE BALLOT THIS YEAR. We want a new model for building safety. Abolish the police. Ward 6

7/6/2020 5:55:48 PM

Hello, I am writing to ask that the Charter Commission move expeditiously to place the Public Safety charter amendment on the November Ballot. If you truly believe in a representative democracy, than this can be the only logical and reasonable choice. The city council, elected by citizens of Minneapolis, has taken steps to mirror the desires of its constituents. By choosing to place this amendment on the ballot in November, you are choosing to give citizens a voice. To deny the people a chance to shape their own future is a direct affront to the ideals for which this country claims to stand. I have heard some criticisms that claim things are moving too quickly; that moving in this way will not provide ample time for citizenry to become informed well enough to vote competently. I believe that the coming months are more than enough time for any voter to review facts and shape their own respective opinion. I believe in this city, it's people, and the democratic process. I'm asking you to do the same. Ward 6

7/6/2020 6:01:11 PM

I do not support the charter for the city council to remove the police department. Ward 8

7/6/2020 6:03:02 PM

We don't want a violent, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter. Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention with no current or former law enforcement. We know what safety and care looks like for our own communities. We also don't want more police. Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police.

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Thank you. Ward 2

7/6/2020 6:23:33 PM

I'm writing to submit my support for the proposed amendment to the city charter. I support submitting this amendment as a ballot question for the November 2020 general election and I encourage the charter commission to move quickly and ensure that this is not delayed. The incredible and ongoing public protests in response to George Floyd's murder are a very clear demonstration that the people of Minneapolis are ready to vote for changes to the way we are policed. Time is of the essence. Each day that I spend in fear of police brutality and violence against me and others like me is a day that can be spent promoting a democratic process toward justice. That fear is real, and so is the hope for change. I hope that one day Minneapolis might be a place where it is safe to raise a Black child. Ward 7

7/6/2020 6:30:06 PM

I support this transition to a more holistic community safety measure. The current system of policing in Minneapolis is broken and must be replaced by a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Remove the number of minimum police officers in an effort to create a safer community.

Citizens of Minneapolis must be allowed to voice their opinion on this matter. Give us this opportunity by letting us vote on this charter and make our voices heard. Thanks! Ward 2

7/6/2020 6:32:35 PM

On May 25, 2020, Minneapolis Police Training Officer Derek Chauvin (white) brutally and callously murdered George Floyd (Black) in front of CUP FOODS. Chauvin was assisted by three other MPD officers.

Unlike, presumably, thousands of similar incidents in American history, this heinous crime was filmed by a passerby. But although they clearly understood that they were being filmed, the officers in question displayed neither embarrassment nor concern about their actions being recorded.

When the video of George Floyd's murder went viral, public outrage was widespread, and thousands (including members of my family) took to the streets in protest. And over the next five days and nights, the MPD and others associated with the MPD committed additional blunders which led to the destruction of Lake Street, a treasured and historic commercial strip through largely immigrant communities.

Chauvin and his accomplices have been fired and charged with felonies; it may be years before these legal proceedings are complete. But except for the "filmed death," nothing about the murder of George Floyd, or the blunders that followed, seems out-of-character for the MPD. And no degree of punishment for the four officers seems likely to change the character of the MPD.

Well-known author Stephen Covey once wrote that human systems are like machines in that they "produce exactly what they are designed to produce." A little explanation is required.

When Ford automotive engineers were designing the infamous Ford Pinto, they placed the car's fuel tank in a place that made it vulnerable to rupture and explosion, whenever a Pinto got rear-ended. They surely never intended for Pintos to blow-up so easily, but the placement of the fuel tank was part of their design.

Similarly, the founders of our city may not have intended for the brutalization of our Black citizens to be a major function of our Police Department, and it is surely not the intention of the majority of us that fund the MPD. But I think Covey would argue that the brutalization of our Black citizens is, in fact, the evolved design of the MPD – because that's what it does.

Faced with bad publicity and costly lawsuits, Ford didn't try to redesign the Pinto. They ditched it and started over, eventually producing the Ford Escort (which did not easily blow up). Minneapolis needs to ditch the MPD and re-design our approach to public safety. Ward 11

7/6/2020 6:33:50 PM

We strongly oppose the proposed charter amendment regarding the structure & funding of the Mpls police department. Certainly changes & improvements in the functioning of the police should be considered. The idea though of abolishing the current structure without a detailed replacement plan is reckless policy. What are the detailed human & financial resources required for the new structure? How will it all be paid for? Given the city's current disastrous financial condition, & the unprecedented resources required to repair, rebuild & refinance all the governmental, commercial & residential properties & public infrastructure damaged or destroyed in the recent unrest, there is a real question where the revenue will come from to pay for everything. Mpls. & MN already tax their citizens at some of the highest levels in the entire country. If taxes are raised to any significant degree you can expect an out migration of tax paying residents to the suburbs. There is already a drum beat within the real estate community advising people not to move into Mpls.

Be smart, thoughtful & resourceful to make the city safer & more responsive - for all residents, without dismantling the existing police structure with no detailed plan to replace it. Ward 10

7/6/2020 6:42:14 PM

The uprising following the murder of George Floyd sent a strong message: our city can no longer go on under the current brutal and violent system of policing. I am asking that you eliminate the MPD and create a new model of community-led public safety. I am also asking that you remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police. Finally, I am asking that you let the people of Minneapolis have a say by putting the Charter on the ballot. Justice cannot wait another year. Ward 8

7/6/2020 7:05:47 PM

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in the Kingfield neighborhood of south Minneapolis. I am a white retired teacher (special education students) who has been involved in anti-racism work for years. As part of that work, I have followed city council meetings and spoken about the harm I believe our system of policing does to people of color. The vast majority of our officers do not live in the city-- this is not community policing. Our officers are overly weaponized and not held accountable for their actions. Reform has been talked about for years and I do not believe it is possible. We need to start over. Mayor Frey and Chief Arradondo have been in office for two years and there has been no significant change. I urge you to let the voters weigh in on this important matter. Ward 8

7/6/2020 7:15:44 PM

Hello and thank you for considering my comment. I want to stress that I want to see this amendment up for a vote on the ballot this November. We cannot wait another year to vote on this. The MPD has had more than 150 years to improve and do better, to really keep us safe, yet they have not. It is time for a new solution to community safety. We need to divest in the MPD and reinvest into better solutions that keep us safe and allow us to thrive: affordable housing, mental health support, living wages, etc. The people of Minneapolis deserve the opportunity to vote on this in November. Thank you. Ward 1

7/6/2020 8:30:19 PM

I do not trust the city council to make these decisions. They put no effort into identifying what we as the residence of the city of Minneapolis want if need. And they have no plan we can review to keep the public safe. Ward 8

7/6/2020 9:18:46 PM

I support the proposed charter amendment and believe it should be put to a referendum. There is no reason for the police department to be unique in existing outside of regular city government departmental structure. In addition, the 1960's rationale behind policing minimums seem to me hopelessly out of date. Let's re-imagine a better way to keep our already safe city a great place to live. Let's boost services to prevent crime before it happens and let's reduce the number of armed men and women in uniform who all too often threaten or kill the very people they are supposed to protect. The charter amendment is a baseline prerequisite to any meaningful reform by eliminating staffing minimums and giving the council oversight. Bias or deescalation training won't cut it when the rot runs so deep. The very institution of policing has lost so much legitimacy by killing George Floyd and then attacking citizens and the free press afterwards, let's fix it. Ward 6

7/6/2020 9:25:53 PM

I've lived in South Minneapolis for over a decade. I've seen the way the MPD treats the people of my neighborhood and now that they've shown just how violent and corrupt they can be they've exhausted the last of their legitimacy.

I don't know if the organization that replaces the MPD will carry guns (though I hope not). I'm not sure what their uniforms will look like or what systems of accountability are built into the new structure, but I can tell you that I won't feel safe to call 911 again until the Minneapolis Police Department is disbanded completely.

I think I speak for most of my Ward when I say that we'll accept nothing less. Ward 9

7/6/2020 9:41:31 PM

- We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

- We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police!

- We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 1

7/6/2020 9:48:15 PM

It is important that Minneapolis residents see this on their ballot. The democratic and just decision is to let the people ascertain what is best for their community. Ward 2

7/6/2020 9:53:56 PM

I support taking power away from the police union through any means necessary, including changing the charter. The police budget is bloated and throwing more money at the problem won't solve it. We need more money in the budget for the homeless crisis, particularly in affordable housing. I, like many, am worried I won't be able to afford an apartment in the city for years to come. Youth programs, after-school programs and drug treatment funding will also be a better use of the budget than more police. We need less police and more solutions. Police should only be dispatched for serious crimes (where someone is in danger), and there should not be any reward for officers who make more arrests. Ward 2

7/6/2020 10:21:07 PM

However you may personally feel about what comes next, the fact remains that the residents of Minneapolis have more than earned the ability to take ownership of their city and contribute their collective voice. This amendment passed the City Council unanimously. Let the people vote on this sooner rather than later. They deserve it. Ward 10

7/6/2020 10:33:09 PM

I do not reside in Minneapolis, but many of my friends and family do, and they have voiced their concerns to me. The people of Minneapolis do not want more police in their communities. Please, remove the Charter requirement for a minimum number of police.

We do not want a brutal and unaccountable police department in our city charter. The MPD should be eliminated, and a new, civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Protection should be created.

Please respect the democratic right of the people to determine the kind of city they want, and let the people of Minneapolis vote on the Charter this year. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/6/2020 10:42:06 PM

Members of the Charter Commission,

I am writing to declare my support for a charter amendment that fundamentally changes the city's approach to public safety and violence prevention.

The time has come for the citizens of Minneapolis to re-imagine public safety and public health. Our police department cannot be meaningfully reformed or held accountable as long as the City Charter's current language requires its establishment and a minimum number of MPD officers. We must seek greater oversight for ALL of our public departments, and we must have more latitude in how our city protects and serves ALL of its citizens.

This transformation cannot wait. The events that have transpired since the death of George Floyd should make something very clear to us all: the people of this city want to see real change, and they want to see it now. I urge you to move quickly to approve this charter amendment in order to include it as a ballot initiative later this year.

I am not asking for the MPD to be defunded overnight, and I am not asking for a city without any law enforcement at all. What I want, and what many people want, is an opportunity to establish a community-oriented department that keeps all of us healthy, safe, and free. Ward 11

7/6/2020 10:47:03 PM

I urge the Charter Commission to complete its review of the proposed Community Safety amendment quickly in order to ensure that the amendment can be on the ballot in November 2020. With a very active public discourse already underway about policing and community safety in our City, in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, it is appropriate to have this question on the ballot this fall.

Thank you for your service on the Commission. I look forward to engaging with this proposal as a voter. Ward 8

7/6/2020 10:56:02 PM

I urge you to please reconsider the police defunding decision. The city I love has quickly crumbled to an incredible amount of horrible crime. In the aftermath of horrific George Floyd death (and much before)- there should be accountability, black lives matter, Fire Kroll, zero tolerance, true reform absolutely yes but defunding and dismantling the police dept without a clear plan and experienced informed guidance is extremely reckless. This isn't a decision you tryout. Seek guidance on this. Do not let minneapolis become what happened to inside the city of Detroit. The flight of urban dwellers and business will happen before you know it. This is an insane idea with significant outcomes. Ward 11

7/6/2020 10:59:35 PM

I am very concerned that the Charter Commission will delay a vote on this measure. The City Council's Proposal will put disbanding the police to a citywide vote during a presidential election that will have more than 70% voter turnout. Not voting till an off year election in 2021 will limit turnout and benefit a group of mainly wealthy white voters that are more concerned about their personal property and wealth than equity for their fellow citizens. The Charter Commission is an unelected body that is much older and whiter than the city as a whole. If they choose to delay this measure of disbanding the police I hope that the next action that the city council sends to the Charter Commission is to disband the Charter Commission because they don't represent the majority of citizens of Minneapolis. Ward 10

7/6/2020 11:02:19 PM

I'd like to see the Charter amended because I'm tired of living in a city where it's unsafe to call the police. I'm present as white and I don't feel safe to call the police. They haven't helped with Domestic Violence, a family member being raped by a date, mental health related issues or substance use disorder issues. In fact, what they did made things worse. The current charter doesn't let us make the needed changes to actually help people when they need it.

The police aren't needed for most robbery or car accident reports - that could easily be done by someone without a gun.

And most of all, we need to end all the police brutality to people of color, people who chose their own gender identity, people with mental health issues, people with disabilities, un-sheltered people and people struggling with substance use.

We need system that protects public safety that actually protects public safety.

Training has not changed racial attitudes nor stopped officers from killing black men.

Enough is enough! We pay a helluva lot of money for a myth of public safety. If this amount of money was being wasted on any other service that so did not provide the service we are paying for, we'd end the contract or fire the service providers. If that service we are paying for was also killing people, making man people feel unsafe and meant we had to pay out huge sums for their misdeeds, we being suing them to recoup our losses from their terrible services. But we can't, because of the language in the current Charter.

It time to change the Charter and empower the residents of Minneapolis to build a better system for public safety - one that will protect and serve every resident, no matter their race, gender identification, sexual orientation, mental healthcare needs, substance use status or immigration status.

Please put the Charter Amendment on the ballot. Ward 8

7/6/2020 11:03:12 PM

This cannot wait another year. Please, let us decide how we will create safety in our community. It is imperative the charter commission return a report in time for this to be on the November 2020 ballot. Minneapolis can be better than it is now. Establishing a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and removing the Police Department from the city charter is a crucial step towards justice. Ward 12

Overall, I support the nature of this amendment. In reading the proposed amendment to the charter, I believe the amended text has several useful and salient changes, including but not limited to: including both the city council and the mayor in the hiring process of the new director of Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention, making specific requirements that the director have a background in public health and/or restorative justice, placing local law enforcement under the purview of this director, and referencing a need for public stakeholder engagement.

I do, however, have critiques of the proposed text that are explained in detail in the attached document. My comments can be summarized as follows:

- The term "adequately fund" is not narrowly defined, placing the department at risk of being defunded should public sentiment change.
- Although I applaud the inclusion of a requirement for community engagement, I would strongly encourage this requirement be further defined, so as to properly codify community engagement in the nature of this department.
- The inclusion of the phrase "non-law enforcement experience" appears to disqualify any applicants who may have sufficient background in public health and/or restorative justice should they have any law enforcement experience in their background. It would better serve this new department to be founded on the principle of a positive view toward public health, rather than a negative view toward law enforcement. No good action has been borne out of a negative response to the surrounding environment. Instead, we must focus on creating a positive response by pivoting toward increased access to better public health for all.

Having listed these summary criticisms, I must state that overwhelmingly, any trepidation I may bear to this charter amendment lies in the present lack of public engagement around this issue. In particular, we must focus on the communities of color and indigenous communities this amendment purports to help. The current process of public engagement appears to focus on asking the public to seek out this proposed legislation, asking the public to educate themselves on this issue, and asking the public to provide feedback either electronically or in person (two forums of engagement that may present barriers to low-income individuals actually engaging in said process). I strongly admonish this notion that it is incumbent on the average citizen to take initial steps to engage with this legislation. The onus must be on our elected officials to bring this public engagement directly to the communities this proposal is intended to serve.

Please do not misunderstand: I acknowledge the need for urgency in this issue and likewise acknowledge the benefit to individual council members in appearing to create a swift response to the death of George Floyd, whose murder snapped the taut cable of injustice that has been symbolically held on the necks of communities of color for hundreds of years. However, in lacking a robust community conversation around this issue, this amendment is doomed to fail. Even if the amendment should pass, without an ongoing commitment to community engagement, public trust in this issue will erode.

An ongoing commitment to community engagement is not something that can be instituted retroactively. In order for community engagement to remain central to this process, it must be included at the start of this process. Please do not miss out on the chance to meaningfully engage with the communities of color that this amendment purports to serve. If Minneapolis creates lasting change to the foundational structure of the city without engaging its most vulnerable residents, it is repeating a most egregious racist sin: neglecting to recognize that marginalized communities have an inherent right to self-determination. Please do not piss away our chance to make meaningful change in the community by rushing this process. Ward 8

Attachment:

~~§ 7.3. Police Community Safety and Violence Prevention. (a) Police department. The Mayor has complete power over the establishment, maintenance, and command of the police department. The Mayor may make all rules and regulations and may promulgate and enforce general and special orders necessary to operating the police department. Except where the law vests an appointment in the department itself, the Mayor appoints and may discipline or discharge any employee in the department (subject to the Civil Service Commission's rules, in the case of an employee in the classified service). (1) Police chief. (A) Appointment. The Mayor nominates and the City Council appoints a police chief under section 8.4(b). (B) Term. The chief's term is three years. (C) Civil service. The chief serves in the unclassified service, but with the same employee benefits (except as to hiring and removal) as an officer in the classified service. If a chief is appointed from the classified service, then he or she is treated as taking a leave of absence while serving as chief, after which he or she is entitled to return to his or her permanent grade in the classified service. If no vacancy is available in that grade, then the least senior employee so classified returns to his or her grade before being so classified. (D) Public health. The chief must execute the City Council's orders relating to the preservation of health. (2) Police officers. Each peace officer appointed in the police department must be licensed as required by law. Each such licensed officer may exercise any lawful power that a peace officer enjoys at common law or by general or special law, and may execute a warrant anywhere in the county. (b) Temporary police. The Mayor may, in case of riot or other emergency, appoint any necessary temporary police officer for up to one week. Each such officer must be a licensed peace officer. (c) Funding. The City Council must fund a police force of at least 0.0017 employees per resident, and provide for those employees' compensation, for which purpose it may tax the taxable property in the City up to 0.3 percent of its value annually. This tax is in addition to any other tax, and not subject to the maximum set under section 9.3(a)(4).~~

(a) Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. The City Council must establish, maintain, adequately fund, and consistently engage the public about a department of community safety and violence prevention, which will have responsibility for public safety services prioritizing a holistic, public health-oriented approach.

(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. (b) 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.

(1) Director of Law Enforcement Services Division. The director of the department of community safety 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.

Commented [1]: this is a vague term. if the intention of this department is to radically change the fabric of communities in ways that prevent community-wide violence, the department must, indeed be adequately funded, and the level of funding should be determined in a more precise manner. By using this term, the city charter will allow this department to be subject to the predominant political view of the moment. This may leave this vital department vulnerable to defunding, which will only harm the communities it serves.

Commented [2]: This should be defined more specifically. There are no words to explain how valuable and necessary a robust system for stakeholder engagement will be to this department. The impetus for the Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention arose from a deep public mistrust of the existing systems of law enforcement. By failing to adequately codify a system of robust public engagement, the new department treads dangerously toward a modus operandi of decision-making that lacks transparency, community engagement, and public trust.

Commented [3]: I support this structure

Commented [4]: Does this statement prohibit those with law-enforcement experience from serving in this post? I don't know that this is valuable. It makes more sense to emphasize the non-law enforcement experience required for the post than to make a point to exclude those with law enforcement experience. Excluding these applicants may exclude people who maintain a well-rounded, holistic background that includes knowledge of law enforcement issues and public health issues. In requiring a public health and/or restorative justice background, applicants whose background singularly emphasizes punitive approaches to community safety would de facto be excluded from the applicant pool. F

7/6/2020 11:34:51 PM

I think the change to a more holistic department of safety, rather than just a police department, is a good one. Even more important, though, is eliminating the requirement for a certain number of officers based upon population. Hard coding requirements that specific into the city charter is a bad idea, that prevents flexibility as conditions change. Ward 3

7/6/2020 11:42:54 PM

To the Members of the Commission:

I am opposed to what seem to me to be a rash and impulsive proposal to amend the City Charter. Such an action would need considerable community input, time and discussion. The purpose of such an action seems to be to defund or disband the police department in favor of a vague concept of community safety, which although retaining some armed security forces, would shift funds toward social services and psychologists, etc. While I'm all in favor of increased social services, better schools and better social support for underserved and disadvantaged populations of the city, I do not think this should be done at the expense of a professional police force. We have all seen the city's security and safety deteriorate since the rioting after the unjustified and shocking killing of George Floyd. But we do not need to compound one really terrible action by the police by upending the whole system of policing. Over the past month, we have had a lot of shootings, largely in Black neighborhoods, and I believe this is in part related to a sense of "anything goes" after the city's leaders, including the Mayor AND the City Council, mismanaged the rioting to such an extent that the the end result was a city left with some 1500- businesses damaged or destroyed --- along with the hopes, dreams and accomplishments of so many small-buisness-owners.

We need only to look at the recent situation in Seattle, where protesters declared a "police-free" zone and before too long, chaos resulted, with violence, uncollected garbage, etc. I feel strongly that the Police Union needs to be brought to task by the legislature or city leaders, so that better police training is instituted and aggressive or racist cops are fired permanently. Our Police Academy needs to institute longer training with more emphasis on good mentoring and conflict de-escalation. This, however, does not require a change in the city charter. The City Council in general does not have a history of really listening to community members,, but instead seems (many of them at least) to have pre-set but vague ideas of how to reform policies for city safety.

We now have a police chief who is committed to reforming the police force and a mayor who has the same goal. I do not favor changing the system so that a City Council of 13 people will be in charge of these vital city services.. We need stability in leadership and in city policies to help the city settle down, reduce the very worrisome increase in gun violence after the horrendous death of George Floyd and the unprecedented damage from rioting. We need to let the current Mayor and Police Chief undertake the serious work of reforming the Police Department. And we need in addition a stronger safety net of services to disadvantaged communities among us. I hope that the City Council will devote energy toward the latter goal and that the Commission will not approve the Council's utopian but unwise plans to upend the system of policing in the City of Minneapolis.

Thank you very much for your attention and for your service to the City of Minneapolis. Ward 13

7/6/2020 11:46:30 PM

Fuck this Ward 5

7/7/2020 1:25:40 AM

Do not amend the city charter of Minneapolis to remove the police department from the charter.
Ward 9

7/7/2020 1:26:00 AM

Do not amend the city charter of Minneapolis to remove the police department from the charter.
Ward 9

7/7/2020 1:59:11 AM

Honestly, it's about time. Time to bring some control & accountability to the police department. Ward 4

7/7/2020 3:43:01 AM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police!

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want.
Ward 4

7/7/2020 6:25:24 AM

I beg you, do not defund our police. For 30 years, we have lived right in Uptown, with increasing crime and disruption from the many nearby bars. For the first time, we talk about moving away. We already feel less safe: please don't make things worse by taking away our protection. I truly believe that the vast majority of the force are good people! Ward 10

7/7/2020 7:10:56 AM

I agree this should be a vote for the people. I appreciate the work of the Council to put this proposal together. Ward 11

7/7/2020 8:13:53 AM

I am writing in support of putting the charter amendment before the public for vote in November, 2020. I have lived in Mpls since 1974, in Philips, in Powderhorn, in Linden Hills, and now in Bryn Mahr. As a European-American senior, my experience with the Mpls police has been infrequent. However, my interactions since arriving in the city have been either mostly unhelpful, needlessly menacing or downright frightening. I have personal experience helping battered women in crisis, a male relative with a severe delusional episode, African-American friends who have been profiled, and a few bike thefts and one house break-in over the years. Never have the police in Mpls been helpful. The charter change allows a deliberative process of restructuring city intervention services to fit the 21st century. The city should not be seen as the provider of an occupying army by low income and communities of color. It does the opposite of drawing in diverse communities to prevent crime and identify people harming

others. I have never been threatened or harmed by a Black person in Mpls. I wish I could say that about our notorious police. Ward 7

7/7/2020 8:15:31 AM

I don't support removing the Police. They are needed. Please do not remove them. Ward 1

7/7/2020 8:17:45 AM

I strongly support the Charter Commission putting the amendment to create a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police Department from the Charter on the ballot for a vote by the public in Minneapolis this November. Ward 8

7/7/2020 8:23:43 AM

Please stop this proposed amendment. It is ill-conceived and the City Council has not done its job. The public has no idea what the City Council's plans are with respect to the police department or public safety in general. The City Council cannot have a blank check to do what it wants to later. The Mayor is the only adult in the room when it comes to the City Council. He is right - there is no accountability in this proposed amendment. People throughout the city are appalled by the City Council's foolishness. Yes, the police department needs to be reformed. But, no, this idiocy cannot be allowed to move forward. Stop it dead in its tracks and send Lisa Bender and her ship of fools a strong message - do your job! Ward 7

7/7/2020 8:37:00 AM

While I appreciate and support radical change to force racism, sexism and violence to community members from our police department the city council has not provided any facts or data on how their proposal has been successfully built and executed in other cities. If there is not an example of how this has been successful implemented in other cities, what are other data sources to give the council a roadmap? People would feel a lot more comfortable voting to support this if there was fact based data and/or examples of how this would work.

Additionally "defunding" the police department will not be a magic bullet on it's own. What about the inherent racism in our judicial system including prison sentences. I would like to see a more holistic argument for change. Not a one trick pony. Ward 13

7/7/2020 8:55:56 AM

Reform of the police department can be done by thoughtful planning and decisions on supplementing the police function with additional resources to enhance the ability of law enforcement in dealing with a range of circumstances. The proposed city charter is a knee jerk reaction to create a new agency without regard to unintended consequences not the least of which are funding for yet undefined services that should not be decided after the major upheaval created by the charter change. If this goes to the ballot in November a serious reform effort can be initiated after it's defeat. Ward 13

7/7/2020 9:07:16 AM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department in our charter! We must cut ties with MPD and reallocate resources and efforts into community-based training organizations.

7/7/2020 9:12:36 AM

I oppose the proposal to change the charter.

We need more police, better trained police and civilian oversight. Outside agencies should conduct investigations into police conduct.

Adding another layer of bureaucracy and giving more power to the council will be a wasteful mistake. Crime is skyrocketing. Wasting a year trying to reimagine policing will be costly in lives and dollars.
Ward 12

7/7/2020 9:15:02 AM

While not a Minneapolis resident, I live nearby and am an occasional visitor. Your violent and picayune police force is a deterrent to my wanting to shop, dine or live in your city. Things would be so much nicer if you had a law enforcement organization focused on ACTUALLY protecting and serving rather than harassing people who aren't in danger or a threat to others. Freedom is a wonderful thing. Your residents don't have it. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/7/2020 9:17:03 AM

I am in support of this amendment and urge the charter commission to move quickly so the people of Minneapolis can vote on it this year. We cannot let another year pass with an unaccountable and ineffective police force. We need real change and we need to vote on this amendment this year!
Ward 7

7/7/2020 9:20:15 AM

First a background of who I am. I am 65 years old. I was born in Luverne Minnesota. I am a 4th generation citizen of Minnesota. I am a lawyer. My father in law was a Minneapolis detective. My sister in law was a Minneapolis police officer. Secondly, I have ancestors that have served in the military to protect our nation, including veterans of the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World War I, World War II and Korea.

I strongly oppose any action that would lesson the rights and authority of the Minneapolis Police force to enforce laws that protect our citizens who work in downtown Minneapolis including my wife and I. I will not feel safe working downtown (U.S. Bank and Wells Fargo) if you dilute the police power to enforce laws such as verbal assault by individuals who use intimidation tactics and who use violence like we have seen on Lake Street early this year. You need to have the courage to stand up to these anti-American thugs. If you do not I can guarantee you that there will be white flight out of Minnesota, leading to less tax revenue and increased violence. We are heading to a crappy city - just like Chicago where criminals and terror run the city ! I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/7/2020 9:26:45 AM

I'm a constituent of ward 3 and I strongly encourage the Charter Commission to vote for a charter amendment that makes no room for police. I support Black Visions and Reclaim the Block: the charter amendment should prohibit current or former law enforcement from leading the new department, and it should NOT create a new division for police officers. Ward 3

7/7/2020 9:26:50 AM

D Ward 10

7/7/2020 9:29:55 AM

As a long time employee of Minneapolis Public Schools Equity department, I support putting the amendment to the city charter around policing on the ballot. Citizens deserve a chance to weigh in on this issue that disproportionately impacts black and brown citizens in our community. It is time to rethink public safety in our community and the charter amendment is an important first step. This sets the stage for a better version of public safety in Minneapolis and across the nation. Thank you I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/7/2020 9:36:28 AM

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want.
Ward 8

7/7/2020 9:38:12 AM

The MPD is in need of radical change in it's culture, hiring, training, and response practices. Separately, alternatives to police response in areas of mental health, homelessness, and non-crimes should be heavily invested in. The council has put forth no plan to do any of this and does not need the charter amendment in order to do it.

Numerous articles in the Star Tribune have pointed out that POC community leaders in North Minneapolis are not being listened to as Council Member Ellison claims that they don't speak for the community. I emailed the Mayor and Council President Bender weeks ago and have yet to receive a response. A change to the charter is drastic and should involve opportunities for the public to have input.

I can not support the concept of the entire council being responsible for day to day operations of the police department. Currently, I can hold the Mayor responsible for firing/not firing the Chief. If the entire council fails to do so through action/inaction of a majority of members - it is easy for them to just point fingers while nothing happens. The politicization of that process into Ward Politics is reminiscent of the aldermen in Chicago. This part of the amendment has been tried before and truly invites different wards to have different policing than others.

Lastly, it makes no sense to approve this amendment on the ballot and then find out what it is exactly I voted for in May. It makes much more sense for the council and commission to actually listen to residents, then place his on the ballot next November when their plan is finalized, voted on, and in the implementation process. This would be especially impactful as every council member and the Mayor's reelection would be on that same ballot.

I encourage the commission to continue it's discussion but to proceed at a proper pace and to ensure that the council members pushing this stand for election on the same ballot as this amendment.
Ward 10

7/7/2020 9:38:26 AM

I write to express my urgent approval of the City Council's proposal to replace MPD with CSVP.

The city has great need of the changes that would be possible with this amendment. The amendment is neither rushed nor radical. It establishes options and gives greater freedom for City Councillors to shape our society into a healthier form. The amendment is clearly written, and limited in its scope. I believe that in its current form the amendment is ready to be voted on by the citizenry.

The timing of this is, and has always been urgent. We need to be able to vote on this proposal soon, so we can begin the legwork of rebuilding our faltering society. At the fastest clip, nothing will change until May. That's plenty of time to form specific policies and organize personnel.

If the Charter Commission declines to forward its recommendation to the Council well-before the 21 August ballot measure filing deadline, then the Commission will have knowingly guaranteed another year of MPD terrorizing and brutalizing our citizens.

I urge the Charter Commission to advance the proposed amendment without delay. Ward 10

7/7/2020 9:41:32 AM

I would like to keep the police department as is with reforms in the police department itself. I have lived here for 35 years and this summer has been the worst for crime (all kinds), violence in many ways, neighbors homes being shot in the night, gangs, anger with ea h other, fireworks for at least 6 weeks now, drivers driving fast, speeding, running red lights and stop signs. The cops are no where to be found except if there is a high priority crisis. Ward 4

7/7/2020 9:41:47 AM

I support reimagining public safety in the city of Minneapolis. The murder of George Floyd exposed a long-standing structural issue within the Minneapolis Police Department and police departments across the country. Police use lethal force disproportionately on Black people and people of color. Police should not be using lethal force so readily on anyone, particularly if biases put them in a position to execute minority populations on behalf of the State. The budget spent on law enforcement needs to be heavily reconsidered to serve the varied needs of Minneapolis residents, including proactive aid services that may prevent the kinds of desperation that lead to crime. Ward 7

7/7/2020 9:43:00 AM

I am adamantly opposed to this amendment. The management structure seems to create a confusing and most likely dysfunctional department. Since we already have a violence prevention department this is more duplication of effort. Nothing in the current charter seems to mandate a number of licensed police officers, just employees. If the city wants to reorganize responsibilities it can do so now through the chief of pd. I have no confidence that my city council member would have any interest in listening to constituents that she doesn't value so "community engagement" is a fraudulent phrase in the amendment. Please do not let this city council undermine the functioning of the city this way. Ward 10

7/7/2020 9:45:22 AM

I live and work downtown. I have no words for how bad of an idea this amendment is. If the city reduces the police force, I am out. Many of my neighbors have already left. Ward 7

7/7/2020 9:49:26 AM

I support dismantling the MPD. I understand the necessity of keeping a law enforcement division. However, the current Police department is not functioning as an institution to protect the citizens across the board. The excessive budget it has received needs to be allocated to services that truly serves the safety of the citizens. I live on the corner of Franklin and Nicollet.

Homeless people/drag, alcohol abusers hang out here. We see police cars, ambulance, fire cars several times a day. We need social workers, counselors, and nurses help them. They need shelters and facilities to detox themselves. The police cannot provide those. This is an urgent issue and the voters should make a decision this November. Ward 10

7/7/2020 9:49:55 AM

I fully support the removal of the police from the city charter and the replacement of the police with a public safety office. The police in their current form are hyper-militarized predators; they spread through the city and inflict violence because of the economic incentives that are offered to them for apprehending "criminals." When police officers seize any property the police department is entitled to a large portion of its value. When a police department issues a lot of citations and arrests a lot of individuals, they are rewarded with grants and more funding. As the institution continues to consolidate wealth they will pour more and more resources into their weapons and surveillance technology while their privileged role of "peacekeepers" will exempt them from any consequences of traumatizing the communities they "serve." The police department must be abolished while we still have the power to do so. Sooner or later they either have too much money or military technology to be removed. All of this and i have yet to mention the racially motivated violence that the police department inflicts on the most vulnerable communities in our city. The MPD has a long history of traumatizing the bipoc community and there is no reason to believe that they have any intention of changing, as the democratically elected leader of the police union has shown. We must disband the police in its current form. Ward 12

7/7/2020 9:50:09 AM

There's no reason this amendment shouldn't be put up for vote by the people - it's the most democratic thing we can do. Please move this forward with haste so we can vote this November. Ward 9

7/7/2020 9:50:42 AM

See Attachment Ward 9

We must completely re-envision what safety and security mean in our community. The MPD has demonstrated time and again that it is institutionally incapable of reform that addresses police

violence, white nationalist infiltration into the MPD, and the general contempt with which so many MPD officers view our city.

They spent the greater part of two weeks in a state of riot, teargassing peaceful crowds, aiming rubber bullets at children's heads, spraying pepper spray at crowds as they drove by, caring more to harass protesters than meeting the threat of violent extremists who had a hand in destroying so many buildings in our city. Long before this eruption of lawlessness on their part, they have broken trust with our city.

Historically, the MPD has been known as a racist, violent, and corrupt force. People of color have been looking for the city to address MPD violence for over a century. The American Indian Movement formed on the streets of North Minneapolis in 1968, in response to police brutality against Black, brown, and Native people. Decades of attempts at reform have yielded nothing for people of color in this city. The

death of George Floyd ignited a storm of protests across the planet, because the murder of Mr. Floyd was that horrifying. The MPD somehow blames the people of Minneapolis for negative global press and perceptions, when it is they who are responsible.

<http://historyapolis.com/blog/2015/11/20/a-demand-for-justice-and-law-enforcement-a-history-of-police-and-the-near-north-side/>

Police behavior continues to be outrageous. Bob Kroll got on television with Gayle King and said in effect that the force is deliberately "slowing down" because they "feel unsafe." This from a group of people with a virtual military arsenal whose members have taken a vow to serve and protect. Instead, they are retaliating against the people of the city who dare suggest defunding, as if their absence will prove to us that we need them. It proves the opposite. There are good officers in MPD, but they are quiet voices in a toxic culture that values blind loyalty and machismo. Many young officers have untreated PTSD and their place of work does nothing to support them; indeed the culture discourages admissions of weakness. We know the terrible statistics of cop suicide-by-gun, domestic violence, addiction, alcoholism.

The MPD views our communities of color as adversaries. One union official said on record that she could never live in Minneapolis, wondering how could she take her "beautiful little girls" to the grocery store knowing it would be full of criminals she'd collared! She is a union official who said this to the press without shame. 97% of the force lives elsewhere and has no emotional connection to our city. How many millions has MPD cost us in payouts over the years?

But on a larger level, beyond Minneapolis, we need abolition and re-visioning. Due to decades of defunding of basic services, duties fall to police that never should have been, that officers are not trained for, or disposed to really learn about. Police should not be expected to be mental health workers, drug abuse and domestic violence interventionists. They should not be patrolling black and brown populations on the wrong side of the First Amendment, which they spend far too much of their time doing.

What the public understands as the duty of a police force is to promote public safety and investigate crime. By the numbers they do a terrible job of clearing cases. Law and order types talk a lot about getting justice for the families of victims, but police as we have them do not really perform this function. I would imagine that in a future Minneapolis scenario, there would be a division of the Department of Public Safety that would be adequately staffed and funded to actually succeed in delivering justice. As for public safety, "community policing" must be seen for the farce that it is. The debacle of the 4th Precinct Christmas tree a couple of years tells us all we need to know about the Department's institutional sincerity about being partners to the community.

And then there is the issue of racism. White nationalist groups actively encourage their members to train as police. The problem of white nationalist infiltration of police forces is not unique to Minneapolis. On the police scanner in Albuquerque on the night June that a protester was critically wounded, his shooters were referred to as "armed Friendlies". The white supremacist who committed the mass shooting during the occupation of the 4th in 2014 was seen earlier in the evening up on the barrier wall with officers, laughing and joking. He turned himself in by calling a friend on a local force. These anecdotes are so unimaginable as to appear ridiculous.

But this is the fix we're in as country. And millions of us, led by Black and brown people in a multiracial coalition, are no longer willing or able to wait.

All eyes are on our city. We could work together and create a successful template for public safety that addresses decades of crisis in cities across the world. It was so distressing to read that members of your body are in "no hurry" to move on the Charter Amendment. We the people of Minneapolis are in a terrible hurry, before more Black, brown, and Native people are murdered or brutalized by Minneapolis police officers.

This is a daunting process, I understand, and Charter Commissions are seldom asked to consider such momentous matters. But to fail to clear the way for the people of the city to decide, as soon as possible, what public safety must mean in Minneapolis would be something I am sure members would come to regret as a missed chance. And history will not deal with you kindly.

We are living in an unprecedented time, and must act on behalf of people of Minneapolis with unprecedented courage. The pressure of monied interests must be resisted. Please be the brave people we need.

Powderhorn

7/7/2020 9:52:29 AM

I tried to look up the proposal and per government screw up. My request to read the amendment couldn't be processed 😞 Ward 7

7/7/2020 9:54:23 AM

I imagine that this change to the charter would disproportionately affect the poorer neighborhoods of the city as the wealthier neighborhoods would have private security as a consequence to this charter change. I find that this type of change would increase systematic racism in the city. Ward 10

7/7/2020 9:56:25 AM

I am wholly in support of this amendment. My only concern is that I don't know what would prevent a similar police union situation with the "law enforcement services" department. It seems like there should be a clause preventing disputes from being handled by arbitration. Ward 1

7/7/2020 9:57:02 AM

Hello!

I am in support of the charter amendment being added to the ballot. It represents a positive restructuring of public safety. It opens the door for Minneapolis to be a leader for this change that is being called for worldwide and I believe the people have the right to vote and decide on whether we take that up. Ward 12

7/7/2020 10:04:22 AM

Police are necessary to maintain law and order in the city. As a lifelong citizen I DO NOT support the defunding of the police. I think the funding should be increased and training increased. Ward 2

7/7/2020 10:06:46 AM

Defunding police will be disastrous!

You can already see the results with just proposing the idea, crime way up! More black lives lost, and innocent live relying on a safe place to live now live in fear!! Ward 4

7/7/2020 10:06:57 AM

I do not support this amendment, we need to keep the Police force requirement to avoid further detriment to public safety. Until facts can be proved on how alternative programs reduce crime, i do not want Minneapolis citizens to be used as a trial. Ward 3

7/7/2020 10:07:15 AM

Abolishing the police department is not safe for our community. Please for the safety of those who live and work here pleas do not Ward 7

7/7/2020 10:08:03 AM

I support the charter being amended to remove the requirement for a certain number of licensed peace officers to be employed by the City. This is an opportunity to bring democracy and transparency into the decision-making process: this is not a time to give in to fearmongering that there will not be a police department without this charter provision. On the contrary, statutory cities in Minnesota do not appear to require a minimum number of licensed peace officers, or any such ratio per resident. This requirement is a unique, archaic feature of the City's charter, one that was added to the charter in 1961.

It is time to recognize that the residents of this City can govern themselves, without mandates issued almost 70 years ago. It does not mean the end of police. It means the residents of the City can debate and determine, through the election of City leaders, the appropriate number and funding for one of the City's core functions -- ensuring public safety within its borders. Every other City department has a budget approved through the customary budget process without restrictions. The Police Department should be the same way. Ward 8

7/7/2020 10:08:16 AM

This conversation seems rushed and lacks any semblance of a real plan. The council members are obviously pandering to those they "think" will get them re-elected. I moved downtown 5 years ago because of the ability to walk to numerous restaurants and bars, and the general vibe of living in the city. I no longer feel safe enough walking anywhere downtown without the fear of being robbed or worse, so I no longer want to live here. It's been declining each of the past 5 years I've been downtown, which is unfortunate because I love this city. I really feel for the entertainment industry in Minneapolis because nobody will be coming here.

Either way, I agree that something needs to change. I don't think reducing sworn officers is the answer, and given the complete lack of an actual plan I don't know how these council members can either. They're playing games with real people's lives and livelihoods for political gain and it's disgusting. Ward 3

7/7/2020 10:08:57 AM

Hi, I am writing to surge the Charter commission to put the city charter amendment on the ballot. We, the residents, deserve to vote on this important amendment. We cannot wait any longer. We need to be able to vote this year. Please move this process forward in a timely manner so it can be on the ballot this fall. Our city has been harmed enough; we cannot wait any longer for change. We are ready for a new model of building safety. Thank you for your work and consideration. Ward 10

7/7/2020 10:09:38 AM

I can see no reason the procedure to get this on the ballot. There needs to be a well thought out description/ procedure and education before it goes on the ballot. Ward 9

7/7/2020 10:10:17 AM

Hello, I am writing to support this proposed amendment. I believe the goal of police is to have community safety but I also believe that there are multiple ways to accomplish this goal. If we want to re-imagine policing, we need to have more options available to us. This amendment allows us to think bigger and more ambitiously about what it takes to make our communities safe for everyone.

I am interested in pursuing data-backed solutions to community safety as well as creative solutions that can be measured. Right now, I don't know of any data that supports having a certain number of police in our community. Especially when I truly believe in "quality over quantity", it seems like the number of police is arbitrary. Kaitie Ward 10

7/7/2020 10:15:36 AM

I do work in downtown. What does the replacement look like? I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/7/2020 10:16:18 AM

We should NOT make any changes to the charter

We should NOT allow the city council to have control over the MPD or any variation the of

This is all moving too fast and the city council is open again trying to ram these changes through the process without sufficient proof they have a proven process.

If its not clear AM AGAINST THESE AMENDMENT CHANGES and I ask that you reject these requests by the council. Ward 11

7/7/2020 10:17:52 AM

As a recent victim of a car jacking directly outside of my home, I completely disagree with this amendment. The police are a necessity to the public safety of our community and with the increased crime if anything we need a higher ratio of officers per resident. Ward 3

7/7/2020 10:18:03 AM

I support the charter amendment as a beginning to a new way of doing community safety. I realize it is only the first step, not complete but will require further engagement from the community as to how to proceed. But at least we will have the freedom to make decisions moving forward. Also, the council and mayor should not be taking raises until we solve this homelessness problem in our city. Housing first, these people need stability before they can make changes to their lives. Ward 2

7/7/2020 10:20:15 AM

For a host of reasons, I'm not in favor of the proposed charter amendment. I am in favor of reform within MPD on various levels. Furthermore, private security protection for certain council members at tax payer expense is absurd to say the least. Ward 7

7/7/2020 10:20:41 AM

Dear Charter Commission members,

It is imperative that we have the option as Minneapolis residents to vote on public safety reform in 2020. The Minneapolis Police force as it exists has caused incessant and irreparable harm to our entire community but especially communities of Black and Indigenous people of color. Too many Black and Brown members of our community have been harmed by this police force and it is far too late to mend the damage done by the MPD. In Minneapolis, we deserve public-health oriented approach to public safety. It is unconscionable to think that we as residents would have to wait an entire year to have a say in public safety reform at this vital time in history. I urge the charter commission to recommend that an amendment be placed on the ballot this year, 2020. Ward 6

7/7/2020 10:24:23 AM

I don't care what ward you are talking about. If this happens, it will be the biggest mistake Minneapolis has ever made. In fact, and that maybe hard to believe, it is a bigger mistake than electing that wimp of a mayor that is currently in office. In fact, I have suggested a recall on him. He cannot control the city, makes poor decisions, and you as the Uptown Association should know that. Look at what just happened. One never reacts out of sudden fear or retaliation. That is classic knowledge. Who came up with this idea? The city council is as bad as the mayor. You do realize one of the reasons for the police is that the city does not have to pay for a special counsel or department. When someone is attacked, robbed, shot, or whatever, who will they call. This smacks of a revenge initiative. Do not be ruled by panic. I cannot see how anyone in their right mind would consider moving to a condo, or apartment in the downtown, or uptown areas. why would you when there will be little or no protection for them Geees, this is worst suggestion anyone has ever considered. The police were doing a fine job. Why were they targeting a certain group, well, they were not! They were going after perpetrators. Could they help it that the majority of the perps were a certain race. You know I am correct on this.

7/7/2020 10:28:16 AM

I think it is of the utmost importance that this amendment be added to the ballot in November. Voters of Minneapolis deserve the chance to choose what is right for us. The time for this amendment is now, the streets have been filled with voices demanding action. The Charter Commission must not stall the process, justice can't wait till next year. We want a new model of building safety into our communities. Everyone deserves a safe community to live, work and play in. This is a step in the right direction to make that a reality for everyone in Minneapolis. Ward 2

7/7/2020 10:31:21 AM

Hello. I'm a Minneapolis resident that cares about my community and Black lives. It has become abundantly clear we are in need of serious change in order to keep everyone safe. Our current system is failing us, and we cannot wait any longer to try new things. People will die. We need to act now. We need to hold our police department accountable for the damage and pain they have caused, and remove the Charter requirement for the minimum number of police. We need to eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. It's time to get creative and start over.

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 11

7/7/2020 10:33:31 AM

I believe the council should have to ride along with the police for at least a month 24 hours a day and then discuss how we should reorganize the police department. Then you can clearly see exactly their role in Minneapolis. Ward 1

7/7/2020 10:34:34 AM

I live on 28th and Bloomington I don't think that it is a good idea to get rid of our police. They just need better training and a better background check. Not all are bad. Recently I was just robbed they took my fire arm it was a group of juvenile our streets are so unsafe and this isn't about George Floyd any more it's about power and it's scary I should not have to sit in my home terrified to go outside

7/7/2020 10:36:25 AM

To The Members of The Charter Commission,

I encourage you to reject the change being proposed to the city charter at this time. While substantial police reform is long overdue and may well entail very dramatic action, to wholesale proceed at this time on such a major change without a detailed plan that is vetted through vigorous public debate is unwise. I, and I suspect much of community, will eventually be behind a new plan, but we need to all become more fully educated on what the end vision is, what the terms mean, and what has been the experience in other cities and the results that followed. In the absence of a detailed and clearly stated plan, I do not trust turning this over virtually carte blanche to 13 members of the city council to decide what to do. If there is a majority of members of the council who wish to make this monumental change, do the homework, engage the public and make the case for policing in the future in the city. Slogans are great, but what are the details? Ward 7

7/7/2020 10:38:22 AM

I think there is value in adding the community service and public health personnel suggested in the council's proposed amendment. However, there should be some required minimum criteria for the personnel who would work in that department. As written, there is no minimum criteria listed.

However, any urban city needs to have public employees who are trained and equipped to handle violent and dangerous situations and people.

There will always be people who have violent and destructive intent and our government has a responsibility to put safety measures in place to protect the public against such people. Ward 1

7/7/2020 10:41:34 AM

I respectfully reject this proposal, public safety is a fundamental obligation through the police department. The charter was put in place for a reason, to protect ALL people of the city. The city is currently having issues with neglecting to respond to many issues with crime and homelessness. A "Community Safety & Violence Prevention" would be a reactionary group, regardless of its title. I believe that we need to inject social workers into the police department to assist on calls and advocate for victims beyond a police report with the current program. Ward 12

7/7/2020 10:42:47 AM

I live in Fridley and shop, eat and visit Minneapolis parks and businesses frequently due to its proximity. I feel there is not a solid plan at this time for what exactly "defunding" the police means. I believe there needs to be reform, accountability and community involvement in decisions. Solid planning and structure needs to be a part of this as it is implemented. Safety is a key issue for everyone and I feel that this is not the case right now. Too much violent crime is occurring and needs to be addressed by partnering with law enforcement and building trust and accountability. If safety continues to be an issue I will utilize businesses and parks in other areas which I prefer not to do. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/7/2020 10:44:05 AM

The MPD does need serious reform. There needs to be better (longer) police training, more restrictions on what maneuvers are allowed while restraining, an independent body to investigate police misconduct, more public transparency with police misconduct/complaints, a system which does not punish fellow police officers to report suspected police misconduct, and more police officers from the community in which they police. Moreover, there needs to be a change in police culture. What would be devastating to the community, I believe, would be to abolish the police department. There are people, of all colors, that rely on the police to protect them in situations where they cannot protect themselves. The police is this community need to do much better. A total reform is needed. Getting rid of the police in Minneapolis, though, cannot be the option we choose. Ward 8

7/7/2020 10:44:46 AM

It is apparent the the council has a desire to strip the mayor of power and get rid of the police department. It is perfectly clear the police department needs dramatic reform. In order to vote yes for this amendment detailed plans must be given for review of how the citizens of Minneapolis will be protected.....no matter what color. It is also apparent that the council has no idea to accomplish this otherwise they would have presented details. It is easy to say something is broken. I will vote no unless detailed plans are given. Ward 3

7/7/2020 10:53:23 AM

I would like to stress that the process of amending the charter should be done swiftly enough that it be on the ballot in November of 2020. There is clearly widespread support for change to the Minneapolis Police Department, and a defund/abolish strategy also clearly has support-support among elected officials, among organizers and activists, and among everyday Minneapolis residents. As this is the case, I think it makes good sense and is a cut and clear case of good governance to let the people of Minneapolis have a voice and vote on this issue as soon as possible. Thank you! Ward 10

7/7/2020 10:55:31 AM

Hello, I am writing in disagreement of removing the police department. I have always been a proud resident of Minneapolis but as of late it shameful. The crime rates are astronomical with woman and children getting shot. We need police officers to maintain order and protect us. I believe there can be reform with new trainings and perhaps more Minneapolis police officers should be indeed Minneapolis residents. Please keep the police department. Now is not the time to try something new, Minneapolis is now a national joke with all the crime. I have already seen an increase of homes for sale and businesses not rebuilding or opening because of the unrest. Ward 3

7/7/2020 10:59:56 AM

I do not support the charter amendment proposed. I think the city council is acting irresponsibly and have had years to transform the police department if they chose to do so.

Their radical move to make these in my opinion insane moves is a reaction to poor leadership. I not only oppose the amendment, I want the council to resign so we can elect real leaders. Ward 10

7/7/2020 11:01:24 AM

Please ensure that the charter amendment process regarding the creation of a new Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department and the removal of the Police Department from the Charter moves along quickly and smoothly. Voters should be able to vote on this in November. Ward 10

7/7/2020 11:04:01 AM

I encourage the Commission to reject the proposed amendment. There is much work to be done in changing the way we provide public safety in our community, however, I do not support the council's response without further planning. Ward 8

7/7/2020 11:08:19 AM

This is ridiculous. If you want people to continue to reside in, work in, or visit this city going forward please come to your senses. Ward 2

7/7/2020 11:32:12 AM

Do not defund or disband the police! Ward 2

7/7/2020 11:32:19 AM

Do not defund or disband the police! Ward 2

7/7/2020 11:32:42 AM

DO NOT defund or disband the police! Ward 2

7/7/2020 11:32:48 AM

DO NOT defund or disband the police! Ward 2

7/7/2020 11:32:55 AM

DO NOT defund or disband the police! Ward 2

7/7/2020 11:33:01 AM

DO NOT defund or disband the police! Ward 2

7/7/2020 11:33:33 AM

DO NOT DISBAND POLICE! Ward 2

7/7/2020 11:33:39 AM

DO NOT DISBAND POLICE! Ward 2

7/7/2020 11:33:55 AM

DO NOT DEFUND POLICE! Ward 2

7/7/2020 11:34:00 AM

DO NOT DEFUND POLICE! Ward 2

7/7/2020 11:34:05 AM

DO NOT DEFUND POLICE! Ward 2

7/7/2020 11:40:34 AM

What actual policies/ changes are you making making? How are you going to track success/ failure? How are you going to be transparent with the citizens about your success and failures? What evidence and programs are you basing the proposed changes on? Why not consider basing changes on other success stories such as Camden, NJ? Ward 1

7/7/2020 11:51:54 AM

The community recognizes that City Council has designed this proposal to fail, in a bid to save face politically. Reasonable measures have been requested for years, including a Citizen Police Accountability Council, which would de-politicize public safety and ensure our police force works for all citizens. Please redirect your intentions to viable, needed measures. Ward 9

7/7/2020 11:58:07 AM

Communities don't need more police. Asking that you remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police.

Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter. Ward 11

7/7/2020 12:04:03 PM

The current calls for "defund the police" or "abolish the police" (as was clearly stated in front of Mayor Frye's home) are unrealistic and, to be honest, "privileged" as Councilwoman Lisa Bender said. If you live in an affluent area, you might think of calling 911 as a privilege, however for those that don't, calling 911 is a necessity.

Living in Ventura Village and speaking with others in the surrounding neighborhoods, we need to have MORE of a police presence, not less. I won't bore you with the statistics but I have seen crime increase in my neck of the woods *significantly* since George Floyd's was killed, with gunshots and/or stabbings reported often a mere few blocks away at Peavey Park (Chicago and Franklin), Franklin and Minnehaha/Cedar, or along 24-26th streets. We need patrol cars to "patrol" the area in order to prevent crime from happening in the first place. I would LOVE for there to be more social workers and other individuals that are not necessarily law enforcement involved, however, NOT at the expense of police presence.

Please carry out whatever reforms you need to do to the current police department, but please don't just take a leap of faith into concepts that have not worked elsewhere. Ward 3

7/7/2020 12:07:50 PM

This is a virtual banishing of the Minneapolis Police Department. The effort seems rushed, and not very well thought out. And it seems to be motivated by an attempt to stop some loud voices that are demanding this. Without taking into consideration the immense safety needs of high crime areas like Lake St Corridor or North Minneapolis.

I 100% believe the MPD needs to change and that MPD is not the best responder to absolutely all safety calls from the City. But at the same time I think it's very naïve to believe in a City with no police department to address the most dangerous situations.

I think a good solution might be to enhance our safety services to include (MPD plus a newly created Social Safety Team) to respond in tandem more effectively to situations that demand this.

Also there are 2 problems that the city is facing, crimes and homelessness. Homelessness needs to be address at the root of the problem! What is causing people to experience homelessness on an individual level? Lack of Jobs, lack of training, drugs, trauma etc!? and focus on solving those issues first so the person can sustain a home. Thanks! Ward 9

7/7/2020 12:12:06 PM

This amendment is not just de-funding the police as has been generally communicated. This amendment potentially eliminates the police department altogether and replaces it with a vague, ill-defined department with no known standard of behavior and operation. The new proposed department might - but it might not - invest in a police department. This is unacceptably ambiguous.

There is no practical accountability of the proposed department nor it's leadership described in the amendment as exists in the Police department description ("the Mayor appoints and may discipline or discharge any employee in the department")

This item: "(a) Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. The City Council must establish, maintain, adequately fund, and consistently engage the public about a department of community safety and violence prevention, which will have responsibility for public safety services prioritizing a holistic, public health-oriented approach."

The term "adequately fund" is too vague. It needs a clear and explicit association to city population as the police item had (eg: "0.0017 employees per resident")

The proposed department has no standard for hiring or membership. The police department has clear expectations ("Each peace officer appointed in the police department must be licensed as required by law") This needs to be improved. Members of this new department must adhere to some defined standard.

Basically, this amendment is removing explicit metrics for police department membership as well as police department minimum size and replaces it with ambiguity and weak language allowing multiple interpretations. Overall, this is amendment not acceptable and needs more detail and definition.
Ward 4

7/7/2020 12:20:05 PM

Hi, I support the proposed amendment.

I think it would be a positive change to change the department from the police department to the department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. This will help change the focus of the department and culture within the department.

I think there needs to be oversight by elected officials and the public and that the City Council should have the ability to legislate policy for the department.

We have Mayors and police chiefs working to change the department for years now with no success. The current system is not working. We need to make a change and try something different.

Change is almost always scary and seems to go to fast but slowing things down will not make the change any easier or less scary for people. This change has not been rushed, people have been thinking about and discussing this long before it became the city's top priority. When it is time for change to happen we need to move forward.

Thank you for considering the amendment and I hope that we have the opportunity to vote on it as a city in November. Ward 12

7/7/2020 12:27:36 PM

This is absolutely insane. I am ardently against this proposal. If this goes through, my family and business will be moving far away from this city and state. I'm happy to take my tax payments elsewhere.

Do not put through this proposal, please. The safety of my family and business is tied to this proposal not going through. The proposed plan lacks any of the necessary details to make a difference, other than removing the police and forcing myself and my acquaintances to arm themselves and be ready for what is to come. Please do not put through this proposal. Ward 1

7/7/2020 12:29:19 PM

I believe this charter amendment is desperately needed to insure the safety of our community members and to help us build up our community by being able to invest in public safety from a prevention view point. This needs to be on the ballot in November so the people of this community can vote and voice how we think this should be done. We need to invest money, not in the police, but into our communities so everyone can have the things they need to thrive and the resources like, mental health, job placement, education, and housing so that we can have a safe community where crime can be prevented because people have the things they need and can live their best lives. Ward 10

7/7/2020 12:52:40 PM

I don't reside in Minneapolis, I used to spend money in Minneapolis.

Good afternoon, I am writing to to share my concerns with the proposal the City Council insists on going forward with. Is anyone paying attention to what is happening to Minneapolis? It is fast becoming the next Chicago and Detroit. We have great bike lanes that can be used part of the year, but no businesses to bike to during good months. Rioters are allowed to burn buildings and destroy property. Now we are going to get rid of the police? Is no one watching the rise in violent crime? A pregnant woman gets killed and the Council still wants to love the crime out of people? I come from a huge sports family: Twins, Vikings, Gophers, Timberwolves. We spent a lot of money in Minneapolis at games and restaurants. Not anymore. Outstate relatives will not attend any games without a police presence. I gave up my Wolves

season tickets for the same reason. Please give some real and hard consideration to this Utopian Vision the council has. A lot of Minneapolis is already in ruins. It will take a long time to rebuild. It will be a lot harder with people avoiding Minneapolis altogether. Thank you, [REDACTED]. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/7/2020 12:57:41 PM

I was recently a bystander to a shooting in my neighborhood. Thankfully, no one was injured.

The MPD is currently in no way handicapped or hindered by the Council or Mayor. No officers have been laid off, no cuts made to their budget that are greater than the average cuts across city departments.

Yet officers continue to behave like petulant brats, treating their duties as if they are something we should be groveling them to do, rather than something they signed up for.

The current rise in gun violence hasn't been prevented by having a militarized \$193 million/year police force.

It's time to try something different. No one needs to show up to a call about a mental health crisis or a drunk & disorderly complaint with a loaded firearm. No one needs to squeeze the breath out of a subdued man. No one needs to make my black and brown neighbors fear the people who are sworn to protect them.

There have been far too many violations of oath by officers of the MPD. Many of them caught on video.

Yet the city cannot fire them, in part because of the way the Charter ties their hands.

Nothing else has worked to hold cops in our city fully accountable.

It is well past time for this reform. Jordan Neighborhood Ward 4

7/7/2020 12:58:02 PM

While I generally support the idea of transforming public safety, the current approach is happening too fast with no clear path forward. To change the charter now without a fully, or even better idea thought out might end up leading to a piece meal approach rather than a fully realized system. I oppose the current effort to change the charter. Ward 10

7/7/2020 1:01:10 PM

Don't defund our police, give them more money and more funding and more training and more tools!!! Make them better!! Ward 11

7/7/2020 1:04:30 PM

But I live close to Minneapolis, work in Minneapolis and used to spend money in Minneapolis. As current events unfold, the case has been clearly made that Minneapolis needs more police, and RESPONSIBLE leadership. I only, at this time, step foot in Minneapolis if I need to. My favorite restaurants and entertainment venues are closed or out of business. I find it sad though, the residents in certain areas of the city are suffering from crime and violence while city council members have their security. Sounds like privilege to me. The leadership of Minneapolis has ruined a once beautiful and vibrant city. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/7/2020 1:04:39 PM

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

The council would replace the police department, currently run by the mayor, with a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention "prioritizing a holistic, public health-oriented approach," whatever that is. The council would appoint the director, who must have "non-law enforcement experience." No requirement for law enforcement experience.

So would there be any real police? Doubt it. 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. Absent a requirement for police officers, we should assume that the council majority has no commitment to keeping them.

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. Ward 13

7/7/2020 1:04:45 PM

But I live close to Minneapolis, work in Minneapolis and used to spend money in Minneapolis. As current events unfold, the case has been clearly made that Minneapolis needs more police, and RESPONSIBLE leadership. I only, at this time, step foot in Minneapolis if I need to. My favorite restaurants and entertainment venues are closed or out of business. I find it sad though, the residents in certain areas of the city are suffering from crime and violence while city council members have their security. Sounds like privilege to me. The leadership of Minneapolis has ruined a once beautiful and vibrant city. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/7/2020 1:04:56 PM

Please keep the Mpls police department. We need well trained law enforcement, not armed civilian vigilantes. We need more oversight and accountability for our police officers, but we still need police officers. We need less strong arm approaches to non violent offenders and more transparency, but we still need police. I have read that applications for gun permits has risen dramatically since the riots and demands to defund police departments. Getting rid of the police will result in more guns on the streets, not less. There will always be violent offenders and people who choose to live outside the law. Please don't make things easier for them by eliminating the police force. Ward 1

7/7/2020 1:07:41 PM

I am strongly opposed to removing the police department. I am deeply concerned with the increase in crime and its impact of public safety. Fix the Police department, do not remove it. Ward 1

7/7/2020 1:12:32 PM

I support the charter amendment. The police are an ineffective department for public safety. It is irresponsible to require a minimum of police officers. City resources are better directed toward public health interventions for public safety. These initiatives do not include police. The City needs change now. Let the voters vote.

I am a 28 y.o. white man living in the Philips neighborhood. Ward 9

7/7/2020 1:19:51 PM

I live downtown And have a office downtown the amount of lawlessness brought on by starting this ridiculous idea has made our city already unsafe and dangerous to live in areas, I haven't slept in weeks due to fireworks, gun shots and sirens. What once was a beautiful area is now a war zone. The mayor and the council has a price to pay for the fall of this city. Ward 1

7/7/2020 1:36:03 PM

It's going to be an absolute delight to see this proposal go through, then have it approved in November, just to see the subsequent burning down of Minneapolis. :)

Absolutely cannot wait for the fun and joy we're all to have next May. See all of you very soon ;) Ward 3

7/7/2020 1:36:57 PM

I would rather the City Council Charter be amended. I am begging you to not disband the Police Department. This city has been a one-party rule for several years, and YOU had the power to make changes. When 13 people are in charge, nobody is in charge. Everything I hear from the City Council sounds politically motivated. All my family wants is safe streets, clean streets, clean water, pothole-free streets, green parks, and basic city services, NOT a bunch of activists telling us what's important (ie high-density, de-humanizing policies implemented by all the like-minded city council members, or other social issues). DO YOUR JOBS instead of trying to change the whole world with your ever-powerful city council.

When you want to blame somebody for the issues in these past months, remember, it's been a one-party rule for several years, and you had all the power.

We plan on moving out of Minneapolis in the Spring because we are sick of all the do-nothing politicians in this city; please do your best not to crash this housing market before then. Thank you. Good luck.

Ward 13

7/7/2020 1:53:05 PM

I do not support the proposed changes to the Minneapolis City Charter. While I believe holistic and public health-centered emergency services would be a robust addition to law enforcement, completely doing away with the police and replacing them with "peace officers" is a drastic step that will do more harm than good. Without a law enforcement presence, the city faces the potential of societal decline and an increase in crime, which has already begun with the distrust in the police that has understandably manifested in the wake of the riots. I hope the city council and Minneapolis residents come together around a plan that would actually increase police presence and seriously reform the department and its relationship with the police union, which I view to be an essential component of the corrupt nature within Minneapolis police culture. Higher numbers of compassionate officers who

receive proper training in deescalation and humane take-down tactics and who have a primary focus on building long-term connections with the communities they serve will be of benefit. In addition, taking action on removing qualified immunity and civil asset forfeiture and demilitarizing the department will be a start to addressing the police brutality problem in this city and throughout the country. However, completely replacing police with a hodge-podge of social workers and public health advocates is a risk I do not want to take.

A brief, personal experience I had taking a bus through Camden, New Jersey in 2013 showed me just what the lack of a police presence can do to a community. Substance abuse was rampant and nearly every building on the route, both commercial and residential, was abandoned, in disrepair, or boarded up. While I don't believe Minneapolis is Camden circa 2013, I do believe removing the police department will hasten its progress towards such an extreme state. In fact, Camden has since improved their community by increasing the number of officers on their streets. There are better ways to address this problem than by removing the department completely. Ward 7

7/7/2020 2:03:10 PM

It seems clear to me that the current charter restricts the ability of the mayor or city council to provide public safety in formats that properly address the types of calls citizens are making to 911.

For example, we do not need fully trained officers with guns to file reports about damaged property, abandoned vehicles, and other crimes no longer in progress. Nor do we need officers with gun to address many mental health and chemical dependency related issues that officers are currently being dispatched to address due to a lack of specialization in these fields.

I believe the proposed charter amendment is a strong proposal that can move the city towards a more just, effective, and cost effective public safety department. I support this change. Ward 2

7/7/2020 2:05:25 PM

I would like the public safety amendment proposed by the Mpls City Council to be presented as a ballot before the voters on Nov 3, 2020. It is urgent that this not be put off. The time is now! Ward 12

7/7/2020 2:29:44 PM

TO: The Charter Commission and my Minneapolis community

I live on the intersection of 22nd Ave S and 31st Street in Minneapolis, just a block off of Lake Street, and a short walk from the 3rd Precinct Station. The actions of the MPD in my neighborhood and in the city during the two weeks following George Floyd's murder absolutely demonstrated to me the urgent need to abolish the MPD and replace it with a community-accountable Dep't of Public Safety. We need this charter amendment approved, and we need real change in our city now. During the protests on Lake Street, the people that made me feel most unsafe in my home & in my neighborhood were the MPD, not the protestors. One of my UMN classmates lost an eye to a rubber bullet while peacefully marching last month. There were countless examples of the MPD escalating or instigating violence against people, and making the situation worse. It's been four years since Philando Castile and nothing has changed. Body cams don't work. "Reform" doesn't work. Nurses, social workers, firefighters, even public school teachers intervene with potentially violent or unstable situations daily, and manage to do it without guns, without killing anyone, and with significantly more training and accountability than the police. This amendment is a necessary first step in creating true community safety. Ward 9

7/7/2020 2:30:11 PM

I support allowing the public to vote on the change to the city charter. Our community is in crisis from trauma that has been simmering for decades. This is an important first step in transformative change to an institution that has lost the trust of the majority of Minneapolis citizens. Ward 8

7/7/2020 2:35:44 PM

No to city council amendment. No to defunding police department. No to reelection of my council person. No to giving council members more power equal to the mayor. Ward 2

7/7/2020 2:38:07 PM

I believe that the people of Minneapolis should have a chance to vote on the Charter amendment THIS YEAR and decide what we want for ourselves. It's important that the amendment goes onto this year's ballot because it is a big election year and so we can expect higher-than-usual voter turnout. This means that we can capture more representative beliefs this year. I urge the Charter Commission to place this amendment on the November 2020 ballot. Thank you! Ward 2

7/7/2020 2:40:18 PM

I am strongly in favor of the amendment to the city charter. I believe that the MPD has gotten away with bad behavior for far too long and we are past the point of reform. The MPD has had an opportunity to correct wrong doing in the past, but clearly they are not invested in making large structural changes in order to actually protect all the citizens of Minneapolis. I believe that our city must build a new system that is designed to protect everyone living here no matter their race, age, gender, sexuality, mental health standing, or housing situation.

I volunteer for a mobile syringe service provider and after talking with participants it had become clear over time that the MPD is not equipped to address individuals who use drugs or individuals living outside. The city must take action to protect these members of the community and invest in longterm solutions over the penalties. Ward 7

7/7/2020 2:42:38 PM

Thank you for considering this important, essential amendment! Countless examples of disparities in how people of color are treated by police exist in our community. The relationship between Minneapolis police and communities of color (and to some extent all community members) is so strained by a history of violence and abuse of power, such that police presence heightens feelings of anxiety and concerns for personal safety. Police have also been asked to be a one-stop-shop for solving every communal disruption or disturbance, many of which they are neither trained nor qualified to manage.

We need to remove MPD as required presence in many situations. We need to scale down police presence and instead invest public funds into a new Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention. We have an opportunity to invest in resources and employ people from WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY to meet the needs of the community. Ward 11

7/7/2020 2:44:25 PM

This is a terrible idea! The only communities that could possibly do without a formal police force would be very small communities that setup an alternate means of justice. And even then, someone would have to do what police usually do, which is to keep the peace, and protect innocent people from harm. Without it, you just have vigilantes. Ward 13

7/7/2020 2:46:14 PM

Residents of Minneapolis deserve to vote on the charter language change, and as soon as possible. What we do not want, we do not want the charter commission to decide for us or drag their feet to push the decision off into the indefinite future. This is the most I've ever heard the community engaged regarding a charter amendment, so the excuse that there is not adequate time to do community engagement is hollow. We deserve an up or down vote in Nov 2020. Ward 4

7/7/2020 2:47:22 PM

Voters deserve the chance to choose how to make our city safer for everyone. I support the charter amendment being on the ballot this year, in November 2020. We want a new model of safety for Minneapolis and people want it now. Ward 2

7/7/2020 2:47:54 PM

In regard to: "(b) 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."

There is a BIG difference between "may" and "shall". Since you wrote may, there is no obligation for the council to even create this division of law enforcement services. Saying the "council may maintain a division of law..." will not work for me and is absolutely foolish for the council to agree to.

The community still wants law enforcement. It needs law enforcement. Everyday I hear of a new shooting or a robbery or see people just simply running red lights. Without a whiff of enforcement or consequences these criminals committing crimes (crimes that we as a society have deemed as such) will continue to get worse. And yes, running a red light is a crime, friends of mine have been hit while riding their bikes by these types of people. You relax enforcement and crime goes up.

Change "may" to "shall" and perhaps you won't be left with a city consisting of only criminals taking advantage and hopeful starry-eyed community members thinking a utopia is on the horizon. Many of the city's moderate or republican leaning (if they even exist now) will not want to live here. Good-bye tax base, hello organized crime and drug cartels (yes they are here too).

That all said, things have to change. And I believe this great city can do it. But you still need police and they need to be armed. You can't stop a bank robbery with a whistle. You can't raid a drug house with a radio and a baton. You can't have an effective police presence in a nightclub district with only a can of pepper spray. "Small Arms Survey stated that U.S. civilians alone account for 393 million (about 46 percent) of the worldwide total of civilian held firearms" - our friends at Wikipedia. That's 120 guns per one hundred residents. Sorry, you can't take on 2A, and you CERTAINLY can't take on all the black market guns either.

Reform the system and police methods, but keep an armed police force (whatever you try to call it). We don't live in another country, we live in the US, where we are a very special case. We can't be compared to Australia or the UK or some other country. We have a second amendment along with a lovely bill or rights (thank you for allowing me to act on one of them now).

To sum up, rewrite the section to read: "(b) Division of Law Enforcement Services. The Council SHALL 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." Thanks again. Ward 1

7/7/2020 2:50:02 PM

Dear Charter Commission,

I write to you today to ask for you to move the charter amendment as written to the ballot in November and let the people of Minneapolis weigh in on the next steps to prioritize community safety.

I am a lifelong resident of the Longfellow and Seward neighborhoods, and I am appalled, yet not surprised, at how the Minneapolis Police Department abandoned and failed to protect the people of our city during this uprising. Not only did they fail to protect people, but they actively antagonized and victimized protesters in the process. I am disgusted by the fact that over 35% of the city budget goes to pay for police, pensions and payouts for their misconduct. My tax dollars will go to pay for lawsuits based on their acts of aggression and violence during the uprising, and I do not consent to that. Police do not make people safer- resources make people safer. My neighbors and I want to take proactive steps to secure our communities for generations to come, and we need a charter amendment on the ballot this year to do that.

This is not a time for ordinary process. This is an extraordinary moment. I ask you think outside of the box, outside of the normal bureaucracy. While this may feel like a fast timeline to you, it is clear to me and so many in our city that justice cannot come soon enough- justice for George Floyd, for Jamar Clark, for Fong Lee, and for the many others who have been killed at the hands of the MPD.

A city charter as a document is only meaningful if the city itself is healthy and thriving. Right now, our city is suffering under the pandemics of systemic racism and COVID-19. We are not healthy- we are sick. The remedy is for the people of Minneapolis to weigh in and collectively chart a new path forward, one that will require time and effort beyond the charter amendment to determine.

You do not have to have it all figured out to take this next right step in moving our city forward into a safer future for all of its residents. I urge you to move this charter amendment along in the process to ensure it lands on our ballots in November, which would remove the MPD as a required city department, remove a required ration of police officers to residents, and establish a new Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention. Ward 6

7/7/2020 2:50:07 PM

My name is [REDACTED], and I write to you as a one-time potential law enforcement officer, eventual PhD drop-out, and distraught Minneapolis citizen. My background is in criminology, and while I intended to go into enforcement, the clear difference between the research-based evidence taught in my classrooms and the practices of the police officers who guest spoke there caused me to pivot away from what seemed a willfully ill-managed branch of government. The current climate seems like the natural outcome of this willful ignorance of evidence.

We cannot continue fight public health crises like racism, homelessness, drug addiction, and poverty by simply making their symptoms illegal and sending a militarized police force to deal with those who exhibit them. Public safety is first and foremost a matter of making sure needs are met; our current system simply serves to make sure those in need are not inconvenient to those who aren't, and that has made a good number of my neighbors disposable in the eyes of our police force.

The proposed changes to the charter create a public health focus that moves away from paying lip service to "safety" in order to attempt real change in how we treat our most vulnerable neighbors. I support these as a move toward holistic public safety. Ward 12

7/7/2020 2:51:03 PM

I find no need to remove the police department from the city council but do believe a single sentence could be added to the mayor's powers by allowing a majority vote of the city council to override the police union's attempt to reinstate an officer proven to be at odds with community needs. Ward 12

7/7/2020 2:51:14 PM

I strongly support this amendment to Minneapolis' City Charter! I have lived in Minneapolis for nearly 28 years. As residents of Minneapolis, it's time that we decide how we define and create public safety. We're demanding an opportunity to have a say in how we're governed, in how we keep ourselves and each other safe, in how we ensure our needs-- as a community and as individuals-- are met. It's long overdue for those who are most heavily affected by policing in Minneapolis to have their voices heard. Approve the amendment to change the charter. This amendment needs to be on the ballot, and to deny us the opportunity to vote on it would be to silence the people of Minneapolis. Ward 9

7/7/2020 2:55:47 PM

In addition to my previous comment I believe it is imperative that any such change to the city charter, particularly one as heated as this, be done by public referendum. Ward 12

7/7/2020 2:59:05 PM

Increased policing hasn't resulted in a safer community. Police departments don't need to be equipped with military equipment. Money sent to the department can be better used towards schooling, housing, health care (including mental health), which are better solutions to crime prevention. I am for changing the charter Ward 9

7/7/2020 3:00:40 PM

I support this amendment to our city charter. The police force needs to be dissolved, disarmed and defunded. What I don't see in these changes are specifics on what this community safety program will do and what their scope will be; and I don't see details on the reallocation of police funding towards services and programs that build real community safety (housing, food security, counseling and social services, schools, etc.) I would like to see more of this information folded into these changes to the city charter as well - but this is a step in the right direction. Thank you for your service to our city. Ward 9

7/7/2020 3:02:10 PM

Hello, My name is [REDACTED]; I am a resident of Ward 9, writing to ask the Charter Commission to approve the proposed amendment to the City Charter to create a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and to remove the Minneapolis Police Department from the Charter. I believe it is extremely important that voters have the opportunity to vote on this amendment in November 2020 because Minneapolis residents are ready to create alternatives to keep our communities safe. We have seen this in the way that we created our own neighborhood safety watches, fire brigades, mutual aid systems at encampments for people without homes, and more. We are enacting the world we want to see, and our elected officials have the opportunity to come along with us.

The city has spoken, and voters deserve a 2020 ballot that responds to our asks. The murder of George Floyd has shown us that the Minneapolis police does not protect us and that it murders our Black and Brown citizens. The required ratio of police to citizens has not kept us safe; it has only criminalized and brutalized communities of color. It is time for Minneapolis to create alternatives to our policing system that allow for all people in our city to be safe. We have the opportunity to lead the way for the nation

and to change our county's legacy of violence. I ask that the Charter Commission approve this amendment as written by August 2020 so that the amendment appears on the November 2020 ballot.

Thank you, Ward 9

7/7/2020 3:03:10 PM

Minneapolis Charter Commission,

I am urging you to commit the the restructuring of our community safety services by dismantling the police. By dismantling the police, we can create a blank canvas to instate a public safety program that approaches from an empathetic place.

Nearly 2 centuries of punitive justice has created insurmountably flawed structures that need to be rebuilt from the ground up. From the overfunded, militarized police, to revolving-door, profiteering prison systems.

The people who are dealing with mental issues, poverty, addiction, homelessness, etc deserve to be treated with dignity and kindness. Rather than offering them precarious, predatory predicaments destined for failure, offer them opportunity to prosper and become a gleeful participant in society.

We will always need protection from extreme violence, but we cannot use extreme violence to solve our problems. A step towards an empathetic future begins, in Minneapolis, within the charter.

Please, remove the Minneapolis Police Department as a required city department and make police optional in our city.

Remove a required ratio of police officers to Minneapolis residents so we can scale back police by a meaningful degree.

Establish a new Department of Public Safety and Violence Production that uses proven community safety strategies and is shaped by community. Ward 9

7/7/2020 3:18:08 PM

My name is [REDACTED], and I'm a citizen of Minneapolis. I support the charter amendment, and support it being placed on the 2020 ballot. Doing anything else, in response to a tragic murder, a global uprising, and a clear shift in public opinion in Minneapolis, would be anti-democratic. The job of the charter commission is to determine whether a referendum is legally proper (it certainly is in this case) and to fix language for the ballot - not to use bureaucratic levers to prevent the will of the city council and the citizenry of the city from being enacted at the ballot box. I look forward to seeing the amendment on the ballot in November. Ward 10

7/7/2020 3:25:14 PM

Not supporting this change to the charter! Also not supporting my council member for voting for change! Will make sure he is voted out next time if he runs! Ward 3

7/7/2020 3:29:33 PM

I approve of the change.

Taking a wholistic approach in times of crisis or concern for the welfare of yourself and others can take many different approaches.

What is not working is the aggressive and controlling approach law enforcement takes on citizens.

We're losing respect and faith in the police department. I'm a white resident of 20+ years near downtown Minneapolis and I've stopped calling 911 when I see someone passed out in public or when a car pulls over in front of my house and shoots up. I want those people to get help and I no longer think the police are helping them.

I don't want to cause more harm. Ward 3

7/7/2020 3:32:51 PM

This charter is at best gobbledygook garnished with indecipherable legalese. The kindest description would be half-cocked. I shudder to see who would be deemed qualified for this non-law enforcement community safety position. If the mayor and city council are the hiring panel this action seems doomed to fail. Ward 11

7/7/2020 3:34:35 PM

This is moving too fast. While there is need for safety services reform, the effort to rush it through diminishes the chance for enduring reform. Its defeat this fall will only make thoughtful reform more difficult. Ward 5

7/7/2020 3:35:41 PM

I urge you to let the residents of Minneapolis choose to amend the charter up or down. Please do not undervalue the lives that have been lost to get us to this pivotal place in our city's history. Those calling for more "reform" are not the ones who continue to experience over policing. Attempts to "reform" have and will continue to fail, and people continue to die as a result of continuing failed strategies. The voters elected the council members who unanimously sent this to you, and the Voters Need to be the ones to decide on it's passage. Let Us Choose. Thank you. Ward 1

7/7/2020 3:38:53 PM

I think this is a bad idea, and I am against removal of the PD from the charter. I live in Roseville, so I'm close to Minneapolis and Roseville arrests people from Minneapolis quite often.

At most, an amendment should add a new department and reduce funding to the PD and direct it to the new department. This seems like a badly written amendment. Then trial the new Dept for a few years, so there is not a gap in service. Then, after the new gap is closed, and the new department is working, then try another amendment to remove the Police.

But now is a bad time to remove the MPD from the charter, because that means they could be funded to \$0 right away, and that means no police. That means you'll see anarchy and violence in the power vacuum created (See Libya or the CHAZ/CHOP or even our own Third Precinct building - as soon as the police were pulled out the building was burned). Who wants to live in a community where there is no rule of law, and there is anarchy in the streets? Low income and marginalized communities will be the hardest hit. While those communities are the ones also hardest hit by police violence, they're also the

ones hit by community violence the hardest. Reform has been working for 50 years, and right now Minneapolis PD has its first black/hispanic chief, and he is trusted by the community and the people. Now is not the time to replace him. Now is the time to work with him.

Marginalized and low income communities won't be able to afford private security like members of the city council. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/7/2020 3:42:19 PM

I support this proposed charter chsnge I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/7/2020 3:43:59 PM

I am old, white, and male, living in North Minneapolis near 26th and Morgan. I've been shot at/towards in my neighborhood. I have bullet holes in my parked car from a previous gunfight in front of my house (from the previous crack house outside my bedroom window). I have a new crack house next door to me (outside my kitchen window). I am STRONGLY in favor of defunding the police, restructuring the Minneapolis charter to make future law enforcement subject to a Community Safety officer, and using that repurposed money to fund neighborhood programs that ACTUALLY help. I want major changes to policing and community service so that distressed people here get the appropriate aid they need, and all of us get the peace that we deserve in my neighborhood. Ward 5

7/7/2020 3:51:29 PM

We NEED MORE Police and they NEED MORE training. Also, bad cops on the force should not be protected and should be put under review for questionable performance in an efficient effective process much sooner.

Lastly, cost, cost, cost - our tax rate is one of the highest in the nation! Adding another department that is very much an experiment, is highly suspect and has \$\$\$ signs written all over it. Ward 11

7/7/2020 3:58:01 PM

I'm in full support of the proposed amendment. Ward 12

7/7/2020 4:02:36 PM

Dear City Council members,

I'm writing to ask that the City Council maintain their commitment to completely defund and decommission the Minneapolis Police Department. As a young person who has firsthand seen the emotional volatility and reactivity of our city's police officers, I truly believe they are not part of a safe community. Police systems were founded to keep our Black brothers and sisters in check and to oppress them, and there is no reform that can ever fix the brokenness of our police systems.

That said, I fully support that a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention is prepared and set up to replace the MPD as soon as possible, along with removing the Charter requirement for a minimum number of city police. Our communities need unbiased safety organizations that strive to be anti-racist and provide safe help for all, and no police system in the history of our country has ever come close to meeting these standards for human rights (yes, striving to be anti-racist is striving for better human rights). Not only would this benefit the physical and mental well-being of all people in our community, but it would free up millions of dollars to be allocated towards mental health programs, education, and affordable housing.

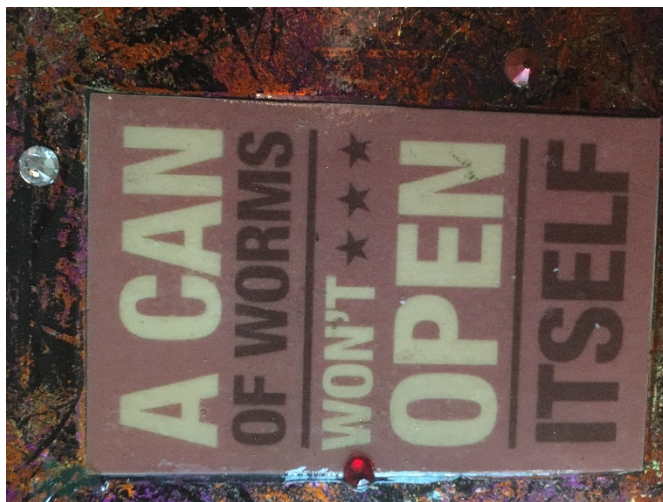
The sooner we defund the police, the sooner we can help Black and Indigenous community members start healing from all the generational trauma to which our police systems have greatly contributed. Although seen by many as a radical change, it is one that's crucial to becoming the liberal, culturally progressive city that many Minnesotans proudly call home.

Please don't waver on your commitment to defund the police - although much of the noise following George Floyd's murder has died down, our desire and need to create safer communities will not.

Thank you, Ward 7

7/7/2020 4:06:13 PM

I think the proposed amendment is very poorly written and does not adequately address key points such as funding and the job description of the proposed new position. The taxpayers need a better understanding of the experience required for the position when the amendment makes reference to "public health and or restorative justice approaches" - what does this mean? We already have Civil Rights Department and Health Department. Seems like we have a duplication of services with the proposed Department of Community Safety and Violence Protection. Of course the taxpayers are paying for this. I think more time is needed before the city council takes action on the amendment. Hopefully by that time Lisa Bender will be gone. Ward 5



7/7/2020 4:06:17 PM

I am extremely disappointed that this includes the use of licensed law officers. MPD has abdicated all authority and responsibility. We deserve something else entirely. Ward 9

7/7/2020 4:09:58 PM

I am a regular visitor to the area for business. If you remove the police I will not visit for any reason and will not invest in anything in the city. Ward 5

7/7/2020 4:11:26 PM

I support the proposed amendment to the City Charter to be referred to voters in November. For too long, our police department has done its job as designed: to protect white property owners while unjustly targeting black and brown communities. It's time for our collective community to redesign community safety that protects ALL RESIDENTS of our city. Ward 1

7/7/2020 4:12:15 PM

To whom it may concern,

we have a property in Dinkytown in Marcy Holms area.

I have about 6-7 encounters with Minneapolis police officers, all are positive experiences. In one occasion, the police officer helped recover my stolen item in a car vandalism incident. In another occasion, the police officer responded to our call and helped us arrest a drunk guy who knocked our door at midnight, when our 2 yo child is sleeping in the house. The police did many good things for us, without them, who else will do it as efficiently and professionally? The few officers who did wrong couldn't erase the good work that the majority of the police force did.

Also, without police officers, crimes will increase, the house value will decrease in Minneapolis, people will move to neighborhoods with police officers to raise their family and pay their property taxes, only those poor people will remain and suffer the consequences of increased crime rate and decreased real estate value in Minneapolis. We should improve the police force, instead of abolish them. Ward 3

7/7/2020 4:20:43 PM

It's time for a change. Disband the police department and start over. When the government (agencies) kill their own citizens, it's time for a revolution. In 1775-76, when the American colonists realized that their governing body (the English) was violently oppressing them, violently enforcing their laws on them, without representation, they started the revolution. Today, black and brown citizens have no voice, in effect, no representation, and the police are killing them -- killing their own citizens. It's time for a change. Ward 1

7/7/2020 4:24:14 PM

I love the idea of changing the charter but I am not for it. The city council and the organizations for it like Black Visions have not come up with a specific safety plan that is ready to go once the police force is partially defunded. Citizens need to know the plan. I would vote for them if this was proposed, if I knew what social service agencies were taking over exactly what kind of crisis issues. I want COPE to take over all Wellness checks for mental health but so far nothing like this has been mentioned. So, unfortunately, I am not in favor of changing the Charter at this time. Ward 1

7/7/2020 4:27:09 PM

I support the proposed amendment's inclusion on the November 2020 ballot in Minneapolis. My place of worship is in the 5th ward, and I've heard many stories of how the current MPD is not properly serving the community of North Minneapolis. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/7/2020 4:29:22 PM

My family and I will not return to Minneapolis to shop or spend money if the Minneapolis Police Department is defunded or removed. I will not put them in that kind of danger and we will spend our money elsewhere. I pray cooler heads prevail. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/7/2020 4:32:27 PM

I strongly support the proposed amendment, submitted by the City Council, that would remove the Police Department from the charter and add a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. I urge the commission to move this amendment forward and give the citizens of Minneapolis the opportunity to vote on it in this November's election. Ward 12

7/7/2020 4:38:52 PM

Hi, I believe it is important to give residents of Minneapolis an opportunity to vote on the proposed charter amendment. It is important that this be done this year, since it is a presidential election year and we expect high voter turnout. Therefore, the vote this year will most likely be a better representation of public opinion. The charter commission should let the voices of the residents of Minneapolis be heard through a vote. Ward 2

7/7/2020 4:42:38 PM

I feel that our community has already better responded to public safety crisis than the MPD. As a teacher and resident in this ward, I would like to see more funding put into education of our youth and less policing of them. Please change the charter to say that the MPD is NOT a required city department and make it possible for the ratio of police officers to citizens be smaller so that we can focus on services that HELP our community, not hurt it Ward 8

7/7/2020 4:45:42 PM

Please change the Charter so that the people of Minneapolis can vote on the future of policing in our city. The redistribution of money that currently goes towards the police department has so much potential to improve the quality of life for so many. A Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department could more specifically and appropriately handle emergencies, and could ensure that the racism that is deeply imbedded in our current system is intentionally prevented. I have found myself hesitant to call the police. I've needed support in deescalating situations, and all too often I've feared that the presence of police would have the opposite effect. When people of color have been involved in those situations I have been even less able to trust that police would help the situation, so I haven't called them. The people of Minneapolis deserve the right to vote on the future of what their safety looks like, and the charter must change quickly, so that we can get this issue on the ballot for November 2020. Ward 2

7/7/2020 4:51:25 PM

Hello, In listening to your workgroup meeting, I am worried to hear that:

1) Commissioners are debating models for how the police can be reformed. The scope of the decision is whether a proposed department change is an appropriate action for the charter. I don't want a police department. Police are not "safety" for my community and changing policing means departmental change, which is a charter issue.

2) Commissioners are saying that the city council cheated the people out of a first public meeting. I would urge the commissioners that weeks of rioting with *thousands* of community members was the people of Minneapolis having a first public meeting. I believe the most common sentiment of the people's meeting was "F* 12" , which roughly translates to "we don't want police"

The people of Minneapolis took to the streets to demand change *now*, and this amendment is a start. This is clearly a charter issue, please act within the scope of the commission and let voters decide. Ward 9

7/7/2020 5:02:54 PM

As a resident of Ward 9, I desire to see the Minneapolis Police Department defunded and for the charter to be amended to allow for less policing (really, none at all) and greater ability for our communities to create true public safety. Ward 9

7/7/2020 5:07:39 PM

I believe the time is now to rethink and restructure how Minneapolis serves its community through city services. We spend entirely too much money on poorly trained police officers who in aggregate have the wrong attitudes and are not held accountable. I don't know what the end result will look like but I know the first step is to amend the charter!

#Change the Charter. Vote to change the charter. Amend the charter. Ward 13

7/7/2020 5:09:06 PM

I fully support the proposal to amend the City Charter to create a new Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department in place of the current Police Department. I do have one question, however: I have read the proposed changes and it is not clear to me where duties would fall regarding investigation and solving of crimes already committed. This is clearly not "prevention." Would that fall under the new Division of Law Enforcement, and if so, maybe the duties of that division should be clarified in the Charter? Ward 13

7/7/2020 5:15:35 PM

Please consider to the health and overall well-being of our city before making this ridiculous change. Education and economic opportunity for all will do much more to eliminate systematic racism than a knee-jerk grandstanding political stunt. Of course the politicians who are supporting this proposal lack any meaningful real-world business experience and don't seem to have a clue about what it actually takes to build a strong community. Sadly, law-abiding tax-paying citizens and business owners of all ethnicities would suffer most if this ever actually happened. Ward 5

7/7/2020 5:19:45 PM

While I support deep reforms of the police department and criminal justice system, I do not support removal of the police department from the city's charter. The process to date has been badly

managed and shockingly light on details, all while words like "dismantle" are tossed about seemingly lightheartedly. My sincere hope is city council leadership will focus on engaging and communicating clearly to the citizens of Minneapolis, versus grandstanding on social media and re-tweeting from an echo chamber. We want criminal justice reform to ensure policing and public safety make measurable improvements in equity and fairness. Ward 3

7/7/2020 5:27:24 PM

I would like the opportunity to vote on this in November and the charter commission should not stand in the way of this. Ward 7

7/7/2020 5:38:59 PM

We can not let this moment pass to rethink and restructure how Minneapolis serves its community through city services. We spend entirely too much money on poorly trained police officers who in aggregate have the wrong attitudes and are not held accountable. We need to shift money from policing to other services that actually will help citizens with problems. Removing responsibilities from police officers and narrowing their scope will allow the building of other services like mental health and others to start reducing crime by helping with the roots of some of the problems. This is the first step is to amend the charter!

#Change the Charter. Vote to change the charter. Ward 13

7/7/2020 5:41:21 PM

As an employee in Ward 7 I strongly disagree with the de-funding of The Minneapolis Police Force. Not only for the safety of Minneapolis residents and employees but for business. As someone who works with a multitude of business owners in Minneapolis, they are scared. Scared to invest in their businesses as the very thought of defunding police has created so much uncertainty.

Police were already overworked before COVID and the recent proposals to defund them has made their jobs even more difficult. Not responding to calls quickly by businesses was starting become commonplace before all of this. Now it is much much worse.

Lenders are scared to lend to business owners in Minneapolis and so costs are going up, investors are afraid to invest in new development so they are not moving forward, insurance companies are hesitant to insure property in Minneapolis which is increasing costs on already struggling business owners.

I am personally scared to walk on the streets of Downtown Minneapolis. In addition to issues with crime, on a personal note I attended an Improv class at the local theater on Hennepin. The owner last fall had to lock the doors between physically allowing each Improv student in the doors because it has become so unsafe. People threatened to beat me up as I walked by them on the Hennepin sidewalk just just because they can and wanted to scare me.

Business and individuals are having to deal with the City Council forcing more regulations on landlords that indirectly hurts tenants and is driving buyers away from investing in Minneapolis. It is hurting the small investors because they cannot deal with the paperwork Minneapolis is imposing on ownership of investment properties.

We need more police on the force so that they have enough time to get involved with their communities, not less, not just show up when there is domestic abuse and shots fired. They are overworked and underpaid. The City Council is not in tune with the needs of their city. If they were they would know all of this by know which is really sad. Ward 7

7/7/2020 5:42:54 PM

Let the people of the community decide their own safety. Police reform is needed ard 1

7/7/2020 5:48:35 PM

Why does section 7.3(b) say “The council MAY maintain a division of law enforcement services...”? Is it the intent of the council to not use law enforcement officers if they don’t want to? Have you seen the shelves of Fleet Farm, Cabela’s, or any gun shop in the area? Guns and ammunition are out of stock. Why You might ask? Because people are beginning to think they must be their own first responder. Be prepared to have a much more armed Minneapolis without a police presence. Because good citizens of Minneapolis will protect themselves when the city fails to. There are violent crimes that will continue to happen if you decide you ‘might’ not have to have law enforcement. Change ‘may’ to will or shall or must or something that guarantees a police force. Reform the police, do not abolish them.

Address the issues of minor crimes and the injustices that happen, but do not allow people to get their feet in the door for the abolition of police by saying “may.” We are FAR from that utopia. We all want it, but it isn’t here yet! Ward 1

7/7/2020 5:49:27 PM

Hello, 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. Ward 12

7/7/2020 5:51:38 PM

As a lifelong resident of South Minneapolis I oppose the Public Safety Charter Amendment. Ward 11

7/7/2020 6:00:27 PM

Briefly I just want to say thank you for taking this on but only if we advance legislation to advance a change to the charter. The way we've approached policing simply isn't working and the police have lost the benefit of a doubt. Honestly I don't want their input at all until after a new department is established. But if nothing else we need to make a change or we'll just be doing the same thing again in a few years. More importantly we need to make a change because it's right and victims of this corrupt police department deserve some form of justice. Ward 3

7/7/2020 6:09:20 PM

Minneapolis Police need to be done. While we still need public safety and services, reframing that department and role is necessary. Every interaction I, a white goody two shoes woman, have had or witnessed with Minneapolis Police has been inappropriate. Either excessive use of force, racial profiling, ineffective, or just bad, lazy policing without taking the time or effort to figure out what happened. We need public safety that is connected to and run by the community and responds to the root causes of behavior and people's needs. Ward 3

7/7/2020 6:10:54 PM

I do NOT support the removal of the police force. There needs to be a good plan in place, with milestones that can be met every 3 months in order to dial back the current police force. But a removal as it stands currently is just not acceptable, especially with the daily shootings and robberies happening all over the city. Ward 8

7/7/2020 6:28:08 PM

Hello, I am writing in support of placing the charter amendment on the ballot this year, as written. As your constituent, I ask that you approve the amendment. Minneapolis must lead the way in creating a new form of public safety based on addressing the roots of crime rather than relying on a violent, undertrained police force that in reality makes our city less safe. Ward 2

7/7/2020 6:30:38 PM

I support the city council in their attempts to change the city charter. As long as MPD exists, they'll elect union reps like Bob Kroll. As long as union reps like Bob Kroll are in charge, meaningful change is impossible. As long as meaningful change is impossible, MPD will continue to be racist and kill Black people. Changing the charter is an obvious first step. Ward 6

7/7/2020 6:32:37 PM

You people are crazy. You need police to address gang culture, and have zero tolerance for gun crime. So glad I moved Out of Minneapolis. Ward 7

7/7/2020 6:33:15 PM

I support this Charter amendment that looks to resources outside of the police force to support the needs of our community. As a white woman, I know that the police treat me differently than they do BIPOC members of my community. As someone with reliable healthcare and access to mental health services, I know that the police treats me differently than those who do not have access and have

experienced crises where police responded first. I look forward to a time in our city when every one of my neighbors can receive appropriate support when they need it. This amendment is one step towards greater justice. Ward 10

7/7/2020 6:36:12 PM

I am a resident of Minneapolis and I am STRONGLY in favor of the proposed Charter amendment to create a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police Department from the Charter. People in Minneapolis have taken to the streets this year to demand change NOW and the Charter Commission should not stall the process of enacting this crucial change. The people deserve to have their voices heard and they have a right to choose to approve or reject this proposed amendment, which is why I believe it should be put on the November 3rd ballot. We need a new model of building safety in our community and justice cannot wait another year. Please give voters a chance to choose. Ward 9

7/7/2020 6:39:03 PM

Completely against removing the police department structure in Minneapolis. City Council Plan is nonexistent detailing how the new structure would work. Let's see a plan first!

7/7/2020 6:41:08 PM

I am no big fan of the police in general, let alone the cops in this city, but I do not have faith in the current Council to take this on. Let's take some time and discuss what can be done. Next year, we vote this batch out, and we start putting ideas into practice. Should a charter change be needed, let's include it on the ballot as part of an overall plan. As things stand, we're voting for a community safety department, and we'll find out later what that means. So let me get this straight — You want me to volunteer, and I'll find out later what I volunteered for? Nice try, but I was in uniform, and I've been burned by that before! Ward 9

7/7/2020 6:45:45 PM

City council should pass a charter that allows for a future with no police. The city of Minneapolis needs services that actually provide safety and peace to the community. We do not need police. We need crisis counselor, trauma informed therapist, cultural trained de-escalation facilitators. Ward 8

7/7/2020 7:00:52 PM

I support the approval of the charter amendment that would remove the MPD as a required city department and make police optional. The actions of the police signal that they are not present to protect the lives and safety of all. The removal of the requirement would allow a better system, which would be rooted in current day knowledge, ideals, and needs, to develop. In addition, the removal of the ratio of police to population would help begin the transition to a smaller police force which would free up funding to go to areas such as schools and community-driven solutions to policing. I believe these items would do more to protect the communities in Minneapolis. The proposed Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention would also be a great destination for the former police funding. This department would allow residents greater control to shape the policies that impact them directly which is important for implementing policies that actually benefit communities. The police are not benefitting all people, so why keep using that system? This charter amendment would be an important step in moving towards a local government that would protect and support everyone in its boundaries. Ward 7

7/7/2020 7:00:58 PM

Please vote yes to changing the charter and sending it from the Charter Commission back to the mayor and city council to put it on the ballot this November to let the community decide. It is important that the charter amendment be on the ballot this year and we don't wait. The time is now for change so let's get this debate put up for vote and let the community vote on the direction on our city. Ward 7

7/7/2020 7:02:21 PM

Please vote yes to get this back on the ballot now. There has never been a more significant time to fight for your community and constituents. Thank you. Ward 7

7/7/2020 7:09:59 PM

I support this measure to revise the amendment. Police reform has obviously not worked. As a Minneapolis tax-payer, I expect my money to be used to protect the citizens of Minneapolis, not to target and oppress its most vulnerable community members. As a white person, the current police force makes me feel unsafe in my community. There must be a better way to have actual peace in this city, and this is the beginning of finding that path. Ward 7

7/7/2020 7:12:55 PM

I strongly support the amendment to the city of Minneapolis charter. I was a resident of Minneapolis for 8 years and I hope to live there again someday. This amendment will increase pride in our city and be a critical step in honoring the experience of people of color and listening to their needs as a community that has been oppressed by police for generations. My husband has had interactions with MPD involving people of color that have been dismissive and rude toward the person of color who was experiencing mental health issues and homelessness. It is time for a new system that is not tied up in "law enforcement". The culture of mpd is oppressive to people of color and must be changed. Thank you for supporting this amendment and I urge you to see it through. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/7/2020 7:21:25 PM

Fantastic! I love the changes. Mayor not having total control of the police, only being able to nominate, not appoint the director, putting law enforcement under the Dept of Safety... all great things!!! Keep moving, you got my vote. Ward 2

7/7/2020 7:22:25 PM

I do not support a charter amendment. Without a properly funded police department, there will be lawlessness and anarchy. It is already happening. I will never support anarchy and lawlessness. The MPD needs reformed, not abolished, defunded, etc. A separate department should be created for violence prevention. Instead of outrageous salaries and private security details for council members, that money must go towards finding a new department of violence prevention and mental healthcare. Ward 10

7/7/2020 7:22:40 PM

I am a resident in Ward 11. In the last month we've seen buildings to the ground just down the street from my home which has not happened in the 20 years I've lived here, more shootings in uptown than I can recall in 20 years, cars doing donuts in the middle of Lake Street at night, and uptown businesses closing due to the lack of safety and lack of police protection. We have completely lost our community and sense of safety. The notion of disbanding the police department and having mental health responders address tense situations is ludicrous. It is conceivable that a collaboration of mental health

responders with police, along with better training and accountability of police, is conceivable. But the actions of our city council and mayor have given criminals a license to act in criminal ways. We need order with police protection. Breaking the union contract in the interest of public safety may address the concerns of lack of accountability without jeopardizing the health and safety of Minneapolis residents. Similarly, changing the charter to create more oversight by the city council may similarly be possible without disbanding the police department. Our residents deserve safety and that is not being addressed or provided. Ward 11

7/7/2020 7:29:07 PM

To whom it may concern: I'm not a resident of Minneapolis. I live in a suburb just to the south. My family and I spent a lot of time there, though. Concerts, restaurants, games, ballets.

There is a distinct correlation between the increase in crime and violence and the tearing down of the department. If the plan to defund and dismantle the Minneapolis PD passes, we will no longer step foot in Minneapolis. And you might as well kiss any major event goodbye. While you're at it, you should also say goodbye to Gov. Walz, Mayor Frey and the entire city council. Do you not see the hypocrisy of the members wanting private security yet taking that away from the general public?! It's utterly ridiculous. There isn't a social worker, mental health expert, EMS, etc that will even come near a scene if not first cleared by the PD. How many more innocent lives will have to be lost before you feel like Mr. Floyd's death is avenged? Have you seen your city at 3 in the morning? It's out of control. You've become a laughing stock to the entire nation.

I hope you take the time to consider your options based on logic...not emotion. This plan is not well thought out and will 100% backfire. Thank you. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/7/2020 7:48:21 PM

I urge the charter commission to approve the proposal by or before August 21, 2020. We have seen time and time again, that MPD does not protect those whom they are supposed to serve. We cannot wait and watch more lives be brutalized or lost at the hands of the police and the systems that uphold their power.

The city is in a unique position to become a national leader in the conversation around community care and community investment. We must not let this moment pass without action. Ward 5

7/7/2020 7:49:59 PM

After graduating college my dream was to land a job in downtown Minneapolis and experience city life as I have grown up in central MN and went to college in a city of 60k people. I moved to Loring Park towards the end of 2019 and landed my dream job downtown in February. I have loved Minneapolis and everything was going amazingly even with difficulties we have all faced through the pandemic. That all changed as of May 28, in an area where I used to have no worries walking through and being in I now feel unsafe as to even wear headphones while being outside or going for leisurely walks. Following Minneapolis police scanner facebook pages is nothing short of terrifying. There are multiple violent assaults, stabbings, and shootings a day all throughout the city in a capacity which dwarfed the activity prior to the night the 3rd precinct burned down. I now no longer feel safe living in Minneapolis, I have worked for the last 5 years dreaming of living in and loving Minneapolis. The dream of living in a safe, economically bustling city has dissipated, because that is not what Minneapolis is in its state since May 28. There are many violent groups and individuals looking to cause nothing but harm and pain for their own personal gain all throughout Minneapolis. With the shrinking of the police force by officers

uninterested in putting their lives on the line to be disrespected, these violent people and entities have been allowed to capitalize on a state of vulnerability within the city's safety and enforcement structure. We need increased police presence, not disbandment. If the city of Minneapolis allows its police department to be disbanded, I, along with like minded educated people will be leaving the city at first opportunity. With no police the city will not foster growth, no economic growth, no personal developmental growth, and no community growth. Disbanding the police department is a death sentence to the future of the city of Minneapolis. Ward 7

7/7/2020 7:52:19 PM

It is insane to think about getting rid of our Police Department. As a victim of two garage break-ins and a purse snatch I do not agree with disbanding or defunding the police. If this ever makes it on a vote in November I know everyone in my neighborhood will vote NO. After the protests began and looting and burning our block had to protect our area. That caused sleepless nights. I live in HPDL neighborhood. I am contacting my neighbors about this comment section and you'll be hearing from them! We will also vote out our city council man if he supports getting rid of the police! Ward 11

7/7/2020 7:53:26 PM

In 2013, not long after I moved to ward 10 from ward 12, Police pursued 22 year old Terrence Franklin to a basement of a house less than a mile from my apartment, where they shot him to death. Other responding officers, speeding to the scene hit and killed motorcyclist Ivan Romero-Olivares (also less than a mile from my apartment) at 26th & Blaisdell.

This incident gave me a strong sense that the police were not a positive force for safety in my neighborhood, and in the city in general. I was shocked that these unjust deaths could be effected by the police so quickly, erratically, and without purpose. How could anyone think such a violent, erratic set of city employees make us safe? I do not think the officers who killed Mr. Franklin were held accountable in any way.

I support the charter amendment. Why require a minimum number of any type of city employee if they can kill with impunity in the normal course of executing their purported responsibilities? Ward 10

7/7/2020 7:55:08 PM

The proposed 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 for reform of the police department—BUT NOT THIS LANGUAGE. Ward 10

7/7/2020 7:58:56 PM

Dear city council members and Mayor Jacob Frey,

I am writing today to register my support for changing the city charter to remove the police department and re-invest the money in communities.

The MPD have demonstrated time and time again that they will not change their behavior no matter how much reform we force them to undergo, and they are at this point, a financial and moral liability to the city.

I also find it anti-democratic that, due to the structure and culture of the police department, Bob Kroll, an avowed racist who does not live in Minneapolis, is one of the most powerful people in the city even though he is neither elected by people who live here nor held accountable to them. Ward 10

7/7/2020 8:02:09 PM

I strongly oppose the charter amendment. The mayor should have complete control as is currently written. Keep 7.3 a through c.

Crime has increased since the "dismantling" was proposed. There needs to be an entity like the police department that can provide security for residents. That does not mean that you can't also have social workers and other people that can provide assistance.

I am considering moving out of Minneapolis due to this amendment and the increase in crime. Ward 7

7/7/2020 8:23:29 PM

I have lived in Northeast Minneapolis for over 10 years, and attended the University of Minnesota before that. I love Minneapolis. I live, work, and attend church in the city. Our great park system, sporting events, and breweries make this a vibrant place to live. I was deeply saddened to see George Floyd murdered by a man wearing a uniform that should represent a trusted helper, and then deeply saddened to see my city burn down a few days later.

I am concerned about the proposal to come out of the city council to vaguely transform the police department, and I urge you to oppose. The police department clearly needs reforms that should be investigated. By all media accounts, Chauvin should have been removed as a police officer long ago, so the role of the union protecting bad cops should be investigated. I think other measures like better training should be investigated as well. I do not have all the answers. I do know, however, what happens when a city has no effective police. It looks like the riots of the last month. We saw grocery stores and pharmacies burn down, many of which were patronized by the most vulnerable among us with limited transportation. We saw small businesses all along Lake Street, many of which were already struggling due to the pandemic, destroyed. Many of those businesses are owned by and serve the minority and immigrant communities, the very communities this proposal is supposedly helping. We need to be able to vote on concrete proposals, not vague generalities rushed through in the heat of emotion.

My lease is coming up for renewal soon, and I am strongly considering whether to remain a resident of Minneapolis. If the proposal to disband the police goes through, I will likely relocate out of the city. I'm sure I'm not alone in this consideration. I fear a city without police will see a dramatic loss of people and businesses, which would not only hollow out the great culture of this city, but will lead to a further loss of essential services for those least able to leave through both a loss of businesses and a loss of tax base. Ward 1

7/7/2020 8:30:26 PM

I am a strong supporter of the proposed amendment to the charter to remove the Minneapolis Police Department from the city charter. The police make me feel less safe in my neighborhood (Phillips) and I do not want them to be a required part of our city. The people of Minneapolis should get to vote on this issue. Thank you! Ward 9

7/7/2020 8:36:13 PM

History has shown that citizens of Minneapolis have tried many times to hold police accountable, but failed within the system we have as it stands.

Moving forward with this, would allow the community to talk through real, sustainable, meaningful change in how we keep our communities safe. MPD has proven that there's no accountability for when they do harm. The status quo is not good though, and we should strive for better, together.

I support the amendment and urge our leaders to consider. Ward 9

7/7/2020 8:38:37 PM

I urge Minneapolis to remove the police department from the city charter. I love this city. I love living here.

Black members of our community deserve to be safe here and not worry about facing discrimination, abuse, and/or death from the police. The police do not keep our community safe. Ward 4

7/7/2020 8:39:37 PM

The amount of brutality and violence committed by our police department is horrifying, especially in their egregiously racist acts towards Black and Indigenous populations. We should not have this violent terroristic group aka the Minneapolis police department protected by the city charter and city charter must remove the Charter requirement for the minimum amount of police officers. Rather, we as a city must eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Police do not have a place in our communities any longer. The city has spoken and we deserve to speak again by voting on the charter. It respects our democratic right to determine a city that is truly embracing justice for all. Ward 6

7/7/2020 8:41:00 PM

I am writing in support of this charter amendment being on the ballot this Fall. This amendment relates to the biggest ever news story coming out of Minneapolis and comes at a time when this city and the country are ready for transformational change. Despite it being a quick turn around for the commission to vote to put this on the ballot, this amendment is not a new idea. The current council has already tried a similar amendment in recent years. Decades of community organizing has prepared residents for the ability to vote on this type of amendment. This is one of the biggest, most important policy actions the Council and Commission can make and the whole city is watching. We need this amendment on the ballot so our residents can decide for themselves if they want to be able to hold their police by way of their councilmembers accountable, rather than unilateral decision making by the Mayor with no transparency. Residents need to be able to vote on this amendment, so they can have a say in how our communities are kept safe, how they're policed, and the policies that dictate these things. This amendment will not change things overnight, but it will give the Council the power to begin to make powerful reforms that make our city a better place. The people of Minneapolis deserve the right to decide if that's something they want or not. Ward 1

7/7/2020 8:49:41 PM

I am in favor of changing the charter and allowing the public to vote on it this November. Now is not the time to put things off and I hope that you will allow this be taken to a vote. The protests showed us the urgency that is felt in our communities and while I know this process is being rushed due to timing with the election, it is just the first step to allow us to move forward. Thank you Ward 5

7/7/2020 9:06:42 PM

Hello, I am a resident of the Longfellow neighborhood. I'm requesting a speedy review of this amendment so that it can be added to the November ballot for referendum. I believe the residents of Minneapolis have a right to weigh in on whether or not to establish a new public safety department or to keep the MPD. Thanks for your consideration. Ward 2

7/7/2020 9:11:29 PM

If you would have chose better more accurate less divisive verbiage you may have gotten somewhere. Restructure yes, reorg sure. Abolish no. Ward 8

7/7/2020 9:11:48 PM

Please don't. Defunding is not the answer. Just look at the rise in shootings and violent crimes since this topic started. Reform and changes are needed, yes. But this knee jerk reaction is ridiculous. Ward 1

7/7/2020 9:18:00 PM

I support the Charter Amendment as written to be on the November 2020 ballot. By establishing a new Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention, we can make better, more effective use of police law enforcement by deploying them only in situations where their skills are warranted. We'll make use of other skills in non-criminal situations where community support, not armed officers, will be more effective. I ask the Charter Commission to proceed with the amendment as written in an expedited manner for the November ballot. Ward 10

7/7/2020 9:25:35 PM

I am writing in response to the proposal to disband the Minneapolis Police Department.

There are undeniable issues of racism and prejudice in our city, country, and world.

Unfortunately, the police supposedly here to serve and protect our community have not properly fulfilled their purpose. Cruel and unjust levels of violence have been committed, especially against BIPOC. I live half a mile from where George Floyd was killed. This was a terrible abuse of power by those officers and was completely disproportionate to the event that even led to 911 being called. Why are officers so quick to draw their weapons or respond with unwarranted violence, especially against BIPOC? Why are BIPOC not afforded the same privilege as white people of innocent until proven guilty???

That being said, I do not support a total dismantling of the police. Those lobbying for that make some good points, but I believe some of those tactics could be applied to an overhaul of the current system. Instead of totally disbanding, there should be a smarter and more valuable use of the current resources. Improved training, better vetting of potential officers, and a wider variety of community resources are all good things that would greatly benefit our city. Don't increase the budget, put extra money into our public education system (which definitely leaves a lot to be desired). Officers that break the law should be HELD ACCOUNTABLE. Maybe a second chance, if they are willing to put in the work to grow and improve from their mistakes. But when they screw up, when someone gets hurt, they need to learn that that is not okay. Toddlers being potty trained are better reprimanded than some of the situations we have seen come to light in the last several months across the USA. Officers abusing their position of power in the community do not deserve to hold that job. If they want to be respected and appreciated by their communities, they need to earn that respect.

Our world is not perfect. We need some level of law enforcement to defend our community, prepared and able to respond to dangerous situations when they arise. But the police need to be reminded that they are not out hunting wild animals. They are serving and protecting communities of human beings.
Ward 8

7/7/2020 9:42:19 PM

Hello Commissioners,

My name is [REDACTED], I am a resident of Prospect Park. I am writing to demand that you vote to put the proposed charter amendment establishing a community safety and violence prevention department on the November 2020 ballot without any delays.

It is our right as members of the public to have the opportunity to vote on this measure, and it would be undemocratic for the Charter Commission to deny us this opportunity.

It is vital that the proposed amendment get on the ballot this year. The people of Minneapolis are demanding change now, and we cannot wait through another year of obscure bureaucracy.

We have a vision for a new model of safety. Please, do not let this proposed charter amendment stall or even die while trying to "get it right." The proposed charter amendment will make it possible for community to be heard, so that we can get it right. It is necessary to take this first step now, boldly and with full confidence in the capability of our city to rise to this occasion. Ward 2

7/7/2020 9:45:49 PM

As a lifetime resident of Minneapolis and current resident of ward 8, I am writing to urge the Charter Commission to approve the proposed "Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department" amendment to be included on the 2020 ballot as written. Minneapolis is a highly segregated city, which is maintained in no small part by the police and our broken justice system. This is blatant when comparing the "helpful" behavior of the police officers in the white southwest neighborhoods to their overtly intimidating and aggressive tactics in neighborhoods populated by people of color, exemplified by the public murder of George Floyd by our officers on May 25th. It is abhorrent that the vast majority of our police force does not reside within the city and therefore has no connection to its people. I worry for the safety of my partner, friends, and community not from community violence, but that of the police officers. Minneapolis has the unique opportunity to lead the nation in devising a better way to maintain public safety, addressing systemic injustices in our community in the process. I implore you approve this amendment for public vote. Ward 8

7/7/2020 9:56:47 PM

My comment is in regards to the language of the amendment as a whole versus the language of the ballot question. I think there are very many people who would walk into a polling place and see the words "remove the Police Department" and incorrectly, but reasonably, assume this means they are voting on whether to remove all law enforcement officers from the city on May 1, 2021. This is not what the amendment is proposing, but I hope you can see that this could be a legitimate misunderstanding. (I also think there are a lot of us everyday people who don't understand how the terms "peace officer," "police officer," and "law enforcement officer" overlap or don't overlap depending on context.)

So I'm wondering if we could rethink the wording of the ballot question to somehow include the fact that this amendment still provides for the option to maintain a Division of Law Enforcement Services with officers. I believe leaving this info out of the ballot question may mislead people on all sides of the issue.

In my opinion, passing this amendment as soon as possible is critical and I would be happy to see it on the ballot in November, ideally in the form of a question that is as clear as possible about what the amendment actually stipulates. Ward 1

7/7/2020 10:10:59 PM

I find the proposal not supportable because it lacks enough clarity to vote on without an accompanying structure. I also find the requirement for non-law enforcement experience to be too narrow. We are asking for a human being to lead and organize and the main qualifications should be to lead effectively with sufficient experience.

It also leaves into question by using the word "may" on the law enforcement services with the authority to decide being with the city council and not the Mayor.

The timelines in the charter call for implementation of the new structure before the one year of listening sessions is completed. Ward 13

7/7/2020 10:21:57 PM

Police should be optional in the city of Minneapolis, and we should establish a new Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention that uses proven community safety strategies and is shaped by community.

I believe strongly in science, and the data supports defunding the police and reallocating those funds to other areas that will enrich our city's public services and health resources. If we can arrest armed white mass murderers without killing them, there is absolutely no reason why we cannot reasonably expect to arrest literally any human being without killing them. The idea that the police are cleared to take human life is appalling to me. How does killing people make our cities safer? How does killing Black people make our cities a good place to live? How does arresting the homeless and mentally ill make our society healthier? How does ignoring domestic violence cases and rape cases make us more compassionate? It does not. The police force does not make our society better, but our city's residents will.

Defund the police. Reallocate resources. Build up the strength of community. Do not let us continue to live in fear. Do not let our city continue to devalue the life of my BIPOC and queer/trans neighbors. Ward 8

7/7/2020 10:34:26 PM

My comment to you defunding the Police Department! I will never step foot in Minneapolis again. My life is worth more to me than your vote! My family from the NW corner of Minnesota came down every year for Vikings, Twins, Gophers Football games. Well you defund the Police that will total of 64 hotel nights in Minneapolis plus meals that you're going to lose. Think about that? That's one family!! You are making the city a perfect spot for serious criminals to thrive. You can send in your community action people of whatever you might call them, but I'll guarantee you will have more deaths. Our safety is your first priority but it's not. You have your hired security on our tax dollars but we can't have protection off our tax dollars! I know my comments aren't going to mean anything to you as if it did you wouldn't be doing this. People die almost every day there now can you imagine what it will be without!!! This bad cop

wouldn't have been there to murder this career criminal if Amy Klobuchar would have done her job!!! I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/7/2020 10:38:44 PM

I for one am not satisfied with the language in the amendment - we cannot fully get rid of MPD, but rather we need to defund them (send some of their funding into public safety organizations instead). The language says that city council "may" maintain a division of law enforcement officers. Still seems unclear to me. And what about Arradondo? He needs to stay.

I also don't see anywhere in the amendment that they will be seeking wisdom from the community. Where is the guidance from leaders of the BIPOC community? The city council and mayor would still be in full control through these changes. All it says is they "must engage the public."

I would like to see clearer language around all of these things. I would like the police force defunded not disbanded. I would like Arradondo to remain as chief. I would like more mental health professionals involved. I would like stricter guidelines around use of excessive force and better training for officers that improves deescalation techniques. I would like justice for the Black families who have lost loved ones to officers. Ward 12

7/7/2020 10:39:22 PM

I understand my city council person and the vast majority of rich white people in my ward want to slow walk this so they can continue to allow the MPD to murder black and brown people so they can go to bed at night secure in their insane wealth - but I am fucking sick and tired of my tax dollars going to pay for a police department that murders my fellow citizens with impunity and you best believe I want a chance at the ballot box in 2020 to make my voice heard regarding the charter. Put it before the people of Mpls you cowards. Ward 7

7/7/2020 10:59:53 PM

The Minneapolis City Council seems to be all doing mushrooms. What is the goal of dismantling the police? What is wrong with leaders in our city? Do they want us all killed? There is nothing left. We residents are a laughing stock. Please get some mature leaders that will help dig us out of this crap hole we have to call home. Ward 5

7/7/2020 11:03:49 PM

Dismantal and reconstruction I believe that police should have a 3/5 kind of job, at 3 yrs you start to develop judgment on the streets, so at 3 yrs they see weekly therapists, at 5 yrs you're become very judgmental on the streets, so at 5 yrs you are given a small retirement package and paid schooling for a new career. Ward 3

7/7/2020 11:12:04 PM

Hello Charter Commission, City Council and Mayor,

Thank you for the time and energy and focus and openness you are extending to this space so we can make change today together by listening to what the community is asking for! We should listen to lived experience as a guiding tool always and community members have lived experience they can speak to about how the Minneapolis Police Department does not contribute to their safety and does not prevent harm and actually, many times, causes harm, including escalating situations and murder.

I want the 'Minneapolis Police Department' to be crossed out of the Charter, removing/eliminating it as an essential/required department, just as you see it in the proposed amendment submitted by the City Council (authored by Council Members Ellison, Cano, Gordon, Fletcher, and Bender).

We have history and data and stories over years that documents how reform does not work! I'm asking for you to take steps today, make recommendations, that will lead to abolishing the Minneapolis Police Department.

This is definitely a charter issue that the commission needs to weigh in on because the charter is the document that lists the police department as an essential/required department for the city council to maintain and support. I am asking for the police department to be removed from the charter.

The current "uprising" (marches and protests and rallies and mural art) shows you there is real energy in the message that people do not want the Minneapolis Police Department to exist and further cause harm to our community! The community is saying 'this must end now, we know enough, we've seen enough, we've been saying this for years, listen to us now, stop killing us'. There is also real urgency to this issue because we are talking about an entity that continuously causes harm and has created a structural system of power that does not allow it to be held accountable. If we're talking about power, that should be a key piece right there, the police department has too much power to be trustworthy! We need to abolish the police department and start something new (grow/build current structures too) in it's place.

I also want to make sure we are not just creating a new department that is the police but with a new name/brand/image. What people are naming right now is the harm the current structure of policing causes so we don't care about a new name or branding, we demand that structure be eliminated in order to prevent it from further harming our community!

I want to see more specific language that no current/former/ex/retired law enforcement/police officer be able to be in the role of the new department, at any level, but especially including being a head of the department.

Please move this along with urgency so we can vote on it come THIS NOV!

Thank you as you are being asked to sit with possible discomfort in your body as you name truth and talk about a structure that causes real harm to people, just know you are also being asked to imagine and believe in and trust new possibilities and uplift the voice of the people.

Thank you for your time in reading this and reading other public comments today! Ward 10

7/7/2020 11:16:23 PM

Charter Commission members:

My name is [REDACTED]. I reside in Ward 1, NE MPLS. I'm writing in support of the charter amendment drafted by the MPLS City Council.

The MPD is not reformable. This police dept. has gone through every major reform tactic available. This police dept. has been in existence for 150 years and still cannot correct its patterns of brutality and racism in our Black and brown communities. Since the 1960s, every civilian oversight apparatus has been withdrawn because the reality is this: The MPD police union, the dept itself, arbitration, and the pervading culture are resistant to accountability. When Bob Kroll speaks, he speaks for a dept mentality. An embarrassingly small number of officers walked off after the unrest following George Floyd's murder. There is no opposition to Kroll.

We cannot continue down this path any longer. Allow the community to engage and vote on this amendment on the November ballot. As a form of good governance, please, move this amendment forward so that the city council and mayor can begin the important work of engaging community around this critical issue.

Minneapolis is in dire need of this change. Our model for public safety must be rooted in community-led initiatives around the pressing issues of health, housing, violence prevention, substance abuse, mental health services, and more. A police dept. cannot provide for these issues. A police dept. is not equipped to prevent criminality. Policing reacts to criminality after the fact. Let's build a public safety model that addresses the root causes and help our communities thrive.

The people of Minneapolis have seen the work of the MPD for decades. It is time for a new path. This is a path that has widespread buy-in and so many partners and communities ready to lean in and do the work necessary to support.

Please, approve this charter amendment with expediency to allow its place on the November ballot so the people can do their part in this process.

7/7/2020 11:27:50 PM

If you disband the police my family will leave the city. Ward 12

7/8/2020 12:04:26 AM

I am so grateful that this charter amendment is being proposed. The people of Minneapolis deserve to be able to vote on the amendment in the fall!

When I talk to my neighbors, I hear people wanting *safety*-- not people wanting more police. I'd like to share a personal anecdote about my recent experience with policing.

I live a block off of Lake St, and when the US Bank building was on fire recently, the fire department was not responding to our calls. Neighbors and other concerned citizens who were on the streets worked together to put out the fires ourselves. When we were putting out the fire, police drove by and shot at us with flash bangs and rubber bullets, one which hit my friend in the leg.

To me it should be enough to see how the police have terrorized Black and Indigenous communities to know that the people of Minneapolis deserve a different system of public safety. But if that is not enough, I share the anecdote about the fires and the incompetent response by the police to illustrate the need for change.

I work at a high school and I regularly hear from my students about how they've been terrorized by the police & profiled, belittled, and injured, often from a young age. I saw so many students and young people on the streets this last month demanding change. Please allow this amendment to go on to ballots so that the people can be heard! Ward 9

7/8/2020 12:50:43 AM

I support the proposed carter amendment. Ward 1

7/8/2020 1:38:28 AM

I appreciate the unorthodox idea the council has presented. However, I completely disagree with disbanding the police department. I think it's irresponsible to throw out an idea without having a blueprint on how it will work. It feels like the idea was thrown out there to pander to the mob and make happy a very small percentage of the population of the twin cities metro area. Yes I say metro area because the city council needs to remember that they are stewards for everyone in the twin cities. Everyone who lives in the metro area has a say in this. Most workers in downtown live in the suburbs, most people who attend pro sports and concerts live outside of Minneapolis. The same goes for people attending concerts, high school sports events and large conventions. From what I can see on the news only a few hundred people show up at the protests supporting the disbanding of the police. I'm not talking about the ones supporting racial justice, I'm talking about the ones holding signs to disband the police. That's a few hundred out of a metro area population of almost 4 million. If this idea had any traction there would be way more people showing up at protests supporting this. The silent majority of Twin Citeans clearly do not support this. So how would this work? Without police carrying guns there is no hammer. And without the option of the hammer, criminals know this and will take over the streets. I hope that the police never have to use the hammer, but without the option of it, our streets will turn into chaos, crime and anarchy. Without police, how would a community trained therapist respond to say a domestic assault or a rape? With no gun, taser or arrest authority, they would show up and let the perpetrator finish the assault or rape? Then afterward all parties sit down and talk about their feelings? Would the therapist talk to the rapist about how they felt while raping the girl so that he learns his lesson and does not do it again? What about speeders? Without police and the threat of a ticket, there will be more deaths on our roads. What about DUI's? Without police, people know they can't be pulled over and get a dui and go to jail. Thus many more innocent people will die due to drunken drivers. What about the city's tax base? Already one company has said they are pulling out of the city due to lack of police. I foresee many other companies leaving the city with no police. Large events such as the Super Bowl, MLB all star game, X games, conventions etc will most likely not come here with the increase in crime due to no police force. Many people I know live in the suburbs and outstate and already said with no police they will abandon Minneapolis. Personally I will cease to go downtown and uptown to eat and drink at bars and restaurants. I will avoid the city as much as possible and not spend my money there. Uptown and Downtown are already bad with police, without them it will become the wild west. Minneapolis will become a wasteland. I venture to say that the Minneapolis tax base derives as much tax from the suburbs and the entire metro area as it does from Minneapolis residents. Without police that tax base will dry up. Friends of mine in the city said without police they will sell their houses and move to the suburbs thereby depreciating property values in the city. The city council needs to take in the viewpoints of all residents of the metro area as Minneapolis is a destination. I wish we didn't need police with guns but it appears that the city council is living in never never land rather than reality. As the saying goes you can hope in one hand and crap in the other and see which gets filled first. I've had many conversations about this idea with locals and only one person supported it. It was a generation Z person and that person could not give me their blueprint on how it would work and could not back up their argument. The police need tweaking and improving. Thanks John S Ward 3

7/8/2020 2:10:33 AM

I submitted a comment previously ([REDACTED], Northeast Minneapolis, Ward 1), but I would like to add that the Charter Commission should consider either a cap on the number of law enforcement officers and/or outline a method to reduce the number of law enforcement officers over time as more of the Community Safety and Violence Prevention Programs get up and running. In a similar vein, the amount of funding allocated to the Law Enforcement Division should also be capped and/or reduced over time.

Ideally, the amount spent on the Law Enforcement Division should not exceed the amount spent on community-oriented programs.

I would also like to reiterate that I am in favor of a charter revision that would aid in eliminating the Minneapolis Police Department and reallocating its funds to community-oriented programs and a more comprehensively trained and compassionate group of local law enforcement officers.

Please find my previous statement attached below, for ease of access. Thank you. Ward 1

Attachment:

I am concerned with (b) Division of Law Enforcement Services and (1) Director of Law Enforcement Services Division.

The Division and the Director are equivalent to the current police force and the chief of police, and there are no provisions that push for change or that hold them accountable to the public. While I recognize that we cannot immediately move to eliminate law enforcement—we will always need investigators, for instance—the new and hopefully small division of law enforcement that we create must be different from the current police force. The new Division of Law Enforcement and its Director should:

- (1) Be demilitarized. A SWAT-type force for emergency situations can be trained in firearms, but I would advise that the more everyday patrol officers who regularly interact with the public not be allowed to carry or utilize lethal force, specifically firearms and potentially lethal restraints. In general, we should move towards eliminating firearms as a standard-issue weapon for law enforcement.
- (2) Not include current police officers, or at least not include officers with complaints of violence on their records. We should be doing everything possible to ensure that the new Division of Law Enforcement truly serves and protects the community, and that includes preventing violent people and authoritarian people from joining the new Division.
- (3) Be accountable to a special investigator and a special prosecutor, who are independent from the Division and the Director and responsible for oversight of the Division and the Director.
 - a. Complaints against an officer would be handled by one of these independent offices, rather than by the Division itself.
 - b. These independent offices MUST be newly established, and control should not be handed over to an existing agency that is likely besieged by the same problems that prompted the call to dismantle the Minneapolis Police Department.
- (4) Be accountable to the community. We have been fighting for community accountability, not a bureaucracy. Limiting the oversight of law enforcement to the Mayor and City Council is part of why we are here today—they failed to act with any sort of alacrity until the city literally was set on fire. Community members should be invited to play an active role in building the Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention and the Division of Law Enforcement.

Also, if the new Division includes a union, then it should either be a civil service union, which currently represents and protects most government employees, or be subject to restrictions that prevent it from garnering the power of the police union. When the community calls for the abolition of the Minneapolis Police Department, it includes the abolition of the police union, which has long prohibited reform and accountability.

This is just the beginning. This is not going to be a simple or easy process, and the community and its advocates (CAIR-MN, Communities United Against Police Brutality, Twin Cities Coalition 4 Justice for Jamar, Native Lives Matter, Black Visions Collective, Reclaim the Block, Families Supporting Families

Against Police Violence, Racial Justice Network, and others) have been fighting for this change and fighting to have their voices heard. I advise you to do more than listen to them on the surface—really listen to them. Invite them into the conversation. Let them advise the government on the changes they want to see. Let them help build a better Minneapolis.

7/8/2020 4:15:41 AM

I am against the proposed charter amendment. It would be ridiculous to allow our leaders to vacate their responsibility to provide law enforcement as mandated in the city charter. Reform can be accomplished without a charter change. This move is reckless, irresponsible and poorly thought out.
Ward 4

7/8/2020 6:00:34 AM

To the Charter Commission- the time to change the charter is now! Good governance means urgency, and justice cannot wait. Saying "no" to letting us vote on the charter amendment is saying that Minneapolis is okay with murder, brutality, and a lack of accountability for another year. The city of Minneapolis has shown that it is ready for a change and willing to come together and work hard to make it happen, for the safety of all of our citizens. Please consider our right to vote on this important matter. We need a charter that reflects the need to keep our communities safe. Thank you for your time.
Ward 5

7/8/2020 7:26:51 AM

Expanding the current scope of public safety services sounds like a great idea. Different approaches designed to match the different public safety concerns in the community makes sense. The amendment appears to complement, expand, and positively morph the services of the current police department in a more adaptable entity, and thus more effective.

For these reasons, I would encourage the amendment to be voted upon and approved.

Thank you and have a joyful day! ~Chris Ward 5

7/8/2020 7:49:27 AM

It is clear that the only safe, smart, and sustainable option in Minneapolis to change this charter to reflect the view of those who live here. I, along with many others, wholeheartedly want this on the ballot so citizens can decide what really makes their communities safe! There is no reason to have MPD a required city department, we should get to decide what works for us. Further, I do not want a requirement on the ratio of police to citizens, when police don't make us safer! We want to remove violent police presence from our community. We need a new Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention that uses proven community safety strategies and is shaped by community.

When I have experienced domestic violence, and later had a stalker, the police were a scary presence, and an unhelpful one. They could not and did not protect me from the power based violence I experienced. Instead, I relied on my community- peer advocates, friends, therapists, families, and teachers to keep me safe and protect my mental health during and after my experiences. I can't express how often I've wondered how things would have been different if I had better access to alternative safety resources like a crisis intervention specialist, or if the people who hurt me had the correct care they needed in their communities.

Please give us the option to decide what makes our communities safer, lives depend on it. Ward 6

7/8/2020 8:09:35 AM

The City must take the appropriate time to properly revise our policing approach for the long term. A rushed process will do no good. Personally, we should expect to increase the fund the public safety services increasing our police officer counts consistent with those requested by the Police Commissioner (400) adding supporting services to join police officers related to mental health, abuse cases, increased training and changes to the union contract.

Consistent with this statement:

- 1) Close listening to the entire community factoring in community needs and expectations
- 2) Including the findings of the February 2020 report by the State of Minnesota Working Group on Police-Involved Deadly Force Encounters and other thoughtfully prepared reports.
- 3) Repeal the state law that mandates binding arbitration for law enforcement officers accused of misconduct.
- 4) Change laws governing collective bargaining agreements that impede discipline of officers who seriously betray the public trust.
- 5) Enhance screening to prevent unacceptable applicants for positions in law enforcement from being hired and ensure clear and enforced guidelines that define acceptable and unacceptable behavior and policing tactics. Ward 13

7/8/2020 8:12:23 AM

Working at Hennepin County Medical Center, I see the harmful effects of overfunded police and underfunded basic needs every single day. Our current police force is incapable of stopping cycles of gun violence and domestic violence. Our current housing, mental health, social work, and other community groups are wonderful but incredibly underfunded. My patients need to feel safe NOW, and to me that means defunding the police and investing in our community. I do understand that people with different experiences than me may not be sure yet whether public safety means no police to them. I think we all deserve the right to choose for ourselves. The current Charter language requiring a police department with a certain number of officers and funds outright erases the voices of many people living in Minneapolis trying to reimagine public safety, which is unjust and is actively causing harm. If you believe Black Lives Matter, you must ensure that Black Voices Matter. The current Charter does not do this and must be changed NOW. People will die if our actions aren't quick. Let the people choose how to be safe. Let us vote in November. Ward 1

7/8/2020 8:31:15 AM

As a resident of Minneapolis I support the proposed charter amendment Ward 3

7/8/2020 8:33:02 AM

Please consider this charter amendment. It allows for needed change and the redirection of funding into activities and programs that actually address community needs. Ward 11

7/8/2020 8:42:16 AM

I strongly urge the Commission to reject the proposed charter changes. This proposed change has massive implications for change yet provides little detail about how changes would be implemented. The charter would change from a clear guidance on public safety, to a charter with language giving little

to no guidance on policing. Our community needs the minimum number of police as described in the current charter, clear leadership by a police chief with law enforcement experience, and consistent leadership by the mayor of Minneapolis. The proposed charter language removes all of those provisions with no language describing how the city should proceed. This change in language, from specific to vague, should not be on the ballot in November. I am a resident of Ward 12 and a very concerned Minneapolis citizen. Ward 12

7/8/2020 8:50:46 AM

Hello, I live in Woodbury, but work and visit Minneapolis frequently . I will not go to Minneapolis without police presence in the city. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/8/2020 8:56:05 AM

I am absolutely opposed to the amendment of article 7. The City Council has exhibited nothing but poor leadership. The members should be held accountable for what they have allowed to occur in this city and they too should lose their job. They knew about a corrupt police department for years and did nothing about it until they were in the spotlight and then used it for political grandstanding. They are not fit to lead this city and certainly not fit to set up a new safety department. I vote No. Ward 7

7/8/2020 8:56:45 AM

I support the public safety transformation amendment with the following caveats:

Amended § 7.3(a) currently states that "[the City Council must establish, maintain, adequately fund, and consistently engage the public about a department of community safety and violence prevention, which will have responsibility for public safety services prioritizing a holistic, public health-oriented approach." First, I would like this section to specifically set out a minimum percentage of the city budget that would go into funding the department of community safety and violence prevention. Second, I would also like this section to specifically set out a minimum number of times per year that the city council must engage the public about the department.

Amended § 7.3(b)(1) currently states that "[t]he director of the department of community safety 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." I would like this section to be edited in the beginning so that it reads, "In the event that the city council maintains a division of law enforcement services, the director of the department of community safety and violence shall appoint the director of the division of law enforcement services [. . .]" This edit will make clear that the city council is not required to maintain a division of law enforcement services. Ward 2

7/8/2020 8:59:47 AM

I am in favor of this charter amendment. As someone who works in downtown Minneapolis and lives in the Whittier neighborhood, I fully support the changes the amendment proposes and believe they will pave the way for a safer, more peaceful community. Ward 10

7/8/2020 9:11:31 AM

Our inexperienced city council members do not speak for their constituents and have moved with this "plan" without proper planning and without discussion with their Ward property owners. I am against and city charter changes until we see a plan for public safety. I support retaining the police force in its current structure. Ward 7

7/8/2020 9:12:04 AM

I believe that it has become obvious that the Minneapolis Police Department needs to change. The funding that is currently allocated to the MPD needs to be redistributed to services that better serve our community. We are at a crossroads as a community and we have a chance to be better, create something new. Ward 7

7/8/2020 9:13:02 AM

This structure looks good to me. I like how the law enforcement division will be subservient to a broader public safety infrastructure that has a more strategic vision for creating public safety. I heard the mayor's complaint that on a day-to-day, having 14 people to report to is not functional. That objection also makes sense to me. I don't know if this needs to be under the mayor's office entirely like the police force is now, but it does seem like there should be a chain of command that doesn't top out with 14 people on a daily basis. Ward 7

7/8/2020 9:14:07 AM

I oppose the Charter amendment. Ward 7

7/8/2020 9:14:45 AM

Hello, I agree with the proposal and would be voting in its favor, but I am concerned with the wording that would appear on the ballot. I don't believe it is clearly understandable that there will still be a police force. I am worried that with the current language, it will deter many voters. The way it stands now, it sounds as if the police force will be abolished entirely. Please clarify the ballot question to say that a police force of peace officers will indeed remain, but that there will be changes to their department. Ward 1

7/8/2020 9:17:18 AM

Why is this being rushed? City Council is power hungry, inexperienced, partisan and does not speak for my wishes. Ward 7

7/8/2020 9:34:42 AM

I support creating a department of community safety and violence prevention in place of the police department. I hope the crime prevention specialists, especially those with a history of helping with events like National Night Out are part of the new department and their honest feedback is used when transitioning occurs. Ward 8

7/8/2020 9:42:31 AM

If this appears on the ballot, it should be in 2021 after there has been substantial public discourse around the issue. It should also appear in 2021 when the council and mayor are up for reelection so the people can decide who among them, if any, they want to have implement the changes, or if they want a new set of representatives to help move the issue forward. Ward 7

7/8/2020 9:42:52 AM

Thank you. This is a great opportunity to reclaim Public Safety as wholistic, fair, restorative, and community-oriented. I hope the City of Minneapolis also takes this opportunity to really, truly listen to Black and Brown voices throughout development and implementation of policies related to this ordinance. Ward 9

7/8/2020 9:44:15 AM

Not every problem requires a man with a gun be sent to someone's home. Police departments across the country have been saying for years, "We're not social workers, or drug counselors or mental health professionals, you're asking us to do too many things we aren't trained to do." So let's fix that. When you call 911 now, they already source your problem to the correct solution - fire? send the fire department; sick? send an ambulance; robbery, rape or murder? send a cop. We should reconsider who the public is, what safety is, and then what public safety looks like. We should redistribute funds away from the police toward services to solve problems - mental health professionals to help the mentally ill; drug counselors to help those with addiction issues; different kinds of social workers to help those with domestic or child-rearing problems or homeless issues, and so on. Do we still need someone who can respond to issues of violence? Sure. But they don't have to be militarized. They DO need restrictions on how they can engage, and de-escalate situations. It should be a guardian rather than a warrior mentality. The police right now are the source of the problem and the source of the violence. That needs to change. Re-imagining a more holistic approach to public safety will make Minneapolis a better place for everyone to live. - Ward 6

7/8/2020 9:45:08 AM

I am incredibly concerned with the language in the proposed amendment because it is completely lacking in details and "may" provide for police, but might not. While I agree that there are many calls that the police are responding to that do not require armed officers, there are also calls that do. I don't want a holistic, public health oriented mediator to show up at an armed robbery of my residence, I want the police and their guns to protect my kids.

We should be considering options to expand the police force to include non-police who can respond in cases of trauma, mental health crises, traffic control, animal control, etc. This will require expanding the police force and hiring a lot more people. The reduction costs associated with not having police perform these duties will not cover the cost of the huge number of people needed to fulfill these roles.

The oft-cited case of Camden NJ disbanding their police force did not eliminate the police, it merely moved all required police duties over to the county police force. If we were to follow the Camden model, the Hennepin County Sheriff's office (over which City Council has no control) would respond to all calls requiring armed police. Wouldn't you rather be in a situation where the City maintains oversight and control of the police?

Additionally, mandating the the head of the new public safety department not have police experience is short-sighted and discriminatory. It is entirely possible we could have a police officer who is very committed to holistic, public health oriented response in many cases and would be an excellent leader. Why exclude that person just because of their life experiences in other areas?

Rather than pursuing attention that comes from a decisive sound bite, we should be focused on actually fixing the problems. Let's hire non-police professionals and have them work alongside police. Let's reform the union so we don't have to re-hire problem officers. Let's get more training for everyone on de-escalation, trauma informed care, and other best practices. Let's create a pipeline that encourages people from Minneapolis neighborhoods, in particular BIPOC and other minority groups, to become police officers and let's require police officers to live in the City so they are truly serving their neighbors. All of this will require more money, not less. So rather than defunding the police, let's fully fund all services we need, including the police. Ward 12

7/8/2020 9:57:51 AM

Please allow us this opportunity to amend the City Charter to create a new landscape of public safety and give power back to communities in Minneapolis. The horrific corruption, violence and murder perpetrated by the MPD must be stopped, held accountable, and changed entirely.

Community based initiatives are the way we will make this happen, and redistribution of the city budget to education, health, and communities are what we are asking for.

Thank you in advance for your support. Ward 8

7/8/2020 10:01:41 AM

Let the people vote on this issue. Minneapolis residents deserve to decide how our communities stay safe and evolve. NOW is the time. LET US VOTE. We can do better. Ward 1

7/8/2020 10:05:34 AM

I unreservedly support this amendment. The police department is no longer an institution that can be trusted or reformed. We need a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. We don't need to be policed, we need to be helped. Let's reallocate those police funds for care, support, therapy, addiction, and a thousand other community needs! Ward 10

7/8/2020 10:11:25 AM

Please let us decide on this important issue - put it to a city-wide vote. Ward 13

7/8/2020 10:15:28 AM

I don't currently reside in Minneapolis, but have a couple of time in the past. Since before the George Floyd incident, certain areas of Minneapolis had already become "no-go" zones because of increased crime and threats of violence. If this current proposal to amend the charter passes and the city council is able to then make their purposed changes (wish I knew what they actually were), the entire city will be no-go for me. Rather than making the city council more powerful, the charter commission should revise and remove existing powers from the city council. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/8/2020 10:17:04 AM

The MPD has betrayed the public trust too many times. They have resisted all efforts at reform for DECADES. My one concern with the proposed amendment is that shifting oversight from the mayor to the council would diminish oversight rather than increase it.

We must pursue effective community safety measures with a reduced police force. A charter amendment is the only way forward. Ward 12

7/8/2020 10:21:29 AM

I am exhausted. You probably are too. But I beg that you do everything in your power to stop the gun violence in our city NOW!! It's already long overdue. What you have been recently proposing is not going to work if you keep leaving us unprotected. If a citizen has to seriously consider buying a gun for protection.

What is the answer? Send in more help on the streets. Who do you think is going to be on the streets with your plan?? Get them out there immediately. This is an emergency. The house is on fire. Ward 1

7/8/2020 10:36:26 AM

I support the proposed amendment. I believe it will put our city on a path to renewal and give us a greater sense of peace and safety. Ward 7

7/8/2020 10:37:10 AM

I support the Charter amendment that will create a new " Department to provide for community safety and violence prevention, and the removal of the Police Department as a Charter Department." The Police can not be reformed and they do not provide safety for all our communities. Ward 12

7/8/2020 10:38:33 AM

Members of the Charter Commission:

At your August 5, 2020 meeting, please move forward the proposed changes to the Minneapolis Charter so that they can appear on the ballot in November of this year. Good governance requires putting this matter to the voters, not making a paternalistic decision on voters' behalf that would undermine the democratic process. The proposed changes do not eliminate policing or the police department, but they do make it possible for the city and its residents to decide what should happen with policing. Under the current charter, voters cannot make that decision. This matter must be put to voters this year: The violence that has been occurring in this city for ages cannot continue any longer, and voters need to be able to choose how to stop it. Under the current Minneapolis City Charter, voters do not have that option. Please do your part to allow Minneapolis voters the chance to decide whether our charter should change, and please be sure that we can make that decision in November of 2020. Ward 7

7/8/2020 10:41:25 AM

In order for the citizens of Minneapolis to maintain their autonomous capacity to develop, sustain, and thrive in community with one another, the repressive force of the Minneapolis Police Department must be struck from the City Charter.

I witnessed police brutalize countless peaceful protesters in the six years I have lived in the Twin Cities. I have heard stories from eight- and nine-year-old elementary students about police knocking in their doors because daddy violated probation. I worked with dozens of young kids in the Minneapolis Public Schools system who expressed, with less than a decade of life lived, a fear of the police, a distrust of teachers borne out of a justified maligned view on authority, and an acceptance of self-hatred as victims without recourse.

When, not if, we abolish MPD and redirect funds into restorative practices and municipal safety, the city will have a greater impact on the movement toward justice and liberty. The proposed Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention will be one step towards proportionate investment in our people, their well-being, and their tireless march towards true equality and liberty in Minneapolis.

Ward 10

7/8/2020 10:43:32 AM

The proposed amendment grants the City Council the ability to move forward with a major transformation of our city's law enforcement. However, residents and community leaders have yet to see a plan for how they intend to move forward with this process. It is very difficult to vote in support of such a major change when there is no concrete plan for what comes next, and the formulation of such a

plan will take time and a great deal of input from a variety of expert and community voices. November 2020 is only a few months away, which hardly seems an adequate span of time for the scope of transformation proposed.

Will this amendment also ensure that Minneapolis residents have adequate input into the process of creating the Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department? Or are we amending the charter to grant the council carte blanche on creating the future of law enforcement? Where is the accountability? Ward 11

7/8/2020 10:45:11 AM

While I support police reform, I do not support dismantling the police. We cannot continue to let bullets fly in this community. I am a renter who was planning to buy a home in Minneapolis once my lease expires, but as a result of the City Council's declaration of its intention to dismantle the police, I plan to purchase a home in another city. Ward 3

7/8/2020 10:49:04 AM

I live in St Paul and would like to see Minneapolis set an example for how to transform a city public safety structure. I'd like to see Minneapolis succeed. I am very concerned that the current proposed amendment is "repeal and replace" of the police department without a clear plan for replacement. Replacement or transformation will require a very thoughtful transition on many fronts and will likely take longer than the May effective date in the amendment. Also replacement does not mean that reform in law enforcement practices is no longer important. I suggest that the charter commission and/or the city council formulate a set of principles that will be used to guide the transformation process. These principles could include: reforming the recruitment, screening and training of officers in the new structures; creating a public health program to respond to incidents involving domestic violence, mental health crises, youth violence, and drug possession and abuse; creating a comprehensive set of police conduct regulations that includes requirements on use of force, officer intervention, de-escalation, and other measures consistent with a guardian role in public safety; and creating a meaningful structure for community members to exercise oversight of the law enforcement element of the new city department. The council should be required to involve the public and especially affected communities in the transition to the new city public safety structure. Timing of when the new structure takes effect needs to allow for a well-planned transition. Finally, I suggest that any change in accountability of the new department to the city council or mayor should be a separate amendment from the amendment to create a new departmental structure. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/8/2020 10:54:36 AM

The residents of Minneapolis cannot wait any longer for "reforms." We need to dismantle the MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

Currently, MPD gets a huge share of our city budget. Instead, adequately fund social services, such as affordable housing, homeless shelters, mental health supports, job training, health care, restorative justice, addiction treatment, child care, etc.... The list goes on! There are so many better ways to help our community than policing! Ward 9

7/8/2020 10:55:39 AM

This charter change is needed this year. It's obvious that the city has never been more mobilized, active, and aware about local government - to table this discussion and remove the possibility of voting on it this November because the process is moving too fast is a disingenuous argument. Whether citizens want the charter change to ultimately lead to police reform, defunding, or disbanding is a discussion that cannot happen until all those possibilities are POSSIBLE - until we vote on the charter change. We cannot have an authentic discussion in the community until all outcomes are possible outcomes. Minneapolis must lead the nation in these discussions while all eyes are on us. Ward 6

7/8/2020 10:56:14 AM

I just moved to Ward 9 (from Ward 8) and I am so happy to be here. I am so excited about organizing with my neighbors for a different kind of neighborhood and a different kind of city. I support the proposed charter amendment. I would prefer something that has less opportunity for police to re-assert themselves in our city but I can live with what is proposed. Please allow the proposed amendment to move forward to the voters in November. Ward 9

7/8/2020 11:00:43 AM

I am writing to have it in record that as a resident of the Lyndale neighborhood, I approve changing the charter to include the Community Safety and Violence Prevention Charter Amendment Ordinance. Please give voters the opportunity to decide on the charter amendment on the November 2020 ballot.

If my statement is not enough, please take these questions into consideration:

- 1) Weeks of Uprising, due to the lack of police accountability for murder and brutality, demonstrates that your fellow residents and neighbors feel strongly about this issue. These demonstrations are public meetings where your fellow citizens are demanding change. Their voices should not be silenced. How will you support the vision of holding police accountable, if this charter amendment is not included?
- 2) How will you honor Black, Indigenous, and People of Color voice and experience in your decision? What does it mean that the Charter Commission is made up of white members, which is not reflective of Minneapolis itself? While I understand that you all probably have a good sense of what is going on, the ways that Black, Indigenous and Brown people of color have internalized systemic racism is likely very different than your experience. While your experience is valid, BIPOC agency and voice must be at the center of these discussions and they must have the most opportunity to speak and be a part of solutions. This amendment begins that process.
- 3) How will you honor the sacred lives of youth, elders, and all people through active steps to dismantle systemic racism, especially if this charter amendment is not on the 2020 ballot? What are specific action steps, including fiscal, that demonstrate you are supporting the equity?

To be clear, I do not want the MPD in our city charter. I support defunding the police to strengthen community opportunities, including youth programs, arts and cultural programs, mental and behavioral health solutions, and more. Adopting this amendment will allow for more community safety, based on the needs of the people. Ward 8

7/8/2020 11:01:32 AM

I am a white homeowner in the Seward neighborhood, writing to make sure that the Charter Commission follows through on the promise our elected officials made to us in June, when they committed to defunding the police. We have experienced the pain of racist violence in our names for far too long. With gratitude to the visionary Black, Indigenous and organizers of color in our community, and the thousands of white folks in Minneapolis who standing with them for real change, I ask you to bring this matter to a vote in 2020. Ward 6

7/8/2020 11:28:46 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. Ward 3

7/8/2020 11:31:38 AM

I stand with Black Visions Collective and Reclaim the Block, community organizations that are leading the way to what true public safety looks like for ALL community members. I believe in this amendment, I believe in abolishing the police - a department that has always been a tool of state-sanctioned violence - and I believe this is a step to a better way forward for our city. Ward 10

7/8/2020 11:31:58 AM

I fully support the amendment as written appearing on the November ballot. It is vital that protection and safety provided to our community is community-driven in practice and process, and is accountable to the community it serves. This amendment would allow us to make this a reality. Ward 3

7/8/2020 11:34:24 AM

I completely disagree with dismantling the Police. A reform might be appropriate but not the elimination of the Police. We need the Police, they are trained in guns and years of experience dealing with criminals and all kind of bad people. Our safety is at risk now. thank you Ward 5

7/8/2020 11:37:30 AM

I'm writing to express my strong support for the Charter to let the amendment proceed onto this year's ballot.

This amendment will not eliminate police. It will simply allow our city to engage a desperately needed conversation about transforming public safety.

The current violence in my neighborhood reminds me that police do NOT prevent harm -- at best, they respond to it. What we need is an approach to safety that truly is rooted in prevention.

Our communities are hurting on every level--materially and emotionally. We need this process and I hope you will consider it your democratic duty, as unelected officials, not to stand in the way. Ward 6

7/8/2020 11:43:02 AM

Appreciate the desire and moving forward with bringing amendment to voters. Thank you Ward 2

7/8/2020 11:48:50 AM

Well well if there are no cops , just consider this, no one will visit the area ever, no money coming in, let the ones that dont want cops pay for everything, and take care of all the shootings, deaths This is just not right, white life matters too, just saying, AND NO I AM NOT RACIST I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/8/2020 11:50:13 AM

First. I'm extremely concerned with the reactive, disjointed, and poorly thought-out approach to the charter. Is the approach to public safety in Mpls in need of significant change? Yes. Do you throw out headlines like "defund the police" and let the chips fall where they may? No. Makes the council look inexperienced and incompetent.

So now there's the hard work. Getting stakeholders engaged for any collaboration or ownership now will be harder because of the politically charged announce.

"Over policing" is obviously a priority, so the responses getting coverage certainly make sense: de-escalation training, more female officers, specialists (mental health, counselors, therapists) "Under policing" should be addressed. Noise violations, speeding, bike traffic issues, cruising, drag racing, reports seem to be ignored. Negative quality of life impact in what has become a dense urban environment. I hope a "reimagined" public safety system can be created that is Indeed best in the nation. I'm skeptical if this council can do it. I would be happy to be proven wrong. Ward 3

7/8/2020 11:59:06 AM

I am STRONGLY in support of changing the charter to remove the minimum requirements of police force and to form a holistic community safety department instead. However, it is IMPERATIVE that control and accountability for the new safety department is actually turned over to the community, not just the city council or other organizations. Ward 4

7/8/2020 12:05:18 PM

I am opposed to moving oversight of police to the city council or a committee reporting to the council. We need to strengthen the Office of the Mayor, not weaken it. The balance of power with weak Mayor's responsibilities compared to city council is one of the main reasons we are at this point. Moving police oversight would mean less accountability. Ward 3

7/8/2020 12:17:05 PM

Please let the citizens of Minneapolis vote on the proposed public safety charter amendment this November. It is an issue at the forefront of the mind of myself, my neighborhood, and our city. People across the city are seeking change and justice in this turbulent time and we deserve to have our voices heard about this in this year's election. Ward 10

7/8/2020 12:18:00 PM

Keep Medaria Arradondo! He is just the person to bring all sections, sides together. Ward 13

7/8/2020 12:19:43 PM

do NOT support the proposed amendment to the City Charter. This proposed amendment makes the assumption that all crime can be prevented. According to Dr Garner Clancey, a Senior Lecturer in Criminology at The University of Sydney Law School, "Situational crime prevention is about the reduction of opportunities for crime." Is the City Council going to stop women from walking alone to prevent rape? Are they going to get rid of windows and doors in homes so there are no more home invasions?

I do support the reform of the MPD. It sounds to me like Chief Arradondo also supports these reforms. What can the City Council do to support Chief Arrandando?

My concern is that the personal political ambitions of the City Council have already endangered the lives of the residents of Minneapolis. Crime in Minneapolis has skyrocketed. But I guess the City Council members are not too worried about that considering they are using my tax dollars to fund their own private security. Will the City Council be providing that services to all residents?

Sources:

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2017/09/11/how-to-prevent-crime-before-it-happens-.html>

<https://www.startribune.com/minneapolis-city-council-security-costs-are-debated-and-scrutinized/571609212/> Ward 7

7/8/2020 12:22:59 PM

Hi, my name is [REDACTED], I believe it is vital to the public safety of my community that we, the residents of Minneapolis, are able to vote on the proposed charter amendment THIS year! Please, advance this amendment to the November ballot so our voices can be heard! Thank you. Ward 3

7/8/2020 12:28:53 PM

My wife and I are in are mid 50s and live in a suburb with access to the train. Up until an incident on the train we attended many events in the theater district, Target Field, USBank and always ate and enjoyed the bars. We often stayed at Lowes making it a weekend. Basically we spent entertainment dollars 5 - 7 times a month. I have not been in the city limits since late 2019. Without a formal police force I will spend my dollars elsewhere. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/8/2020 12:36:25 PM

I urge the elected city council to pass the public safety amendment unanimously, or to act on the amendment ASAP, without allowing delay from the charter commission. Minneapolis residents deserve a chance to vote on these matters in November, and delayed action will thwart crucial momentum for reform -- or enacting less violent ways to achieve public safety. Thanks! Ward 1

7/8/2020 12:37:23 PM

I do not support the amendment as currently proposed. It gives the council too much leverage and there needs to be specifics about what would replace the police force (size of department, number of officers (armed vs unarmed), leadership structure, etc). I do feel the MPD needs major reform, enhanced ability for MPD leaders to discipline and fire officers with repeated or severe misconduct and also much more training on de-escalation and racial bias/racist policing problems. I would also like to see more PD officers who live in the city and training that emphasizes community service and welfare.

I am also in favor of allocating more city budget towards community resources that would potentially replace an armed police response in certain situations (eg non violent drug offenses, welfare checks, etc). This money could come from various sources though and doesn't necessarily have to be "taken" from the PD budget. Ward 13

7/8/2020 12:39:02 PM

I'm a former resident of Wards 2 & 3. I fully support these amendments to the charter. The violent behavior of the Minneapolis Police department when I was a resident of Minneapolis was a major contributor to my decision to move out of Minneapolis. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/8/2020 12:46:59 PM

Beginning with a classic study by Jonathan Klick and George Mason University's Alex Tabarrok (<https://mason.gmu.edu/~atabarro/TerrorAlertProofs.pdf>), much social science research shows that increasing the number of police on the streets can reduce crime rates, often dramatically so (<https://marginalrevolution.com/marginalrevolution/2020/06/underpoliced-and-overprisoned-revisited.html>). Abolishing the police completely or severely curtailing their numbers could easily increase crime, in the process disproportionately harming the very same poor and minority communities reformers most want to help. Many minority communities have long complained that the police don't do enough to protect them against crime. Abolishing the police entirely would make that problem worse. Ward 7

7/8/2020 12:47:03 PM

Charter commissioners:

Please vote NO on the city council's charter amendment around policing. It doesn't have community input, was crafted in the dark during a COVID epidemic, and is NOT what the city needs. We need community control of police, and we need that after a full public airing of what that would look like. Simply renaming the department and giving it a new "mission" and bosses with no teeth does nothing to ensure accountability for past, present and future wrongs. Thank you. Ward 6

7/8/2020 1:00:35 PM

Hello, my name is [REDACTED], and I believe it is vital to the safety of our community that we, the residents of Minneapolis, are able to vote on proposed charter amendment ASAP. I urge you to advance this to the November ballot so our voices can be heard and we can work together to create the necessary changes. Thank you Ward 12

7/8/2020 1:02:47 PM

I support the amendments proposed. I support them because I believe in a future where reporting crime and policing is specialized to advance the overall well-being and safety of our community. And for the many situations that arise where police are currently asked to show up, I fully support having experts in mental health, deescalation, mediation, and addiction recovery stepping in to lead. I live with someone who is in recovery and I myself struggle with mental health. We have both found that the most effective forms of help we have received have been with specialists and counselors who guide us one-on-one and in a safe environment to work through our respective journeys towards sobriety and stability. I don't think instances that are exacerbated by these factors should be handled by city police officers. My partner and I are both white, we both have had minimal interaction with police officers and when we have been approached or pulled over we have never been arrested, beaten or mistreated. We have been allowed to continue on, perhaps with only an extra sense of caution. But that is an extreme privilege to have had such minimal and positive experiences. This is why I support changes to the charter. All of my neighbors and friends and greater community deserve to feel safe when they are walking, driving and in their own homes. And when life gets intense and things go wrong, they deserve to have safe alternatives to calling the police as we transition towards a society with minimal to no law enforcement. I am grateful to the leadership of our city council for seeing that the way to change is through bold, brave and innovative steps that include community leadership. I fully support the amendments and I am committed to showing up as a friend, neighbor and community member to make sure that my actions are aligned with those of the amendments. As we traverse this new ground as a city, my hope is that we will find ourselves living in a state of hope, trust and empowerment, not fear and violence. Ward 8

7/8/2020 1:04:22 PM

No one in my entire family will ever come to ANY event EVER again in MSP. We usually travel there several times a year for sports events family functions, shopping, etc. NO MORE....EVER...we won't even fly from there any more and we do a lot of traveling. That city has turned into a shit hole and a very dangerous one at that. If I plan on committing suicide I'll drive through...I'm sure someone on the street will pull the trigger for me. We have moved our daughter and grandbabies out of there since all hell has broken loose and there is no accountability for the crimes. Shame on you for defunding the police. Shame shame shame. Have fun living in hell. You don't deserve the men and women in blue anyway. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/8/2020 1:04:33 PM

No one in my entire family will ever come to ANY event EVER again in MSP. We usually travel there several times a year for sports events family functions, shopping, etc. NO MORE....EVER...we won't even fly from there any more and we do a lot of traveling. That city has turned into a shit hole and a very dangerous one at that. If I plan on committing suicide ill drive through...im sure someone on the street will pull the trigger for me. We have moved our daughter and grandbabies out of there since all hell has broken lose and there is no accountability for the crimes. Shame on you for defunding the police. Shame shame shame. Have fun living in hell. You dont deserve the men and women in blue anyway. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/8/2020 1:19:05 PM

I am writing to ask that you approve the proposed amendment to the Charter, and do so in time for it to be on the ballot in November. The people of this city have a right to weigh in on this issue. It is topical and urgent, and we are watching the national movement for police abolition grow enormously before our very eyes. Now is the time to bring this option to the people. Our city has the incredible opportunity to pave a new path forward for public safety, and I urge you to act in accordance with this expansive vision.

The police do not function to keep everyone safe. From the inception of policing--a historically specific phenomenon, not an inevitable feature of human society--police have functioned to protect whiteness and private property. The police use state-sanctioned violence to perpetuate the marginalization of Black and brown, poor, disabled, and queer communities. That is not public safety. We deserve better than this.

This is a historical moment of utmost importance, and the residents of our city deserve to have this proposal on the ballot this year. I ask that you make your decision before the August deadline and give us the chance to vote for the kind of community safety we want to see in Minneapolis. Thank you for your consideration. Ward 7

7/8/2020 1:28:47 PM

Dear Charter Commission,

I am writing to ask that you approve the proposed amendment to the Charter, and that you do so in time for it to be on the ballot in November. At the bare minimum, regardless of your own personal opinions, the people of this city have a right to weigh in on this issue. It is topical and urgent, and we are watching the national movement for police abolition growing exponentially before our eyes. Now is the time to bring this option to the people. Our city has the incredible opportunity to pave a new path forward for public safety, and I urge you to act in accordance with this expansive vision.

The police do not function to keep everyone safe. From the inception of policing--a historically specific phenomenon, not an inevitable feature of human society--police have functioned to protect whiteness and private property. The police use state-sanctioned violence to perpetuate the marginalization of Black and brown, poor, disabled, and queer communities. Though I myself am white and able-bodied, it is not hard for me to recognize that this is not public safety. Not once have I seen a cop respond to harm in a helpful or productive way. I have only seen cops react defensively, escalate fragile situations, and cause further harm. We deserve better than this,

Our city deserves to have this on the ballot this year. I ask that you make your decision before the August deadline and allow us to vote for the kind of community safety we want to see in Minneapolis. Thank you for your consideration. Ward 7

7/8/2020 1:30:54 PM

We need to rethink the Minneapolis Police Department. I cannot begin to describe how little I think of the MPD and their practices and attitudes. How it is set up and organized clearly is not working for Minneapolis residents, who by the large also do not trust the MPD enough to call them or work with them in a meaningful way. I feel the road ahead of us is long for re-evaluating the relationship between the people of Minneapolis and the MPD, and revising the charter to give control to the Council over a new department focused on community safety and violence prevention will go a long way to reforming said trust. Ward 2

7/8/2020 1:32:15 PM

It is time we seriously re-evaluate the ways in which our police are funded and interact with the community. The most important thing we can do right now, is to listen to the voices of the community and sincerely implement their ideas. MPD has shown itself as incapable to administer just service towards the communities that they are sworn to. Remove them from the charter, and explore community based, led, and designed initiatives for violence prevention and safety. Ward 1

7/8/2020 1:39:20 PM

If this goes through, I don't feel that the city of Minneapolis would be safe to visit in anyway. I would discourage my kids from attending the university of Minnesota and we would avoid all restaurants and businesses in Minneapolis. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/8/2020 1:41:13 PM

As a new resident of Minneapolis, I am excited to live in a city that could potentially have a Safety and Violence Prevention department. I also fully support disbanding the MPD. I have experienced the tension that arises between residents of Ward 8 and the police. The police are not trusted and people do not feel safe around them. I personally would not call the the police on my neighbors or for my own safety due to their long history of misconduct. I believe MPD is a "catch all" system that is not suited to handle many of the situations they are called to respond to. Also, given their awful track record, I do not believe reform is possible.

I am proud to live in a city that has sparked a movement to end systems of oppression. I am proud to have a city council that listens to the citizens that voted them in. Let's keep this momentum going and show the world that disbanding the police and creating systems that work for all people is possible. Ward 8

7/8/2020 1:48:14 PM

the city council's efforts to defund the police department, with scant research and no plan in place, is a totally unacceptable knee-jerk reaction to the current crisis. this council, with the exception of our council member lisa goodman (and two other council members i was unable to locate on google who did not vote to defund) is an embarrassment nationally and internationally. i shudder to think what would happen if they emasculate the mayor, who was voted into office by the entire city not a specific ward. there must be reform in the police department and reining in kroll and the union, who are in large part

responsible for keeping repeat violators, like chauvin, employed. that can and should be done immediately.

the big issue they should be addressing is getting guns off the street. new york city has far more restrictive gun laws than the state of new york. due to pushback from republican rural areas in minnesota, there is no way to accomplish this at the state level. but minneapolis is a democratic city and is free to ignore the second amendment gang, just as new york city has done. the gangs and guns are overwhelmingly killing citizens in minority areas of the city. with all the guns out there, if i were a minneapolis police officer, i would assume everybody has one and would be expecting the worst when answering calls in high crime areas.

attacking guns and reforming the police —especially now with the current police chief— should be happening simultaneously.

please read the op-ed in today's startribune called a "Visit Downtown And Tell Me We Don't Need The MPD". the author is right on point. lisa bender's comment that minneapolis residents are calling the police from a place of privilege is outrageous and an insult to those of us who live here.

please do not amend the city charter to enact this hare-brained effort and end up being complicit and long remembered for further making minneapolis the laughing stock that it is becoming. we need some grown-ups in control here. Ward 7

7/8/2020 1:54:24 PM

Hello, I am writing in favor of the proposed charter amendment because our city NEEDS a new model of safety. Please put this on the ballot THIS November. Our city was in flames and people continue to protest every day because of this issue of police brutality and the systemic racism within the system that has led to the deaths of so many Black lives as well as Indigenous and POC lives. It is so important that this process is not stalled. Thank you so much. Ward 6

7/8/2020 1:55:13 PM

I support this amendment. It is extremely important to me that our current police department is eliminated and replaced with community services and supports. This new community safety and violence prevention department should be led by community-approved officials. These officials and all department employees need mandatory anti-racism training. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/8/2020 1:58:22 PM

Although I don't live in Mpls currently, I do bring 100s of world language (year 4 & 5 Spanish) HS students to Mpls each year, specifically to Lake Street's Mercado Central and Global Market to experience authentic foods and shopping. With little to no police presence in Mpls, I know myself and my students will not feel safe enough to continue. I also know the parents of my students will not feel confident that their kids will be safe on this excursion. So sad but we NEED a WELL FUNDED police department to ensure everyone's safety. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/8/2020 2:00:16 PM

I am a healthcare worker in downtown Minneapolis serving primarily community members that are hit the hardest by current systemic racism, police violence, and social program underfunding. Every day I work with people who are hospitalized directly because of physical or emotional violence, or because of inadequate access to stable food, housing, schooling, internet access, transportation, etc to allow them to remain healthy. I see first-hand that our reactionary policing system as a one-pronged approach to

safety does more harm than good. I understand the decision to act swiftly to get the Charter Amendment on the ballot this November seems like a difficult balance between wanting to do our due diligence to get this right while moving quickly enough to save lives. To me, the benefits of getting this on the ballot this November clearly outweigh the risks because of the following reasons: 1) People are dying or their health is diminishing every day we wait to make these changes. 2) The amendment doesn't fundamentally change the current police department. It is like taking a bucket labeled police and changing the label to say public safety. We can still fill the bucket with police if we want, but we also have the opportunity to fill it with community led public safety groups that target underlying causes of violence rather than just reacting like policing does. 3) It is wrong to only allow the City Council, the Mayor, the State, or the Charter Commission to decide what public safety should look like. We deserve to have a say in our own lives. 4) The City Council's year long community engagement process will be complete around 6/2021. Any Charter Change wouldn't be enacted until 5/2021. The timing would align better than it ever will again in the future. If we all come together as a community in this next year but don't have the ability to make any changes due to the Charter because a small group of people weren't yet comfortable letting voters choose for themselves, it will be extremely unjust. 5) Changes we want to see cannot be accomplished with the current charter language. We cannot get adequate funding for mental health care first-responders, gun violence prevention programs, food/housing/schooling stability without taking money from the police department. The current charter puts a limit on the extent we can defund the police. Ward 1

7/8/2020 2:01:25 PM

I'm opposed to this idea until more specifics are presented! Ward 7

7/8/2020 2:05:55 PM

this proposal is just what we need to create Safety and protection for All of Us. Thank You for your excellent work. Ward 9

7/8/2020 2:07:09 PM

This should be scrapped. The violent crime has spiked just because it has been brought up as a possibility, just wait until criminals KNOW they won't be caught or held accountable. Well meaning, but foolish people who back this amendment have NO IDEA of what the consequences will really be. Ward 4

7/8/2020 2:07:49 PM

In my community, we have had discussions about whether this is moving too fast or not. At first it seemed like we were rushing, but after reviewing all the City Council public meetings, reading MPD150, and participating in Reclaim The Block's "Demystifying the Charter Change" virtual event, I no longer think we are moving too fast at all. The Charter Commission is really just deciding whether the people of Minneapolis are prepared and have the right to make their OWN decision on the future of public safety in November. Denying us the right to decide for ourselves seems like our elected officials think we aren't smart enough to make informed decisions alone, which is insulting. If the Charter Commission makes a decision by August 5th, community groups STILL will have 3 months to engage their community. People will have 3 months to read, learn, talk and listen so that they can make an informed decision on November 3rd. Groups like Reclaim The Block and Black Visions Collective have been putting out a ton of free information to help people get informed. City Council Members are hosting public forums. The community is working tirelessly to make sure everyone has an informed voice. We deserve the right to vote Yes or No. We are capable of making decisions for ourselves. Thank you! Ward 7

7/8/2020 2:20:14 PM

The recent murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis Police has made it abundantly clear that our city police department is not equitably serving or protecting all citizens. I urge you to support the proposed charter amendment Article VII put forth by council members Ellison, Cano, Gordon, Fletcher, and Bender and recommend that it be put on the ballot for voters to decide whether or not to proceed with forming a new department of community safety and violence prevention.

Stalling on this decision is not an option; doing so signals that the current policing systems is just when it clearly is not. Voters and council members must work toward restorative justice measures and the time is now. Ward 1

7/8/2020 2:20:22 PM

I am strongly in favor of the proposed amendment to the City Charter. Minneapolis needs to:

- Remove MPD as a *required* city department and make police optional in the city.
- Remove a required ratio of police officers to Minneapolis residents so we could begin scaling down police.
- Establish a new Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention that uses proven community safety strategies and is shaped by community. Ward 1

7/8/2020 2:21:14 PM

defund the city council Ward 2

7/8/2020 2:24:46 PM

Hello! I am a Hennepin Healthcare employee who works with the most marginalized people in our community. My views are my own and I cannot speak for the organization I work for, but I am able to give insight into what I hear and see everyday because of where I work. Some of the people I work with already do not call the police when they desperately need help because time and time again the police either do not help, or they are violent. Reimagining public safety isn't about tearing down current structures, it is about BUILDING. Building programs to intervene and stop gun violence, programs to help mental healthcare providers respond to mental health emergencies, programs to support stable access to resources, etc. It is impossible to build robust public health programs without funding. The money being given to police to perform the jobs of public health professionals should be given to public health professionals. The current Charter puts a limit on the amount of money that can be taken from the police department, which is why it needs to be changed. There are many people in Minneapolis right now that are basically living without any safety net. I understand that defunding the police without building an alternative will leave even more people without protection. THAT is why we must change the Charter. If we don't, we are bound to end up with either or both of the following outcomes: 1) We don't make any significant changes and leave the most vulnerable members of our community without a safety net. 2) We decrease the police budget as much as the current Charter allows, but have insufficient funds to build the public health programs we need. Therefore the most and least vulnerable are left without an adequate safety net. I appreciate the opportunity to have my voice heard, and I think we all deserve to have our voices heard this November, not in a year. People need help now. Thank you! Ward 7

7/8/2020 2:30:40 PM

I live in Prior Lake. I love Minnesota but I do not love our Minnesota police force. Black lives, men and women and children, have been dying for years in their hands. George Floyd's death was simply the straw that broke the camel's back. Reform does not work. We've tried this as a state a number of times. We end up with the same results; more black lives dying at the hands of police. It is time to stop reform. It is time to defund.

Charter Commission, justice cannot wait for another year! We NEED CHANGE NOW. Let the people decide how to create safety in our communities! LET US VOTE! Thank you. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/8/2020 2:33:05 PM

I oppose submitting this proposed change to the City charter to the voters this year. I believe substantial and systemic change in the Minneapolis Police Department is vital, however, I believe discussions with citizens of the city of Minneapolis, especially those communities of color most often in contact with the MPD, must happen first, with systemic change arising from those discussions implemented next, and finally, if the implementation of these plans requires it, through a change in the City Charter. I believe these important community discussions have not been done yet, therefore the proposed change to the City Charter is premature. Thank you. ward 11

7/8/2020 2:37:42 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to publicly comment on the proposed Charter Amendment. Please let voters decide for themselves how public safety should look in Minneapolis. The population as a whole is the most representative of the city, not the Charter Commission, not the City Council, not the Mayor. I wholeheartedly respect every elected official and volunteer/appointed member of the Charter Commission. I think you all do great things for our city, but at the end of the day you are only a small sample of the collective lived experiences of Minneapolis residents. People deserve to decide for themselves what keeps them safe, and the current Charter denies us that opportunity. The Charter Commission has the ability to do something extraordinary by letting voters decide. This process is not moving too quickly. We still have until November to engage the community and allow them to vote for or against the charter change. It may feel quick to some, but groups that have been working on public health approaches to public safety have been putting out resources for years. I think the Charter Commission should make a decision by August 5th, and work on amplifying the voices of people who have been doing this work in order to let the public make an informed decision. Ward 1

7/8/2020 2:38:57 PM

I think this charter amendment is an extremely important and exigent issue. The residents of Minneapolis deserve the opportunity to determine what safety looks like in our communities and whether a police department should be a part of that in the future. This amendment must be on the ballot in November for people to vote on. Community organizers in Minneapolis have been speaking out about MPD mistreatment of community members for years. The city of Minneapolis must remove MPD as a required department and remove the required ratio of officers to residents. Minneapolis needs new and innovative programs that actually address the needs of the community (education, health care, housing, food security, etc) to get to the root of safety issues in Minneapolis. MPD does not contribute to community safety and in fact makes our city less safe. Diverting the excessive resources allocated to MPD would go a long way to actually solving the problems we leave to the police to supposedly address but which of course they cannot adequately address. Minneapolis needs real solutions and redirection of resources now.

As a non-Black, class-privileged person of color, my only direct experience with MPD has been when I sought their assistance with a young woman who was lost and had nowhere to go who happened to be walking by my house and asked me for help. She was staying with a friend but could not find her way back to her friend's house and her friend could not be reached. She had no phone or money. She had left home because she had a chronic mental illness and was not supported by her family, but also could not support herself because of her mental illness. I took her to look for her friend's house and ran into an MPD car. The officers inside tried to look up the friend's name but otherwise had no help to offer except to tell us that she could wait for her friend at the precinct. I took her there after looking for the friend's house for a few hours (at that point it was close to midnight). The officer at the precinct clearly did not want the young woman to wait there and gave her a pamphlet for homeless shelters. He spoke to her condescendingly and talked over her and me, especially once the issue of her mental illness came up. He pressured her to go to the hospital. The woman expressed concern that if she went to the hospital she would simply be released after a few days and would be in the same position she had been in before: with nowhere to go and no long-term mental health care. I also knew this is what would happen to her but there was no where else to take her, so the officer called EMS. This is an example of how we need more robust structures of care for Minneapolis residents instead of the police, who do nothing to help and simply try to get rid of problems (and "problem people"). This young woman should never have been in the position she was in in the first place. She should have had adequate mental health care and support, and our only recourse should not have been to go to a police precinct, be disrespected by an officer who just wanted us gone, and then send her to an emergency room as a short-term fix. Other people have had far worse experiences with the police and mental health care, where people who needed treatment and support were instead murdered or physically assaulted by the police. There is no place for police in a functioning society that actually cares for its people. Minneapolis residents deserve the chance to build our own future now. Ward 12

7/8/2020 2:41:05 PM

I fully support the disbanding of the Minneapolis Police Department. A Community Safety and Violence Prevention department is a much better use of city resources and will provide safety and security for all our Minneapolis's residents. I would also encourage a ban on war-grade weapons, tanks, etc. from the new department. Ward 11

7/8/2020 2:45:12 PM

I support the amendment as a whole, and believe it should be on the ballot for November. Community driven and community centered public safety response is essential going forward and we must be allowed to vote on this. Thank you. Ward 5

7/8/2020 2:50:00 PM

The community is out on the streets begging to be heard. We are protesting. We are distributing food to people who need it. We are fighting to keep our housing after so many of us have lost our jobs during the pandemic. We are staying up through the night into the morning to do these things because our community is important to us. We need our elected officials and the Charter Commission to do the same. We know this process appears fast, but it isn't fast for those who have been doing the work for years. We are ready for change whether or not the people in power are, and we deserve to be able to vote for ourselves what we want the Charter to say. Please make a decision by August 5th. Please let us use our right to vote. This is urgent. Ward 1

7/8/2020 2:53:01 PM

Please let the people of Minneapolis vote on the proposed amendments to the Charter and determine the future of a department that could truly provide safety in our communities.

Ensuring public safety requires so many components: prevention, emergency response, and meeting situations with the appropriate interventions. The effectiveness and utilization of these services is completely predicated on community trust. Too many in our communities have lost - because it has not been earned or has been broken- in policing. This makes our current system ineffective in what it claims to be for: serving and protecting. Instead, our current system perpetuates active harm and, because of broken trust, is ineffectual in implementing prevention, bringing elders and influencers into partnerships work, and encouraging people to report and make use of services. Minneapolis is not served or protected as it stands.

How wonderful, then, that we have an opportunity to recognize what has been ineffective and harmful and DO BETTER. Lead the way in Minnesota. Explore what can be possible. Harness the creativity and strength of our city. Actively demonstrate that we're serious about making ours a thriving, safe community for all residents and guests.

This does not have to be a moment of loss or fear. We can honor the good that has been - in the corners of the Police Department that have done good work and those who have tried to act humanely within the system - by saying we want more of what has worked. And we can employ what leaders know works outside of policing - the practices and services that the people of Minneapolis have already named and want to continue to envision. Focused law enforcement for public safety can be part of a network, not a universal, inadequate response to such a wide range of needs and nuanced situations.

Any bumps in the road that city leadership and residents will experience as we develop this new way - and bumps are inevitable - will be nothing compared to the risks associated with holding fast to a system that is deadly and fear-inducing, especially by our Black neighbors.

Thank you for listening. It's time to let Minneapolis vote to change the Charter. Ward 5

7/8/2020 2:55:52 PM

I have shopped in the Minneapolis area for years as well as eating out in local restaurants.

What the city council is proposing does not address that some people chose to break the law. I can not imagine a person showing up at a reported shooting without a firearm. When a shooting has occurred those that arrive to help need to safeguard themselves as well as other first responders that need to come to the scene.

Second issue is that a public safety department (or whatever is decided on as a name for the replacement to the police department) is that one person needs to be in charge. The city council is proposing that they will be in charge but that makes no sense because being a city council member is an elected position and there needs to be a stable leader that is not tied to the election process.

There is the need for traffic stops due to reckless driving (excessive speed, ignoring stop signs/signals, driving drunk) and the person that stops that person needs to have a gun for their own safety. The person stopping them has no idea if the person will be hostile and shoot at them or totally cooperative.

If this proposed amendment passes - I will no longer stop at any establishment in Minneapolis.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/8/2020 2:56:43 PM

I support the proposed charter amendment, I would like voters to make the decision in November.
Ward 8

7/8/2020 3:01:16 PM

I urge the Charter Commission to approve the proposed amendment to the city charter, and I believe it is imperative that it is on the ballot this November 2020 for voters to decide whether or not we have a police department imposed upon us and to determine what public safety means to us, the public. Not to do so would be to continue to enact violence on a community by imposing a police department on an entire city who are granted monopoly of force, and to do so without the consent of citizens of Minneapolis. This is antithetical to a functioning democracy, and it is antithetical to any just idea of what community safety is. It became apparent in the aftermath of George Floyd's murder that the police are willing to continue to use violence against a united group of citizens in order to maintain their violent and racist ways of policing. On multiple occasions I was tear gassed for peacefully protesting the murder of George Floyd. Why were the police tear gassing us? I honestly do not know any other explanation than that they think we are wrong to protest that. But it became clear that they are not us, they are not the people of Minneapolis. It is clear that it was us against them, and not them protecting us (as they claim to). If they, and if you, really think that they are the best means of safety for the people of Minneapolis, then you will approve the amendment and let the people vote on whether or not they have made us feel safe. Ward 7

7/8/2020 3:05:11 PM

- 1) Police need to apologize for centuries of abuse.
- 2) More time spent on community policing strategies.
- 3) Cops should be trained to address their racial biases.
- 4) Police should avoid situations that lead them to use force.
- 5) Officers must be held accountable in a very transparent way.
- 6) On-the-job incentives for police officers need to change.
- 7) We need higher standards for police — and better pay for cops.
- 8) Police need to focus on the few people in communities causing chaos and violence.
- 9) We need better data to evaluate police and crime. Ward 3

7/8/2020 3:07:18 PM

Dear Charter Commission,

I am writing to ask you to approve the proposed charter amendment. This amendment is the first step toward a solution to the problem of police violence in our community. If kept intact, the current police department will only continue to inflame tensions and lose credibility with the very citizens it is meant to protect and serve. This is unsustainable.

The vicious cycle of escalating tension between police and citizens can only be broken with structural change to public safety in Minneapolis, which requires changing the charter. As someone who works in public health, I believe that a public health-led community safety agency is not only more desirable in

the abstract; it is also a pragmatic solution that addresses the fact that the current system of policing has utterly failed to keep people safe. We must look at safety holistically. Positive social conditions, not just enforcement, create safety. It is important that the charter reflects and recognizes this reality. Please approve the proposed amendment so the residents of Minneapolis can vote on this important amendment this election. Ward 10

7/8/2020 3:11:55 PM

The death of George Floyd was just one in a long history of violence and over reaction by the Minneapolis Police against Blacks and People of Color. And while I do believe there are very good police officers, the system in which they function has proven itself to be corrupt to the point that they feel they are unsafe in speaking up against those officers who abuse their power. Reforms have been promised and yielded little to no lasting results. Bob Kroll is a serious roadblock, and if the police offers themselves - who claim to be mostly good - cannot vote out the cancer at their head, then it seems the only recourse is for the City to eliminate the Police Department and start fresh. Amending the Charter to allow this action is a good first step. There will be a lot of education for the public before we all feel comfortable about what alternatives might look like, but it's time to take drastic steps. I love my city and want what is best for ALL its citizens. Thank you for taking on this challenge. Ward 3

7/8/2020 3:13:06 PM

This seems to be an unfortunate and ill conceived effort on the part of the City Council to take a drastic step that affects the community without engaging the community in a meaningful discussion. Through this device they seek to defang the office of the Mayor and the clear line of authority and accountability that best serves the people while seizing for themselves authority and diffusing and confusing the matter of accountability for public safety.

This also comes at a time in which the community has respect and appreciation for the work of the City's first African American Chief. Without delving into the motivations of the Council suffice it to say that the timing is horrific.

There should be a meaningful discussion on the dynamics of the delivery of public safety and the culture of the police department and the undue influence of the Federation, but rash pronouncements and inflammatory rhetoric from the Council does not serve those ends.

I oppose the placement of this amendment on the ballot. I welcome a robust, respectful and thoughtful dialog on these substantive matters. Ward 5

7/8/2020 3:16:26 PM

Please put it on the ballot so that we can vote for it! The people deserve to have a voice, and we've already spoken about what we want. Put it on the ballot this year and let us vote. Ward 8

7/8/2020 3:16:57 PM

I fully support this change. Thank you for bringing this forward. Well done! Ward 12

7/8/2020 3:18:48 PM

Hello, My name is [REDACTED] and I believe that as residents of Minneapolis it is very important that we get to vote on the charter amendment to start dismantling the police system this year.

We demand that you put this on the ballot, as voters deserve the chance to choose.

The people of Minneapolis continue to protest and demand change now. The charter commission should not stall the process. Justice cannot wait another year.

We want a new model of building safety. Thank you for your time. Ward 6

7/8/2020 3:20:59 PM

How can you reform an organization like the police, that evolved from slave patrols, harbors white supremacists, and had no accountability? Ward 4

7/8/2020 3:26:28 PM

I support refering the proposed City Charter amendment to voters in November 2020.

Having reviewing the proposed amendment, I found it to be clear and appropriately scoped to enable the City of Minneapolis to transition away from a traditional police force to a Department of Public Health and Violence Provention (which may include some traditional elements of law enforcement, but will be lead by a Council-appointed director who has experience beyond law enforcement). I believe this transition would be a meaningful improvement in our City, and the voters should have the ability to vote Yes or No on the proposed Charter amendment this November - without having to wait another whole year. Ward 2

7/8/2020 3:27:11 PM

Black leaders in Minneapolis are speaking out against the decision to disband the police. During a press conference Tuesday, some members of the black community condemned the city council's decision to abolish the city's police department by saying it will hurt their communities the most.

<https://www.oann.com/minneapolis-black-leaders-speak-out-against-disbanding-police/>

You need to have some listening sessions before moving forward to understand the support level. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/8/2020 3:28:48 PM

I am not in favor of removing the police department from the charter. I believe there must be reform but not done in this way. I actually believe there must be more funding given to the police department so they can implement the needed change. If I am in danger and call 911, I want a police officer and not a social worker. We need more police patrolling the neighborhoods so they establish a relationship with the people in their precinct. I feel a police presence is a deterrent to crime. I am totally against removing them from the charter or decreasing their numbers. Ward 11

7/8/2020 3:31:01 PM

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 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. Ward 3

7/8/2020 3:32:23 PM

If the requirement for the city to have an armed police department of a certain size is removed from the city charter, regardless of what replaces it, I will leave Minneapolis - and Minnesota - permanently, and take the annual \$10,000 of state taxes that I currently pay with me. Ward 4

7/8/2020 3:33:06 PM

The proposal to defund the police department is ludicrous. The crime in our city is already unacceptably high this year. If the police are removed from the charter, we will only see more crime and more people and businesses leaving the city. We will become like Detroit. Without a doubt, if this occurs, I will sell my house and move to a safer environment. Ward 7

7/8/2020 3:35:08 PM

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a Brown Transfeminine Hijra residing in Ward 2 of Minneapolis. I have never felt safe with police presence, because the history and current operations of a carceral police state are predicated on imprisoning and punishing people like me for fines, gentrification/ghettoization, and free labor once locked into the prison industrial complex. For too long MPD has gotten away with intimidation and violence of our communities. They are clearly not a department set to pursue safety and justice, they are in it to protect state and local power dynamics. We cannot rely on them to truly care for our communities, it is time to change the charter to remove the police department and introducing a new non-lethal/non-violent safety department and one that has trained professionals connected to local resources re: mental health, shelter, domestic violence protection, social workers, etc. Put the power back into our communities by letting the community respond to our issues rather than state bodies designed to oppress and control its constituents. Ward 2

7/8/2020 3:40:41 PM

Hello. I am writing in support of this proposed amendment. We have an opportunity to reimagine public safety in this city - this is an important step to ensure that my neighbors and I are safe from the increasingly militaristic and reprehensible behavior within the MPD. Ward 9

7/8/2020 3:44:26 PM

The majority of 911 issues do not require the police. Rather, community service workers can address non-violent issues. Ward 5

7/8/2020 3:44:42 PM

I am writing today to write in favor of changing the charter, remove the Police Department as a required city department, and to begin the process of creating a new community led department of safety and violence prevention. The MPD has terrorized this community for 150 years and it is beyond reform. I know I, as person who is privileged by the color of my skin, could just sit by and allow this momentum built by so many amazing Black activists and organizer to go by without my notice, but I want to add my voice and support in favor of their leadership and wisdom because I know in the long run, dismantling white supremacy everywhere is good for everyone. I also owe a lot of the rights I have, as a queer person, to the movements led by Black Trans women and queer POC. Not only that but our community deserves much better than "what has always been done". Because what has always been done is literally killing people. So I ask that you change the charter and put it in on the ballot for our city to decide. Do not wait - too many people have already been waiting too long - so put it on the ballot this

year. Let's protect our community members with real compassion and understanding and listening - not with the convenience "what has always been done" and violence. Ward 10

7/8/2020 3:47:47 PM

This City Council has already been wrong on many issues. The Council should be defunded and reconfigured. Their bad decisions continue to cost the taxpayers. The decisions they make, could instead be made by all residents, using technology. Ward 13

7/8/2020 3:48:30 PM

1) Putting the amendment on the ballot. Voters deserve the chance to chose.

2) Do it this year. People of Minneapolis took over the streets demanding change NOW. The charter commission should not stall the process. Justice cannot wait another year.

3) We want a new model of building safety.

(info from Reclaim The Block who also has a very helpful video out to help understand the charter amendment process) Ward 5

7/8/2020 3:49:05 PM

The following is what I sent to my councilman's attention.

Kevin,

I hope you are following the comments posted on Nextdoor. From what I am reading there is a very large number of constituents who are opposed to defunding the police. I try to keep an open mind but at this point I tend to agree with them.

You and the rest of the council are pushing this idea without clearly laying out a vision of how this would work so we can make an informed decision. I for one really like my interactions with the police in the second precinct and from what I have read our precinct rates much better than the third or fifth. Do we need to go to one size fits all. I do not think so.

My proposal would be to delay the charter amendment until you can present a clear vision on what this change would mean and how this will effect home owners, renters, and businesses. Until you do this I must vote No on the amendment. Ward 1

7/8/2020 3:53:09 PM

I support changing the city charter. We need to rethink what safety looks like for all people in our community. The police have lost our trust. Ward 10

7/8/2020 3:56:07 PM

Dear Minneapolis Charter Commissioners—

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Minneapolis resident of Ward 2. I am reaching out to urge you to include the "Establishing Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department (Legislative File 2020-00668)" charter amendment on the November ballot.

I have been informed by Councilman Gordon that you have 150 days to review the amendment proposal passed on by the city council, but that the amendment must be approved by August to be considered on the November ballot. Given this tight timeline, I urge you to expedite the review process. People across

the city are calling out to defund the Minneapolis Police Department and divest from its 153-year legacy of racist and classist violence. As appointed officials, it is your duty to ensure that our voices are heard and that our concerns are reflected on this year's ballot.

We must be able to determine our collective future for ourselves. Please do not let the clock run out on this proposal as you did with the proposed amendment regarding MPD in 2018—that was truly a violation of democracy.

Please approve the council's amendment, and let us decide for ourselves in November.

I appreciate your time and consideration, Ward 2

7/8/2020 4:00:10 PM

I've lived in Minneapolis for 30 years. I grew up here.

Even as a respected, law abiding white man with no criminal record, my memories and associations with the Minneapolis police and the Hennepin County Attorney's are filled with trauma and dread.

Over the years I've heard of, seen and even witnessed people I care about, people from my community harassed, beat up, mistreated, surveyed. I've supported friends held in jail by false testimony of police, whose lies contradicted video evidence. I've been conditioned by real experience to distrust police officers, regardless of if they may be good people or not. I've personally experienced a hearing officer lie about the law to get me to pay a fine for being in the park, peacefully, at night.

I'm sure many, if not most, police officers are hard working, earnest people, including the chief. Yet these hard working public servants are held hostage by an institution that is empowered by the current legal arrangement to be corrupt and rotten to the core.

The institution they serve is failing those hard working, good officers' sense of purpose, and it is failing our communities.

Why do we sink money into it? What we really need to spend that money on is a whole spectrum of violence prevention programs and resources for the people in our communities who are most vulnerable to the violence of poverty and racism.

The deeply entrenched conditions of poverty and racism are the most obscene violence in our city. And the police, as an institution, have been complicit in this violence.

Please respect the will of the city council and its constituents. Help them dismantle the police department's corrupt grip on our city, so that we can build institutions that foster healing and equitable growth. Ward 2

7/8/2020 4:00:46 PM

I feel relieved when I think about a future in which instead of a police department, our city invests in community safety and preemptive violence prevention. I think about the contrast of two different property issues we had at a shop I managed.

In one, someone broke the glass of our front door and we had to call the cops to get a police report. The cops didn't do anything except make everyone nervous- we had to clean up the glass, we had to board up the door. We had to figure out how they got in so easily, and our landlord installed a more secure lock.

On a different occasion someone stole a bike, and when he came back we recognized him and one of our staff went to talk to him. The person who stole the bike was experiencing homelessness and was generally down on his luck. Finding out what we do and what our mission was, he didn't come back to steal another bike. He didn't need to be imprisoned or murdered- he was a neighbor of the shop who needed housing and support and care.

Police don't stop theft, they don't stop violence, and they don't stop car accidents. In my experience, they just scare people and are an unpleasant moment you have to deal with in order to get access to insurance or other help after something scary happens. We can do so much better. We can be leaders for the rest of the country in trying something new- investing in helpfulness and care for our neighbors instead of in overtime pay, military surplus, and teargas for police officers. Ward 9

7/8/2020 4:12:08 PM

I have worked and lived in Minneapolis for 74 years and this proposal needs to be burned like the building that we lost in June. Please vote no on this proposed charter amendment. Ward 3

7/8/2020 4:18:24 PM

I strongly support prompt action by the Charter Commission to put the proposed charter amendment on this fall's ballot. The current prescriptive requirements for police staffing and funding are harmful in so many ways.

As our City responds to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, other Departments providing vital services are disproportionately cut because MPD is immune. Changing the Charter will allow our leaders to consider ALL City resources, including those currently allocated to MPD, as they navigate the months ahead.

The Charter's current language is similarly harmful in contributing to the ongoing public health crisis of racism. We need to remove this arbitrary language preserving MPD staffing and funding levels immediately, in order to allow our City to move forward in addressing this crisis. Policing plays a HUGE role in structural racism, and any progress will require freedom from the current charter language.

Do not delay putting this amendment to a vote in November - our City cannot afford to continue staffing and financing the MPD in this way. Changing this Charter will allow community conversations around the future of policing to continue, and for our leaders to respond to ongoing health challenges with a fuller arsenal of public resources. Ward 9

7/8/2020 4:20:52 PM

In light of the budget deficit, we need to spend the minimum on the police department. More money, more training and more outreach officers will not solve the problems - our communities will work on those together - what we need is more funding for affordable housing and more services for those in greatest need. Ward 2

7/8/2020 4:21:01 PM

These days it is risky to even comment on an issue like this as council members are willing to publicly "dox" their constituents if they have differing opinions.

Another city council member doesn't even have the responsibility or leadership capability of shoveling their own walk. If you were to criticize them for that, you would be accused of sexism.

Still another member was reprimanded for assaulting the city's security guards.

The council members lied constantly on Twitter during the riots that destroyed portions of the city. For example, one spread a false rumor that the National Guard had pulled out of the city.

At the same time that they are trying to take away our armed protection as more people get shot day after day, they are making us pay for their own private armed security.

These same council members are trying to wrest control of the police department, dismantle it, and recreate it under their own control.

They have no plan. In fact, no one has any plan for what the city will look like without protection.

The mayor has control of the police department today. There is one single source of responsibility. That is how it should remain.

The city council has given us countless reasons to not trust them and yet are asking us to place our safety in their lying, contriving hands. We need to stand up to the bullies and say NO! Life-long Ward 11 resident

7/8/2020 4:28:56 PM

Hi there! My name is [REDACTED] and I live in Longfellow. I would very much like the chance to vote THIS YEAR with a hearty YES to the proposed charter amendment of removing the MPD and replacing it with a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. Time and time again we've seen the actions of the police department result in more violence and harm to those who most need protecting. While I don't believe that "all cops are bad", I do believe it's time to wipe it clean and create a new community-based model of safety, support and prevention. I believe in a system infused with wise compassion and equitably distributed resources. A humanitarian-minded reallocation of the MPD's budget alone could do so much for our city!

I know it's a tall order and a magnificent ask but I believe it's honorable to try. Please give us the chance to vote on the amendment this November. Thanks for all your work. This is all so hard. We're in it together. Ward 2

7/8/2020 4:36:03 PM

As a registered nurse that works directly with a population disproportionately impacted by police violence as well as lack of access to services, mental health diagnoses, secure housing, and other barriers to well-being, I support the proposed charter amendment. It makes sense from both a public health and public safety perspective to move forward with the change to our city charter. The police force does nothing to promote well-being in our communities. Social programs, mental health services, housing, and drug and alcohol diversion programs are under-funded. Both of these issues can be solved through the proposed charter changes. The city of Minneapolis can and should be at the forefront of contributing to best practices for community safety that supports the well-being of populations that face the deadly consequences of police violence. Diverting funding from police departments to social services and programming as noted above is a well documented public health approach to addressing community safety, and there are established case studies both nationally and internationally that we can use as a model. The proposed charter is a road map for achieving this goal and I support it being adopted as is. Ward 9

7/8/2020 4:41:46 PM

I am writing in support of the proposed amendment to the city charter. I believe that when a department of the city is funded and empowered to have such an extensive influence on our lives, even to the point when its officers are allowed to take the lives of our fellow citizens, then we need to have greater control of that department, and the ability to remove it if necessary.

This amendment will be a vital step in making our city a healthier, more prosperous democracy in which we can all live without fear. Ward 10

7/8/2020 4:45:59 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! Ward 13

7/8/2020 4:49:02 PM

I would rather DEFUND the City Council, They want to DEFUND our Police, but have spent tax dollars on a private security force 4500 per day to protect themselves.

4 bad Police officers are a good reason to take a look and reform our police force, NOT to do away with police, while taxpayers fund protection for the City Council. My vote would be to FIRE the City Council, and reform our police department. The City Council does NOT represent many of us taxpayers. FIRE the City Council, we can vote for a better one. Ward 3

7/8/2020 4:50:21 PM

I support the establishment of a Dept of Community Safety and Violence Prevention that among other duties oversees a division of law enforcement services. We need to prioritize safety and prevention, not policing. Policing works best when underneath the authority of community safety and violence prevention (not the other way around) Ward 13

7/8/2020 4:51:44 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!

Ward 13

7/8/2020 4:52:46 PM

I don't want to vote on this charter amendment until the City has a clear evidence-based plan in place for how they will ensure violence is prevented in the interim/ transition phase. I also will not vote in favor of such an amendment unless it is clear that the plan to replace the police has been vetted and approved by community members on the North Side. Currently, the plan to dismantle the police lacks broad community support by those most impacted by it. Where are their voices? Where is their buy in?

Also, in previous cases where police departments have been successfully dismantled, such as in Camden New Jersey for example, part of the reason behind the success of those changes is that there were actually MORE police on the ground engaging with the community, but in more concentrated areas. How does the city plan to reconcile this?

Ultimately, I want to see my tax dollars go towards more investment in communities. More investment in schools and housing and afterschool programming and social workers and substance abuse treatment programs and jobs for residents on the North Side. And, at the same time, in conjunction with that investment, I want to see a community safety plan that centers the concerns of Northside residents, who are disproportionately impacted by community violence.

Until the city demonstrates that they have a well-considered, community-centered and evidence-based plan for both, I will not be in favor of the amendment. Ward 3

7/8/2020 4:52:52 PM

This is a ridiculous proposal, and has failed everywhere it has been tried. Cambridge NJ got results because their process basically transferred policing to the county, and doubled the size of the force. Our police force has been defunded gradually for the past 18 years, and did not grow with the population. A better approach is to fill in the gaps - have specialized police officers to deal with domestic abuse, separate ones to deal with drugs, separate to deal with murder, rape etc trained in that specialty and partner with the union so that rather than acting as the defense lawyer of bad cops, they make sure cops get a fair shake which means letting the bad ones get fired. I will vote against the charter amendment and against any politician who supports it, including working on opposition campaigns. This isn't Mayberry Ward 9

7/8/2020 5:00:30 PM

I do not feel safe without a police force. I do not want the police defunded, dismantled, or abolished. I am terribly concerned about the recent increase in gun violence in our city. I am a mental health professional, and I cannot see people like me responding to situations with gunfire, without the police. Please decrease the violent training programs, increase the number of police, and help the police to become more connected with the community. I don't understand why it has to be an either/or situation: why can't there be funding for mental health resources and also the police. Ward 5

Opposition to the Minneapolis City Council proposed amendment. See attached upload for my explanation. Ward 13

Attachment:

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. Sincerely

7/8/2020 5:10:08 PM

Do not amend the charter. It's critical that we fully support our police force. Give them the training they need and don't undermine them.

Telling the police to stand down while rioters and looters destroyed Minneapolis was a tragedy.

Law and order is critical to keeping Minneapolis a livable city. Ward 7

7/8/2020 5:10:15 PM

I do NOT support removing the police department. I think the city needs more officers, not fewer. I most certainly see the need for accountability for officers who use force inappropriately, but I think that can be done without removing the police department altogether and starting over from scratch--hurriedly, without completely thinking things through and without figuring out all the details ahead of time, on the fly. Ideas: Much more careful selection in hiring. Much longer training periods, and extremely careful vetting of who provides the training. Research on, and adopting of, best practices that have proven successful in other departments. I do not support wording on the amendment that says the Council MAY maintain a division of law enforcement. MAY? That wording seems to leave the door open for not having law enforcement at all. I support addressing violence prevention, but not in a manner that takes funding away from law enforcement. Downgrading law enforcement is not going to eliminate violence -- it may result in other forms of violence increasing. Are the "peace officers" referred to in the amendment to be armed? If not, what happens when they encounter armed individuals in tense and unpredictable situations? We have more guns on the street in the U.S. than we have citizens. With that being the case, of COURSE we need law enforcement. Are you just renaming the police department the department of community safety and violence prevention, and then watering it down? What does a "holistic, public-health oriented approach" entail? So many unanswered questions...way too early to make these changes in my opinion. I will vote no. Ward 11

7/8/2020 5:11:00 PM

To the Charter Commission:

Minneapolis policing needs to change, that is clear. I think that a narrower Charter amendment than the one currently proposed, however, could give residents and city representatives the needed flexibility to change the police department and create more safety and violence prevention resources. The smaller Charter amendment that I think should be made is to delete only the required amount of funding and staffing for the MPD. That provision is a barrier to reworking and reshaping safety and policing in Minneapolis - deleting that part of the Charter would give the mayor and council the leeway to make significant and necessary changes to MPD staffing.

Although I do not oppose the creation of a new city department to develop and provide more community safety resources, I think the current charter allows the City Council to pursue that. The charter currently says that any other necessary departments besides those listed in the Charter can be created.

In summary, I agree that changes should be made to law enforcement and more focus is needed on community violence prevention resources. However, I don't think we should eliminate the Police Department entirely. Instead, I think we should remove only the Charter provisions that lock in a minimum police force and the associated compensation. Then residents and council members can begin work on balancing policing and community violence prevention measures. Ward 11

7/8/2020 5:22:51 PM

I'm a St Paul resident and agree that there are problems with the current policing policies. I think the Mpls council is making a power grab from the mayor. You promised a plan, I don't see a plan that offers safety for the residents and visitors of Mpls. I think you should slow down and put together a plan that assures safety for everyone. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/8/2020 5:23:41 PM

While I am on board with the creation of a community safety department, I strongly oppose the total elimination of the police department - reform is clearly needed, but getting rid of the police won't fix all of the underlying issues. My neighborhood in Dinkytown has grown increasingly violent over the past few years, to the point where I am seriously considering moving to another state. If anything more officers are needed, given the recent widespread looting and destruction. I fail to see how a "violence prevention department" can effectively respond to robberies, shootings or widespread riots. Ward 3

7/8/2020 5:29:48 PM

Put it on the ballot! Let us vote! Do it this year, we demand change now! We want a new model of building safety! Ward 9

7/8/2020 5:49:00 PM

Justice cannot wait for another year: let the people decide how to create safety in our communities! We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want.

7/8/2020 5:50:11 PM

Commissioner Cohen,

With all due respect, asking in today's meeting that we should have the rank and file officers to offer their testimony with the amendment is flawed in a few ways:

1. They have almost a total conflict of interest. This is their employer, reputation, their livelihood, and career. How do you expect them to give an unbiased perspective?
2. I'm not sure why their perspective is important? What do you expect them to say? This smells to be an obvious attempt to delay the process to help derail the will of the majority of the people.
3. Rank and file have testified their view over the course of many years. They let their union speak for them. The union has been insensitive, offensive, and inflammatory. We have seen officers refuse to engage with communities except in confrontational or neglectful ways. They treat the public as a nuisance and rarely as equals or in a just way.
4. Frankly, they simply don't have say if they don't live in the city. They are humans and part of the state but 94% they don't get a vote in this issue. The city public and their local jurisdictional representatives get to evaluate their service and value to the city.
5. Finally, do the rank and file even come close to representing the public they serve? They are overwhelming male, straight, and white. This would be a very flawed perspective and unrepresentative sampling. Ward 9

7/8/2020 5:55:58 PM

I urge the Charter Commission to put the charter amendment on the ballot. Voters deserve the chance to make a decision, rather than having it made by a non-elected body. This needs to happen this year because of the people of Minneapolis took over the streets demanding change now. The charter commission should not stall the process. Justice cannot wait another year. We want a new model of building a Minneapolis that is safe for ALL residents, and this charter amendment is one part of that rebuilding. Ward 3

7/8/2020 5:59:18 PM

I have just listened to the City Council responding to Q+A from the Charter Commission about the proposed Charter Amendment.

I am extremely concerned. I heard nothing from any Council Member that will put me behind the proposed charter amendment. The Charter Commission has the right read from all the constituent feedback sent their way - we want a far more detailed plan to evaluate with much more time to flesh it out properly, and robust community input. I have to say that it is a stark difference in how the Council Members and the Charter Commissioners are receiving public input. The Charter Commissioners seem genuinely interested in representing the people they hear from, while the City Council members seem to only want to advance their narrative. The comment about "the privilege in waiting" (Alondra Cano) was particularly disturbing. We have a massive uptick in violent crime right now with no support by this council for the police. We residents of Minneapolis don't have the "privilege in waiting" when there are rapes in Powderhorn Park, shootings every single day, home invasions, encampments growing in our city parks, etc. We need police NOW, and we need police in the future. This Council has had YEARS to make a difference in the police department - the very last thing I want to see is these people put in charge. They have no clue about policing and public safety! If they did, we would have already seen a difference. The words from Council President "I have to head out" - how can a Council President not stick around for the whole meeting on this issue that is so important to our community? She implored the Charter Commission to respect her CM colleagues - are you kidding? Respect is earned. Many members of the Charter Commission have deep experience under prior mayoral administrations in violence prevention, policing and NRP. Ms. Bender, please cut the bully pulpit and start listening to both the Charter Commission and the people of Minneapolis. Ward 13

7/8/2020 6:10:25 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis for 9 years, I am wholly supportive of the City Council's proposal to refund the Minneapolis Police Department and reimagine community safety. I work at a homeless shelter, and multiple times we've had mental health situations where we needed assistance to de-escalate a resident or child and get them to a hospital. When we call 911 and request an ambulance or a mental health officer however, the police always show up first, and not an officer with mental health training. This makes our residents and staff more hesitant to call 911 in situations like this, because we're afraid that if police show up and they see something as a threat, they will shoot to kill. Maybe a kid picks up a banana and they think it's a gun (this has happened in the U.S.). Maybe a resident resists arrest because they're having a mental episode, and they're choked to death. Police presence always seems to escalate situations when it's involved, and I would love to see our community create a better option for people to receive help and not worry about dying. Ward 10

7/8/2020 6:11:28 PM

Commissioner Lickness,

Your question in today's meeting: Why are we in such a rush even when Ward 6 has no representation?

Answer: This does not represent the reality. Ward 6 residents will have a vote on the November ballot. This is a perfect form of democracy and for them to express their will and desire. They will have multiple months to hear the cases pro and con. Also, you can extrapolate that with unanimous Council support from other wards that have very similar make-up and proximity that the outcome would be support from the vacant Council seat member.

Secondly, this is not rushed. We, the public, have been debating the effectiveness of the police for years and years. The killing of George Floyd was the final straw that broke the camel's back. The majority of the people of this city know the issues and understand the ramifications. It perhaps is a new issue for you, but I want to assure you that everyone I know in the city are in favor of taking this vote in November (good or bad outcomes we can live with the results). Ward 9

7/8/2020 6:16:32 PM

Too many groups have been created to monitor the police in Minneapolis history and were subsequently closed. The longest any of them lasted was 14 years, not even one generation. What good will these half-measures and other ultimately ineffective reforms do? The horror George Floyd suffered and the anger that followed shows how Minneapolis--and the nation--is crying for drastic changes in law enforcement. The whole system of public safety needs to be rebuilt. You must put this amendment on the November ballot and let the people's voice be heard. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/8/2020 6:16:50 PM

I just watched the charter commission session with city council and as a resident of Minneapolis felt compelled to comment because it's clear to me that members of the Charter Commission have reservations about advancing the amendment to the ballot, but the Council hears us residents in wanting to redo public safety. Our system has repeatedly failed, our reforms have failed, and yet costs us millions of dollars, but does not prevent crime. In various situations I refrain from calling 911 out of fear of what it will do to members of our community; we already have a system we cannot use and are paying huge sums of money towards. The current system does not prevent crime but reacts to it. This model fails and targets persons of color. Our crime rates do not correlate to police staffing in any data model there has ever been. It's time to explore alternatives and the only way the city can advance and explore those alternatives is to remove the charter requirement for police as they exist today. Doing so will not abolish police overnight but allow us the tools to pursue alternatives. I cannot believe residents would oppose this at this point. We need to move forward. Ward 10

7/8/2020 6:29:04 PM

We support Police Reform We oppose defunding the Police Department

We join the many residents of the city who do not believe that a proposed amendment to the City Charter to remove the Police Department and create a new department will advance the transformational reform that is needed. Ward 7

7/8/2020 6:31:47 PM

Commissioner Chair Clegg, I want to compliment your management of the meeting today. This is an emotional issue that you mediated well.

I was somewhat surprised by the reaction of many commissioners not realizing the moment we are at in Minneapolis. I believe commissioners need to recognize Minneapolis has been viewed as completely inept in our race relations and police accountability by ALL OVER THE WORLD.

Everyone wants to get this right. We want safe communities. We want fair justice and equal treatment. There is no disputing these facts.

What is obvious to everyone AROUND THE WORLD is that we are not getting it right currently. We don't have safe communities for everyone. There is not fair justice and equal treatment.

Please, please do not squander our chance to get it right and restore a moral and ethical code of conduct for our public safety. Please, please I'm begging you to understand the urgency of this moment and the critical crossroads we are at in this city. We have to get right. We have to dramatically change the status quo. Let the Council lead. They are capable, well thought out individuals with a variety of backgrounds and constituencies. They are educated. They are on the front lines with the people. They have experience. Please, please don't discount them and their pleas to make structural reforms to the most tragic and neglected social problems we have in this city.

Allow Minneapolis to reclaim some dignity and honor people's desire for a better tomorrow. Ward 9

7/8/2020 6:44:28 PM

I have live in Minneapolis for 27 year specially close to the Mr George Memorial. I have see how police had been working to stop the violence that to change our neighborhood. Now violence has increased in our neighborhood we can't even cross our streets safe or go to the park with my kids safe. My kids can't understand why can't go to the park any more. Please don't remove the police make the police better.
Ward 1

7/8/2020 6:56:02 PM

I attended the virtual meeting today, and I wanted to thank the Charter Commission members for their thoughtful consideration of the proposed public safety amendment. Listening to the arguments from City Council members, I got the distinct impression that this amendment must go forward immediately even though there is no plan on how to properly manage public safety at this time (as the period of community involvement/discussion in nowhere near complete).

This seems reckless and based on emotion. I strongly disagree with the amendment as written. I liked the idea implementing a pilot project, and I would be in favor of a balance of power over the police force between the Mayor and the City Council. Switching control from one branch to the other, and attempting to enact changes at a scale not yet attempted seems almost doomed from the start.

Please deliberate over this as long as it takes. Find the best alternative amendment. Honestly, I don't want this on the ballot in November. I want to change the police force in a meaningful way after community input, with an amendment tailored to reflect thoughtful discussion and backed by as much hard data as possible. It's almost certain that we'll need to amend the charter to get to some form of public safety that actually helps people, but it's not this amendment. Ward 12

7/8/2020 7:08:28 PM

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: 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 dilute the necessary separation of powers in the City, concentrate too much authority with the Council (who does not receive a vote from all residents of Minneapolis) decrease public safety without a new plan in place, and fail to address the root issues of systemic racism in our community. I urge you to vote against the proposed amendment.

Ward 10

7/8/2020 7:11:09 PM

To the members of City Council,

I am a lifelong resident of Minnesota and have been a constituent of Ward 10 in Minneapolis for eight years. I voted to elect Lisa Bender to represent my ward, as I was particularly excited by her proposed road infrastructure changes to encourage more bicycle and bus transportation. I consider myself to be politically progressive and am generally so proud of the changes my city and this Council are making towards a more equitable and sustainable future. I attended demonstrations after George Floyd's death at the hands of our police, and I am enraged by the egregious use of violence against a citizen. However, had I known that in 2020 the City Council would move to functionally dissolve the Minneapolis Police Department without first having a thorough plan for new structure in its stead, I may have reconsidered my vote. I will be deeply frustrated if I am forced to vote either way on a major life-changing charter amendment that is not first informed by a comprehensive transition plan.

I believe that whatever a re-envisioned public safety network will look like, it will need to deal with certain dark realities of the United States. Current law enforcement officers have to operate in a world where any individual they interact with may carry a gun, even in a seemingly non-violent or routine situation. More to the point, the recent summer spike in gun violence in Minneapolis, of which I am certain this council is already aware, gives completely reasonable cause for residents to have concern over how an ill-defined "licensed peace officer" (Section 1. Article VII, 7.2b Division of Law Enforcement Services) will effectively respond to real violence. What is a licensed peace officer? What is a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention? Why am I being asked to vote on this without those basic definitions?

While I am fully prepared to be open-minded about re-allocating funds and responsibilities that currently belong to the MPD into other forms of social work or homelessness and mental health resources, I do not want to live in a city that is without an authoritative body of agents who can enforce laws under threat of arrest. And frankly, although I wish we lived in a country without guns at all, I want at least some of those agents to carry guns. No matter how we may justly seek to treat instances of drug addiction or child welfare or even petty crime with less force and with more empathy, there also needs to be a place for handling gun and knife violence, sexual assault, burglaries, and multiple forms of physical violence.

To summarize my comment to this Council, with a couple extrapolations:

- 1) Do not ask voters to make such a serious decision about the nature of public safety in our communities without first defining for them what that will look like, in explicit detail.

2) Create a plan to re-direct funds and duties from MPD that would be most appropriately or could be better and more compassionately taken up by other forms of civil servants, such as social workers, addiction experts, domestic violence resource officers, traffic controllers, or housing agents. Put that plan to a vote by the public.

3) Do not remove the Minneapolis Police Department from the charter, but keep them or a body functionally similar to them in addition to the Department of Community Safety. We will continue to need officers with arresting power, guns for situations of gun violence and robbery, who have a legal basis of authority, and who are themselves subject to laws.

4) Overhaul police training, culture, and procedures to promote more sensitive interactions with the communities they serve, better trust from the community, and dramatically fewer violent responses in situations that do not warrant force. Consider residency requirements for officers, or that they demonstrate significant knowledge of the area they serve.

5) Acknowledge that violence prevention is complex and may take years to amend. Ward 10

7/8/2020 7:14:30 PM

As a resident who lives less than 1 mile away from the 3rd precinct I fully support the amendment as proposed. The changes proposed would allow far greater flexibility for our vision of public safety to evolve via ordinance changes instead of being strictly codified in our city charter. I feel like this is a great first step to ensure that over time we can construct a public safety model that is fair and just for all the residents in this city. Ward 2

7/8/2020 7:24:12 PM

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Minneapolis in Ward 6. I believe that this charter amendment should be on the ballot this November. Please let the voters decide whether or not we want a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department instead of a Police Department. Thank you! Ward 6

7/8/2020 7:28:54 PM

Hello, I am writing to express my explicit support for putting the charter amendment on the ballot for this November in regards to putting public safety in the hands of the people.

As I white person, I DO NOT want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter. I want to see MPD eliminated, and a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention be created. Also, I want to see the immediate removal of the charter requirement for a minimum number of police. Lastly, this charter amendment cannot wait another year. Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Thank you, Ward 3

7/8/2020 7:30:09 PM

I do not support dismantling or defunding of the police dept. Up until this summer, all I have been hearing from people is we need MORE police. Now, all of a sudden, we don't want police at all. Well, we still have crime. In fact, now we have more crime. It is definitely a good idea to have professional people, or even a department, whose job it is to try to prevent the root causes that lead people to commit these crimes. It would also be important to clean up the police dept., although I don't see how defunding would accomplish that. Whatever we do, we are still going to need law and order and people to enforce it or criminals will take wild advantage of the situation. Ward 12

7/8/2020 7:30:26 PM

It is extremely important to let the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter amendment So we can create safer communities Ward 12

7/8/2020 7:36:13 PM

It is your moral duty and the people's expressed desire that you include the motion to change the city charter on THIS YEAR's election. That you would fail to do so is morally repugnant. Black Minnesotans deserve better and you are using bureaucracy to obstruct democracy. Ward 3

7/8/2020 7:36:46 PM

I am so disappointed in this City Council making this proposal! I have been a resident of this city since 1960 and I find this kind of a knee-jerk reaction without plan or input from we the residents the worst idea I ever heard. Mpls needs police. Yes, there is a need for reform and many changes but we have a Chief who can do this! He is very respected and from our city.

I have appealed to the Charter Commission to be thoughtful with this proposal and to delay it. It should NOT be on the November ballot.

I appeal to the City Council to do the job they were elected to do and take care of the many issues we are now facing, especially the Homeless People need care and help. We need thoughtful spending with all the economic issues being faced due to Covid-19 and the demonstrations that wrecked havoc on many city areas.

Talk to the people who love Mpls, who live in Mpls and who want a better Mpls. Not a Mpls with a Police Force turned upside down and inside out at a time like this! Ward 8

7/8/2020 8:22:47 PM

Before you eliminate the police you need to create it's replacement once the replacement is working you still keep the police working as usual. Then you start evaluating the replacement to see what works and doesn't work. You also need some state institutions that we had back in the 50's civil commitment laws to place ppl in a safe place. Then and only then can you gradually start taking apart and reducing the police force. This process will take at least 20 years. Do it any faster and the city will disintegrate in less than five years. Ward 13

7/8/2020 8:32:42 PM

Thank you for your work. I'm in favor of police reforms. I am not in favor of this vaguely worded amendment being put on the ballot this November. Much more detail must be included, much more input from the whole Minneapolis community needs to be collected before any amendment goes to the voters. There are lots of good ideas, please gather, include and present them before fast tracking this charter amendment. Ward 12

7/8/2020 8:48:08 PM

Hello, I'd like to ask the Charter Commission to PLEASE allow the people Minneapolis a voice at the ballot box this fall, and allow for the current City Council amendment to be voted on by the people.

As the Councilmembers noted today in your 7/8/20 meeting -- they are unanimous, they are hearing feedback every day, all of the time from their constituents. Their amendment reflects this input.

People flooded the streets in the wake of George Floyd's death to ask for change. They did not ask for years of process, debate, and feet-dragging. Please give people the right to make their voice heard one more time -- don't take that away. Ward 3

7/8/2020 8:52:19 PM

I support moving this amendment to voters this November. Ward 12

7/8/2020 8:58:50 PM

I listened to the entire meeting today (7/8/20), and I couldn't help noticing that all five of the Council members seemed to develop audio (or perhaps auditory) problems whenever any Commission members raised the question of revising the proposed amendment to unbundle some of its forcibly conjoined parts and to give the voters more neutral options to consider. Surely one could support the idea of an integrated public safety department without also concluding that it must report to the Council.

Over the last few weeks I have become more and more concerned that the Council's argument for a "different container" in which to house public safety is really a request for their own sandbox, one that they will not need to share with anyone who disagrees with their pre-determined conclusions. One has to wonder whether the same container under different management would provide them the same sense of accomplishment.

If the Council really wanted to find community members who seek deep and lasting change to Minneapolis policing, yet do not support the Council's current approach, they would not have to look very hard. The NAACP, the Urban League, the Downtown Council, the Regional Chamber and the DMNA have all publicly expressed deep reservations about the blindered and reckless steps the Council has taken so far. Blaming the Star Tribune for biased coverage and treating anyone who disagrees with them as a defender of the status quo is really not a winning strategy. As I have expressed to Steve Fletcher, I am at all not afraid of changing the public safety system, but I am very afraid that the Council's current tactics will squander a rare opportunity for broad and lasting consensus in support of that change.

I suspect many, many residents of Minneapolis would be open to a more nimble and interdisciplinary approach to public safety if they believed that it would remain under adult supervision and come with a well-designed transition plan from the current police department. I don't know if that effort really needs to begin with a charter amendment or just a much more disciplined and systematic piloting project as suggested by one of the Commissioners. I do know that the Charter amendment should not go forward in its current form. If the Commission cannot persuade the Council to modify its proposal, then perhaps the review process should not wrap up by August 5. In that case, we might just discover whether Plan B exists after all. Ward 3

7/8/2020 9:43:56 PM

This is ridiculous. You are ruining Minneapolis and making us the laughing stock of the country. It is not what the vast majority of your residents want. This will only make things worse. Stop this foolishness now! Ward 11

7/8/2020 9:46:29 PM

I support this proposed amendment Ward 1

7/8/2020 10:12:29 PM

As a resident of nearby suburb of Minneapolis, With the passing of the proposed amendment, I and my family will not be doing any business in Minneapolis, such as going to restaurants, shops, etc that are located in Minneapolis. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/8/2020 10:20:23 PM

I support the formation of a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and removal of the Police Department. However, I think the City Council and mayor should be in charge of it. I do not agree with the new department being overseen by the City Council only. Ward 7

7/8/2020 10:39:01 PM

This is simple. Let the citizens of Minneapolis decide. This is a presidential election year that will have a high turnout. I was ignorant of the Charter Commission and the role they play in city politics but everything I have seen is that they are a superfluous entity that should not exist. Let the citizens of Minneapolis decide the future of policing not an un-elected body. The citizens of Minneapolis have voted for our City Council for representation. We did not vote for the members of the Charter Commission. Ward 10

7/8/2020 10:41:18 PM

I am strongly opposed to amending the charter.

We need our police department to stay intact.

Your activism will be reearded at the next election. You are not representing the people you supposedly represent. Ward 13

7/8/2020 10:44:25 PM

I agree that further transformation is needed to address the violation of human rights by some police officers against people of color. However, I don't agree with the way the City Council is going about it. Our City Council members have not taken the time to explain to the people they represent what their vision is for what will replace the current police department and what research has gone into that thinking as well as an orderly flexible timeline for proposing, researching, discussing and implementing such a transition. In addition, I am not aware of any effort made by Council members to reach out to the neighborhoods they represent and solicit input by email or through an online or in person socially distanced meetings. We have invited our City Council representative to do this to our neighbors and we have not received a response. It is disappointing that such an important and critical change appears to be rushed and that the Council is under pressure by some forces who are not necessarily interested in a civil, rational and free discussion and input between the Mayor, the Council Members and the community they represent. Ward 9

7/8/2020 11:05:40 PM

It is clear that the police department is irredeemably set in it's ways of discriminatory policies and is a tool for further racist policing. I agree with the ideas set forth and want to see this bold proposal to go forwards. My only main concern is that the MAYOR has to have the final say on overall decisions and the new department / rules should reflect this. Ward 7

7/8/2020 11:06:09 PM

I am completely in support of the proposed amendment. Please consider implementing something like Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, or LEAD. The process involves a cop handing off low-level offenders to an addiction counselor or social worker, instead of turning them over for incarceration and a cycle of release and re-arrest. Please also consider reallocating funds for housing and other social services. Ward 12

7/8/2020 11:09:00 PM

To Whom it May Concern: 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. Ward 5

7/8/2020 11:09:05 PM

I am a life-long Minneapolis resident and the mother of 4 young daughters. The city council's proposed charter amendment is a reckless and flagrant proposal that would not only jeopardize the safety of my own children but the safety of young and vulnerable populations from all corners of our great city; north, south, east and west.

I am in support of police reform and greater accountability. I am in support of restorative justice; there is a right and good place for it in our criminal justice system. I am however not in favor of thoughtless, rash and politically motivated maneuvers by our city council members that do nothing more than sow fear, uncertainty and endanger ALL Minneapolis residents. I strongly encourage you to reject this proposal. Ward 11

7/9/2020 1:41:54 AM

Please increase traffic enforcement on our streets. I have witnessed too many accidents and complete disregard for others' safety. It scares me so much!

Increase resources for law enforcement. We deserve a safe environment. Ward 4

7/9/2020 1:44:28 AM

Please do not change the charter. We need law enforcement in our ward. We are considering leaving Minneapolis due to higher crime this summer. Ward 4

7/9/2020 4:14:08 AM

I believe the proposed charter amendment is too vague, open-ended, and devoid of details. I support efforts to reform, improve training of police, and am willing to trust that our new police chief and our mayor can accomplish significant reforms. I certainly do not want the police or public safety to be placed in the hands of "a city council" or "a committee" vaguely constructed and vaguely empowered. Law

enforcement is tough enough without having to answer to multiple bosses. Reforms, yes , but discarding an entire police force and replacing it with some vague committee, no. Take time, put in thought, provide me with specifics, not pie in the sky utopian visions of unarmed police and armed citizens living in a harmonized community. I certainly cannot support the proposed amendment to the city charter as is. I am a life long democrat, a life long liberal, and past delegate to city, precinct, ward conventions. To throw out all sworn officers because of the egregious behavior of a few seems ill advised. Ward 1

7/9/2020 6:35:32 AM

The other sections mention funding. Has funding or minimum funding for each new branch been considered? Ward 8

7/9/2020 7:24:22 AM

The dismantling of the Mpls police department is NOT the answer to the current problems within the police force and the issues facing our community. It appears the counsel is rushing to make a change for the sake of making a change and is not listening to ALL citizens of Mpls. This irrational thought process from the counsel is making me consider moving out of the city that has been my home for 30+ years. Ward 7

7/9/2020 7:29:18 AM

We are long-term residents of Prospect Park in Minneapolis. We are writing to share our thoughts with you concerning the proposed amendment to the city charter.

While we completely understand the strong feelings engendered by the murder of George Floyd and the systemic racism which it has spotlighted, we feel that the proposed amendment to the city charter has not been carefully thought through. There are obvious repercussions to the total abolition of the city police force. Who do we turn to if there is a burglar trying to break into our home? Who do we call if we see someone being assaulted on the streets of the city, or if arson or fraud is taking place? Who will track down criminals and bring them to justice? Who will patrol vulnerable areas of the city to serve as a visible deterrent to criminals? As elderly residents of the city (one of us being a person of color), we fear that our own safety will be in question if changes are made rashly and thoughtlessly.

We agree with the idea that public safety is better achieved by a holistic approach in which there is an emphasis on community engagement and a better understanding of the special circumstances involved in any specific 911 call. We agree that it may be more effective to have someone trained in social and psychological services involved in dealing with a mentally-ill or suicidal citizen. An armed police officer is not the best person to deal with such situations. However, a police presence may still be needed if the softer approach goes awry. It is also naïve to think that communities can safely and equitably handle all policing duties themselves. Vigilante justice, infighting, and clannishness are likely to derail such a noble vision.

Instead of abolishing the police department or leaving it vague as to whether or not there will be a police force, we believe the city needs to pay much more attention to the composition of the police force. Police officers should, preferably, be residents of the city. They should be encouraged to reach out to the leaders of the communities they serve. They should learn and understand the nuances of the neighborhoods just as well as any resident does. They should be trained in de-escalation techniques and in good listening, just as much as they are trained in self-protection. They should be intensively trained in race relations, and they should resemble the makeup of the community to the greatest extent

possible. There must be changes in rigid union rules and the blue code of silence which have blocked these measures and which make it impossible to discipline and fire officers for egregious behavior.

We suggest an approach in which the city hires a well-qualified temporary police force to maintain law and order while the existing police force is disbanded along with its all-powerful union. The city should then selectively rehire its best officers and enlist their help in properly training new recruits. It may be possible to somewhat reduce future staffing below the current levels, but it is likely that many necessary functions will continue to need to be performed by police officers even under a new model.

Rather than rushing into a vague charter amendment change at very short notice, it would be far more constructive to have a thoughtful and broad-ranging discussion of the goals and structure of a new policing and community safety model. We should not be asked to vote upon and authorize an unknown.

Thank you for soliciting inputs from community residents. Ward 2

7/9/2020 7:41:00 AM

I encourage the City Council to let voters choose to amend the City Charter to establish a Department of Public Safety & Violence Prevention.

It's clear that police reform has not worked in the past. It's clear that arbitration keeps bad cops on the job.

We need a new system of community-led safety efforts, now! Ward 9

7/9/2020 7:57:03 AM

I work for the city and am afraid for my safety while doing my job if the police dept is defunded. I will be looking for other employment in a city where public safety is a top concern and not politics. You want to change the charter? Then change it so the mayor has more power than the council president. The mayor needs to be elected by a majority of all voters, but the council president is not elected by the general public and has more power than the mayor. This is the most dysfunctional form of government possible. Why even have a mayor? He has no influence whatsoever other than being a talking head! Why is Lisa Bender in power when less than 10,000 people voted for her? The other 400,000 voters have no say; their voices are not heard, because they had no choice in a decision that appoints the most powerful person in the city. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/9/2020 8:15:57 AM

I support this change. It give the room we need for real change, and gets rid of the mandate that helped solidify the power of the problematic police as they sit now. This is not enough for real change to happen, but I believe it is a step in the right direction toward better safety for all of our citizens.

Ward 12

7/9/2020 8:18:37 AM

The Minneapolis Police Department needs to be reformed. I am in favor of Chief Arradondo . I am in favor of the Mayor being in control. We need Police to protect is from crime. I am not in favor of having defunding police on the ballot. I do not trust the current city council to make sound judgements maintaining safety in Minneapolis. Ward 3

7/9/2020 8:23:30 AM

Our elected city council unanimously proposed the charter amendment. Make any suggested changes and move it along! Stop trying to block our ability to vote in November! We want to VOTE on this in November. Ward 6

7/9/2020 8:26:02 AM

I do my best to read as much as I can about what is happening in Minneapolis yet it is difficult to find clarity. I understand that the governance structure of Minneapolis is unusual in that the City Council has a great deal of power. The City Council needs to greatly improve its communication with residents to help us understand your thinking and plans. The actions of the Council feel rushed and vague. While there is no question that action is needed, there is zero clarity about what action is needed. It takes time to handle these complex issues and rushing to get a charter amendment on the ballot is foolish. PLEASE DO NOT RUSH THIS PROCESS. Please be leaders and handle things without a rushed vote. I have read that community social justice leaders feel this way, too. Ward 11

7/9/2020 8:30:47 AM

I applaud the Charter Commission for their recent strong questioning of the City Council. Before this the City council has not allowed questioning and has been dismissive of efforts to get a better understanding of their proposals, except from the fringe groups which support police abolishment. The safety and vitality of Minneapolis hinges on this proposal and many in this Ward have been deeply affected and continue to be affected by the violence since the murder of George Floyd. We all want police reform, we all want to see major changes, however the lack of detail or any substance to the Councils proposal is extremely alarming. I am to go to my doctors office (which I have to go to frequently since I am pregnant) because of the large uptick in violence recently. I fear this will just continue if the Councils proposal without substance goes through. I will 100% support a change to the police department, including a major reduction if that plan is laid out ahead of time and public safety is defined, not just guessed at. I have seen various different messages from various different councilmembers which makes it clear that they do not have a clear direction. Further, most of these are through social media. I am alarmed that they feel writing a facebook post is sufficient to deal with the enormous responsibility they hold. I further encourage you to talk with police officers to get a sense for their participation in this new idea. Also, interviewing anyone who would be a candidate for the 'non-law enforcement leader' of this new agency. I have no idea who would be in the role, however its important to understand how that role would be able to and understand the complexity of the police force and protecting the valuable and vibrant resources of this city, including the major businesses which call this city home. Ward 8

7/9/2020 8:35:54 AM

Hello,

I support the Council's plans to de-something the police, but like everyone else I'm looking for a little forethought before I cast my vote. People are clamoring for details, and I get that, but I'm not sure we need details right now, those will follow and to overpromise details at this point could prove a mistake. We need a broad plan, a model, a story: The Camden Model, the ages-old London model, or what I'm calling the California Model (so named by what SF, and maybe LA, is doing by not sending out armed warriors for most calls), or better yet some hybrid that we can call the Minneapolis Model. Give us a bold plan, but one grounded in who we are (who we all are), and what we need to change about us, not

what others hope to change about the world. We can change our world, and that's a pretty good start. Thanks for your work on this. Damn the naysayers and stay the course! Downtowner Ward 3

7/9/2020 8:37:57 AM

As a resident of Minneapolis I am not in support of the proposed changes to the charter and encourage the Council to spend more time thinking through a solution that both increases the opportunities for community safety measures but also ensures that licensed enforcement officers are employed by the city. I believe the focus of the Council should be on accountability and resource allocation to ensure the system is fair and just to all citizens of the city of Minneapolis. Erasing the whole police department does not correct the current problems, it just pushes them aside and attempts to solve with an unproven theory. Ward 3

7/9/2020 8:42:02 AM

Dear City of Minneapolis,

The Idea to defund the police department is ludicrous. Look at CHOP in seattle. It's chaos accented with lawless killings. When someone in Minneapolis is assaulted or robbed would you send a social worker with milk and cookies? Maybe the social justice choir as the victim lies bleeding from gun shot wounds?

I live in Prior Lake, grew up in Richfield. I use to frequent Downtown and Uptown's restaurants. Now with all the unrest my family and I will not go near Downtown or Uptown. I own partial ticket packages to the Twins and Vikings. I will ask for a refund from those teams if there is not a functioning, disciplined police department. In other words I or my family will not spend another dime in the City of Minneapolis if the council does not come to their senses. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/9/2020 8:43:34 AM

Public safety in Minneapolis needs to be redesigned so that all residents can feel safe in asking for help. Minneapolis Police also need better oversight so that they feel accountable for their actions when interacting with the public. MPD Officers should not be responding to mental illness calls. There are many models from around the country that use alternative methods for responding to many of the calls that MPD currently responds to. MPD needs to be redesigned as a community driven agency that doesn't have forts and military equipment. You can not protect and serve when hiding behind riot gear, tear gas, and tanks. Ward 5

7/9/2020 8:48:47 AM

I strongly oppose the proposed amendment to the City Charter. I strongly oppose defunding or abolishing the Minneapolis Police Department. I further hope that the City Council persons who are advocating for this amendment are voted out of office in the next election. Ward 11

7/9/2020 8:57:39 AM

I strongly favor the amendment to the city charter regarding the police. It must be allowed to go forward in November 2020 so that progress on dealing with the problem of police violence can happen apace. The proposed amendment gives our elected representatives the opportunity to make effective and efficient changes to an institution that serves Minneapolis poorly. The statutory stipulations on number of officers in particular hamstrings our elected government in responding to our democratic demands. Ward 10

7/9/2020 8:59:38 AM

I do not support abolishing the police department. A well functioning police department is critical to the safety and well-being of city residents. Abolishing the police department without developing a proven alternative will result in a less safe community.

I am supportive of police reform including a review and reassessment of funding, training, residency requirements, and potentially diverting funds from the police department to fund mental health, social services and other services required to respond to community needs.

But abolishing the police department in the manner proposed by the charter amendment is a rash and ill-considered action; it has not been explored, debated or brought before the public for consideration in a manner with sufficient time to review facts and data, solicit input from residents, identify benchmarks from other cities who have "reimagined their police force" nor for the development of viable and proven alternatives. Minneapolis Ward 7

7/9/2020 9:01:10 AM

The events the past few months have been a tragedy, starting with the death of George Floyd, followed by the destruction of our community, and our Service, Merchandising, Manufacturing, Retail, Restaurant businesses and our community gathering spaces alike. Our company does and will continue to proudly support law enforcement; however, we do believe that this tragedy and others like it were avoidable and highlighted the need for change.

As one of the longest standing businesses and employers of a diverse workforce in this community, the safety of our team, campus, and neighborhood is our highest priority.

Our company has been in business for over 100 years and plans to continue our legacy of providing our products and services to the world in support of critical infrastructure as well as every other industry to date.

We all have seen what will happen to our community, when our laws are not enforced, we need our city and state to stand behind and advocate for law enforcement, protection, and peace in our community, now and into the future. Ward 9

7/9/2020 9:08:24 AM

I would hope the charter commission would use the time it needs (the 150 days) to consider what is being proposed by several members of the city council. I have lived downtown for 41 years and I am deeply concerned about the proposed concept of defunding the police and assuming that social workers, housing folks, can replace them. We are already struggling as both business and residential communities. We are very dependent upon the police. Surely more housing, food services, domestic violence services are needed but defunding the police will not get these services. These are budget decisions, mostly made by the County, State, and Federal governments. Further, in a crisis situation as we just experienced, a police chief reporting to 14 people is unrealistic....worse yet it will be impossible to attract a good role model as a chief if that is the ultimate decision.....TAKE YOUR TIME.....waiting another year to get on the ballot will allow cooler heads to prevail. Ward 7

7/9/2020 9:41:08 AM

Hello-

I am writing to express my support to the charter amendment as proposed by the City Council. Other than shifting control of the Police Department from the Mayor to the City Council, conforming with every other city department, the amendment on its own does not do anything but open the field of opportunities for solutions arrived at by a year-long open discussion among the people of Minneapolis. It seems random that we should have minimum police levels written into our charter (why? what purpose does this serve?) and in a time when radical reform has so much momentum maintaining the current charter language seems capriciously undemocratic. I fear the cynicism it would engender among many people if the charter were maintained in its current form: most people really don't understand what the charter or the charter commission is, just that it is a shadowy organization that pops its head up to block real change. Such lack of faith in current authorities and government are the kindling for future riots. I respectfully implore the charter commission members to quickly approve the amended language in the spirit of democratic reform and public engagement. Thank you all for your consideration! Ward 12

7/9/2020 9:42:10 AM

I am writing to comment on the matter of the city charter being adapted to no longer include a mandatory percentage of police officers. Our current public safety system that invests the majority of its resources in the police force is not working. We do not need a pilot program. We have tried training, hiring diverse people, and many other studies, reforms, and pilot programs. We need to start the process of making real change which includes diversifying how we look at public safety. In order to do this we need the charter committee to allow this part of the charter come to a vote of the people. Allow the people to speak. Do not force us into another year of another program that doesn't work while more and more of our community is hurt and killed. SW LICSW Ward 12

7/9/2020 9:53:52 AM

I support changing the city charter amendment so we can move away from the MPD and towards public and community safety for all. Ward 3

7/9/2020 9:55:36 AM

I am not in favor of changing the charter. Ward 1

7/9/2020 10:00:13 AM

Some fundamental problems of the MPD with proposed solutions are as follows:

1. "Warrior" training and any training practices that emphasize fear of citizens, an "us vs. them" mentality, violence as a first resort, or maximum force. To counter this, elected officials, or a chief appointed by elected officials, must have complete control over law enforcement training. Neither the Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis nor any law enforcement labor union can be allowed to control the training agenda. This must be a matter of public policy, not labor negotiation.
2. Qualified Immunity. The doctrine of qualified immunity must end. Law enforcement officers must be held criminally and financially responsible for their actions by default, not just in the most egregious of cases. However this occurs at the state, county, or city level, any reform is toothless without ending qualified immunity.

3. Toxic police culture. Law enforcement agencies promote an internal culture of overlooking wrongdoing by fellow officers and protecting each other from responsibility for wrongdoing, at the expense of the public. To counter this, the enforcement of discipline within the agency must fall to elected officials or to a chief appointed by elected officials. Standards of discipline must be maintained through the entire chain of command. Penalties must include the possibility of loss of job, loss of benefits, loss of pension, and ineligibility for rehire. Neither the Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis nor any law enforcement labor union can be allowed to control internal discipline. This must be a matter of public policy, not labor negotiation. Ward 7

7/9/2020 10:04:27 AM

I applaud the underlying motivation of the Minneapolis City Council, in recognizing the racially biased history and basis of the Minneapolis Police Department, and the policing and prison systems in general. It has been eye-opening for me personally to learn more about these issues and to see how long efforts have been going on to create awareness around and change this discriminatory crisis.

My concern is that the Council seems to have left many Black city leaders out of the conversation and are missing an important opportunity to involve the City's highly-regarded police chief in the process. I've been reading about Black leaders, especially from the North side, who are not happy with this action, and it seems important for those voices to be front and center in a change of this kind. Ward 2

7/9/2020 10:17:00 AM

I fully support removing the Minneapolis Police Department from the city charter and replacing it with community-based groups as outlined in the proposed amendment. Ward 12

7/9/2020 10:27:52 AM

This proposed Minneapolis charter amendment submitted by the city council should NOT be recommended as written. The new department of public safety and violence prevention MUST include adequate funding for a professional police department, which is essential to the maintenance of safety and stability in our city. The City must maintain its responsibility to enforce the laws, maintain the legal system and protect all its citizens. Ward 9

7/9/2020 10:30:51 AM

This appears to be a very rushed process that leaves me, and I'm sure many others, extremely uncomfortable and skeptical. No meaningful details have been presented to explain how the proposed Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention will work, nor have impact assessments or a budget been described. No outline has been shown to describe how the Minneapolis Police Department would transition out and the new department would transition in. We are in perilous times, with an aftermath of destruction from the riots, and recent spikes in violent crime rates. We must deal with significant reforms in the police department, particularly pertaining to unfair treatment of the black population. Within our existing framework and charter, the city of Minneapolis should be focusing immediately on police reform and accountability. They should also be looking at social work and programs that can help the poor throughout the city, including the homeless. Sanctuary parks are not a sustainable solution for the homeless problem in Minneapolis. Reforms should not come at the expense of more destruction and creation of a lawless environment. I think most residents of Minneapolis would agree that it will likely take more funding to make the current structure or a future structure work, so that both safety and economic disparities can be addressed. The mayor and city council owe it to the

residents to create proposals that describe the changes in sufficient detail, with impact assessments, budgets, and transition plans before putting forth the current charter change to the ballot. Ward 2

7/9/2020 10:31:32 AM

Given the history of inadequacy displayed by the Minneapolis police department in helping our community feel safe, I believe it is time to try a new approach to promoting a community sense of safety and well being.

I am in support of abolishing the Minneapolis police department and installing a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department with the provision that if a role similar to that of a police officer still exist in this new department that the persons appointed to this role be trained in a way that reduces "warrior" tendency and that prioritizes deescalation and other non-violent tactics instead. Ward 7

7/9/2020 10:33:33 AM

I believe it is vital to actively seek the input of people of color on this proposed change to the charter. Because they are almost always underrepresented in having their voices heard, especially when soliciting feedback in traditional channels of communication, council members should be door knocking or otherwise reaching out in person to these members of our city. Ward 13

7/9/2020 10:47:00 AM

I support the proposed amendment being submitted to the voters in November. The charter changes will support a broader, more productive dialogue on community safety across Minneapolis and help remove some of the current structural barriers to meaningful reimagining of public safety in the city. Ward 13

7/9/2020 10:48:59 AM

To the members of the Minneapolis Charter Commission,

I urge the Charter Commission to respect the unanimous position of the elected City Council to put to ballot changes to the city charter that would enable the transformation of public safety in the city. The Charter Commission must not overstep its boundaries and misuse its power by delaying the vote on proposed changes. I implore the Commission to accept the democratic process, both by respecting the unprecedented unanimous position of the elected City Council, and by giving voters a say this fall. The Charter Commission must respect and trust Minneapolis voters and allow them the opportunity to vote. There is no justification for delaying democracy. A concerned Minneapolis resident, Ward 8

7/9/2020 11:02:34 AM

I am writing as a citizen of Minneapolis, asking to include the amendment to the City Charter to be referred to voters in November. This is vital to do this year - waiting only shows that we are ok with the violence and militarization of the Minneapolis Police Department. Justice cannot wait another year.

We want safety in our communities in Minneapolis and the only way to do that is to move forward with a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police Department from the Charter. Ward 2

7/9/2020 11:05:50 AM

I believe the proposed charter amendment about the police department is vague and rushed, and should not be put on the ballot this fall. This is a deeply important change, that deserves a much longer period of time for feedback, and much community dialogue before we're asked to make a decision. We are being asked to trust the city council to come up with a plan after the amendment is passed, and our city has a long history that suggests trusting the council is not necessarily wise. Please delay this, and make sure the community has ample time to consider the ramifications of what is proposed. Thank you. Ward 8

7/9/2020 11:06:52 AM

Please support the City Council purposed amendment to the City Charter to be referred to the voters in the November election. It is very important it gets put on the ballot for the November elections and not wait a year. Everyone, particularly black folks, in our community deserves to live with a sense of safety and feel that their lives and voices matter and are heard. The current police system is not working for our citizens in Minneapolis. Let's explore other ways to create a community safety program Ward 12

7/9/2020 11:20:16 AM

I'm a longtime resident of South Minneapolis and live a few blocks from where George Floyd was murdered by the Minneapolis Police Department. I'm white; male; middle-class; I don't think I've ever even been pulled over by a cop despite being middle-aged. That is to say, in theory I could sit this whole issue out and it would not affect my life.

That is unacceptable on both a moral and practical level. It is long past time for Minneapolis to face up to the reality that we have a public safety crisis that is primarily instigated by the police force that has been acting as a kind of protection racket against our city. There are a lot of issues our city is facing, but for the last few years I have come to realize that public safety reform and starting the process of abolishing the MPD and replacing it with a network of public services that actually match the nature of the problems we face will be critical to our building a successful and dynamic city that all our residents have equity in.

For that reason, I implore you - we cannot have this brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter. We must immediately take steps to eliminate the MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. You must act as soon as possible to remove the Charter requirement for any minimum number of police.

Moreover, the citizens of Minneapolis need to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year. As the maxim goes, "Justice delayed is justice denied" - we must act **as soon as possible**. Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want.

Years of talk and halfhearted attempts at reform have not managed to actually do anything to fix the systematically applied violence done to people of color in Minneapolis. We need **action**, not words. Please act. We are counting on you. Ward 8

7/9/2020 11:20:23 AM

While I live in Roseville rather than Minneapolis, I strongly support that the Commission let the people vote on the charter amendment. The Commission is not an elected body and has no right to block a proposal from elected officials. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/9/2020 11:23:50 AM

The charter commission needs to let this come to a vote. This is a public health crisis that requires immediate action, and we don't have any more time to wait. It is fundamentally immoral for an unelected body like the charter commission to keep the people of this city waiting and to block real change from happening. The people of Minneapolis are watching, and we won't accept this. Ward 3

7/9/2020 11:24:49 AM

I strongly discourage, and would vote against, any proposal to abolish the police department until a more detailed plan for a new or reformed unit has been articulated and subjected to a reasonable period of public comment. The current police chief has strong support and the potential to address many of the issues (which do need to be addressed), but he can only do this if there is adequate funding (see the example of Camden, NJ) and if the very problematic police union and its leader are taken out of this process. Ward 7

7/9/2020 11:38:56 AM

I want the Commission to approve the charter amendment as written to be on the November 2020 ballot. The amendment would:

- Remove MPD as a *required* city department and make police optional in the city
- Remove a required ratio of police officers to Minneapolis residents so we could begin scaling down police.
- Establish a new Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention that uses proven community safety strategies and is shaped by community.

I'm a white woman and I have rarely had a positive interaction with a police officer. How much more terrible must it be for folks who face serious prejudice because of their skin color? Minneapolis police are no longer a trusted institution by residents - they have lost their ability to effectively do their jobs.

Moreover, police are asked to be able to respond to a great variety of situations that no one person can do. We can more effectively solve problems in our city when we reconceptualize public safety and work to get to the root of the problems facing us.

I used to work at a domestic violence agency. If we had significantly increased funding we could make an incredible impact in ending domestic abuse, instead of letting it fester, resulting in the highest volume and most dangerous 911 calls for police. But we were always just scraping by while police had millions at their disposal. Just because we've been using police forces to solve so many of our problems doesn't mean we have to do it that way. Indeed, it isn't the most effective way to do it. We have an incredible opportunity here to make our community truly more peaceful and just. Ward 8

7/9/2020 11:42:52 AM

Please do not rush this proposal onto the ballot this year. There needs to be a more defined proposal so that voters know what they are being asked to approve. Ward 7

7/9/2020 11:47:18 AM

This rushed amendment is the antithesis of democracy. Changing decades of policies to enhance public safety will require a thoughtful and reasoned approach that studies alternative solutions and seeks input from both experts and the citizenry. Unfortunately, asking the electorate to endorse the unclear vision of a handful of city council members before it has been fully vetted would undermine any hope of consensus and effective change. Giving the people the opportunity to make a decision based on incomplete information is an abdication of the responsibility to provide them with the information they need to wisely exercise their civic duties. Change in public safety is needed. But taking the time to ensure that the change will be effective and, as importantly, instituting change with broad support of the electorate is far more critical than the quick imposition of policies the council and mayor don't even agree on. Thank you. Ward 7

7/9/2020 11:48:52 AM

The job of the Charter Commission is to decide whether this proposal is put to vote. It is not the job of the Charter Commission to decide whether the proposal passes, and it is not the job of the Commission to represent the people of Minneapolis - the Commission is not made up of elected officials. Put this proposal on the ballot and let the people of Minneapolis decide. Do not obstruct the democratic process by blocking the ability of Minneapolis residents to vote on this deeply important matter. Ward 2

7/9/2020 11:51:30 AM

I am a native of St. Paul who regularly visits its twin city. Minneapolis has the opportunity to lead the country in creating a new and better system of public safety. It is the role of this commission solely to determine whether or not this amendment is appropriate to the charter and not an ordinance. I beseech you to allow Minneapolis residents to determine their own future via their democratic vote, and not make this decision for them. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/9/2020 11:55:05 AM

I'm very concerned that a governing body that doesn't represent the communities that want this charter amendment passed has essentially all the power right now to decide for themselves the fate of the amendment. I want to vote in support of this charter amendment this year. If we miss out on this moment, we may never get the chance to vote on such an important amendment that could fundamentally change the way we protect our communities. This has happened before, and I would be incredibly disappointed if it happened this year. Please do not hold up this amendment and LISTEN to the folks that are leading the way on vocally supporting this amendment and actually working in the communities most affected by policing. Ward 2

7/9/2020 11:56:53 AM

Let us vote to change the charter. The people want to create a safe community where WE live. This involves moving MONEY into areas that will actually protect us (not the police). Instead of trying to understand and make decisions for our community, LET US VOTE THIS NOVEMBER! Ward 8

7/9/2020 12:00:16 PM

I believe we should let the proposed charter amendment regarding police funding be on the 2020 ballot so the citizens of Minneapolis can vote on it during a major election where we would expect to see higher voter turnout than the next election cycle. Ward 1

7/9/2020 12:00:27 PM

In these unprecedented, tumultuous times, Minneapolis can be a leader and a good example for others to follow. I fully support creation of a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and removal of the Police Department from the Charter. The time to act is now. Ward 2

7/9/2020 12:03:52 PM

To Whom it May Concern: 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. Ward 7

7/9/2020 12:13:20 PM

I am resident and i am strongly opposed to abolishing the police department! This is an insane idea! We need to reform the department and make sure bad cops like Chavin are removed from the force. The city council rushed this unpopular amendment through knowing there would be significant opposition. It should of been a long process with significant input. This needs a long hard look! Pleases don't rush this it should be voted on in 2021. Possibly we should try Commissioner's Abbott's pilot project idea but if it is tried it needs to be in a HIGH CRIME area or we will never know if it is feasible?? Little would be learned if it was done in a quiet area of the city that little or no crime. Ward 11

7/9/2020 12:17:52 PM

The city council appears to have been stampeded into an ill advised and sophomoric solution to the recent rioting and civil unrest surrounding the tragic murder of George Floyd. The solution to this problem does not lie in abolishing the police, a sort of "throw the baby out with the bathwater" solution to a multi-dimensional problem.

Yes, we need to do something about the institutional racism infecting the department. However, we still need a police department. While the proposed amendment permits the maintenance of a department, its clear focus is on "a holistic public health oriented approach", whatever that means. There are bad apples in the department. There are bound to be. I spent 43 years as a prosecutor, and met five or six of them myself. However, just because there are homicidally-violent police officers on the force does not mean that every one of those officers should lose their job, to be replace apparently by a public health officer or a holistic healer.

The solution to the problem lies in a more careful hiring process. Police trainers know which of the new class of trainees shouldn't carry a gun. However, it is my understanding that they are not empowered to terminate these trainees. They should be. Of course, there should be due process, but the process should exist.

I oppose the abolishment or defunding of the department. Other less draconian solutions exist.

Ward 2

7/9/2020 12:19:05 PM

I believe that there is a need to make reforms to the Police Department. However, I'm totally opposed to de-funding the police department. I think the current proposed amendment will not be good for the Safety of the citizens of Minneapolis.

Mayor changes such as this proposal need much more community input-from all areas of the city.

Ward 5

7/9/2020 12:19:39 PM

I don't believe that the plan is 100% where it needs to be right now but I am wholeheartedly for giving the city council oversight over the police department - from there the public can actually have a voice as to how it should be structured and run. Right now the power is too entrenched and concentrated and any reforms will be killed before they come to fruition. Ward 1

7/9/2020 12:21:51 PM

This a sick joke?

7/9/2020 12:25:23 PM

I live in Saint Paul and work in Minneapolis Public Schools. It's clear to me that my students have not benefited from MPD being a giant and militarized city department. Minneapolis voters deserve a chance to vote on this amendment as soon as possible. Many other parts of Minneapolis' city infrastructure have swiftly responded to the public's demands for change, I ask that the charter commission take the simple step of ensuring this valid amendment can be voted on by the public at the November 2020 polls. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/9/2020 12:30:20 PM

We 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. Ward 11

7/9/2020 12:35:06 PM

Please support the proposed charter amendment and allow it to be on the ballot this year. Ward 12

7/9/2020 12:47:58 PM

PLEASE GET THIS ON THE BALLOT. This November. NOW. please. PLEASE. Ward 3

7/9/2020 12:55:22 PM

I think this amendment should be put up for a vote and I support the amendment. Ward 13

7/9/2020 1:08:01 PM

As citizens of Minneapolis we have every right to vote on this amendment, and it must be done THIS YEAR. The Charter Commission's job is to determine whether the proposal could be accomplished by ordinance OR if it requires a vote. It's NOT their job to block voters from making their choice on this amendment that our elected city council officials have created and passed.

The policing system in the U.S. and particularly in Minneapolis is not working for all of our people. It discriminates against people of color and it needs to be replaced with a better system. The country is watching us. Allow us to do the right thing and make progress.

My daughter is 2 years old. I don't want her to have to watch her city burn in 20 years because the Charter Commission didn't do their jobs properly. Ward 12

7/9/2020 1:08:09 PM

Proceed with vote! Stop standing in the way of progress. Ward 11

7/9/2020 1:13:15 PM

The elected officials have chosen to let the people of Minneapolis vote on changes to the charter. I demand the right to vote on the proposed change to the charter. Ward 5

7/9/2020 1:17:03 PM

Dear Minneapolis Charter,

In the weeks since George Floyd was murdered, thousands of Minneapolis residents, myself included, have taken to the streets demanding change, and specifically pushing for the city to defund Minneapolis Police. As a result, the elected officials who represent the people—the Minneapolis City Council—have proposed sending the matter to a city-wide vote; the logical and democratic way to decide what the people of Minneapolis would like.

It's the charter commission's job to serve the people of Minneapolis—again, given the city-wide demonstrations and calls for ending Minneapolis's relationship with the police, the least you can do is allow the democratic process to unfold. The charter commission's job is to determine if this proposal is appropriate to the charter; it most certainly is.

Do your job. Approve a vote on this proposal in November. Ward 3

7/9/2020 1:22:04 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. Ward 7

7/9/2020 1:29:04 PM

I think the decision to defund the police should be on the ballot in November-not a year long conversation on how to reform.

The police need to be defunded and eventually abolished. We can create specialized units to deal with public safety. Ward 9

7/9/2020 1:41:26 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.

Property values will decline and therefore tax revenues will decrease.

I urge you to vote AGAINST the hurried proposed amendment and reject an Ward 7

7/9/2020 1:57:23 PM

On the Charter amendment. In my opinion we are in a very reactionary time when elected officials can impose their own views and those of special interest groups with out overall input from the electorate. We are also at a time when real input from the public at large and community groups is not occurring. Next year the City Council and Mayor are up for election. If the amendment is going to the votes, it should be next year and then the elected officials can campaign on the position they are supporting and greater input from all of Minneapolis citizens will occur. An overall plan for policing should be developed by then. Ward 9

7/9/2020 1:59:24 PM

I'm writing these words hoping that 000,015 people read them. In 2018, exactly 179,930 Minneapolitans voted on a City Charter amendment. That amendment was just about liquor licenses, not about the City's relationship with an armed force with a practical license to kill. City councilmembers -- who bear the imprimatur of and accountability to their constituents -- proposed an appropriate amendment to your appointed body about the City's relationship with the Minneapolis Police Department. There are more than 425,000 people in Minneapolis who would be profoundly impacted by this change. I trust that the 000,015 of you care enough about democracy to work hard to get this proposed amendment on the ballot in Nov 2020. And to the extent that you find technical reasons not to do so, consider what you're adding to the mountain of technical reasons why we're in this situation in the first place -- qualified immunity; data practices that shroud complaints against police from sunlight; *Graham v Connor*, preemption laws that allow the vast majority of MPD to extract their salaries, benefits, and pensions from Minneapolis' taxpayers and head home to the suburbs at the end of their shift; statutes that mean that the City (with our money) must defend these suburban folks who kill or who mete out other brutality against us; lopsided good faith statutes that mean that the City has to negotiate with the union in good faith, but the union doesn't have the same obligation, etc, etc, etc. Basta. Let us vote.

Ward 8

7/9/2020 2:08:38 PM

You must allow the citizens of the Minneapolis the right to vote for a proposed amendment to the charter to begin dismantling the hold the Minneapolis Police Department has on our city. I want to see this put up to a vote THIS YEAR. It would be abhorrent to allow a committee such as the Charter Commission who is made up of APPOINTED individuals, not elected individuals, to decide whether or not Charter amendments even get put on the ballot. All I, and the constituents of Minneapolis, ask for is to get the chance to enact our democratic right to vote for this proposed amendment to the charter THIS YEAR. Do not stall this. The people want this NOW and if the demonstrations over the last month have not unequivocally shown this, then you are purposefully turning a blind eye. This is urgent and I implore you to treat it as such. Thank you. Ward 4

7/9/2020 2:21:40 PM

Dear Charter Commission,

I do not know you well. I did not vote you into your position of power and the voices I've been listening to have not painted a very becoming picture of you or your current stance on the charter amendment. But for the moment, I want to put that aside and speak to you, as a body of 15 very empowered individuals on the verge of making a historical decision. I am a young white woman, a strong member of the Twin Cities community, a teacher, a type 1 diabetic...a lot of things. Culturally, I am a good analogue for the type of human most commonly represented in media as someone the police swear to serve and protect-- the frail, frightened white woman (who, I bet you all are well aware, has long been used as a symbol to bolster narratives around Black criminality). All of this is to emphasize that I feel neither served nor protected by the Minneapolis Police Department; I feel there are significantly better forms of community-led safety/support that exist which can be bolstered with financial resources. Here is a solid example of what the community has done, not just in the face of police violence but in the utter absence of police presence when we were under direct threat. I live in South Minneapolis about 8 blocks away from where George Floyd was murdered. Initially, I felt safe during the protests and safe during the fires. The night the third precinct burned down, I saw police from out of town defending a piece of property. Huh. My husband and I checked our local crime app and saw that the mile around our house

was silent in terms of police activity. No police were in the area whatsoever. Were people too scared to call them? Were they just absent in general? Were literally ALL the cops on top of the precinct roof? Who knows. What I do know is that as things started to heat up, for better or for worse there were no cops to be found in my neighborhood. As I learned that weekend that white supremacists were entering my neighborhood with guns and intention to cause harm and threaten my community-members, I started to wonder...If the police and the national guard were too busy asserting their authority ... who will I call if gunfire starts going off at Powderhorn park or if someone lights a fire in my alley? It was cool to be able to report to the FBI about a potential violent group on their website but like...literally, when the gunfire started (because it did) who was I going to reach out to for help? Fortunately, I didn't wonder very long. South Minneapolis got itself together quickly. You can find archives of meeting events, mutual aid networks, online forums, group chats, phone numbers, instructive documents and informal networks that organized incredibly quickly and under a great deal of duress to keep each other safe and to make sure that in addressing violent activity we were not perpetuating the violent forms of interaction that are the reason no one wants to call the cops in the first place. I say this lightly to make the point quickly; I know community organizing is dirty and complicated work and this was not a perfect solution but in the UTTER ABSENCE of police presence during that weekend, South Minneapolis kept itself safe, of its own accord. We put out fires, checked in with unfamiliar individuals, provided safe places and respite and stayed up all night making sure our blocks were not terrorized. During that weekend my husband and I took shifts through the night, listening to gunfire and watching for activity but pausing before we reacted. I did not call the cops that weekend. I literally didn't think they would pick up. Instead, we kept the South Minneapolis's Mutual Aid emergency number on speed dial in case there was a fire or emergency. We texted with friends and neighbors to check in. We kept each other safe.

With this example in mind, please don't delay the inclusion of the charter amendment on the basis that we lack information on what community safety could look like. Sincerely, ■ Ward 12

7/9/2020 2:24:10 PM

As a resident of the wedge neighborhood, I fully support the amendment proposed by the Minneapolis City Council. I would very much like to see a charter amendment for public safety on the ballot this November. Minneapolis residents deserve support, not subjugation from those who enforce the laws in the community. I support demilitarization of police, scaling mental and emotional supports and responses to non violent crimes, increased community oversight, and fair police union contracts. As things currently sit with the the MPD and Minneapolis Police Federation I do not feel real transformative change can happen. This proposal is a way for Minneapolis residents to regain trust in law enforcers and to build up our communities. Ward 9

7/9/2020 2:31:56 PM

I support the proposed amendment to the city charter. The amendment is proper to be put on the ballot for a vote by the people of Minneapolis. I urge the commission to do its duty. The commission is not an elected, governing body, and thus does not have the purview to deny this proposed amendment. I urge the commission to allow for the will of the duly elected officials of the city to move forward. Ward 1

7/9/2020 2:35:14 PM

I support this amendment and support Minneapolis voters' rights to decide whether or not to transform our public safety system. I agree with Black Visions Collective that this is our right as democratic voters and citizens. I hold a Master's of Public Health degree from the University of Minnesota. I am not uninformed and I am very aware of the consequences of not proceeding with this amendment proposal. We cannot wait further for justice. Ward 6

7/9/2020 2:36:28 PM

Despite intents to further create division in this country, not all police officers are bad. There are "bad" of every profession, race, religion, and both sexes. I will never support disbanding, dismantling, abolishing, defunding, etc the MPD. It and the Union certainly need reformed. I will never support lawlessness, looting, rioting, and anarchy. I do not and will never support a charter amendment that eliminates the MPD. Keep the charter amendment that mandates a police department. Create a new charter amendment for a new dept of violence prevention (where other professionals could report to calls alongside armed, trained officers). There needs to be investment in mental healthcare and drug addiction. To fund it, take away outrages salaries of council members/mayor and take away the taxpayer-funded private security of council members. For the record when I call 911, I do not, not have I ever called due to "a place of privilege". What an asinine thing for Lisa Bender to say. Ward 10

7/9/2020 2:51:22 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 reform efforts in 2018 and 2019, and 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. Ward 11

7/9/2020 2:56:15 PM

The city deserves to vote on this change. It should be on the ballot in November.

The commission has no say in our governance and should let things move forward.

If they let people vote on a tax payer funded stadium, they should let us vote on how we want our communities and public safety to operate. Put it on the ballot in November!! Ward 10

7/9/2020 3:01:32 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. Ward 4

7/9/2020 3:06:36 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. This is our time to speak. Ward 5

7/9/2020 3:16:43 PM

I do not support the proposed substitutions to the charter amendment offered by Commissioner Giraud-Isaacson and Commissioner Abbott.

The Abbott Substitution places a pilot project into the City Charter. The charter is a completely inappropriate document for temporary public policy initiatives, and I would expect the Charter Commissioners themselves to understand this.

The Giraud-Isaacson Substitution would not allow for substantive, transformative culture change within Minneapolis policing. It keeps peace officers in a separate department to Community Safety and Violence Prevention with no changes in oversight, transparency, or accountability. The mayoral control of the police department is unnecessary and have been ineffective in creating change or accountability. It should be treated like other first responder departments (such as the fire department). And while the Giraud-Isaacson Substitution lowers the required number of officers by half, it doesn't give Minneapolis the flexibility to more fully meet public safety needs with officer-alternatives without requiring another charter change.

Please recommend for passage the original charter amendment passed unanimously by City Council, and do it by the deadline for inclusion in the November general election. It may be helpful to clarify for voters in the ballot question that the change to the charter would allow for a division of Law Enforcement Services. Ward 11

7/9/2020 3:17:39 PM

I am a resident of Minneapolis, 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. Ward 8

7/9/2020 3:22:45 PM

Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year.

Please maintain your role as advisors of the charter, and not as gatekeepers of the ballot, by addressing this proposed change in time for us to vote on it in November. Ward 2

7/9/2020 3:33:07 PM

I'm a resident of Longfellow, Minneapolis and I support the amendment to the city charter. Ward 2

7/9/2020 3:34:29 PM

The Charter Commission must allow the proposed amendment regarding the creation of a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police Department from the Charter to move forward toward a vote in November by the people of Minneapolis. The people of Minneapolis, not an unelected administrative body, deserve the chance to decide whether the Minneapolis Charter should be amended. The moment is now, please do not delay the chance for Minneapolis voters to decide whether to continue to move toward a more just city for all of our residents. Ward 11

7/9/2020 3:35:36 PM

I live in the Powderhorn neighborhood and it is very important to me that we remove the Police Department from the City Charter. It is clear that the Minneapolis Police have endangered the public constantly, dating back to its creation. The community is ready and able to take care of safety needs and address violence - especially when we have the support of the city.

The police create a climate of aggression and hostility, and do not know how to de-escalate conflict or promote safety. As a survivor of sexual assault and advocate, I know that this is clear. The police have belittled me and other victim-survivors during moments when we were the most vulnerable. The support and safety that I craved actually came from the community, my peers and neighbors. Imagine what that living network of support could actually look like if it was supported and promoted by the City of Minneapolis. SWOP-Minneapolis Ward 9

7/9/2020 3:36:21 PM

to whom it may concern,

abolish police. abolish prisons. abolish bail. abolish everything that was built on the tenets of white supremacy and social control.

we have the tools to create a more equitable and just society, but lack the political and public will. if progress toward these things continues to be hampered and blocked in the favor of established interests, expect that the calls for social change to increase and grow more insistent and intractable.

show us that you can take responsibility for the situation we are currently in, even if you personally didn't build it or gain outsized advantage from it. or else we'll find another way to ensure our basic needs are met. Ward 10

7/9/2020 3:38:52 PM

The charter commission has no right to block our vote for police reform. Put the vote on the ballot - let the residents decide what public safety program is best for us. Ward 8

7/9/2020 3:47:01 PM

STOP blocking the dismantling of MPD - it is NOT your decision to make, you are NOT elected representatives of the people and your opinions on this matter are null and irrelevant. Get out of the way and let justice prevail. Ward 3

7/9/2020 3:47:08 PM

In the strongest possible terms, I would like to express my support for allowing a city-wide vote on the Minneapolis Police Department in November. It is not the job of ANY commissioner to govern; you are an unelected body, and it is my representative's job to govern. The proposal is appropriate for the charter, therefore it's only appropriate that you approve it. Ward 10

7/9/2020 3:54:52 PM

What can I say about the group on the minneapolis city council. Since the murder of George Floyd they've managed to exacerbate the situation. Shootings have soared, young children are being raped in parks and innocent people have been murdered in the wave of gun violence since they've turned out the police department and police are met with hostility. Criminals are much more brazen. Change and accountability is needed however they are embolding gangs within the city. They have no plan to change things for the better and they have shown no empathy for the victims of the violence and the children who are losing their innocence day in and out.

We need police reform. We need accountability. We need police and community to work together. Not having police is a recipe for disaster. Ward 13

7/9/2020 3:55:46 PM

I am COMPLETELY AGAINST the Ordinance by Ellison, Cano, Gordon, Fletcher, and Bender, amending the City Charter.

I am completely in support of making thoughtful, specific, and well planned decisions that have the support of the public - NOT JUST THESE COUNCIL MEMBERS. This is a knee jerk reaction to a horrific event.

The council members have put forth no definable and concrete plans to replace the police department. Even the wording in Section 2 is incredibly vague and irresponsible . . . "Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. The City Council must establish, maintain, adequately fund, and consistently engage the public about a department of community safety and violence prevention, which will have responsibility for public safety services prioritizing a holistic, public health-oriented approach." The language sounds wonderful and idealistic, but lacks any real substance.

Our taxes pay your salary and you are serving us poorly. Your opinions DO NOT represent the majority of your constituents and it is deplorable to suggest putting such a vague ordinance in front of voters. Please come back to the table when you actually have a plan. Minneapolis needs you to do much better than this. Thank you, Lisa Goodman, for not supporting this ordinance. Ward 7

7/9/2020 4:02:15 PM

We deserve the right to vote on the future of our city without the procedural gatekeeping of an unelected commission. The proposed amendment is perfectly reasonable from a technical standpoint and cannot be rejected on those grounds, so the charter commission must agree to allow it on the ballot. The decision of whether the amendment is the right move for the city should be up to us voters. Ward 8

7/9/2020 4:06:55 PM

I am in support of the amendment to this charter and would like a vote to happen in November. Ward 12

I support the amendment to remove the police department and replace it with a department that is focused on the health of our communities. Ward 12

Attachment:
Minneapolis Charter Commission,

Hello, my name is [REDACTED] and I'm a resident of Minneapolis, Minnesota. I am going to start my comments citing personal experience, because you need to hear how the police department impacts our community through the lens of a community member.

I am going to start with a story of my first impression of the area. When I first moved to the metro area, I was living in Bloomington and worked along American Boulevard. The police presence was never comforting. I never felt safer when a squad car was around. I felt like they treated the community as if they were sharks hovering in the shallow end, waiting for an opportunity to use their power. My first job, I was working with a man who carried the same morals I do, wanted peace, wanted love, and just wanted to be accepted by a community that unfortunately portrays him and others who are different as an outsider. This is by far one of the most disgusting traits of Minnesota culture that most do not get to see. We're advertised as friendly, overtly apologetic, near-Canadian level distribution of dangerous playful stereotypes that detract from the conversation of our toxic culture (don't get me started on how indigenous peoples are treated in Canada). This man was already feeling the abuse from the community. Let's get to how police came into this discussion. My coworker bought a bicycle from an online company, was extremely ecstatic about it, stickered it up, geeked out about it, would not stop talking about how much joy it brought him. One day while he was biking along American Boulevard, police officers said he fit the description of a bike thief, asked him to get in the car, and booked him based on warrants that were invalid. I picked him up from the jail the next day and he was distraught. He said they insisted on receipts for the bike – which he had (I was standing next to him when he made the purchase from his work computer). He was profiled because he is black, that is the truth of it.

Onto Minneapolis, here is where I was hoping the recent reforms would carry meaning behind them. I thought, "Oh, okay, they're trying – and getting laws in place to hold police accountable". I thought for sure it would be better than the burbs where people are afraid of a basketball court or skatepark. It is a city, it has access to dozens of resources and the community wants to help people recover from economic hardships, major life disasters, illnesses, and so on. I cannot count the amount of times I have seen community action in place – with no presence of officers in uniform. After the murder of George Floyd, I felt brought to tears by the immediate action of the community because of the compassion of others that we never get to see was made apparent. I was so happy to see everyone coming together. The Sheraton was the Share-a-ton, food-shelf popups, more community involvement was happening. Then, the Share-a-ton was displaced because of an overdose. Can you imagine if we applied that to care facilities? The Share-a-ton needed to stay, it needed more help, and they were asking for help – what did the city do? They called the police in to evict. Analogy time, the next time your car has a flat, is that going to the scrap yard? The next time you get a cavity, are we going to pull all the teeth? The next time a patient dies in a care facility, should we close shop? The next time a mental health patient OD's on a prescription that was prescribed to them, should we dismantle the pharmacy, fire the psychiatrist, and tell them to go set up shop in the park instead? You cannot apply these analogies to the police department, it should just not exist. It is rotten, and Kroll will not back down. Bob Kroll is a cancer to the idea of police reform, he is a power-hungry, manipulative, controlling, narcissistic bastard that should not be representing the community in any way, shape, or form. I am incredibly happy to be on-record saying this.

What have I witnessed in Minneapolis? Racism, yes. Toxicity, yes. I sat outside Bryant-Lake Bowl with a friend of mine, having a beer and this man starts calling him a fake wannabe black punk. Then starts throwing punches as I am telling my friend it is not worth the trouble. He threw a punch at my friend's face as I was holding him back from an altercation that I knew would be faulted on him because of the color of his skin, even though the other group started the physicality. Enter a police officer, he comes over to save the night. Not really. He only listened to the people who started the altercation, said to my wife that my friend could leave if he left with me and then said, "go get your boy". I wanted to throw up, I wanted to yell at the officer, I wanted to do so much more in retaliation to him being disrespectful, but I could not. If I did, it would not get any traction. A reprimand from the chief would just be another mark. If he lost his job, he would just get it back and probably feel more empowered to mistreat the community he is supposed to be of service to. This kind of thing happens on repeat. People are not overreacting. You know how much this fucks with your head and causes more harm to your community as well? I had a friend in Moorhead who had his car crashed into while it was parked, he found pieces of the other vehicle scattered throughout the road and wanted justice and for someone to pay for the damages. So, he called the police – it shouldn't be important to note that he is Latinx – but the police instead came for his family, insisting that they were filing a false report and then his mother was investigated. My experiences in each Minnesotan city I've lived in has not given me one bit of hope.

Personally, I struggle with anxiety. I have never felt comfortable around law enforcement, I have seen the damage that is done by their presence on our wellbeing. I feel panic when I see them driving behind me, for no reason at all. The officers on the ground show up after the fact to the most violent crimes in our city. Do you not think someone would be more inclined to dial 911 with a tip if they knew the officers would respond respectfully and appropriately? What if our community was not afraid of being a victim of the system? I know a former police officer. I know they roll in like they own the place. They escalate unstable conditions because they want authority. That is healthy? You are saying this is okay to keep going? I have seen squad cars speed up and down my street with no emergency lights on. I have heard from neighbors that they have not been respectfully address when approached during a public safety matter (that's a Hollywood myth). Guns have been pulled on people I know by officers who were responding to a simple report. They are trained to go into our community like a militia. Does that make anyone feel safe? More training money will not solve the issue. It will just militarize them even further. One could say our current city leadership would be able to handle it and make the change. My argument is, what about our future?

I am writing this jumbled, raw emotion comment to tell you the police force needs to be abolished in our city. We need a new model of public safety that involves our community members who we live and work with every day. Not someone who complains about, "city liberals," (another observation of a former officer who worked alongside others who labeled the citizens as they patrolled the streets) while they're living miles outside the city they're "protecting". Would the officers act the same way in their own neighborhoods? Hard to say. Obedience to authority is happening (if you're not familiar with this study, please educate yourselves), it is a psychological mishap because of the amount of power and destruction the police can get away with – this breaks the potential we have. We could be so much better. Implicit bias is happening, I could tell you that the moment I pick up a skateboard. Racism will never be extinguished, but I sure as hell want to be on the frontlines of a city that openly says, "get that shit out of here, you are not welcome". The charter needs to change. We cannot allow the police to stay as they are. We cannot allow the language in the charter that can be manipulated by those like Bob Kroll who only want order through destruction of morale. Minneapolis needs to care. We can not do this alone. Sign me up right away when the police are gone.

Thank you for your time

7/9/2020 4:13:37 PM

I am a resident of Minneapolis and I support the proposed amendment to remove the MPD as a required part of our city. I believe we can envision a better future and this is an important step towards doing that. Let the residents vote as soon as possible! Ward 9

7/9/2020 4:25:08 PM

I am not in favor of getting rid of the Mpls Police Department. The proposed amendment is ridiculous!

Minneapolis needs to address the issues existing within the police department. there are way too many to list here. Number one is the union which allows these cops to get away with bad behavior. I am a nurse, I would never be able to get away with bad behavior of any kind.

Minneapolis needs to continue to work with the communities that experience inequalities across the board. Continue violence prevention initiatives, build a better community and environment that supports youth, job opportunities, affordable housing etc.. Ward 7

7/9/2020 4:27:49 PM

The people must vote. It is essential for MPD to be removed from the charter as we move towards a new wholistic approach to public safety. Ward 5

7/9/2020 4:32:35 PM

I support this amendment as written to be on the ballot this November. This is change we need and spending time watering language down to pacify those who don't see it's urgent need is a deferment of justice. Ward 2

7/9/2020 4:43:17 PM

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in Lowry Hill, Ward 7. I am 100% behind this charter amendment and I urge you to approve the amendment as written. I think everyone would agree that our system of policing is broken. Personally, when I think of MPD I think of a group of vindictive white men who care more about brutalizing people of color than protecting and serving their communities (which are often not even their communities...). While I'm not naive enough to think that all cops fit this mold, I do believe that all cops are complicit until they publicly and unequivocally denounce these evils that plague the department. Unfortunately, this lack of departmental accountability has led directly to the erosion of trust between the community and MPD. The proposed charter amendment would allow us to re-imagine what public safety looks like in Minneapolis. It frees us the the requirement to have armed, sworn police officers and paves the way for meaningful structural change. To sabotage this momentum by not allowing the people to vote on the future of public safety in their community would be a tragedy. Please, I urge you to approve the proposed amendment and let the people decide. Ward 7

7/9/2020 4:58:31 PM

My name is [REDACTED], and I'm a resident of Minneapolis. I support the proposed amendment to the charter, and I urge to support it as well.

7/9/2020 5:06:14 PM

I am a resident of Minneapolis and I hope you will support the proposed amendment because we do not feel safe around the Minneapolis Police Department and deserve to have a chance to change the city charter. Ward 6

7/9/2020 5:12:16 PM

I fundamentally believe very significant changes need to be made to the Minneapolis police department but locking in an amendment to the city charter without specific plans is ill-advised. City government has had years and years to reform the police department and could make many changes now under the current charter. I am opposed to the proposed charter amendment. Ward 8

7/9/2020 5:15:02 PM

Not allowing the residents of Minneapolis to decide on this amendment at the ballot would be an extreme disservice to our democracy. Bureaucratic stalling serves no one. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/9/2020 5:24:25 PM

We have had 2 children shot, multiple murders, and countless vandalism in this ward and countless upticks in crime throughout the city since you have proposed this. Why would you encourage a wild west mentality when you haven't had control for years even with a muzzled police dept. If we need to carry guns to the corner store and put bars back on windows to feel some sort of peace at mind when I sleep, why would I or any citizen stay? Why buy a house or open a business when you do not have the support of the city leaders who seem like all they want is for more air time on CNN at the expense of those who put them in power. The homeless drug addicts don't vote. The drug dealers and criminals do not vote. Ward 4

7/9/2020 5:24:29 PM

I am a resident of Ward 2 of Minneapolis, and I support the proposed amendment to the Minneapolis City Charter. I want to begin the process of dismantling the MPD and reimagining public safety in our city, and I believe citizens should be able to vote on the city charter amendment as soon as possible! Ward 2

7/9/2020 5:31:08 PM

As a Ward 2 resident deeply and negatively impacted by the historical oppressive construct of Minneapolis Police, and the "reform" efforts that were prescribed and designed to fail, I FULLY SUPPORT the proposed charter amendment by referendum to establish a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and the removal of the Police Department as a charter department (Legislative File 2020-00668). I demand the unelected charter commission to adhere to their plain directive, to cease attempts to govern outside of their purview, and to give power and voice to the people of Minneapolis. Ward 2

7/9/2020 5:32:58 PM

Members of the Charter Commission,

We did NOT elect you. Your attempt at governance by debating the merits or downfalls of this proposed amendment should be illegal. Your only job is to determine if this amendment should in fact, scope wise, be an amendment as opposed to an ordinance, and you know that. If you forget what your job is, the community will definitely remember your ignorance. Ward 9

7/9/2020 5:35:28 PM

Hi, I am a Minnesota resident and I am asking the Charter Commission to let Minneapolis residents vote on the amendment to change the city charter. The residents of Minneapolis should be the ones to decide what measures truly promote their safety. The Charter Commission has no right to prevent this amendment from even reaching the ballot for a vote. Thank you. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/9/2020 5:38:55 PM

Residents need to be able to vote on this now. People need to know that they have a voice in this process from the beginning.

The changes to the charter are important for creating a space of possibility for change. We need to create this space of possibility even before we know what the final form will be, so that residents will feel engaged in the process and that the feedback they give will have an effect on what the department looks like. Ward 1

7/9/2020 5:44:05 PM

The proposed charter amendment should be allowed to proceed. It is more important that the committee meet the council's deadline that it is for them to worry about "getting it right". It should be left to the voters to decide. Ward 2

7/9/2020 5:51:37 PM

I'm a St. Paul resident. Voters deserve a voice in this issue. If massive & broad support is behind keeping the Charter as is, then put it to a vote. The police department must be responsible and responsive to the people themselves. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/9/2020 6:08:07 PM

We do not know yet whether this is a good idea. To risk the security & livability of ALL in our city makes no sense. We need a slower process of figuring out how to ensure public safety while ensuring adequate education, employment, healthcare, etc to all residents, where the impact of various scenarios is studied. Let's not just experiment with people's lives! Rather than delaying the process, this would make the process of figuring out how to best reform the police department & serve the entire city's needs much more likely to be successful.

I do NOT support moving the public safety function to being supervised by a group of people, rather than a single individual - that is a huge headache for the police and lessens accountability. Each of the council people is elected by a very small group of people, whereas all the city residents can vote for the mayor and hold him/her accountable.

Please figure this out before plunging ahead!

This process feels like it is driven by a small vocal group that is not listening for any input or from the community. Ward 7

7/9/2020 6:12:33 PM

As a Minneapolis resident of almost a decade, and I support the proposed amendment, to be voted on by people who live here, who violent policing affects the most. This needs to be on the November ballot for resident votes. Ward 9

7/9/2020 6:23:58 PM

Regarding the proposed Charter Amendment:

I am a 30 year resident of Longfellow. I am 100% opposed to this change. Purge the Police Dept. of bad cops. Maybe add some additional training, along with additional officers. I believe the recent surge in crime and all around "bad behavior" is a direct result of the total disregard and lack of respect shown to the Police officers (the vast majority being dedicated, decent professionals) by our city council. This will only make things worse, and already has. It wasn't the police who destroyed our thriving neighborhood; it was the complete surrender, ordered by city leaders. The people living in inner city war zones, especially, need trained law enforcement, along with others, to protect them, the most poor and vulnerable. We don't have the luxury of private security, compliments of the Mpls. Tax payer.

I would, however, be in favor of defunding and dismantling our current city council. Ward 12

7/9/2020 6:32:36 PM

Please support the amendment so we can vote on it in November! Ward 2

7/9/2020 6:40:14 PM

Let the community vote to change the charter, working to add a Department of Community Safety to eventually replace the MPD. We have taken to the streets and shown where our hearts lie--let us show that by voting. We can't wait. Ward 1

7/9/2020 6:41:30 PM

Let the citizens of Minneapolis vote on our future. We have the right and responsibility to demand real change in policing. Let us vote. The only way forward to break the same cycle of violence, terror, and oppression by MPD is to change our City Charter to remove the requirement for a police force. Let us vote. We are demanding real action and the often repeated promises about reform have led to the same structural issues. Let us vote. Our elected representatives have put forward a call for change and should not be held up by a non-elected body. Let us vote. My demand is simple: Let us vote! Ward 3

7/9/2020 6:43:51 PM

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 that you to support the proposed amendment to the Minneapolis City Charter and allow Minneapolis residents to vote for their own futures. Ward 6