

7/9/2020 6:49:54 PM

The Minneapolis Charter Commission is an unelected body that does not represent the communities of Minneapolis. Yet you hold the keys to our city's Constitution and are now gatekeeping a city-wide vote on whether we stay locked into a relationship with MPD.

In their meeting Wednesday night, you raised inappropriate and ill-informed concerns about proceeding with that vote.

We're not here for it. The commission's sole scope is to determine if the proposal is appropriate to the charter, meaning it's related to the creation or removal of departments that could not be done through ordinance. As bureaucrats who do not, on any level, represent the people, it isn't your job to govern. It's most definitely not your job to block a democratic process that empowers community on the most basic level.

As Councilmember Alondra Cano stressed, this is an unprecedented and historic moment in our city and we deserve immediate action, not city administrators who tell us that justice can continue to wait.

In the wake of MPD's brutal murder of George Floyd, thousands of community members took to the streets. The very least the Charter Commission can do is let us into the ballot box.

We deserve to have a voice in shaping the future of our communities. Please open up a vote for us to change the charter and find new, community-based solutions for safety.

Ward 3

7/9/2020 6:50:00 PM

Hi!

I am writing to encourage you to vote for amending the city charter. I believe that we should have the chance to vote on this in November, and that we need to reform public safety to keep ALL citizens equally safe. The status quo isn't working, let's make our city better! Tanks!Ward 2

7/9/2020 6:52:33 PM

This amendment needs to be on the ballot this year. Justice delayed is justice denied.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/9/2020 6:53:35 PM

As it stands, without a viable plan in place, they are asking me to give them a blank check with what they do upon amending the charter. I live in ward 4 and am watching council members hoping to rush this through for this November so the vote can carry based on emotion. The charter council has asked them to present data and studies to back up their claims and also submitted an alternate proposal to this amendment, which seems prudent.

As it stands, i cannot support that. Not without a plan of any sort.

Not when the ask is "give us the power, and just trust us"

Ward 4

7/9/2020 6:58:27 PM

I work in Minneapolis and have worked downtown for 20+ years.

Reject this proposal. This is a terrible idea. We need more police officers not fewer.

We need to add hundreds of additional police officers to Minneapolis. Focus on those officers getting to know the community through ride-along and other forms of outreach. It would be nice to see police officers on the street corners. We need to deter the crimes before they start. The new officers should be people of color to better represent our community.

Ward 3

7/9/2020 7:28:55 PM

I demand that you allow the residents of Minneapolis to vote on the proposed amendment the ELECTED City Council developed. The proposed amendment to the charter begins the process of dismantling the hold the Minneapolis Police Department has on our city. I want to see this put up to vote THIS YEAR 2020. It would be abhorrent to allow an UNELECTED committee such as the Charter Commission who is made up of APPOINTED individuals to not allow this proposed amendment to be put on the ballot for the people to vote. 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, as has been proposed by the City Council. 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. If you allow this process to drag out for another year you are telling this city that you are okay with the police murders, and you are okay with the police controlling our budget. This is urgent and I implore you treat it as such.

Ward 4

7/9/2020 7:32:58 PM

Please allow Minneapolitans to vote on the public safety charter amendment. As the commission's purpose is to determine if a proposal is appropriate to the charter (ie related to the creation or removal of departments that could not be done through ordinance) - which this is - please do not block this from the democratic process that empowers citizens to determine what they want public safety to look like.

Ward 2

7/9/2020 8:11:59 PM

I'm a social worker. I'm a Minneapolis property tax payer. Police resources should be prioritized away from property crime and low level issues to situations which call for armed responders. Given that an armed response is actually needed a small percentage of the time, it seems to me the police department could be downsized.

Ward 7

7/9/2020 8:12:34 PM

Please support the proposed charter amendment. Central Minneapolis needs the opportunity to vote on this, and I fully support moving forward quickly and consistently on the issues it seeks to address. Thank you.

Ward 9

7/9/2020 8:16:42 PM

Please DO NOT allow changes to the charter. The City Council had no right to make such a wide sweeping proposal without first getting feedback from the citizens and having a well fleshed out plan to propose. Giving them the authority to do some undeveloped and undefined plan that threatens not only our safety, but our property value, security, and maybe our lives is not only ill advised, but preposterous! I totally agree the MPD needs an overhaul, but without a well developed plan in place before giving such enormous power to 13 people who have NO details to provide other than a proposal that basically says nothing. This plan is a childish and knee-jerk reaction to a horrific incident that caused dissatisfaction with baked in systemic racism in the MPD to come to the attention of the world. I don't doubt they have good intentions, and funding should be reallocated to get more responsive personnel for some activities the police are saddled with maybe they shouldn't be. Given that, dismantling the entire department is insane. It takes law enforcement skills to build and investigate cases for complex crimes and criminal groups. This isn't something you can easily replace without decades of specialized skills, education and coordination with the courts and other communities surrounding the city. I could go on and on with reasons why this idea is not good for our city but I am hoping that stopping them with the charter will give them time to either drop it or develop a plan we can all look at and evaluate for its own merits, rather than taking on faith they can come up with something that will actually work. It is too big of a gamble they can do that.

Ward 7

7/9/2020 8:19:08 PM

I don't think we necessarily need to abolish the police, but the police system needs to be changed in Minneapolis. We need better screening of officers, better training (including racial bias) and ongoing accountability of officers.

Problematic officers should be especially monitored and not be allowed to train other officers. Two of the other officers at the site of George Floyd's death were trained under the officer on his neck. That's unacceptable.

Police officers need to show people that they truly care about the community. This is needed in order to rebuild trust, especially between Black people and police officers.

Ward 13

7/9/2020 8:19:45 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I write to urge you to deny the City Council's request to amend the charter. The amendment, as written, provides little detail aside from reducing the role of community safety in Minneapolis. Council members presume that residents should trust that they'll develop something better, simply by changing the charter. It appears that one of the key elements of the proposal is to transfer oversight from the mayor to the Council, however, it's not clear why this is necessary or what the Council believes they can accomplish other than what the mayor can.

I believe this amendment a) is unnecessary to achieve much needed reform, and b) seeks to validate promises that members made before an impassioned crowd, without planning or strategy appropriate for a charter amendment. Unfortunately, I'm concerned that adherence to a political slogan will detract from real reforms that could be implemented (albeit with much hard work) immediately.

I don't believe the amendment before you offers adequate substance or justification. It lacks a clear statement of need and reasonableness and, as such, runs the risk of unnecessarily politicizing the charter commission. Therefore, I hope you'll decline the Council's request and refer them to the powers they already possess to drive changes.

Respectfully

Ward 13

7/9/2020 8:39:20 PM

Dear Respected Charter Commissioners,

Please vote to put this amendment on the ballot, so that all the stakeholders in this city's well being can have a voice in making real change or in choosing to stay with our current charter.

We saw this city descend into chaos because our current system has offered no meaningful accountability for police officers for far too long, and no alternatives to their violent and adversarial methods. People deserve the right to vote on building a new system of public safety which reflects their own communities' needs, and which can provide them the timely justice and accountability they deserve.

I implore you to give this city a chance to choose its future, and design more effective forms of public safety with real community buy-in, and I implore you to give this city its chance in the timeliness they deserve in the next election cycle.

Thank you for your consideration of these words, and those of others who want to see this city choose how it will provide for public safety.

Sincerely,

Ward 8

7/9/2020 8:40:10 PM

While I agree wholeheartedly that we need to overhaul the Minneapolis Police Department and stop the militarization and racist policing, I do not believe the City Council has done their job in considering this rushed proposal. This change would concentrate too much power with the Council, fails to put forth any plan on how they will address the root issue of systemic racism in our community, and has not been given the thoughtful, careful and rigorous vetting necessary for the safety and well being of our communities.

Ward 5

7/9/2020 9:30:28 PM

There is no assurance after the charter is changed and the Minneapolis Police Department ceases to exist, the city council will be able to come up with a workable plan with budgetary constraints. We don't need a big bump in property taxes for this! It is a huge ask to expect citizens to vote out what we have (police), that could be made a whole lot better without throwing out the entire system, and put our faith in 13 people and an idealist notion. I can't even call it an idea because so few details have been actually offered. There is no reason to believe that a working plan can be developed quickly to replace the police department. Also, it is not feasible to expect citizens to put their lives and homes at jeopardy while this notion is developed. Why not wait on changing the charter and work on fixing problems within the police department while the Council works on their plan so we can be asked to vote on actual things, instead of A. Keep the charter or B. Go along with a wing and a prayer. I have little faith this can be done and am offended to be asked to vote on it in 3 months.

Ward 7

7/9/2020 9:35:22 PM

In the short term (i.e. for this year's ballot), I support removing the 0.0017 employees per resident hiring commitment for police and replacing it with the more general commitment to funding that the fire department currently has in the charter. Beyond that, I'd like to see the proposed shift to a public safety department (that may or may not involve a police force) on the ballot next year, after all parties have had time to hammer out the details. It seems to me that removing the overly-prescriptive funding / employment guarantee is a good first step toward giving the city council and mayor enough leeway to determine comes next.

Ward 13

7/9/2020 9:39:47 PM

I live in ward 12. We absolutely need to vote on whether or not to keep the MPD in the charter of the city- as soon as possible. That doesn't mean we get rid of the MPD, but IF it passes, we at least have some flexibility in how that relationship looks like going forward.

7/9/2020 9:59:09 PM

Dear charter commission members,

I urge you to support the proposed charter amendment to eliminate the police department from the current Minneapolis city charter and create a new charter department for community safety and violence prevention. Let us residents of Minneapolis exercise our right and vote for the opportunity to invest in our community rather than continue to tear it down. The police department does not protect and serve us, but rather instills fear, murders, and commits terrible acts of brutality, primarily against the most vulnerable members of our community. We're only asking you to uphold your civil duty, so that can do the same. Thank you.

Ward 5

7/9/2020 10:08:00 PM

Please defund the police department and put more money in our city's public schools.

Ward 10

7/9/2020 10:10:02 PM

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a resident of Ward 10, previously of Ward 8. I urge you to listen to your constituents and remove the police department from the charter.

It is time that we divest funding from the corrupt Minneapolis police department and put that money back into our communities. I'm not very eloquent in what should be said here but it is my hope that you are listening to the advice of, and working with, Black Visions Collective and Reclaim The Block. We have to start listening to Black people whose communities are being ravaged by white supremacy instead of just paying them lip service while the eye of the media is on us. We cannot be another Camden, NJ, with an overfunded private police force and exponentially greater levels of persecution towards Black people and people of color.

Minneapolis is so fantastic in that it has the potential to be a true melting pot of cultures. We have to actually let it, by advocating for the people who are most vulnerable in our communities and not cowering behind the meaninglessly polite deflections of the white moderate. This means defunding, not reforming. Put some action behind your words and change the charter: begin the steps for real, positive change for our fellow neighbors.

Thank you.

Ward 10

7/9/2020 10:26:21 PM

This is unacceptable. The people of this city demand the right to take action on CH2020-00014 and 2020-00668. These issues demand immediately attention. Pushing back the votes is not acceptable in any way.

Ward 7

7/9/2020 10:53:32 PM

I am a citizen of Minneapolis, living in the Regina neighborhood. I am encouraged by the proposed amendments to the city charter and urge you to approve them for a vote by the people. We should truly be a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. If we are not given a choice to decide if this change is what we desire, it is none of those things.

Ward 8

7/9/2020 10:57:03 PM

Please support the amendment to eliminate the police department and replace it with the department of community and violence prevention!

Ward 5

7/9/2020 11:12:33 PM

The people deserve to have a say in how we are policed!

Personally, I would like to see great changes in how the MPD relates to the communities it serves, in how police are vetted and held accountable, in how they are trained (especially in implicit bias and non-violent de-escalation techniques), how they are taken care of with respect to mental health.

I do not believe we need the great number of police our city currently employs. Why not reinvest and have more social workers? We absolutely did not need our police to have that much tear gas, flash bangs, nor rubber bullets.

To me, things have to change. The least that can be done is to give the residents of our city a way to gauge our collective opinion on this matter. Let us vote!

Ward 8

7/10/2020 1:58:05 AM

1. Put it on the ballot - voters deserve the chance to choose, the Charter Commission is only ruling on whether voters deserve a chance to vote on it, let the voters vote, let the people decide what is on the charter

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. We need to start now.

3. We want a new model of building safety - create the systems we need to keep each other safe and make sure our needs are meant

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/10/2020 6:56:30 AM

Asking for the amendment to remove the MPD from the charter to proceed and replace the MPD with a community safety and violence prevention department , the first and significant step to reform to bring an organization that actually supports and protects our communities.

Ward 7

7/10/2020 7:00:09 AM

I support putting the proposed amendment from the city council on the ballot this year. Let the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter.

Ward 8

7/10/2020 7:02:52 AM

The Charter Commission must listen to the thousands of voices speaking up in support of dismantling the MPD. This is a historic moment, and to turn a blind eye to this movement is to perpetuate violence, oppression, and injustice. Police do not equal peace.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/10/2020 7:28:30 AM

I am a citizen of Minneapolis and I urge you to support this charter

7/10/2020 8:25:30 AM

I am writing you to strongly reconsider the efforts to defund the police in Minneapolis. I am a resident at 43 Ave S.

I am appalled and angry over the murder of George Floyd by members of the police department and I believe it points to a deeply rooted racism in Minnesota that is only now beginning to be spoken about in a meaningful way. The product of those racists roots was demonstrated in the treatment of George Floyd publicly and in a way that has likely already occurred many times over without public knowledge. Systematic change needs to occur in our society and by extension in the Minneapolis Police Department.

However, I strongly encourage you to re-think your tactics. I question the wisdom of this approach to defund the police department on a number of levels. For example:

- 1) Trust Trust has been eroded deeply toward the police department and this action only makes it worse. Discussion of acting in such a broad way may provide further justification for individuals in need to avoid calling the police. These stories have already been discussed in the local news.
- 2) Practicality. Trust is needed to be re-built from the ground up certainly but discussing doing away with all funding for police officers practically speaking puts the officers that we need to keep the peace (demonstrated very overtly when rioters overtook peaceful and righteous protests) in a terrible position.

If you were a police officer and understood that the city you are trying to defend no longer wants your services and sends the message that you are all corrupt by a call to defund the police department, how willing would you be to put yourself in harms way for citizens of that city? As a citizen, I want and need police officers protecting our properties and persons from the criminal element that has not magically gone away. Uptick in violence since the riots are evident. Do I fully trust the police department? Absolutely not. They need to make major change to regain that trust. But practically speaking, we need to find, recognize and promote dedicated and socially righteous police officers now.

3) Politics. Politically speaking, this action is seen as an opportunity by the right to mobilize a base and potentially swing independents both nationally and locally to the right. I have been a life long democrat and support many center-left positions but this is too radical. You have given the right a distractor that will prevent true, evidence based reform from happening. This move is too polarizing when much work and collaboration is needed to repair and improve our city.

We need to rebuild the police department and do away with arbitration that allows terrible people to remain on the force. We need to deeply change the culture. We need to bring social workers to the fore and institute policies that reward deescalation and other non-lethal and non-violent methods to protect the public. We need to consider prioritize hiring officers who live in the city so they represent our diverse community. And finally, we need to invest in education and community programs so that criminality and potentially violent situations diminish. But defunding the police is not the first step, it is a distractor from the real work that is needed. I urge you to reconsider your position and move toward thinking bigger and more practically.

Thank you,

Ward 12

7/10/2020 8:37:35 AM

The police system is broken. We need to change it, and now is the time to ask the questions that lead to that change. We MUST vote to permit changes. From what I understand, NO ONE on the Charter Commission lives in North or Northeast. You do not know what it looks like here. You do not know what we need. What you can do to combat racism, oppression and marginalization is LISTEN to the oppressed.

We know what we need.

Right now? We need a public safety system that takes care of its' community - and it is appallingly clear that the police force has utterly failed in this capacity. Despite adding 8 officer positions last year, violence is up. The current system sends an armed police response to situations they are not, and CANNOT, be trained for - there are simply too many scenarios for any single response group to be appropriate for them all. And we have, in this moment, a chance to address it.

Put the charter amendment on the ballot. It is your responsibility to listen to the city you serve, as the City Council is doing.

This is our time to speak.

Ward 10

7/10/2020 8:51:48 AM

As members of the Charter Commission, you are not elected officials. You do not represent or govern us. Please, do not forget this fact during this process.

Do not block the democratic process. Give the people of Minneapolis the choice that we have been fighting for. I urge you to do the right thing and allow the proposed amendment to be referred to voters in November.

Greg Abbott's suggestion of a "2-year pilot" is insensitive and tone-deaf. I ask you Mr Abbott, how many more extra-judicial murders by the MPD are you willing to have on your head? How many of our Black and Brown neighbors need to be murdered by the MPD for you to understand the urgency of this matter? Any answer other than "zero" is unacceptable to the people of Minneapolis.

We the people of Minneapolis want a new model of public safety.

We the people of Minneapolis demand that you give us the vote.

Do your duty.

7/10/2020 9:28:53 AM

The entire nation is watching. Lead the way!!! Change the charter.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/10/2020 9:54:32 AM

Hello all,

I am writing to voice my support to move the charter amendment forward and allow constituents to decide with their vote this November. The people of Minneapolis cannot afford to wait another year for the demands of this amendment to be met. 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

7/10/2020 10:10:40 AM

Quit letting bureaucrats determine public policy! Especially since they weren't elected in by the people these policies affect

Ward 6

7/10/2020 10:14:47 AM

I think this is a rash judgement that has not been thoroughly thought thru yet. It needs to be studied, options looked at, a complete and understandable explanation of what will happen, how, when, and why. Peoples' fears need to be addressed, and if anything is done it should be a drawn out, trial and error type of change, no jumping the gun. I think at this time the Charter Commission should say NO, the entire program needs to be studied to go forward.

Ward 4

7/10/2020 10:15:59 AM

Comments attached

Ward 2

Comment on Proposed Amendment to the Minneapolis City Charter

I have lived by choice in the city of Minneapolis for more than 40 years and am strongly opposed to this amendment. We deserve more responsible policing and the idea of more comprehensive public safety has merit, but the amendment as worded has no place in our City Charter. If this Commission cannot stop it, I only hope the voters of Minneapolis will. I will limit my concerns to three points.

1) Public employees who are authorized to use deadly force (viz. licensed police officers) must be held to high standards and must be responsibly managed. This amendment would diffuse ultimate responsibility away from the singular position of the Mayor to the whims of a 13-member committee. As the saying goes, "When everyone is in charge, no one is in charge." Ultimate responsibility for the police is one of the few powers reserved for the Mayor in our weak-mayor system.

The mayor is elected by and responsible to the entire city. Not so the City Council. I get to vote for only one of them. And the harsh truth is that most Council members are effectively elected by no more than a few score activists at DFL endorsing conventions. I once attended many of them. Mayoral races have seen some true contests in my time in the city, but that is very much the exception for Council seats. One need not be a hard-core cynic to see this amendment as a power grab by the City Council.

2) I am frightened by the provision that the Council "may" maintain a licensed police force. Or they may not. While I hope they are not so crazy as to eliminate police altogether, a future Council would have every right to do so under this amendment. It seems to me from some of their public statements that some Council members do have their heads that high in the clouds. Like it or not, policing is a necessary element in public safety in any community. To think otherwise is ideological nonsense. What the amendment authors may have intended was "We'll figure it out later." That is irresponsible. The terms of the current charter would allow a reduction in licensed officers by something like 20% if I understand correctly. Never mind that the current force is already stretched to answer 911 calls, this would seem to allow the city to divert a lot of money to non-police public safety efforts with no change in the Charter.

3) This is less a comment about the content of the proposal but rather about the process—or lack of process—in drafting this amendment. Some of the strongest objections I hear are coming from the very people who are suffering the most from violence in our city. These would be Black citizens in north Minneapolis. Many are crying for more policing. Responsible policing of course, but more of it, not less. Grandmothers and children and innocent passers-by are too often the victims of violence amid the ocean of guns we live in. Social workers, citizen volunteers, aroma therapists or whatever else the City

Council dreamers are imagining might not hurt, but they are little protection against criminal opportunists. The posture of the authors is that they are standing up for those who voices go unheard. Except they are obviously doing little listening themselves.

To conclude, there are many aspects of the city's policing that need change: training, use-of-force policies, city ordinances, state-level legislation, and the over-weening power of the Police Federation to name only a few. The proposed amendment is little more than a public relations gesture. Let's get the City Council off their high horses and begin what has to be systematic work for systematic change.

7/10/2020 10:27:57 AM

I am in favor of the amendment to create a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. and remove the Police Department from the Charter. The Minneapolis PD cannot be reformed and must be abolished.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/10/2020 10:32:21 AM

Public Safety Transformation: I strongly urge the City Charter to make the August 21st deadline so that the direction of community safety going forward can be voted on and decided by THE COMMUNITY itself in November. I personally perceive delay on this matter as more of the same, old, ineffectual mode of operation that has led us to our current situation. Vision takes courage. Please move this to a VOTE!

Thank you.

Ward 11

7/10/2020 10:36:20 AM

As a resident of Minneapolis, I would like to make my voice heard. It is imperative that the charter commission allow communities member to vote. It is our community and collectively we can make it one that serves all people in or community, not just those with privilege. I would like to formally support removing the MPD from the city charter.

Ward 3

7/10/2020 10:36:56 AM

Don't defund police. Improve their training.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/10/2020 10:49:33 AM

I am a resident of Northeast Minneapolis, and I urge you to support the proposed amendment. The people of Minneapolis do not feel safe with the MPD in charge, and we want the ability to change our charter.

Ward 1

7/10/2020 10:51:10 AM

I do not support with any of my tax dollars ANY form of MPD. Residents of Minneapolis want to see a Community Safety Board that includes a wide variety of resource referral, mutual aid, and self-determination.

Crime is linked to discrimination and over-policing and it has more to do with how our city fails to provide adequate shelter, education, and financial opportunity than anything else. More police and more police funding will never be the answer.

This is absurd that residents even need to be telling any city officials this information. There is enough money in the budget- can't find it? Defund the police.

Ward 3

7/10/2020 10:58:19 AM

I am in full support of abolishing the police and creating a department of community safety and violence prevention.

Ward 9

7/10/2020 11:03:42 AM

Please allow this amendment to be put forth to voters in November. The people of Minneapolis should decide this issue! Give them the power to decide the future of their relationship with the Minneapolis Police Department. A small Charter Commission should not decide against allowing the voting public to have a voice on this issue.

Ward 12

7/10/2020 11:12:01 AM

It is clear that the MPD has failed in its mission to keep our city safe. The kind of change we need cannot be achieved by small reforms to the existing system. We need the space to be able to shift our paradigm for understanding what public safety is and to imagine how it will be best achieved. Changing the charter as you have proposed is a good first step to getting us the kind of safety we deserve.

Ward 4

7/10/2020 11:12:31 AM

I strongly believe that the Minneapolis Police Department should be removed from the City Charter. Please allow voters to share their voices on the ballot this November.

Ward 2

7/10/2020 11:18:39 AM

I [REDACTED], ward 7 resident, agree with the proposal to change the charter, to be able to remove the police department and establish a community safety and violence prevention department.

Even in the scenario where we don't replace the police, which I absolutely believe is necessary for reform and preventing another international incident because of police violence, this move would apply serious pressure to the police union, and the Mayor's proposal of just internal reform.

Because of that, not supporting this charter amendment, would show clear intent to undercut even the most basic of reforms, and accountability over the police. I will work to expose those who try to subvert this charter amendment, and remove them from office.

Thank you to those who are applying pressure for police accountability, and creating this pathway of public discourse, you are serving the community. May we all come together to build a new and healthier version of our system of state violence.

Ward 7

7/10/2020 11:26:33 AM

Change the charter!

Ward 1

7/10/2020 11:39:58 AM

As a citizen of Minneapolis I demand that the proposed amendment be added to this fall's ballot for a public vote. This is a decision for ALL of us in Minneapolis.

Ward 7

7/10/2020 11:53:37 AM

The Charter Commission should approve the proposal so the voters can decide.

Ward 8

7/10/2020 11:59:29 AM

This attempt to change the city charter would be a disaster on multiple levels.

The city council is already free to set up an alternate “peace keeping” force of social workers and psychologist. No charter change is required.

The charter change is a naked power grab to by-pass the mayor and subject the police to 13 additional bosses who have already demonstrated their total incompetence to run a lemonade stand.

The city council has not proposed any specific changes they would make for improvement. They are asking for a blank check based on vague ideological pronouncements.

The council has systematically underfunded the police and refused the police chief’s request for many additional offices to keep up with crime. Cops racing from call to call do not have time to solve crimes or interact with the public adequately. This is the fault of the city council, yet they publically demonize the police making their job impossible.

The skyrocketing violence since Memorial Day is a direct result of the council’s actions.

From the Star Tribune as of 07-10-2020:

With Friday morning’s slaying, the city has now logged twice as many homicides as it had at this time last year... at least 243 people have been shot so far this year; the city had 269 gunshot victims all of 2019.

<https://www.startribune.com/violent-streak-continues-in-mpls-with-9-shot-one-fatally-in-24-hours/571702522/>

Shot Spotter activations and 911 calls about gunshots in the city have more than doubled from a year ago. Nearly half of 3,218 such shots-fired calls this year came after Floyd was killed on May 25.

<https://www.startribune.com/enough-is-enough-say-north-mpls-neighbors/571637962/?refresh=true>

Allowing this charter change would complete the disaster the council had brought upon our city. If their goal is to drive the remaining law-abiding taxpaying citizen out of Minneapolis, I can’t think of a better way to do it.

Ward 1

7/10/2020 12:03:33 PM

I support the charter amendment and respectfully ask that the Charter Commission move swiftly in their recommendation so that it can be included on the Nov. 2020 ballot. While the events of the past month have brought this important issue to the forefront of everyone’s mind, the discrimination and brutality that BIPOC citizens of Minneapolis have endured at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department stretches well before the murder of George Floyd. Enough is enough. As a community, we need to take action now to address these injustices and begin the process of creating a system of community safety that is rooted in equity.

Ward 12

7/10/2020 12:04:10 PM

Don't delay this vote for a full year. Our city needs action taken now to reign in the violence of MPD and this is a crucial first step. It is my understanding that the (unelected) Charter Commission shouldn't be considering the timing of this proposal, but simply whether the (elected) city council proposed an appropriate amendment. Please push this amendment to be voted on by August 21st, so Minneapolis can decide how they want to move forward with public safety.

Thank you

Ward 7

7/10/2020 12:04:24 PM

I believe that reimaging public safety in our city does require structural change and a charter amendment. However, I will add my voice to those saying this "thing" is moving very fast and the proposal as adopted by the council leaves many questions open. I do not believe that the proposed language simply removes a "barrier" that stands in way of meaningful discussion of reform; the language, in fact, makes some very specific structural changes that will constrain the discussion and future options. If we are going to be asked to vote on a charter change this November, 2020, then I would need a bit more specificity. As I told my councilmember "I want to vote yes; please don't make me vote no."

I support removing the current language creating the police department, and especially Section 7.3 (c) that sets a required minimum staffing level. The charter makes no similar provision for any other city department and I don't see why it needs to for police. Further, I checked with a former colleague with expertise in MN city charters (at the League of Minnesota Cities where I previously worked.) She indicated that there are 108 home rule charter cities in the state, about 70 charters specifically create a police department, and none set a specified staffing level.

Two changes I would suggest to the council adopted language:

1. Section 7.3 (a) (1) should NOT specify the background qualifications of the Director of the new Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention, and especially should not automatically exclude a person with a law enforcement background. The City may very well, now or in the future, find an outstanding candidate to lead this department that has a progressive and forward-looking background in law enforcement and who would be an excellent leader of the variety of professionals that will staff this department. Certainly Chief Arradondo comes immediately to mind, but this is not about him. It is about the many people who may serve in this important position in the future.

I'll also point out that the city charter does not specific qualifications for any other department head, other than the city attorney. Job qualifications can be set by ordinance, policy, or, better still, in the job description and recruitment profile that the city may choose to adopt at any time of recruitment. Simply put, this language just doesn't belong in the charter.

2. Section 7.3 (b) creation of a Division of Law Enforcement Services should not be permissive with the word "may." I realize this is one of the most controversial and contentious issues being considered. However, it seems that most people, including city officials, (admittedly not all) concede that there will be a need for at least some licensed peace officers in the new department. Again, I do not think the

charter should specify any number; the mayor and council should have the discretion to make that "division" as large or as small as they believe is necessary to maintain community safety.

To achieve that change I would suggest that (b) be eliminated and the following language added to (a) - After the period, add a second sentence - The Department will include a division of law enforcement services, composed of license peace officers.

Thanks for considering my perspective. I wish both the Charter Commission and the City Council well as they grapple with this difficult but promising change in the way our provides community safety.

Ward 3

7/10/2020 12:10:49 PM

It is fundamental that we change the charter to make real change in Minneapolis. To be the new anti racist city. To work to uplift our community as a whole, as a community, not as individuals who already are more safe. We need to up lift our brown and black children so our whole can improve.

Ward 9

7/10/2020 12:36:15 PM

This amendment (or some version of it) NEEDS to be submitted as a ballot question this year. The July 21 forum to allow for public questions, comments, and suggestions is great, and will allow for refining the amendment.

I know there are strong opinions on many sides, but I think this is a clear case where the democratic process should be employed to determine the next step for our city. Let the people - all the people - not only those in law enforcement or even the city council on it's own decide how we want our laws enforced and our community members kept safe, because the current system is broken!

Ward 3

7/10/2020 12:59:50 PM

I support the proposed amendment to the city charter!

Ward 9

7/10/2020 1:10:03 PM

Minneapolis residents have already shown their disapproval for our current unjust system of policing and their dedication to a community-driven vision of public safety for all. We have the right to vote on if and how we want to move forward in creating a public safety model that is just, fair, and protects everyone in November. Include the amendment to the City Charter on the ballot. It is long overdue for communities to determine how they will be protected and governed in a way that actually serves them.

7/10/2020 1:13:57 PM

As a Minneapolis resident, I no longer feel the Police Department can be reformed. I support the charter amendment and urge you to do the same.

Ward 8

7/10/2020 1:27:50 PM

Public Safety reform as proposed will not work.

That is, sending in a social worker for a social crisis; sending in a drug specialist for a drug problem; sending in a homeless advocate for a homeless situation, etc.

The reason is that each of these situations can, given the right conditions, become a homicide or Suicide situation very quickly.

We need to assume the WORST in all of the above situations; that is, that the situation can turn violent or endanger neighbors, responders, or the person of interest.

Our resources need to require an armed officer who has superior training, more formal education, cultural training, and experience working in social work.

Alternatively, if a specialist is sent in instead of an armed officer, then at the very least an armed officer team should be sent in as a BACKGROUND PRESENCE only in the event the person of interest becomes a public safety threat or a threat to themselves during the interaction with the unarmed social worker or peace officer.

Ward 8

7/10/2020 1:38:20 PM

It appears that there are enough residents in Minneapolis that want the police defunded to warrant a vote on the subject. I personally am in favor for an amendment to the charter and for a vote on where our tax dollars go. I believe we need to have a say in how our tax dollars are spent and in our public safety policies. I believe we need much of the police budget redirected to alternative public safety programs and 911 calls sending out mental health professional instead of police office

Ward 9

7/10/2020 1:44:17 PM

I support this move to begin dismantling the Minneapolis Police Department and putting that money toward preventing violence and engaging in restorative justice. I'd like to see more proposals that guarantee that the new Community Safety and Violence Prevention Dept. doesn't become the police department under a different name. If there will be "Peace Officers," they should not be armed, and they should live in Minneapolis for a start. I'd also like to see proposals for reparations for communities most affected by police violence in Minneapolis, and for a process of peace and reconciliation between the City of Minneapolis who have funded police violence and those communities most affected.

Ward 2

7/10/2020 1:52:04 PM

I am a resident of Minneapolis and I urge you to support the proposed amendment.

Ward 11

7/10/2020 2:10:18 PM

I strongly support this charter amendment and would like to see much of the police budget reallocated toward services that will actually help the community, rather than endangering the lives of POCs.

Ward 5

7/10/2020 2:13:54 PM

As a 50+ year, life-long resident of Minneapolis, I urge you to deny the charter amendment on the ballot this year.

I live in the 55404 Zip code. It is the poorest area of the city with the lowest owner occupancy. We have thousands of supportive housing units for the formerly homeless, drug addicted and those with special needs. As a result our neighborhood attract many people who prey on these vulnerable individuals and we have drug overdoses, shootings, theft, drug dealing, homelessness, fights, rapes and other violent activities. I have personally been mugged and to this day, I am at times fearful.

While I believe we need an entirely new police force, a new way of approaching public safety and the way we respond to 911 calls -- it can all be done under the current city charter.

Why hasn't the current council simply limited the number of police to the number required by the charter?

Why hasn't the number of officers with guns been reduced -- this is within the charter.

Why hasn't data been presented on the number of times officer pulled guns out? so we have a read on the problem

Why is there no pilot programs? - that is within the current charter

Why are the council members hiring security at the same time they are requesting a charter change?

If the council did its job and presented a data backed plan in detail, I would be fine voting on this. But right now I have no idea what I am voting on. I have no way of judging if this charter amendment is a good or bad idea because there is no plan.

This amendment a set of good intentions. Good intentions do NOT solve any of the problems the city is facing in terms of crimes.

I beg of you to require the council to do their job before putting this amendment on the ballot. Crime is already up since they spoke about defunding the police and I am scared for my safety because of their words and deeds.

PLEASE do not let this move forward this year.

Ward 7

7/10/2020 2:33:20 PM

Please charter commission do not change the charter. Even black community leaders do not want you to get rid of the police. I live in the 11th ward my dad and sister live in the 13th. The city council wants to cancel public safety and replace it with not much. They have no plan to change the police department, yet want to go ahead with it led by a non-law enforcement head of the new department. My dad, my sister and I live in Mpls.. My dad bought the house in 1960. We are VERY concerned about the future of safety in our city. A real business would do a cost/benefit analysis, then present it, and see if people want it. You are throwing the baby out with the bath water. If your house or neighborhood gets more crime like the 1500 damaged or destroyed buildings burning and looting what will you, your family and neighbors do? What will the NON-police Force do? I guess we just wait and See??? It is disgraceful, unprofessional and dangerous what you kind of vaguely are planning. Please reconsider the city council's knee-jerk disastrously planned change in protecting the citizens and taxpayers of Minneapolis.

Ward 11

7/10/2020 2:47:56 PM

I absolutely support the proposed amendment. The police in this city are a problem and their organization needs to be rebuilt from the ground up. Most of the situations that police respond to would be better handled by other services, if we just gave those services the right funding and training.

Ward 12

7/10/2020 2:56:29 PM

I strongly encourage the Charter Commission to pass this amendment along by early August so that it can appear on the ballot. The City Council as representatives of the people have passed this amendment unanimously and the public deserves to have the right to vote on the amendment in the November 2020 election.

Ward 6

7/10/2020 2:57:19 PM

The MPD make me nervous. I've seen the violence they brought to the streets after the murder of George Floyd. They escalate violence. They have thousands of untested rape kits. They've elected an open white supremacist as their union head. They are part of a deeply flawed, racist form of policing people of color and the working class. We must disband MPD and this is our first step. They've proven their ineffectiveness. Just weeks after George Floyd's murder by an MPD officer, shooting violence broke out in Mpls. They are clearly unable to prevent crime and take few steps to find any real justice. We must amend the charter to make room for true safety for the citizens of Minneapolis.

Ward 12

7/10/2020 2:57:59 PM

This charter amendment is the absolute bare minimum measure that should be taken to address the depraved and brutal practices of the rogue Minneapolis Police Department. To not put this amendment on the ballot would be a slap in the face to our city's Black communities and communities of color. As the last few weeks have made clear, the MPD does not keep us safe; strong communities and neighbors organizing for violence prevention do, and we must allow the absurd amount of money we spend on our harmful policing practices to be reallocated to community-informed restorative organizing that is shown to work. I demand that you approve this amendment to allow the people of Minneapolis to show their support for real, community-centered change.

Ward 9

7/10/2020 2:59:53 PM

If the proposal to amend the city charter to replace the police department is on the ballot in November, I will vote no. I understand that some of the police calls could be answered by other qualified professionals but getting rid of the police department is not acceptable to me. I moved to Minneapolis because it is a safe city. I will no longer feel safe without a police department and certainly would not feel safe with a non-law enforcement individual leading the "Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department." Unfortunately in our society, there are always going to be people who are violent and with the number of guns circulating in our country, I can't imagine sending a social worker to a potentially violent domestic abuse call. How would that person be kept safe? With no specifics on how exactly the new department would operate, I will vote no. I think it irresponsible to vote on vague ideas when it comes to amending the city charter.

Ward 3

7/10/2020 3:01:59 PM

I ask that the Minneapolis Charter Commission vote against the proposed amendment to the City Charter, which has been made by the City Council regarding the elimination of a police department from the City Charter and the transfer of responsibility for public safety from the office of the Mayor to the City Council. As a resident of Minneapolis, I feel this change would concentrate too much authority with the Council and dilute the necessary separation of powers in the City of Minneapolis. Additionally, it would decrease public safety in the interim and fail to address the root issues of systemic racism in our community.

I urge you to vote against the hurried proposed amendment and reject any hurried proposed revisions to the same until the necessary steps have been taken to explore a viable alternative plan for our existing public safety policies and police department. At that time and not before, this issue can be brought to the voters.

Ward 7

7/10/2020 3:09:16 PM

I am a citizen of Ward 2 of Minneapolis, and I want to express to you my support for the proposed amendment to the city charter. It is time to dismantle MPD and reimagine public safety in our city. I believe that citizens should be able to vote on this proposed amendment to the charter as soon as possible. I do not believe that waiting on this is a good idea.

Ward 2

7/10/2020 3:13:31 PM

After countless instances of harassment, harm, and murder have been committed by the police in our city and around the country, it is clear that we need systematic change. The police, most of whom are from affluent suburbs, do not protect our communities and disproportionately target black and brown folks. If we use our funds to invest in our communities, to create equitable and affordable housing, to combat climate change and reduce (again racially targeted) pollution, to fund and support schools, teachers, mental health services, and healthcare rather than paying armed officers who live in Maple Grove, we would be much safer. This is why I believe that the Charter must change to allow for the police to gradually and sustainably be dismantled in favor of community supported, trauma-informed safety models. The MPD has proven time and again that they are violent and cannot effectively serve our communities or de-escalate situations. Reform is not enough and it has been proven to not be enough after Jamar Clark, Philando Castile, Justine Damond, and the many others that lost their lives or were otherwise victims of police brutality. I support changing the charter for the good of our city.

Ward 13

7/10/2020 3:15:27 PM

Hi,

I support the addition of the amendment to the ballot in November. Please approve this.

Thanks,

Ward 6

7/10/2020 3:17:46 PM

I applaud the City Council for this proposal and fully support these, long overdue, measures. While I am heartsick that it took the amount of trouble and destruction that occurred in order to make change, I hope that we as a city can move forward and be a positive example to the rest of the country.

Ward 9

7/10/2020 3:22:55 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

7/10/2020 3:24:34 PM

I support refunding the police and using those resources to fund alternative community supports, such as social worker, mental health professionals, housing, and food. So much of the problems in our communities would be much better solved by help and resources than guns and arrests. I do not currently live in Minneapolis, but lived in Powderhorn for 8 years and now live and teach public school in St Paul. I hope you lead the way on this issue and that St Paul will follow suit.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/10/2020 3:24:40 PM

I support the proposed amendment to create a new public safety department with the Minneapolis communities safety as the central focus. I support removing the Minneapolis Department from the streets, whom for far too many years, have treated the minority populations of Minneapolis unfairly. Police are meant to protect and serve, yet the history of the MPD tells a different story: one of implicit bias, racial profiling, increased violence towards people of color, and many other atrocities. The Minneapolis community, that is everyone - despite race, gender, and sexual orientation - deserve to feel safe in the streets they call home. Feeling safe should be a human right. The Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department is a step in the right direction, one where everyone feels protected. Not one where only white people feel safe-when everyone else lives in fear that those who are supposed to protect and serve are actually the ones murdering and raping. Do the right thing.

Ward 2

7/10/2020 3:28:29 PM

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in the Powderhorn neighborhood of South Minneapolis. I fully support the proposed charter amendment that would remove the MPD as a required city department, remove the minimum requirement of police per resident, and establish a new Civilian Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention. The police department has always committed acts of violence and brutality against Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color. Throughout the history of the MPD, attempts at reform have done nothing to stop this violence. As a future mental health provider, I believe in the urgency of defunding the MPD and channeling more resources into mental health, housing and other ways of supporting the needs of people in the community without criminalizing them. As a white person with the privilege to learn about this violence rather than experience it, it is my responsibility to demand that this charter amendment appear on the ballot this November. We need a new model for building safety in our communities. Justice cannot wait another year.

Ward 9

7/10/2020 3:38:17 PM

I am supportive of the charter amendment. I would like to see a new system created that includes a well-trained, likely armed but not militarized unit akin to today's police but with additional units that are dedicated to other city needs (mental health and wellness support, domestic violence support, etc.). All of this alongside a rerouting of funding from police and military gear toward schools and community support.

Ward 13

7/10/2020 3:52:52 PM

I am extremely supportive of the initiative to remove the police department from the city charter and replace it with a department of public safety and violence prevention.

I feel that the union structure of the police department has contributed significantly to the corruption of the MPD. However, I also feel that it is imperative for state employees to be fairly represented by a union. I hope that these considerations will factor in to the new structuring of the department of safety, preventing peace officers from entering into a union that recreates the same injustices as we have already seen.

Additionally, It is imperative to me that the majority of people employed and in leadership positions in this new department live in the communities where they primarily serve. Keeping the peace and preventing violence means investing in neighborhoods.

Peace officers should be required to carry private insurance similar to doctors such that if they are sued for injustices, their failures are not paid out by tax payers. Instead, they would be paid out by a private insurance company and the offending officer's insurance rates would go up.

Finally, there is often a correlation between poor education, poverty, and crime. I would like to see an increase in the budgets of lagging public schools in Minneapolis, which are mostly the same neighborhoods disproportionately plagued by police violence and prejudice. To truly make the city more safe, children need to be thoroughly invested in and supported.

Ward 7

7/10/2020 3:56:44 PM

The people of Minneapolis should decide how we address public safety, not the unelected membership of the Charter Commission. Let us vote.

Ward 11

7/10/2020 4:17:00 PM

I am opposed to placing the Charter Amendment to remove the Police Department and replace it with a Department of community safety and violence prevention on the November 3, 2020 Ballot. There is not enough time for this process to be fully vetted. This is a rushed process. The residents of the city of Minneapolis have had no opportunity to have discussions and input on how this change might happen or work. We are fighting a Pandemic. Many changes can occur without the charter amendment this year. There are many opportunities within the next year to figure out how some of the proposed changes might work. The School District, Minneapolis Parks and the University all will experience dealing with community safety and violence prevention without the assistance of the MPD. This will give valuable information of how the proposed new system would work. There are opportunities to retool and use more public health professionals within the police department to deal with mental health, drug addiction, alcoholism, homelessness and domestic conflict issues to get an feeling of the availability of those professionals and how that works. Work can also begin within the police department to be more a department of protecting and serving the community of Minneapolis.

Ward 7

7/10/2020 4:31:04 PM

I ask the Commission to ensure they complete their review and evaluation in time for the amendment to be placed on the November 2020 ballot.

The police department is structurally flawed and is causing harm to the city's residents. We don't know yet exactly what it should be replaced with, but the council has committed to an involved community process. The charter constraints, of the police department being under the mayor's sole authority, and of a minimum number of police officers per resident, must be removed to allow the process to work or we will be locked into another additional year or more of our current untenable position.

Our elected city council has voted unanimously to place the amendment on the ballot this year. Commissioners, please recognize the urgency of the situation and complete your review and evaluation in a timely manner.

Northrop neighborhood

Ward 11

7/10/2020 4:40:26 PM

Please pass this amendment to the Charter to make Minneapolis safer for us all.

Ward 7

7/10/2020 4:42:58 PM

My name is [REDACTED] and I have lived in the Whittier neighborhood of Minneapolis for 3 years. I fully support the proposed charter amendment that would remove the MPD as a required city department, remove the minimum requirement of police per resident, and establish a new Civilian Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention.

Time and time again, police reform efforts have shown to be ineffective at reducing violence committed by police against Black, Indigenous, and people of color. I believe we should defund the Minneapolis Police Department and allocate resources to ensure that everyone in Minneapolis has access to the housing, food, education, and health services necessary for creating the foundation for a healthy life.

Ward 10

7/10/2020 5:10:46 PM

Dear Charter Commissioners,

I'm asking that you vote YES. This amendment to change the City Charter, create a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police Department, MUST be on the ballot in 2020. Minneapolis residents have been in the streets demanding change. Listen to them. Show them that their voices are heard, and allow them to vote on this charter amendment in November 2020.

Vote YES. This amendment must be on the ballot this year.

Thank you,

Ward 8

7/10/2020 5:19:31 PM

Dear Charter Commission,

The choice is simple, the City Council's request for a ballot measure isn't rushed; it's long overdue. It was apparent after the death of Jamar Clark, after MPD150 issued its damning evaluation of the Minneapolis Police Department, and so many times before and between. The city is only catching up with that reality.

There is a reason the City Council, those we *elected* to office, are pushing for this. It's because enough -- not all -- but enough of us have had enough. We ask that you simply give them the power to act on our behalf.

We do not need you, a racially homogeneous body of *unelected* officials, to offer alternatives. We need you to get out of the way.

Give the people of Minneapolis the chance to vote for a safer, more equitable city.

Sincerely,

Ward 6

I would like to unequivocally voice my support for this amendment to the City Charter. Removing the requirement for a police department is the only way to open up discussions about what sort of community safety there should be - and effect real changes so long overdue in our communities. We cannot allow this progress to lag at any step of the process. We must plow ahead. Lives are literally on the lines.

For too long the police have refused to be sanctioned, refused to abide by reforms - all the while committing acts of violence against our neighbors, displaying excessive force regularly, and giving a pass to people who look like them, and breeding disdain for people of color in our communities. We see this continuously despite reforms. We see this continue despite public outcry. We see this continually happen over and over and over again. So often, so regularly, that there is no ring of truth in assurances of change or promises that this time - it will be different. The system of policing has broken trust with our communities. The system of policing is not worthy of the efforts and best intentions of the good officers that may be in their midst. The system of policing in Minneapolis MUST go. It must be replaced by the ideas and needs being brought forth from the community. We must have something better than police - and we cannot have that until the people of this city are allowed to vote on this amendment to the charter so that something new might be built.

As a resident of Minneapolis, our police force is fundamentally broken - it's not a few bad apples, it's a rotten system based in oppression, derived from slave catching, and deeply tied to our own complicity as white people in structures that benefit us as the expense of BPIOC people. The fact that our neighbors of color said that these things were happening should have been enough. The experiences of our neighbors of color should have been enough. The videos that reinforce what has been said and lived, should have been enough. Their lives - of which George Floyd is just our most recent - should be more than enough.

The Charter Commission's sole scope is to determine if the proposal is appropriate to the charter, meaning that it's related to the creation or removal of departments that could not be done through ordinance. There can be no doubt that this is definitively allowable - and should be moved to the ballot so that we, as citizens of Minneapolis, have a voice in the way in which our communities should be kept safe.

I urge you to consider how many of your friends or neighbors would need to be subject to violence by police before you would seek justice. How many times of having justice denied before you sought change? How many promises broken and regulations skirted before you no longer trusted those you elected to represent you? And then knowing all of this, knowing the cost, how much longer you would be willing to wait?

We can not wait any longer.

We must act now.

Ward 6

7/10/2020 5:35:25 PM

I strongly urge the Minneapolis Government to replace the MNPd with a Community Safety and Violence Prevention department. It is clear, not only after the tragic murders of Philando Castille and George Floyd by police, but additionally after the way that the Twin Cities police force has "protected" its citizens amidst the mostly peaceful protests this past month. I am afraid of the police, and as a law abiding citizen that should never, ever be the case. I am afraid to reach out for help, and I am not alone. This is unacceptable, and the people who pay so much money each year for a safe city should NEVER feel afraid of authorities. I am sickened by the state which I call home, and urge you to listen to the people's cries.

Ward 7

7/10/2020 5:50:38 PM

After watching the hearing from July 8, I was shocked to hear a discussion that sounded more like a group of uninformed citizens than a body responsible for determining if an amendment meets the requirements to be put on the ballot. While nobody in Minneapolis is certain about what a future without MPD might look like, I am sure that putting this amendment on the ballot provides a clear path forward for community members to weigh in. It will be the responsibility of CMs and community orgs to make sure voters know what to expect at the ballot. I also want to lift up CM Cano's comment that we should not be afraid of this ballot measure failing on election day. This is one of many efforts needed to help reimagine public safety, and whether it passes or fails, we will know more about where our community stands on this particular suggestion. Please put this amendment as written and approved by the City Council on the ballot.

Ward 6

7/10/2020 5:56:36 PM

If the protests, rioting, then volunteers are any indication of what it will be like when the politicians do not support our civil servants and police departments, we do not want this. As property owners and residents of our beautiful city, we do not support defunding the police. Criminals do not respect your objectives and you are ruining the city of Minneapolis for businesses, property owners, law abiding citizens and putting us all at risk. This has been tried in other cities without success. We implore you to NOT defund the police. If you intend to do that, we suggest you, your place of business and your families go without security. I assure you, our taxes would be better spent and appreciated on the people who are paying them. This is not an intelligent decision.

Ward 3

7/10/2020 6:34:03 PM

I think the idea of having a new department of public safety that includes "peace officers"(police) as one component is a good idea. I agree that there are systemic problems with the current police model and with MPD in particular for which reform is ineffective. However, the city council proposal is too vague. I understand their comment that the details will be ordinances but they have not proposed any specific ordinances. We need change now. Waiting until a public vote in November and spending a year researching plans is not acceptable. Police brutality and racism in the MPD is not a new problem and the

city council has done very little to address this. There have been a few reforms that have not led to any significant change. There are several non profit and activist groups that have been studying the problem for several years (for example MPD 150) and have developed several proposals and new models for public safety. These have been ignored by the city council. I do not have confidence in our city council to lead and ACT to create change. Having state laws regarding police accountability and regulating violent actions by police would be helpful and it is shameful that our legislature is also ineffective. However, given this reality, it is up to the city council, the mayor and the police chief to at least fire Bob Kroll who has many violent offenses in his record, change the budget tie low for innovative programs, and continue to have a no tolerance policy for police misconduct. The city council needs to stop talking and take action.

Ward 8

7/10/2020 6:41:52 PM

Stop the Fucking Looting and running Amok!

Ward 3

7/10/2020 6:52:16 PM

Get the input of several sociologists. See if they're in agreement on what the best way would be to manage a society.

Ward 2

7/10/2020 6:52:49 PM

I support the charter amendment to shift public safety in Minneapolis. I am a occupational therapist who works in the field of mental health and addiction rehabilitation at a local hospital. I see everyday how white fear is protected, over the health, wellness, and life of black, indigenous and people of color. The police and their excessive budget are here to protect white fear.

I am of Japanese descent. Japanese Americans are acutely aware of how government policies are made to help white people feel better, to feel safe, despite lack of evidence, from whoever the changing entity to be feared is. Japanese Americans were interned to make white people feel better during WWII, it is documented and the government admitted to that. I think it is time that the government admits that they have not been using evidence when making decisions about public safety, that instead they have been listening to irrational fear-based racism and classism. I want to invite you to turn to what evidence proves—that if you reduce wealth and racial disparities, that if you provide free counseling, shelter, options, and turn towards rather than away from the trauma that underlies interpersonal and system violence, that will lead us to real, lasting, and generative safety now and in the future.

The Latin word root of the word future means “to grow, to become”. Growth will come from resourcing our communities, and defunding that which has kept our communities under-resourced and captive. That means amending the charter so the people can decide whether we grow a future where we are all as free as we can be, or if we continue to fund organizations that enforce stereotypes and old ideas.

Ward 12

7/10/2020 7:13:48 PM

We need police officers and a police department, as with everything changes do need to be made to enhance the "experience" this means adding dedicated squads in each pct that have 1 police officer and 1 mental health professional that only respond to EDP type calls, like wise there needs to be a dedicated officer/drug abuse professional in each pct, we actually need more officers out j the street walking the old beat and out of the car, walking a beat will allow the officers the 1. Engage on a personal level with community members and business owners, 2 they will get to know the community they serve and 3 its more of a deterrence to crime.

Ward 12

7/10/2020 7:16:54 PM

Dad of 3. Please don't do this.

Ward 3

7/10/2020 8:01:53 PM

Don't change the city charter to defund police. We can keep our police Department while making improvements. We need police! Crime is Skyrocketing in the eighth ward.

Ward 8

7/10/2020 8:23:34 PM

Please don't do this. This is going to be a HUGE mistake. This will make civilians have to protect themselves because there will be no Law and Order. The city council itself had to order private security to protect themselves. Not paid by them but by tax payers.

Ward 1

7/10/2020 8:35:50 PM

It is imperative that you act quickly and allow Minneapolis residents to vote on this amendment this fall. We deserve the opportunity to have our voices heard on this issue. Do the right thing.

Ward 6

7/10/2020 8:46:23 PM

I oppose this proposal because it wrests control of the police department from the mayor and leaves it in the lap of too many city council members. We already are hamstrung by a weak mayor system and this will make the system even cumbersome. There is no plan behind this rushed proposal, nor has there been vetting of this proposal with the broader public (i.e., those people who were not able to

attend the protests). And, while there is a need to reform the police department under our excellent chief of police Arradondo, it cannot be done with the only plan being to have a "community conversation." No. Please vote no. This does not need to be rushed. It is ill-conceived.

Ward 11

7/10/2020 8:50:11 PM

The elimination of the police force is a terrible and short sighted idea. Even to propose it is dangerous. I have already seen the effects of this; as crime in the area has skyrocketed. The city may never recover from this type of proposal. People who value safety and security will move out, and gangs, thieves, and addicts will move in. Who will the the tax base, then?

Has the city council ever considered asking the police what they need in order to do better at their job? Like a failing school, they probably need more resources and you need to work WITH them, and listen to them, instead of trying to eliminate a public institution.

When a black man gets killed by a white police officer, it gets a lot of attention. However, it is still quite rare. What is not rare is the amount of murders and killings in the black and brown community. Who will be solving those crimes and getting bad guys off the streets? Because some people are just bad to the bone.

Ward 7

7/10/2020 9:03:30 PM

The black community needs to take 100% responsibility for the violence against civilians, cops, and even children since the death of Mr. Floyd. I hear that they are "entitled" to this behavior because they are angry and frustrated.

I've got news for you. I'm angry and frustrated too, but I am a white man. You see, anger and frustration doesn't stop when you are "white" and "privileged".

Life is full of inequality, injustices, unfairness, and even flat out abuse...whether it's based on race, intelligence, family pecking order, athleticism, mental or emotional handicaps, or foot size. But every man has a personal responsibility to forge ahead and thank His Creator for the blessings he DOES have, not be bitter for the Ones he doesn't have.

The damage being done in the name of "black justice" is a luxury afforded only in the USA. Try that behavior in China, Russia, or even Africa, and see where it gets you.

As a white man who had to live in fear of my house being burnt down last month, I suggest the Black Community update ME as to when I can expect MY reparations...for life by the way.

Ward 3

7/10/2020 9:17:04 PM

Police funding is far too high when there are other needs not being met. Please consider reallocating some of those funds to affordable housing, healthcare, violence prevention, addiction treatment.

The MPD has failed Minneapolis. I have been in 2 abusive situations with the Minneapolis Police in my life so far. We need community based solutions and people without guns responding to non violent situations. The MPD has never madd me feel safe, they have only made me feel afraid of THEM.

Ward 12

7/10/2020 9:30:37 PM

Correction. I meant to say the BLM movement, not the black community. They are two separate things. The destruction by the BLM movement must stop!

Ward 3

7/10/2020 9:35:02 PM

I supply businesses in Minneapolis and have trucks delivering 24 hours 7 days a week in Minneapolis. Our drivers do not feel safe since this announcement came out. We need to ensure safety of our drivers, commuters, and employees that reside in Minneapolis. This plan does not provide safety, assure residents and businesses, nor restore order.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/10/2020 9:35:17 PM

I supply businesses in Minneapolis and have trucks delivering 24 hours 7 days a week in Minneapolis. Our drivers do not feel safe since this announcement came out. We need to ensure safety of our drivers, commuters, and employees that reside in Minneapolis. This plan does not provide safety, assure residents and businesses, nor restore order.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/10/2020 9:36:19 PM

Until they have a in-depth plan and a multi year trial in any neighborhood but the 4th ward and have funding structure in place, they should not be given any power to affect funding of the police as granted by the Charter. No comprehensive Trial with data, no change to the charter amendment. By putting this off a year, it gives us time to consider this more thoughtfully.

Ward 4

7/10/2020 9:41:21 PM

Clarification...

Black Lives Matter...not Black Community

Equality For all must always be sought and pursued relentlessly, by all of us, but when we fall short as a society, we must as individuals recognize that while we aren't there yet, we are closer than before and we must stay unified, not turn against each other.

Ward 3

7/10/2020 9:57:19 PM

I am a resident of Ward 3, and while I agree that Minneapolis residents should have an opportunity to vote on any proposed amendment to the City Charter, the proposed amendment approved by the City Council is not sufficiently detailed or clear enough to put to a vote in November as it now exists.

The current rush to "defund the police" and abolish the police department has become a rallying cry in response not only to the murder of George Floyd, but to a litany of other miscarriages of police authority by a relative few "bad apples" who wear the badge. Rather than disbanding the entire police department, what is sorely needed is a thorough housecleaning of the individuals who are unsuited to be given the amount of authority normal police officers have been entrusted with. Re-training is obviously required as well for everyone on the force. Only by demonstrating that the uniformed officers are trustworthy and compassionate and respect not only the law but the citizens they serve and protect will confidence in the department be restored. This will not happen overnight. Nor will it happen by passing a City Charter Amendment. It will take the dedicated work of everyone involved and must be pursued in a detailed and well-thought-out plan and program that will be ongoing. It may take a few years for things to be turned around in the eyes of citizens. It will require hard work and dedication at all levels. But it can and must be done.

The Minneapolis Downtown Council's Statement on Public Safety and Guiding Principles for Police Reform and Public Safety provides a good starting point for discussion about what needs to be done. I would encourage the City Council to consider the merits of using the document as a rough draft to start guided discussions about any Charter Amendment they might ultimately put forward. I do not entirely agree with all elements in the Downtown Council's document, but it does provide a general outline of how to address the current problems with policing and public safety.

The proposed City Charter Amendment likewise is a beginning, not an end. It should be viewed as a rough first draft. A few suggestions and observations I would offer to the City Council are:

1. Changing the name of the police department to "department of community safety and violence prevention" is little more than a cosmetic effort to bury the police department under a few new names. What needs changing is the culture of the police department and, as stated earlier, removing the unsuitable officers who have not performed in the best interest of the community. Officers with multiple disciplinary actions against them should be immediately put on probation and, if they break the rules again, dismissed immediately.
2. The suggested structure of the proposed Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention stated in paragraph 7.3. (which I would recommend changing back to "Police Department") is incomplete. It includes only a Director of Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department, a

Division of Law Enforcement Services, and a Director of Law Enforcement Services Division. Should there not also be a Division of Community Safety with a Director for that division on the organization chart?

3. The description of the Division of Law Enforcement Services paragraph states: "The Council may [emphasis added] maintain a division of law enforcement services," I recommend changing the word "may" in this section to "shall" to eliminate the potential for the Council to elect not to maintain such a division.

These are just a few of my comments regarding the draft amendment. I am sure that as the proposed amendment is debated, other changes in the proposed restructuring and specific wording will be suggested. I think overall this is an opportune time to be considering reforming the Minneapolis Police Department in a positive direction that will enhance not only public safety but increase the public's respect and confidence in the Min

Ward 3

7/10/2020 10:41:08 PM

No, we need our police

Ward 2

7/10/2020 11:23:33 PM

Dumbest proposal I have ever heard. Shootings every day and night, mob assaults, car jackings constantly and this moronic city council wants to defund the police. Unreal!

Ward 3

7/11/2020 4:30:12 AM

Let us vote on the charter! Thousands of us have been protesting to end police brutality and end the MPD which has systemic and historic culture of violating the rights of POC.

Ward 1

7/11/2020 7:38:18 AM

We must be allowed to vote on the charter amendment in the fall. Do not block democracy from happening.

Ward 12

7/11/2020 8:07:27 AM

I am all for public safety reform. Bringing mental health and social work professionals into the mix sounds like a great idea to me. That said, though I would like to see a fundamental restructuring of the police force, I don't want it to be dismantled entirely and am troubled that there isn't language in the amendment more concrete than the council "may" maintain a division of law enforcement services. I am also troubled by the May 2021 timeline, as that seems far too aggressive to establish a viable alternative to our present structure, broken as it is.

Ward 2

7/11/2020 8:28:30 AM

It is time for the City of Minneapolis to drastically re-think its strategies to for serving and protecting the Minneapolis community. It is exceedingly obvious that the Minneapolis Police Department as it currently operates is not equipped to protect our community in a productive and equitable way. Rather, MPD has time and again escalated situations with the use of force, threats of violence, and heavy-handed reactions. I feel unsafe in the presence of MPD. Minneapolis can take this moment to lead, to show other cities across Minnesota and across the nation what is possible. It is time to take action that could and should have happened long ago. It is time to change the Minneapolis charter and allow for a department of community safety to take the place of MPD.

Ward 10

7/11/2020 8:32:43 AM

We do not want to remove the police department. We are all for Safety and violence prevention however a police force is also needed.

We do not agree with our city council member and are currently embarrassed by the politics of the entire council.

Ward 3

7/11/2020 8:55:14 AM

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a nurse who lives in the Cooper neighborhood. I support the amendment to the City Charter to establish the Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police Department from the Charter. I have seen in my job as a nurse that the key to building a safe and thriving community is through public health measures. The public health approach to violence prevention as outlined by the CDC involves defining and monitoring the problem, identifying risk and protective factors, developing and testing prevention strategies, and ensuring widespread adoption. (<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/publichealthissue/publichealthapproach.html>)

I believe that implementing the Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department will make Minneapolis a better and safer community through proactive measures instead of reactive measures

that have resulted in police brutality. The new department allows for a division of peace officers to respond to crimes. I am a white woman living in Minneapolis, and I believe that the new department will provide safety and build trust. Please allow the residents of Minneapolis the opportunity to vote on the City Charter amendment this fall.

Ward 2

7/11/2020 8:57:35 AM

I am commenting in STRONG SUPPORT of the proposed amendment: Establishing Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. Police reform has time and again proven ineffective, making it clear that a NEW MODEL for building safety is the only productive path towards true safety and equality across all communities. The voters must have the opportunity to speak on this amendment, and this opportunity must be provided THIS YEAR. The existing police department is making people unsafe right now, continuously. Waiting is therefore not an option.

Ward 7

7/11/2020 9:27:08 AM

I hope the charter is changed. We won't know if a new approach will work without giving it a go. I am in support of the proposed change.

Ward 12

7/11/2020 10:29:23 AM

The city is a disaster. The Mayor & City Council are complete idiots. Crime is at an all time high because of the City Council defunding/ dismantlement of the police. Our MPD has no leader. The Chief has his head far up the Mayor's butt & doesn't care about his officers. What a hostile workplace the City leaders have created for these cops. Don't even get me started on Lisa Bender. The entire front office needs to go. All corrupt.

Ward 8

7/11/2020 10:56:49 AM

I request that the Charter Commission review the charter amendment proposal in a timely manner to allow the residents of Minneapolis to be able to vote on it in the fall 2020 election.

Please don't miss this opportunity. Thank you.

Ward 6

7/11/2020 11:09:21 AM

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a Ward 3 resident and I support the charter amendment. I think the charter amendment as it stands will give our city the ability to change our public safety department for the better and create a more just safety system.

Thank you.

Ward 3

7/11/2020 11:31:42 AM

I'm in support of the proposed charter amendment. I believe that our current policing system is no longer in the best interest of all Minneapolis residents and that we are in need of dramatic changes. I encourage city officials to move ahead with the next steps of this process using the updated language in this charter amendment.

Ward 11

7/11/2020 11:34:35 AM

I would vote in-favor on the proposed amendment.

Ward 11

7/11/2020 12:19:22 PM

I am a Minneapolis resident and I support the proposed charter amendment to remove the Police Department and establish a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department.

I would like to be able to vote on the proposed amendment, and I would like to vote on it THIS YEAR. Please speed this process along so that voters can have a say in November.

It is important to me that this amendment create space for a new model of community safety. I am concerned that "licensed peace officers" are still included, however, and would support language in the amendment that would establish strict limits of personnel or funding of any division of law enforcement.

Ward 11

7/11/2020 12:22:35 PM

As a white resident of Minneapolis who has experienced the intersectionality of transient homelessness and poverty, I have no good faith in MPD. They have proven themselves to be an intransigent barrier to justice and community safety. I have never seen the police deescalate a situation.

As a homeowner in the 4th ward, I have no faith in the 5th precinct to end its history of racist profiling and unchecked unconstitutional aggression.

We are at a crossroads, and Minneapolis has a real chance to be on the cutting edge of humane community reform. I urge you to consider the charter amendment, to restore power over policing to the city council, and to put the issue to us as voters on the November ballot.

Any council member who is found to be wriggling out of this paradigm shift will not survive re-election. Lead the way.

Ward 4

7/11/2020 12:50:45 PM

I completely agree the Minneapolis police department has a history of systemic racism and that prior efforts at reform have not been successful. However, given the vast amount of private citizens who are armed, I believe it doesn't make sense to completely disband the police department.

I believe extensive firing and rehiring and reallocating some funds for police to mental health and social services are in order. Requiring officers to live in the precincts they patrol may also allow for more community involvement and officer investment. But unfortunately, we live in a nation where we also need officers who will respond to violent crimes.

This is clearly a national issue, and there are many advocates for extensive reform who believe the move to disband the police department may actually disadvantage our communities. Please consider this as not an all or nothing issue, but consider a measured approach to reform that will also protect our communities.

As part of a refugee community, I completely support major overhaul and reform, but we do need more than simple community policing. As it stands, there is no discussion of what officers will do, how violent crimes will be addressed, and if officers will be armed. I do not support passing something that is not clearly articulated in regards to how this new plan will impact public safety.

Ward 1

7/11/2020 12:50:50 PM

I think it is ludicrous to have such an amendment on the ballot until the details of this plan are worked out. We voters need to know, in detail, what will or will not occur with such an amendment. Until a firm plan is in place, do not move in haste regarding this important topic.

Personally, I don't think we should throw the baby out with the bathwater. I would approve of reform as opposed to abolishing or dismantling the MPD. To have a committee of 13 oversee this new department or the MPD makes no sense. Keep the mayor and Police Chief in power. Figure out ways to be able to reprimand or fire officers without having the police union undo everything. Add social services, community organizations, etc. to help address crime, employment, education and housing, but there will be times that no chemical dependence counselor or social worker should enter domestic disputes or other extremely volatile situations. MPD and others should create a climate of working WITH each other,, not against each other or in place of each other.

There is too much going on in my neighborhood that keeps me in fear and right now, goody-to-shoes are not going to solve it. I refuse to not have a police officer come to my aid if my home is being burgled, a neighbor is shot (heaven forbid), or someone is holed up with a shotgun in a home nearby.

Thanks for your time and consideration because the plan as it stands now is totally asinine.

Ward 4

7/11/2020 12:55:34 PM

Despite my misgivings about the current City Council's demonstrated inability to engage with citizens that don't share their views, I am in favor of the proposed charter amendment.

The current police department needs to be replaced with a new organizational structure, new rules for employment and training, new staff whose expertise includes empathy and people skills. There is no way to fix the problem by reforming what we have. The charter amendment is the right approach.

I would also like to see preference in hiring given to Minneapolis residents. One of the problems we have today is, 95% of MPD officers live outside the city. This has led to an "us vs them" attitude, where Minneapolis residents are seen as in need of control. People who police us should live with us.

Ward 10

7/11/2020 12:59:06 PM

I support the full abolition of the Minneapolis Police Department and its replacement with a Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department.

However, I do not support the Mayor & City Council's roles in electing the Director of this Department; this role needs to be determined directly by the communities they will be serving.

Similarly, regarding the "Division of Law Enforcement Services", the Amendment states that the Council will maintain this though it will be under the supervision of the Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department; if the Mayor is appointing the Director and these peace officers stem down from that, how will you create a system that actually challenges the systemic problems in our local political structure that the MPD has been a symptom of?

I also believe these decisions should be made in conversation and conjunction with groups like MPD150, Black Visions Collective, etc. that have been working on this directly.

Ward 10

7/11/2020 12:59:18 PM

A BIG NO

Ward 2

7/11/2020 1:06:37 PM

The people of Minneapolis deserve and demand the opportunity to vote on changing our city charter. The murder of George Floyd and the ensuing uprising show that our city needs change and the residents have a voice. We demand the right to vote and make change happen now. Waiting is unacceptable.

Ward 10

7/11/2020 1:28:26 PM

Minneapolis needs police. Plain and simple. Do we need to reform the police department? yes. But make no mistake about it, our city needs police to keep its residents safe. Maybe add these other areas to the police department, like more social workers, mental health professionals for those types of calls, but when someone gets shot, or our houses get burglarized or other crimes, we need the police. I will not as Lisa Bender said call a trusted neighbor. It is not my neighbor's job to come in if my house is being robbed, or I am being assaulted, This city council is dreaming to think that a major city with lots of gang violence can be safe without the police. This city council is not in their right minds if they think we can be without police. May be time to look ahead at the next elections and remove some of this insanity. An yes I am a liberal not a conservative. I just want to feel safe in my community and I am not feeling that with this proposal.

Ward 4

7/11/2020 1:29:48 PM

please see attached two-page public comment

Ward 2

7/11/2020 1:43:43 PM

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

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

Ward 12

7/11/2020 2:22:52 PM

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

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, protesters, 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.

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

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

sincerely,

Ward 11

7/11/2020 2:25:41 PM

I want to vote on the city charter proposal for disbanding MPD and replacing it with a community safety and violence prevention department. I am an independent adult with autism, and I live in fear of MPD, even as a white woman. People with developmental disabilities comprise a large percentage of victims of police violence, and is only worse if they are BIPOC. Cops are often untrained on how to recognize and communicate with autistic people who are having meltdowns or other mental health crises, and often escalate to violence or further traumatize people. I dream of a new vision for Minneapolis that includes workers trained to help people with autism and other developmental disabilities in a non-violent, non-stigmatizing way.

Ward 10

7/11/2020 2:53:04 PM

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a former resident of the Powderhorn and Ventura Village neighborhoods of South Minneapolis. While I currently live in St. Paul, I go to school and work in Minneapolis, and it is likely I will live there again in the future. The Twin Cities are my home and what happens in Minneapolis affects us St. Paul. I fully support the proposed charter amendment that would remove the MPD as a required city department, remove the minimum requirement of police per resident, and establish a new Civilian Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention. The police department has always committed acts of violence and brutality against Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color. Throughout the history of the MPD, attempts at reform have failed to stop this violence. As a future social worker, I believe in the urgency of defunding the MPD and channeling more resources into mental health, housing, employment, economic equity development, and other ways of supporting the needs of people in our community without criminalizing them. During my time working at shelter for homeless individuals in South Minneapolis, I frequently helped to deescalate situations of intense conflict without ever feeling the need to use force or violence. I know that a future of community safety without police presence is possible. As a white person with the privilege to learn about police violence rather than experience it, it is my responsibility to demand that this charter amendment appear on the ballot this November. We need a new model for building safety in our communities. Justice cannot wait another year.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/11/2020 2:56:26 PM

I support this amendment!

We need to defund and abolish the police, and work on making our community safe for all who live here.

Money currently spent on our corrupt, violent, and rude police force should be spent on addressing homelessness and affordable housing, gender-violence, transphobic violence, mental health, repairing families torn apart by our cruel prison-slavery system, gentrification, displacement, wage slavery, too many guns in our community, too many cars and too much car-centered design of the city (which makes us unsafe), unequal access to education and healthy food, water and air.

Addressing these problems will help us all do our part, and we must ALL work to right these wrongs.

It's time for us to stop paying police to do the dirty work that never addresses the root causes of violence.

We need safety for everyone - Black, Indigenous, immigrant, trans, disabled, people of color, queer, children, women, homeless, mentally ill, the working class, the poor, etc etc. NOT just for those who can afford to hide behind their homes doors, their gated communities, their white skin privilege, their badges, their titles.

Even as a fifty year old white man, I have lived with harassment, threats, insults and rudeness from police - and I have seen how much worse it is for people of color, for my indigenous neighbors, for gender non-conforming friends, for the young black men in my neighborhood. The constant threat, surveillance, and harassment of the police does not make us safer, it only makes most of us more and more enraged at the unjust system that the police protect and represent.

Residents of Minneapolis, like residents of any other city in the USA, face serious threats to our safety and well being. The police are one of those threats, and MUST BE ABOLISHED.

How can we address gun violence, gang violence, intimate partner violence? I don't have all the answers, but in my experience with each of these - the Minneapolis Police are an option that I wouldn't chose, as they have only made feel more threatened and less safe when I've called them to intervene in these types of situations.

It's time for us to find REAL solutions to public safety, that are community-based, and will not feed our children to the prison-slavery system from which they may only emerge less employable, less-able to find a home.

Despite the rumors of a few "good apples" on the police force, the MPD continue to serve as slave catchers for the prison system, which is itself a direct descendant of slavery, and which destroys families and communities.

Until our community and nation address the past and present harms of slavery, land-theft, genocide, and anti-immigrant violence, we will continue to perpetuate the injustices that have eroded the safety of everyone.

Police serve the function of violent enforcers of a system of organized theft by the ruling class who exist above any morals or rule of law.

Even if you disagree with my political viewpoint that the police were created to uphold and protect and unjust system, anyone can see that enough members of the Minneapolis police department behave in ways that make it clear that the entire department can be fairly described as rude, violent, unprofessional, racist, jerks, and no amount of money spent on more equipment seems to change the culture of a department that attracts and breeds such behavior.

We all deserve better, and we all deserve safety, we all deserve to live our lives without the threat of the Minneapolis Police Department in our city.

Let us vote on this amendment and begin this process.

Ward 9

7/11/2020 2:59:06 PM

The police department has cause so much damage to our community and is so corrupt. It is necessary we make this change so our citizens can feel safe.

Ward 2

7/11/2020 3:03:05 PM

I hope the charter commission listens carefully to community feedback and desires and uses this opportunity to make a better, clearer charter amendment than the mess that the council has (apparently cynically?) put forward.

People want more police accountability. This amendment puts accountability three layers down. It seems to put Minneapolis peace officers under a department under the city council. That's a lot of room for passing the buck and finger pointing, and it's less direct and transparent than the current set up, in which officers are disciplined by the MPD chief and the mayor.

With this amendment, who will be responsible for officer discipline? I recommend you add language to make a civilian group, paid as much as the city council, in charge of fielding civilian misconduct complaints and disciplining police.

As the law stands (subdivision 17) a civilian oversight body could not impose discipline - it can only recommend discipline to the chief of police. THAT language should be struck - the community needs to have a way to directly influence peace officer discipline.

If this language isn't struck, will the Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department be able to discipline officers under it? Or only recommend discipline? If they can only recommend discipline, to whom would their recommendation be addressed?

The one piece of the amendment that has clarity and substance and clearly aligns with the community's desire for police accountability: strike the language that requires the city to maintain a police force of a minimum number (.0017% of the population, I think). Simply striking this number opens the door to reforming the police and investing more in mental health, etc.

I am glad the commission is seriously looking at this amendment. I hope you take this opportunity to produce an amendment that actually works for the kind of change that Minneapolis residents are demanding.

Ward 3

7/11/2020 3:10:10 PM

The Police have earned themselves a significant level of distrust in the neighborhood over their actions both past and present. The current situation in this area is poor, there has been more gun crime in the last 2 months than in the previous 2 years I've lived here.

The Police are currently ineffective in responding to 911 calls. I personally have called the Police on three occasions in recent weeks and seen absolutely zero response - no cars, no officers, no callbacks. Is this due to resources being thin or due to an unwillingness to help and keeping the city hostage in this feud that they brought on themselves?

Whatever comes out of this, the Police need to be reformed. An effective community-based model, still with law enforcement power, or a complete overhaul and retraining of the Police service. The Police should be overseen by an impartial Civilian, elected individual to help eliminate this "corrupt brotherhood" of Officers covering each others' misdeeds.

Ward 5

7/11/2020 3:18:35 PM

I agree with Commissioner Gregory Abbott's suggestion that instead of a ballot measure to amend the city charter on November 3, 2020, the city could undertake a two-year pilot program so it has enough time to generate information on the best way to form a new public safety plan, or on more effective ways of reforming the existing police department. This would give valuable data to amending the city charter in the future if that is what seems to be best. Activity to make things better in Minneapolis should begin now!

Ward 7

7/11/2020 3:43:26 PM

I strongly support putting this charter amendment on the ballot. It is time to rethink our approach to public safety, and amending the charter is an important first step. The proposal should be presented to the voters so we can provide community input on this critical issue.

Ward 10

7/11/2020 3:49:11 PM

Let the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter and respect our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want!

Ward 12

7/11/2020 3:51:41 PM

I am writing in favor of changing the charter.

As a White woman, I am not affected by police violence in the same way as my Minneapolis neighbors who are People of Color (POC). But I support the principle of "nothing about us, without us," especially as someone with disability. That is why I have tried to educate myself over these past two months on Minneapolis POC's experiences and wisdom--to hear what they believe the way forward should be on MPD.

I have listened to POC leaders from local groups Reclaim the Block and Black Visions Collective, and their call for action is clear: change the charter, and let the people of Minneapolis decide the future of MPD.

I urge the Charter Commission to advance this action step. Thank you for your consideration.

Ward 8

7/11/2020 3:57:34 PM

I have recently moved from North Minneapolis to Apple Valley due to getting too old to maintain my house. I would like to comment on the proposed charter amendment.

I am writing to urge you to let residents of Minneapolis have the opportunity to vote on the future of our public safety system. Despite good-faith efforts to reform, years of evidence show us that the problems of the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) are deep.

A city cannot tolerate the police brutality and mistreatment of the public from its Police Department. For years, the Minneapolis 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. Minneapolis needs a meaningful community process to re-imagine health and safety, without encountering the barrier of outdated language in the City Charter.

Please support expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolis citizens can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/11/2020 4:11:52 PM

Changing the charter is a necessary step towards giving us the freedom to begin the process of making our city safer for everyone who lives here, in particular Black people, people of color, Native people, people who are homeless, mentally ill, poor, LGBTQ+, and others that MPD consistently brutalizes. I support bringing this charter amendment to a vote as soon as possible so our city can begin the process of re-imagining public safety, which we cannot do with the city charter as it currently stands. A charter change would expand the possibilities of how Minneapolis keeps its residents safe, rather than restricting us to the current methods which are not working and have never worked very well. Residents should be able to vote on it this November.

Ward 10

7/11/2020 4:37:16 PM

Minneapolis charter commission: This is an unprecedented and historic time in our city, and we have the opportunity to make real change and chart a new path forward toward well-being, safety, opportunity and justice for all. Our current trajectory is not acceptable and is creating further divides in who gets to be "safe" in our shared city. Your role at this time is to determine whether the current proposal is appropriate to the charter. It is crucial to be well-informed of what moving forward does and does not mean. This step does not mean that the MPD is abolished and it does not mean that public safety is in danger. It simply means that the process of democracy is allowed to proceed and that certain constraints about how the MPD exists and functioned would be allowed to be adjusted and re-imagined in the future. There is no "plan" of what this would look like yet, and that is okay. Advocates of changes to the MPD acknowledge that any next steps would require thoughtful, planned, and long term investments in public health and safety. Remember- that is not what this step in the process is about. It is not your role to block this important democratic process. That belongs to the people, this fall, on the ballot. It is critical to act now, to allow this amendment to the charter.

From a more personal perspective, I will share that I am a pediatric nurse practitioner. I work in the primary care setting. My whole purpose in my career is to promote health and wellbeing and prevent illness and disease in every child. One of the things we talk about a lot in child health is something called ACES, or adverse childhood experiences. These include events in childhood such as experiencing

violence, abuse, neglect, household instability such as from a parent who is in prison or perhaps affected by substance abuse or mental health problems. The more adverse experiences a child has, the higher likelihood they will have chronic health problems, lesser education and job opportunities, future violence victimization and perpetration than individuals with fewer of those experiences. When I think about this charter amendment, I have hope. I see the possibility of reinvesting heavily in public health measures that have the potential to boost wellbeing for everyone in this city and especially the lives of our youngest community members. I look forward to new approaches in our city's public sphere so that we can create communities where every child can have the opportunity to thrive. But to do so, I believe we need to amend the charter.

Please, Let us vote.

Ward 9

7/11/2020 4:44:11 PM

Hello, my name is [REDACTED], I am a resident of Minneapolis in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood. I fully support the Minneapolis City Council's efforts to amend the city charter removing the MPD as a required department and establish a new Civilian Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention. The MPD's long record of violence against Black, Indigenous, and Immigrant communities is not an anomaly in US policing - it is the norm. These crimes are systemic and run to the very roots of American law enforcement, and no attempts at reform have proven effective to any degree. We not only have the opportunity but the responsibility in this moment to dismantle this unjust system and create methods of community protection that truly serve the well being of all people. Lives are at stake - this radical change cannot wait any longer. I urgently demand that this provision be added to the ballot in November. Thank you,

Ward 2

7/11/2020 4:53:14 PM

The Director of the department of community safety and violence prevention and the Director of the division of law enforcement service should be voted upon and appointed by the public. A small police force that isn't run by the public is not effective. It is the public's right to vote for both director positions.

Ward 10

7/11/2020 4:56:14 PM

I am unsure how a division of the government that is supposed to focus on the well being of the community can be helpful to the community if all the positions of power within this organization are not appointed by the community itself. I think the lack of say the community has in who is keeping them safe is the exact problem that occurred with the police department. Without the community being able to vote on who will direct this department I don't see how people will feel any safer than with the police. The mayor and the city council should not have all the power over this department.

Ward 10

7/11/2020 6:13:29 PM

I support the proposed charter amendment to create a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department, and I request that this commission support it as well so we can create a safer, healthier city for all Minneapolis residents, and in particular our BIPOC community members. I look forward to voting for this amendment in November.

Ward 12

7/11/2020 6:47:53 PM

I would like to see this amendment come to a vote this fall. I feel that reallocating funding for different types of public safety officials would be very beneficial to the people of Minneapolis. The city can employ more social workers, mental health officials, and other individuals that specialize in specific needs of citizens that relate to public safety.

Ward 13

7/11/2020 6:49:13 PM

This needs to happen, now. People will not wait 4 months.

Ward 2

7/11/2020 6:50:23 PM

Writing to encourage the Charter Commission , City Council and Mayor to bring this Charter Amendment to voters in November. The recent occurrence of police brutality and subsequent riots have brought a renewed focus on the systemic racism in our policing and the deep distrust of the Police in our Black and other Minority communities. I hope you'll give the voters of Minneapolis the opportunity to vote for meaningful change in our public safety approach.

Thank you,

Ward 13

7/11/2020 7:06:54 PM

Hello Councilwoman,

I'm a resident of your ward. It is vital that we vote to change the charter so that we can have an actual opportunity to abolish the Minneapolis Police Department. The Charter Amendment must be put on the ballot in November so that the citizens of Minneapolis have the power to choose the road we now take. There can be no half measures. The institution of American policing as we know it cannot be reformed

because it is inherently violent. Please do your part in helping us make this city a safer and more humane place for Americans to live. We have the opportunity to do something truly good. Please help us by allowing helping to place the charter amendment in the hands of the public.

Best,

Ward 7

7/11/2020 7:11:28 PM

Please pass this amendment so we can vote on it this November!! So, so important and timely, we can't pass this up!

Ward 3

7/11/2020 7:40:09 PM

I'm completely AGAINST removal of the police department. I'm however for a police reform. The city council has lost their god damn minds.

Ward 11

7/11/2020 9:18:39 PM

Please make police fully accountable to democratically elected representatives. Make laws to quickly and effectively and permanently get bad cops fired for good so they can work at a job they qualify for. Make police hiring screening so that it effectively prevents the employment of bad cops.

Ward 4

7/11/2020 9:43:39 PM

I am against the Proposed Amendment.

I am against removing the Police Department.

I want to see an increase in the number of Police in the MPD.

Ward 7

7/11/2020 11:12:50 PM

I am urging the Charter Commission to finish its review of the amendment in time for it to be placed on the November, 2020 ballot. This is a crucially important amendment that would finally transport legislative power from a SYSTEM that has proven (time and time again with empirical evidence) it IS. NOT. WORKING. I tuned in to the July 8th charter meeting and was overcome with immense pride and gratitude for my City Council members. While the reservations voiced by the Charter Commission were not necessarily improper, they were nevertheless conceived from a place of fear: 'This is all too rushed;

What about the officers? Certainly this requires more planning; I sense a slippery slope in the excoriation of mayoral power!' But fear is a destabilizing, debilitating, and divisive force, which has no place in legislation.

For those who are perhaps hesitant or fearful to defund the police; unwilling or unable to imagine a society without this system in its current form: The citizens of our communities are telling us that they are afraid of dying—at any given moment of any given day—by the hands of the very institution that they are told will protect them. The least we could all do, instead of saying “No, we can’t,” is ask how we might. And that means putting this amendment to vote in November.

'Why not wait?', several Commissioners are seeming to wonder. Because we're already 400 years tardy.

Thank you for considering my feedback.

Most sincerely,

Ward 12

7/11/2020 11:42:00 PM

Change the charter, and let us citizens vote! MPD is not working in an acceptable fashion, and reform has not been enough. We need to start fresh! This is the only path to get there.

Thank you,

Ward 9

7/12/2020 12:02:53 AM

I am strongly opposed to the proposed change to the Charter to eliminate the police department

1) My company has been headquartered in Minneapolis for over 30 years. Because of the City Council's irresponsible proposal in the midst of the increase in violent crime in Minneapolis, we will be relocating outside of Minneapolis when our lease ends early 2021. Most of our employees live outside of Minneapolis and commuted to the office. We are currently 100% work from home. Many of our employees said they do not feel safe coming back to the office due the crime increase and would refuse to work in Minneapolis if the police are disbanded. It is important that our employees and visiting customers feel safe. We can't wait until the November election outcome to select our new office. Sadly, we are leaving Minneapolis.

2) Groups including the NAACP, "Twin Cities Coalition for Justice for Jamar" and "Minneapolis chapter of Communities United Against Police Brutality" oppose this proposal, as do a majority of the North Minneapolis BIPOC community.

3) Having the new department report to the City Council rather than mayor s insane.

4) The current charter defining # of police officers based on population makes sense. They eliminated this.

5) The proposed changes look like they were made by a 4th grader. In the interest of brevity, I'll leave it at that.

Thanks for listening.

Ward 3

7/12/2020 12:07:34 AM

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Minneapolis, currently living in the seventh ward. I fully support a change to the Minneapolis City Charter. I believe that ALL the city's residents need a law enforcement alternative that prioritizes community health and safety. The MPD, with a union that keeps them above the law, has proven that they are not capable of serving this function. They neither serve nor protect communities of color, and this is not acceptable. Change the charter now before more people are brutalized and murdered.

Ward 7

7/12/2020 2:21:40 AM

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

Ward 2

7/12/2020 6:44:01 AM

This is an irresponsible, under-researched idea. If you would like to fundamentally restructure the MPD, great, then take the time to consult experts who can shed some light on what the new MPD should look like. Cities such as Camden have successfully done this. I realize that this process would take more than the month or so that you're giving yourselves to get this on the ballot in November, but I don't think that you realize that proposing to eliminate the MPD without specifying what kind of institution you would put in your place is not popular amongst community members. Your amendment won't pass and then we'll be left with....no changes.

The other insane part of your plan is to remove mayoral control of the MPD and instead supervise the MPD yourselves. The Council is traditionally a first step for politicians and so there are generally many new, inexperienced people serving there. This current council has shown itself to be both inexperienced and irresponsible and so there is no way that I would vote for any amendment that gives the Council control over the MPD.

I do think that we need huge changes in policing, not just in MPLS, but all over this country. But the kind of systemic racism that so troubles the MPD isn't just limited to the police. It's huge, it underpins every aspect of American society. Any solution to police brutality is so much bigger than restructuring individual police departments. That the Council seems to think that abolishing the police, replacing them with.....nothing? Something else? (We are all unclear on that) is going to somehow fix structural racism is short-sighted.

The other troubling aspect of this is how many Black community leaders are coming out and saying that they haven't been consulted and that they don't agree with the idea of total abolition of the police force. If your proposal isn't something that the members of the community most affected by police violence want, what are you actually doing?

Ward 3

7/12/2020 6:51:00 AM

I know things are on a shorter than normal time line but I urge the Commission to allow the proposed charter amendment to move forward so that we may vote on it this November. I don't know for sure what the original thinking was in how the Charter defined the structure, role and size of MPD, but 150 years has proven that the current structure does not work. We have a possibility in this brief moment of time, when all eyes are watching, to begin to shape a different future. But the current Charter is an obstacle to whatever that future may become. Amending the Charter is the step that is needed to allow a new vision emerge where all Minneapolis residents can live more peacefully, more healthily and without fear they will die at the hands of a "good" or "bad" cop. I'm excited for Minneapolis to begin to shape that future. Please do your part to move us forward.

Ward 1

7/12/2020 6:54:48 AM

I ask the charter commission to vote against the charter amendment proposed by Ellison, Cano, Gordon, Fletcher, and Bender to eliminate the Minneapolis Police department.

While I am in favor of significant changes to the way policing is done and the ability to hold individual officers liable for their criminal actions, the currently proposed charter amendment is not a well conceived solution.

Ward 7

7/12/2020 7:05:54 AM

Did you talk to any actual Black people who do not politically identify as progressives/far left? Do you know that we are in the middle of a crime wave? Do you know that your amendment doesn't have much support? You are all inexperienced and the idea that you're going to take away the police without first figuring out what to replace them with is idiotic.

Ward 5

7/12/2020 7:53:03 AM

I currently live in Seattle, but plan on moving back to Minneapolis in a few years. I want to move back to a city that my whole community feels safe in, and clearly the cops are only making the most privileged members of our community feel safe. Let the people of Minneapolis vote on disbanding the MPD. The only way to truly know if disbanding the MPD would make the community feel safer is by asking

everyone! Please put the charter amendment up to a vote and make sure to have equitable voting policies, like mail-in this year. Disabled people face disproportionate violence from police and COVID, so their voices definitely need to be heard in a way that is safe.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/12/2020 8:34:00 AM

Hello, my name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Minneapolis. I would like to urge the Charter Commission to let the people of Minneapolis vote on the proposed amendment to the charter. Allowing us to vote is the most democratic way to make a decision that impacts every resident of the city. I don't feel comfortable allowing a body of unelected volunteers making a decision of this magnitude. I urge the Charter Commission to put the amendment on the ballot and let Minneapolis residents vote. This is a critical moment - I hope the right decision is made.

Ward 10

7/12/2020 8:49:11 AM

I live and vote in Minneapolis 7th ward. I am writing to demand that the charter commission let us vote for the future of the charter and the future of policing in Minneapolis. Do not delay the process, it must have an opportunity to be the people's choice. Do the right thing, be on the right side of history. Do not disrupt the rights of Minneapolis citizens to choose how they are kept safe. We must be able to vote on the charter on the ballot this fall. Do not delay the process!

Ward 7

7/12/2020 9:37:38 AM

It has been made abundantly clear by the current Police Department and it's Federation that they have no interest in preventing crime or keeping citizens safe. We must have the ability to actually influence and make change so that this city can be safe for everyone.

Ward 1

7/12/2020 10:30:29 AM

Thank you for your leadership on creating and proposing an amendment surrounding the department of community safety and violence prevention. I'm confident this is a step forward for the Minneapolis community and the future we envision That is safe for all people, and addressing the root causes of crime and mental health in our city. This amendment has my vote in November.

Ward 10

7/12/2020 11:36:48 AM

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, protesters, 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.

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

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

Sincerely,

Ward 10

7/12/2020 12:04:53 PM

Vote NO to the police charter amendment

Ward 3

7/12/2020 12:38:18 PM

There are many possible reform ideas that are being discussed around the country. Please do not let the rash decisions of the City Council rush us into proposed solutions that may take years to correct later. Slow this down by denying the change to be on the ballot this year.

Ward 10

7/12/2020 1:00:23 PM

Please allow Minneapolis citizens to vote on the city council's proposed amendment to the city charter. This is a matter of allowing a democratic process to continue, I would prefer you not step in to prevent it. I urge you to listen to your neighbors and support the amendment to the charter.

Ward 10

7/12/2020 1:14:10 PM

Hello!

I appreciate the work of the Charter Commission; I believe that Minneapolis voters should be able to decide the changes to the charter and that this amendment is ready to be decided by City of Minneapolis residents. This is the first step of our city relinquishing the outdated and inefficient structures imposed by the current charter, allowing the city (government and residents together) to rebuild a less oppressive system. Please do NOT hold this until the next ballot. This is a long process and it needs to start now.

Thank you,

Ward 12

7/12/2020 1:55:43 PM

Do not replace the police department

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/12/2020 1:59:58 PM

The emergency budget should reflect what we really need. In a pandemic and an economic crisis, the City should cut MPD's \$193 million budget. It needs to PROTECT and INCREASE funding for affordable housing, healthcare, real solutions to violence, and addiction resources.

Ward 9

7/12/2020 2:12:21 PM

There should also be a requirement for personal liability insurance on officers in the new system each officer must maintain.

Ward 1

7/12/2020 2:13:02 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

7/12/2020 2:34:59 PM

I am strongly opposed to removal of the Minneapolis Police Department. I think if the city council is successful in their attempt to do this it will turn this city into a crime ridden hell hole. I already have had a neighbor move out and put his house up for sale just because of what the city council is trying to do. Why do you think cities came up with police departments long ago? Probably so people could go to work without having their homes looted while they were gone. Those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it! DON'T DO IT!!!

Ward 4

7/12/2020 2:35:05 PM

I prefer the traditional law enforcements with some tweets and reforms.

Ward 6

7/12/2020 3:00:21 PM

SHAME Jacob Frey for cutting funding from housing inspectors, affordable housing trust, Hennepin County workers, and other needed services! Cut funding from the police - they are doing an intentional slow down anyway, and yall know it, to try to get middle-class voters to clamor for more police funding. Marginalized people in our communities already held a referendum in early June, and less marginalized people are organizing to support them and speak up for DEFUNDING THE POLICE.

Ward 9

7/12/2020 3:08:52 PM

Dear Minneapolis Charter Commission,

I have lived, worked, and gone to school in the Twin Cities all my life. I am deeply connected to Minneapolis. This city is where I walk through our beautiful parks, laugh with my friends, sing prayers with my community, protest for my neighbors' lives, and dance my stress away. I am a dues-paying member of Shir Tikvah Congregation in Ward 13 of Minneapolis.

I am writing you in solidarity with Black Visions Collective and Reclaim the Block. I have full trust in their leadership, and I am inspired by their vision for public safety based in community care and violence prevention.

We have a real opportunity for the people of Minneapolis to create a future free of police brutality: a city where the people who are supposed to protect us are a constant threat; a city where people in crisis are met with compassion and services, not with armed law enforcement.

Reforms and attempted oversight from the Minneapolis City Council and the Minneapolis Mayor have not stopped police brutality in our city, even though we are the poster child for police reform. It is time that we start talking about other options, like divesting from the police and reinvesting in marginalized neighborhoods. The current city charter prevents the people of Minneapolis from having a real say in how their city addresses public safety. For years, the Charter has been a barrier to addressing the atrocities perpetrated by the Minneapolis Police Department because it restricts the city council's ability to hold MPD accountable. The Charter also restricts how the City practices public safety by requiring a minimum number of MPD officers. Neither of these barriers exist for any other City department.

It is in our democratic right to ensure proper oversight and accountability from our public departments. It is the democratic right of the people of Minneapolis to self-determine what forms of public safety and criminal justice are right for our community, but without the chance to amend the City Charter this year, the community-based solutions are not even up for debate.

The work to engage Minneapolis residents and stakeholders in a path forward must start now—and it must include a 2020 ballot initiative. The City Charter belongs to the people, and we deserve a chance to exercise our democratic voice. For the lives of our neighbors, justice cannot wait another year. We need a ballot initiative this fall.

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

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

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/12/2020 3:11:09 PM

This comment is for the Minneapolis City Charter Commission:

I watched the charter commission meeting last week where the charter amendment was discussed. I was surprised and disappointed at charter members' stance toward the proposal. As a Minneapolis resident and someone who grew up here, I feel strongly that I should have the opportunity to vote on the future of the city and its policing. Because of recent events and the shift in public attitudes toward the police department, it is imperative that our opportunity to vote is this year, and that it not be pushed into the future. People want to make their voices heard now, and this is an important moment

for change. Please allow us our opportunity to have a say in the future of our city by putting the charter amendment on the ballot in November.

Thank you,

Concerned Uptown resident

Ward 10

7/12/2020 3:11:45 PM

I support sending to the ballot the proposed charter amendment to create a new community safety and violence prevention department while eliminating the police department. Voters deserve the chance to consider this charter amendment that would significantly change the focus from crime response to crime prevention, while relocating control to the city council and a more accountable board rather than just to the mayor. This amendment is not detailed, nor does it need to be. The amendment is about creating a new skeleton for future major changes that the people are demanding of their elected officials. This is just the first step, and it deserves to move forward to the ballot.

Ward 8

7/12/2020 3:35:39 PM

The Minneapolis Police Department should be removed from the city charter, and a Department of Community Safety should be placed in its stead.

Violence prevention and crisis response should get the resources they need. The transition will take time, but we need a new Charter to create possibilities for a transformed future. These changes will allow our community to build the infrastructure our city needs to make us feel safe, especially those who have been systemically oppressed by the MPD in the past.

The uprising was a massive referendum on MPD, even if it didn't happen inside City Hall. Thousands, including myself, voiced their opinions on the matter while protesting in the streets of Minneapolis. Now the Charter Commission needs to do its job and let the community decide.

This is a matter of life and death. None of us are safe until all of us are safe. We have a power as a community to make real change on a local level that will set an example for the rest of the country and the rest of the world.

Please make the choice that will make Minneapolis citizens be proud to call this city our home.

Ward 7

7/12/2020 3:35:47 PM

I tentatively support this initiative to change the charter. Defunding the police department is long overdue and I'm glad to see the council finally move to take action to protect people who have been marginalized by the MPD for decades. It was clear that more reform wasn't going to work and I'm grateful for the larger step. That being said, I have a few issues. In reading the charter I see that the

department of public safety head will be appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the city council - this is a problem because the council, and ESPECIALLY the mayor haven't done enough to yet earn the people of MPLS' trust on this issue. I want to see more community based measures - perhaps we could vote for the head of this department ourselves - or establish a citizens council containing members from each ward which would meet weekly and oversee the department? These are just ideas and I would be glad to see the council endorse any of them or clarify why the mayor will have such an influential role in overseeing the department when the last budget he passed had a raise for the MPD - contrary to the will of the citizens of Minneapolis.

Ward 13

7/12/2020 3:37:09 PM

You can't have public safety without trust between the police and the citizens.

Seriously, that may sound like a platitude, but it's actually a basis for policy. Police need cooperation from citizens to be successful in their basic mission. They cannot get that cooperation unless they are trusted.

On the other hand when they do not trust the citizens or, I guess more accurately, are unsure who to trust, or when and where, they do not engage constructively or at all.

Remember when the former Police chief didn't even show up for a planned forum at Sabathani because "her safety could not be assured". All of the elected officials and several hundred citizens were there. What message did they receive? We need constructive work on this. The current Civil Service law and collective bargaining structure is not helpful to the kind of structural tectonic plate kind of change we need to make here. Will it take a Federal Judge to change things like it did with school desegregation? I hope not, for it is too dull and undemocratic of a tool.

What I mean here is we need the thing to change so fundamentally that who we hire who they report to, how they are trained, what they see as their mission has to change in order for us to get what we need.

The change should be developed as part of a participatory community planning process that is independent of any government agency, but funded by them.

Ward 9

7/12/2020 4:00:09 PM

I urge you to let the city council's proposed amendment be brought to the general election ballot this year. This is not a future problem. This can't wait.

It would be deeply undemocratic to refuse my elected leader's and her peers' unanimous decision to put this amendment to the voters. They are doing this because we have spoken up. I ask that you allow me to take this one step further: to vote.

Thank you,

Ward 10

7/12/2020 4:19:53 PM

It is always a bad idea to rush a charter amendment through the system. The city council essentially wants a free hand to do whatever they wish to the police department, and don't believe they should be confined by the charter. So they've written a vague replacement for police that allows them free rein. The citizens of Minneapolis should not give this power to the city council to do as they will. The charter is there to keep the city from making rash political decisions (such as suddenly abolishing the police department because of pressure from protesters).

The city council has not come up with any viable substitution for the police department. They want citizens to believe they will arrive at a good solution AFTER the charter has been amended. Why is this suddenly such a hurry? The city has had a police department for over a century and suddenly a change is urgent? Basic changes like this are always done poorly when rushed.

Also, running the "Department of Community Safety" will never succeed if run by a committee. Giving the council control of public safety is a guarantee of confused directives to the department and worse results than we now have with the police.

Ward 8

7/12/2020 4:23:34 PM

I live just a couple of blocks away from the destroyed 3rd precinct station, and I was appalled at how the police treated peaceful protesters and helped to stoke the violence and mayhem that followed, six weeks ago. (We frequently heard the sounds of such fire on the Tuesday of the protests [May 26], long before a swath of buildings was vandalized and burned the following day and then things escalated over the next two days.) People were understandably upset by George Floyd's murder—which follows on a long, well-known history of police violence and killings in the city and which felt to many like the last straw. But shooting protesters with rubber bullets and tear gas canisters (the latter of which has recently become normalized by US police despite its banning under the Geneva Convention), and so quickly at that, just made things worse. To be honest, I'm not sure if they could have done much to prevent what happened, particularly given how pent-up people were during the pandemic closures, as well as the instigating role seemingly played by a few outside agitators, accelerationists, and white supremacists, although maybe the police could have used their resources differently. The arrival of the National Guard and curfews were important in calming things down. Anyway, after all of this upheaval it is clearer than ever to me that we need a profoundly different way to ensure public safety in our city, one emphasizing deescalation and providing social services, and this proposal looks like a great starting place.

Ward 2

7/12/2020 4:51:16 PM

A more detailed plan should be provided by the City Council before asking residents to vote on a change in the Charter.

Ward 13

7/12/2020 5:22:44 PM

Until Black and BIPOC community leaders are involved in the discussions surrounding changes to the city charter as it relates to the police department, I will not support any changes. Please include these voices as plans move forward.

Ward 5

7/12/2020 5:34:35 PM

As a Minneapolis resident, it is of critical importance that we have the opportunity to vote on the future of public safety in our city.

Despite efforts to reform MPD, we are still being confronted with needless violence, brutality, and lawlessness by the very people designated to serve and protect. Everyone in Minneapolis, inclusive of all races, ethnicities, genders, sexualities and religions, deserve to live in a safe, healthy and joyous community. We are seeing a particularly dangerous practice of continued targeting, harassment and violence against Black, Indigenous and Brown community members by the MPD.

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, protesters, 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.

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

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

Ward 1

7/12/2020 5:45:18 PM

Dear Minneapolis Charter Commission,

As a citizen of the city of Minneapolis, I ask you not to delay your recommendation to the City Council on the proposal to amend the city charter. The citizens of Minneapolis deserve to vote on this historic proposal.

For decades, mayors have attempted and failed to hold the Minneapolis Police Department accountable for its shameful treatment of Minneapolis' communities of color. Those same mayors have indicated that the charter in place during their administrations, which is functionally the same today, makes meaningful police reform impossible.

The City Council's proposed charter amendment would allow meaningful structural reform of public safety in Minneapolis possible. It is the right of the people to consider a charter amendment, and vote on it. Waiting another year to vote delays that right unnecessarily. Waiting another year subjects the most vulnerable people in our city to another year of injustice before the city is able to take meaningful action toward accountability of law enforcement. All citizens of Minneapolis deserve justice. I ask you to submit your review of the charter amendment before the August 21 deadline to get a proposal on the November ballot.

Sincerely,

Ward 3

7/12/2020 6:25:08 PM

I would like to express my disapproval for this amendment, for several reasons:

1. This would place control of the police under the 14 city council members. It is unclear how this would impact our police chief, who is in general highly regarded amongst BIPOC in the city.
2. This proposal was arranged hastily without input from the community. It has become increasingly clear to me that BIPOC communities in Minneapolis are not in agreement over this amendment, and it seems that city council rushed to put this amendment together in conjunction with a single activist group, Reclaim The Block, and without any input from other groups or the community.
3. It is not clear how this amendment will curb police violence in our communities. Though it opens up the door for police abolition or defunding, it is up to city council to do so, and they have previously failed to act on police violence.
4. Better solutions have been proposed to curb police violence with actionable steps. None of these have been discussed by the city council. This includes the 44 reforms put forth by Communities United Against Police Brutality (CUAPB), and the Civilian Police Accountability Council (CPAC) which has draft legislation introduced by Twin Cities Coalition For Justice For Jamar (TCC4J). I am personally of the opinion that both of these would be preferable to the amendment being discussed currently.

City council needs to listen to their constituents and not just a single activist group with a vague plan that may not do anything to curb police violence in our communities.

Ward 7

7/12/2020 7:40:09 PM

Dear Members of the Charter Commission,

As Deputy of Mayor of Minneapolis during Mayor R.T. Rybak's first term, I can attest to the frustration previous administrations have experienced when attempting to bring meaningful reform to the Minneapolis Police Department. Some of these frustrations relate directly to the current language in the City Charter, including the requirements regarding the size and funding of the department. These critical bargaining points are essentially guaranteed by the Charter, depriving the administration of the leverage to negotiate meaningful change.

I have also experienced the unique tension between the Mayor, the City Council, and the residents of Minneapolis created by the Mayor's unilateral control of the Police Department. As you know, there is no other department over which the Mayor exercises this extreme level of independent influence. This creates constant conflict and confusion – within City Hall and in the wider community – because it is so different from how the City manages other departments, including the Fire Department, which is equally responsible for emergency response and public safety.

For both of these reasons, I strongly support changing the language of the Charter as the City Council has proposed: 1) to remove the required number of officers and the dedicated tax funding mechanism, and 2) to place the re-envisioned Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department under the control of the City Council, like the Fire Department.

These changes to the City Charter are long overdue and the public should have the opportunity to vote on them this fall, while the urgency of change is fresh the public mind. Yes, it will take time to work out the design of the new department, but there is no point in developing that vision – and raising public expectations about it – while the current City Charter prevents the administration from pursuing meaningful change.

Please move forward with deliberate speed to ensure that this measure appears on the ballot this fall. Thank you for your consideration and your leadership.

Ward 3

Same letter attached.

7/12/2020 7:49:48 PM

My name is [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] 36th Ave S in MPLS, I support the Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and removal of the Police Department from the city Charter.

Ward 12

7/12/2020 7:54:44 PM

Dear City Charter Members,

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

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

As a Minneapolis resident I am concerned about the power concentration the city council would have as a result of this proposed amendment. As it relates to the unintended consequences from this proposed amendment I believe that the parts of the city that can afford private security will hire it (like our City Council), the parts that cannot afford private security will become over run with crime and drugs. Minnesota will almost certainly adopt some form of "castle state" legislation, and gun ownership will continue to soar. Simply put: this amendment will further subjugate the very demographics the city council thinks it would help. We're barely 45 days since our city council virtue signaled to eliminate MPD and there has been a dramatic increase in violence. This amendment literally ignores MPLS's history in the mid-90's when the city was overrun with gang violence.

Ward 13

7/12/2020 7:56:15 PM

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

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

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

Beyond the overwhelming concern on voting for a change without a plan, here are additional concerns:

1. This puts too much power in the Minneapolis city council. A democracy is based on the balance of power. Taking this power away from the mayor and fully shifting to the council is an enormous change and one that I do not have the confidence or trust in the existing council to develop a successful operating model. We the people of Minneapolis deserve that this new model is developed by experts in the field and not by those voted in at a time when such a sweeping change was not in the realm of possibility.

2. A related point to this to highlight my growing distrust of the council's ability and lack of expertise in this field is that since announcing the intention to disband the police, violence has escalated dramatically in our city and the council has failed to acknowledge or address this. All the while using taxpayer resources to save face and hire private security when MPD is already paid to do this. What this illustrates to me is that MPD is of vital importance to our community and while reallocation of funds to true public safety and community building are needed (mental health, homeless, prevention education, etc), the police are needed for violence & security...bottom line.

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

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

Sincerely,

Ward 13

7/12/2020 7:57:18 PM

I am a life-long resident of South-Central Minneapolis, born in, and now a homeowner and parent in, Powderhorn. I am white, which is relevant here because I do not bear the brunt of police violence in Minneapolis. All Minneapolis residents deserve the right to vote on whether to give our city more flexibility in how they address the problem of entrenched racism and violence in our police department, and how they establish equitable public safety. I honestly don't know what the outcome of that vote will be, but I know you weren't thoughtfully nor democratically installed in your positions to prevent such an opportunity for democratic input. We are in crisis as a city because we have been allowing some residents to live in sustained crisis and peril. Let us vote.

Ward 9

7/12/2020 8:33:03 PM

I am writing to share that I believe it is imperative that we change the charter in order for our city to have the space (or sandbox if you will) to ideate and create meaningful and impactful changes to the way our city serves and provides safety to individuals in all zipcodes. Minneapolis residents have spoken loudly, acted clearly and now we are engaging in local politics -- it is time for us to also be able to vote

on this matter in the November 2020 election. This city can only boast about its beautiful parks and abundant lakes once its citizens -- all its citizens -- feel safe (in a plethora of different ways), are cared for, and cared about.

The citizens of Minneapolis have been cheated out of a fair and safe policing system for too long--it is well past time we have a chance to weigh in on the ways in which our tax dollars are used -- for us -- all of us.

Thank you for providing a platform for us to write in our comments and thoughts. Please continue to allow us to have a voice come November 2020. Let us vote.

Ward 3

7/12/2020 8:36:49 PM

I have deep concerns that residents will not be kept safe under the new proposal. Already, the police have backed off enforcement in the aftermath of the George Floyd murder and we have seen the effects. In my 23 years in this neighborhood near 2nd and Franklin I have never seen so much violent crime and felt so unsafe. Criminals know there will be no repercussions for their actions.

This came to a head just a few days ago when my tenant's 12-year-old son was robbed at gunpoint while walking to the store. Before that my 13 year-old boys were always out and about on our block, but it is no longer safe for them to go out without us.

I agree that changes need to happen to prevent police brutality and a repeat of the George Floyd murder. Mayor Frey made an excellent point in an interview that a big part of the problem is the inability to get rid of problematic officers due to the union, and that this is a barrier to changing the culture of policing. We still need good, properly trained police officers, whether you call them by a different name or not, to handle violent and dangerous situations-- and at least as many of them as we have now. Ultimately, in a tense situation, the outcome comes down to the individual officer. Are they adequately trained to de-escalate a situation? Are they adequately trained to recognize and avoid racial bias? Are they vetted to make sure they are not predisposed to such behavior?

We also need people to handle the things that police are not equipped for, like mental health emergencies and non-emergency situations. However, we still need properly trained police involved when those situations are dangerous.

Ward 10

7/12/2020 9:10:53 PM

As someone who lives right outside the city limits of Minneapolis, the future of the city's public safety system will determine my safety and the safety of my neighbors. It is with this eye for the future, that I call on the members of the Commission to vote in favor of the proposed amendment which will allow our communities to create a more just and holistic public safety approach.

Our community members do not want a police department that is steeped in systemic racism and violence to be protected by the city charter. That is why we must eliminate MPD in favor of a justice-oriented, civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. I also call on the

Commission to remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police. More police in our communities have not and will not create safety for members of our community.

The residents of Minneapolis deserve to be a part of the process. Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects their democratic right to determine the kind of city they want. Justice cannot wait another year - it's time to let the people who live in the community decide what safety for all should look like!

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/12/2020 9:40:57 PM

We need a new charter in the city of Minneapolis, one that works for the people. We have an opportunity to reimagine safety, and we must take the leadership from activists and organizers that have been on the ground for years, demanding that we re-evaluate our city's priorities. Please put changing the charter on the ballot- the people should decide what safety looks like.

Ward 6

7/12/2020 9:56:53 PM

I have lived at 1778 James Avenue South and worked downtown for more than forty years. I am familiar with issues of public safety in both the downtown and uptown areas of Minneapolis and have reviewed the charter proposal. I do not believe it is suitable for a vote in November, principally because no plan has been developed for the voters to consider. I believe most residents agree that significant public safety reforms are needed, but not all reforms would require a charter amendment. It would be irresponsible to ask the voters to vote to dismantle what we have without knowing what would replace it.

In addition to my general concern about the uncertainty the proposal raises, I have the following specific concerns:

1. Public safety for all citizens is our city government's most important responsibility. The mayor is the only city officer elected at large, so the mayor must be accountable for public safety and therefore needs the authority to designate the person responsible for ensuring public safety. If that person reports to the City Council, that person effectively reports to no one. Even the President of the City Council is not accountable to any voters except those in the President's own ward, and that will be true of any city council president in the future. As an example, fewer than 5000 voters elected the current President of the City Council.
2. The funding minimum should not be deleted. The phrase "adequately fund" is vague. Many residents believe that public safety has not been adequately funded for years. We need a minimum.
3. The proposal gives the City Council the right but not the obligation to maintain a division of law enforcement services, composed of licensed peace officers. A city of our size have must have a division of law enforcement services to ensure public safety for all of its residents. Violent crime escalated immediately after the City Council pledged to "disband the police."

4. We do not need City Council confirmation of both the Director of Community Safety and the Director of Law Enforcement Services. That would likely lead to dispersal of accountability and disfunction. If we are to have both positions, we must give the Director of Community Safety the authority and accountability for the selection of the Director of Law Enforcement Services.

5. Individuals eligible to be appointed as Director of Community Safety should not be required by City Charter to have "non-law enforcement experience in community safety services, including but not limited to public health and/or restorative justice approaches". This is too detailed for a city charter provision. If the Mayor or the City Council wishes to require that particular experience in connection with any appointment, they may do so as part of the appointment process.

6. There should be terms for length of the appointments.

In my opinion, the proposed charter amendment is an unneeded distraction to achieving the meaningful reform we desperately need now. Merely proposing it increases uncertainty, and passing it without plan in place risks chaos. Our elected officials need to bring two things to our discussion of reform: clarity and urgency. So long as uncertainty over public safety, however defined, is allowed to persist, our residents will continue to suffer from increased violence, and our City will remain a dead zone for investment, jobs and residents. That is, we will not see any new ones, and the existing ones will drift away.

During my forty-plus years downtown, the number of Fortune-500 Companies headquartered here has been cut in half. Our retail downtown has been decimated. Now COVID has wiped out our restaurants and theaters. We cannot begin to cope with this magnitude of adversity if we cannot first assure all of our residents and employees that they will be safe in our City.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ward 7

7/12/2020 10:33:13 PM

We dont want the charter commission to withhold the new amendment on the november election ballot. You are not elected and you are simply there to pass the message along, do not interfere with our rights.

Ward 8

7/12/2020 10:35:40 PM

We are not in favor of changing the charter. Even talking about defunding police has emboldened criminals. we love the idea of intervention and mentorship. those are great but defunding police is a really bad idea. please stop going that direction. reforming police discipline and the unions is a great idea. we need more officers, however, not less. don't make policy decisions based on emotion. let's work with facts and common sense.

Ward 4

7/13/2020 12:04:39 AM

I fully support a November vote to change the charter. I believe an investment in community, education, and resources for underserved populations coupled with a new and un-militarized, community based public safety team, will greatly improve safety for all Minneapolis residents.

Ward 7

7/13/2020 12:57:39 AM

The purpose of a charter is to create a framework for the city. It is clear we need a new structure for public safety, and I believe this new proposed amendment is an appropriate framework worthy being a referendum to voters.

The current public safety component in the charter is less of a framework and more pointed policy. The history of the development of the current police quota is arbitrary and imposes a certain type of public safety that has not proven effective. The notion of public safety has morphed quite a bit since the current charter public safety component came into being in the 1960s. Our city needs the flexibility to adapt to changing needs, and we need the right resources specific to the circumstances. For example, though a butter knife has the ability to cut, a scalpel is a much better tool for a surgeon in the operating room. Minneapolis voters today, by way of their elected officials, have a better sense of what is needed for public safety in 2020 than those of the 1960s and need to implement on those needs. Similarly, those in 2030 will need the flexibility the adapt implementation based on changing public safety needs. The public safety amendment gives the right amount of structure to allow for just that.

Ward 10

7/13/2020 1:07:29 AM

I think the plans to defund and dismantle the police are premature without a clear picture of what will replace the police. Who will step in to protect those who value a democratic society from those who only wish to profit or take advantage of others? Some people have no sense of social responsibility or respect for other people. How is the Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department going to deal with these people when they are violent? When they are an imminent danger to others or themselves. I agree that there are very deeply ingrained problems with the current police system, but completely starting over does not seem like the best option. There are good people who are currently involved with public safety, who have a wealth of knowledge. I wish the city council would stop turning their backs on the officers who do care about other people.

Ward 10

7/13/2020 2:10:14 AM

I've lived in the Twin Cities since 2005, some of that time in Ward 2 of Minneapolis, some in Saint Paul. I work overnight at a condo in downtown Minneapolis, where I have had numerous interactions with MPD over the years. During that time, I have witnessed numerous acts of negligence, violence, racism, and cruelty committed by police. I saw a police officer slam a black boy who could not have been older than 11 to the pavement. When the boy asked what he did wrong, the officer simply said "you ran". I have seen police ask a victim of domestic violence whose partner punched her, destroyed her cell

phone, and suffocated her to the point of unconsciousness what SHE did to set him off, and remind her multiple times that if she pressed charges, it could “really effect his life”. After grilling her like this for a while, they eventually convinced her that it was her fault, that he was “only dangerous to her”, and not to press charges. When a plus sized friend of mine was being sexually harassed by a stalker, the police would not take it seriously because she was not conventionally attractive, and even laughed at the letters she showed them and told her they didn’t think the stalker would be a problem. For years, I saw them do nothing as an elderly woman was being abused by her caretaker. I reported it numerous times, and they did nothing, asking me if there was anything I could do. I saw them sprain an intoxicated man’s ankle by forcing him to walk up steps that he was obviously too impaired to be able to walk up. I was on my way to get the man a wheel chair, and was seconds away at the time he fell, which could have been avoided if they had just waited a few more seconds for me to get there. During the George Floyd protests, I was near the third precinct on Wednesday May 27 during the fire. The police did nothing to stop the fire, even when the power lines caught fire. Their only focus was on the protesters near the precinct, who were calling out “don’t shoot” as the police pointed guns at them. On Sunday, May 31, I was near the 35W, where police fired on me without any warning or any instructions. I was unarmed and had broken no laws other than breaking curfew. I took a direct hit from a rubber-coated bullet in the inner thigh of my left leg, and ended up needing crutches for 2 weeks. I still have itching and burning from the injury even over a month later. I’m attaching a photo of my injury.

I have also witnessed civilians protecting each other many times. I saw communities coming together to protect those most at risk, caring for those in danger, ensuring the preservation of vital community assets, and patrolling the streets to fend off right wing militants. When my flat mate’s car was stuck in the snow, neighbors were there to help. When a disabled man got stuck on the train tracks, I was happy to help him. When families couldn’t get groceries during the protests, I was happy to join many others to help them. When I had COVID-19, many members of the community came to help me by dropping off groceries and supplies while I spent 3 weeks sheltering at home. Civilians in the Twin Cities have always looked after each other. Meanwhile, the police do nothing but terrorize us.

Thank you for your time.

Ward 2



7/13/2020 8:15:54 AM

I am a resident and home-owner in Ward 12, and I heartily support this amendment. This is a necessary step towards dismantling the Minneapolis Police Department in order to provide a safer environment for *all* residents of Minneapolis. I am eager to see this amendment passed.

Ward 12

7/13/2020 8:56:50 AM

I write to ask you to take a courageous step for the City of Minneapolis. The world is watching our response to the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers. We have the collective responsibility to act together to defend Black lives.

I support the Minneapolis City Council's unanimous decision to amend the City Charter to establish a department of community safety and violence prevention. The Minneapolis Police Department has demonstrated they are not capable of reform. Prior attempts at police reform have failed. What is the solution? More of the same? Are we to just sit back and hope that some day the police will stop killing innocent citizens?

Continuing the status quo is not acceptable.

Amending the City Charter to allow the creation of a new system of community safety is the first step in our responsibility to stop continued police killings.

I sincerely entreat you to allow the citizens of Minneapolis to vote on the proposed Charter amendment in the November 2020 election.

Yours truly,

Ward 9

7/13/2020 9:01:51 AM

We need a new system

1. Cops HAVE to be from the city they work in, people coming from other communities just don't have the same values or understanding to be effective. They will continue to cause more problems than they solve.

2. Cops Should be the last call we make. We desperately need massively funded Mental, physical health, etc services as a first line. The investment should be taken from the police budget AND new taxes. This will pay back in areas throughout our community from crime prevention, lower homelessness, lower unemployment and more.

3. We still need cops, in fact we need the BEST cops (and only those). There can be no room for things like forcing the police chief to rehire a cop they fired (actual events in current system). These cops need more training and resources dedicated to de-escalation and self+community care.

This amendment is a good first step. Lets implement it ASAP and begin to move funds and resources into new divisions whose job is boots on the ground community ASSISTANCE and HELP.

Ward 12

7/13/2020 9:18:29 AM

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Ward 10 in Minneapolis. I am writing to request that the amendment to the city charter be put on the ballot in November. The people of Minneapolis took to the streets to demand justice and they deserve the chance to vote on the charter amendment.

We need action NOW! It needs to be on the ballot THIS YEAR. WE cannot afford to wait another year as more harm is done by our current system. More people will die if we wait. We must act with urgency to create a community where everyone is safe and everyone can thrive.

We in Minneapolis want a new model of building safety in our communities. We want it on the ballot, we want it this year. Let the voices of Minneapolis be heard. In the name of good governance, the voices of Minneapolis need to be heard. Good governance means ALL people in our community are safe.

Thank you.

Ward 10

7/13/2020 9:32:31 AM

I urge our elected officials to study this proposal and lay out exactly how this amendment would play out. I have little faith in our current city council to seriously examine the ramifications of their proposal and how this would work. Obviously we need deep reform of our current system, but I don't think throwing the whole thing out is a wise decision. I don't see any serious proposals of how serious, violent crime would be dealt with. It sounds great to say we will have a social worker sent out for certain calls. How would this system function? Taking on something like this will take years to substantially reform. I am against the idea of disbanding our police department and then trying to figure it out. We need some voices on the city council that are systematic and reasonable and not erratic and chaotic.

Ward 7

7/13/2020 9:50:44 AM

This proposed amendment to remove the requirement of a police department should be approved. There is evidence that providing mental health resources, providing aid to the homeless, and building a mutual aid system will be least costly to the city while also improving the quality of life of the residents of Minneapolis for all races. The replacement of a police force should focus on uplifting people of color and providing them with resources to build their lives at an equal rate as white people.

Ward 3

7/13/2020 10:03:57 AM

As a Saint Paul resident, I would feel MUCH safer visiting Minneapolis without MPD presence. This is an opportunity to show the nation what public safety really looks like!

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/13/2020 10:48:47 AM

This amendment needs to be present on the 2020 ballot.

The time for change is now. It is our responsibility to amend and dismantle systems that prey on vulnerable communities and profit off of their labor. Public safety should serve and protect its communities, target the roots of crime and focus on their prevention.

Ward 10

7/13/2020 10:50:12 AM

After the events of George Floyd, it becomes more apparent now than ever that we, the people of Minneapolis, deserve to be a part of how our community is policed. We want to be able to re-imagine how we prioritize the health and safety of ALL those who live in our community, especially Black and Brown people most negatively affected by police violence and brutality. Currently, this capacity is blocked by the City Charter. This Charter has prevented the community from having any capacity to address the atrocious violence perpetuated by the Minneapolis Police Department, and has prevented the city council's ability to hold the MPD accountable.

As people of Minneapolis, we deserve the right to be a part of the process. We deserve to have a say in where our tax dollars go, and how they're being used against and for the people within our community. As evidenced by the actions of our elected city council officials, the people of this city demand something different. We deserve and demand oversight over public departments we pay for, and changing the Charter is the first step in this process.

We demand a 2020 ballot initiative. As evidenced by our city council members and the social uprising still seen in our city today, we want to have a voice. As I stand with Color of Change, Black Visions, and Reclaim the Block, we demand that you advance the proposed charter amendment to disband the MPD. Stand with us, and the people of Minneapolis, to move the charter amendment forward, to let the people of our community be heard, and to help us demand accountability to defend Black Lives as we aim to re-imagine community safety.

Ward 10

7/13/2020 11:20:20 AM

Dear Charter Commission, I urge you to allow the people of Minneapolis to play an active role in determining the future of the MPD and allow the public to vote on changing the city charter. Do not politicize your role or abuse your power by preventing public input on this process. Let the people decide.

Ward 11

As a former member of the Civilian Police Review Authority in Minneapolis, a neighborhood association chair and a member for four years of the Minneapolis Neighborhood Community Engagement Commission, I wanted to share my thoughts about current events in Minneapolis impacting public safety and policing.

The Minneapolis Charter Commission must take as much time as necessary to allow for substantial and robust community engagement to occur!

I along with many Minneapolitans want to see transformative and significant changes to the way in which our city handles public safety. Minneapolis has the unique opportunity, as the epicenter of calls for changes to policing in America, to take the lead on this important and necessary work in a thoughtful and inclusive way.

Sadly, I believe recent action by our City Council will cause much of the recent momentum to be stalled and potentially stopped, something I know Minneapolitans don't want to see happen.

Minneapolitans will soon (based on what occurs in the coming weeks) have the opportunity to vote on substantial changes to the Minneapolis Charter (the charter is the constitution of Minneapolis) this November. The Minneapolis City Council has approved a proposed amendment to the Minneapolis Charter and have subsequently forwarded it to the Minneapolis Charter Commission (the Minneapolis Charter Commission is comparable to a standing constitutional convention: it is the state agency that exercises primary oversight of the city charter).

My core issue with the proposed amendment now before the Minneapolis Charter Commission is that the timeline for public engagement (July 1st to August 14th) is entirely too short to offer Minneapolis the best chance to have a proposal with broad support. The accelerated timeline is bad for Minneapolis, primarily because it is a bad way to make good public policy.

Does this timeline demonstrate a want by our City Council to have a vibrant and diverse discussion about policing in Minneapolis? Or does it feel as though a majority of our elected City leaders already know the answers and aren't interested in hearing from us? My belief is that the latter is true, and that truly causes me concern and frustration.

It is important to note that the Charter Commission may take as much as 150 days to make a recommendation about the proposed language offered by the City Council. The City Council is not bound to abide by the Charter Commission's decision but it is unable to move forward with action on the amendment until the Charter Commission finishes its review.

In the midst of summer (a traditionally tough time to have robust engagement) and a global pandemic, public engagement will potentially be depressed in a way that will lead to a charter amendment proposal that will not be it's best possible self.

I'm asking the Minneapolis Charter Commission to not rush it's important work and to take all the necessary time it needs to craft language that represents the views of all Minneapolitans and also that the Minneapolis City Council will be open and willing to hear what comes from the necessary engagement.

7/13/2020 11:47:39 AM

In talking with my neighbors, most want real police change but don't like "Defund/Abolish" talking points. The current Amendment says that under the new department that Mpls "may" choose to have police afterwards, which troubles many neighbors. Changing "may" to "shall have or contract for a police force" would be much more acceptable to them. Otherwise, everyone I know is open to making major changes and no one cares whether the mayor or council has the power...they mostly want to be able to make notable change and still have police. The city counselors all acknowledge that Mpls will have some police force regardless, so changing that ONE PHRASE ("may" to "shall") might be the only change they would agree too....as it would pull in otherwise hesitant voters. The council is unanimous, so likely won't accept any other change.

I've heard talk that if this process gets delayed past the election, there WILL BE a petition effort to make a charter change, and that might be even more extreme and harder to implement than this proposal. This has me concerned, especially if this ends up in a special election. Also, if this current amendment doesn't get on the ballot, I suspect the city council will push their own version again ASAP, as they are adamant this isn't going away unless the voters tell them "no". There's no stopping this amendment from getting a vote....just tweaking the terms and when it happens...so get the best terms you can and let people vote.

Ward 2

7/13/2020 11:51:22 AM

Hello City Commissioners,

My name is [REDACTED], I'm a resident of Ward 10. I'm writing to you to urge you to let us vote on the city charter amendment this November.

Reenvisioning public safety is my primary concern as a resident and Minneapolis voter. It is the primary concern of most of my neighbors, friends, and colleagues. It is vitally important that we allow our city to VOTE on this amendment this year. We can't allow our citizens to be murdered because of a negligent system. Regardless of what you believe about public safety and regardless of what you think is the best new method to cultivate public safety, it is imperative that you let the voters decide. Just let us vote. Please please please. We deserve to have a say in this amendment and we have to do it now, this year, so no more citizens get harmed and brutally murdered in our streets. Please let us vote NOW.

Thank you for your time.

Ward 10

7/13/2020 11:54:55 AM

I am writing to express my support for the proposed amendment to establish a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and to remove the Police Department. Our city charter "defines the powers and authority of the City, granted by the people." The people of our city have, very vocally, voiced their dissatisfaction with the Minneapolis Police Department in its current form. We can no longer continue with a system that has repeatedly failed our community, in profound and deeply

harmful ways. If the authority of the MPD is granted by the people, we must be able to vote to change that authority.

The language in the current charter regarding the police department constitutes a barrier to any real change in how we address public safety, particularly the minimum staffing requirement. The proposed amendment opens up possibilities for our community, it starts a process of asking what it would really mean to be safe in our city. We must begin this process with all the urgency of this moment--it is essential that the city be allowed to vote this fall.

As a committed Minneapolis citizen and a parent with deep roots in our community, I ask you to give the voters the opportunity to make this change. Please approve the proposed amendment.

Ward 8

7/13/2020 12:02:33 PM

I support the opportunity for the charter amendment to go to public vote in November. Please give the public an opportunity to weigh in on this change, rather than letting a small council make the decision for us.

Ward 10

7/13/2020 12:03:23 PM

I am a former ward 4 resident, and am currently employed at a business whose offices are in ward 3. It's clear that the commission's job is to determine if the proposal is appropriate to the charter - not to govern and not to block a democratic process that empowers community. The commission must do its job and let the voters decide on this issue at the ballot box. This proposed change is literally a matter of life and death for many people in our community and it cannot wait another year.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/13/2020 12:09:23 PM

I am in favor of putting on the November ballot the Charter amendment establishing a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. I have read the currently-proposed language changes, and I watched the recent conversation with the Charter Commission.

Ward 10

7/13/2020 12:09:40 PM

Hi! I am a social worker and a resident of Ward 9. I would very much like the opportunity to vote on whether the police continue their reign over the city. The commission's job is to determine if the proposal is appropriate to the charter - not to govern and not to block a democratic process that empowers community. The uprising was a referendum on the police department, even if it didn't take place in City Hall. Thousands of us took to the street; now you must do your job and let the community

decide at the ballot box. We can't wait another year. I do not want police in my community and want us to build other methods of community safety with all the money that goes into the police budget like housing, mental health support, and supportive services for people living with addiction. Please vote YES on the amendment.

Ward 9

7/13/2020 12:09:52 PM

I urge the Charter Commission to move this question forward in time to be placed on the ballot for 2020. Minneapolis residents deserve a chance to have a robust conversation about the future of community safety. Please do not stand in the way - move this decision forward.

Ward 11

7/13/2020 12:10:06 PM

I am in support of the proposal to remove the Police Department from the City charter and replace it with a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department.

Ward 11

7/13/2020 12:10:40 PM

I support the proposed amendment to the City Charter in which the MPD is replaced with a safer, more just Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. It is also necessary for citizens to be able to vote on the charter amendment.

Ward 3

7/13/2020 12:12:08 PM

Hi, My name is [REDACTED]; I am a resident of the Marcy Holmes neighborhood. I would like to express my support to defund the police department's budget and move to a more effective model developed by Black organizers and experts in effective public safety. These defunding actions should come directly from MPD's budget, rather than any community programs that are already undervalued/underfunded.

I would also like to express my support for the charter commission to approve the amendment to eliminate MPD from the City Charter. I would like this option to be given to our communities on November's ballot.

The time is now to listen to the voices of the historically marginalized. We must join the vision of a city that is safer for everyone--not just a few people with means and privilege. By ensuring their power and protection, we elevate the wellbeing of us all.

Thank you,

Ward 3

7/13/2020 12:12:19 PM

This amendment is a step in the right direction however, it is Too little too late. Not much has actually changed besides changing the name from "police" to "Law Enforcement Services" and lowering the number of officers. The power to choose the " Director of Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department" lies with the Mayor and City council rather than the community. The people of the communities which will be most effected by this are the ones who should be listened to such as the Twin Cities 4 Justice 4 Jamar who demand community control over law enforcement (however it may look in the future). I and the Civilian Police Accountability Council (CPAC) demand that the amendment be changed to involve the CPAC in choosing the heads of department, that there be more specific measure taken on disciplinary action towards unjust officers and to listen to the community in some sort of meeting online rather than a form before making an amendment that will strongly influence Minneapolis. These actions should all be taken before this amendment is put on the ballot this November.

Ward 1

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Ward 2

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Ward 3

7/13/2020 12:13:11 PM

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Ward 4

7/13/2020 12:13:25 PM

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Ward 5

7/13/2020 12:14:15 PM

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Ward 6

7/13/2020 12:14:30 PM

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Ward 7

7/13/2020 12:14:42 PM

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Ward 8

7/13/2020 12:14:57 PM

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Ward 9

7/13/2020 12:15:15 PM

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Ward 10

7/13/2020 12:15:30 PM

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Minneapolis. These actions should all be taken before this amendment is put on the ballot this November.

Ward 10

7/13/2020 12:15:39 PM

This amendment should not be placed to a referendum vote for the following reasons:

1 Residents deserve to be protected from predators and this proposal is too vague and gives too much power to the city council. Under this proposal swift action on replacing or appointing a new police chief would be subject to the political vagaries of the 13 city council members.

2 It is far easier to make a grand sweeping gesture than to do the tough work of actual reform. Think about the Norway Police Model which employs a tougher screening process for new police candidates and requires a three year training process involving 1 year of classroom training, 1 year of on the job training with an approved mentor and a final year of classroom training.

3 The weakest among us , aged, disabled, children deserve to feel safe in this city. During the latest horrible incidents following the murder of George Floyd the city leaders failed to protect residents and businesses. Many citizens, especially those with children, fled the city in a Dunkirk like exodus while others were drawn to Minneapolis not simply for purposes of legitimate justifiable protest but to cause havoc , loot businesses and harm others.

4 This summer has brought a marked increase in violence, shootings and murder. Residents of all parts of Minneapolis deserve to feel safe. A lot of us don't. It is very questionable whether or not this vague charter proposal will increase our safety and it is disturbingly McConnellesque the way this proposal is being rushed into the November ballot.

Ward 8

7/13/2020 12:15:45 PM

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Ward 11

7/13/2020 12:16:07 PM

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Ward 12

7/13/2020 12:16:26 PM

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Ward 13

7/13/2020 12:18:24 PM

Good afternoon,

I'm writing to share my views on the Charter Commission and the urgent need to defund the MPD.

I support substantially reducing the MDP's budget and bringing forth an emergency budget that funds our communities' urgent needs. We do not need more police, we need programs and systems that actually support the community, which has always been needed, but now amidst the pandemic, is every more critical.

The recent uprising following George Floyd's murder was a referendum on the police department. Thousands of us took to the street; now the Charter Commission must do its job and let the community decide at the ballot box. We can't wait another year.

The Commission's job is to determine if the proposal is appropriate to the charter - not to govern and not to block a democratic process that empowers community.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my views and have my voice heard.

Sincerely,

Ward 3

7/13/2020 12:18:56 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis Ward 3 I support creating a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and removing the Police Department from the Charter. The Minneapolis Police Department has shown time and again that they cannot be reformed and the need to be abolished and replaced with something that will keep all citizens and visitors to Minneapolis safe.

Ward 3

7/13/2020 12:22:32 PM

I am in favor of this.

The City Council has proposed an amendment to the City Charter to be referred to voters in November. If approved by voters, that amendment would create a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police Department from the Charter.

Redefining what public safety looks like needs to happen now. Letting the voters have more say in what and how the Charter and the Commission do needs to happen.

Ward 1

7/13/2020 12:28:35 PM

To the Minneapolis Charter Commission—

I want to voice my disappointment over the Commission's behavior in their July 8th meeting with city councilmembers. What I witnessed in that meeting was an unelected body interfering in a democratic process by raising inappropriate concerns and proposing alternative amendments. More than that, the behavior of certain commissioners felt extraordinarily patronizing, as they centered their own concerns instead of listening to the voices of those impacted by police violence—which the council's proposed amendment honors.

I don't intend to be patronizing in return, but I do feel the need to remind you that the sole job of the Commission in this case is to determine whether the council's proposal is appropriate to the charter. Your job is not to block these democratic processes or propose alternative amendments because NONE of you are democratically elected. Your job is not to center your own opinions and biases. In that meeting, I did not witness a Commission responding to this critical moment. What I witnessed was bureaucrats actively gatekeeping.

When tens of thousands of people took to the streets last month—and continue to take to the streets today—that was and is a peoples' referendum. It is painfully obvious that this amendment deserves to be on the November ballot. Please stop impeding on this democratic process. We cannot wait for this vote any longer.

Thank you,

Ward 2

7/13/2020 12:33:37 PM

I am writing to urge the Charter Commission to vote to refer the proposed amendment to voters in November. Minneapolis citizens have been clear: our policing system is broken and needs to be overhauled. Please do your job and allow voters the opportunity to be heard at the ballot box in November. Our city cannot afford to wait another year.

Thank you,

Ward 13

7/13/2020 12:34:12 PM

Our police department does not work for most people in our city. Please consider making drastic changes, like that one's you are proposing so that we can support people who need it. Crime prevention should be about community building, housing support, public health assistance and education.

Ward 11

7/13/2020 12:46:15 PM

I am NOT for eliminating the police department. I do believe specialized services are needed IN ADDITION to the police but not in lieu of.

I am also for police reform in many fo their practices beginning at the hiring stage...hire people that can lead with their heart and head and not brute force...this would entail some sort of psychological test at the time of hire.

Also, support the police chief and abolish the police federation. Any attempt for him to clean house runs up against that group....how can any changes occur in a system like that.

Ward 8

7/13/2020 12:50:48 PM

#DoyourJob: The commission's job is to determine if the proposal is appropriate to the charter - not to govern and not to block a democratic process that empowers community.

#Let us vote: The uprising was a referendum on the police department, even if it didn't take place in City Hall. Thousands of us took to the street; now the Charter Commission must do its job and let the community decide at the ballot box. We can't wait another year.

I have been a resident of NE Minneapolis my entire life. I love this city. I have faith in this city. I have faith in our ability to do better, to create a community where everyone is empowered and safe, and their needs are met. To get to that point-- it'll be a process. I believe that defunding the police is a major part of that process. Democracy is fundamental to our identity as a nation. Opportunities like this, for communities to self-determine what is right for their future, this is what democracy looks like. We must have the chance to vote.

Ward 1

7/13/2020 1:03:21 PM

I would like to see the police department improved but not abolished - I would like the next chief of police to have Law Enforcement training as well as a background in community health or restorative justice.

I am concerned about the reduction in police force currently. I understand why police officers may want to leave the force. Not all are badly behaved and yet they are all viewed in a negative light now.

I think we need to add employees to the new "department" that can handle the mental health crisis calls, traffic direction, and many other issues that currently fall under their job titles.

I feel strongly that we need trained officers to deal with violent crimes which will never go away - particularly with current gun laws in our country.

Ward 5

7/13/2020 1:03:40 PM

My name is [REDACTED] and I would like to voice my strong support for the Public Safety Transformation charter amendment. I urge the Charter Commission to give our community the chance to vote on the amendment by placing it on the ballot. The uprising we have witnessed over the past two months was a major referendum on the MPD, even if it didn't take place in City Hall. I ask the members of the council to do your jobs and let our community decide. We cannot wait another year to take concrete steps toward real change. I want the chance to vote "yes" on the amendment because it is of utmost importance that we build a Department of Community Safety that truly helps us ALL feel safe in our city. This is a matter of life and death.

Ward 10

7/13/2020 1:08:22 PM

I am absolutely in favor of the proposed charter amendment. I am a resident of the city of Minneapolis and I never (never) call the police. They do nothing for my community safety whatsoever. They put me and my neighbors at risk. I also object strongly to my tax dollars going in such large amounts to salaries

and pensions of officers who don't live in the city - further exacerbating the problem. Let's pay people who live here, in the city, to build community safety for us all - not just for some people's property. Thank you.

Ward 2

7/13/2020 1:16:44 PM

I would like to request that NONE of the current MPD officers are employed as members of the new Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department. Please ensure that this does not happen by writing this into the charter.

Thank you

Whittier Neighborhood

Ward 10

7/13/2020 1:23:19 PM

I am writing because it is important for me to voice my concerns over policing and policy changes in the City of Minneapolis.

I want to ensure that as we change things we keep in mind that we must put HOUSING FIRST, we must use HARM REDUCTION, we must have COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ON EVERY LEVEL OF DECISION MAKING, we must use DEESCALATION & TRAUMA INFORMED approaches, we must use COMMUNITY CENTERED approaches, we must AVOID using CPS & other social services which continue to split up families and increase disparities, we must put FAMILIES FIRST, we must PRIORITIZE REAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING (under 50% of median income), INCLUDING measures for homeownership that work outside the existing paradigm, we must DECRIMINALIZE drugs and prostitution (& HOMELESSNESS), we must CENTER BIPOC & LGBTQIA LEADERSHIP EVERY STEP OF THE WAY, WE MUST CENTER THE ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT & DECOLONIZE AND DECONSTRUCT WHITE SUPREMACIST IMPLICIT BIAS EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

Any cops/ LEOs who are maintained, must do so with training in nonviolent communication, trauma informed, must undergo their own therapy and enroll in DBT/Cognitive Behavioral Therapy classes/ trauma informed meditation classes MONTHLY.

These officers must be UNARMED. Train them on disarmament, physically and verbally.

And they ABSOLUTELY MUST LIVE IN THE COMMUNITIES THEY PROTECT.

They are to PROTECT & SERVE, AND KEEP THE PEACE- PEACEFULLY, HUMANELY, COMPASSIONATELY.

They should be should receive individual MENTORSHIP AND OVERSIGHT WITH A COMMUNITY ELDER, someone who is recognized as an Elder or Leader in their community. Chosen BY the community, NOT elected or selected. An INDEPENDENT Mentorship, which can then be reviewed each quarter by said Elders, Community Oversight Board, City Council, and the Mayor.

We must commit to working for an EGALITARIAN, HUMANE, AND EQUITABLE SOCIETY THAT PUTS HUMAN WELL BEING ABOVE PROFITS.

THIS IS THE SAME THING WE MUST DO IF WE WISH TO: SURVIVE /THWART THIS AND ONCOMING PANDEMICS , SURVIVE/THWART CLIMATE CHANGE, SURVIVE/THWART THE LARGER FORCES OF FASCISM IN OUR SOCIETY.

We have to grow up.

Thank you

Sincerely

Ward 6

7/13/2020 1:28:18 PM

I'm writing to encourage that the City Council remove the Charter requirement for the minimum number of police in Minneapolis. This is a necessary first step to eliminate the MPD and invest in our communities in order to truly feel safe in our city. By changing the Charter, we can let the people decide how to create safety in our communities.

Until the Charter is changed, I support immediate cuts to the MPD's budget to direct this funding to existing solutions and programs that prevent more gun violence, protect survivors of assault, and help people stay housed and safe in a pandemic. The MPD has proven time and time again to be unaccountable to the community, and in this time of great need, should not be responsible for crisis response.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/13/2020 1:35:33 PM

I am writing because it is important for me to voice my concerns over policing and policy changes in the City of Minneapolis.

I want to ensure that as we change things we keep in mind that we must put HOUSING FIRST, we must use HARM REDUCTION, we must have COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ON EVERY LEVEL OF DECISION MAKING, we must use DEESCALATION & TRAUMA INFORMED approaches, we must use COMMUNITY CENTERED approaches, we must AVOID using CPS & other social services which continue to split up families and increase disparities, we must put FAMILIES FIRST, we must PRIORITIZE REAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING (under 50% of median income), INCLUDING measures for homeownership that work outside the existing paradigm, we must DECRIMINALIZE drugs and prostitution (& HOMELESSNESS), we must CENTER BIPOC & LGBTQIA LEADERSHIP EVERY STEP OF THE WAY, WE MUST CENTER THE ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT & DECOLONIZE AND DECONSTRUCT WHITE SUPREMACIST IMPLICIT BIAS EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

Any cops/ LEOs who are maintained, must do so with training in nonviolent communication, trauma informed, must undergo their own therapy and enroll in DBT/Cognitive Behavioral Therapy classes/ trauma informed meditation classes MONTHLY.

These officers must be UNARMED. Train them on disarmament, physically and verbally.

And they ABSOLUTELY MUST LIVE IN THE COMMUNITIES THEY PROTECT.

They are to PROTECT & SERVE, AND KEEP THE PEACE- PEACEFULLY, HUMANELY, COMPASSIONATELY.

They should be should receive individual MENTORSHIP AND OVERSIGHT WITH A COMMUNITY ELDER, someone who is recognized as an Elder or Leader in their community. Chosen BY the community, NOT elected or selected. An INDEPENDENT Mentorship, which can then be reviewed each quarter by said Elders, Community Oversight Board, City Council, and the Mayor.

We must commit to working for an EGALITARIAN, HUMANE, AND EQUITABLE SOCIETY THAT PUTS HUMAN WELL BEING ABOVE PROFITS.

THIS IS THE SAME THING WE MUST DO IF WE WISH TO: SURVIVE /THWART THIS AND ONCOMING PANDEMICS , SURVIVE/THWART CLIMATE CHANGE, SURVIVE/THWART THE LARGER FORCES OF FASCISM IN OUR SOCIETY.

We have to grow up.

Thank you

Sincerely

Ward 6

7/13/2020 1:50:13 PM

Hello, my name is [REDACTED] and I grew up in Minneapolis. I am a MPS 5th grade teacher and I currently live in Central Neighborhood, in the autonomous zone.

Growing up, as a white person, I often witnessed the way that police treated me and my white friends, different from my friends of color. As an adult, I continue to witness this. I support the Charter amendment in that it will remove the Police Department from the Charter. I support the Community Safety & Violence Prevention department as long as that the community, specifically the voices of our BIPOC neighbors, are centered in the process of creating this new department.

Ward 8

7/13/2020 1:50:27 PM

The uprising was a referendum on the police department, even if it didn't take place in City Hall. Thousands of us took to the street. The Charter commission needs to do its job and let the community decide at the ballot box. We can't wait another year. Lives depend on it, especially the lives of our Black, Indigenous, and POC friends, neighbors, and family members.

Please. Let us vote.

Ward 2

7/13/2020 1:52:05 PM

Charter Commission members,

I am writing to encourage you to approve the proposed charter amendment. I believe there needs to be a complete revamping of the way public safety is done in Minneapolis, and the current charter with its embedded requirement for a police department and its floor on the number of employees does not allow sufficient flexibility for the necessary changes to happen.

I had initially expected this amendment to merely strip out references in the charter to the police department. Under certain circumstances, I would have preferred to just stop there and let the city council work through changes before committing to a new structure worthy of being added to the charter.

However, I feel that the added wording is close to what I would consider to be ideal, as it lays out the goals of the proposed agencies without being heavily restrictive about exactly how they will be implemented. For this reason, I encourage you to approve this amendment with little modification.

If you feel the proposed structure is not correct, I recommend restricting the amendment so it only removes references to the police department and does not add any other language except what is absolutely required. However, I think the proposed additions give greater confidence to voters that something positive will indeed be created to take over and enhance public safety in the city.

Thank you for your time

Ward 12

7/13/2020 1:56:23 PM

I do not want there to be a major initiative to defund the police department. I do not agree with the sweeping changes that are being called for and some that have been acted upon. Like the MPS decision to discontinue their relationship with the MPD. These are blanket decisions that do not take into account the productive relationships I have observed, like the police with staff at north High School, for example. The police department needs change and the support to make changes along with resources needs to be given to quality leadership like the current Chief's.

Live long, resident of Minneapolis

Ward 12

7/13/2020 2:22:45 PM

I strongly support the Charter amendment. The City Council needs more power to reform the MPD.

Ward 7

7/13/2020 2:35:22 PM

I would like to publicly support the measure to amend the city charter and remove the MPD as a required agency. My family and I have long held that the way in which the City of Minneapolis has relied on an almost exclusive "Police First" plan for safety has proven to be more harmful than it has helpful. The MPD has shown time and time again that it will not accept accountability and will actively undermine any attempts at public oversight. So now is the time to start over and reimagine how we handle the issue of public safety in our city. We must be allowed to vote on this amendment, and the residents of this city must be allowed to decide.

Ward 1

7/13/2020 2:49:26 PM

The charter proposal should be approved and the current version of the Minneapolis Police Department should be ended as soon as possible. The department's racist history and actions are wasteful and intolerable.

Ward 6

7/13/2020 2:50:21 PM

The commission's job is to determine if the proposal is appropriate to the charter - not to govern and not to block a democratic process that empowers community. Please ensure this is included on the ballot in November. WE NEED CHANGE NOW

Ward 3

7/13/2020 2:57:08 PM

Please reconsider this proposal. The Police are an essential need through out the City as well as our own Ward 1.

I think it is a mistake to push this through. I ask that you have conversations with Precinct 2 Inspector Loining. He seems to get things done correctly and equitably for all Communities and People.

Thank you

Ward 1

7/13/2020 2:57:36 PM

We demand a \$45 million cut from MPD's budget! An emergency budget should fund our communities' urgent needs.

We need mental health resources, drug rehabilitation, employment insurance, HELP NOT HARM

Ward 4

7/13/2020 3:05:35 PM

I am a resident of Loring Park and employed by a small business based here in Minneapolis. I am writing in favor of a City Charter amendment that allows for greater public oversight over public safety policies, and increases the ability of elected officials to make decisions about public safety and policing.

The past several weeks have made clear that the current role and operations of the Minneapolis Police Department are harmful to our city, especially people and communities of color. The police department receives far too much of the city budget with far too little oversight and accountability for its actions and routine practices. Most importantly for the Charter Commission, the current City Charter is too rigid when it comes to the police department and does not give the people of Minneapolis or their elected officials enough power to rethink the role of police in our city, or to curb the department's power.

The Charter Commission should allow residents to vote on an amendment to replace the Minneapolis Police Department with a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. I believe allowing a public vote on this amendment would be an essential step in giving the community a greater say in the future of public safety and ultimately creating a safer, more peaceful, and more just city.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Ward 7

7/13/2020 3:12:44 PM

All for it with the understanding that any organizational change is not only well thought out but also subject to a robust change management plan.

Ward 1

7/13/2020 3:12:48 PM

This comment is in support of the proposed amendment to the city charter that removes the police department and creates a public safety department in its place. I believe this is a wonderful first step in practicing the values that we preach in Minneapolis. We in the community have known for years that the police department does not keep people safe and has deliberately targeted communities of color with profiling, terror and violence. The abolishing of discriminatory policing is long overdue. I'm proud of my city for taking this on and thankful that we have representatives that take their job of listening to the people seriously. Minneapolis will hold each member city council accountable and will not forget the promises you made to us at Powderhorn Park.

Ward 3

7/13/2020 3:13:33 PM

My wife and I live in East Edina, just five blocks from the Minneapolis border. (Border, Minneapolis border--like the Tijuana border--that's an odd thing to say, but we live in strange times!) Our daughter and her boyfriend live in south Minneapolis. The inability of Minneapolis to provide safety for its citizens is causing my daughter and her boyfriend, quite suddenly, to consider buying their first house well

outside the city. For my wife and I, we have begun to avoid Minneapolis, and look forward to my retirement in a couple years when we can consider moving away too.

The Minneapolis charter amendment proposal is a joke. I suggest you put it on the November ballot with just one change: Call it the "Abolish the Police Amendment," because that is what it is. The council seems determined to erode the livability of Minneapolis at an accelerating pace. Let the council see what the citizens of Minneapolis think of their dangerous and thoughtless proposal. Please, no compromises, no middle ground. Don't let them "Art of the Deal" you!! The very idea is preposterous.

If you want to take action that can make a change, get the Feds to allow you to break the PD union. You don't even have a current contract. Start by putting a citizens council in place of the collective bargaining unit, and let the citizens decide if discipline is warranted, if "warrior training" is warranted. I haven't heard read or anything like this from the press or DFL sources. The union is the elephant in the room-- please deal with it first, or nothing you do will seem serious.

Thanks for taking the time, if you are still reading this rant. You have a difficult task ahead of you, but this is your time! Make fellow Minnesotans proud you stood tall when we needed you!! Thanks for all your efforts! You commissioners are amazing!!

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/13/2020 3:15:27 PM

The Charter Commission has the opportunity to drag their heels on this and potentially add this amendment to a future vote; this would likely mean that fewer voters would participate in the decision, and some of the great momentum we've built up would be lost.

So please:

Put it on the ballot

Do it this year

We want a new model of building safety

thank you

Ward 5

7/13/2020 3:21:37 PM

I would like to voice my support for moving funding away from the Minneapolis Police Department and toward a department of community safety. I don't know anyone who's been helped by the police, and there are numerous people who have been actively hurt and killed by the police. I don't want to fund police and their violence with my taxes, and I don't want my elected officials to support their funding either. When someone is having a mental health crisis, dealing with being unhoused, or struggling with addiction, I'd like them to be helped by people who have their health and the community's health in mind. I DO NOT want them to be approached by armed people with no health training and a history of racist violence. Thank you.

Ward 5

7/13/2020 3:26:42 PM

Taxpayers & Neighborhoods pay taxes, they say who goes and who stays, not the Minneapolis City Council!!! Chief can let officers go who have complaints, will be replaced by fair and honest police!!! Others will Minneapolis police will stay when we need the Minneapolis police!!! Don't want none of the Minneapolis City Council making decisions that will impact our lives.

Ward 3

7/13/2020 3:27:14 PM

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of ward 8. I am urging the charter commission to vote yes on the amendment to remove police involvement from the city charter. Unelected officials should not be able to determine how our community is kept safe. A true democracy puts power to the people, and this amendment will begin that process by allowing the people to vote on whether or not we need the MPD here anymore. For far too long the MPD has practiced unnecessary force and violence against our black and brown neighbors and the time has come for their reign of terror to end. Please vote yes on this amendment and show your support for democracy at work by allowing Minneapolis residents the right to determine how they are protected.

Ward 8

7/13/2020 3:38:57 PM

For the budget issue that is happening in Minneapolis I think it is most vital that we divest funds from the Minneapolis Police Department to help with money issues. The reasons are as followed.

The U.S. Transgender Survey reports that 61% of the Black respondents who interacted with a law enforcement officer experienced violence. This report does not break out based on whether any of the respondents identified as Black and within communities pushed even further to the margins.

MPD is not required to learn anything about Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing culture, yet they interact with the D/DB/HH communities. MPD does not have accessibility specific training,

yet they interact with the disabled and immunosuppressed. Law enforcement knows nothing about epidemiology, yet they're provided with the names and addresses of those who test positive for COVID-19. Even if that knowledge was required, we saw how effective the required crisis intervention training for MN Law enforcement is when we witnessed the video of Derek Chauvin.

When the violence is not directly inflicted or enforced through lack of training or training that cops don't engage with, it's carried out through erasure. This February, the TEC went before the Police Conduct Oversight Commission and requested an investigation into MPD's non-reporting of gender identity based hate crimes, which the PCOC has agreed to investigate. Trans people

experience regular crimes perpetrated against us and the people recording them (or failing to record them) are among the most likely to commit them.

MPD does not serve trans people and has in fact done what they can to undermine trans-centered work within the city. Most recently, Minneapolis Police Union President Bob Kroll explicitly called out the City's \$15,000 trans equity budget in an interview with STIM Radio. The MPD budget is nearly \$200

million, and the City would save \$410,000 just by pausing raises to police union members. His focus on the trans equity budget is explicit transphobia by a leader who, in 2017, was voted into his role by 70% of union members.

In comparison, the Division of Race and Equity has created the foundation for trauma healing both within and outside of the City, and built infrastructure supporting BIPOC trans and GNC community members. We are asking you, we hope preemptively, to not cut their funding. To cut funding to Race & Equity would be antithetical to the City's own values, and would be blatant transphobia and white supremacy. Show integrity with the City's stated values by maintaining or increasing your support for BIPOC-centered trans equity work.

Many of you have spoken, formally or informally, in favor of dismantling the Minneapolis Police Department in recent days. Many of you have named that such actions were necessary long before George Floyd's murder. We know what works: investing in community, addressing root causes of violence, and supporting BIPOC organizers leading visionary work. You appointed us to advise you on issues related to trans equity. Listen to us and generations of leaders before us. Reform does not work. Prioritize cuts to the Minneapolis Police Department in amending the 2020 budget, do not touch the Race Equity budget, and develop a clear, long-term plan for divestment from MPD.

Ward 10

7/13/2020 3:39:11 PM

Hello- as a longtime Ward 1 resident, I am 100% in favor of the amendment to the charter. We deserve a chance not just to vote on this, but to engage in the in-depth community-building process of dialogue and debate around it too. These are conversations- about public safety, priorities, and investments- that speak to the very heart of what it means to live in a city, to be an engaged member of a community. This is something we desperately need.

Ward 1

7/13/2020 3:44:59 PM

I oppose the amendment that is proposed for several reasons.

1) Ward 6, which is a high crime area, has had NO City Council member throughout the policing crisis, and as a resident of Ward 6, I do not feel represented in these considerations of the City Charter. Ward 6 experienced much of the arson and destruction, and we have a huge addiction and homeless problem. It's wrong to have us be unrepresented. Many other affected groups also oppose these changes to the Charter, and have not been heard or represented.

2) The authors of the proposed amendment lack the city government experience to make such a drastic change successfully.

3) The proposed changes leave a great deal of room for confusion, mismanagement, politics, lack of accountability, and ineffective leadership in the oversight of public safety. This drastic change will leave us unsafe in new and different ways. Already children have been raped in the Powderhorn Park encampment and this is not being dealt with transparently or fairly. This is not an improvement. We all want change because we are shocked to realize that racist, sadistic police in our city feel empowered to

murder Black people. Unfortunately, predatory, sadistic racists will find a position of power in any structure from which to hurt the vulnerable.

4) I favor the idea of reforming the police budget and demilitarizing the police. I think the power of the Police Union needs to be greatly reduced and the actions of the the union need to be more transparent. I believe the reform of policing practices will happen. The proposed City Council plan, however, will just create new chaos, and get rid of some of the safeguards we already have.

5) I want change. I never want to see another police murder. I just feel this is not the way to get the changes I'd like to see.

Ward 6

7/13/2020 4:08:55 PM

There are several reasons to reject the charter amendment getting rid of the police. Doing so at this point isn't even an option because of the city charter. It was baked into the heart and soul of the governance of this municipality for a reason. We learned generations ago that having an independent police force that could monitor activity, intervene if necessary, and investigate when wrongdoing occurs was a vital part of the role of the city.

Consider this, the first thing to go in a failing city are businesses, especially non-essential businesses. They form the core of the reasons people live in cities. We live in a metropolis so we can go out to novel restaurants, enjoy large audience events, and engage in hobbies and pursuits that aren't necessarily shared by the masses. These activities and events form the purpose for living in a city. Once these entities leave, people will follow. Businesses won't stay and invest in a place that is inherently unsafe. People don't invest in places where they will lose their money as well as the fruit their efforts. We are now seeing the exodus of both.

That being said, here are the top three reasons for not considering removing police from our midst.

1. Lawlessness is a state that occurs in the vacuum of authority. When peaceful order isn't respected and openly rejected, there needs to be a presence to remind the public overall that this isn't in the interest of anyone. Without the simple reminder that a person's actions, or a group's reaction, is subject to the wider public's disapproval, bad actors act against the public peace and for their own purposes. That is evidences in the looting and burning of businesses and property we've seen widespread throughout the city.

2. When there is a vacuum of power, someone comes in to fill that void. For example, we're seeing rapid escalation of gangs and other lawless activity increasing throughout the city. There are more shootings and murders. There is an increase in incidences of prostitution which many times contributes to the marginalization of vulnerable populations. Drug activities are increasing poisoning more and more people and leading to addiction and criminal syndicates that have no restraint. We need police to investigate the bare elements of the crimes being committed and to dig deeper in the criminal networks that are spreading throughout the area. When these systems are embedded, the cancer of lawlessness will begin creeping into adjacent areas and threatening others as well.

3. While there are people who fear the police, there are thousands of us who rely on police to protect us. The idea some don't respect the authority doesn't mean the rest of us should just 'suck it up', as some should suggest. We live in a liberal democracy which means we are all part of the community and

all subject to our shared laws. Marginalizing anyone because of the color of their skin is absurd. As a gay man, I've seen the horrors of favoritism and the debilitating effect it has on the overall community and to the favored group. It's not good to give anyone special treatment based on immutable qualities they have. In fact, I'm shocked in this day and age we'd even have to say such a thing.

This proposal has short-term effects on the community, but the long-term effects are even worse. To give any group an elevated status because of race or gender or sexual orientation is wrong. To consider altering the system to enable such an attitude is even worse.

Ward 8

7/13/2020 4:16:26 PM

I am writing to make sure my voice, along with countless others, continues the march towards what has been promised: the defunding of the Minneapolis Police Department and transferring those funds into community resources.

Mayor Frey has shown himself to be incapable of doing this, thus it is up to the city council to continue to do what is best for our entire city, and not just those who benefit from privilege. I look forward to living in a city that has moved money into resources that help all citizens, such as affordable housing for all, services to help those who suffer from addictions, and generally transforming our city into an example to the rest of the nation, even world, how such a transition can work for the betterment of all.

The city council promised us this, and I am asking you all to make a stand for the citizens you say you represent and care for. We are ready for a city where our Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color can live without fear. Please vote to change the charter and begin the transfer of funds to services that will help all citizens, rather than just terrify a few.

Thank you.

Ward 1

7/13/2020 4:36:50 PM

I would like to remove the charter by focusing on efforts to establish a new safety and violence prevention program that scales down on police and police brutality.

Ward 3

7/13/2020 4:37:29 PM

I do not support disbanding the police department. I support the creation of an additional department to work in concert with the police department and to start involving specialists of different disciplines in our public safety systems, but I don't support adding another layer of bureaucracy to the management of our police department. Our Police Chief needs the support of our city leadership. Our city leaders let city resources burn and didn't empower our police department to restore order. Many families no longer feel safe in this city and I believe our city leaders are failing to meet the needs of our broader base of citizens in an effort to placate to the loudest voice in the crowd.

Ward 13

7/13/2020 4:47:00 PM

I would like to ask that you do everything in your power to create a equitable and just chance for the ballot question to be presented to voters. The uprising was a referendum by community members that took place in the streets, not in city hall. We deserve a chance to decide the future of our city when our mayor sits back and does nothing. Please, give the people of minneapolis a chance to shape the future of policing and you will be on the right side of history and will have helped shepherd in a new era of public safety and community collaboration! Thank you.

Ward 8

7/13/2020 4:51:59 PM

The panacea of no "police dept" makes no sense. I would like to believe that peace and love can stop people from doing bad things, but I hardly doubt a person with no experience in "law enforcement" is going to be able to make the changes for everyone that might be needed or wanted. Relying on a restorative justice professional and having someone with out law enforcement experience doesn't seem like a good approach. What happens when the restorative justice doesn't work? Maybe a combination of the two but not restorative justice alone.

I would like to continue to see a full police dept with a different approach to hiring, training and on-going education for the dept. Also a different approach to discipline is in order. A police officer with more than a couple of infractions (depending on the severity of course) should not be a police officer.

There also is nothing about how this new dept will be funded. It's unrealistic to think that by getting rid of the police dept, there isn't a need for funding. How will it be funded?

Ward 13

7/13/2020 4:54:03 PM

I'm imploring the charter commission to move this effort forward to be included on the ballot this November. Minneapolis is in need not of a police department to react to violent crimes, but rather the resources to prevent those crimes from happening in the first place. This is a very important step toward that goal that absolutely cannot wait.

Ward 9

7/13/2020 5:02:17 PM

I have previously written an extensive letter to the Commission outlining my objections to the proposed amendment.

It has come to my attention that some organizations, such as Jewish Community Action, are encouraging their supporters to petition and write the Commission to support adoption of the proposed amendment. However, in the email communications to their constituents they are failing to disclose the fact that the proposed amendment would take control of law enforcement away from the Mayor, nor that it is unclear who would be accountable to voters for the conduct of law enforcement once that authority is stripped from the Mayor.

I hope you will approach petitions and writings generated by organizations which are not disclosing to their membership the true facts about the proposed amendment with a healthy level of skepticism, as you cannot be certain that those who are writing in support of the amendment are well-informed about what it does and are making an informed choice in supporting it.

Ward 7

7/13/2020 5:11:54 PM

I am writing to express my support for the proposed amendment to establish a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and to remove the Police Department. Our city charter "defines the powers and authority of the City, granted by the people." The people of our city have, very vocally, voiced their dissatisfaction with the Minneapolis Police Department in its current form. We can no longer continue with a system that has repeatedly failed our community, in profound and deeply harmful ways. If the authority of the MPD is granted by the people, we must be able to vote to change that authority.

The language in the current charter regarding the police department constitutes a barrier to any real change in how we address public safety, particularly the minimum staffing requirement. The proposed amendment opens up possibilities for our community, it starts a process of asking what it would really mean to be safe in our city. We must begin this process with all the urgency of this moment--it is essential that the city be allowed to vote this fall.

As a committed Minneapolis citizen and a parent with deep roots in our community, I ask you to give the voters the opportunity to make this change. Please approve the proposed amendment.

Ward 8

7/13/2020 5:12:01 PM

I think the city needs an amendment to the public charter. Then we can begin reimagining what public safety looks like in our communities. Our current policing system is not working. Thank you for your time.

Ward 10

7/13/2020 5:13:01 PM

I am writing to express my support for the proposed amendment to establish a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and to remove the Police Department. Our city charter "defines the powers and authority of the City, granted by the people." The people of our city have, very vocally, voiced their dissatisfaction with the Minneapolis Police Department in its current form. We can no longer continue with a system that has repeatedly failed our community, in profound and deeply harmful ways. If the authority of the MPD is granted by the people, we must be able to vote to change that authority.

The language in the current charter regarding the police department constitutes a barrier to any real change in how we address public safety, particularly the minimum staffing requirement. The proposed amendment opens up possibilities for our community, it starts a process of asking what it would really mean to be safe in our city. We must begin this process with all the urgency of this moment--it is essential that the city be allowed to vote this fall.

As a committed Minneapolis citizen and a parent with deep roots in our community, I ask you to give the voters the opportunity to make this change. Please approve the proposed amendment.

Powderhorn/Bancroft resident

Ward 8

7/13/2020 5:25:38 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis, I wholeheartedly support the removal of the charter requirement for a minimum number of police in Minneapolis, and I believe the people of Minneapolis should have the opportunity to vote on this. It is time to see real change! I support changing the city charter to eliminate the requirement that the city must fund the MPD. I see that the city has tried to reform the MPD and stop racism in the Department, and I see that it has not worked. Over and over again MPD has demonstrated that those costly reform efforts do not work, and the brutal murder of George Floyd is just one more case. How many more deaths do there need to be for the city to act? Would any other city department be given so many chances and so much money as they continue to fail our citizens? MPD does not prevent violence or minimize racism. In many cases they make it worse. I believe that in order to support the health of our city and our communities we need to start fresh and reimagine the way the city approaches safety and violence prevention so that we can better address the needs of ALL people. In my opinion, if American cities would redirect some of the massive amounts of money spent on police towards services that actually lift people out of crisis and poverty (such as affordable housing, low-cost healthcare, schools/education, addiction support services, and mental health services), then we could start to lift and minimize the band-aid we've placed over each of those areas—the Police. I have hope that our city will be a leader in centering equality and justice as core principles of our city charter, which means identifying aspects of the charter that are not working and taking the initiative to make a change.

The people of Minneapolis deserve to be a part of this process. Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want to live in.

Thank you.

Ward 8

7/13/2020 5:33:55 PM

We have seen that bloating the MPD budget has not worked in increasing the safety of our most vulnerable community members. It is time to allocate funds in a reasonable, evidence-based manner, to fund projects that are known to reduce violent crimes at the source. A delay in this defunding of police brutality will confer responsibility of this ongoing onto our City Council. I am committed to my part in bettering my community. I cannot, however, stand by while my elected officials continue to drag their feet and make empty promises. I demand you begin the process of dismantling the MPD and stem the flow of salaries to the majority of police officers who do not live in my city limits. Instead we must fund

mental health services, increase access to affordable housing, and most importantly, bolster our public education system. Thank you for your continued efforts to make Minneapolis a place I could live long term and thank you for your time.

Ward 3

7/13/2020 5:40:47 PM

You know this is just fancy renaming. We want defunding. You can't have true abolition without defunding first. Actually do something real.

Ward 3

7/13/2020 5:51:31 PM

I am in full support of this amendment. The police cause needless destruction and harm to innocent people. They do not protect us. I was at the black lives matter protest the afternoon right before the destruction started. There was absolutely no violence besides the police shooting rubber bullets at us from the rooftop. At first it was occasional, and we could see the police laughing as a man came up to my car and asked for a bandage after he had been knocked down by one, his knee bleeding. Then, with absolutely no violence from the protestors, and no warning, police started coming from all sides, about 30 in each direction. They threw tear gas at us, but blocked where we were trying to leave so we had to sit in it. The mother of what looked like a five year old next to me was screaming for milk to pour in her son's eyes. People were forced to spread out across the streets surrounding the precinct.

And yet simultaneously, in the past weeks I have seen so many beautiful community organizations step forward to truly care for our people and our community. The number of people who showed up to sweep glass off of lake street, help business owners clean, and donate/distribute food to everyone who needed it every single morning was inspiring. Organizations like Southside Harm Reduction and the People's Protection Coalition have been supporting our community in the ways the government and police department has failed us. This is what a police free future looks like.

Ward 13

7/13/2020 5:58:24 PM

City of Minneapolis Charter Commission, I am writing in support of the proposed charter amendment. In the massive uprisings following the death of George Floyd, Minneapolis residents have shown up to show that a world without police is possible. From mutual aid supply distribution efforts to the George Floyd memorial site to the Powderhorn Park sanctuary, we are seeing glimpses of a world where communities take care of one another and keep each other safe. George Floyd, Jamar Clark, the hundreds of Black people memorialized at the "Say Their Names" cemetery, and an ever-growing list of people are the victims of state sanctioned police violence. It is time to put an end to this. A world without police violence is possible and it is up to you to take the next steps in bringing it to fruition. The police do not make me feel safe and have not kept me safe -- not in Minneapolis or any of the other cities I've lived in. I do not turn to the police for help and any time I have asked for their aid in my youth - whether it was finding a way home when lost in the city, helping a homeless man find shelter, consoling a survivor of sexual violence, or making sure a violent situation didn't escalate -- they have done nothing but made the situation more tense and violent. I quickly learned they make a bad situation

into a horrible one and I haven't called the police in years. They have arrested my friends, harassed my loved ones, and killed people in my community. Enough is enough. I urge you to vote for the charter amendment and take a real step towards abolishing the police.

Ward 9

7/13/2020 6:08:17 PM

I urge the Charter Commissions allow residents of Minneapolis to vote on the Charter Amendment in November of 2020. Residents of Minneapolis, not the members of the Charter Commission, should be able to decide what the future of public safety in our City looks like. Please do not stand in the way of democracy and the will of the people.

Ward 10

7/13/2020 6:09:48 PM

We demand a \$45 million cut from MPD's budget! An emergency budget should fund our communities' urgent needs!

City Council: keep your word. Last fall the Council told us to wait until it was more politically viable to fund alternatives, then they gave MPD a raise. Now MPD has killed George Floyd. We need to tell the Council to put its money where its mouth is.

Pay workers. No more wage freezes, furloughs or firings. Cut from the MPD budget and pay city workers instead.

Homes for everyone. Feeling safe means having a home - if we spent just a fraction of MPD's budget on housing, we could house everyone in the park sanctuaries.

Defund police terror tools. We don't want City dollars funding intimidation and scare-tactics! Immediately cut funding for special operations, the canine unit, and the mounted patrol.

No more duplicate, duplicitous departments. MPD is the only department that has its own records request and communications departments, and they use them to obscure evidence of their crimes. Eliminate MPD's duplicate departments!

Defund police PR & recruitment. We don't need more police, and we don't need the city spending money on police PR to improve MPD's image - our communities know the truth. Immediately defund the Community and Collaborative Advancement program.

Ward 3

7/13/2020 6:11:44 PM

I oppose the proposed charter amendment being added to the ballot for this November. It is rushing the process. Much more research and planning needs to be done. We need to have an alternative plan in place first, so we know what we are voting for or against.

Thank you.

Ward 11

7/13/2020 6:14:33 PM

no amendments to charter. We trust that the chief of police can make the department better.

Ward 2

7/13/2020 6:45:07 PM

My name is [REDACTED]; I have lived in Minneapolis for 42 years and in the Seward neighborhood for the past 30. I urge you to make your recommendations about the proposed charter amendment by the August 5th deadline so the question can be put to us as voters. In this moment of great urgency in our community it is vitally important that the voices of our community be heard through our votes. It does not seem right to me that 15 people who do not represent the many voices of our diverse community would have the power to block what our elected representatives (who do represent those voices) want to bring to us the voters. Please act. Let us vote.

Ward 2

7/13/2020 6:52:23 PM

Support the police.

Defund the mayors office and city council.

Frey fiddled while Minneapolis burned.

Ward 12

7/13/2020 6:53:26 PM

Please push this through so I can vote YES for the charter amendment as soon as possible. MPD does not keep us safe.

Ward 10

7/13/2020 7:22:41 PM

Hi, I'd like to comment regarding file number CH2020-00014 (the Charter Commission considering the proposal to defund) and 2020-00668 (people voting on defunding).

I live in Stevens Square near Franklin and Third. I'm white. On multiple occasions, I've witnessed situations where I clearly needed to call the city for help, but knew that calling 911 would lead to MPD, and that would escalate the situation. I needed the ability to call a team that would respond without force, and with mental health and emergency response training.

I know--and I've known for a long time-- that calling the police on my BIPOC neighbors would do more harm than good.

It is absolutely critical that Minneapolis Change the Charter and Defund the Police. We need a new way forward. We deserve the right to vote to determine how our streets are kept safe.

#changethecharter

#defundthepolice

Thank you,

Ward 6

7/13/2020 7:28:01 PM

Dear Charter Commission,

As you review the charter and proposal, I urge you to open the decision of removing the Minneapolis Police Department from the charter and replacing it with a Department of Community Safety to a community vote.

The uprising showed thousands of community members expressing their concerns over the Minneapolis Police Department and vocalizing and envisioning city safety that is not rooted in violence against BIPOC communities.

Voting yes to the charter amendment is a necessary step in creating community safety centered in life affirming practices for everyone. We cannot wait another year on changing the charter. Let us vote.

Thank you for your time.

Minneapolis, MN

Ward 6

7/13/2020 7:51:06 PM

Hi, my name is [REDACTED], and I live in Saint Paul. Though I don't live in Minneapolis, I work downtown, and many of my friends and colleagues live in the city. I wholeheartedly support eliminating the MPD entirely in favor of a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. The murder of George Floyd is one of the latest examples of the MPD's un-fitness to keep Minneapolis safe. It's beyond time for a change.

Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum number of police. Justice cannot wait. Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects their democratic right to determine the kind of city they want.

Sincerely

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/13/2020 7:54:56 PM

Charter Commissioners:

I respectfully ask that you act in accordance with your role and carefully review and provide feedback on the text language of the proposed charter amendment. I respectfully ask that you refrain from injecting your opinions (or your interpretation of those of Minneapolis City Council Members) about what the future of public safety in our city should look like. As Commissioners, it is your job to ensure that the proposed language is appropriately placed within the Charter, as opposed to in an ordinance. Critically, it is not your role to vet the policy substance of amendments to the Minneapolis City Charter. It is your role to preserve the integrity of our democracy and allow Minneapolis voters to do just that -- and we are ready to be heard at the ballot box.

If you fail to do your job as a Charter Commission in a prudent but timely fashion, and as such prevent this amendment from appearing on the ballot despite unanimous support from a duly elected Minneapolis City Council (and ample time for your review), you will be suppressing the vote of hundreds of thousands of Minneapolis residents. Please, let the people decide how we proceed with this critical issue.

Does the Charter Commission -- an unelected body that, unfortunately, few Minneapolis residents have ever heard of, much less understand -- seek to use its statutorily mandated review process to instead fashion itself the gatekeeper of public safety? Such a paternalistic view, from a body that is neither elected nor representative of the citizenry, is incredibly disconcerting.

Please, respect the people of Minneapolis who deserve to vote on this amendment. What, in our imperfect society, is more democratic than allowing the citizenry to vote on issues affecting our lives? Do not obstruct and suppress the vote of Minneapolis residents. The question before the Charter Commission is a procedural one: whether the proposed ballot language is appropriately placed in the Charter. The question before the community is a different one: whether to transform our public safety system or to stick with the status quo. If this amendment passes or fails in November -- a presidential election which is expected to produce unprecedented voter turnout -- it will be the will of the people, as it should be. Please ensure the people have the chance to be heard.

This process is not about whether you agree or disagree with the proposal unanimously approved by the City Council. You know this. Delay tactics that result in the inability for the amendment to be presented to the people of Minneapolis are voter suppression. Please, let the people vote.

Ward 12

7/13/2020 7:55:03 PM

I think the proposed amendment to the city charter is too vague. I do not believe that renaming the police force and having to report to the council and the mayor is an effective way to keep our city safe. I will not live in a city that doesn't a police force. I believe in the current Police Chief, and I have hopes that he can help change things for the better. The police need support and better training - defunding them would just add to the already escalating violence in Minneapolis.

Ward 7

7/13/2020 7:58:35 PM

As the Charter Commission reviews the Charter, please consider that Minneapolis still needs a strong police presence to keep more serious crimes under control. I do believe some police reform is needed, but it's not as simple as sending a mental health professional to a mental health crisis, or sending a counselor to a domestic dispute. Many of these crises have the potential to turn violent and could pose a danger to citizens and the responding health professionals. The Charter Commission needs to carefully consider how the best outcomes can be achieved by amending the Charter. And you should also consider if better outcomes will be achieved by delaying a vote on the Charter until next year.

Ward 13

7/13/2020 8:05:03 PM

The proposed charter amendment is necessary for our city to move on from the harms done by MPD over the years. It is important to ensure that this amendment be on the ballot in November, so as many Minneapolisians can Express their opinions as possible. I ask that you put this charter amendment on the November ballot, so we can begin to build a Minneapolis that is safe from police violence and supports the wellbeing of all residents.

Ward 8

7/13/2020 8:20:59 PM

I live 1 block from where George Floyd was killed, and have been a proud resident of Minneapolis for 15 years.

I support and recommend the City Charter accept the proposed charter amendment to remove the requirements in the charter to have a police department.

Over the years, I have watched failure after failure to create any substantial reform within the Minneapolis Police department, in response to the failure of them doing their jobs in a safe manner that holds public safety and service in the forefront. In the past month and a half, my family and I have personally been neglected and put at a great safety risk because of the actions (and outright refusal for action) by the Minneapolis Police department. When they have responded, they have only made matters worse. The community has completely lost trust in the MPD, thus we need to disband the current form of the police department and re-vision a different approach.

I do believe there needs to be some form of trained team that is able to respond appropriately with force, as there are situations that do require that to be necessary. However, many other avenues for public safety and prevention need to be supported and enacted.

Please move forward with the proposed amendment to the City Charter.

Ward 9

7/13/2020 8:25:35 PM

It is imperative that funds allocated to the police department are re-directed to community funding that allows for stronger mental health support, a more culturally responsive team of providers that ARE NOT THE POLICE, and hold our officials accountable for the safety of our community. The murder of black lives by the police department, with no accountability or recourse is not acceptable and the only way to move away from this is to defund the police and create an alternative method of public safety that appropriately addresses community concerns.

I strongly support defunding the police, changing the charter, and re-allocating funds. I believe we can create a better Minneapolis, Twin Cities, and Minnesota. We must start in our own neighborhoods and communities. We must start this journey without the police.

Ward 1

7/13/2020 8:34:02 PM

Hello, my name is [REDACTED], and I am a public school teacher in Minneapolis. I support the charter amendment, and more importantly, I support the right of the public to vote on a decision that greatly impacts so many of our lives. If the charter commission does not put it on the ballot in November, it will be a shameful repression of civic engagement. I urge the charter commission to submit the ballot question in a timely manner so that the voters can decide in November. Thank you.

Ward 2

7/13/2020 8:35:58 PM

Hi I'm Adam Sicora. I live in Ward 7. I would love to be able to vote upon the proposed charter myself with the other people of Minneapolis, please do not delay this off of the ballot. I was on the streets after George Floyd's death and the only way to capture that energy will be on the ballot, along with the president.

Keeping this off of the ballot will NOT be the way to truly hear from the community. It would be an insult to democracy. If it's not right for the city, it can be decided then. DO WHAT IS RIGHT!!!!

Ward 7

7/13/2020 8:40:34 PM

Please approve the amendment to the City Charter to be referred to voters in November regarding:
Creating a ne Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police
Department from the Charter.

We must not put police before the community.

Ward 5

7/13/2020 8:46:58 PM

I am asking for the Charter Commission to put the public safety transformation charter amendment on the ballot. The people of Minneapolis have asked for change in the streets, and we demand the opportunity to vote on this amendment. The time for this change is now. We can't wait another year.

Ward 2

7/13/2020 8:58:29 PM

I believe the amendment needs to include a police department not an option . All citizens need to be part of this process. Also, in reading the amendment, it is not specific or detailed. Basically, the thought process was to strike the police department and give very little in the way of a thought out plan. My reading is that all that was done was cross out a few lines . This is not the way minneapolis needs to be governed. Let's do this right. Take the time to listen to all citizens and then put forth a well thought out plan that encompasses some form of policing service. Then go to the charter commission with more than a amendment that must have taken one hour to strike lines and add so little detail of such an important revision for our city. Please send this also to the charter commission. A concerned minneapolis citizen.

Ward 3

7/13/2020 9:01:48 PM

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a resident of the Stevens Square neighborhood. I support the vote to amend the city charter for many reasons, but most of all, to protect my neighbors. We have a vibrant, diverse, and largely safe community, but that hasn't always been the case. Years before I joined the community, Stevens Square had issues with drugs, prostitution, and myriad other public safety hazards. Having had enough, residents of the neighborhood banded together to create a block patrol in an effort to make Stevens Square Park and our streets safe for everyone. Their efforts were largely successful and the community healed and blossomed. Violence wasn't and still isn't the answer. Block patrol members take shifts walking the sidewalks, greeting people, and keeping a watchful eye on the neighborhood. Stevens Community Apartments, the largest rental company in the neighborhood, even offers rent discounts to members of the block patrol to encourage participation. In our case, it turned out that simply having a presence and asking the right questions was enough to deter criminal behavior and improve public safety. If a small group of like-minded neighbors can accomplish that, imagine what a professionally trained, well-funded, and well-organized public safety and peace keeping organization could accomplish.

Such an organization was sorely needed in the following situation. I live on a busy, accident-prone intersection on Franklin Avenue. Shortly after George Floyd's death at the hands of the MPD and the civic unrest that followed, a fairly significant car accident occurred outside my window. Traffic was nearly entirely blocked by the wreckage; people were wildly weaving between the damaged vehicles. Worse yet, it was twilight and growing darker by the minute, and one of the vehicles had no lights on. They needed help to prevent further collisions, sort out insurance/liability, and check on the injured, however, I hesitated to call the police because both parties involved were people of color, likely neighbors of mine. In the wake of senseless brutality against a civilian, I was hesitant to call the police because there was absolutely no reason an armed officer needed to be on the scene to potentially escalate the situation. No reason at all. The trouble is, there's no one else to call. The police did eventually show up, but the whole scene was handled ineffectively. No one was wearing reflective gear, no one stopped traffic to move the cars out of the way until the tow truck arrived an hour or so later, and no one even controlled traffic until several minutes in. All the while, me and several neighbors looked on with white knuckles, watching the officers closely to make sure they behaved lawfully and appropriately. In the end, everything was sorted, the intersection was cleared, and it concluded the way I assume so many other police encounters should conclude. The trouble is when the encounters don't end that way, innocent people's lives are at stake. It deeply saddened me to feel the paralysis of having no one to call to handle a nonviolent safety crisis except for an armed police force who may put my neighbors in further danger simply because of their complexion. Imagine a Minneapolis in which you can witness the event described above and call an unarmed traffic control officer and medic to ensure the safety of your fellow man. That is the Minneapolis I'm proud to envision. That is the Minneapolis we deserve, and voting to amend the city charter is an important first step toward it.

Ward 6

7/13/2020 9:05:23 PM

I'd really hope this is on the ballot this year.

Ward 5

7/13/2020 9:30:58 PM

This signature is to show my full support to approve the amendment that would create a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police Department from the Charter.

Ward 13

7/13/2020 9:32:09 PM

I think you should let the voters decide how we want to be governed by letting us vote on this issue this November. Please do not fall on the wrong side of history by refusing to let the people decide for themselves. Thank you.

Ward 10

7/13/2020 9:38:41 PM

I am writing to oppose this proposal. I am a white woman who supports the black community, and I want to see real transformation that is led by the black community. And the black community is demanding community control of the police. We demand an all-elected, all-civilian council with the power over the police department to hire, fire, and prosecute cops. We need the proposal being put forward at www.tcc4j.net.

Your proposal has no teeth, nothing to hold cops accountable for past, present, and future crimes. The proposal does not spell out any new disciplinary measures or oversight for the policy, or have any detail about what community involvement will look like. It puts all the power in the hands of the mayor and city council.

Please don't rush through this proposal. I strongly oppose what you are doing right now. You are rushing to push something through in order to save face on a national stage. Instead, take time to do what is right, not what is going to get you accolades.

Ward 1

7/13/2020 9:41:14 PM

To the Charter Commission:

I am writing to encourage you to support the proposed charter amendment and recommend that it be put on the ballot for voters to decide to amend our city charter. I encourage you to make this decision with enough time to be able to educate the public on the amendment and to vote on this amendment in November.

I believe that we are in a time in our history that real change in policing is being asked for and I am pleased that our elected officials are hearing that. If you were to stall this vote, it would feel like the commission is thwarting the will of the people, or at least the will of us to vote on it. I know that similar amendments have been before the commission in the past and there have been proposals to study the effect of these on the Minneapolis charter. I ask that you not take that time with this amendment. Studies can be ongoing and the amendment language is such that it leaves room for changes within the new department to incorporate new information.

The city council has unanimously agreed to put this amendment to voters. I would encourage you to remember that the city council are made up of leaders that we as citizens of this city have voted into office. They more directly represent us as members of this city.

Again, by placing this amendment before voters in November, not only 15 people on the Charter Commission, but the entire voting population of Minneapolis can determine if this is a change that should take place.

Thank you,

Ward 6

7/13/2020 9:47:17 PM

(Sorry if I already submitted a comment - I can't honestly remember!)

I'm writing to urge the commission to approve the charter amendment and let the democratic process work! Let the people vote! For those of us who want to see change, we must change the charter first! This allows a process to work - it doesn't make any changes right now. That's for the people to decide!

Please listen to those of us who support a YES vote! We cannot wait another year - with more killings and weak reform. We need to deal with these issues NOW and letting residents VOTE to change the charter is the most democratic process we have!

Ward 7

7/13/2020 9:50:37 PM

Keep the police as they are and try to improve morale unless you want to look like New York. We will be long gone from our expensive condo.

Ward 3

7/13/2020 9:57:58 PM

I believe strongly that the Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department amendment should be put on the ballot in November, and no time should be wasted to make sure that happens. The unprecedented public outcry against the Minneapolis Police Department is more than enough evidence to show that the system must be changed to make sure public safety is equally available for all Minneapolis citizens, regardless of their race, income level, mental health, etc. Thank you for working on this!

Ward 10

7/13/2020 10:08:45 PM

Disbanding the MPD is vital and has been a long time coming. We deserve the right to vote on a charter amendment that would get us headed in the right direction. City council has voted unanimously on an amendment--let us vote!

Ward 10

7/13/2020 10:13:30 PM

I have been deeply saddened to witness the violence that has overtaken our city. From reading about senseless murders every weekend to hearing from many different friends who personally know someone assaulted in a robbery or similar crime and have to suffer in some cases life long effects from that assault. I think that it is very clear that simply the talk of lowering our police numbers has contributed to this rise in crime. The current police force is on the defense and if anything we need MORE police officers so they under less stress and pressure and can engage with the community and

build those important relationships with the community. I think that having other social and health care workers is a wonderful idea, but they will not replace police officers. I do not want to leave the city I have lived in my whole life due to this proposal which has no clear plan to follow it if it passes. I don't want to see my city destroyed by violence.

Ward 11

7/13/2020 10:21:27 PM

Dear members of the Charter Commission,

As a resident of Minneapolis in Ward 9 I would like to see the City Council's recent proposal to amend the City Charter be referred to voters this November. As a voter I would like to exercise my voice on this decision. I do not believe that the Minneapolis Police Department should be a required department nor there should be a minimum number of police per resident. Increasing police presence does not equate increasing community safety. Police with firearms in the community are far too often emboldened to act punitively and with racial bias against civilians whenever they perceive themselves in danger. We have seen, not just locally but across the nation, how lethal and devastating such policing culture can be. I am in full support of establishing a new Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention and investing in it long term to be a vehicle for transformative change.

Best

Ward 9

7/13/2020 10:28:31 PM

I support the Charter Change. Put it on the ballot. The voters have a right to choose. It must be done this year. The change must happen now. We need a new model of community safety.

Ward 9

7/13/2020 10:49:43 PM

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for this opportunity to tell you about my experiences calling 911 - and why they leave me hopeful you will allow Minneapolis to vote to change the charter this year.

I am attaching my comments in a text file here, along with two resources I mention. Thank you for reading.

Ward 7

Attachment:

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for this opportunity to tell you about my experiences calling 911 - and why they leave me hopeful you will allow Minneapolis to vote to change the charter this year.

I vividly remember the first time I ever called 911, many years ago. I, a white woman, got out of my car and was approached by a black man stumbling across the street, begging me to call an ambulance. "Don't call the cops," he begged, "Just an ambulance. You hear me? Just an ambulance." Knowing a 911 call would surely bring both, but finding his skin clammy and breath labored, I dialed and hoped for the best. With one hand I held the phone to my ear, and with the other attempted to guide him to the curb. "I'm just calling the ambulance, not the cops," I said. "Thank you, thank you, thank you" was the reply, as he wrapped me in a bear hug. He was bigger and stronger than me. I couldn't get him to the curb. In fact, he kept stumbling as he hugged me, seemingly unaware we were still in the middle of the street... and slowing moving as if in a drunken dance towards a major intersection.

I explained the situation to the dispatcher, then tried my best to wave down the cars passing us by as I used all my strength to try and keep us on the center yellow line while my new acquaintance grew more and more disoriented. "Please help me, he's having a medical emergency!" "It's ok, but I need help to get him to the curb!" "Please, stop and help! There's an ambulance coming, but I need help to get him out of traffic!" "Will you at least please help direct traffic for me??" People rolled down their windows to see what was happening, but my pleas fell on deaf ears. Nobody helped. Did they find the large black man threatening? Want to leave it to the police or someone else to handle? Some other reason? I'll never know. We kept stumbling towards the middle of the intersection, cars honking, me praying.

Finally, an ambulance showed up. They parked on the side of the road. The EMTs stayed inside. "What are you doing? Please help me sit him down, he doesn't know what he's doing!" I screamed. "Please!!!" The EMTs later told me they thought we were fighting, and so didn't want to get out until the cops arrived. After what seemed like forever, after praying we wouldn't be hit by a car, an officer finally pulled up and got out. Terrified of what would happen next, I kept repeating "I'm ok, I think he's overdosed, he's not armed, I'm ok, please just help me sit him down..." With a second set of muscles, the officer and I sat him down, and the EMTs administered treatment. I held the man's hand until he went into the ambulance. For the rest of the day I thought... "Is everyone really so dependent on cops that we were almost killed in traffic waiting for one to arrive??"

I also vividly remember the last time I called 911, earlier this year. One of the two black gay men upstairs was screaming again, drunk at 4am, throwing who-knows-what against the walls. The police came, and left, as had happened before. But then I heard something I hadn't before. "I'm gonna fucking kill you, bitch! I'll fucking kill you!"

I was too scared to go upstairs myself, but I had to do something. I called 911 as I continued to listen, and then my partner and I went to the apartment building's lobby to wait for police. We found my neighbor there too, in his pajamas, with a black eye and tears covering his face. He asked us to stay with him, and we said of course we would. We talked about all we had heard and he had experienced, and he vowed to never again get together with his abuser. And we waited, and waited, and waited. I called 911 again to check whether a squad was actually coming. And waited some more. More banging and cursing upstairs.

It took an hour and a half. We all went upstairs. The cops clearly did not want to be there. The abuser said the right things. "So what do you want?" one cop asked my neighbor, condescendingly. "I want him out of my house!" "Well, he has a right to be here too. There's nothing we can do. Maybe go to the Starbucks down the street for awhile to calm down?" To be clear: 3 bored looking cops told my neighbor with a black eye, who his abuser just threatened to "fucking kill," to go down to starbucks and calm down. If I hadn't seen this story play out before, I'd have been livid. Instead I was just sad as the cops shrugged and left.

My partner made coffee for us all as we sat on the stoop and planned next steps. We helped my neighbor think of friends who could provide a safe place to stay, and made sure he had transportation. (We did that - not the cops). We asked what he needed - and gave a bandage, cigarettes and our phone numbers. (We did that - not the cops). We listened to how he's never been taken seriously by police as a large, effeminate, black queer person (We listened - not the cops). And we gave him the number to Outfront's Minnesota's Anti-Violence Program (we did that, not the cops). They quickly helped him get an order for protection against his abuser - something the cops never suggested as a solution. Their advocate and I accompanied him to court, and he succeeded in winning damages and most importantly, a safe living space free from abuse. We did that - not the cops, who even with several visits to his apartment never once showed the empathy or suggested the resources that quite likely saved his life.

I share these two stories because I urge you to allow we the people of Minneapolis to vote on changing the charter to create community safety beyond policing. I know now that my stories are not unique. Like so many others, I grew up thinking that when there's a problem, you call 911, and they deal with it. I later learned that actually, depending on police can be terrifying, ineffective, and at worst, deadly. I also grew up learning that police are professionals who protect and serve their communities. I later realized that 9 out of 10 cops who patrol my community don't live in it, and that they almost always lack the skills (or heart, or time, or training) to deal with situations that can't be solved by force.

And I've also learned, through watching killing after atrocity after brutality, as well as attempted reform after attempted reform after attempted reform, that we need a real overhaul of what community safety looks like. A system where guns and police badge is not what a plea for safety gets you.

We need a community safety department. Maybe those guns and badges have a small role at first. But police have harmed too many to be reformable. We need overhaul, and we need your help for that.

I'm attaching two resources for the public record. The first is a "Frequently Asked Questions" about a world after policing. The second is a collection from local artists about so-called community policing - and why "nicer" policing isn't really a solution, why we need to think big. And you can help the people of Minneapolis think big.

Let us vote to change the charter this year.

Sincerely
Lowry Hill

Attachments from <https://www.mpd150.com/>

[Community Policing and other Fairy Tales](#)

[Building a Police-Free Future](#)

7/13/2020 11:16:22 PM

The time is now for structural change to improve community safety. The residents of Minneapolis have spoken loudly and urgently about the need for real reform to the Minneapolis Police Department and amending the charter would be the first significant step in making these changes. I support putting this

proposed charter amendment on the ballot and giving Minneapolis residents the opportunity to exercise their democratic voices. This is urgent and changes are needed now. I support this amendment and ask that the members of the Charter Commission approve this amendment now.

Sincerely

Ward 8

7/14/2020 12:14:15 AM

Hi,

I am writing to ask that you Defund police PR & recruitment. We don't need more police, and we don't need the city spending money on police PR to improve MPD's image - our communities know the truth. Please Immediately defund the Community and Collaborative Advancement program. MPD is the only department that has its own records request and communications departments, and they use them to obscure evidence of their crimes. Eliminate MPD's duplicate departments!

7/14/2020 7:32:36 AM

I'm in favor of this amendment to the City Charter. Minneapolis would feel safer with a holistic approach to community safety rather than an outdated, aggressive police department. However, in addition to hiring a director with a background outside of law enforcement, I hope this amendment will also involve hiring a staff for the Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department that also has experience outside of law enforcement, or training police officers who wish to continue with the new department in new methods that better align with the goals of the new department.

Ward 2

7/14/2020 7:49:14 AM

I am a resident of Minneapolis and a home-owner in Ward 12, and I fully support this amendment to the City Charter. This is a necessary step towards creating a new vision for public safety outside of a militarized police force. I hope this work can provide a safer environment for *all* residents of Minneapolis. I am eager to see this amendment passed.

Ward 12

7/14/2020 8:23:55 AM

I would like to state that as a 10-year resident of Minneapolis, I strongly believe the Charter Commission needs to allow us, the residents and taxpayers of this municipality, the choice whether we shall move forward with the City Council's proposed Charter amendment. Allow us to VOTE!

Ward 8

7/14/2020 8:36:51 AM

I am against changing the charter BEFORE there is a clear plan for what structure would replace the current policing and public safety model. While i support changes to improve safety and address accountability issues, decriminalize people of color, demilitarize officers, promote positive diversity and community relationships - i believe that some hybrid model of policing partnering with social services re mental health and community strengthening is needed.

Changing the charter before we have any firm sense of how we will replace, rebuild and augment needed services is premature, irresponsible and invites uncertainty among all populations. It leaves vulnerable populations even more unprotected. .

I urge the City Council to put its efforts into considering and developing the policing and public safety goals for our city and the structure needed to achieve and maintain them - and make internal changes to the existing department to do do. If a charter amendment is needed to address those specific changes, it should be considered. Without that plan, changing the charter now would create a critical gap and leave the entire city vulnerable and weakened.

Unless a replacement plan is developed, i will vote against the amendment in the upcoming election

Ward 13

7/14/2020 9:07:42 AM

We must put it on the ballot. Voters deserve the chance to choose. 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. We want a new model of building safety, and that cannot include the police.

Ward 8

7/14/2020 9:21:06 AM

The purpose of government is to work with the communities it represents to create positive systems and change. The public has a right to decide how we create safety in our city and who provides those services. The City Council is made up of elected officials who are representing the expectations of their community. We, the people, have decided to re-evaluate the role of the police in Minneapolis, and it's our right to vote on that this November. It is not the place of the Charter Commission to decide what is open for discussion in representative democracy. It is their job to maintain the systems of communication and democracy so that the people can engage with them. I strongly urge the Charter Commission to move forward with this ballot initiative.

Ward 8

7/14/2020 9:37:45 AM

I am writing in support of the proposed amendment to the Minneapolis City Charter that would remove the Police Department from the Charter.

I have not always been an abolitionist, but community here in Minneapolis and other abolitionists in the US as well as the constant police violence throughout my life has changed my mind. It seems no matter the place or time police find a way to murder black people for simply existing. This creates a constant fear of our local government. A fear of the department that takes more of my taxes that any that actually benefit me. How this city continues to ask black people to pay their murderers is beyond me. We need to start at the root of the problem and rebuild. This is why we need to abolish the police department and create a new system that actually keeps us all safe; not protects white people and kills particularly black and indigenous peoples.

During the protests the MPD sealed their own fate. What everybody tried to deny became abundantly clear. Their behavior was disgusting and brutal, and even with thousands of extra law enforcement the city still completely failed to protect black people from white supremacists.

What is the reform for "don't tear-gas an entire neighborhood?" What specifically would we do to make them understand arresting and shooting journalists is wrong? Attacking medics is wrong? Indiscriminate use of rubber bullets, and the improper use, is wrong? They know this, but our police culture is such that their violence is celebrated internally. I wouldn't trust them with a single facet of my life, and yet their are supposed to serve me and the rest of Minneapolis. They consistently act as if we should be serving them.

It is time for the city to uphold basic principles of decency and, for the first time in its entire history, create a department that keeps all citizens safe. Until now MPD has been a failure and any attempt to reform and department that chooses Bob Kroll as their leader will fail as well. Abolish the police and rebuild with the community.

Ward 12

7/14/2020 9:53:58 AM

Please support the amendment. Time is of the essence so that no others will be unfairly and illegally harmed due to a toxic policing culture.

Ward 11

7/14/2020 9:57:15 AM

I wholeheartedly support the charter amendment and the creation of a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. I ask that you do the same.

Ward 12

7/14/2020 10:00:13 AM

I believe the safety violence & prevention department would be more effective over the current police department, due to its history of brutalizing black and brown lives.

7/14/2020 10:06:48 AM

There should be funding explicitly put toward sexual violence prevention and specific positions and programs to coordinate the efforts.

7/14/2020 10:12:23 AM

Let the people have the choice for change in November.

Ward 4

7/14/2020 10:12:57 AM

I support the proposal to create a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police Department from the Charter.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/14/2020 10:15:47 AM

The past years have shown us that the police do not protect its citizens. Reform is off the table as those who committed or witnessed the murder of George Floyd had been through reform training.

I absolutely want something new, and this ballot measure for November is something I want to vote for. Please include it. Police are not what this city needs to protect itself.

Ward 1

7/14/2020 10:16:43 AM

Dear Charter Commission,

I've lived in Wisconsin since 1978. The Packer fans are a problem, but otherwise the state is nice.

One piece of luck I've enjoyed through this period is that my lifelong best friend and his wife have lived in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Through him I've been lucky to make other valued Twin Cities friends whose character and accomplishment are, like his, very TC-ish. Before the shutdown, most years I usually heard (in person) at least two - three great performances yearly by your magnificent Minnesota Orchestra. I even fretted through the orchestra's lockout with you. Maestro Vänskä might recognize me as an extremely unsolicited advisor on Mahler.

Your city / cities are so beautiful and attractive in so many arts that visiting there had become one of the joys of my life — and a well-spent part of my budget.

Without getting too far into politics, I seriously question the rationality of the City Council's proposal to replace your police department. Would a closer look at the power and authority of your police union possibly produce better results? Don't you think past and prospective visitors might just refuse to visit if fearing more of your recent street and mob violence — now without a functional police force?

Please consider that not only your own citizens and their tax dollars but also visitors with discretionary dollars might feel differently about Minneapolis under the impression that their recourse to encountering street violence there is . . . what, social workers?

Sincere good wishes to The Land of 10,000 Lakes from The Land of 10,000 Supper Clubs,

Twin Cities fan from

Brookfield, WI

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/14/2020 10:18:21 AM

We are writing to strongly OPPOSE the proposed charter amendment to remove the police department from the city charter. We are truly saddened by the killing of George Floyd and we are in need of significant reform of the police department, but defunding the police is not the answer. As 60 year residents of Mpls, we have never felt so unsafe. We are in need of more police patrolling of our city, not less. Please do not approve the inclusion of this charter amendment in this election cycle. More time is needed to determine how to properly police this city.

Ward 13

7/14/2020 10:21:11 AM

Police reform is essential to making the city a safer place for all its residents. If anything has been exposed during this time of global unrest it is that the police system is broken. We need big fixes and we need the quickly, and we will not rest until we see change

Ward 3

7/14/2020 10:25:04 AM

Let the citizens of Minneapolis vote on police reform on the November ballot!

Ward 10

7/14/2020 10:25:52 AM

Any proposal should not put a new department under the jurisdiction of the Minneapolis City Council.

Ward 9

7/14/2020 10:31:10 AM

I see no reason for a rushed Charter Amendment. Research, community input, and ideas can be proposed over the next 9 months without an Amendment. Then, and only then should the appropriate Amendment can be brought forward.

Ward 11

7/14/2020 10:42:57 AM

We don't want City dollars funding intimidation and scare-tactics! Immediately cut funding for special operations, the canine unit, and the mounted patrol.

MPD is the only department that has its own records request and communications departments, and they use them to obscure evidence of their crimes. Eliminate MPD's duplicate departments!

We don't need more police, and we don't need the city spending money on police PR to improve MPD's image - our communities know the truth. Immediately defund the Community and Collaborative Advancement program.

Ward 1

7/14/2020 10:48:13 AM

While I do think it's important to have a comprehensive plan, it's my understanding that the process for developing the plan begins once we vote to make this change. I am FOR adding the charter amendment regarding police to this November's ballot.

Ward 8

7/14/2020 10:48:34 AM

I call on the Charter Commission to approve the Charter Amendment proposed by the City Council for inclusion on the ballot this November.

Our community needs change, and I salute the City Council for acting with urgency.

The Charter Commission must act with equal urgency.

Change for the better is possible, and putting the Charter Amendment on the ballot gives all our neighbors a voice on this issue.

Let us vote! Approve the Charter Amendment!

Thank you,

Lynnhurst Neighborhood 55419

Ward 13

7/14/2020 10:54:19 AM

The uprising was a referendum on the police department, even if it didn't take place in City Hall. Thousands of us took to the street; now the Charter Commission must do its job and let the community decide at the ballot box. We can't wait another year.

Ward 8

7/14/2020 10:59:04 AM

I liken allowing this charter to be on the ballot to a charter that makes it possible for Minneapolis to become carbon neutral by 2040. A carbon neutral proposal itself doesn't have to answer all of the questions of how to become carbon neutral by 2040, yet it is meaningful to take the steps to get there, because inaction is killing us. It doesn't say we are banning all dirty pollutants the day after an election. Likewise, I take issue with those who demand that the proposal answer all of the questions for how our city could function without police.

Please let the people decide instead of determining for yourselves what you presume our people want. Likewise, I don't presume to know how people will vote this November. But to prevent the people from voting is to be a barrier to our democracy.

Ward 10

7/14/2020 11:02:19 AM

I am writing to support the inclusion of the "Public Safety Transformation" charter amendment on the November 2020 ballot. I believe it is critical for our city to move this decision forward and get the amendment in front of voters this election cycle. The people of Minneapolis deserve to have their voices heard sooner, rather than later. - Beth Hondl, Minneapolis resident

Ward 13

7/14/2020 11:05:33 AM

I support this change to the charter as a first step. It's important to acknowledge that just changing the organizational structure and name will not really do anything. Systemic change means changing the management approach, incentives, culture, professional expectations, and responsibilities. These changes don't need to be written into the charter, but this change to the charter is just the first step.

Ward 12

7/14/2020 11:10:59 AM

I support the proposed amendment. I think it should go on the ballot THIS YEAR.

We need to act. What could possibly be more democratic than a ranked-choice elected council putting the question back in the hands of EVERY RESIDENT to vote on? Its beautiful. We should do this more often.

Ward 4

7/14/2020 11:19:05 AM

I don't believe the police department should be defunded. I believe there should be some reform and new rules that they must work and obey by. The violence and the shooting has to stop. It's so sad that things have to escalate to that's point but unfortunately it's always white on black. Not all cops are bad and we need them to make our lives safe but once they are reprimanded depending on what it is they should not always get there jobs back. Bob Kroll should not be in the job he is in because the bad cops always get their jobs back and they don't deserve that.

Ward 13

7/14/2020 11:40:17 AM

As a long-time resident of Minneapolis I join thousands of others in the demand for immediate Police Department reform.

I am nonetheless opposed to referring this amendment to the City Charter to voters in November until/unless a more comprehensive, detailed alternative plan is made available for review by all Minneapolis residents.

Ward 2

7/14/2020 11:50:27 AM

I believe the citizens of Minneapolis have a duty and a right to vote on the charter amendment for changes in the policing of us. We have the right to vote how we want our city protected.

Ward 12

7/14/2020 12:04:25 PM

Background: I am a long time resident of Minneapolis and been an avid follower of public policy issues in the City. I have congratulated myself on being an informed, progressive voter but I realize now that is insufficient. I strongly support major restructuring of public safety in Minneapolis. My original reaction to the proposed amendment was that we should know the details of the new department before voting on a charter amendment. I have read and listened and thought deeply. I now believe time is of the essence, and we need action. NOW. We the voters do not need to be protected by the Charter Commission from a proposed amendment. I am less than thrilled with the branding of "defunding" but I am willing to live in discomfort and participate in public discussion as charter and ordinance changes are debated in a process by an accountable City Council.

Timing: The Charter Commission should immediately move forward with a proposed change to the Charter by the August deadline...either the City Council version or one of your own. The Charter Commission is not elected. Personal preferences of the commission members about proposed changes are not relevant. Voters should have the right to decide. If it fails, then there will be next steps. Do not let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

Charter Amendment Content:

1. The police department should be treated in the Charter like any other department. Almost all departments are not defined in detail in the Charter. I support the creation of a new Public Safety Department.
2. If it is necessary to detail qualifications of the department head, the language should be written in as general a way as possible so the current police chief would at least qualify to be considered. (I'm not sure why this is required since the Mayor and Council have to approve the person anyway.)
3. The language should provide for armed law enforcement either through the new department or through a joint powers agreement with other jurisdictions and with no required #'s of officers.
4. The language of the amendment should provide only minimal detail and only provide for a general structure and authority for the new structure to be created by city ordinance.

I am aware these are complex issues. I am aware that there are changes to state legislation that are needed. I am less than comfortable that our politicians have it right yet. However, I believe it is critical for the Charter Commission to move some amendment back to the City Council and not provide for a pocket veto by asking for more time.

Ward 13

7/14/2020 12:13:38 PM

Dear Charter Commission,

The uprising was a referendum on the police department, even if it didn't take place in City Hall. Thousands of us took to the street; now you must do your job and let the community decide at the ballot box. We can't wait another year.

As a white citizen of this city, I demand that you let the citizens of this city vote on this Charter Amendment. Let democracy work.

Thanks for your time

Powderhorn Park

Ward 9

7/14/2020 12:27:35 PM

With respect to the proposed change to the Minneapolis City Charter regarding changes to the police function I have the following comments.

My comments may be summarized as two points and a request.

The charter change is not needed as a pilot of the police department changes may be tried under the current charter without binding Minneapolis to an untried and uncertain future.

The proposed change allows the city council too much freedom to do whatever they want with the policing function, therefore, please reject the proposed charter change request. Thank you.

The charter change is not needed. The City Council can do much of what they want to do now without changing the city charter.

The current charter specifies a minimum number of police/peace officers per city resident. "7.3.(c) Funding. The City Council must fund a police force of at least 0.0017 employees per resident..."

Estimated number of Minneapolis residents in 2019 was 429,606 (source Minneapolis – Wikipedia from Google search). Number of police employees required by charter is $429,606 \times 0.0017 = 730$.

The current police force is estimated to be 800+ employees including supervisory and civilian workers well in excess of the charter required minimums.

Diverting funding for the "excess" police workers into social workers, mental health workers, and non-sworn response workers can be done with existing funding and still keep the city in compliance with the existing charter. I do not consider this a good idea, but it is entirely doable within the current charter language. It would, however, allow for a trial of the proposed new police structure which I consider a benefit.

The proposed charter changes do not require a minimum number of police workers.

Defining language from the proposed charter change states "7.3.(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 definitions of “adequately”, “establish”, and “maintain” are left to the reader’s imagination. The city council could create a minimum wage, one-person Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention and declare that they have met the charter requirement with no legal mechanism to dispute the claim.

Thank you.

Ward 12

7/14/2020 12:38:45 PM

The city council does not speak for me, or my friends and family. We want police in our neighborhood. Domestic and homeless calls can escalate so quickly when you add alcohol and drugs to the mix....I don’t see how you can put a social worker into those situations and ensure their safety. The city council does NOT have a plan. You owe it to public safety to stop this emotional tantrum. We need to support our police. We have judged all the officers on the force by the actions of one officer....and yet the good police officers still show up everyday to protect us.

Ward 2

7/14/2020 12:39:06 PM

Hello Charter Commission,

I am writing to encourage you to DENY the City Council request to put on this fall’s ballot the amendment of the charter to revise the policing structure in Minneapolis.

This plan is not thought out, and there is too little time for public discussion. The public cannot be adequately informed about what the next steps will be. The council itself does not know and cannot define the next steps. A move of this magnitude, with such dire consequences for the citizens of this city, should not be undertaken so quickly.

Perhaps there might be merit to the change. Perhaps the city has ideas about what to do next. If so, let’s hear them and discuss them. Vote on a charter change next year, along with the city election.

Thank you for denying this request to change our Minneapolis Charter.

Ward 10

7/14/2020 12:43:07 PM

City Council: keep your word. Last fall the Council told us to wait until it was more politically viable to fund alternatives, then they gave MPD a raise. Now MPD has killed George Floyd. We need to tell the Council to put its money where its mouth is.

Pay & protect workers. No more wage freezes, furloughs or firings. No cuts to Labor Standards Enforcement. Cut from the MPD budget and pay and protect workers instead.

Homes for everyone. Feeling safe means having a home - if we spent just a fraction of MPD’s budget on housing, we could house everyone in the park sanctuaries.

Defund police terror tools. We don't want City dollars funding intimidation and scare-tactics!
Immediately cut funding for special operations, the canine unit, and the mounted patrol.

No more duplicate, duplicitous departments. MPD is the only department that has its own records request and communications departments, and they use them to obscure evidence of their crimes. Eliminate MPD's duplicate departments!

Defund police PR & recruitment. We don't need more police, and we don't need the city spending money on police PR to improve MPD's image - our communities know the truth. Immediately defund the Community and Collaborative Advancement program.

Ward 8

7/14/2020 12:57:23 PM

It is obvious to me as a citizen of Minneapolis that changes need to be made in policing of the city. However, the quick response to defund or eliminate the MPD is outright irresponsible. A real plan is required. Please present more details to the public on specifics of the new law enforcement organization being proposed. We need to know budgets, services, expected number of people, and in what kind of roles. What are the mission, vision and values of the proposed peacekeeping service? In my opinion, defunding organizations rarely will make them better. The focus should be to demilitarize, reform or replace. The MPD serves a critical function in Minneapolis, and it naive to think that we don't need as many police officers. Defunding the MPD will cause more stress on officers, and more difficulty with relations and crime in our community. To improve the relationship of officers with the community, we likely need more officers with fewer stressful hours, supported by social workers and oversight. I implore our political leaders to look at this more broadly, and to present the information to the public before making rash decisions the fate of the MPD or the city. Weakening the role of the mayor with respect to law enforcement leadership will not serve the public well, as the city council will be far less accountable to the voters.

Ward 2

7/14/2020 12:59:09 PM

We have to change policing in this city, and that work can't be done if we continue funding the same amount of officers. Please remove the requirement in the charter about the minimum numbers of officers allowed. It's literally the least we can do to start the change we want to see in our city. We need to take the money and spend it on community-driven solutions. Put it forward and let us vote!

Ward 9

7/14/2020 1:00:33 PM

The residents of Minneapolis have every right to vote on the issues that concern the future of our city and the wellbeing of our community members, specifically the safety of our Black community members. Not allowing us to vote on this amendment in November would be a violation of our rights to have our voice heard, and would be a direct statement to our Black community members that their lives don't matter.

Ward 9

7/14/2020 1:03:04 PM

I advocate the route of a public vote on the Charter Amendment which proposes a well structured, data oriented, Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention. I have been studying the history and interlacing connections between policing, racism and incarceration through the resources of the Episcopal Church (EPPN, etc), ISAIAH, NAACP, and SURJ, among others. My stake in the white peoples's work of dismantling racism and promoting the Beloved Community is this: I am a retired Minneapolis School teacher with 20plus years teaching beloved multi-racial and multicultural students at Sanford Middle School, a grandmother of biracial kids, and an advocate for racial justice in my church community: Sts.Luke&James-a newly blended family. I am a product of Minneapolis Public Schools, Carleton College and a long time resident of South Minneapolis.

Ward 11

7/14/2020 1:10:03 PM

Get this amendment on the ballot, please! It's time for change. We are watching. Be on the right side of history.

Ward 1

7/14/2020 1:13:17 PM

I would like to comment that I strongly support the proposed charter amendment. Attempts at making incremental changes at the MPD have failed, likely due to a culture of racism, misogyny, and a general lack of professionalism. Obviously, the well-documented instances of racist policing are argument enough for disbanding the department. However, it is important to discuss MPD's other failings, which are numerous. The MPD has solved only 56% of murders in our city. In 2018 the case clearance rate for rape cases was only 22%. Recently I read an article in the Star Tribune about the open air drug market on 18th and Lake — the MPD's recommendation was essentially for the neighborhood to organize a watch and handle it themselves. It seems MPD is designed only to harass poor people and minorities, and not actually create a safer environment in our city. If the charter commission refuses to allow a vote on the charter change, they will be squandering a rare moment of civic engagement and activity. This is a golden opportunity to make a lasting improvements to public safety in this city. We need this issue on the ballot!

Ward 12

7/14/2020 1:14:39 PM

Please do not adopt this proposal. This has been pushed through without consent of the governed. My City Council member took steps to support a dramatic change to our charter with sufficiently taking feedback from all of her constituents. While this may end up on the pallet for popular decision making purposes, it is far too fast.

This is an amendment to our charter and we are attempting to send this through at light speed. There is no plan. There is no formal proposal. We are simply going to abolish the police and hope for the best. This is the definition of overreacting to something. No formal entity where it be business, government,

nonprofit or other should ever amend something so important like this without first taking time to consider every possibility. We are playing a dangerous game with public safety.

My opinion: Strike this down. Ask the Council to take a reasonable time to consider, generate a framework and shop amongst the citizens. Consider this through the formal timelines and decision process. This should not be rushed, but rather thoughtfully considered.

Thank you!

Ward 8

7/14/2020 1:15:19 PM

Please put this charter amendment on for the November 2020 election. We all know this amendment does not eliminate the police department but will create an avenue for more accountability for the MPD and to create more community oriented alternatives to what we have right now.

Ward 10

7/14/2020 1:16:21 PM

When it comes to policing in Minnesota, many people have defended MPD by labeling the individual officers directly responsible for murder and brutality as, "a few bad apples." My response to those that support this line of reasoning is to consider what it means to be a part of a system that does not hold those 'bad apples' accountable. Unfortunately, this is an all too common way of justifying corrupt systems in the United States, and I for one, am tired of it. To be complicit, is to accept the system, which is to accept racism and oppression as its foundation and practice.

There is growing support for our current public safety system, which represents and works for few, to be replaced with a reimagined system created by the people that works for the people. An indication of this support is that all 12 city council members have come out in favor of putting the City Charter amendment on the November ballot. This is a tremendous victory for Minneapolis, and a hard-earned win for the advocates, organizers, and residents who support the effort to transform the way we facilitate safety in this city, including efforts to defund the MPD. Our current model is clearly not working, and as reflected by the unanimous City Council support, few believe it is. Minneapolis is tired of a broken MPD, and people are beginning to recognize the value in investing in our communities in alternative ways, such as in housing, mental health, and harm reduction programs. Yet, the allocation of funds hasn't changed. So, what can we do?

We can vote. Counterintuitively, however, we can't vote if the City Charter amendment is not on the ballot this coming November. Without the amendment, our constitutional right to vote is compromised. The Charter belongs to the people of Minneapolis, so why do a small group of bureaucrats get to determine the Charter's fate, and consequently, the fate of public safety in Minneapolis? The lives of Minneapolis residents are directly impacted by this decision, and we deserve to take our lives into our own hands. It is time to let our voices be heard.

Ward 1

7/14/2020 1:18:25 PM

Dear City Charter Commissioners,

I want to urge you to act quickly and push the proposed charter amendment to be put onto the November 2020 ballot. As a community member of Minneapolis for the past 14 years, I have seen an unending string of police violence towards myself, my neighbors, and my fellow community members. I have also seen city councils' and mayors' futile attempts to reform the MPD over and over again, failing to stop the harm that the MPD inflicts on our community rather than upholding their promise to protect.

The current city council has pledged to fix this problem in a new way - to try something we haven't tried yet - and I applaud and whole-heartedly support this effort. This is a time of unprecedented crisis. It must also be a time of unprecedented changes and work to fix the most broken parts of our systems in order to move forward with clear vision and support for all of our community members. We cannot afford to leave anyone behind right now. The city council has pledged to create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention, but they can't do that without changes to the charter.

The city charter is a document that is meant to protect and serve all of our community. Because the charter currently protects and prioritizes our unaccountable and out-of-control police department, the city council's hands are tied on their ability to fix this problem.

You must allow the people of the city of Minneapolis, the people who voted for this council, and the people who live in fear of the MPD's brutal and racist tactics to decide for ourselves whether we want to remove the charter requirement for the minimum number of police. We must forge new and bold solutions if we want to survive this uncertain future. And the people of Minneapolis deserve the right to vote on our future and our survival.

Justice cannot wait another year. In a democracy, the people determine our future at the ballot box. Give us our right to vote on the proposed charter amendment. Then you, too, will be able to express your opinions on it. Right now, it is not only inappropriate for you to air your concerns, but it is Not Your Job. Please do your job, pass this amendment to the ballot box, and give the people of Minneapolis a chance to express our democratic rights and determine what kind of city we want.

Thank you.

Best

Ward 9

7/14/2020 1:19:12 PM

After what has happened in the city over the past months, the citizens must be able to have a say on the fate of the Police Department.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/14/2020 1:22:23 PM

The people who voted for this proposal are yet another perfect example of Nassim Taleb's 'skin in the game' theory - you will almost certainly be terrible at implementing effective reform.

Please try to be better, try to slow the divisive pendulum swinging down, rather than appease a noisy mob.

Ward 4

7/14/2020 1:24:21 PM

Dear Charter Commission,

I have been a Minneapolis resident for 27 years and have owned a home here since 2004. I am writing to express my support of the amendment to city charter to allow for the creation of a Dept. of Community Safety and Violence Prevention and to remove the requirement of a relationship with the Minneapolis Police Department. As a Minneapolis resident I do not trust the MPD to keep the community safe. I do not believe that any amount of reform will stop the killing of Black people by the Minneapolis Police Department. I want the opportunity to work with my community to create something different. I want the charter to do its job to allow this democratic process to happen by approving the amendment on the November ballot so the people can decide. This is an historic opportunity. Please do the right thing.

Ward 12

7/14/2020 1:45:28 PM

I fully support the proposed amendment. I viewed the charters video recording of the last meeting, and heard the two commissioners alternate offers. The idea of having a two year pilot project I believe was answered in the council members response that they have conducted several pilot projects and have enough data to support this level of overhaul. My feeling is, anything to negate this amendment based on "Need more data" is not looking at the existing data.

Also, a comment was made in the meeting that the council has the power it has and should use it. After which a list of it's current power was given. One of which had to do with it's ability to request reports to conduct oversight. And in the councils overview, they explicitly said they have made several requests for reports and received none.

Therefore, the paper trail method isn't working. The responsibility rested on those who were required to supply reports and be scrutinized. But when one declines the request, and the remaining measures are inadequate or burdensome, then that is why nothing gets done.

With regard to the council having too much power, and no one to conduct oversight on them...That is probably the most obvious issue to take on and point to the fact that the council operates in the public domain, is elected, is more accessible, more transparent than the existing structure of police oversight. So this argument is baseless and not helpful.

Which goes into my next note: I also agree with the council members who argue they receive more feedback from a much wider sampling of the community. If there is any argument to be made, I'd like to see the number of emails and phone calls your committee receive compared to theirs, Both annually,

and topic specific. If anyone is going to say they have the voice of the people in mind. Put the numbers up and show us, please. And to be clear, you need to show communication around this topic from before this amendment was discussed, as well as after. To show an accurate reading of the data. I'm willing to bet your committee, because of it's lack of visibility, the lack of the public even knowing our voices could be directed towards your office, receives far FAR fewer communications. And I'd be curious to hear some ideas of how your committee can be more transparent and available since the times we're in are so transformative.

Ward 12

7/14/2020 1:48:56 PM

I fully support the proposed amendment. I viewed the charters video recording of the last meeting, and heard the two commissioners alternate offers. The idea of having a two year pilot project I believe was answered in the council members response that they have conducted several pilot projects and have enough data to support this level of overhaul. My feeling is, anything to negate this amendment based on "Need more data" is not looking at the existing data.

Also, a comment was made in the meeting that the council has the power it has and should use it. After which a list of it's current power was given. One of which had to do with it's ability to request reports to conduct oversight. And in the councils overview, they explicitly said they have made several requests for reports and received none.

Therefore, the paper trail method isn't working. The responsibility rested on those who were required to supply reports and be scrutinized. But when one declines the request, and the remaining measures are inadequate or burdensome, then that is why nothing gets done.

With regard to the council having too much power, and no one to conduct oversight on them...That is probably the most obvious issue to take on and point to the fact that the council operates in the public domain, is elected, is more accessible, more transparent than the existing structure of police oversight. So this argument is baseless and not helpful.

Which goes into my next note: I also agree with the council members who argue they receive more feedback from a much wider sampling of the community. If there is any argument to be made, I'd like to see the number of emails and phone calls your committee receive compared to theirs, Both annually, and topic specific. If anyone is going to say they have the voice of the people in mind. Put the numbers up and show us, please. And to be clear, you need to show communication around this topic from before this amendment was discussed, as well as after. To show an accurate reading of the data. I'm willing to bet your committee, because of it's lack of visibility, the lack of the public even knowing our voices could be directed towards your office, receives far FAR fewer communications. And I'd be curious to hear some ideas of how your committee can be more transparent and available since the times we're in are so transformative.

Ward 12

7/14/2020 2:08:03 PM

Allow the people to vote for police reform

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/14/2020 2:18:56 PM

I am grateful that the city council is moving forward on their promise to defund the police. I am calling for the charter to be amended, and for the new department to be completely revolutionary- a focus on deescalation, support, and restorative practices. I do not want a department with a new name that is neo-police. I do not want the current officers working for this new department. I want \$45 million police budgeted dollars to go toward affordable housing, education, and mental health support in our cities. Now is the time for our city council to make these changes that will positively impact us now and for generations to come. Now is the time for you to build your legacy! Let's do this.

Ward 2

7/14/2020 2:24:32 PM

I absolutely do not support the proposed amendment. The counsel is trying to push this through at warp speed because of their failure to address in a timely manner . They are attempting a power grab on the heels of emotional turmoil

following the murder of another black man by the police department . I fully support reform in policing and within the police department but this is not the answer . Since the counsel members flowery photo op in the park to announce the goal to disband the police department the entire city is in upheaval. Violent crime has skyrocketed and they cannot even deal with that let alone come up with a new form of policing . This is dangerous, flippant, grandiose posturing and a complete let down to the city . Something needs to be done about policing but throwing this out at the last minute is not leadership. They are trying to save face in the wake of abject failure to address the issue in a meaningful way. Please to not push the proposed amendment through.

Ward 12

7/14/2020 2:31:19 PM

To the Charter Commission,

I am a youth and disability law attorney in Minneapolis. I have worked in positive youth development for almost a decade. I also used to work in felony sentencing in Ramsey County Attorney's Office. I have represented people in criminal expungements and represented the State in criminal expungements. We are systematically killing and disenfranchising our beloved community in the name of white public safety - not true public safety. We must amend the charter to begin the process of defunding the Minneapolis Police Department. The people have spoken in numbers in response to George Floyd's murder. We are ready to try new ways to heal conflict in our community and to address the racism inherent in the policing of our communities. Please listen to us, please honor our requests, please approve the amendment. We are counting on you.

In Solidarity,

Ward 7

7/14/2020 2:31:37 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

I ask that the Minneapolis Charter Commission vote against the proposed amendment to the City Charter 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. Additionally, it would decrease public safety now, and it doesn't 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. Then this issue can be brought to the voters.

Ward 10

7/14/2020 2:34:33 PM

As a residence of the Mpls and Ward 9 I want the Charter Amendment to go forward to be put on the ballot this November for a vote. We have the right to vote on this and to try something new. The Police dept. have shown they believe it is their duty to kill folks. This is also a belief that other community member uphold which is removed from protecting and serving the community. Police respond to crime they do not prevent it. Having a community with resources they need prevents crimes. I do feel safe when the place show up. My house was broken into in August of 2018 and everything was trashed and things were stolen. I was shaken to the core from this violation of my home. When the police showed up they were not helpful, nor did they show emotional support or understanding for what I a single mother was going through. In stead they said I contaminated the evidence as I was walking out of my house when they arrived. I live a 2 few blocks from the 3rd precinct. There were finger prints all over the windows the thieves let themselves through. The police did nothing but question me, tell me essentially all they can do is write a report.

I have never lost a family member to police violence. I have been racially profiled and asked by MPD officers if I have my green card. I was born in the Mn. I have been pulled over blocks from a stop sign I was accused of going through at 10pm at night after driving home from night class in North Mpls in 2012. This ticket was thrown out in court. There are many stories across the city where the Police don't make people feel safe or protected. We need to try something new. This old model of Policing by the MPD is obsolete.

Longfellow

Ward 9

7/14/2020 2:34:57 PM

I support changing the charter and dismantling the Minneapolis Police Department and creating a system of interrelated safety offices that respond to the diverse problems of our city. I support this defunding and dismantling being guided by community members with experience in these areas. As a white woman married to a Black man I have seen first hand the effects of the MPD as my husband was

pulled over in his work van and detained for 15 mins in the back of a police cruiser on his way to work at 7am for no reason. The officer taunted him while patting him down by whispering in his ear- "Resist" We filed a complaint and nothing was done. This story is of course only one countless stories that led up to George Floyd's murder on camera in the middle of the day and the ensuing uprising caused by so much collective trauma, grief and rage. My husband and I have a five year old child and we want to raise her in a city that is not at the whim of a militarized police force that continues to harass, harm and kill the very people it is supposed to serve and protect. No half measures will do. The people of Minneapolis deserve real safety and the time is now for a bold and anti-racist, anti-oppression way forward. Thank you, Ellen Hinchcliffe

Ward 12

7/14/2020 2:38:50 PM

I support moving the public safety charter amendment to the ballot in November in order for Minneapolis voters to weigh in on the reimagining of public safety in Minneapolis.

Ward 13

7/14/2020 2:41:19 PM

I support the proposed charter amendment. This is long overdue. Organizations like CUAPB have done extensive work in identifying and moving the community's energy towards the practical aspects of the proposed amendment. The community is ready for this change and we will put in the time and effort required to make it successful. We also have many other places to look to for guidance, including Eugene, OR and their team of mental health professionals (CAHOOTS, at White Bird Clinic) that work to respond to appropriate crises.

I urge the council and all involved to move past the ideology of police as a protective organization. There are many who are concerned about a supposed uptick in violence recently but we have not even yet begun to defund the police. This argument is not valid. Police officers themselves are reporting PTSD from the protests--perhaps being an officer is not good for even the people in those roles. Individual police officers may in fact do a lot of good for our communities, especially if they are empowered to use critical thinking and compassion in serving the community as a member of a new organization, one that serves our city with transparency and forward-thinking. We all need something new--let's get this amendment on the ballot!

Ward 1

7/14/2020 2:44:26 PM

I am a white woman, with all the privilege that comes with. Encounters I have had with the police have been neutral is not cordial. The last two times I was pulled over, it was for a burned out headlight. I was only given a warning, a friendly suggestion to take care of it soon, and a goodbye. I've never needed to think twice about whether I should call the police when I thought I needed to (an action I am now reconsidering).

My experience of friendly police does not negate the lived experiences of black and brown citizens who have from a young age been necessarily taught that police are a source of harm, humiliation, and unjust treatment. My experiences are no more viable or worth listening to than that of BIPOC. It's time to make room and listen to their voices and their push for change.

By understanding our history of slavery, legalized discrimination and racism, and the formation of second class citizenship, we begin to understand the need for monumental change to our ways of running our city, our ways of governing, our ways of embodying white supremacist ideology.

It is time to open the door to meaningful systemic change by amending our Charter, decreasing the funding and power of the MPD, and creating new departments for community engagement and violence prevention.

Ward 1

7/14/2020 2:45:29 PM

I've been involved in and privy to a lot of conversation regarding the City of Minneapolis charter on police and public safety. I've been asked on multiple occasions how Black folks in Minneapolis feel about the potential change. I have a healthy ego, but even at its healthiest, I would never presume that I could adequately speak for the rich and deep, nuanced and brilliant Black experience or opinion in our great city.

We will have a wide variety of thoughtful and valued opinion on this subject, robust argument even, as it should be.

One thing I do know, with a high degree of certainty, Black folks hold their right to vote, their piece of self-determination, we hold that opportunity as sacred. Black people have a long history of valuing that franchise. So I think I can accurately reflect one consensus – We do not need an appointed commission or people we've never seen or voted for or spoken to, from anywhere but our neighborhood telling us they will vote for us, or deny us the opportunity to cast our own vote. We deserve our own up or down, our own yes or no.

There is only one major comment I have for the charter commission – No one elected you to speak for me, and I demand the opportunity to speak for myself. I want my vote on my city charter and I want it as soon as possible. That is my voice and my choice, up or down, it is mine not yours.

Ward 4

7/14/2020 2:50:46 PM

Please add the police charter amendment to the November ballot so residents can vote on this change.

Ward 3

7/14/2020 2:52:45 PM

The people deserve to have a say on this. The Charter Commission is unelected so they should not stand in the way of this referendum.

Ward 7

7/14/2020 2:56:37 PM

Our current rigid Minneapolis city charter makes a meaningful discussion of police department transformation impossible. Many voices in the community feel that there is undue haste to get the Minneapolis Charter Commission to place a revision of policing and public safety on the November ballot. Many feel the community has not been heard. But it's the charter language itself that keeps us in a box. The Council wishes to change the language to grant some freedom in exploring options. As a thirty-year home-owner in Minneapolis I agree with the Council.

For this reason the Minneapolis City Council on June 26 unanimously put forward language to change the City Charter. In its present form, the charter is a barrier to vitally needed changes in city security and well-being following George Floyd's murder. Council members want voters on November 3 to have a say in how the protection of Minneapolis citizens can be best improved. The new language continues to allow for a law enforcement division with licensed officers. In addition, however, it emphasizes a holistic, public-health oriented approach to violence prevention.

Business and other groups say that they want the community to come together to envision new methods of public safety and policing. But City Council members are right to suspect that a robust discussion with citizens within the rigid confines of the current city charter would be disingenuous. For example, the current charter stipulates police staffing and funding at a set level of about two officers per 1,000 city residents. The Council and the City cannot deviate from this as it stands now. Let the voters decide if this broader conversation and reimagining can go forward.

Signed

Ward 12

Same letter attached.

7/14/2020 3:06:16 PM

I support removing MPD from the existing Charter and adding a Dept of Community Safety. The new department must be radically different. We must divest from policing and invest in affordable housing, non-car transportation options, education opportunities for youth and adults. A climate justice perspective is critical to all of these elements. We must divest from a police department that terrorizes BIPOC residents through bodily and emotional harm.

Ward 2

7/14/2020 3:10:06 PM

It's time to put the community in Minneapolis before police and their unions.

If the murder of George Floyd didn't make things clear enough, the MPD's response to protests certainly did.

The police no longer protect and serve.

They should be abolished and defunded, and those resources should be allocated to departments that actually help the citizens of Minneapolis.

Of course this is also true every major city in the country, including Chicago where I reside.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/14/2020 3:13:31 PM

Please DO NOT change the city charter to eliminate the MPD in favor of a vaguely described "Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention"! Especially in this time of increased violence in our beloved city. Yes - major reform of the MPD and how it functions is desperately needed, but do not abolish it.

Thank you

Ward 3

7/14/2020 3:18:29 PM

Speaking for myself as a white person, I have become unsure whether calling the police to a given situation will do greater good or harm. It would be reasonable to assume that people of color in Minneapolis face a similar question. In light of this current situation, as well as the Minneapolis Police Department's long history of racism and unwillingness to be held accountable in the face of multiple incidents and ensuing pushes for reform, I think it's best the police department be removed as a charter department and replaced with a community safety and violence prevention department. The new department would oversee a division of law enforcement services, but it would be answerable to the city council, not a police chief or police union. Its focus would be primarily prevention and restorative justice and it would do a better job of growing our communities.

Ward 9

7/14/2020 3:34:26 PM

I am commenting to support the charter amendment to create a new Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention. MPD murder, violence and brutality is well documented in this city, and no-one is questioning that it is a problem. The history of the MPD shows that reforms have been attempted and have not succeeded. Reforming the MPD is not the answer. The answer is to rethink what public safety is and to do it outside of the policing model which has caused so many unnecessary deaths. I call on the Charter Commission to hear the voices of the public and support the charter amendment.

Ward 9

7/14/2020 3:40:28 PM

Thank you for being stupid. Because of your thinking and actions, many more people will vote for Donald Trump this November than they did in November of 2016 and you are all way too dumb to see that. So again, THANK YOU!!!

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/14/2020 3:46:36 PM

My name is [REDACTED] and I would like to voice my strong support for the Public Safety Transformation charter amendment. I urge the Charter Commission to give our community the chance to vote on the amendment by placing it on the ballot. The uprising we have witnessed over the past two months was a major referendum on the MPD, even if it didn't take place in City Hall. I ask the members of the council to do your jobs and let our community decide. We cannot wait another year to take concrete steps toward real change. I want the chance to vote "yes" on the amendment because it is of the utmost importance that we build a Department of Community Safety that truly helps us ALL feel safe in our city. This is a matter of life and death.

Ward 10

7/14/2020 3:48:53 PM

Remove the police department as a required department in Minneapolis. The police system was designed to target and harm black people, and poor people. This is unacceptable. At the very least the charter must not include the police dept as a required dept, but ultimately it should be defunded and entirely dismantled/abolished. In addition, this amendment must be put on the november ballot so mpls residents can vote on it (although understand that the voting system disproportionately does not include everyone that resides in minneapolis)

MPD's budget must be cut \$45 million. And an emergency budget should fund our communities' urgent needs.

1. City Council keep your word - Last fall the council told us to wait until it's more politically viable to fund alternatives, they gave MPD a raise, and MPD killed George Floyd. We need the council to put your money where your mouths are.
2. Pay workers - No more wage freezes, furloughs or firings. Cut at least \$45 million from the MPD budget and pay city workers instead.
3. Homes for everyone - Feeling safe means having a home. Let's spend a significant part of MPD's budget on housing, everyone in the park sanctuaries could have housing.
4. Defund and abolish police terror tools - Immediate cut funding for and stop special operations, the canine unit, and the mounted patrol.
5. No more duplicate, duplicitous departments - MPD is the only department that has its own records request and communications departments, and they use them to obscure evidence of their crimes. This is unacceptable.
- 6 Defund police PR & recruitment - We don't need more police, and we definitely don't need police handing out footballs trying to convince us they're trustworthy. Immediately defund the Community and Collaborative Advancement program.

Ward 6

The MPD, which neither “protects” or “serves,” is a failed organization, and public safety in Minneapolis is a failed system.

The brutal and callous murder of George Floyd was unique in that it was methodical and captured on film. But the obvious disdain, for both George Floyd’s life, and for the public spectacle of it, is convincing evidence that the actions of the officers involved were ordinary.

Though the officers clearly understood that they were being filmed, they displayed neither embarrassment nor concern – because, to them, this was just another day at the office. And because they count on their peers, their supervisors, their union, the criminal justice system, the media, and, ultimately, the citizenry – to look the other way.

And it’s nothing new; I’ve lived in Minneapolis for 65 years, and it’s been like this as long as I can remember. In 2001, I served on a taskforce charged with redesigning the Civilian Review Authority. As part of this effort, the taskforce held a series of public hearings where citizens could tell their stories of abuse by the MPD, and their frustration with the CRA.

Citizen after citizen, a racially diverse group, but almost all employed, often well educated, stood before us to share their account of being brutalized by the MPD. We understood that we were only hearing one side of these stories – but wow! These hearings convinced me that the minor tweaks to the CRA that our taskforce ended up recommending (never adopted anyway, due to opposition from the MPD) would never be enough to change the culture of the MPD. And left me unsurprised by the video of George Floyd’s murder.

Having worked in community mental health for forty years, I am also well aware of how poorly the MPD performs when responding to “mental health calls.” I have long argued against the practice of sending armed police officers to respond to a person experiencing psychosis.

The CIT training which the MPD has made available in recent years is well-intended, but too little, too late. A few hours of CIT training cannot, and does not, override the MPD’s “command & control” orientation. Over the years, I’ve heard many MPD officers tell me how “unpredictable” and “dangerous” psychotic individuals can be. But I dealt with psychotic individuals often during my career, including a couple brandishing weapons, and shooting them never crossed my mind.

I’ve been around enough folks experiencing psychosis to understand that psychosis is a terrifying experience – for the individual experiencing psychosis. Uniformed cops with drawn weapons barking orders is almost never an effective strategy for de-escalation. Patience and non-threatening dialog, on the other hand, almost always works. And no one gets hurt.

It will take years to fine-tune our 911 System to the point that we can consistently send professionals skilled in mental health in response to mental health crises, skilled in detox in response to intoxication, skilled in domestic-relations in response to domestic disputes, and in homelessness to assist the homeless. But given the will, we can do it.

I am not some radical lunatic imagining that Minneapolis can get by with zero cops; we will always need a few. But we cannot create the system we need to manage 21st Century problems under a City Charter that ridiculously mandates a certain number of “licensed police officers.” (I assume “licensed police officers” means armed, and “armed,” unfortunately, means a “command & control” orientation.)

We don't, to my knowledge, have prescriptive rules in the City Charter (or similar documents) for how many teachers, social workers or librarians we taxpayers are required to employ, and we shouldn't.

Eliminating this requirement for police officers, at any arbitrary level, is a logical first step toward creating a better Minneapolis.

Retired, Ward 11

7/14/2020 3:54:43 PM

Dear Charter Commissioners,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a Minneapolis resident in Ward 6. I'm writing to demand that the Charter Commission not block the proposed amendment to the city charter. The Charter Commission is an unelected body, and should not impede democratic processes set in motion by the people of Minneapolis. Please, work within the scope of the commission to determine if the proposal is appropriate to the charter.

Ward 6

7/14/2020 4:06:19 PM

Like many Minneapolis residents, I believe we need to transition to a less-violent police culture that uses force only as absolutely necessary. However, the currently proposed charter amendment to abolish the Minneapolis Police Department and transfer control of law enforcement to the City Council feels rushed-through and at the very least, appears to be a way for the City Council to expand their own power. A more detailed plan from the City Council needs to be articulated instead of the "trust us" line that everything will work out just fine after the charter is amended.

Before deciding to pursue a charter amendment, it should be determined whether it is possible to effect many of the needed changes to law enforcement through the existing charter.

If it is determined that a charter amendment ballot measure is the best course of action, I would like to see the Charter Commission explore separating the current proposal into a two-question ballot measure regarding:

- 1) whether the funding requirements for the MPD should be eliminated/reduced
- 2) who should retain executive power over law enforcement: the Mayor or City Council. I believe the executive power should remain with the Mayor.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this very important issue.

Ward 7

7/14/2020 4:07:02 PM

I am very much opposed to the proposed charter amendment to remove funding of the police department. The department needs changes but substantial defunding or abolishing the police will violate our personal security

Ward 13

7/14/2020 4:37:43 PM

I believe it is ill advised to propose a charter amendment regarding public safety when our ward (Ward 6) does not have representation in the city council. I would like to stress that our ward will be one of the most impacted by changes to public safety; therefore, we should have representation during this process. I realize that we will get to vote on the matter, luckily. Obviously many things need to be changed in order to make Minneapolis an equitable place to live and prosper, and creating changes to public safety should be included in this shift. Your effort to enact these changes in direct response to a tragedy is concerning, and leads me to believe the outcome will not be sustainable, as racist police officers are not a new concern. This is a concern that you and the mayor have had many opportunities to address, without obvious success. So I ask you to be thoughtful and pragmatic in your efforts to make Minneapolis more equitable and livable for all. As I am writing this public comment, I am getting a notification that there is a man with a gun walking on our block, threatening to shoot people. This is normal in our ward. It should not be normal. So far our neighborhood has been largely ignored when we have asked for help to create a safer environment. I ask that you don't ignore us now.

Ward 6

7/14/2020 4:37:57 PM

I'm writing to urge the Charter Committee to put the creation of a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department on the November ballot. Minneapolis leaders have talked a lot about making systemic change to how we ensure community safety, but year after year residents end up paying for the violent, criminal actions of our police officers and many residents rightfully fear the very people they must rely on. Aside from killing our residents, we have documented cases of police misusing asset forfeiture, corrupt testimony in prosecution, misleading and false incident reports. Our police department has proven incapable of policing itself. Our city council's "power of the purse" is toothless, and our mayor and police chief have not moved on meaningful reforms. The time is now to address these issues that are at the forefront of our community, and the best way to do that is by engaging voters in a public discussion and then having them voice their preferences at the ballot box. A charter amendment on the November ballot is the most respectful way to give the people of this city a voice in this vital question. Sitting on the discussion this year to put it off and quietly hope it goes away is not an acceptable response. Let the people speak directly on this important issue.

Ward 2

7/14/2020 4:41:36 PM

I am writing today to demand that the Charter Commission accept the proposed amendment to the City Charter and allow the people of Minneapolis to vote to remove the MPD as a required city department and to thus move toward community-led violence prevention and crisis intervention programs. This cannot wait, this has to happen this year: as this pandemic has shown us, the most important thing is early prevention and community care. I wear a mask because I care about my community and so I prevent the spread of whatever germs I carry. You should push this forward to a vote because you are part of this community and you should want to prevent further abuse of power. Defund the police! Take the whole system down and start over, start better! Lack of imagination about what life could be like without police is dangerous and shortsighted. We must be better at imagining a future in which Black people are not abused by our government, where homelessness is decriminalized and unheard of, where people get the resources they need to live AND thrive, and more. I benefit from a lot of privilege myself, both from my skin color and from my economic stability, and I feel deeply uncomfortable around police. Imagine the trauma experienced by our Black neighbors in comparison. There is too much power and too much money in the MPD; it could go to so many other much needed places. Accept the amendment and allow the people of Minneapolis to vote to remove the Minneapolis Police Department as a required city department. I don't know how else to ask people to care about other people, so care about other people please. Don't move forward with fear, move forward with great imagination, and trust Black activists and organizers who have been saying these things all along. Let us vote!

Ward 10

7/14/2020 4:45:25 PM

We demand a \$45 million cut from MPD's budget! An emergency budget should fund our communities' urgent needs!

City Council: keep your word. Last fall the Council told us to wait until it was more politically viable to fund alternatives, then they gave MPD a raise. Now MPD has killed George Floyd. We need to tell the Council to put its money where its mouth is.

Pay & protect workers. No more wage freezes, furloughs or firings. No cuts to Labor Standards Enforcement. Cut from the MPD budget and pay and protect workers instead.

Homes for everyone. Feeling safe means having a home - if we spent just a fraction of MPD's budget on housing, we could house everyone in the park sanctuaries.

Defund police terror tools. We don't want City dollars funding intimidation and scare-tactics! Immediately cut funding for special operations, the canine unit, and the mounted patrol.

No more duplicate, duplicitous departments. MPD is the only department that has its own records request and communications departments, and they use them to obscure evidence of their crimes. Eliminate MPD's duplicate departments!

Defund police PR & recruitment. We don't need more police, and we don't need the city spending money on police PR to improve MPD's image - our communities know the truth. Immediately defund the Community and Collaborative Advancement program.

Ward 8

7/14/2020 4:56:01 PM

I do not support changing the Charter at this time. I would like to see the City Council take time to listen to all citizens of Minneapolis who are asking for more clarity on changes that the City Council wants to implement. There are many people all over the city who are deeply concerned about the safety of our neighborhoods and who are already experiencing significant crime. Reforming the police department and public safety is critical work. I feel that the City Council is rushing forward without doing the hard work needed to do it right. I do not support stripping the Mayor of authority over the police department. The Mayor received the majority of votes in the city and is responsible for providing leadership for all the citizens of Minneapolis, not a select few. Our city council people were elected to represent their wards and do not necessarily represent the best interests of the entire city as the Mayor should. We need one person who is ultimately accountable for public safety, not a committee of people. I will not vote to change the charter unless there is a clear plan with accountability for implementation.

Ward 10

7/14/2020 4:56:07 PM

Hello my name is [REDACTED] and I own a home in South Minneapolis. I am writing to ask that the charter commission let us vote on the proposed amendment to the charter. I strongly believe that the department of community safety and violence prevention will go a long way to ensuring that we start to reverse the course of history slowly but surely, especially for the folks of color and more vulnerable residents of Minneapolis. It is clear to me that the pattern of violence of the police force cannot continue. We need different solutions to our problems. We cannot continue to do the same things and expect change as a result. Let us vote. It's time for change.

Ward 8

7/14/2020 5:00:29 PM

I stand with Black Visions Collective and Reclaim the Block in their efforts to defund the MPD. Communities do not need more policing and police recruitment, which is why I demand that the police be defunded, and the budget is invested in housing.

7/14/2020 5:09:24 PM

MPD does not keep the people of Minneapolis safe! The charter amendment must appear on the ballot this year so the people have the opportunity to vote on it sooner rather than later. You have seen the people taking to the streets en masse, demanding this change even in the midst of a pandemic. It is a risk worth taking because the threat of death by police is on par with the threat of death by COVID-19. We need change in our city NOW. We must be given the option to create new models of community safety and to redirect funds from MPD to other underfunded community welfare systems and infrastructure. Change the charter! Let us vote!

Ward 9

7/14/2020 5:11:33 PM

I appreciate your efforts to reform the Police Department, but I believe that in this time of need, the city should cut the budget of its replacement department(s) and instead protect funding for affordable housing, healthcare, real solutions to violence, and addiction resources.

Ward 10

7/14/2020 5:15:40 PM

The proposed amendment to the City Charter that creates a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and removes the Police Department from the Charter needs to be put on the ballot this year. Opportunities for change are needed urgently and citizens should have the chance to vote on this matter as soon as possible. The Minneapolis Police Department has inflicted immense amounts of harm and violence, particularly on BIPOC citizens. Their power, authority and consumption of resources goes largely unchecked. Change cannot wait. Put the amendment on the ballot this coming November and give residents a fair chance to vote and have our voices heard.

Ward 12

7/14/2020 5:17:07 PM

I believe the matter of whether or not the charter should be amended should be left to the voters. As evidenced by the protests of the past several weeks, there is clearly strong public opinion on the matter. If we are going to call ourselves a democratic society, then the people must have a say in governance, in particular in matters as important as public safety and in budget allocations as large as those associated with policing. In short, I strongly encourage the Charter Commission to put this measure in front of the citizens, and let democracy work.

Ward 7

7/14/2020 5:17:30 PM

Dear charter commissioners,

Please read the attached city and research documents to get accurate data.

I listened to your workgroup call on July 14h. I was deeply disturbed to hear that a commissioner quoted the Star Tribune as facts on the budget, saying that the mayor had made big cuts to the PAL program, and others in the police budget. When, in fact, there have been NO cuts. The mayor only proposed cutting \$50K from MPD, and that would only cut from the "pawn recovery system." All of this information was presented in the 7/9 budget presentation. And, conveniently, the mayor did not correct you. It is deeply unsettling that you, the commission that is in charge of considering this public safety commission, is drastically misinformed. Also commissioners and the chief saying that there is not enough money to pay for reforms shows a deep misunderstanding of the hundreds of millions of dollars spent on reform in Minneapolis over the past 150 years. (And the tens of millions spent in just the past 5 years).

You need to let the people vote on this, because we live in all parts of the city, we know what's really going on, and it's our right.

Ward 9

Attachments:

[Enough is Enough!](#) (MPD150)

[2020 Budget Revisions Staff Presentation \(Jul 10, 2020\)](#)

7/14/2020 5:41:12 PM

Please removed the people the are living in the Powderhorn park our neighborhood is getting out off control and very dangerous. We can not walk close to the park or close to the 38th and Chicago Ave people are so violet they scream to us they said bad staff to us , we can not walk our dogs in peace .Like they said enough is enough please removed those people that are doing more violence please bring peace to our neighborhood we pay our taxes in time . I never felt so unsafe in my life this people are taking advantage now they think they own the streets too. POLICE need to stay make new reform but police need to stay. People drive like crazy we have kids we own our house we need peace in our neighborhood.

Ward 2

7/14/2020 5:41:27 PM

This summer, the Minneapolis City Council stood with members of the Minneapolis community who rose up after the police murder of George Floyd to say "no more" to police brutality. The Charter Commission is an unelected body and should not get in the way of the City Council and, more importantly, of the people. While I believe in defunding the police, I believe even more strongly in democratic control over our public institutions. That means letting us vote on whether to amend the City Charter so that the Charter no longer stands as a barrier to reshaping public safety. That means embracing the energy the City of Minneapolis has for change rather than blocking the progress we so desperately need.

Ward 10

7/14/2020 5:57:07 PM

Good afternoon,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Minneapolis. I am writing in support of the amendment to create a new Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department and to remove the Minneapolis Police Department from the charter.

I have lived in Minneapolis for the past 6 years and watched as the deaths of Jamar Clark and Philando Castile gained national attention and our city led the way in implementing incremental reforms to our police department. Yet in 2020, George Floyd was still murdered by an officer in the middle of the day on camera, while 3 others did nothing to intervene. The racism and anti-Blackness at the core of policing and culture of law enforcement cannot be trained or reformed away. We need radical solutions, the

likes of which we have not seen in our city or nation before. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that we can make effective system-wide changes in a short period of time. This second pandemic of racism, also disproportionately killing our Black and Indigenous citizens, should be met with the same amount of urgency and resources. Removing the MPD from the charter is a critical first step and one with lives at stake. Our city has become the center of a revolution in the aftermath of the pain and violence the police department has inflicted over the past century- let us take on our responsibility to create a new model of community safety and care.

Thank you for your time,

Kaitlyn Sharp

Ward 10

7/14/2020 5:57:33 PM

Hello,

I would like to say that I urge the commission to approve the amendment submitted by the council, and allow it to be on the ballot for November. I fully acknowledge the concern that the commission is being asked to approve this quicker than is typical, but I feel the circumstances call for it. People are motivated, and paying attention. They are in a position to fully consider what they want the future of policing to look like, how they want their public safety to be structured, and putting that off for a year in my opinion would do a disservice to the people of Minneapolis.

Best

Ward 12

7/14/2020 6:09:45 PM

We deserve to be a part of the process. Justice cannot wait another year! Letting us, the people of Minneapolis, vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. We want a city that's actually safe, not one that gives murderers tons of money, lets them get away with it, and empowers them to fill jails with Black and Brown children.

Ward 6

7/14/2020 6:12:15 PM

Dear Charter Commission

I write to you today as an impassioned supporter of the proposed charter amendment as it has currently been written.

I moved to this city 8 years ago I immediately noticed how a well run civic government could alter the quality of life of its citizens for the better. Every aspect of government run life in Minneapolis has been miles beyond what it was when I left my hometown of Nashville, TN. I didn't know I could have it so

good with parks, roads, and transit. There was one aspect however that felt noticeably worse: the Police.

Everything I've experienced personally about the Minneapolis Police Department and everything I've heard and read tells me it is a profoundly dysfunctional organization, and this is as a middle class white man, the very demographic whose whiteness and property the Police are allegedly out to protect and serve. The Minneapolis Police Department has an abysmal clearance rate for murders, rapes, and property crimes. When I was personally the victim of property crime on a Saturday, I was told that the precinct was closed, and that I would need to wait until Monday for an officer to file a report: two days in which I was to wait and was not allowed to use my car with its smashed in window lest I contaminate the crime scene. Meanwhile my gay, black, and latino neighbors all have stories of being harassed for performing no crime by the MPD. None of them have died thank God, but we need to remember that for every Jamar Clark and George Floyd there are hundreds who have been injured but not killed, and for every one of them there are hundreds who have had their dignity stripped from them via police harassment. Again, as a white, middle class man, this is done in my name, for my "protection". If this is what protection means than I spit on it and cast it aside.

A previous meeting of the charter commission suggested that this amendment was all about who had oversight over the Police department, and that it was about moving oversight from the Mayor's office to the Council, which is beyond laughable. There is no oversight of the police department now. I refer the Commission to the fact that at the beginning of his term in office, Mayor Frey banned a style of training commonly referred to as "warrior training", a style of training that seeks to frame an adversarial relationship between the police department and the people they are to police, a style of training that literally spells out ways for police officers to kill people who are doing nothing wrong and what exact words to say to get them off the hook, a style of training that St. Anthony police officer Jeronimo Yanez had gone through before he gunned down a school cafeteria worker named Philando Castile in Falcon Heights. This ban is supposed to represent the kind of oversight that the Mayor's office allegedly has. To this ban, MPD union chief Bob Kroll had the gall to speak to the press about how not only was he not going to honor that ban, he was going to pay for it for any MPD officer who wanted it. He has not been fired or disciplined for defying the Mayor's ban. The amendment is not about changing the hands of oversight, it is about making sure that there is any oversight to begin with.

It is time to show the MPD that they are not untouchable, and the way to do this is to pass the charter amendment as it is currently written. I urge my fellow Minneapolitans on the charter commission to do the right thing and pass it.

Ward 8

7/14/2020 6:27:57 PM

The people deserve the right to choose

Ward 7

7/14/2020 6:31:14 PM

As a Ward 1 and Minneapolis resident for over 10 years, I am 100% in favor of the amendment to the charter. We want a chance to vote on this and engage in community conversation that allows us to decide and map out what safety looks like for our city and all of its residents.

Ward 1

7/14/2020 6:40:17 PM

I am writing to ask that the proposed charter amendment regarding the creation of a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and removal of the Police Department from the Charter be put on the November 2020 ballot. I have been hearing that the members of the Minneapolis Charter Commission are not ready, and/or think that the people of Minneapolis are not ready to vote on this amendment. I am speaking for myself, as well as the many people in my community that I have spoken with about this amendment, when I say we are ready now to vote on this amendment and will definitely be ready by this November. It would be detrimental to our community to have to wait until a year from November to vote on it. The people of Minneapolis want and need these proposed changes to the charter.

Ward 11

7/14/2020 6:42:39 PM

Please support the proposed amendment and add it to the ballot in November to let the communities decide how public safety could be for our future. This is the first step to real change in our city where we people lives could be drastically changed for the better. A re-focus on community and trust versus fear and power.

Ward 1

7/14/2020 6:56:16 PM

I am all for removing the Police Department. However, I believe that the new charter should have more clarity.

I would hope that with the removal of the department results in dissolving the relationship to the police union -- a union said in an interview this year with CNN, "We accept no responsibility of what's going on in our city" (Officer Rich Walker Sr.) and "mean, at the end of the day, if we live in this city, that means we have to shop where criminals that we arrest also shop and, I don't know about you, but I certainly don't want to go to Cub Foods with my two beautiful little girls and run into somebody that I've arrested for sex assault, shooting somebody, using heroin." (Sgt. Anna Hedberg) The police union not only rejects responsibility of what happens in Minneapolis, but they also believe that it is full of criminals.

If the charter is still going to allow for peace officers, they must come from the city. Not only is it important for these Minneapolis employees to be invested in their cities well-being, but it is also important for our tax dollars to go back into our city. With every officer that doesn't live in Minneapolis, that is their entire salary and benefits being funneled into the suburbs.

Law enforcement, specifically peace officers, address symptoms in their work. They do not address our city's mental health crisis, drug problems, or homeless issues. Funding needs to be shifted to housing, healthcare, education, and jobs. This funding needs to be made clear in the charter -- the revision doesn't address any percentages of tax dollars that will go to law enforcement, the new department, or the peace officers. This needs to be clearly stated, and it needs to be much lower than the current police department budget.

Additionally, all those who work under this new department, including any peace officers, should have experience with restorative justice AND public health. It needs to be a clear and actionable demand to hold this new department accountable by.

Finally, peace officer settlements should be made from the departments budget, not from any other city budget area. Otherwise the department would never truly understand how their actions impact the city.

Ward 3

7/14/2020 7:08:55 PM

This deserves to be included on the ballot for voters to choose. The time is now for restructuring public safety.

Ward 1

7/14/2020 7:10:44 PM

Please do not rush this through to put it on the ballot. It's a major issue that will benefit from debate and refinement from a lot more people than a handful of city council members who seem to be pursuing this ideologically, not common sensically.

The City Charter is our city's constitution. It shouldn't be radically revised under the glare of the current politically charged climate.

Yes, there should be changes, but let's do more bottom up consensus building for what should replace the status quo.

Ward 13

7/14/2020 7:13:27 PM

Dear City Charter Commissioners,

Please do your part in allowing the people of Minneapolis to enact much needed change by allowing us to vote on the proposed charter amendment to dismantle the MDP and replace it with a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. You have an opportunity to help make this city safe and equitable to all of the people in it. This is so important and can set a precedent for the rest of the US. I implore you to allow this amendment to be brought to the people.

Ward 9

7/14/2020 7:27:26 PM

I am proposing a both-and approach to changing the criminal justice system for Minneapolis.

1. The policy changes at a State and County level should align with those contained within the "2015-CK-WX-0001, President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing Implementation Guide: Moving from Recommendation to Action". Complimentary recommendations are included in the February 2020 State Working Group "Police-Involved Deadly Force Encounters". Changes to arbitration, incident documentation, and performance improvement are critical policy changes.
2. While policy changes can be made at each level of government, true cultural change in structural racism can only happen at a community level such as in the 3rd precinct, or in the North Minneapolis community. It includes community policing, but it also requires that Individuals who have a stake from diverse perspectives sit with each other, hear each other's stories, visit "Best Practice" sites, and together design an approach that creates safety for all in their community. The city leadership's role in this step is to empower the community stakeholders to own the solution.

Ward 3

7/14/2020 7:33:01 PM

My name is [REDACTED]. I have lived in the Powderhorn neighborhood for the last 5 years. I'm submitting this comment to demand that at least \$45 million is cut from the MPD budget and more in future budgets. In June the City Council publicly promised to disband the MPD and I expect them to honor their word, starting the process with defunding. Immediate cuts to SWAT teams, canine units, mounted patrols, duplicate departments, PR and recruitment are possible, reasonable and needed. Money should be going towards alternative community safety programs, adequate housing for all, health care and other public services. The current budget is unacceptable. It does nothing to address the many serious issues coming to a head and instead will likely exacerbate an already tense situation that has already hit breaking point once.

Ward 9

7/14/2020 7:34:45 PM

I ask that the commission allow Minneapolis voters to vote on the city charter this coming November so that we can have a voice in our own safety. It has been hard to watch people paid to serve and protect us show blatant violence towards protestors, journalists and residents. We must find a better way to build a strong and equitable community together.

Ward 3

7/14/2020 7:37:58 PM

I fully support a broad restructuring of Public Safety in Minneapolis and strongly support and encourage the commission to think boldly of new ways to create services for those in need of safety in Minneapolis.

Ward 8

7/14/2020 8:05:47 PM

Hello- I have been a Minneapolis resident for the last 18 years and currently a Ward 11 resident. I am writing to show my support for the amendment to the charter. We deserve a chance not just to vote on this, but to engage in the in-depth community-building process of dialogue and debate around it too. These are conversations- about public safety, priorities, and investments- that speak to the very heart of what it means to live in a city, to be an engaged member of a community. This is something we desperately need.

Ward 11

7/14/2020 8:10:51 PM

You are a obscure body not elected by the people of Minneapolis do the right thing let us vote. If you fail us you'll forever be remembered in history as a blockade to progress.

Ward 9

7/14/2020 8:16:26 PM

Dear Members of the Charter Commission,

I write to strongly urge the Commission to complete its review of the proposed amendment in time for the amendment to be referred to voters in November 2020. The horrific killing of George Floyd not only exposed the brutal actions of the officers on the scene, but it also highlighted dangerous dysfunctions within the Minneapolis Police Department and the City's current public safety approach that are long overdue for sweeping change. Thousands of Minneapolis residents and millions of people across the world courageously raised their voices calling for the overhaul of systemic racism and police violence.

The Minneapolis City Council responded to calls for change with a vision to transform our city's public safety system to more effectively respond to emergencies and incidences of community harm using a holistic, public health approach. The disgraceful treatment that George Floyd endured from city employees in response to a call about the use of an alleged \$20 counterfeit bill is one example of the many ways our public safety system functions discriminatorily, as well as inappropriately to situations that could be resolved using alternative, dignified interventions and unarmed personnel.

The proposed charter amendment, which includes the creation of Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention, is one step forward that our City Council is seeking to advance systemic change.

Residents of Minneapolis regardless of where they stand on the proposal deserve an opportunity to vote on this amendment this year. The recent historic levels of activism on the topics of public safety and policing in Minneapolis provides a compelling public interest to expedite the process by which the Commission does its work to ensure that voters can take up the proposed amendment this year.

As a Minneapolis resident, I am looking to all bodies of governance in my city to be responsive to this incredible moment when so many neighbors are coming together and raising their voices for change.

Our city's policymakers have put forth a path forward. The Charter Commission should recognize this extraordinary moment, and allow for Minneapolis residents to vote on this measure.

Thank you for your service.

Ward 10

7/14/2020 8:35:11 PM

I am a Minneapolis bankruptcy attorney. In the past several weeks, my office has seen a spike in calls from small and mid-sized Minneapolis businesses inquiring about utilizing bankruptcy reorganization to terminate their commercial leases in the City. Their plan is not to go out of business but to set up shop elsewhere. Many of the potential bankruptcy filers tell me that their concern is not with the recent riots or coronavirus challenges. Their concern is with the lack of clarity about what public safety will look like if the City Charter is changed. The complaints are not so much about the Amendment itself, but with the void it will leave given the Council's failure to articulate and thoroughly study a public safety plan for the future.

Businesses all face inherent risks. I cannot blame them for pulling up stakes given the additional risks posed by the lack of a clear public safety plan. Eliminating the current policing requirements without a detailed replacement plan in place - one that has been studied and vetted in detail - is capricious. When businesses leave jobs leave. Higher unemployment and vacant storefronts generally correlate with higher crime rates. This makes it much harder to serve the laudable racial justice goals that underpin the Council's recent actions.

Let's pump the brakes and outline a safe, feasible, and understandable public safety plan before we rush to amend the City Charter. Doing so would allow Minneapolis businesses to prepare for what's next rather than plan for the worst. It's never wise to burn your house down before you've build a new one.

Ward 12

7/14/2020 8:47:56 PM

I fully support the proposed ammendment. What an incredible idea! Please vote to accept the proposal to rethink the police force in Minneapolis. Peace officers! What a brilliant concept. As it is, the Minneapolis Police Department is atrocious and has managed to attract global(!!) attention for its brutality; attention on more than one occasion, too. Oof. Please, please allow the citizens of Minneapolis to voice their opinion by allowing us to vote this ammendment into law. This ammendment makes me proud of Minneapolis, again, after so much shame. Please support the change we want (need!) to see in the world. Thank you.

Ward 8

7/14/2020 8:51:48 PM

It is absolutely crucial that we, as a city, come together to begin ending racist policing. Because of this, we must put this charter amendment to the vote of the people of Minneapolis in this upcoming election, rather than punting it down the line for years.

The Minneapolis Police Department has proven time and time again that they cannot be trusted to actually protect the city they claim to. The only way we can change that is by amending the charter to allow for the reallocation of resources toward social and other programs that have been proven to more effectively reduce crime and poverty, rather than push communities of color.

This charter amendment must be on this ballot in November 2020.

Ward 2

7/14/2020 9:00:09 PM

If I apply the points of this amendment to the medical field you're basically saying if you were to abolish the medical industry you wouldn't hire anyone who has been to medical school or worked in the medical field previously to perform medical work and services. This makes no sense. We need police officers to manage the crime in this city, which is now increasing since the Mayor let our city burn. Obviously we also need mental health officers in some cases, however this city has many repeat offenders continuously let out onto our streets known as career criminals. To deny this fact is delusional. This amendment will not work and will only hurt impoverished residents of Minneapolis. I am a life long resident and constituent who feels ignored and that my life and property don't matter.

Ward 11

7/14/2020 9:06:15 PM

Please explain the function, responsibilities, affiliations and power of Executive Committee to act in an unbiased and non-partisan manner as per the charter they appear to have our community and citizens in their best interest but are they purely stakeholders in a masterplan to certain agendas? Are said members of the Executive Committee elected or appointed? It appears that this is an opportunity for nepotism or cronyism.

Basically it's like appointing your drinking buddies to advise you on what beer you should drink. Win/Win. This is not a balance of power, it's drunken power.

Ward 11

7/14/2020 9:07:11 PM

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a 23 year resident of Minneapolis. I am submitting comments in support of the city council's Charter amendment to replace the Minneapolis Police Department with a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. I believe the Minneapolis Police Department does not effectively keep Minneapolis residents safe and the City Council's ammendment would allow Minneapolis to begin critical and overdue work of addressing public safety holistically and without force. I urge the charter commission to respond to this ammendment so it can be on our ballots this November. This is something Minneapolis should push forward as soon as possible. Thank you

Ward 8

7/14/2020 9:12:25 PM

The residents of the city of Minneapolis deserve to have the opportunity to vote on the amendment to the charter in November concerning the police and public safety. The MPD already offers trainings for implicit bias, mindfulness and de-escalation. It embraces community policing and officer diversity, bans 'warrior style' policing, uses body cameras, implemented an early intervention system to identify problematic officers, receives training around mental health crisis intervention, and practices "reconciliation" efforts in communities of color. What are the results of what is considered 'progressive policing'? The horrific murder of George Floyd by MPD. The reluctance and delay to take action against the officers involved in that murder is a grave injustice not only to George Floyd and his family but to all residents of Minneapolis. Further, in the protests in reaction to Floyd's murder, MPD's use of tear gas, rubber bullets, and other excessive force against peaceful protesters is disgusting, cruel, and violates international norms. George Floyd's murder and the subsequent protests have demonstrated egregious violations of the MPD, but it's one of many failures.

There are countless advantages for establishing a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department in place of the MPD. The lack of focus on what people really need in conflicts (mental health resources, effective de-escalation, and simple empathy and support) are not demonstrated in the MPD's actions and despite trainings and more trainings and more trainings, the MPD just isn't going to get it. As noted by council member Cunningham, MPD officers admit they aren't the best equipped for a myriad of issues like mental health crises, drug overdoses, and even domestic violence. As a citizen I don't want a person or group of people who are armed showing up to any sort of conflict I might find myself in, especially since the way in which MPD has demonstrated its ability to use guns mimics both militaristic combat and MPD's inability to think about the consequences of pulling a trigger. MPD has proven time and time again they rely on excessive force rather than de-escalation. With ample monetary resources, qualified immunity, and despotic leadership in the police union such as Bob Kroll, there is no positive model for reform in the MPD. Why do we keep increasing the budget to a department that is constantly failing at doing its job? Do we reward people in literally any other industry who fail at their job? Of course not. Do we give more money to people who fail at their jobs? No - we fire these people and reallocate that money to people who actually do their jobs correctly.

Allowing the citizens of Minneapolis the opportunity to vote on the issue of their public safety is not only democracy in action but it's a no-brainer, and it's for all of these reasons I urge the city council to amend the charter.

Ward 1

7/14/2020 9:20:48 PM

I support this amendment. The people must have a chance to vote and vote on it this year. Justice cannot wait. We want a new model of public safety and putting this amendment up for a vote allows the people to shape what that looks like.

Ward 12

7/14/2020 9:26:28 PM

I am writing to express my strong opinion that the Charter Commission should support the proposed charter amendment and recommend that it be put on the ballot for voters to decide in November.

I am a white, Minneapolis resident, and although I live blocks from the Third Precinct, I have had few encounters with the police. Only once has a Minneapolis police officer been inside my home, after a stray bullet came through our bedroom window in the middle of the night. At the time, half-awake, scared and in shock, our first instinct was to call the police; this seemed like the obvious thing to do. Hours later, after a second call to 911 because no one had responded yet, an officer finally arrived. He collected the bullet, took photos of the inside of our home and expressed his frustration at dispatch getting our address wrong and the delay that had caused him. He showed himself around our home, with his body camera recording and his gun on his hip. I remember trying to stay at a good distance, to not follow him too closely as he walked around, afraid of spooking him or somehow inciting him to pull his gun out of its holster. While talking to another officer on the phone, he made side comments to us disparaging her and her work. Finally, he wrote down our case number and told us we should expect some follow-up in the coming weeks. We never heard anything.

For a long time, when I thought about that night, I thought only about how scary it was to have a bullet come through our window. It wasn't until I began to learn about police abolition from the incredible folks at Black Visions Collective, Reclaim the Block and MPD150 that I realized that I could have had a vastly different experience that night, and that another world was possible.

Yes, it was scary for a bullet to come through our window. But what is scarier is that I assumed that my interaction with that officer was normal. For one, as a white person, I know that my experience with that police officer was not the experience that black and brown folks have with police in my neighborhood or in this city. But also - and this is where I've been reflecting after learning about police abolition - why should it be normal to be scared, in your own home, of the person you called to help you? How different would that night be in my memory - and how different would all of our interactions with police have been - if we were met with empathy, care, familiarity and no guns?

One of the things I've been most inspired by while learning about police abolition is that what this moment calls for is for imagination, creativity and diversity of thought. It is clear that our current system of policing does not keep our communities safe. In order to move forward, we need everyone's ideas - however radical or dreamy or wild - to be heard. What an opportunity we have right now to get to reimagine something as critical as keeping our communities safe and connected, and to get to do it together with our neighbors.

I urge you to follow the lead of the black and brown organizers who have been calling for change for too long, and to support the City Council in creating the opportunity for all of our voices to be heard and our imaginations to run wild. Play your part in this process by allowing the charter amendment to be voted

on in November. Join us in reimagining a better, safer and more connected community for ourselves, our neighbors and future Minneapolitans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ward 2

7/14/2020 9:27:07 PM

Charter Commission:

I am a long standing resident of Minneapolis and live in the 2nd ward within a mile of the third precinct and am in favor of allowing Minneapolis voters to have the opportunity to vote on the charter amendment to change the city charter provision impacting oversight of the police department. I believe that the long standing and entrenched culture and problems within the Minneapolis police department require an overhaul of the current system to create opportunities for a different outcome than what has been possible under the current system allows. The residents of Minneapolis, in particular the communities of color who have experienced such violence at the hands of the police, deserve a change. I support officers living in the city. I support officers being accountable to the laws they are sworn to uphold. I support officers feeling safe and supported in their role in Minneapolis. I support gun control. Please don't stand in the way of change. Help us find a way to make things work better for everyone, especially our residents who have suffered injustice and been ignored for so long.

Thank you,

Ward 2

7/14/2020 9:30:24 PM

As a resident of the Powderhorn Park neighborhood of Minneapolis, I have read the proposed city charter revision to remove the Police Department as a charter department and replace it with a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. My neighborhood is one of the higher crime areas of the city, and it is also a neighborhood where dissatisfaction and disgust with current policing practices run deep. I support and understand the necessity of revising the charter to enable an innovative approach to public safety, and I am glad that charter revisions are subject to a referendum process.

Unfortunately, I cannot envision myself voting in favor of the proposed revision. My major concerns are two-fold:

- Transferring high-level responsibility for public safety functions from the Mayor's office to the 13-member City Council could hinder rapid decision-making and responsiveness in times of crisis. Before voting on this approach, I would like to hear some assurances and ideas for how you will avoid the potential logjams of delegating oversight of a complex and vital municipal operation to a group the size of the Council.
- While I am not opposed to subsuming traditional law enforcement roles under the broader umbrella of safety and violence prevention, I believe that the Council is limiting the city's options for finding the best person by insisting that "individuals eligible to be appointed as director will have non-law enforcement experience in community safety services..." Please strike "non-law enforcement" as a

requirement before putting this to a public vote. While a search committee may make that a priority or list it as “preferred” in a position description, it is short-sighted to limit the pool in this manner—especially as we have no experience yet with this new model.

Rather than vote on a charter revision at this stage, I would like to see a non-binding referendum on the general idea of replacing the Police Department with a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention, along with some actual examples provided well before Election Day of what a “holistic, public health-oriented approach” might look like. We voters are very familiar with the strengths and abundant weaknesses of the traditional policing approach. To move beyond it with confidence, however, we need a clearer picture from our city’s leaders of what the future might look like.

Ward 9

7/14/2020 9:57:01 PM

To the Charter Commission,

The Minneapolis City Council has unanimously voted to send a charter amendment on transforming public safety in Minneapolis to the Charter Commission for its review and recommendation for inclusion on the November ballot. I implore you to work intentionally to conduct your review and submit your recommendation - whether yes, no, or a substitute amendment - to the Council in time to be included on the ballot.

The amendment is wholly appropriate for inclusion in the charter; it squarely relates to the establishment, administration and regulation of city government, it does not contravene the public policy of the state of Minnesota, it is not preempted by state or federal law, and it is not in conflict with constitutional or statutory provisions. It is not relevant if members of the Charter Commission do or do not favor the proposed amendment. It should be relevant to you that the amendment removes current charter language - such as prescribing the minimum size of the police force - that is legislative in nature, and is inappropriately included in the charter.

In its deliberation about the proposed charter amendment, the Charter Commission has discussed the amendment with members of the City Council, the mayor and the police chief, and it will hear from the public in multiple public forums and through written commentary. This is a high profile issue, and it will generate considerable informed feedback from the public - even in the relatively quick time frame necessary to include language on the ballot. I find it absurd that the Commission would be considering enlisting a "third-party provider" to conduct some sort of "community survey." It is clear that the most direct way to survey the community would be to allow it to vote in November on this proposal.

The City Council has heard loud and clear from its constituents that the current model of policing is harmful to our community and neighbors, and that public safety must be re-imagined and rebuilt. I ask that you do the task you were appointed to do - review and suggest charter amendment language - and submit your recommendations to the Council with the urgency demanded by the voters and elected representatives in this city.

Seward Neighborhood

Ward 6

7/14/2020 9:58:54 PM

As a resident of Ward 8, I am writing in support of Reclaim the Block's vision for re imagining public safety. The charter commission needs to let community members decide. An amendment to the charter is a step in a long term process. We need a new charter to be able to create transformation that enables a vision and infrastructure to make us all feel safe - transformation that values Black Lives.

Ward 8

7/14/2020 10:10:25 PM

I am writing to voice my support for the defunding if the police department. In order to create true reform and end the systemic racism that has infested the MPD, the department needs to be reenvisioned and funding diversified to support those struggling with mental health issues, homelessness, domestic violence, and addiction. Please work to shrink the power, budget, size, and scope of the MPD.

I support and trust Andrea Jenkins to work in the best interest of our community and hope that the city follows her guidance in this matter.

Best

Ward 8

7/14/2020 10:38:31 PM

Do not amend the city charter in favor of eliminating the Minneapolis Police force .

Ward 9

7/14/2020 10:52:02 PM

Historically, the Minneapolis Foundation has failed at holding police accountable. Mayors, District Attorneys, and Medical Examiners have upheld egregious acts of violence and terror against black and brown people at the hands of police officers who are not fit to serve our communities. Now is the time to let the people in our communities decide if an officer acts in accordance of the law, and if they should continue putting citizens at risk from their inhuman treatment towards the people who live, work, and play within their jurisdictions.

The passing of this amendment will embody three essential principles that are important to remember during this time of social mobilization and the change that's needed in response. First, this amendment will embody a sense of agency. The violence, racism, and injustice workings of the current policing systems need to be eradicated now. No more of our Black community members, brothers and sisters, should have to die because people are dragging their feet. We need to expedite. Second, the importance of a community-centered relationship is embodied. Community narratives and participation has been ignored for too long, and it is time to disrupt injustice systems with community narratives and participation. Third, the question of equity strongly comes into play when changes in large, unjust

systems—like policing—are presented. Be equitable in your decisions by allowing us—the community—to exercise our right to vote on this issue. A vote is just as valuable as yours.

Ward 6

7/14/2020 10:52:37 PM

As a community member and mental health therapist I feel that we (our community) should have a voice in the proposals for police reform. The proposed change should be on the ballot.

Ward 1

7/14/2020 10:55:14 PM

Residents of Minneapolis deserve to be a part of the process and deserve a vote on the charter as it is our democratic right and let's us have control over what happens in our city. We do not want a police department that is violent and unaccountable or that is protected by our city charter. It's time to change and to give us the opportunity to vote on what public safety in Minneapolis looks like and how we want to protect and serve our community! We don't want police in our community and need to remove the charter requirement for the minimum number of police officers. Thank you.

Ward 7

7/14/2020 10:56:25 PM

I have lived in Minneapolis for my whole, and the truth is that Minneapolis holds many cities. Our Black and Indigenous neighbors and neighbors with disabilities or mental illness experience a completely different Minneapolis than white and abled people.

There are those that call the police and those who the police are called on. There are those who can walk down the street and feel safe and those that walk in fear of being pulled over, not knowing if they will return home that night.

We not only know that the Minneapolis Police Department has a history of abhorrent and racist brutality upon those they claim to serve. We also know that EVERY police department grew from the seed of Slave Patrols- looking to catch runaway enslaved people and return them as property, or else kill them.

When we look deeply into how policing manifests today, the roots have not changed since then, they have only grown stronger and more deeply imbedded in our society. So much so, that many think that we need police for people to be safe. The reality is that Black and Indigenous people are more in danger of being murdered by police than any other way. The re

This is not just about George Floyd or Jamar Clark or the other 193 people killed by the MPD since 2000 alone, this is about every single person living under a police state in this nation, and this is about Minneapolis taking the first necessary step towards true community safety.

We ask you to take out the police from the City Charter, to defund the MPD, and to work with the community to make a holistic public safety model which does not replicate the violence and oppression which has been termed policing. This is not just renaming police officers "peace officers," this is not just renaming the police department "department of community safety." We challenge you to radically reimagine and deeply investigate true safety based in care.

Ward 3

7/14/2020 11:04:28 PM

As a Powderhorn, Minneapolis resident for more than a decade, I support the charter amendment proposal as a first step to transforming our community safety and security systems. I am the white mother of three children and I implore you as city leaders to do the right and democratic thing and allow the people of Minneapolis to have a vote in this tremendous decision that has direct impact on all of our lives as residents.

Allow us to vote to change or not change the charter. Don't abuse your power and take that vote away from us.

Sincerely

Ward 3

7/14/2020 11:08:28 PM

Thank you to the Charter Commission for the work done to date and future work for the city of Minneapolis. I feel compelled to comment on the proposed charter amendment that would create a new department and remove the Police Dept from the Charter. My comments are as follows:

1. I am not comfortable with the City Council stating "may maintain a division of law enforcement services comprised of licensed peace officers". The City Council could decide to have no licensed peace officers in the city of Minneapolis. This seems too extreme. I don't think the minimum formula needs to be in the Charter, but to give the City Council the option to have zero licensed peace officers is not reasonable. With the current status of Federal gun laws etc, Minneapolis needs licensed peace officers. What research can the City Council point to regarding the minimum number of license peace officers needed to adequately run the department - I have not heard any research. The City Council indicates the research will come later, but I think it would be more prudent to have the research prior to request for amendment to this degree.

2. The entire process seems to be rushed for no apparent reason other than to make the Nov ballot. I understand this is a pressing issue and deserves attention now, but to hastily put this on the Nov ballot seems to not give the issue its just due. It almost feels like the City Council is moving on emotion rather than well thought out, reasoned, researched ideas. Emotion is critical, however, this must also contain some degree of clarity. I do not think the current charter amendment contains much, if any, clarity. I almost get the sense that the City Council is taking the position - we have to have this amendment in order to do anything. I think most, if not all of the ideas the City Council is suggesting can be accomplished with the current charter. I hope the City Council is planning to meet with city/community/current law enforcement/businesses whether the amendment is on the ballot in Nov or not, to help shape the future Minneapolis law enforcement model - again, which I think can be

accomplished with having a police dept. Police can partner with mental health experts, rape specialists, child psychologists etc under the current charter.

3. I understand that the City Council has indicated that the Charter Amendment is only changing the charter to give the opportunity to make desired changes, whatever changes those might be. I do not agree with the City Council that the proposed changes to the charter must occur prior to being able to move forward. There are many options available now. The charter amendment as presented makes it seem like the city council does not want to get the input from the police or the mayor. If you look closely at the proposed changes, it focuses on the City Council and community to shape what the department looks like. The City Council wants us to "trust them" that all will be included, but as I said, if you look closely, it seems to focus on the City Council and community leaders (community leaders is not defined).

4. As a Charter Commissioner, I would ask each of the City Council members if they support having no licensed peace officers in the city of Minneapolis. If the answer is: "well, I cannot answer that until I have more facts; or what do you mean by that", I would look at the Council member and say "welcome to the party you invited us to with the current charter amendment". The City Council is not providing clarity (they say purposefully), but the City Council expects clarity when they are asked to approve/disapprove something - when there is not clarity, I hear City Council members say - I do not support this because there is no clarity.

In sum, I do not support the City Council's amendment as proposed and will vote against the proposed charter amendment if it is on the November ballot.

Thank you.

Ward 13

7/14/2020 11:10:37 PM

Hello, I am an Uptown/Wedge resident (2700 block of Dupont Ave S) writing in support of putting this amendment on the ballot. Concerning the merits of the amendment: it is regrettable that it has been portrayed in such sensationalist terms. It will simply make the governance and oversight of MPD equivalent to all other city departments - many of which provide vital services. The Council has made clear they have no intention of removing all certified law enforcement from the streets. Removing MPD's existing standing under the charter is an important first step to curtailing the power of the Police Officers' Federation, which fights the removal of bad officers and bad policies at every turn; bringing in new officers who are from and who care about the community they serve; forcefully confronting an entrenched culture in MPD which seems to regard all citizens of Minneapolis as enemy combatants; and generally bringing transparency and democratic accountability to the police department whose salaries I help pay. Our city burned for three days because there is an overwhelming sense that - after George Floyd, Jamar Clark, Justine Damond, and countless others - the normal channels of reform touted by the Mayor and Chief just do not work. It is hard to negotiate with an entity whose standing is guaranteed by the city constitution. Making MPD the equivalent of other agencies seems like a pretty moderate step.

Regarding the Charter Commission's role in this: I don't pretend to be an expert on the legal questions. But over the past several years, the people who live here have been forced to educate themselves on the details of police brutality in their community again and again. This is counterposed with the matters of public safety that regularly confront the citizens of any vibrant city. The notion that changing MPD's

charter standing is "too rash" or that it would reflect the heat of the moment is patronizing. Additionally, all of us elected the city council members who sent this matter to the charter. We deserve a say.

I'd like to see the Charter Commission follow its legal responsibilities to the best of its judgement. But it would be unfortunate if, on the basis of their personal opinions, members' blocked the Council's efforts to give the people a say. The Commission's demographics are not representative of the city (let alone the communities that are most affected by policing) and it is important that voices of all kinds can be heard on this vitally important matter.

Ward 10

7/14/2020 11:12:53 PM

I am writing in support of amending the city charter. Amending the charter will begin the process of transforming the future of Minneapolis by allowing the community to take part in creating the infrastructure our city needs in order for everyone to feel safe. Change the charter now.

Ward 2

7/14/2020 11:20:40 PM

My name is [REDACTED] and I reside at [REDACTED] Franklin Avenue. I fully support changing the city Charter as unanimously proposed by the Minneapolis City Council. The Minneapolis Police Department need not continue to be enshrined in the city Charter for a plethora of reasons. Previous generations living in our city created police but didn't know current research on best practices regarding public safety or preventing violence. Thanks to decades of education and groundbreaking research, we now know that reactive policing is archaic to the needs of the 21st century and beyond. The proposed charter will also bring rational discussion regarding our collective safety vs. the current argument of being pro or anti police.

I'm hoping the Charter Commission members understand that this proposed charter change is not the same as a budget change. At your last meeting, many of your members seemed confused. I hope you look at the merits of this change which go beyond a budget. A budget represents the priorities of a city and changes each year, while a charter is a legal document that defines the city structure. It is that structure that needs to be amended to fit current needs.

As the proposed charter states, it creates a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Why would the Charter Commission not see value in this? It seems a very reasonable thing for a city to have such a department. I live in Minneapolis and believe we deserve to live in a safe community, however the current structure does not provide that.

We have seen time and time again that Minneapolis Police do not seem capable of addressing the needs of city residents. Their shoot first and have their association bail them out attitude is a significant problem that is difficult to address when they are enshrined in the city charter. MPD have embraced their racism, voting in Bob Kroll as their president again and again.

Prior to the 3rd precinct being burned to the ground, officers were shooting rubber bullets directly at protesters. They were trained to shoot rubber bullets on the ground, not directly at people because doing so can risk killing folks. They blinded a journalist with a rubber bullet, which the Republican president would applaud. He calls them fake news, and it makes sense why they would not only endorse such an authoritarian but take a public stage with him.

That police are not in the business of violence prevention is obvious. They are a reactive force, rather than proactive. They are handed a gun not to de-escalate, but mow down anyone who challenges their authority. Social science says there are better ways to address crime prevention than assume pointing guns at folks will do the trick.

That said, the proposed charter change will allow the city to have a conversation with residents regarding how to restructure our public safety model. Given that 4% of police officers in Minneapolis live in the city and they should have the opportunity to voice their thoughts along with everyone else who lives here. We should be allowed the opportunity vote on this.

I am hearing that the Charter Commission may want residents of Minneapolis to wait another year or more to vote on the proposed charter. Given that Minneapolis police kill about 1.4 residents per year, are you okay with being partially to blame for choosing not to address this issue sooner? How many of you want to be named when the future chapters are written about this era of Minneapolis history as blocking reasonable progress? I urge you to vote to approve this proposed Charter change because residents deserve to live in a city that proactively works to address concerns, which this does. If you feel it is insufficient, there's no reason you could not spend each and every day meeting before the months end to hammer out what you feel would be adequate. Thank you for your work and I hope you listen to the will of the vast majority of city residents who are demanding change.

Ward 10

7/14/2020 11:20:47 PM

I believe the proposed amendment to Article VII of the City Charter should be put on the ballot this upcoming November in 2020. Instead of allowing the charter, a group of people not democratically elected to speak on the interests of Minneapolis residents, the people of Minneapolis deserve the right to vote directly about matters as important as the future safety of their city.

Ward 6

7/14/2020 11:22:10 PM

So, you want the public to show up for your Public Hearing. Why, so you can ignore anything that doesn't fit your agenda and ignore us? De-funding, and dismantling the Police is WRONG!! This council has been humiliating these officers for years even ignoring bad seeds and terminating highly decorated great officers. Every hearing I went to where their were others that defended their positions we were all ignored. You all do what you want NOT what the community wants. You created the mess in the city we should not have to deal with this nonsense with no police coverage. Our neighbors, children and elders deserve more from our elected officials.

AND, we should not pay for any Private Security that is a slap in the face to the community!

Ward 3

7/14/2020 11:29:31 PM

The commission's sole scope is to determine if the proposal is appropriate to the charter and not something that can be done through ordinance. Their job is not to govern, and it's not to block a democratic process from the community.

Let the people vote! Let the people who live here decide what's best for us.

Ward 7

7/14/2020 11:45:24 PM

I am in support of placing the charter amendment on the ballot in November. There needs to be a restructuring of our public safety system. The current charter does not allow for needed changes to be made.

Ward 7

7/14/2020 11:48:04 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis and a constituent, I demand that all Minneapolis constituents be able to vote in November for an amendment to the City Charter that does the following:

- 1) Removes the Minneapolis Police Department as a required department
- 2) Establishes a new Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention
- 3) That any police force that continues to exist will be under control of the new civilian lead Department of Community Safety and not under the control of the police union

Ward 3

7/15/2020 1:08:36 AM

Hello!

Members of the Charter Commission,

Justice can't wait another year. It's time to let the people decide how to create safety in our communities.

I support a charter amendment, approved by voters in November, that 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. Any police that continue to exist will be under the control of this new civilian department.

Please vote to support a ballot vote in 2020 on community safety.

Thank you!

Best,

McKinley Neighborhood

Ward 4

7/15/2020 1:26:49 AM

So Glad I am Moving out of this City. Anybody who stays behind I pray for your safety.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 2:21:28 AM

Please allow the charter amendment to go on the ballot this November. I and the people of this city should be able to decide whether or not we want this amendment to the charter, and we need to decide this year. This is the first step towards change — any type of change, from transformative and drastic to small and inconsequential. Change can't happen without this first step.

The people need to vote on the charter amendment. You must allow it to go on the ballot.

Aisha

Ward 1

7/15/2020 4:32:41 AM

Are you fucking nuts

Your staff hired security while the poor citizens are going to get slaughtered by Soros paid antifa

My kids are going to been in prison in their homes without police

Fuck no is my vote on your idiotic bill

Ward 3

7/15/2020 5:36:09 AM

Getting rid of the police would be the worst thing any city can do. Think of the violence and crime you will have then without there help.

Ward 1

7/15/2020 6:12:15 AM

I work downtown Minneapolis and also go to many restaurants and shops. My husband and I also do a lot bicycle riding on trails and in parks. I do not feel safe going downtown any longer for work. We can no longer enjoy the parks as people are living in them - are they not suppose to be for all.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/15/2020 7:24:06 AM

I want to live in a city where everyone has their needs met, and all of us have someone we can trust to call on for help when we need it. Right now our city budget and charter put cops before the community. We need public safety and crime prevention IN ADDITION to a smaller law enforcement department. The focus needs to be on PREVENTION and helping those in need; NOT using intimidation and police force as a tool for any and all situations.

Ward 1

7/15/2020 7:41:12 AM

At the end of the revised section 7.3.a, "public health-oriented approach" doesn't note what the approach is toward. It's just an "approach."

There is tense disagreement between the future tense of 7.3.a and the present tense of 7.3.a.1. Is this intentional?

"official act" isn't defined in 7.3.b.1.

Ward 7

7/15/2020 7:44:08 AM

Minneapolis quality of life is in a steep dive. Businesses and residents fleeing the city. School enrollment declining. City government mandate is to provide police and fire protection and boils and maintain infrastructure. Otherwise GET OUT OF THE WAY! Reform police? Fine totally needed as you have made it such a horrible job that the only people it attracts are those causing problems. Reform yourselves first so you can see what needs to be done with the police. Full funding of police is mandatory.

7/15/2020 7:51:14 AM

Hello,

I'm grateful to the people working hard on the ground who have brought this issue to the City Council so that justice may start to take form. Defunding the MPD needs to happen; our money there is only supporting a legacy of violence. Replacing the police department with individuals with more appropriate training (de-escalation, trauma informed, racial bias trained, reformative justice etc) instead of resorting to violence and racial profiling. We need that money for housing and education. The MPD's time is up.

Please keep your word and defund the police department, please replace it with community oriented organizations that value the lives of everyone. The addicted, the unhoused, the Black and Brown, Queer and Trans folx.

Thank you for doing your part. We are at a critical moment in history; we must do the right thing.

Ward 7

7/15/2020 7:55:44 AM

I strongly oppose the City Council's proposal to push this bill onto the November ballot without first getting the desired public input and crafting a concrete plan for the changes needed.

Elected officials should be doing their job of collecting broad input, and proposing sound and reasoned solutions, not just throwing wrenches into the process- albeit highly flawed.

Contrary to their purported goal of being more open and democratic, they are shirking their responsibilities. This is too fraught and complicated a situation to throw this flame and then deal with the fallout later.

Ward 5

7/15/2020 7:59:25 AM

Despite strongly backing the idea of these issues, I may not vote for changing this language if there isn't a clearer definition of what the departments or positions would be before the language is amended. My concern is both political and practical. First, I don't know if people will vote for this if they don't know what's going to replace it. I'm somewhat in this camp. Two, further refining of the idea of the police replacement may require additional charter revisions, and that should be done at once, in case the public tires of amendments.

Original 7.3.2. Striking this section and not replacing it with other language regarding licensure of any particular public service employee of the department may mean that there's no legal requirement for these new employees to meet any particular criteria beyond what's established by H.R. or the like. Is this desired?

Original 7.3.2.b. Do we not want to be able to add temporary community safety officers?

Original 7.3.2.c. It seems short sighted to eliminate the funding and leverage abilities in section 7.3.2.c.

New: 7.3.1. There is no clear way to define what experience in "restorative justice" is, since there are not generally recognized institutional bodies to certify this idea.

A question:

Is there no need for the fire department to control public safety officers at the scene of a fire?

Ward 7

7/15/2020 7:59:28 AM

Absolutely opposed to this amendment. We will replace our city council member if this is approved.

Ward 5

7/15/2020 8:11:13 AM

I am the white daughter of a retired St. Paul police officer. I have respect for the profession and saw it performed admirably. Police have been asked to do too much. Police also need to be connected to the city, not just drive into a "scary" place to police. I believe that we do not want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! We need to eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. We also need to remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police! 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.

Ward 12

7/15/2020 8:12:41 AM

I support the amendment to the City Charter-- please refer it to the voters in November! Meaningful change to policing and public safety is not possible without changing the City Charter. It's clear that change is needed and wanted. Let the voters decide on this important issue.

Ward 3

7/15/2020 8:13:57 AM

To the City Charter Commission:

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a resident of Logan Park, in Ward 1. I'm writing to submit public comment to urge you to approve an amendment to the city charter, allowing the public to vote in November about changing the charter to allow for new definition of a department of public safety that reimagines public safety beyond policing. As a Certified Nurse-Midwife, I am familiar with adjusting my job responsibilities based on new evidence, including transferring patients or changing my practice when new research shows that better outcomes could be achieved through different care. I have personally witnessed the negative impacts of policing on teenage black high school students when I worked in South Minneapolis at an all black high school where I assisted students to apply for health insurance. These students would often show up to school late after being stopped by police on their walk to school. Over and over, I heard of the racism and violence these students and their families experienced by being overly policed. It is clear that our police are not keeping our BIPOC neighbors safe. As I've started talking to my neighbors about this problem, some have expressed doubts about changing the model of policing in our city, stating that we have increasing crime rates. When I consider this logic, I

think of the logic I use in my own profession. When there are increasing bad outcomes, it means that I am not being effective at my job, or need to adopt a new practice. More police is not effective to curb crime. It's time to try a different strategy, to invest in our community's health and safety with a wider range of options. Please vote to allow the public to vote on an amendment to the city charter this fall, so we can work as a community for public safety beyond policing.

In solidarity,

Ward 1

7/15/2020 8:16:17 AM

Little details have been outlined by the Minneapolis City Council for their future plans with regards to the Minneapolis Police Department. Known as the Public Safety Transformation. What is very clear to me however, is the details they have provided can be accomplished within the current form of the Minneapolis City Charter.

As a resident of Minneapolis, I oppose the proposed changes to the City Charter. And I ask the City Charter commission to reject the proposed charter amendment.

Thank you!

Ward 3

7/15/2020 8:18:16 AM

We are very much opposed to changing the City Charter with regards to funding the Minneapolis Police Department. While changes in the way the police operate may be necessary the police themselves are essential to public safety. We believe that this discussion has been taken over by a small group who are not representative of the population of Minneapolis

Ward 13

7/15/2020 8:22:15 AM

I do not support the current rushed and vague plan to abolish the police department. Yes, serious work needs to be done to solve the problems within the police department, most importantly being able to fire members who have records of maltreatment of citizens. But I believe both the message of "defunding/abolishing" the police as well as its reality may lead to a number of other serious problems - and add a level of fear in the city as well as sabotaging the morale of the excellent policemen and their ability to do their jobs.// There is need for change... but not a need to rush this process as expressed by the City Council. Let the Charter Commission do its job and in a time frame that is appropriate for it for careful considerations. And in the meantime, let there be more thought by the City Council and Mayor on changes that need to be made. This is too important to do improperly. And I also like the idea I've read from one Council member to have a pilot program to test a plan before it's rolled out completely. I support the Mayor in his disagreement with the amendment from the City Council. Let's make the immediate changes we can now within the current scope of the laws. And let's come up with a best possible plan for long term positive change and implement that when it's specific.

Ward 5

7/15/2020 8:31:05 AM

I 100% do NOT support this amendment. It will do nothing to improve the safety and lives of any resident of Minneapolis. Those citizens who need the most police protection and presence will be the greatest impacted, as wealthy residents will be able to afford to pay for their own private security. If we want reduce police misconduct and improve community relations we need to increase funding to have a well-paid, professional police force that is rigorously trained while held accountable. Eliminating funding does the opposite of this.

Ward 10

7/15/2020 8:33:50 AM

Defunding the police is irresponsible as they are the last line of defense in a civilized society. I can assure you that tourists will stop coming to this noble city as things degrade.

Ward 4

7/15/2020 8:35:59 AM

You are out of your minds if you believe the removal of the police department is going to be a benefit to the community. You are only doing this to maintain your respective positions on the council because a small group of violent and misinformed individuals have threatened your political futures if you don't comply with their cancel culture tactics. You will have blood on your hands if you do this - and it will be the blood of minority community members who will be impacted the most by this irrational, uninformed, and solely political decision. Also, the hypocrisy shown by certain council members who dare hire private "security" while calling for the removal of the public's security/police is unbelievable. Due to the ineptitude of the leadership of this city I have already planned for my/my family's departure from the state - and I know there are many others like me. The final destruction of this once great city is inevitable given your blatant disregard for the interests of law-abiding and tax paying citizens. When the city is eventually destroyed, you will lose your easy, comfortable lives on the council. Then what will you do?! Pathetic.

Ward 3

7/15/2020 8:37:07 AM

Minneapolis Charter Commission,

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

Anyone reading the Council's proposed amendment can see that the City Council doesn't have a clue on how the proposed department would operate or function. Not only is the City Council acting with a

knee-jerk reaction, the Council has a twisted and perverted belief we are living in a utopia. We are not living in a utopia.

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully

Ward 9

7/15/2020 8:37:59 AM

I wholeheartedly support the amendment to create a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and move control and oversight of this department to the City Council. This move is consistent with other departments' oversight, and aligns oversight with a body that better reflects the community this new department will serve. Policing reform has failed in Minneapolis. The proposed amendment is the restructuring needed to start from a new place to rebuild a safer, more just and equitable city.

Ward 2

7/15/2020 8:41:26 AM

Minneapolis is already in a state of lawlessness with rampant drug and alcohol use in public spaces including Peavey Plaza, Nicollet Mall, the Commons, etc.

Crime has increased dramatically and thefts are out of control bc there is no repercussion - no legal action taken.

We need a police force that reports to the Mayor. We agree that there needs to be drastic changes especially with the Police Union and its President.

There has been no analyses done for legality, fiscal or racial equity impact. Rushing to put this on the November ballot is not prudent. Find other cities nationally and internationally who have done this and study them and how they manage it.

Ward 7

7/15/2020 8:48:04 AM

Please do not delay this amendment. If you think it is a good idea, send it back to the council with a recommendation. If you think it's a bad idea, then send it back to the council with a recommendation. Don't pocket-veto this amendment. Let the people of Minneapolis decide.

It's clear that the police department is out of control, and the council is showing rare unanimity in asking for this amendment. It would be unjust for a group of unelected people to override the wishes of this elected city council and the clear will of the people that they act to radically rethink public safety in Minneapolis.

Thank you,

South Uptown, Mpls

Ward 10

7/15/2020 8:50:30 AM

I just heard Mayor Frey on MPR this morning, discussing his plan to “reform” the police department with such programs as body cams (which have been in use previously and don’t seem to have made any difference) and reporting to senior officers at the end of the day, explaining how they have de-escalated situations, AFTER THE FACT. Despite the interviewer’s very basic and necessary questions, such as “how can you be sure the officers are telling the truth?” (Citing the fact that MPD put out an initial statement after George Floyd’s murder that was untrue to the situation), Mayor Frey did NOT, in my opinion, explain why reforming the police would be a better idea than using the money from their budget to fund social programs that are actually proven to help people in need, such as healthcare, addiction programs, and affordable and transitional housing, which this city desperately needs.

Personally, I do not feel comfortable with the MPD. I live in Powderhorn Park and my roommate and I have been discussing alternate forms of security and who we should call if our house is broken into (several homes near us have been broken into, and there are gunshots at night). We’ve agreed that the police are the last resort for us to call — I would much prefer to call a community-based safety group. MPD needs to be defunded and the money for them reallocated. Minneapolis residents deserve to be able to vision and build their own safety group collectively, and to do this you MUST CHANGE THE CHARTER.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 8:57:09 AM

I support sending the amendment to the voters. The people of Minneapolis have the right to decide how they want public safety carried out, not an appointed commission of 15 white people.

Ward 12

7/15/2020 9:01:42 AM

I am a strongly democratic resident of ward 11 and oppose the change to the city charter that currently requires funding of a police department. The current charter proposal amendment that the council is hoping to get on the November ballot is very vague and accomplishes nothing of value. It will only delay enacting meaningful changes now. By meaningful - I am not referring to defunding or eliminating the police department nor am I referring to the concept of police oversight by committee (public safety or city council). Meaningful changes would be, for example, enhanced recruiting processes for the police department, more extensive training for incoming police and ongoing training for members throughout their career, changing the rules related to use of force, changing the city's relationship with the police union and enacting changes that allow the police chief and mayor to have a more effective way of dealing with problem officers, reviewing the possible shifting of some police budgetary dollars to different types of community service workers who may handle response to misdemeanor and non-violent calls to police. I think what the city council has proposed is only a knee-jerk political reaction that does nothing to promote better safety for all and better relationships/treatment of our Black citizens. Black Lives do Matter but this proposal does nothing to further that goal.

Ward 11

7/15/2020 9:01:48 AM

I'm opposed to this change and will vote against it. Also I will not be voting for my 3rd ward alderman!

Ward 3

7/15/2020 9:03:16 AM

Please let the people decide how we can create a safe community. Give us the power to vote for what we want for ourselves and each other! Without a voice, we don't truly have influence over what freedom means and what our community is and can be. Give us the ability to choose for ourselves.

Ward 12

7/15/2020 9:10:25 AM

As a public safety professional myself, I strongly support the proposed amendment to the City Charter. We are a city that welcomes all and it's time for our public safety infrastructure to demonstrate that.

Ward 12

7/15/2020 9:10:47 AM

I fully support this change & am excited about the changes this could bring that our city desperately needs.

My only comment from reading is the Removal of the Fire Police Position. While I understand that need to remove Police from the vocabulary, I think it may be necessary to have a position remain as a director of those from the Community Safety & Violence prevention team, if they are at a scene of a fire and need direction. I would be curious to hear more about the full removal over the creation of a different role to fill a similar purpose.

Ward 3

7/15/2020 9:15:49 AM

Hello!

Members of the Charter Commission,

Justice can't wait another year. It's time to let the people decide how to create safety in our communities.

I support a charter amendment, approved by voters in November, that would do the following:

- 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.

Please vote to support a ballot vote in 2020 on community safety.

Thank you!

Ward 10

7/15/2020 9:17:01 AM

These proposed changes only incite more uncertainty and fear to participate in Minneapolis. Law enforcement needs to be central to provide stability, order and justice. Violent crime is filling the gaps of uncertainty created by these proposals and if this passes we should expect to only see more.

Further limiting the mayoral office is an abhorrent abuse of council power and disminates accountability across the collective. If no one is in charge, then no one can be responsible. This appointee, who further appoints another appointee is gross power grab by the council and places significant power in the hands of a few. Having an understanding and training in emergency protocol, criminal behavior and proper training is essential to a qualified leader. The proposal outlined herein creates more ineffective government bureaucracy.

Having been a resident of Minneapolis my entire adult life and now living neighborhood adjacent, eliminating law enforcement as a charter department creates an undertone of uncertainty, unrest and limited confidence in the long term stability of the city. Attempting to do business in Minneapolis is becoming only more uncertain, unpredictable and if council gets their way, much less safe. With policies

likes this it will be necessary to take commerce outside of the state entirely, not just the city. Its sad to see such great investment and pride made into this city and ultimately handled with shortsighted disregard.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/15/2020 9:18:23 AM

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in the East Isles neighborhood.

Our city has been through a lot these last several months. And when stressed, we naturally look for security. We look for comfort. We look for safety.

For many in Minneapolis, I think that safety has looked like the police department.

People feel especially insecure right now because there is a rise in violent crime. A lot of problems we've known about are a lot more obvious, and we're learning about new problems all the time. So the obvious move is to reach for the same solution. For many, that solution has always worked--and if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Allow me to use a metaphor.

Imagine walking into a tool shed and seeing 700 hammers. So many hammers, there might be some other tools in there--but you can't tell because of all the hammers.

Minneapolis is required to buy those 700 hammers every single year.

Wouldn't it be a more useful tool shed if we bought some other tools? Couldn't we actually build something to be proud of instead of seeing our dented city and shrugging? Saying it's the best we could do, and y'know--sometimes you need a hammer, so we'd better keep all 700?

Changing the charter doesn't mean we'll get rid of all the hammers overnight. It means we'll start investing in other tools to fix problems that a hammer can't.

Right now, we don't have the freedom to do that.

It doesn't feel very American to me to not have the opportunity to change that.

That's why I believe the people of Minneapolis should have the right to vote on changing the charter this year.

Ward 7

7/15/2020 9:23:43 AM

I am in support of the proposed charter amendment getting on the ballot for the 2020 election. We cannot put off a substantial reconfiguration of public safety and the current charter language would prevent that change. Putting the amendment on the ballot would allow the greatest number of voters to weigh in, which should be the goal in a democracy.

Ward 12

7/15/2020 9:24:56 AM

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of South Minneapolis. I am writing because I am deeply inspired by the recent community commitment to reevaluate what makes us safe in our neighborhood and cities and how we can transform to extend safety to ALL, specifically addressing the harassment and brutality people of color, black people, and indigenous people have been and continue enduring at the hands of the police.

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

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

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

Thank you for your time.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 9:28:28 AM

As a member of the St. Paul Charter Commission, I urge you to not do anything that would prevent the Public Safety Amendment appearing on the ballot in November 2020. If an unelected body so fundamentally thwarted the will of those elected by the people, it would justify dismantling, not only the Minneapolis Charter Commission, but all such bodies.

St. Paul, MN

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/15/2020 9:28:43 AM

As a taxpayer, previous small business founder and owner, and citizen of Minneapolis I feel strongly that we all deserve a say in how we are not only policed, but all aspects of our governance, but especially since the MPD utilize 35% of the cities budget. Please allow all of us to be heard.

Ward 1

7/15/2020 9:39:18 AM

It seems to me that this is a move to take control from the mayor to the City Council. Beyond that it seems like an enormous waste of time and money.

I am all in favor of cleaning up the police department, but changing the name of the department will do nothing to move in that direction.

Ward 5

7/15/2020 9:45:33 AM

I think this is absolutely vital. It's very much time to make a fundamental shift away from the sort of militarized policing that merely criminalizes a huge percent of our population -- most often people of color. It's time to switch to real solutions and real alternatives, to develop a response to our city's needs that don't rely on having police be the intermediaries in everything, and to have criminalization of issues always be the answer.

Ward 7

7/15/2020 9:48:41 AM

Dear Members of the Charter Commission,

I agree strongly with the comments former Deputy Mayor David Fey has made. I urge you to ensure that the ballot initiative moves forward to change the language in the City Charter in the fall. Transformative change to the Minneapolis Police Department is long overdue and necessary to the safety of our community. As Mr. Fey has stated, it is vital that we:

1. Remove the required number of officers and the dedicated tax funding mechanism;
2. Move the re-envisioned Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department under the control of the City Council, similar to the Fire Department.

The current charter is outdated and does not allow the City to take the necessary steps to enact the change our community desperately needs and deserves.

Thank you for your support of this critical effort,

Ward 10

7/15/2020 9:50:41 AM

Please allow the citizens to vote on this critical matter. Our duly elected officials have unanimously decided it should be put to a vote. Denying or delaying that vote is obstructing our democracy. The charter commission's job is not to decide if they agree or disagree with the amendment, and basing a decision on their personal opinion on the matter is entirely undemocratic.

Thank you.

Ward 10

7/15/2020 9:57:49 AM

The defunding and dismantling proposal is a massive knee jerk reaction by the elected civil representatives. Minneapolis is a major city that has a fundamental issue that is consistently being overlooked related to their Police force.

This feels like an experiment for a city that has been struggling to get the basics of law enforcement down pat. You are trying to rewrite the books of law enforcement. Until this city understands that the source of the issue comes from a lack of diversity in their Police Department, it will continue to see a lack of trust in the community. The latest interview given by Sgt Anna Hedberg is a prime example of how MPD officers view the city - a place to be feared vs. a place to have pride in and a place where MPD officers have a strong desire to SERVE and protect.

<http://www.citypages.com/news/crybaby-cop-explains-why-she-shouldnt-have-to-live-in-the-community-she-polices/571463321>

Proposing such a REACTIONARY amendment without a PROVEN "plan b" proposal does not serve this community well by any means. It is well known amongst other police departments across our metro that the MPD has a reputation of being "stompers." Let's start there. Oust officers who are more concerned with implementing militant tactics and who are disinterested in creating relationships with our citizens and seeing our communities flourish. Overhaul the MPD and kill the culture of military tactics - do not abolish the force altogether. We in Minneapolis do not hate the police, we denounce the use of military-like force and the mere value that the MPD has of that tactic over valuing the necessity of fostering a healthy relationship amongst community and cops. Where are the MPD-hosted BBQs or cookouts to foster trust? Integrate the MPD with our communities rather than segregating the community and cops with the so-called thin blue line.

Thanks to this proposal by our city council reps, we all feel more unsafe than ever while they pay 10s of thousands of dollars to hire personal security to protect their homes and families.

Ward 8

7/15/2020 10:02:13 AM

PLEASE do not do this. The public already thinks that the police can't or won't respond. You have no plan. Our City is falling apart. You are supposed to be our leaders and you keep caving to pressure and making rash decisions. I am begging you to be the leaders you are supposed to be and put a thoughtful, realistic plan together. I don't feel safe in the city. I don't want to move. It is quite possibly too late to get out now. I'm so disappointed and saddened.

Ward 5

7/15/2020 10:07:56 AM

How will you prevent violence in domestic disputes, like the one in McAllen Texas where two officers were killed?

Ward 11

7/15/2020 10:11:28 AM

I want the Charter Commission to put the proposed amendment to the City Charter on the ballot this November. The people of Minneapolis deserve the chance to voice their opinions on how their Charter and police force are structured.

I and myriad others want a new model of building safety in Minneapolis and community engagement via voting is an essential step to achieving this. To delay the process beyond November would unduly keep voters from the opportunity to participate in and enact change in Minneapolis' civic structure in a timely fashion. Justice cannot wait another year.

Ward 7

7/15/2020 10:12:09 AM

Defund the police, and fund community prevention and healing.

Ward 7

7/15/2020 10:12:23 AM

We cannot wait another year to see justice in our city. We need to defund MPD and let the people decide how we will proceed.

Ward 3

7/15/2020 10:16:28 AM

Hello my name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of the Whittier neighborhood. I strongly believe in changing the Minneapolis City Charter to remove the requirement for a police department. As we all have seen since the murder of George Floyd, the community, state, country, and world are crying out for change. We will no longer stand for the police disproportionately harming the BIPOC community. The world is watching and our city has the opportunity to dismantle a deeply racist, sexist, and violent institution masquerading as a public safety department. Minneapolis residents are ready to work together to form a community safety collective that centers mutual aid, housing, mental health resources, and human rights rather than the punitive structure that upholds white supremacy and systemic racism. Please let the community vote. Weeks of protest and global attention have made it abundantly clear that we are ready.

Ward 10

7/15/2020 10:23:18 AM

Let the residents of Minneapolis decide what happens in Minneapolis! Let us vote and change the charter so that we, the people of Minneapolis, have a say in hiring and firing MPD officers. The mayor, with his budget proposal, has shown that he does not care about the people, and only cares about his beloved MPD. The mayor cannot remain to be the only one in charge of MPD!

Ward 9

7/15/2020 10:23:40 AM

I support the charter.

Ward 5

7/15/2020 10:24:50 AM

I support changing the charter.

Ward 5

7/15/2020 10:30:57 AM

I am writing to ask the charter commission to please allow the proposed amendment to move forward. The police are an institution founded in racist violence and they have not been able to shed that history. Please allow the voters the opportunity to determine what will keep us safe. This is vital and urgent. How many more people will we see get murdered by the police before we do something?

Ward 10

7/15/2020 10:32:19 AM

Justice cannot wait another year. I sat in Powderhorn Park as city council members championed for what their constituents demanded. Let us vote-- you watched thousands of us take to the street demanding racial justice, fairness, and equity. Let Minneapolis be the example. The Charter Commission must do its job and let the community decide at the ballot box. We cannot wait another year.

Ward 10

7/15/2020 10:40:08 AM

Hello,

As a lifelong resident of Minneapolis, I believe it is extremely important that the Charter Commission gives all of us a chance to vote on this amendment. It is your job to determine if the proposal is appropriate to the charter - it is up to us to vote yes or no. The communities in Minneapolis need to decide what safety looks like for us, and we are at a point where many of us don't feel safe under MPD (and many people haven't felt safe with them for their entire lives). Please allow the citizens of Minneapolis to vote on this amendment. Thank you,

Ward 10

7/15/2020 10:42:15 AM

I, adamantly, oppose the proposed change in the Minneapolis Charter. A knee jerk reaction to a complex problem is insufficient to correct the problem. The problem is vastly more layered than just calling for elimination of the police department. All of Minneapolis is impacted by recent events and all if Minneapolis will be impacted by decisions made now. Step back, take a breath, add critical and practical thought. Stop creating more chaos in the already stressed population you are mandated to serve.

Ward 7

7/15/2020 10:43:58 AM

I support the proposed amendment to the City Charter to be referred to voters in November. That amendment would create a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. and remove the Police Department from the Charter.

Ward 6

7/15/2020 10:44:25 AM

Changing the Charter does not defund or eliminate MPD. What it does allow is for the residents of Minneapolis to have a community discussion about how we want to protect our communities. The charter is outdated and does not allow the city to take the necessary steps to even begin this discussion. Our emergency services such as the fire department does not abide by outdated population calculations to provide the necessary level of services that are needed to help the city during emergency services. By putting the proposed charter change on the November 2020 ballot is the right thing to do and is democracy in action. Let the residents decide how we want the public safety discussion to proceed and allow our voices to then be heard by the Mayor and City Council. If the Commission decides to not allow a vote on the charter change you are silencing our voices and as appointed commissioners are making decisions for all the residents of Minneapolis. I strongly urge you to vote to allow the amendment change as requested by the Minneapolis City Council be allowed on the November 2020 ballot.

Ward 10

7/15/2020 10:46:06 AM

I fully support these changes. Please adopt the revisions to the charter.

Ward 13

7/15/2020 11:04:22 AM

My name is [REDACTED] and as a resident of Minneapolis, I believe that we deserve the opportunity to exercise our voices THIS year (fall 2020) through a ballot question that would change the charter to remove the MPD and establish a new Dept. of Public Safety and Violence Prevention that uses proven community safety strategies and is shaped by and for community in order to actually keep us safe. We

know that transforming public safety will not happen over night but this is an essential, critical step in the right direction that allows community to build real systems of care with our tax dollars. The Commission should do its job by deeming this proposal appropriate and letting the community decide the future of safety in Minneapolis at the ballot box four months from now.

Ward 2

7/15/2020 11:04:40 AM

Hello!

Members of the Charter Commission,

Justice can't wait another year. It's time to let the people decide how to create safety in our communities. I support a charter amendment, approved by voters in November, that 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. Any police that continue to exist will be under the control of this new civilian department.

Please vote to support a ballot vote in 2020 on community safety.

Thank you!

Ward 7

7/15/2020 11:07:05 AM

Dear Charter Commission,

I am in favor of amending the City Charter to mandate alternatives to the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD), such as the proposed Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Although I believe that many officers within the MPD have good intentions, I am in favor of requiring that the city shift power away from the MPD given the failure of previous attempts at structural reform. I feel that there is good reason to believe that investing in our community through other means, such as education and affordable housing, will help reduce the need for law enforcement; I also feel that other services, such as social work, are more appropriate for many of the tasks police officers currently take on. On the other hand, I am not convinced that the creation of a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention, accompanied by shifting resources from the MPD to education, affordable housing, etc., would completely negate the need for any law enforcement services. As such, I feel that something along the lines of Giraud-Isaacson's proposal (which requires department for community safety and law enforcement) would be more effective in creating a equitable city than the proposal from Ellison and colleagues (which state that law enforcement "may" be maintained). I also feel that such an amendment would be more appealing to a broader swath of voters and as such, more likely to actually help bring our city in a positive direction.

Thank you for considering my comment,

Ward 10

7/15/2020 11:10:46 AM

We are a veery large country. Already people have learned that Minneapolis is open season because the police are down in numbers and loosing organization. There is an increase in license plates from Illinois and Missouri and many other states who are now coming to help themselves to our "Minnesota nice" people. We do not live in a country with patrolled borders. I don't believe that you understand that you are putting tax paying citizen at all kinds of risks from both inside the state/county/city and outside of them.

Ward 7

7/15/2020 11:18:56 AM

I am a 30 year resident of East Phillips neighborhood. I am also a block club leader and have worked with the 3rd Precinct on safety issues with CCP/SAFE. I also was the first staff hired for the Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice Partnership, where communities worked with the Hennepin County Attorney's office, 3rd Precinct, and MPLS Park Police to set up a first time offender juvenile diversion program based on restorative justice principles.

During the George Floyd Uprising, I and my neighbors felt profoundly abandoned by the 3rd Precinct. While our neighborhood businesses were burning and small groups of white supremacists came through our residential areas the 3rd Precinct was out in Oakdale, MN by the hundreds protecting Derek Chauvin's house. This so wrong in so many ways.

Once the offending officers were arrested, we felt punished by the 3rd Precinct and Hennepin County sheriff's office as they came through our neighborhood - shot rubber bullets at neighbors in their yard, drove through with armored vehicles with a turret pointing a machine gun at neighbors on their porch, yelled at us for barricading our streets during the most difficult days of the Uprising and associated local violence.

Our neighbors organized friendly safety patrols for about a 12 block area from 28th to 24th/Bloomington to Cedar. We linked through text groups to a lookout at the Grease Pit on 28th/Bloomington, the Red Lake Embassy motorcycle patrol, Little Earth defenders, and AIM on Franklin Ave. These patrols continue on to this day and many of our neighbors do not believe that the 3rd Precinct gives a sh-t about our safety and that we need to be looking out for each other's safety. I'm not really sure where the 3rd Precinct is at - I haven't heard a word about where they are located and their commitment to to serving our residents after all that has happened. I believe there is much our neighbors can do in mutual aid but when it comes to organized crime we are nothing up against the violent organized drug trade and sex trafficking here.

I am a survivor of what I call the Crack Wars of 1995 when the city was call Murderapolis and there were 16 homicides in Phillips - 6 within a block of my house. I have experienced many times calling on the 3rd Precinct for support for gun fire, crack dealing, prostitution, burglary, assault - officers always showing up and saying "why do you live here? why don't you move?". Throughout the years our kids, especially if they look different kids of color, kids who are grunge punks, have been stopped by the police, searched

and items stolen from their pockets by bully cops. We put up with it because there was no where to go to air our issues without threat of local cop harassment. I know of neighbors who have complained of police behavior that were subsequently harassed and disrespected.

Now we have a chance to think of another way to do policing in the city of Minneapolis. Now there is an opportunity for police reform.

My recommendations are - 1) do not jump to solutions too quickly. 2) Cooperate fully with the State of MN Attorney General's office civil rights investigation of the Minneapolis Police Department. 3) Host a Truth and Reconciliation Commission where residents can safely air the harm has been done for years and years by the Minneapolis Police Department with officers present to listen and repair the harm. 4) Consider partnering with Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking <https://www.d.umn.edu/rjp/> to support a Truth and Reconciliation Commission. 5) We must address the deep and pervasive distrust, violence, and harm of the MPD in relationship with all residents. 6) We must root out all white supremacists within the MPD. 7) We must end the militarization of our police force. 8) Heal the dysfunctional and abusive relationship between MPD and residents.

I am willing to help out for the love of our city.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 11:19:28 AM

I've worked hard to afford my house, pay my bills, pay the taxes, and shovel my snow so that I don't get a ticket. I work double shifts, nights. I lived in complete poverty for years to get through school- but I never had the need to steal rob mug or shoot at someone.

I feel like the city council only listens to who they want, and that they are manipulating and not being honest. If this passes through, I'm putting my house up for sale and moving out of Minneapolis. As it is, they've cut funding and sabotaged the MPD. There are barely anyone to respond to calls.

I will move to a safer place.

I do not think "programs" will deter crime. And those programs are already in effect— social services.

This is crazy.

Ward 8

7/15/2020 11:22:26 AM

The charter commission has an amazing opportunity to do a peaceful transfer of power to the citizens of Minneapolis by allowing us to vote in November for the Department of Public Safety. This department is rooted in community strategies by and for the community. Let us look at history and be reminded that the charter has not protected communities that are the most vulnerable from police violence. Reform. No. More. It is time that we align our values and beliefs that all people deserve to feel supported and safe in their homes and neighborhoods. It is the commission's responsibility to move this amendment forward and to do this by August 5th.

Ward 5

7/15/2020 11:25:23 AM

We need to invest in crime prevention and building up our community instead of continuing to throw away money at a violent, incompetent police force that does NOT keep our community safe. I support the \$45M divestment from MPD and so should our council. We need to remove our tax dollars from the police who continue to fail in their duty to protect and serve us citizens. They cannot be reformed as past attempts have shown. We need to change the charter to remove the required # of officers. Adding more police to the streets does not make our neighborhood safer. Investments in safe housing and youth outreach programs will help our neighborhood and now is the time for BOLD action from you, our elected representatives.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 11:30:14 AM

The communities that need to be listened to have clearly spoken that this is a matter to be decided by the people. So please do your job and get this proposal on the ballot expeditiously. Thank you.

Ward 10

7/15/2020 11:35:29 AM

As a resident of Ward 13, I do not want to see the Police Department removed from the city charter. I believe the correct route is to reform what we have, not to abolish it. A strong, fair-minded police force is very important to the security of Minneapolis residents.

Ward 13

7/15/2020 11:37:13 AM

I am supportive of this charter amendment and want to see it on the November ballot for Minneapolis voters to decide on. I support an amendment which moves the toward a revision of the Minneapolis city charter that doesn't give more room and power to the police. I believe it's time for new, bold action in this area and this should involve truly defunding and divesting from policing as we know it.

As a 27 year old white woman, I have never had any interaction with the police besides a traffic stop. They do not make me feel any more or less safe in my community -- it is almost like they don't exist for me. However, we have heard over and over again from residents of color that the police does make them feel less safe. Therefore, I support this charter amendment that will allow the city council to work with community leaders to truly reimagine policing in our city, and provide safe, proactive solutions for all Minneapolis residents, especially black and brown residents.

I also want to see a large portion of the city's policing budget reinvested in community solutions. We are especially facing a housing crisis in our city right now, during a pandemic no less, as thousands of Minneapolis residents have nowhere safe to live besides in tents outdoors. I hope funds that were previously earmarked for the police will now be able to go to support housing especially, and other social services generally.

Ward 3

7/15/2020 11:40:49 AM

I believe it is well-past time to bring transparency, accountability, and trust to the relationship between the city, its residents, and the department tasked with keeping us all safe. The current arrangement is what led to George Floyd's death (among untold others), the destruction that followed, and this summer's spate of gun violence. This amendment gives us the ability to prioritize community safety, and also gives us leverage over a police department that has demonstrated a historic and ongoing neglect and malevolence towards parts of the city and many of its citizens. Please allow us to vote on this in November--justice deferred too long may just explode again.

Ward 8

7/15/2020 11:45:26 AM

Due to recent protests and other activities by Minneapolis residents, as well as the significant number of MPD officers retiring early and/or filing claims of post traumatic stress disorder, it is obvious that the current paradigm of policing and public safety in our city is not working for anyone.

Please revise the charter so that the city can proceed to create a new public safety model that works for everyone.

Ward 8

7/15/2020 11:47:03 AM

Dear City Charter Commissioners,

I submitting my comment to ask you that the proposed charter amendment be included on the November 2020 ballot. I have lived in Minneapolis for the past 12 years. During that time, I have seen the pain and trauma the MPD have introduced into the neighborhoods in which I live. Efforts at reform have been insufficient. The MPD cannot be extricated from the structural racism that has shaped this current moment.

The current city council's pledge to police abolition has been a turning point in the dialogue about how to end police brutality. There is an urgency to move this community conversation. Minneapolis community members deserve the opportunity to vote on the changes to the charter. Please give the residents of Minneapolis the voice to exercise democracy and bring the charter amendment to vote.

Sincerely,

Ward 6

7/15/2020 11:49:28 AM

My name is [REDACTED]. I live in Minneapolis [REDACTED] on Pleasant Ave. and I'm the Policy and Political Director for SEIU Local 284. We submitted a letter along with many other groups that you should have received.

I grew up poor and gay in western South Dakota. That was rough. I knew from a young age that I wanted to do politics for a living and I knew that I wanted to get married and have kids and I didn't think gay people could do that.

I want to thank everyone on the committee who worked on the vote no campaign in 2012 and I'm elated to tell you that my husband Paul and I were married in September. Because of your support, Minnesota lead the nation in a conversation about love, commitment, and family and Minneapolis became a place where I could live my dreams and live my full authentic identity.

That would not have happened if Minnesota had not had the largest conversation in our state's history. I was the Political Director for OutFront Minnesota at that time and I know that many of you have your own experiences with that campaign. For anyone who doesn't let me tell you there is no substitute for actual democracy, a focused campaign followed by an up or down vote on the ballot.

Minneapolis deserves to be a place where everyone can move through our community without fearing for our lives or our loved ones. And Minneapolis deserves the opportunity to vote, on the 2020 ballot, on how we in make that vision a reality. The city council has committed to a year long public engagement process. Dot-mocracy, public hearings, neighborhood meetings are all fine and good but, if we really want genuine public input, an amendment vote gives the council the best picture of where Minneapolis is at and where we want to go as we reimagine public safety. This is a conversation our city and our country desperately need to have.

Finally, I want to say that it's acceptable, even evidence that the process is working as it should, if you move this charter amendment forward knowing full well that you will use your position as civic leaders to campaign against it and vote against it in November. What would be unacceptable is for members of this unelected body to use a procedural loophole to substitute your own judgement for the judgement of the people of Minneapolis and short circuit this long overdue conversation.

Thank you for your time. I submitted additional written comments that include my contact information if anyone has questions.

Ward 10

Attachment:

Most of us, no matter our color, origin or gender, want Minneapolis to be a place where everyone can move through our community without fearing for our lives or our loved ones.

My husband Paul and I have only called the police once in the six years since we've been together. We know that for most of the people in our neighborhood having the police around makes them less safe. The one call to the non emergency line happened when a neighbor stood in his window and masturbated while watching Paul grilling in our back yard.

We wanted to make a report in case this was a pattern of behavior that required some kind of mental health intervention but we did not want the police to come. There was no way to make a statement over the phone or online so uniformed officers showed up at our house. The officers refused to take Paul's statement until he showed them which window it was then they insisted on taking his statement while standing under that window.

That action by the police made Paul feel even less safe in our yard and walking to work. As far as we know, that was also the only action they took. They escalated the situation, re traumatized Paul, and never did another thing.

Our experience is mild compared to the experience of Black people living in Minneapolis. The people entrusted to serve and protect our community target, detain and even kill Black people like George Floyd, Philando Castile and Jamar Clark, among too many others. All the while conservative politicians and the police union throw out lies to divide us. They know that if we're made to fear each other we'll look the other way while police officers harm our communities and elected leaders hand millions to corporations, militarize local law enforcement, and deny resources for the schools and healthcare we actually need.

That's why people are coming together to demand that we rewrite the rules and retake our democracy. Minneapolis deserves the opportunity to vote on how we create a city where everyone is safe and we deserve to have that vote in 2020. The city council has committed to a year long public engagement process. Dot-mocracy, public hearings, neighborhood meetings, are all fine and good but they are a poor substitute for actual democracy. If we really want genuine public input, an amendment vote gives the council the best picture of where Minneapolis is at and where we want to go as we reimagine public safety.

Finally, I want to say that it's acceptable, even evidence that the process is working as it should, if you move this charter amendment forward knowing full well that you will vote against it in November. What would be unacceptable is for members of this unelected body to use a procedural loophole to substitute your own judgement for the judgement of the people of Minneapolis. Whether you want to abolish the police (as I do), defund MPD, or re-imagining public safety so that our communities are safe for every one of us and so that the resources we pitch in for together create the schools, services and care we all need the Charter Amendment is a necessary step.

7/15/2020 11:50:45 AM

I ask that the Charter be updated in order to not require MPD. This police department is not of the people, for the people, and indeed decreases the safety and security of many in Minneapolis. Let's replace it with services that are responsive to our community and our needs.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 11:52:57 AM

My name is [REDACTED], and I have lived in Minneapolis for over 40 years.

I urge the Charter Commission to make a recommendation by August 5th on the Charter proposal changing the way we approach public safety in our city.

Regardless of my position on the content of this amendment, I believe all voices should be heard and that people should have the opportunity to vote on this important question in November. Our democratically elected City Council has unanimously chosen to place this issue before the voters of Minneapolis. Although there are implementation questions to be answered and details to be resolved, there will be time for this public discussion before and after the November election.

Recent events as well as a long history of injustice in our city demand that we not delay this choice. The issue is urgent.

Let us vote!

Ward 2

7/15/2020 11:54:42 AM

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Fulton Neighborhood resident.

I would like to ask the Charter Commission today to act to their intended purpose and allow the citizens of Minneapolis to vote on the City Council's proposed public safety charter amendment.

It is not the role of the commission to govern or make policy, nor should they block the opportunity for a democratic process where voters can decide if they think the proposed public safety amendment is in their best interests.

In recent months, thousands have spoken up against the failures of the Minneapolis Police Department, through protest, through assembly and through the ultimate act of grievance, an uprising. Allow voters to make that referendum on the MPD official at the ballot box this November.

When the commission approves this amendment, I look forward to enthusiastically voting YES on the proposal.

Ward 13

7/15/2020 11:59:04 AM

As a community member and city resident I believe that the ability to have a choice and a voice in what community safety look like begins with a ballot measure this November. Give us the option to vote and be heard. It's clear that this city wants change to start now and it can start here with y'all. Don't postpone this important work-we're ready now!

Thanks

Ward 9

7/15/2020 11:59:24 AM

My council member does not even return calls. She barely set up meetings AFTER 2040 went through and then insulted the people who disagreed with her and walked out.

I am afraid that this council will make promises to "engage" but only engage with those that either trust them to do the right thing (which they will only go with their own agenda regardless) or engage with those that agree with them only, then skew the response.

Ward 8

7/15/2020 12:00:10 PM

The Charter Commission's job is to determine if the proposal is appropriate to the charter--not to govern and not to block a democratic process. Do your job and let the community decide at the ballot box.

Ward 2

7/15/2020 12:03:08 PM

The charter change for beginning the process of defunding the police needs to be on the ballot this year. This cannot wait any longer. Reclaim The Block and Black Visions Collective has been asking this for several years now. It is the perfect time to have this on the ballot because a majority of the public is aware of the issue of police brutality. Also, this being a presidential election year, it is guaranteed to be high voter turn out. Please put this on the ballot this year.

Ward 8

7/15/2020 12:10:14 PM

I call upon the charter commissioners to do their jobs and let the proposed amendment go on the ballot for the people of Minneapolis to vote on in November. The charter commission is not an elected body and should let Minneapolis residents exercise their democratic rights and power to determine the future possibilities for their city by putting this amendment to a vote this year. Delaying the vote will only delay the necessary and overdue process of figuring out how to make our city safer. Let us vote!!!

Ward 10

7/15/2020 12:11:55 PM

I ask that the Charter Commission review and proceed with the amendment that has been put forth by the city council, that is, that the City Charter be amended to establish a Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department. I understand the next step is to put the issue on the ballot for residents of Minneapolis to vote on the amendment.

It is time for the safety and concerns of citizens be monitored by a department other than Police only. I would expect the Police Department to have a role in protecting the residents of Minneapolis when crimes and violent situations occur. However there is also a role for others to take and we need to establish something new in Minneapolis.

Ward 2

7/15/2020 12:43:27 PM

i live near loring park in Minneapolis, and i've never witnessed the police do anything except needlessly intimidate and oversee people whose only crime seems to be living without a home. i feel no less safe without the police presence there; in fact, i tend to feel more comfortable and safe when there are no police around.

it's striking to me that so much of what it seems the police are 'protecting' against could be solved if we provided more support to our community. the people in loring park tend to be suffering from homelessness, apparent forms of mental health issues, and addiction problems. i'm calling on the charter to let people vote in november to defund the minneapolis police department, and to cut the police budget in order to fund community safety and improvement projects led by community leaders. thank you

Ward 7

7/15/2020 12:45:33 PM

Please move forward with putting an amendment on the ballot THIS YEAR to change the city charter. We need to start here in order to create the flexibility needed for a better system of safety in our city. We need to begin a thoughtful reimagining of public safety and public health in Minneapolis, and you have the responsibility to create an opportunity for people in the city to ask for this reimagining with a vote now, not next year. I urge you not to delay. Use your power to provide a pathway for the public to have a voice.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 12:46:12 PM

Hello,

I am writing to encourage the City Council to allow our community to vote on the proposed amendment to the City Charter in November. It is clear that we need a new approach to community safety in our city that goes beyond harmful policing practices. This step will allow for alternative models to be created. Thank you

Ward 9

7/15/2020 12:48:50 PM

I'm in full support of this amendment. The weeks of protests as part of the uprising inspired by the murder of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department show that the people want change. The charter commissioners may not agree with what is stated in the amendment or what might come of the amendment but Commissioners must see that the residents of Minneapolis deserve to vote on it. The Charter must be a living document reflective of the people that make up the City it guides. Please send this amendment to the voters.

Ward 10

7/15/2020 12:55:15 PM

During the riots in the last week in May, after the murder by the police of George Floyd, all the grocery stores in my neighborhood were looted (Target, Cub, Aldi x 2) and the post office I use (31st Street and Minnehaha) was burned. For two nights I was literally terrorized in my home because there was no visible police presence while businesses all around me went up in flames. I live 1.5 blocks from Lake Street on 22nd Ave South. Lake Street still looks like a war happened there. We need more police, not fewer. If there is any kind of charter amendment on the ballot, it should give voters the option to vote for more police, not fewer.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 12:57:06 PM

It is crucial that the Charter Commission fulfill its role in determining if the proposal is appropriate to the charter - not to take power away from voters by deciding if they support the content of the amendment. It is the community's right to decide on the content of the amendment, and we deserve the right to vote now while there is urgency and attention around this issue.

As a voter, I personally want to have a chance to vote YES for this amendment. I was 12 years old when my dad sat me down and told me 'Don't ever talk to the police. Ever. They are not your friends. They are not there to help you. Even if you didn't do anything wrong, if a police officer wants to talk to you you call me and don't say anything.' I have been listening to stories from my dad and other family members working in the justice system about the failures and the damage done by MPD for more than 20 years. That's 20 years too long. Communities deserve to vote for a chance at real safety now.

Ward 8

7/15/2020 1:09:14 PM

I support the proposed amendment removing the Police Department from the City Charter. Racism can show up in any department, in any individual, and I truly hope that there are significant steps to combat racism and bias directly on all fronts. As a white social worker, I know that my work is also built on systems of inequality (similarly to police, with justice as a façade) and disproportionately targets and impacts Black individuals and people of color. We all have work to do. Removing the police department and replacing it with a Department of Community Safety & Violence Prevention is the first, right step. Thank you.

Ward 4

7/15/2020 1:09:40 PM

The amendment to the charter should be put on the ballot for a vote. The people of Minneapolis want this change to be made as soon as possible and deserve to have their voices heard.

Ward 13

7/15/2020 1:09:48 PM

Please add charter amendment to November ballot. Having raised a daughter who attended South high and who happens to be white, I have been extremely concerned for years with the inappropriate behavior of some of the police in this area. Please, enough is enough.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 1:13:18 PM

I am opposed to the proposed amendment to the City Charter to create a new Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department and to remove the Police Department from the Charter.

Ward 7

7/15/2020 1:20:08 PM

I strongly oppose the proposed amendment to the City Charter. With rapidly rising crime rates, even in our neighborhood, abolishing the police department without a clear alternative (other than new names/window dressing and a commitment to "figure something out") seems outright irresponsible and reckless.

Instead I would favor a change in the architecture of our city government to strengthen the power of the mayor and weaken the power of our student council (sorry, I mean city council)

Ward 7

7/15/2020 1:29:54 PM

Hi my name is [REDACTED], I'm a healthcare worker in downtown Minneapolis where everyday I see how harmful an overfunded police department and an underfunded community is. I think we all agree that our ultimate goal is for every single person who steps foot in Minneapolis to feel safe. We agree that the underlying problem is not just the inability of MPD to keep us safe no matter how many times we try to reform them, but the racism that every single part of our lives is built on. We disagree on how to address this crisis, and I think some people are rightfully concerned that we will just build another racist institution if we move too fast and don't address the painful history that we stole indigenous land and enslaved Africans to work on it all to profit white Americans. That being said, we still agree that these truths need to be told, these painful conversations need to be had, everyone deserves to be heard, and centering BIPOC voices is absolutely essential. Our current charter that requires MPD to exist outright silences so many of these voices that we're supposed to be centering. The charter change would allow 100% of voices to be heard, and is essential to allowing everyone in Minneapolis to feel safe. The Charter Commission's role is to facilitate voices being heard, not to make decisions on behalf of the community. Please let us be heard, please let us vote, and please put this on the ballot this year. People will continue to be harmed everyday if you stall the democratic process. Thank you.

Ward 1

7/15/2020 1:34:22 PM

Dear Minneapolis Charter Commission Members,

1) Do not accept the current proposed amendment for the November election; rather I suggest you insist that the Minneapolis City Council do the hard work of presenting a realistic option about policing to Minneapolis residents after they given this topic the serious deliberation that is required.

2) Do not allow for dismantling of the Police Department without a considered study of what that actually means, what alternative options may exist, and where compromise may be found. For example, has the City Council reviewed the union contract with the MPD to see what immediate changes can be made? And, how can they possibly suggest that the Chief of Police should report into the City Council (this may be the worst idea I have heard in years! No-one can succeed with 14 bosses who are “at war” over how to direct the city’s direction).

3) Please appoint a task force, comprised of business leaders, community leaders, the police chief and other police members, to work through potential solutions and to provide Minneapolis residents with realistic and actionable solutions.

4) Please consider drafting a charter amendment that will allow for a STRONG mayor and a WEAK City Council.

We are in danger of losing Minneapolis residents who no longer feel safe in this community and will leave (it doesn’t help that the Park Board has turned over the parks to the unsheltered without appropriate safety protections for unsheltered residents and neighbors); there may be a tremendous impact on tax revenues. And, what about the potential loss of our strong Fortune 500 business partners who have so generously supported our State?

I appreciate your (unpaid) service and hope that you will continue to look for and provide a structure for appropriate review of this situation and not support a last ditch effort by the Minneapolis City Council to dismantle the Police Department without offering a critical review and potential solutions. They should provide residents with a plan - not the hope of a possible plan!

Thank you.

Ward 7

7/15/2020 1:34:30 PM

I live less than a block from the sanctuary. I’ve volunteered at it. I’ve seen little police activity in area. I’ve also seen an increase in drug use, altercations and neighbors upset. But what’s most important for me through it all, is how the community has stepped up given the circumstances. The neighborhood has been handed a systemic problem that not nearly enough are equipped to handle and yet, we are doing our best. Because it’s possible. With better allocated funding, thus a lot of the money being taken from a broken policing system, and put towards social support systems, we can start the transformation sustainably. Communities deserve a multitude of options of protection per circumstance instead of a catch-all that has failed time and time again. It’s too much pressure on the people and it’s too much power for a group of armed individuals who think they’re the solution to EVERY thing that may go wrong in a community. We deserve options. We deserve a voice.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 1:41:57 PM

It is the job of the charter commission to determine whether this amendment is relevant to the charter, not to decide it's political merit. As unelected officials you must allow this to move through to a public vote. The community has a right to decide how their money is spent and how they feel safe. Give us our voice!

Ward 9

7/15/2020 1:45:40 PM

First off, I want to say thank you for all of the time and hard work you put into our city. The job you have is a daunting one.

Items I believe in.

Black people need to feel comfortable calling the police. At this time, sometimes they do not.

All people in Minneapolis need to feel safe living here.

Police Officers have a job as daunting and sometimes more daunting than yours.

We need to make sure they have the training, backing, and support of the community. They are also need to held to the highest standard we have in society. I believe their jobs are as important as that of a doctor, pilot, or a principal of a school.

We need to trust the the police that they are doing their jobs in a fair and prudent way.

We need to have a strong force who serves all in the community fairly and respectfully. There are bar people who take advantage of situations and they need to be dealt with in a fashion where they will not do it again.

We need to come together and find a common ground, somewhere in the middle between defunding the police and the current situation. We need to work with the people and the police, together.

Ward 13

7/15/2020 1:46:51 PM

The commission's job is to determine if the proposal is appropriate to the charter - not to govern and not to block a democratic process that empowers community. The civil uprising was a referendum on the police department, even if it didn't take place in City Hall. Thousands of us took to the street; now the Charter Commission must do its job and let the community decide at the ballot box. We can't wait another year. This is a community decision.

Ward 1

7/15/2020 1:49:03 PM

I am asking the Charter Commission to allow the citizens of Minneapolis to have a public vote in November on the merits of a new Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department and to remove the Police Department from the Charter.

Without going into criticisms of the Minneapolis Police Department, we have to recognize the current system of policing is not working for many people in Minneapolis. So let's fix the problem and not hide in fear. Let's be creative and open to new ways of policing in Minneapolis. That can only happen if the Charter Commission votes on the amendment and takes a stand. Please do not delay a vote on this.

Thank you

Ward 9

7/15/2020 1:52:57 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis for 15 years I am deeply disturbed by this City Council's action to take over the responsibility of protecting its residents. The Charter Commission in no way should be accepting this undefined proposal for charter changes. The City Council has failed to communicate its plan for a new department on various levels. This proposal has no metrics and no assignable responsibilities. The City Council has stated that they will define their plan over the next year. The proposed changes would go into affect in May 2021, less than one year. Charter Commission must not vote to accept this change as it will fail its community.

Ward 10

7/15/2020 2:00:11 PM

Between the uprising and covid-19, its been made obvious that a lot of people in Minneapolis are struggling. Thousands of people took to the streets to protest everything from homelessness, to working conditions to the Murder of George Floyd. These are all related because our money isnt being spent where or how we need it to be- on resources for the people. We cannot keep allowing money to be allocated for more cops and their insane weapons, or their PR campaigns, or their pensions when they are murdering and abusing citizens everyday. The Charter Commission must do its job and let the community decide at the ballot box. We've waited long enough for real change and cannot wait a year longer.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 2:04:06 PM

Who would be eligible to vote on this ballot measure - just residences of the 13 wards in Minneapolis?

Ward 10

7/15/2020 2:16:57 PM

OUTCOME – LESS POLICING, MORE CRIME

The retreat by law enforcement predicted by this research seems to be happening in Minneapolis. The Washington Free Beacon writes:

Official data released by the MPD show that cumulative stops fell 36 percent in the week after George Floyd's death at the hands of three officers, sparking nationwide protests. That trend has persisted—over the week between July 6 and July 12, MPD officers made just 193 stops, down 77 percent from the same week in 2019.

Stops involving searches of people or their vehicles have also plummeted. MPD conducted just 20 over the week of July 12, and 11 the week before—87 and 90 percent declines, respectively, from the preceding year.

Such stops and searches are thought to play a critical, albeit controversial, role in keeping criminals and deadly firearms off the street—an analogous decline drove up homicide in Chicago. As such, the drop-off in searches may be fueling the ongoing violence.

This surge in crime, consequent to the withdrawal of policing, is devastating the city's black community.

Are we heading to be another Chicago???

Ward 11

7/15/2020 2:21:43 PM

I submitted comments early on via an email to the Charter members. I watched the meeting broadcast last week with City Council members and the Charter Commission. I was horrified at the disrespectful behavior exhibited by Charter Commission members. So I am writing again.

No one elected any of you to represent us, the residents of Minneapolis. We demand an opportunity to speak for ourselves, which means you must forward the Charter Amendment, as composed by the City Council to the Mayor and the Council in time to be put on the November ballot.

The items you proposed in your 'amendments' to the amendment are an over reach. As council members shared, alternatives have been piloted, and show promise, but when those piloted projects are funded at less than 1% of the police department, they are never going to be able to scale up. WE are ready to scale up. We demand and have the right to vote in November. To take any other action other than forward the proposed amendment as is is an ABUSE of power. Do not delay, the time is NOW, justice deferred is justice not done.

Ward 2

7/15/2020 2:21:49 PM

I strongly support the abolition of MPD and the creation of a Public Safety Group instead. The police are not necessary in our community. Laws are disproportionately enforced against BIPOC community members and people who use drugs and this is the time to end the toxic enforcement of laws against our citizens.

Ward 5

7/15/2020 2:22:18 PM

We believe that the only way to make sure that we will have good and proper representation and responsible public service, would be to follow the great lead that St. Paul, MN. Police department represents. Under the leadership of Police Chief Finney, and the strict policy that is still in place today; an Officer Must Have Residency Within The City Limits. They will not accept an application without that proof in place. The end result, on top of good leadership, St. Paul Police Department has been rated by Business Week over the years as the NUMBER ONE; best Police Department in the Nation. Please consider writing this into a separate amendment. We also recommend strongly that the city must not allow a contract with the Police Federation; and should not allow Officers to be members of such an entity. The requirement to carry professional insurance by each officer, with steep rate increases for irresponsible conduct, will also assure a responsible department. A few States requirement.

I was the Chairman of the Board for Responsible Minnesota Business for several years ; elected by 783 businesses Statewide to represent them in that role. We have created a new 501c3 Non-profit Organization teaching best business practices." Responsible Minnesota Global Community"

Ward 4

7/15/2020 2:24:21 PM

I would like to submit a comment in support of the charter amendment and placing the adoption of this amendment on the ballot in 2020. The citizens of Minneapolis should be able to vote on the measure directly, rather than the unelected members of the Charter Commission legislating on behalf of Minneapolis residents. I also believe the amendment itself is a step in the right direction to help allow the city council to divest resources from our Police force toward more preventative and supportive programs. The major changes in the approach to community safety that Minneapolitans are demanding are currently impeded by the language in the Charter, so no substantive changes can be made until the amendment is made, and further delay of this process toward progress only continues the cycle of injustice toward our residents. There is still plenty of time to iron out the details of the revised approach to safety, but we must move forward with the referral of the charter amendment to voters, enable Minneapolis residents to make their voices heard about the path forward.

Ward 7

7/15/2020 2:28:19 PM

Hello my name is [REDACTED] and I am writing to the charter commission to not continue stalling on an issue of public safety when residents should have a voice in this! Let the public vote on what community safety could and should look like. I am urging the charter commission to move this amendment to the ballot. We want to reimagine public safety outside of the police and we deserve to have this choice. LET US VOTE.

Ward 7

7/15/2020 2:28:53 PM

We cannot wait another year to begin the process of redefining public safety. Do your job and let us vote!

I am appalled at the brutality of the MPD. I'm disgusted with the bloated budget that pays cops to play soldier dress-up, incite violence in our streets, terrorize and murder our neighbors and behave with blatant disregard for the community they supposedly serve in exchange for gigantic paychecks and zero accountability. This cannot continue.

Listen to the community. Not the cops (who by and large don't even live here).

Ward 1

7/15/2020 2:30:51 PM

I urge the Charter Commission to accept and approve the proposed changes to the City Charter, and establish a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. The structure we have now is failing the public, the citizens of Minneapolis, and needs a complete overhaul.

While I understand the reluctance to proceed without having a clear and thorough plan in place, I am convinced that we must not seek perfection and lose the momentum for progress. We are smart and dedicated, and we can put the pieces in place to build something so much better.

Again - we won't find a perfect solution, but we will make progress.

Thank you.

Ward 1

7/15/2020 2:35:46 PM

The proposed amendment will destroy this beautiful city which has already experienced terrible hardship this year. We need more trained police not less trained individuals to serve and protect everyone. If the police are defunded, the crime will increase, businesses and home owners will leave the city for the suburbs and we will no longer attract conventions, major sports, arts and other revenue generating events to Minneapolis. When things are difficult, you don't throw in the towel but instead work tremendously hard to improve upon what is present. There is no doubt the Minneapolis police department needs change but to get rid of it is to give up on our city and ruin its future. Let's use our best judgment to make our city better for us and the next generation - the world is watching.

Ward 7

7/15/2020 2:39:53 PM

I have been a resident of Downtown Minneapolis for years and I would like to say that I have felt safer and more protected by the DID workers' presence than I do by MPD. I ask that you redirect funds by cutting MPD's budget and invest in specialized community workers, dignified housing for all, and education. As a member of this community, I know there are many highly skilled individuals working in

mental health, public housing efforts, education, and addiction medicine who would greatly improve the lives of our citizens living on the fringes due to lack of resources. As Paul Wellstone said, "We all do better when we all do better" and that is the Minneapolis I am ready to see.

Ward 3

7/15/2020 2:40:17 PM

Dear Members of the Charter Commission: I am writing in support of the proposed amendment. The ongoing mass mobilizations since the murder of George Floyd have demonstrated the desire for deep, systemic change. Now we must have our chance at the ballot box. Please let us vote.

Sincerely,

Ward 9

7/15/2020 2:42:53 PM

I urge the Council to push for a better allocation of our budget and city resources. As it stands, the roughly \$200 million line item for policing is untenable. I support the call for cutting \$45 million from our ineffective and unaccountable police force and redirecting those funds to housing, jobs, and community outreach programs. Additionally, I support amending the charter to remove any requirements to the number of police. This crisis requires bold action.

Ward 8

7/15/2020 2:43:26 PM

I am concerned about the wisdom of this proposed amendment, given the lack of more specific replacement of the police force. I am accustomed to business models that have a much more robust detail to the proposed changes than this amendment does. It feels like a very emotional decision, rather than one that has been thought through to its logical conclusions.

Ward 8

7/15/2020 2:46:27 PM

Do your job and let us vote. We cannot wait another year to address the charter and redefine public safety for ourselves.

I am appalled at the brutality of the MPD. I'm disgusted with the bloated budget that pays cops to play soldier dress-up, incite violence in our streets, terrorize and murder our neighbors and behave with blatant disregard for the community they supposedly serve in exchange for gigantic paychecks and zero accountability. This cannot continue.

Listen to the community. Not the cops who don't even live here.

Ward 1

7/15/2020 2:51:26 PM

Members of the Charter Commission,

I strongly support an amendment to the City Charter that would both create a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police Department from the Charter.

As a long time resident, I think this is a tremendous opportunity to improve the safety and well-being of our community. Please vote to support a ballot vote in 2020 on the amendment and help our community lead the country in the support and security of our citizens.

Thank you!

Ward 10

7/15/2020 2:51:43 PM

We the people need to decide how to create safety in our community.

Ward 4

7/15/2020 2:51:54 PM

In the spirit of transparent democracy, it is imperative that this amendment be added to the ballot and the residents of Minneapolis decide. No body of unelected overseers should decide for the people of Minneapolis what is best for us. This our safety on the line. Policing in this country is a part of the system of white supremacy that oppresses and brutalizes black and brown people (and all people of color) making our city extremely unsafe. It's up to us to create a safety system that benefits all.

It is the charter commission's duty to put this amendment on the ballot in November.

Ward 6

7/15/2020 2:53:46 PM

The people of Minneapolis have spoken. In the wake of George Floyd's murder, we have taken to the streets, day after day, week after week, united in our demand for transformative change. We do not know what the future of public safety in our city will look like, but the Charter Commission should not place limits on what is possible, or seek to delay the will of the people in this extraordinary moment.

Please approve the proposed amendment as submitted by the unanimous, and directly elected Minneapolis City Council within the initial 60 day review period.

Ward 10

7/15/2020 2:55:27 PM

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a homeowner in Ward One.

The Charter Commission's job is to determine if the proposal is appropriate to the charter - not to govern and not to block a democratic process that empowers community. please vote to allow the charter amendment to be put on the ballot.

Let us vote: The uprising was a referendum on the police department, even if it didn't take place in City Hall. Thousands of us took to the street; now the Charter Commission must do its job and let the community decide at the ballot box. We can't wait another year.

Thank you,

Ward 1

7/15/2020 3:01:34 PM

I believe that we have a public safety obligation to abolish the police. The amendment to de-departmentalize the MPD is a first step in that direction, and I urge the Charter Commission to expedite the review process so that the people of Minneapolis can vote to amend the charter in November, as soon as possible.

I am sure that many have already spoken to the intrinsically anti-Black racist nature of the police. I speak from my own experience as a rape survivor who reported to the police, and as a long-time hospital rape crisis advocate who counseled survivors in the immediate aftermath of an attack. People ask, "If there aren't police, who will protect survivors?" But the police do not protect survivors. Over my four years of volunteering, I met many police officers sent to collect rape kits and interview the survivors. As with any group of people, some were kind, and some were not. But fundamentally, the criminal process is designed to punish the perpetrator, not care for the survivor. The police treat the survivor's body as merely a source of evidence, which I saw over and over again in the grueling, dehumanizing process of collecting rape kits -- kits that are not even collected or tested unless a report is filed. Filing a report puts the process out of the survivor's control: They must risk talking to police officers, some of whom were so cruel -- the officer I witnessed who mocked a survivor for her bruises, or the one who dismissed my own case as "rough sex." And prosecutors, not survivors, have the final say in whether or not charges are pressed. I met so many people who had been drugged and just wanted to know if there was foreign DNA inside their bodies. But to gain any kind of clarity, they had to submit to an uncaring and risky system that did not have their interests at heart.

I want a different world where survivors of assault are believed and can choose the outcome they want for restitution. This world becomes closer if we abolish the police. Thank you for listening, and I hope that the Charter Commission acts in the interest of public safety by allowing the charter amendment to come up for a vote.

Ward 6

7/15/2020 3:09:00 PM

As a home owner in Ward 11 I want to express my full support for the council's continued pursuit of disbanding the Minneapolis PD. The justice system in this country has been broken for a very long time, and we cannot build something better until we have torn down the structures standing in our way. Thank you to the brave and bold council members standing on the correct side of history and working towards a more equitable and just system.

Ward 11

7/15/2020 3:16:21 PM

Dear Commissioner Bender,

I am writing to support the Minneapolis City Council's efforts to amend the city charter. The city charter, which is like the city's constitution, as it now stands, requires a certain level of police staffing and allows for no deviation. The charter in its present form is a barrier to desperately needed changes in city security and well-being following George Floyd's murder. Council members want voters on November 3 to have a say in how the protection of Minneapolis citizens can be transformed. I am in favor of the Council's desire to replace and amend language so that a department of community safety and violence protection may be created. Justice and change cannot wait another year.

Ward 10

7/15/2020 3:17:57 PM

I have been a Minneapolis resident since 2013 and am very much in favor of the proposed amendment to the city Charter. Since I have lived in this city, I have not once seen the MPD intervene in a dangerous situation and make it *less* dangerous. I have personally witnessed acts of unprovoked (or at least unjustified) brutality from MPD, and the few times I have needed the support of a person in authority [e.g. getting rear-ended by a drunk driver], MPD officers have been actively unhelpful, dismissive, even threatening.

During the past seven years, I have had the privilege of speaking with many people in my neighborhoods, communities, and workplaces who are people of color (especially Black and Indigenous people), queer, trans, women, housing-insecure or unhoused, politically active, or some/all of the above, who have experienced MPD primarily as a force of harm and violence in their lives and in Minneapolis communities. Personally, although I am white and privileged in many other ways, my trans status means interactions with MPD are characterized by dread, feelings of humiliation and anger, and concern for the safety of my friends and loved ones -- all grounded in personal experiences with this specific department, or the personal experiences of those close to me. This is not just. This is not what public safety should look and feel like. And I can hardly imagine how terrible these interactions feel to persons more marginalized than myself, who have much more cause to fear for their lives on a daily basis.

I have also become aware that the relatively short history of MPD is one marked by blatant corruption, rampant brutality, and near-total imperviousness to reform. I feel a certain amount of cynicism submitting this comment, given that MPD and its officers have so very rarely faced meaningful accountability or implemented substantial policy changes in the last 153 years. However, my hope is

that this commission will be receptive to the current massive public outcry and amend the city charter to allow for reform.

A system in which crews of fully armed and totally unaccountable people from outside of the communities they are purported to protect, trained to target and harass (and to fear) marginalized folks, patrol the streets of the city, is *not* a viable system of public safety, here or anywhere. As a particularly egregious instance of this system, MPD does not belong in the city charter -- an accountable, community-based system of safety and violence prevention does.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 3:18:23 PM

Justice cannot wait for another year - let the people decide how to create safety in our communities. We demand that the Community Safety Amendment appear on the 2020 ballot.

Ward 3

7/15/2020 3:18:47 PM

Whether we like it or not the police are a necessity, however Make it 3/5 job at 3 years weekly therapist session and 5 years small retirement package and education into new field. I believe after about 3yrs into policing a prejudgment begins to build so weekly therapist sessions are needed by 5 years they have seen too much and have developed full bias towards certain ethnicities so a small thank you retirement package and new education into new field.

Ward 3

7/15/2020 3:19:24 PM

I support community control of the police.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 3:26:25 PM

Hello.

I am asking the charter commission to please let us vote on the charter amendment on this most upcoming ballot. I personally believe that ALL citizens in Minneapolis deserve to be safe- this is a matter of life or death so we cannot afford to wait until next year to vote on this.

Thank you,

Ward 6

7/15/2020 3:26:40 PM

this proposal is off the mark.

Minneapolis doesn't have a police force problem! it has problems with police officers on the police force.

The administrations have neglected their duty to weed out the bad officers from the force.

To defund the police force is not the answer.

To rebuild a police force we can all be around of IS.

Crime is rising in those cities that do not have adequate staff.

ALL POLICE OFFICERS ARE NOT BAD

Ward 7

7/15/2020 3:30:12 PM

Defund the police!!

Ward 8

7/15/2020 3:33:34 PM

I would not vote in favor changing the city charter to take out the requirement of having a police force or take away the power of the Mayor to govern said force. That is giving the City Council a blank check to create any system they want, without any input from the residents putting everyone's safety in danger. In the past, this City Council has shown they only tend to listen to those who support their progressive agenda, not the majority or those who are directly involved in the proposed change. I do not trust them to drastically alter what we rely on for public safety. We need a stronger reformed police force, not the absence of one.

First the Mayor should remain in charge of the police force. Police matters need to move fast and having to get council approval is not a prudent way to run things. The Chief having to answer to 13 bosses is chaos. The City Council proposed this years ago, but have not taken any action to move this forward since. The City Council's time and talents can be better used in the many other issues our city faces.

City and neighborhood leaders everywhere are saying this amendment is a bad idea. What concerns me most, is when leaders of the brown and black communities for whom supposedly changing the city charter will help most, are saying, no, we need cops to protect us. We need more police that are part of the community, not less. The past few years the council has been in such conflict with the Police Chief, not listening or giving him the resources he has requested. We need resources to hire good cops, get new leadership in the police union, give cops time in the neighborhoods they serve to learn about them and be trusted, terminate the bad cops, train everyone properly, have enough staff to answer every 911 call, and not have staffing levels that lead to burn out. If we do not give them what they ask for, or even meet them part way, to allow them to do a good job, how can we expect them to be held accountable at meeting goals. City Government must take a part of the blame for the police dysfunction in our city.

Crime and violence is up in our city. Much of it is a crime of convenience. They know the streets are not being patrolled, 911 calls are not answered in a timely fashion and they will most likely not be caught so why not commit crime. We keep creating laws and regulations that no one is there to enforce. All this leads to chaos. I cannot even tell you that last time I saw a Minneapolis police out on patrol in the city. We count on the city for our safety and right now we are just told to handle it ourselves. As the largest city in the region we count on visitors to the city from nearby as well as surrounding states. If visitors do not feel safe they will stop coming and this will greatly erode the economic stability of our city and small businesses we take pride in. There is a block of the city that after several requests to the city and police has had to take matters in their own hands and fenced itself off just to be safe. In 2020, in Minneapolis, in the United State that should never need to happen.

The killing of George Floyd is a tragedy, without a doubt and justice should be served, but all the killings that have taken place in our city since then are tragedies as well. We need a police system and city government that can help to stop all killings from happening. This is not to say that other options than calling the police in certain cases should not be tried, but that needs to be rolled out and tested and work alongside the police. The future of our city and safety of every resident is at stake and we need to make sure changes work before relying on them. We already have an Office of Violence Prevention. As a long-time resident of Minneapolis, I have not seen nor heard about a difference this department makes. If we are looking to put more resources into this type of prevention we need to see what they do, that it is working, and be assured that is a good plan for the future, so far none of this has happened and violence levels continue to rise.

My husband and I are involved in our community and care deeply about this city, we have never wanted to move from Minneapolis nor own a gun. The fact that we may need to do either to protect ourselves breaks my heart.

Ward 13

7/15/2020 3:34:40 PM

Please amend the city charter as proposed. We NEED to dramatically change policing of our city, turning the tragedy of the murder of George Floyd into positive change. We need to disband the police and police federation (union), getting rid of racist, Bob Kroll. We need to end qualified immunity immediately. Please make the right choice for our community.

Ward 11

7/15/2020 3:35:47 PM

While I condemn the murder of George Floyd by a police officer, I do NOT support the proposal as written by the City Council to change the Minneapolis Charter to a "Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention".

I do support the work of Chief Arradondo to make significant changes in the Minneapolis Police Department including breaking off negotiations with the Police Union. Chief Arradondo has the experience, training and education to do the work to rebuild the Police Department if he could get the support of the City Council.

I believe the City Council needs to provide much more detail to the public about their proposal. This requires extensive research and study of other cities and successful models to learn what works and doesn't work. The City Council are elected officials who need to do their job and do the work to develop a detailed proposal for the public to respond. Expecting to develop a successful proposal from "listening sessions" from people who have not studied successful models is irresponsible. The City Council is paid to do this work or hire qualified consultants and researchers to develop a proposal. Their knee-jerk reaction to "Defund the Police" has harmed the effort to reform the Police Department.

Also, I also feel that it is important to have the chief of police to have one boss. I do not support removing the supervision from the mayor.

I chaired a Livability Committee for my neighborhood organization from 2014-2018. Our committee heard from residents about crime and safety issues. We learned that the Police Dept. at that time did not have enough officers.

Finally, with the City Council proposal, who is going to respond to 911 calls for crime? There are not enough officers now to do this work.

Ward 4

7/15/2020 3:38:52 PM

I want to be able to vote this fall on changing the charter. I know that I voted in the city council and the mayor, but I did not vote in the charter commission. Please do your job as appointed officials and let the residents of this city vote on the charter amendment this fall. It is for the people to decide. I want the people of this great city to be able to create systems of safety ourselves.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 3:39:22 PM

I support the proposed charter amendment because it prioritizes - in words and in a person - a non-militaristic approach to community safety and violence prevention, while retaining a place for armed peace officers.

Ward 12

7/15/2020 3:41:37 PM

We the people of Minneapolis deserve the right to vote as to whether or not policing should continue in its current form. And based on the terrible combination of over- and under-policing that has been standard operating procedure here in the Third Precinct for decades, I believe it should not. Commissioners should remember that the language that the City Council wants to revise was originally written by the Police Department and their lobbyists. The Council is asking that the people of this city be allowed to vote whether policing changes, not that the Commission change it for us. The Council will have 3 months to make a case to the people of Minneapolis -- the Commission should not take away our ability to vote whether or not they make a good one.

Thank you

Ward 9

7/15/2020 3:41:42 PM

I am in support of the proposed amendment to the City Charter, to create a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police Department from the Charter.

As I understand it, this would be just the first step in the democratic process of determining a more holistic public safety framework for our city. I also understand that the commission's job is to determine if this proposal is appropriate to the charter, not to block or pre-empt a democratic process that takes into account the needs and interests of the entire community. Please let the community decide on this issue at the ballot box.

I want a chance to vote YES on this amendment, because I believe our community can do so much better with community safety and violence prevention.

I have been a volunteer with restorative justice programs in South Minneapolis and have seen the incredible merit and power of these programs. Restorative or transformative justice looks at the victim, offender, AND the community and comes up with solutions closely tied to the offense, with the goal of repairing the harm for ALL involved, and also the goal of preventing future harm. It is a far-reaching and holistic approach, recognizing, for example, how a lack of opportunities (such a lack of job opportunities for young people) can be a cause for crime, and also recognizing how a low level crime that gets someone in the system can lead to bigger crimes. With restorative justice, in addition to the offender taking actions that directly repair the harm they committed, the program identifies ways that the offender could be plugged into opportunities and community connections that will reduce the likelihood of re-offense.

This is just one example from my own experience of a more highly trained and targeted response (vs. the traditional justice system) for youth offenses. But there are so many other issues that could also use more trained and targeted responses. We do not need armed police officers responding to a person sleeping on a park bench, nor serving as first responders for a mental health emergency. We need highly trained social workers and mental health workers serving in this role.

These are the kinds of common sense, holistic, and effective solutions that this charter amendment will allow our community to explore and develop, through a democratic process. Please allow this process to proceed; the uprising has shown that our community is past ready. Justice can't wait another year.

Thank you for your careful discernment and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ward 13

7/15/2020 3:42:48 PM

Please do your job and allow our community to decide by ballot whether or not to change the carter. Thousands of us have been marching and making our voices heard for this to happen. So please to not block the democratic process from happening. It is not your job to govern, so let us vote. Our whole country and beyond is watching us take the first steps into uncharted territory. We have an example that we need to set. Don't be the barrier that prevents that from happening.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 3:42:58 PM

I am not in favor of the proposed charter amendment to disband the Minneapolis Police force.

Retrain and reform the force but, but do not throw the baby out with the bathwater. We need the police.

The situation in Powderhorn Park is a good test case for not having a police force. It does not appear to be working out very well for the neighborhood.

The City Council has advanced no plans for replacing the police, and they are proposing that we vote on disbanding the force without a specific plan in mind. This is irresponsible. Perhaps we would be better served by disbanding the City Council.

Ward 7

7/15/2020 3:47:56 PM

Good evening, my name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Minneapolis in the Como neighborhood, Ward 2. I recently graduated from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities and I am a leader with ISAIAH's Youth Coalition.

I stand in solidarity with Black Visions and Reclaim the Block in that I urge the Charter Commission to let the People of Minneapolis decide how our city creates safety for our communities. Changing the Charter is a big decision and all Minneapolis residents must have input in the process, not a select few people.

Amidst the heartbreak and uprising surrounding the murder of George Floyd, we have seen our communities come together seeking accountability and justice. To me, people power and community-led decisions are the path to justice. It would be unjust to not allow our communities to vote on changing the Charter this year. Black and Brown people have been waiting for justice for hundreds of years already; justice cannot wait any longer.

Charter Commission, regardless of your position on changing the Minneapolis Charter, it is crucial that you allow democracy to decide the fate of the Charter this November. I urge you to make a recommendation about the charter by August 5th so that the people of Minneapolis can all vote and have their voices heard about our vision for public safety.

Let us vote. Thank you.

Ward 2

7/15/2020 3:50:20 PM

I wholeheartedly support removing MPD from the charter and investing in structures that keep all community members safe. I am ashamed of the racial violence our city bankrolls in the form of MPD, but I am encouraged by the possibility of a bright future where we treat the systemic issues creating instability in our communities instead of targeting and criminalizing individual members. We have a chance to set an example for the cities across the country and prove Black lives, Indigenous lives, disabled lives, immigrant lives, the lives of all people historically abused and underserved by police matter by investing in community care.

Ward 3

7/15/2020 3:51:26 PM

I support the proposed amendment. There is an urgent need to reimagine what is possible in terms of public safety.

Ward 11

7/15/2020 3:51:41 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

7/15/2020 3:52:27 PM

Let Us Vote! Residents of Minneapolis want the opportunity to vote on a referendum to MPD. Do your job!!! Do not block a democratic process that empowers community.

Ward 6

7/15/2020 4:04:20 PM

I stand with my fellow citizens in demanding a \$45 million cut from MPD's budget! An emergency budget should fund our communities' urgent needs! The MPD system creates inequity and terror for the citizens of Minneapolis. I ask you to use public dollars for addressing public needs and doing public good, not continuing public harm. Stop the murder. Stop the daily harassment.

- City Council: keep your word. Last fall the Council told us to wait until it was more politically viable to fund alternatives, then they gave MPD a raise. Now MPD has killed George Floyd. We need to tell the Council to put its money where its mouth is.
- Pay & protect workers. No more wage freezes, furloughs or firings. No cuts to Labor Standards Enforcement. Cut from the MPD budget and pay and protect workers instead.
- Homes for everyone. Feeling safe means having a home - if we spent just a fraction of MPD's budget on housing, we could house everyone in the park sanctuaries.

- Defund police terror tools. We don't want City dollars funding intimidation and scare-tactics! Immediately cut funding for special operations, the canine unit, and the mounted patrol.
- No more duplicate, duplicitous departments. MPD is the only department that has its own records request and communications departments, and they use them to obscure evidence of their crimes. Eliminate MPD's duplicate departments!
- Defund police PR & recruitment. We don't need more police, and we don't need the city spending money on police PR to improve MPD's image - our communities know the truth. Immediately defund the Community and Collaborative Advancement program.

Sincerely,

Ward 8

7/15/2020 4:05:41 PM

NO. No to changing the city charter. I live in North Minneapolis and besides my Councilmember (who seems to be working in lock-step with Councilmembers from South Minneapolis) this movement to change the city charter has not listened to my neighbors or my community leaders. I do not know anyone in North Minneapolis who supports this change. Enough. Stop this. Support Chief Arradondo and Mayor Frey. Help them, equip them, support them.

Ward 5

7/15/2020 4:07:07 PM

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a resident in the Corcoran neighborhood. I'm writing to express to you the urgent need for the proposed amendment to be on the ballot in November.

I've been listening to charter commission meetings and city council meetings and have greatly appreciated the consideration, thoughtful dialogue and good faith arguments for and against the proposed charter amendment. I've heard a lot of concern over what the new public safety model looks like and how it will respond to any number of scenarios. While I too share that concern, I am more concerned about what policing looks like if we don't make dramatic structural changes. After listening to the meeting with Mayor Frey and Chief Arradondo on 7/14, it's clear to me that they don't have a path forward that would adequately address the problems we're seeing in our communities. Investing more in programs that haven't worked doesn't seem like a good solution to me.

Our current model for public safety is broken. It leaves many of our citizens treated unfairly, over policed, and harassed by police. Additionally, it asks too much of our police officers. They're asked to respond to mental health crises, domestic abuse crises, homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction which they are not adequately qualified to do.

I'm a handyman by trade and know that complicated problems require a diverse set of tools to solve. I support the proposed amendment because I want to see a public safety model that has a diverse set of tools for complicated social problems. I want to see a public safety model that truly serves everyone in our communities and emphasizes solving systematic issues with systematic solutions.

While I understand how heavy of a burden this decision is, and how quickly you're being asked to make it, these are extraordinary circumstances and require an extraordinary response. I urge you to not extend your review period, and make a decision on the proposed amendment on August 5th. We, the citizens of Minneapolis, need the opportunity to vote on the proposed amendment and chart a path forward.

Thanks for your time and for your work,

Ward 9

7/15/2020 4:07:20 PM

The charter commission needs to let Minneapolis vote on this change to the charter. We want to transition the city to a safer one, and that means changing the MPD. We want this put on the November ballot so we have a chance to vote for a step towards real public safety. This is something we can do now to use a momentum for a desired safety for all. Let the people vote!

Ward 10

7/15/2020 4:08:27 PM

Do not change anything about the current structure of the Police Dept. If anything is done to help reduce crime in the city, then it should be the hiring of more police officers and increased neighborhood patrols with walking beats. Also, very importantly, the requirement for police officers to live in the city should be reinstated (this should be a requirement of all city employees).

Ward 1

7/15/2020 4:09:14 PM

We can't wait another year. Let the people decide and let the Democratic process continue. Let the community decide at the ballot box.

Ward 7

7/15/2020 4:11:45 PM

Please do not defund the police or change the City Council charter.

Fire the head of the police union and start a more aggressive police training program.

I will be moving out of the City soon after living here since 1988. I can't understand how a City with our resources can be so mismanaged.

The City Council needs to go!

By the way, don't think that you can mandate a 2040 Zoning Plan, redistrict the schools, require an energy audit/score before I can sell my house, and allow the City to burn from riots - and then expect to raise my property taxes. Property values for mid-upper bracket homes will decrease 10-15 percent due to these mandates and events. I know this because I work in residential real estate.

If you had any management skill and felt any fiscal responsibility to taxpayers, you would cease work on the \$2.5 billion SWLRT "homeless shelter" immediately and use those funds to rebuild rioted areas.

Does anyone on the City Council have a clue?

Ward 7

7/15/2020 4:12:03 PM

I support the amendment of the charter to allow for future changes to policing in Minneapolis. The department -- as it stands today -- is a racist institution that doesn't reflect our city and doesn't meet our needs. I'm looking forward to envisioning new models in community safety.

Thank you,

Ward 6

7/15/2020 4:13:04 PM

I support the amendment and the concepts behind the amendment. The council ought to have the ability to exercise effective oversight of any public safety organization, and take a role in how those organizations are lead. Council members are the elected officials most likely to represent the feelings and thoughts of a community. Feeling safe in the community in which you call home is a concern of everyone. Those charged with maintaining safety ought to be answerable to the largest and most democratic constituency, and thus the city council's input into the management of public safety must be paramount.

Ward 1

7/15/2020 4:15:12 PM

Against Charter changes sponsored by this reckless and sophomore City Council. Our Council member is NEVER in touch with her constituents or she would have remained with her original no confidence vote for this idea. Save and protect the neighborhoods that support the police

structure and improve not drastically and without a plan choose to try to change the Charter with no direction or concrete written plan. Just ideas from a power hungry Council.

Ward 7

7/15/2020 4:16:07 PM

The violence of policing has to stop, and the voters of Minneapolis know it . Minneapolis deserves to keep each other safe, and to make decisions together to divert funds away from police. The proposed community safety amendment must be put on the ballot this year.

Ward 8

7/15/2020 4:20:54 PM

Writing to support changing the City Charter as a step towards creating a more effective, equitable police department. I would love to see expanded social services with the money saved from slimming down the MPD, especially towards a "611" type hotline, for help with low-level and non-criminal activities.

Ward 12

7/15/2020 4:20:57 PM

I join my neighbors in calling for a new model of public safety. Please put the proposed amendment on the ballot for November 2020!

Thank you,

Whittier resident

Ward 10

7/15/2020 4:28:05 PM

So, the mayor considers the police use of arm bars and handcuffs as a form of de-escalation. Those are use-of-force issues. De-escalation is talking -- restorative-type practices. C'mon. The community demands change, not some ivory tower, same-as-usual BS! Change can't wait until the ballot box, Mayor Frey. But, if you make us wait, be ready for the consequences.

Ward 1

7/15/2020 4:28:26 PM

The charter commission should allow a vote to go to Ballot

It is clear the exact wording of the proposed change does need to be finessed and that's why it is imperative that City Council members work with Black and Indigenous community leaders to come to an agreement on the exact language of the proposed charter change.

Ward 6

7/15/2020 4:30:04 PM

The police union needs to be abolished, so that Mpls can kick out the dead wood! There are good cops and bad cops, and by implementing the strategies proposed already, as well as other strategies, we could weed out the bad cops and have the best force in the nation: By using the remedy of requiring police professional liability insurance, and requiring more education and community contact, Minneapolis could have a great department! (The 1st precinct refused to even take a police report after my assault because they thought that my low blood sugar was instead a state of intoxication! The resulting depression from double victimization cost me 10 years of my life! All this for being former military reservist with a security clearance and a working professional! They need to be better educated.)

Ward 4

7/15/2020 4:31:21 PM

I support the charter amendment that would allow for the removal of the MPD as a required city department and establish a new civilian Department of Public Safety and Violence Protection. Allow this to be brought to a vote with the city.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 4:35:48 PM

I strongly disagree with defunding the police. If anything, we're in desperate need to increase funding to our police and add more police officers to Minneapolis. The poor and vulnerable are those in need of police protections and support! Property owner, Whittier

Ward 10

7/15/2020 4:36:09 PM

Greetings-

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a ward 9 resident.

I am asking you practice true democracy by listening to the Mpls. residence and allow up us to vote on the Charter Amendment proposed by our elected official on the city council.

Please don't play gate keepers with Charter Amendment. The time is now to allow Mpls residence to vote on the Charter Amendment. We have watched, as well as the rest of world, inexcusable actions of the MPD as they killed a George Floyd a father, a community member and a Black man in South Mpls. This is not new we have witnessed to many people be killed by the MPS. Folks from all over Mn came to our city to protest the murder of George Floyd by the MPD. Ending the abusive nature of the MPD is multi-pronged and voting on the Charter Amendment step in that direction. I urge to allow the community to vote on the Charter Amendment. We must not forget that the MPLS Uprising of 2020 ignited a flame that traveled all over the world. People are demanding change and change is happening. Today we find ourselves with a concrete way on how to move forward as a community to end the

abusive of power and killings by the MPD through voting on the Charter Amendment. Please allow up to vote on this Charter Amendment proposed by our elected officials and be on the right side of history.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 4:37:06 PM

Please give a thought to the law-abiding tax payers in this city and start providing many more patrol officers so that we can have some hope of some quality of life here. You're letting the violent criminals take over. Stop it. Just stop the crime. All of it at every level. That is your job.

Ward 4

7/15/2020 4:37:13 PM

SWOP Minneapolis supports “amending Article VII of the City Charter relating to Administration and Article VIII of the City Charter relating to Officers and Other Employees, pertaining to the creation of a new Charter Department to provide for community safety and violence prevention, and the removal of the Police Department as a Charter Department.” As SWOP Minneapolis, we want the opportunity to VOTE YES on the amendment, and we ask the commission to do their job as representatives of their community and support a democratic process that empowers those they serve. This is urgent and cannot wait another year or another decade. We cannot stand by and say “one day” or “next time” or “later” or “after we fix this.” We cannot live in a better, more equitable world if we do not start today. Lives are at stake. It has taken us far too long to question the powers and responsibilities of the police department. Our acceptance of the status quo and assumption of moral clarity on the part of police has cost Minneapolis dearly. Those most disenfranchised in our community are finally being acknowledged and centered in discussions around police activity. They are reminding us that for many, those charged with providing “public safety” are creating the most violence, the most trauma. Members of the community who are deeply impacted by policing need to have a say about the future of MPD in Minneapolis. A better world is possible, but not if we do not listen. Public safety must come from community strategies and must be shaped by community care. It is only then that we can begin the healing process. As members of SWOP Minneapolis we are familiar with community safety strategies that stem from working in criminalized and stigmatized industries. As the Commission, it is your job solely to determine if the proposal is appropriate to the charter. Black Visions Collective states that “this amendment will provide our communities with the foundation to begin thoughtfully building systems that actually keep us safe.” We agree with their statement. This is the beginning of a new foundation, a first step towards real safety. We cannot undo the wounds we have inflicted; generational trauma and systematic disenfranchisement walk hand in hand, after all. But this is a necessary first step. Give the people a chance to say their piece. We are asking for a chance to vote for our futures, something that should be our right.

Ward 6

7/15/2020 4:37:39 PM

I strongly disagree with defunding the police. If anything, we're in desperate need to increase funding to our police and add more police officers to Minneapolis. The poor and vulnerable are those in need of police protections and support! I'm a property owner in Ward 3, and pay a ridiculous amount in property taxes and expect police support. Resident, West Saint Anthony.

Ward 3

7/15/2020 4:39:27 PM

Hello, my name is [REDACTED] and I am a Minneapolis resident IN SUPPORT of "amending Article VII of the City Charter relating to Administration and Article VIII of the City Charter relating to Officers and Other Employees, pertaining to the creation of a new Charter Department to provide for community safety and violence prevention, and the removal of the Police Department as a Charter Department." I want the opportunity to VOTE YES on the amendment, and I ask the commission to do their job as representatives of their community and support a democratic process that empowers those they serve. This is urgent, and community voices MUST BE HEARD. As the Commission, it is your job solely to determine if the proposal is appropriate to the charter. I want the chance to vote for the world I want to live in, a world that does not continue to systemically harm Black folks. This is a step toward a more just future. Thank you for your time.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 4:40:18 PM

The people of Minneapolis deserve an opportunity to exercise our collective voice and vote on what kind of future we want for our families and community. We have showed up in the midst of a pandemic, putting our health and welfare on the line, to call for change and highlight the continued brutality of the MPD. For many Minneapolis residents this was not an option. Because of school, work, health, or family reasons they couldn't be out there in the streets with us. Nonetheless they deserve to have their voices heard. This opportunity to vote on this referendum is that chance and we have earned it and we deserve it as residents of this city. Do your job and let us vote!

Ward 10

7/15/2020 4:41:38 PM

How are you going address the need for corresponders, when you currently have a pilot program that is less than a tenth of a percent of the overall budget? Who are you going you consult for this? Eugene, OR is not a good example either because its over 90% white.

Ward 4

7/15/2020 4:45:56 PM

My name is [REDACTED]. I was born & raised in Minneapolis and have lived in Ward 6 for the last 12 years.

The commission's job is to determine if the proposal is appropriate to the charter - not to govern and not to block a democratic process that empowers community. The Charter Commission needs to do their job and let voters decide!

The uprising was a referendum on the police department, even if it didn't take place in City Hall. Thousands of us took to the street; now the Charter Commission must do its job and let the community decide at the ballot box. We can't wait another year.

We need meaningful change to community safety and policing in Minneapolis. MPD has a long history of police violence and brutality against our Black, Native, Latino, and Mentally Ill neighbors and relatives. We all deserve better! We need to be able to Change the Charter in order to effect the meaningful and structural changes our communities need to be safe, respected, and thrive. Let us vote!

Ward 6

7/15/2020 4:49:08 PM

DEFUND THE POLICE

We don't need more police, and we don't need the city spending money on police PR to improve MPD's image - communities know the truth. Immediately defund the Community and Collaborative Advancement program.

We must defund the police and reallocate those funds to the people, to the community, towards education and mental health services. The police do not help the people. they terrorize them.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/15/2020 4:49:48 PM

Hello,

I want to join my community in calling for you, the Charter Commission, to do your jobs and listen to us as we ask for the simple right to weigh in on our city's structure and priorities. Listen to the numerous voices demanding to be heard and trust the community's ability to vote for what is best for us. Do not block this democratic process! It is not yours to decide, it is yours to put to a vote, to raise up as an option to be fairly decided upon. LET US VOTE!

The sheer numbers of Minneapolis residents who have turned out for this mission and who continue to show up for the defunding of the police, for drastic re-imagining of community safety, for a new path forward, shows the urgency of this matter. It is time to open the door to change. Do not stand in the way of a community's right to decide its own solutions and governance.

I believe in the power of our community to know what it needs. We deserve the chance to decide ourselves whether we want the MPD to remain on the city Charter, a document that should be a reflection of the people of Minneapolis. We do not need more gatekeepers restricting real change. The Charter needs to be a living document, open to change.

Let us vote.

Thank you.

Ward 6

7/15/2020 4:50:48 PM

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a Latino immigrant, a COVID nurse, and a transgender person living 5 blocks from where police murdered George Floyd. It is clear to me that American policing (and our criminal justice system as a whole) perpetuates oppression and leads to suffering. Much of this ties into elements of white supremacy and colonialism so entrenched in mainstream American culture, it will take generations to correct. However, in Minneapolis we have an opportunity to take real steps in the direction of justice and progress by seriously defunding MDP and reimagining public safety outside of police. I want to feel safe in my neighborhood. I do not want to continue to fund paramilitary police with armed tanks. I want to see this proposed amendment on the ballot in November 2020 so we can choose a better future for our city.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 4:51:01 PM

The Charter Commission will in the coming weeks decide whether the people of Minneapolis have the opportunity to transform the future of public safety in their city. For nearly my entire life police brutality has been an abstraction; so far removed from my lived as experience as to be almost incomprehensible. And I have viewed the police themselves as something akin to force of nature, with all the inevitability of the rising and falling of the tides. And if occasionally those waves drowned people -- well, such are the vicissitudes of nature.

Then came the worst night of my life. After months of deteriorating health, I found myself engulfed in a mental health crisis. As I stood on the edge of taking my own life (literally and figuratively), no fewer than six police cars, lights flashing and horns blaring, descended on me. Too distraught to even understand what was happening, I stood passively as agents of the state, authorized to use violent force at their discretion, decided what to do with me. Their decision? Drop me off at the hospital and leave an officer behind to make sure I didn't attempt to leave.

I want to emphasize that given the circumstances, my experience went about as well as anyone could expect. At no point did they physically restrain or intimidate me. The color of my skin, coupled with my timid disposition, no doubt played a role in this. And yet at any point, should they have determined that I posed a threat, they were within their rights to restrain me by any means necessary. (I should note that this took place in a different city in a different state, but based on the conduct of the MPD in recent weeks, there's little reason to suppose my experience would have been any better here).

I believe a different world is possible. One in which public safety is not enforced by what in effect is an occupying army, but is instead cultivated by strengthening the ties that bind us. One where people in crisis are approached by those trained to use love and compassion, not intimidation. Just as tendons unite muscle and bone to make the body whole, so can the sinews of our collective body keep us safe and strong. Ultimately, however, it should be up to all the people of Minneapolis to decide whether they share this vision, which is why I implore you to approve this ballot proposal.

Ward 3

7/15/2020 4:52:26 PM

I strongly support the charter change. It will provide the City the flexibility it needs to incorporate into statutes the needed reorganization of public safety services that this City needs.

Reformation of the current police department has proven inadequate many times in the past. It's time for a much more bold and extensive rethinking and redesign. With this change, we will have plenty of time to reinvent how public safety is provided with plenty of opportunity for participation from all, expert to citizen. These changes can be phased in over time. But we need this big leap forward to kick start it and we need it this year or momentum will be lost and disillusionment set in waiting for the next \$multi-million explosion.

Ward 7

7/15/2020 4:55:40 PM

It is imperative that we work toward justice and safety in the communities now. The uprisings that occurred after George Floyd's murder were in direct response to our need to make change. We cannot wait another year before we decide to make changes. The time is now - we deserve to vote on this in November 2020.

Ward 7

7/15/2020 4:57:16 PM

Please remove the police requirement from the charter! The police endanger our community more than they serve the community!

Ward 9

7/15/2020 4:57:36 PM

I moved to Minneapolis after college and loved it here, mostly because of the vibrancy of queer life and community involvement in the arts. As a trans person, I know firsthand that the MPD ACTIVELY detracts from the safety and wellbeing of Minneapolis communities. I'm writing to DEMAND that we be allowed to vote on the Charter. We MUST remove the requirement for a minimum # of police!!

#ChangeTheCharter #LetUsVote #DoYourJob

Ward 9

7/15/2020 4:57:52 PM

My name is [REDACTED], and I am an African-American high school graduate living in Edina, Minnesota. I ask that this amendment be passed for the following three reasons:

Firstly, creating a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and removing the Minneapolis Police Department from the Charter would subject the Minneapolis Police Department to accountability that is desperately needed. Removing the police from the city's Constitution would provide the space and resources for a new approach to public safety efforts.

Secondly, a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department would be more effective than the current Police Department because currently, individuals only need "16 weeks of training at the Minneapolis Police Academy" to become officers according to the Criminal Justice Degree Schools' website. Additionally, police officers are expected to protect citizens and address a plethora of situations—the city's current approach to public safety puts officers under immense pressure to perform as traffic regulators, social workers, de-escalators, and investigators all at once. Through the Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department, the city could hire multiple licensed professionals who specialize in their subjects in order to ensure that Minneapolis residents are adequately and efficiently protected, and that they have a variety of services available to them without having to depend on one department to provide them all simultaneously.

Finally, this amendment should be passed because radical change is necessary. How can one deny this, after seeing headline after headline alerting the public that yet another Black life has been stolen by the very same people who are supposed to protect us? Each name that becomes a hashtag demanding justice stands as proof that this current system is not working. Minneapolis has an opportunity to take action in order to build a community where each and every citizen feels safe, and the whole world is watching.

In the spirit of democracy, I ask that the Charter Commission support this amendment and expedite its review process with the recommendation that it be placed on the ballot for voters to decide this fall on Election Day. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

7/15/2020 5:00:17 PM

I am 100% in favor of the charter amendment, but I think the most important thing is for the charter commission to make a decision either way so city council can get it on the ballot for the upcoming election. I've been following the meetings and committees, and I understand that the commission wants to get it right, but getting it to the voters is so important. The system is so broken and it has done so much harm that the burden of proof can no longer be on the folks trying to enact change. The burden is on the system to prove that it can change, and I haven't seen any real evidence that it's up to the task. Minneapolis residents have spoken up for change clearly and repeatedly, and this is their chance to see something real happen. Please consider the decision carefully but PLEASE make a decision by the deadline. The people of Minneapolis deserve to make this decision for themselves, and the time for that decision is now. We've all been through a lot this year and we need this opportunity to have our voices heard.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 5:00:42 PM

We can't wait another year. Please put this charter amendment vote to the public this November. The future of our city is tied to this. Let the voters decide on that future.

Ward 2

7/15/2020 5:02:43 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am a citizen of Minneapolis Ward 3. I am writing to strongly implore the Charter Commission to allow the proposed amendments to Article VII and Article VIII of the City Charter pertaining to public safety reforms to be put on the ballot in the upcoming November election. The Charter Commission, as an unelected body, has jurisdiction to vet the language of ballot initiatives but not to vet proposed policy. The people of Minneapolis have taken to the streets to demand justice. Unelected officials cannot speak for us. We deserve the chance to have our voices speak for themselves through a democratic vote. We, the people of Minneapolis, need a new model of public safety. Justice cannot wait another year while people's lives hang in the balance. The proposed amendments to the City Charter must be put to a vote this year. The Charter Commission must not obstruct this process.

Thank you for your time.

Resident of NE Minneapolis

Ward 3

7/15/2020 5:03:18 PM

The Charter Commission's job isn't to debate the merits of the proposed amendment. As long as it fits within the framework of the City Charter, just approve it so the public can vote. Uphold our democratic process, please.

Powderhorn Park.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 5:03:29 PM

Don't rush to change the city's charter. While it's understandable that a life so visibly, needlessly snuffed our cries for action, any charter change should not be rushed. Yes our current policing practices fail many. So, yes, there must be changes so all Minneapolis residences who are in danger or see danger can call 911 for help they trust, like I've done. Toxic officers must not be shielded because of misplaced loyalty. It's obvious that every call for help doesn't benefit from an armed response. But this year I'd VOTE NO on a charter amendment.

Ward 11

7/15/2020 5:04:05 PM

Dear Charter Commission members,

As a Minneapolis resident, I urge you to consider the amendments to the charter and return to City Council in time to be placed on the ballot in November. As Minneapolis residents, we deserve to have a choice. Thank you and have a good evening.

Best,

Ward 6

7/15/2020 5:04:47 PM

I would like to see the City Charter amended to allow for redistribution of resources/funding away from the Minneapolis Police Department into other resources such as housing and mental health response teams. There should not be a minimum quota for police officers in the City. I feel the people should at least have the option to decide if they would like to see the City Charter changed. If things continue as they are, we will always receive the same results, which we know has historically perpetuated unfavorable outcomes for people of color, among others, in the city.

Ward 8

7/15/2020 5:09:50 PM

Do your job and let us vote. We cannot wait another year to address the charter and redefine public safety for ourselves.

I am appalled at the brutality of the MPD. I'm disgusted with the bloated budget that pays cops to play soldier dress-up, incite violence in our streets, terrorize and murder our neighbors and behave with blatant disregard for the community they supposedly serve in exchange for gigantic paychecks and zero accountability. This cannot continue.

Listen to the community. Not the cops who don't even live here.

Ward 1

7/15/2020 5:11:24 PM

Totally in support, thanks!

Ward 1

7/15/2020 5:13:35 PM

I am not in support of defunding the police. When members of City Council felt threatened, they hired private security to ensure their protection. How many community safety and violence prevention specialists did we employ to ensure their protection? None - they hired private police, not social workers to protect them. And privatization of our City services through private security is not the answer.

Dismantling the police is a divisive sound byte, and a short-term and short-sighted solution to a long-term systemic problem. Less police does not make more people feel safe. It is popular now - but just as council members' Jenkins, Cunningham, and Cano have demonstrated we want safety and security - not social workers - to protect our homes and families.

<https://www.fox9.com/news/security-for-minneapolis-council-totaled-152k>

Ward 12

7/15/2020 5:13:40 PM

The charter commission needs to get out of the way and let the people vote. We have made our voice clear time and time again, and if the charter commission chooses to stand in our way and refuse to let our voices be heard, the city will suffer for it. It is suffering every day as it is. Do the right thing and let the people vote

Ward 11

7/15/2020 5:15:19 PM

We, the residents of Minneapolis, deserve the question of Changing the Charter to be put on this fall's ballot, November 2020. Please move as completely and swiftly as possible to make this possible. Our city is ready for change. We watched, heard and smelled our city burn because people are not being listened to. We need to be heard, not only our voices but our decision as a community as to where we want our city to go directionally with resources. Many of us want to focus on putting the city's money into preventative resources - helping our community citizens with stable housing, food security, economic and racial justice. And focus less on policing problems out of our community - because that is not working or helping.

Please put this item on the ballot this November 2020.

Thank you

Ward 12

7/15/2020 5:17:19 PM

Please support Establishing Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department (Legislative File 2020-00668)

Ward 11

7/15/2020 5:17:27 PM

I 100% support the charter amendment regarding the Minneapolis Police Department. I support Black Lives Matter. I implore you to put this charter amendment on the ballot, even if you don't agree with the amendment. The diverse collection of voters should have their voices heard. The non-diverse charter commission should not silence our voices and our vote.

Ward 12

7/15/2020 5:21:27 PM

I would like to see the Charter Amendment on the ballot in November.

Ward 8

7/15/2020 5:22:33 PM

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident at [REDACTED] and Garfield in Ward 11. I am also a teacher in Minneapolis Public Schools.

I am writing to urge the MPLS Charter Commission to allow citizens to vote on the charter amendment this year. The people of Minneapolis have demonstrated a need and capacity to participate in reimagining what safety can look like in our community.

Ward 11

7/15/2020 5:23:04 PM

Dear members of the Minneapolis Charter Commission,

I am writing because I am in support of allowing the proposed charter amendment on police and community safety to be put to public vote this year. The people of Minneapolis deserve to be able to decide if we want to remove the police department as a charter mandated institution in our city. Allowing us to vote on this enables just the first step in a truly democratic, community-led process around how we want public safety to be implemented in our city.

I live one block south of Lake Street on the Northeast end of Powderhorn Park. Since the community uprising over the police killing of George Floyd in May, I have been part of community measures to keep our neighborhood safe and to take care of each other without depending on the punitive types of measures that police employ. Before this time as well, I have been in several situations where I have needed to find support for people in dangerous situations on the street or for crime happening in or around my apartment building, and have felt powerless because the police would not have been able to help in sufficient ways and would potentially have made the situations worse. In most of these situations, mental health or social services support was what was needed, and I felt my hands tied to do more than sit with a person for a while, give them water, food, a blanket or bus fare, and send them on their way to who-knows-where because the existent services that could have helped them were at capacity.

I want our city's resources to be put into providing basic needs which in turn prevents crime instead of it being mandated by the city charter for resources to be put into policing. Of course there are many different opinions in the community about the need for policing, but we the people are more than capable of continuing those conversations and deciding how we want to proceed. As it stands now, the charter mandate for a police department and a certain ratio of police to residents in the city prevents us as citizens from deciding how we want to keep ourselves safe. It ties our hands to keep the status quo, and this is not working for us--in many cases, it is particularly harming Black, Indigenous, People of Color and poor and working class people.

Having the ability to change the charter does not mean police would be done away with immediately without other systems being put in place first. It just means that, should we the people vote to pass it,

we would have the freedom to come up with and implement other systems that will be more effective because they truly come from the communities who are the most impacted. Please allow us to start this process by allowing this amendment to go to public vote this year. I am tired of my hands being tied from helping implement the kind of change that will keep my neighbors and myself safe and provided for in a holistic, non-punitive way. Please allow us to vote on this amendment so that we, the community, can be the ones who decide! Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ward 9

7/15/2020 5:25:46 PM

My name is [REDACTED], and I'm a resident of the Audubon Park Neighborhood. I provided an abbreviated version of these comments during the 7/15 Public Charter Commission meeting.

First, I'd like to say thank you for allowing me to comment on this important issue. I'd also like to thank the Charter Commission members for their work on this amendment. I know that the work that needs to happen to get this amendment on the ballot in November requires an expedited timeline, which means more work for the Charter Commission. I recognize and acknowledge the hard work and sacrifice that this will entail.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to testify. The Charter Commission needs to understand that it is urgent that this amendment is on the ballot in November. Although police violence against Black Minneapolis residents is not new, we have reached a tipping point. Not only do Black men fear for their lives whenever they interact with Minneapolis police officers, but in the wake of the unrest following George Floyd's murder, Minneapolis communities have been left to police their own streets.

As a Minneapolis resident, I have no confidence that MPD can be reformed in any meaningful way. I have watched MPD fail to fully implement past reforms on the use of reasonable force and on police officer conduct. The issue with police violence in our city isn't simply that officers receive inadequate training or that more money should fund the office of violence prevention. In fact, no amount of reform will change the racist history of policing in America nor the culture of a department that has demonstrated a longstanding pattern of abuses against black, brown, and indigenous residents and resistance to reform. This is why city residents deserve the right to vote in November on a re-imagined model of public health and public safety.

Even though the process may feel rushed, be assured that the proposal to amend the charter is not a knee-jerk reaction to recent events, and it doesn't come out of a vacuum. Several organizations, including Reclaim the Block and MPD 150 have been working for years to re-imagine public safety in Minneapolis. They have developed detailed policy proposals for a new model of public safety. It is work like this that council members would draw on to structure a new department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Ultimately it is the responsibility of the City Council to articulate their policy vision to city residents, but it is the responsibility of the Charter Commission to allow voters to decide which path we go down in re-imagining what public safety looks like in our city.

Again, thanks for allowing me the chance to speak on this issue.

Ward 1

7/15/2020 5:31:37 PM

Hi there! I was the first speaker (2204) for tonight's (7/15) public hearing, but *6 didn't seem to unmute my phone, thus losing my spot to provide verbal comment. Below is a written version of the testimony I had hoped to provide:

My name is [REDACTED] and I am white, heterosexual, cisgendered male homeowner in the Northeast Park. I say that to level-set that I'm someone who our current system of policing was basically set up to protect. I have the privilege to be comfortable around police in a way that too few of our brothers and sisters in Minneapolis are able to share.

I know the amendment before the Charter Commission comes with many questions. Questions about what the new structure would look like. Questions about labor law and existing contracts. Questions about who is ultimately responsible in the proposed new system. All of these questions are completely valid.

But for which there is no question is that our current system of policing is fundamentally flawed and in need of a complete re-imagining. I'm here to ask commissioners to embrace the uncertainty, to embrace the unknowns, and to trust that we will answer these questions in the coming weeks and months. I ask members of the charter commission to vote yes on the proposed amendment and let Minneapolis residents chart a new path for community safety and violence prevention.

Thank you for your time.

Ward 1

7/15/2020 5:41:56 PM

Please do your job and put the charter on the ballot in the fall so the people can vote for it. It is very important. Many people have asked the same, let the public decide. Thank you for hearing my comment.

Ward 1

7/15/2020 5:50:09 PM

As a lifelong Minneapolis resident, I am calling on your support for a City Charter amendment this fall to establish a department of community safety and violence prevention. The city Charter has gotten in the way of essential public oversight over the Minneapolis Police Department and has been a barrier to creating a system of public safety that works for everyone. The time to invest in a different system and act together to defend Black lives is now.

When it comes to transforming policing in our communities, too many public officials have said "my hands are tied" for too long. There are now clear, actionable opportunities before us to create real, substantive change and to save lives. Start with a charter referendum on the November 2020 ballot. Please ensure our voices have a chance to be heard through a 2020 charter amendment.

Sincerely,

Ward 6

7/15/2020 5:52:49 PM

I support the charter amendment because as a sexual assault/domestic violence victim's advocate, I have witnessed law enforcement fail and re-traumatize survivors, especially Black and Indigenous survivors, and Survivors of Color. The truth is that despite the funds spent on training and reform, police fail to provide efficient and compassionate services to survivors.

The Minneapolis community knows first-hand that this is only one of the many issues with current policing and the criminal justice system. We need the charter amendment on the November ballot, so Minneapolis can dismantle the systems that continues to fail its residents and so we can build community based safety that reflects the needs of ALL residents.

Ward 10

7/15/2020 5:56:31 PM

Let me start out by saying that there are a lot of scared people out there who are afraid to express their opinions because the city is tolerating arsonist and looters. We want to have a police force that responses to 911 calls. We want the city resources protected and not turned over to protesters for destruction. We want the city council and mayor to live by the same rules as everyone else and not have private protection. If you want a better police force, don't cut down on numbers, increase numbers and pay so they are fresh and can deal with situations in a rationale manner. Police shouldn't have to work two jobs. Most people don't function well after 10 hours of work let alone high stress work. No, I am not a police officer or even know one. If you want to send social workers to some calls, that is fine when appropriate but don't reduce the police force. The city already has hurt our tax base by allowing these riots. If you reduce the police force, you are going to lose more businesses to the suburbs where law and order is a given. Are they trying to turn us into a Detroit or Chicago? Those are not models to aspire to. Listen to the police chief and allow him to do his job. Stop this craziness now before it is too late.

Ward 11

7/15/2020 6:06:04 PM

Hello to the members of the Charter Commission!

My name is [REDACTED] (they/them/theirs), I work at Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL) based on 38th and Chicago, and I live in the Seward neighborhood in Ward 6.

I urge you to responsively approve and submit the proposed charter amendment -- to create a department of community safety and violence prevention -- to the general ballot for residents of Minneapolis to vote on in November. Police brutality is nothing new, rooted in histories of violent slave catchers and patrols, but has reached a boiling point in our community this summer with the murder of George Floyd near our building at 38th and Chicago. The time is now for our whole city to have a say on how we move forward with violence prevention and community safety in our neighborhoods, and the first step in that process is putting the charter amendment up for popular vote in November.

I also support the amendment because I believe in defunding the police, and directing resources to public health, housing, and social services instead. I know from firsthand experience that we need

alternatives to violence prevention and community safety that do not rely on escalation and policing. My debit and credit cards were stolen in late October this year, and when I tracked down where the fraudulent transactions were made on my card, I figured out that a young person, no more than 15 years old, had taken my wallet in order to feed their family. The restaurant owner allowed me to view security footage when the transactions were made, and what I saw was a whole family ordering food. In that situation, repair did NOT look like criminalization or punishment to me. It looked like that family having what they need, having food on the table. No one deserves to be punished for not having food -- a basic human need.

Our city needs to understand the root cause of crime -- people not having what they need, and centuries of violence. Let us be bold and visionary and make history. Let Minneapolis take a powerful step for a new vision of what community safety looks like.

Please submit and approve the charter amendment before the election. I am ready to vote, and so are my fellow coworkers and community members!

With hope and despair, for justice for George Floyd,

Sheff

Ward 6

7/15/2020 6:20:21 PM

My name is [REDACTED], I live in Seward. It is glaringly clear that change is needed. It is glaringly clear that there is a public mandate for change. And that means change is going to come. Change will come one of two ways. Through democratic channels, or in the streets. I want you to remember how it felt those nights when people took the streets. It feels like a long time ago, but remember when how you felt watching the city burn. If you don't let us vote on this, I don't know what else you expect to happen. Haven't you ever heard the phrase "the ballot or the bullet"? Give us the ballot. Let us vote.

Ward 6

7/15/2020 6:21:47 PM

Dear Minneapolis Charter Commission Members:

The vague proposal submitted by the Minneapolis City Council is inadequate. The process for reengineering public safety in Minneapolis must be thoughtfully and planfully developed not rushed. The nine Council Members who participated in a community meeting without proper notice on LIMS most likely violated Minnesota Open Meetings laws. The process for development of a future Charter change has been undemocratic and opaque.

Since the civil unrest following the killing in police custody of George Floyd, Minneapolis residents in many communities have been held hostage in their homes by gun violence and general lawlessness unchecked by the City of Minneapolis. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, as illustrated by the complexity and difficulty in conducting a simple public hearing about this matter, the ability for the City of Minneapolis to conduct a valid, robust, inclusive and meaningful public engagement process to re-envision public safety is doubtful.

Please do not take imprudent action at this time to submit a vague Charter Amendment for the November 2020 ballot. The cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul and other metro area communities have already suffered \$500 million in property damage from the unchecked civil unrest, which Federal FEMA recently denied funding.

I support a federal or state Truth and Reconciliation process with Reparations for Black families who are heirs of enslaved persons over the past 400 years, but specifically since the United States was founded.

Jeffrey Strand, Minneapolis citizen and taxpayer.

Ward 4

7/15/2020 6:27:52 PM

Hello, I just waited 70 minutes to testify at the Charter Commission, and when I pressed *6 someone else came on, so I wasn't able to speak. So I am writing my comments here. I am Nance Kent, live in Linden Hills, Ward 13, and am a K-12 teacher. I would like to focus on your role as overseer of the Charter in a democracy. This issue deserves to be sent to a vote by the people, and not encumbered by government bureaucracy, particularly one that doesn't actually represent the whole city. The City Council actually does represent people through the electoral process, and they have unanimously voted to bring the Charter Amendment to the people. Any calls for "more time" only reinforce people's suspicions that the dangerous situation that keeps harming people will be dillied and dallied, rather than dealt with. We already have a group of 25 plus neighbors organizing discussions about the ammendment, and I think we have plenty of time before Nov. 3 to engage with anyone who cares about the issues, so they can vote in good conscience. Please let us vote.

Ward 13

7/15/2020 6:29:55 PM

Hi, my name is [REDACTED] - i live in Ward 3 in the Marcy Holmes neighborhood and I moved back to Minneapolis in the last year after finishing college. One of the reasons I chose to move back to Minneapolis is because we're a city known for our community engagement. I have been struck time and time again by the ability of our community leaders in Minneapolis, from community organizers, faith leaders, teachers, city council members, and politicians from all levels, to be able to ignite and engage people across all ages, races, religious and spiritual backgrounds, and even political backgrounds for common issues. That's something that's unique to Minneapolis and something that brings me a lot of pride to live here.

This illuminates why I signed up to testify here tonight. All of you have the ability to decide whether the people of Minneapolis should have a say in whether or not we should change the charter in the name of public safety.

I personally strongly support changing the charter. I know a lot of people do, and I'm sure there are people out there who think we shouldn't. But Before I can have a chance to cast a vote about that, we are counting on you to do your job and make a recommendation by August 5th so the people of

Minneapolis can do what we do best - engage in our community by voting . Don't deprive us of our democratic process.

Minneapolis Charter Commission, Let Us Vote.

Ward 3

7/15/2020 6:40:37 PM

Charter Commission members, this commission is not a governing body. It should be responsive to critical matters, as already stated. The people of Minneapolis need this public safety charter amendment on the November ballot. The uprising after the murder of George Floyd by MPD officers is a direct response to the continued and historical abuse, violence, and systemic racism against Black, brown, and Indigenous communities in Minneapolis. Communities have been organizing, rallying, and coming to city governance for years looking for justice and real change. Organizers, families, and the youth have been calling for a community-based safety model across the city. MPD is 150 years old. Every civilian authority overview apparatus has failed. Every reform measure has failed. MPD cannot be reformed.

The residents of Minneapolis are ready to engage in this democratic process and dialogue on the public safety charter amendment now. Communities are ready, have been ready, with solutions and programs that address public safety beyond policing. We want to vote for a public safety model that centers on community-led initiatives that create healing and thriving spaces. Let us vote. Thank you.

Ward 1

7/15/2020 6:41:09 PM

As long as you remove the security \$4500 fees and give it to poor people. Those council members are acting like white people. They should live in fear like the minorities. I believe you should remove all protection for all council members and they cannot call the police for help. All council members should post their home addresses so that they can be visited by criminals. You all are a bunch of hypocrites just lip service to minorities no actions

Ward 1

7/15/2020 6:43:49 PM

Regarding the proposal to amend the city charter to defund the Mpd. We are unable to tell if the amendment should go to the ballot we need to have a reasonable proposal from the city council. I am in Davie of police reform, but not defunding. Please propose meaningful ways to hold officers accountable, along with valid resources to answer calls that are not an emergency. In light of recent crime it's apparent we do need police.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 6:47:32 PM

The city needs to move towards a public safety framework that truly prioritizes safety and well-being for all residents and visitors, not law enforcement and property protection. This amendment is the start of this process. I would like to see more clarity on how the public will be engaged in the public safety infrastructure - any method of enforcement can become abusive without oversight and accountability.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 7:15:31 PM

I demand the charter commission allow this proposed amendment to be on the ballot in November so that the residents of Minneapolis are able to vote on it. Your opinion and mine as to the implications of the amendment should it be approved seems irrelevant at this stage, this amendment has been brought forward, it seems to meet the requirements of a proposed amendment and it is the people of Minneapolis who should determine whether or not it is approved. Please allow us that opportunity at the ballot box in November 2020. Thank you.

Ward 4

7/15/2020 7:21:48 PM

██████████, Northeast Minneapolis. I wanted to make sure that my call-in comment from the July 15th public hearing could be heard in full, so it is posted below:

I request that you allow the Community Safety Amendment to appear on the ballot this November, in part because I do not want to set a precedent where the Charter Commission can prevent a Charter Amendment from appearing on the ballot.

I would also like the chance to vote on the Community Safety Amendment because I want Minneapolis to spend more on the community and community safety than we spend on law enforcement. I want people who experience homelessness, addiction, mental and physical health crises, and poverty to receive support to get back on their feet rather than be arrested or killed by law enforcement.

The Community Safety Amendment gives us a starting point. It provides a foundation upon which the City Council, community leaders, and community members can advocate for and effect much-needed changes, and everyone in Minneapolis should be allowed to vote on the Community Safety Amendment this November.

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The language is not perfect, there is no guarantee of community oversight for the new Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention and Division of Law Enforcement Services, and there is limited input from community advocates and leaders. But it is a start and a step that we need to advocate and effect greater changes. Please let people vote on the Amendment, yes or no, for whatever their reasoning.

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And as for revisions to the language in the Amendment, I do request that either revisions to the Amendment or additions to formal plans drafted by City Council be made, stating that funding and personnel for the Division of Law Enforcement Services cannot exceed funding and personnel for the rest of the Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department.

I would also advocate for a separate and independent office (or offices) to be responsible for handling and investigating complaints against Community Safety and Violence Prevention workers and Law Enforcement peace officers, investigating crimes committed by workers and officers on- and off-duty, and prosecuting workers and officers. The current system in which all complaints, investigations, and prosecutions are handled by the police and a prosecutor who works with the police is severely biased and flawed. If at all possible, the Charter Commission and City Council should add such independent oversight of the Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department and the Division of Law Enforcement Services.

In a similar vein, both the Charter Commission and City Council should establish community control of the Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department and the Division of Law Enforcement Services. Community leaders and members have advocated for this change to the Charter, and their voices should continue to be part of the process as the Charter is (hopefully) amended, voted on, and executed.

Thank you.

Ward 1

7/15/2020 7:32:26 PM

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in the Powderhorn neighborhood. I support the motion to put the amendment on the ballot this November. It is a necessary first step, but not last step, to reimagining what public safety in our city looks like. A first step to making sure that ALL of our city's residents are actually safe in our city. I urge the commission to allow city residents to vote on the charter amendment this November. The people of Minneapolis get to decide together and democratically about what public safety means for us as a city and a community. Whether or not we agree on what comes next, we deserve to decide that there is a next step. Let us vote!

Ward 9

7/15/2020 7:50:04 PM

Dear City Charter Commissioners,

I want to urge you to act quickly and push the proposed charter amendment to be put onto the November 2020 ballot. As a community member of Minneapolis for the past 14 years, I have seen an unending string of police violence towards myself, my neighbors, and my fellow community members. I have also seen city councils' and mayors' futile attempts to reform the MPD over and over again, failing to stop the harm that the MPD inflicts on our community rather than upholding their promise to protect.

The current city council has pledged to fix this problem in a new way - to try something we haven't tried yet - and I applaud and whole-heartedly support this effort. This is a time of unprecedented crisis. It must also be a time of unprecedented changes and work to fix the most broken parts of our systems in order to move forward with clear vision and support for all of our community members. We cannot afford to leave anyone behind right now. The city council has pledged to create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention, but they can't do that without changes to the charter.

The city charter is a document that is meant to protect and serve all of our community. Because the charter currently protects and prioritizes our unaccountable and out-of-control police department, the city council's hands are tied on their ability to fix this problem.

You must allow the people of the city of Minneapolis, the people who voted for this council, and the people who live in fear of the MPD's brutal and racist tactics to decide for ourselves whether we want to remove the charter requirement for the minimum number of police. We must forge new and bold solutions if we want to survive this uncertain future. And the people of Minneapolis deserve the right to vote on our future and our survival.

Justice cannot wait another year. In a democracy, the people determine our future at the ballot box. Give us our right to vote on the proposed charter amendment. Then you, too, will be able to express your opinions on it. Right now, it is not only inappropriate for you to air your concerns, but it is Not Your Job. Please do your job, pass this amendment to the ballot box, and give the people of Minneapolis a chance to express our democratic rights and determine what kind of city we want.

Thank you.

Ward 2

7/15/2020 7:57:12 PM

I am opposed to changing the charter because, first, the city council needs to present a workable plan for public safety and, second, the proposed changes to the charter gives too much power to the city council. The current charter is fine the way it is. Any changes to public safety must be made by the major and city council working together. If they cannot work together on this then it's a sorry state and revising the charter will only make the disjunction worse. Thank you.

Ward 8

7/15/2020 8:19:58 PM

This amendment provides Minneapolis residents with the ability to vote democratically on the issue of policing and discuss further how to proceed given the current conditions which allow police to commit acts of violence unconditionally and without restraint. I ask that you move this amendment to the ballot in November. Thank you.

Ward 7

7/15/2020 8:30:39 PM

I would love to see this proposed amendment moved to be on the November ballot. I believe this is important as it should be the citizens decision on how they feel they should be "policed" in their own areas, ESPECIALLY if the police force is failing in the citizens eyes.

Ward 3

7/15/2020 8:47:49 PM

Politicians have talked about reforming the MPD as long as I've been alive. Nothing has worked. It's time to eliminate this department and create something new. The police union has become too powerful and corrupt, and the Mayors have been ineffective in managing the police, and the good citizens of Minneapolis have paid far too much for misconduct. Please approve the proposed charter amendment so the elected officials can finally make needed deep structural changes and drive to a different system that can be more effective and serve all of our residents.

Ward 3

7/15/2020 8:52:03 PM

As a Ward 1 resident, I am 100% in favor of the amendment of the charter We deserve a chance not only to vote on it as a city, but also to come together to develop new ways to approach public safety for everyone.

Ward 1

7/15/2020 9:18:27 PM

I support moving this amendment to the November ballot.

Ward 1

7/15/2020 9:23:31 PM

We can't rush this, please spend the time to research the best answer. Do not make knee jerk reactions.

Ward 12

7/15/2020 9:25:24 PM

I agree with the idea that we need to re-think our approach to public safety in Minneapolis. However, I find it alarming that on one day (7/14/20), the Star Tribune features an article about rising crime in the Philips neighborhood and resident's frustration with Alondra Cano's total lack of response to their concern. The very next day (7/15/20), this same council member co-authors a Star Tribune article asking the people of Minneapolis to give her expanded power over a not-yet-created Department of

Community Safety. What have the City Council members done to deserve our trust that they will be responsive to community concerns and that they have the actual skills and capability to implement this department? This charter amendment is asking too much with too little information. Perhaps if the City Council could address what they have done/tried to do to better the police department and community safety—because certainly not all inaction can be attributed to the Police Federation—they would demonstrate to the public that they are sincerely working to better the public safety and police force of Minneapolis. I am concerned that this very vague charter amendment will cause people like me, who really do want to see systemic change, to vote against it.

Ward 12

7/15/2020 9:30:46 PM

Please change the charter to establish a Department of community safety and violence prevention. We also need to remove the minimum number of police.

7/15/2020 9:36:46 PM

The uprisings in Minneapolis after George Floyd's murder became a referendum on the police department and the current structure that enables unnecessary violence. We need a new, less costly system that devotes taxpayer money to services that help build up the community instead of using our money to arm the police as though they were soldiers. Minnesotans are asking for a better way to keep neighborhoods safe.

Now is the time for the Charter Commission to do its job: determine if the proposal is appropriate to the charter. Then, let the community decide at the ballot box. We can't wait another year.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/15/2020 9:39:00 PM

No, no no on the rush to get a change to the charter on the November 2020 ballot. I am opposed to this rushed effort with a deadline of August(!) to get it on the 2020 ballot. I fully support a great deal of change in the MPD, in the training, policies, and the culture, and that the momentum for change needs to continue. There seem to be numerous changes currently being discussed and implemented that show promise and they should be allowed to move forward without plans to vote on whether or not to remove the police department from the city charter hanging over the process. Changes within the MPD need to and can be implemented now, indeed Chief Arradondo has already started making changes. As the success or failure of these changes are evaluated, appropriate and well-considered proposals for changes to the city charter can be planned for 2021. I think it is irresponsible to rush into changes in the city charter for 2020.

Ward 13

7/15/2020 9:48:02 PM

I would like to be able to have a choice in the safety of our communities. The police are not safe, as they have shown time and time again. The People will Not stop fighting until our voices have been heard. You absolutely must let We the People vote on this. Thank you.

7/15/2020 9:48:35 PM

I am writing to urge you to allow the people of Minneapolis to vote on the City Charter for the future of our public safety system.

For too long, we have been hearing about reforms to policing from our elected officials. Yet, through mayor after mayor, city council after city council, the deep-seated issues with Minneapolis policing remain entrenched.

Every human being, regardless of the color of her skin, her sexual identity, her race or religion, deserves to live in a place where she is safe, protected, and valued. People should be able to walk out of their houses, drive to the store, go for a jog, or watch birds without fear of harassment, brutality, or murder. In the wake of the murder of George Floyd, law officers continued to target, tear gas, and fire upon protesters and journalists. This is not how we want our police force to "protect and serve." This is not the city we want.

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.

Sincerely,

Ward 8

7/15/2020 9:59:27 PM

The proposed amendment to the city charter uses ambiguous language without a viable alternative to a police department. This amendment is poorly drafted and not well thought out. It needs to be rejected by the charter commission.

Ward 3

7/15/2020 10:17:27 PM

I'm actually Ward 11, Schroeder. (The form wouldn't allow me to select ward 11 on my iPhone). I understand the need to make police reform, but eliminating the police department makes no sense. We need to get officers who have 17 demerits out of the force, but there's many great officers who dutifully do their job each day. Stiffened up penalties to get the bad apples out, teach inclusivity and

cultural understanding, require officers to become part of the community they patrol, but don't eliminate the police department. They are clearly needed.

Ward 9

7/15/2020 10:40:40 PM

Dear Charter Commission,

I am a Minneapolis resident and have closely followed issues related to racism for many years through the lens of my role as a primary care physician, health professional educator, and father of four children. In my view, racism is a public health crisis and the brutality of our police force against people of color plays a central role in fueling that crisis. In the wake of terrible tragedy, Minneapolis has the opportunity to lead significant change. The world is watching our next steps closely. I believe that the charter amendment should be moved forward to allow the people of Minneapolis to democratically determine whether to dissolve the police department and replace it with a department for community safety and violence prevention. I ask that you support moving along the charter amendment for a vote this November.

Sincerely

Ward 4

7/15/2020 10:44:36 PM

I am very concerned about the City Council's proposal to dismantle the police department while expanding their own considerable influence. Their approach would be reckless and misguided in "normal" times; given the recent rise of violent criminal activity within the city, it is now downright dangerous.

I appeal to the Commission to avoid hasty approval of the Charter Amendment in response to political pressure applied by a small but very vocal group. What has been proposed is a sweeping governmental restructuring with extremely serious consequences, and it demands thorough understanding and evaluation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ward 13

7/15/2020 10:48:26 PM

The City of Minneapolis is becoming a very undesirable place to visit. I used to work in Minneapolis and frequented many of the local establishments. I no longer work in or visit the City of Minneapolis because I don't feel safe. It's becoming clear that the far left Democrats are ruining this city and making it unsafe for people to live, work and visit. I would not step foot in the City of Minneapolis right now, or in the future if you defund the police. I strongly encourage you to think about what you are being asked to do and how your actions will affect the economy and vitality of the City of Minneapolis.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/15/2020 11:44:22 PM

I support putting the amendment on the November Ballot.

Ward 8

7/15/2020 11:50:26 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Commission to make a thorough and careful review of the proposed amendment to the city charter that would eliminate the police department and take control of public safety away from the mayor. These are significant changes and the city council has not provided any details about what will replace the police. Five council members author an op ed in the Strib on July 15 and failed to take advantage of that forum to provide a plan. Also the piece failed to even mention the council's effort to take control of public safety away from the mayor.

Why does the council think it should control public safety? What exactly is the nature of the new public safety agency the council envisions? These are critical questions that are unanswered and forcing some answers is, with respect, exactly why your commission exists. Please slow this process down, take your time to make sure such drastic changes to city charter have been given the consideration they deserve.

Best regards,

Ward 7

7/16/2020 12:02:32 AM

As a resident, I do not have total confidence in a new plan for safety. I would rather first dismantle the police union and phase in a community safety approach, phases which include community input throughout. I would like to be introduced to a realistic view and plan of how a future community safety plan would be rolled out, this amendment does no service to transparency.

Ward 4

7/16/2020 1:01:15 AM

The proposal to defund police is quite possibly the most moronic idea ever proposed by a major city council in US history. This proposal was only surpassed in mind-boggling stupidity and absurdity by the recent news that three of the very same council members that propose defunding police have been receiving private security (off duty police) for themselves that has been paid for by the tax payers for the past six weeks. Said private security amounted to approximately FIFTY THOUSAND TAX PAYER DOLLARS per council member just for the past six weeks. NO POLICE FOR US BUT WE PAY FOR THEIR PRIVATE POLICE!!! - WAKE UP PEOPLE. Are we living in the twilight zone? No, we are not, this is reality - again, WAKE UP PEOPLE, you deserve you who vote for.

Ward 6

7/16/2020 2:45:24 AM

This has got to be the dumbest idea that I have ever heard. Minneapolis has a serious crime problem and the morons on the City Council really think that getting rid of the police department and replacing it with some holistic approach is actually a good idea?

So we are taking advice from some clowns who feel "threatened" and need around the clock protection with armed private security paid for by the taxpayers? How about we defund the City Council! Considering one member supports a domestic terrorist organization I am not sure how he is allowed to continue to be on the council.

I am embarrassed that I still live in this shithole city!

Ward 12

7/16/2020 7:02:26 AM

DO NOT DO THIS! Getting rid of the police department without actually specifying what will take their place is irresponsible. This does not need to be on the ballot in November. This needs to be studied and researched thoroughly. There is no way voters should be asked to vote for something so vague. There is no way that I am voting in favor of a plan that isn't actually a plan. I might vote in favor of it if The City Council actually specifies what comes next in terms of policing in Minneapolis.

Ward 4

7/16/2020 7:05:20 AM

Steve Fletcher---you do not have my vote anymore. You and the other rookie politicians who have so very little knowledge about public governance are not qualified to make this kind of a decision and that shows in the complete lack of a plan you have developed. The thing is, I am in favor of sweeping police reform and would happily vote for it IF THERE WERE AN ACTUAL PLAN PROPOSED, but there is absolutely no way I would vote for this amendment as it is written now. That you want voters to approve this plan without actually telling us what it is seems insane. You people are irresponsible.

Ward 3

7/16/2020 7:58:23 AM

I am in support of a charter amendment that would pave the way to defund the police. We need to rework our concept of public safety. Reforms have been tried and haven't worked. I am a St Paul resident who works in Minneapolis.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/16/2020 8:32:23 AM

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

7/16/2020 8:37:37 AM

I support putting the amendment of the charter before Minneapolis voters in November. I also support gaining input from residents city-wide in this process. -Chris Vaughan, Ward 8 homeowner

Ward 8

7/16/2020 8:45:36 AM

I would like to see this issue on the ballot in November. And I am in favor of defunding the police.

Ward 8

7/16/2020 9:02:26 AM

Dear Charter Commissioners,

I have already made my comment on the Charter Amendment, but here I'd like to comment on the process for listening to citizens. Last night I waited on the phone for 70 minutes, feeling very nervous the whole time, to have my 1-minute to speak. I pushed *6 and did not get connected. I also hear from neighbors that many people never got a chance to speak. From now on, given my nervousness waiting to be called, I will only write, and forego the speaking option.

But I understand that many people prefer speaking to writing, so I'm hoping you can make a couple of changes for the meeting on July 21. First, is it possible for us to see the Commissioners on Channel 799, listening to us? It's hard to speak to a vacuum, and honestly I worry that they are actually having dinner, feeding the dog, or even possibly asleep. Also, can you give us a queue, so we know when our time to speak will come, rather than wait expectantly for potentially 2 hours or more? I really think this is so difficult, especially for us introverts, as to be impossible, and therefore undemocratic.

Thanks for listening,

Linden Hills

Ward 13

7/16/2020 9:02:52 AM

While I share the commitment to rethinking how MPLS protects its citizens, I have to say that I am sadden by the lack of clarity and details regarding any plan for what comes next. Starting with 'Defund the police' is certainly provocative, but I haven't heard anything from any counsel member as to what that actually means.

What's the plan? Surely more than just 'change the name', but if more then what?

Ward 12

7/16/2020 9:14:32 AM

I believe that the proposed amendment to the charter should be put to a vote this November in order to give the people of Minneapolis the ability to enact the desperately needed changes to their city. American policing is an inherently violent, racist institution that cannot and should not be reformed. We've had many years to reduce, defund, and abolish the police department in the slow, bureaucratic way, and we haven't. This is a matter of life and death, and lives will be saved if we move quickly on this initiative.

Ward 6

7/16/2020 9:20:18 AM

No one hates a bad cop more than a good cop.

DO NOT disband or in any way decrease funding for the Minneapolis Police Dept. If anything, we need more officers on the street. 99.9% of MPD are good people and have chosen their career path as a way to help people. I cannot imagine living in Minneapolis without police officers. This knee-jerk reaction of defunding the police department was done without any community input. I am truly disappointed in our city council members that voted for this and promise they will not be re-elected for another term.

Ward 8

7/16/2020 9:48:12 AM

City Council: keep your word. Last fall the Council told us to wait until it was more politically viable to fund alternatives, then they gave MPD a raise. Now MPD has killed George Floyd. We need to tell the Council to put its money where its mouth is.

Pay & protect workers. No more wage freezes, furloughs or firings. No cuts to Labor Standards Enforcement. Cut from the MPD budget and pay and protect workers instead.

Homes for everyone. Feeling safe means having a home - if we spent just a fraction of MPD's budget on housing, we could house everyone in the park sanctuaries.

Defund police terror tools. We don't want City dollars funding intimidation and scare-tactics!
Immediately cut funding for special operations, the canine unit, and the mounted patrol.

No more duplicate, duplicitous departments. MPD is the only department that has its own records request and communications departments, and they use them to obscure evidence of their crimes.
Eliminate MPD's duplicate departments!

Defund police PR & recruitment. We don't need more police, and we don't need the city spending money on police PR to improve MPD's image - our communities know the truth. Immediately defund the Community and Collaborative Advancement program.

Ward 2

7/16/2020 10:05:29 AM

Please change the charter and add this amendment, so it will be on the ballot in November - we have the right to decide our priorities in our city, especially if departments are murdering people with my taxes - that is unacceptable. Thank you.

Ward 12

7/16/2020 10:16:22 AM

265 people shot this year. 1600+ shots fired in June. But sure, you all are going to abolish the police completely and "help" people. You are the worst city council ever. You are destroying the city. You've ceded development to out of town interests instead of ownership to local residents.

And now with safety being compromised, businesses are going to leave. Residents will then follow. We are taking our tax dollars elsewhere. Failures. All of you are failures.

Ward 13

7/16/2020 10:19:35 AM

I am not in favor of having the Chief of Police, or new department which replaces the police, report to City Council.

I am not in favor of the amendment creating a new department to replace the police, without first understanding the scope of the department, goals, responsibilities, and budget.

City Council, do your homework, continue to engage stakeholders, propose a plan, and then ask us to vote. Set a clear timetable, engage people of color from all walks of life, neighborhoods, etc. , engage business owners, and average citizens. Then, return to us with a clear cut plan for change.

Ward 7

7/16/2020 10:33:35 AM

This is an absurd politically advantageous, emotional. knee-jerk reaction to a problem that should be fixed through thought, deliberation and the use of facts.

If something like this goes through, Mpls will likely become more like NYC or Chicago where we've seen the violence spike even more than it has here in recent weeks.

Remember, we the citizens can vote you out and replace this with a more sane measure in the future when the emotions have cooled. Assuming we have one left after this that is....

Ward 11

7/16/2020 10:39:44 AM

I have so many issues with this amendment. Most importantly: there is no wording in this amendment for how this department will be funded.

The whole amendment is unbelievably vague.

Ward 7

7/16/2020 11:28:28 AM

Under the new section 7.3(a)(1) a few specifics should be added that center on restorative justice, appropriate department-to-community social interactions, etc.. must be created, administered, and verified (like a continuing Ed and personnel/performance review) to all department personnel. - required training, policy, and making sure the right people with the right understanding and action are in the department

(and those records being made easily available to include a notice being put forth to the community as they become available) - allowing for public comment and input (which should then be considered in a "final review") not just internal supervisory review

Ward 7

7/16/2020 11:46:43 AM

I strongly urge you to approve the charter amendment to remove the current language that is needlessly prescriptive regarding the police department and replace it with language that gives the city the ability to reform public safety. It is clear that fundamental change in how public safety is provided in Minneapolis is urgently needed, and this charter amendment is a necessary step. I am a 61 year old white lady and a longtime Minneapolis homeowner, and I was appalled at the attitude and actions of the officers toward George Floyd from the very beginning of the incident. I'm confident that the police would never have treated me that way, with such belligerence and lack of respect. As a Minneapolis taxpayer, I do not want police to treat ANYONE that way, and I reject the argument that we have to accept that kind of abuse in order to be safe. Please pass the charter amendment so that it can be on the ballot in 2020.

Ward 3

7/16/2020 12:29:32 PM

The city council's proposal to defund police and amend the charter is too hasty and not thought through. I am all for reforming the police department, but the council's rhetoric is going to scare businesses away from the city and prompt a bigger flight to the suburbs for a lot of the residents. We obviously need a police force, and it is naive to believe otherwise. I'm tired of hearing "Camden defunded its police," because it's misleading. Camden basically reformed its police and increased the number of officers. Let's take a breath and get more public input before pushing through an amendment on the ballot in November.

Ward 13

7/16/2020 12:37:01 PM

I just want to say that I strongly support the proposed amendment replacing the police department with a community safety & violence prevention department. Put it on the ballot!

Ward 1

7/16/2020 1:00:40 PM

I agree with the proposed charter amendments

Ward 9

7/16/2020 1:21:51 PM

give them more money and let them do their job

Ward 3

7/16/2020 2:06:13 PM

Please see attached letter.

Ward 3

Dear Members of the Mpls. Charter Commission,

I am an attorney with many years of experience with professional licensing, including 20 years as an Assistant Minnesota Attorney General.

I believe that the proposed charter amendment is premature because the City Council has not yet created a plan on what would take the place of the Minneapolis Police Department.

It is clear that the Minneapolis Police Department needs to fundamentally change how it interacts with persons of color. For years, the Police Federation and many officers have resisted reform. This is a very serious problem, and it needs to be addressed. Yet the City Council has failed to develop even the basic elements of a plan.

The City Council believes that we need to pass the charter amendment now in order to give the Council the freedom to develop a plan in the future. In other words, the voters are to be asked to disband the police department and trust that sometime next year, the City Council will do what so far it has not begun to do, i.e., figure out how to replace the police department. I don't agree with the Council's approach. Voters are entitled to know what they will be voting on.

Key questions about the Council proposal are unanswered. There is no description how the City will be protected from violent criminals. The proposal would allow, but not require, the new department to create a Division of Law Enforcement Services, which may or may not include licensed police officers. That is far from sufficient to allow disbanding the police. Further, there is no clarity on whether the employees of the new department would be permitted to unionize or to challenge discipline decisions through arbitration. These are not details, but critical elements that need to be addressed before the proposal is submitted to the voters.

A great many City residents strongly believe the status quo needs to change. That requires a plan. But the City Council has failed to develop a plan. Instead, the Council has signed onto a slogan.

The Charter Commission should recommend rejection of the proposed amendment, and the City Council should begin work on a plan to reform or replace the Minneapolis police.

Thank you for hearing my views.

7/16/2020 2:16:20 PM

I've been a resident of North Minneapolis for 18 years and I am in favor of removing the Minneapolis Police Department from the city charter and replacing them with a community based program. The violence and abuse of power by the police department has gone unchecked for too long. It's time to take them out of the budget!

Ward 4

7/16/2020 2:36:44 PM

I'm in favor of broadening the city's definition of "public safety" and reapportioning tasks now delegated to professional police to professional social workers and others.

Ward 1

7/16/2020 2:57:11 PM

Hi my name is [REDACTED]. I live in the Harrison neighborhood and work in the Loring Park neighborhood in Minneapolis. And I am a leader with ISAIAH. I support that this charter amendment be put on the ballot in November. Changing the city charter is the crucial first step to allow any systemic change to happen. Furthermore I strongly believe in a democracy where everyone has a voice. As many have stated in their comments, our democratically elected city council already voted unanimously to put

the city charter question on the ballot this November and respectfully this commission of 15 volunteers doesn't reflect the city of Minneapolis geographically, racially, or economically. I believe that the people of Minneapolis should be allowed to decide about policing and public safety in our own city! Please don't stand in the way of our right to a democratic decision. Please make your recommendation about the charter by August 5th. Thank you for your time and please let us vote!

Ward 5

7/16/2020 2:59:11 PM

If you deplete our police force any further, I will leave Minneapolis at the first possible moment. Citizens need to be confident that our calls for help are answered by our police force!

this is absolutely CRAZY!

Our city council is out of control and needs to be replaced in November!

Ward 7

7/16/2020 3:05:12 PM

On behalf of the third ward where George Floyd was murdered, I am sending you this message demanding that you all find it within yourselves to defund the Minneapolis Police Department by \$45 Million and not a penny less. I do hope you realize that in terms of the fight against police brutality in the U.S., Minneapolis is viewed as ground zero.

It's very interesting for people to see what the MPD's budget was for 2020. All over the country, more funding has been given to the police than any other department and community organizations that help communities flourish, decreasing the need for police to intervene in the first place.

I'm coming from a city where the police department's budget has been cut by 3 percent when it should've been cut by 10 percent. We will push for deeper cuts as time goes by. There is a difference between defunding the police and abolishing the police. Hopefully you understand that just as much as me, if not more. I for one am not saying that although the sentiment for that is high.

If you do not defund the MPD by a considerable amount, definitely expect the people of Minneapolis to seek to vote you out. Do right by your constituents. That's what you were hired you to do.

Ward 3

7/16/2020 3:11:30 PM

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a constituent of Ward 1 in Minneapolis--55413. I support the case for changing the Minneapolis Charter and the work of eliminating the Minneapolis Police Department and replacing it with a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. I feel strongly that investing in crisis workers, mental health professionals, restorative justice, education, youth programs and other public services instead of armed police will lead to a safer and more just community.

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

Ward 1

7/16/2020 3:13:32 PM

I listened to the public comment meeting on July 15 and I truly hope that the Commission doesn't just listen to those that spoke as I am pretty sure they do not represent the majority of Minneapolis residents. The amendment is so vague I fear that there will be no oversight on the City Council and they will be able to do whatever they want. How can someone vote given I don't know what I am voting for other than it states we may not MUST have public safety. I don't think the City Councils "trust" me approach that doesn't work. I cannot figure out why this is being pushed so fast (other than they want it on the Nov ballot) this is the biggest decision the City Council will ever make and frankly I am not they have the diverse set of skills to be running with this change - I VOTE NO on this amendment.

Ward 3

7/16/2020 3:19:36 PM

As a 20 year resident of Minneapolis, I vote that we absolutely need to rethink and redesign the Policing of our city. Public safety and the right to due process should be available to all citizens, regardless of sex, race, age or anything else. Even as a white male, I've experienced the anger escalation during a routine traffic stop. I can only imagine what People of Color must endure daily. Bob Kroll does not represent our city well and needs to be removed and replaced with a true leader who cares for the safety of the citizens, not the capitalist interests. The duties of police officers need to be lessened and the numbers of them reduced. Their war-grade machinery and riot control gear need to be removed as well. They are too quickly put into action and too easily misused. Thank you for hearing our voices and we look forward to a transformative, nation-leading decision for this wonderful city. God Bless.

Ward 4

7/16/2020 3:22:25 PM

I am a White homeowner and longtime Minneapolis resident. I strongly support having the ability to vote on the proposed Charter amendment this fall. The Charter Commission needs to defer to our democratically elected city council members and not slow roll the process and bog it down in delay or second guessing. We need to trust the Council and the voters of Minneapolis. Put the Amendment on the ballot!!

Ward 9

7/16/2020 3:35:51 PM

Most ridiculous proposal in long list of ineptness by Minneapolis City Council. How about some provision that states suspects must comply with Police Commands and maybe a line or two about obeying the law. A 48 year old man xeroxing \$20's and passing them off as real is not a "good citizen".

Ward 2

7/16/2020 4:09:46 PM

To the members of the Charter Commission,

I strongly support putting the proposed amendment to the City Charter before the voters this November. The time to act is now. Our current system of policing is not working and, as the evidence of this spring and summer have shown, truly making Minneapolis a more dangerous place for many people. What our new system of public safety will look like, no one can know yet. But what we do know is that the Mayor and the City Council need to be able to take meaningful action to reform or replace the department, and that is not possible without amending the Charter, as proposed. Untie their hands to rid us of corrupt cops and their morally bankrupt union.

Sincerely,

Ward 8

7/16/2020 5:19:58 PM

I urge the Charter Commission to put the public safety amendment on the ballot THIS November.

Ward 11

7/16/2020 5:21:59 PM

This is an entirely reasonable amendment that has been proposed as a result of direct community response. The residents of Minneapolis deserve the opportunity to vote on this. Communities are already having meaningful dialogue. It would be a disgrace if we were barred from voting due to procedural delays by an unelected commission. Please move forward with the process to allow a vote in 2020.

Ward 7

7/16/2020 5:30:20 PM

Justice can not wait for another year, United States police have killed 598 people in 2020 thus far, that number will only continue to rise throughout 2020 and 2021 if we do not take immediate action. Minnesota has the choice to be at the forefront of abolition and change, and to actively stop these numbers from rising. Amending this charter is absolutely essential to begin thoughtfully building systems of safety that are effective and truly keep EVERYONE safe. I urge the members of the Charter Commission to follow through with the irreversible decision that the Minneapolis City Council made to

abolish the Minneapolis Police Department, we need this charter amendment in order to remove the requirement for an active police department and to continue to protect Black lives.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/16/2020 6:23:50 PM

I support this amendment and all the steps necessary to defund our police department. Thank you to the city council for truly representing your Constituents.

Ward 5

7/16/2020 6:40:31 PM

I am totally in support of this amendment, and plan to vote YES when it is on the ballot.

Police in our community have always been a tool of oppression, and it is well past time we protect every member of our community by dismantling this racist, accountability-free organ of the white power structure.

I do not feel safe in the presence of police in the city, and I expect the city to follow the lead of its citizens and move forward with our new vision for a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. Thank you

Lifelong MPLS resident

Ward 7

7/16/2020 7:52:41 PM

This proposal is foolhardy. The violence in Minneapolis needs a competent, armed and well-trained police department. Wishing that need away will not make the city safer. If we need/want to expand co-responders, outreach and other practices, they can all be done without changing the charter. The ONLY thing that opens up that's not available otherwise is the complete disbanding of the police department. The city will not be able to attract the best applicants under a fractured system run by council members with an agenda not interested in policing.

Ward 13

7/16/2020 8:43:17 PM

#DoYourJob. #LetUsVote.

Give us our say and get the changes out for us to vote on this November. Help us show our Black neighbors that they are important and that we can do much better than we've done!!!!

Ward 12

7/16/2020 9:33:52 PM

Are you a bunch of brain dead morons??? Who wrote this garbage? If you do not care about a thriving City where business can flourish and people can have good jobs then all means pass this absolutely stupid proposal. If this goes through people will leave. Businesses will leave. Minneapolis will turn into a DFL cesspool

Ward 12

7/17/2020 7:23:33 AM

DO NOT disband our police department!!! Our city's problem is poor leadership, not our police department.

Ward 7

7/17/2020 8:02:46 AM

My name is [REDACTED]. I have been a Minneapolis resident for 20 years and have been listening to the Charter Commission meetings, please put the amendment on the ballot and let the people vote. Do not hinder the process as was the case in 2018.

Thank you.

Ward 7

7/17/2020 8:05:49 AM

Irony envelopes us: The Park Board, who severed ties with the MPD despite knowing how few Park Police there are now wants the MPD to help them with their crime-ridden sanctuary.

City Councilperson Cano who is one of the loudest mouthpieces for the disband the police movement and who had tax payer paid private security cancels a meeting because "it's not safe".

Both of these ironies, new to South Minneapolis but cemented in life Over North, illustrate the need for the MPD. REFORM YES, DISBAND NO.

City Council needs to DO THE WORK to REFORM MPD, working in conjunction with State Lawmakers, that they've neglected for 3+ years before being provided the freedom to alter the Charter. They haven't done the work NOR the research.

Ward 4



Cano, Alondra 14:24

to Russ, Jill, Thoreis, Jenny, Kindra, John3...



Dear All,

I am very thankful that the Park Board Commissioners voted to reduce the size of the encampments at Powderhorn Park. I know that the Park Board is working to formally **request the help of MPD to help with the crime and safety issues** as I spoke to both Mayor Frey and Park Board President Cowgill today.

As such, I've been given sensitive information that for various reasons, it's not safe to meet at the park today.

We will not be meeting tonight after all, but I will be working with specific neighborhood residents to help us re-convene **in a safer format**.

7/17/2020 8:07:50 AM

The Minneapolis city council is made up of a bunch of unserious clowns who hire private security at the same time they propose defunding the police. Shame on them!

7/17/2020 8:26:16 AM

Hello,

I'm a former resident of Minneapolis, Ward 12, now residing in St. Paul. I have many family and friends living in Minneapolis including my 80+ year old Aunt who's lived there for 40+ years.

To be blunt, the Minneapolis City Council is an unmitigated disaster. The mayor's failure of leadership has been catastrophic. As bad as the mayor has been, yielding more power to this City Council is suicidal.

The City Council has been taken over by intolerant, incompetent fools. They are the mouthpieces for a small portion of activists, whose primary objective is tearing down our city.

Most of us agree with some of their grievances, including re-envisioning a policing model that better serves our most vulnerable communities. Sadly however, this City Council has proven themselves incapable of the leadership necessary to shepherd such a difficult process to fruition.

Reject this amendment's inclusion on the ballot.

The ease with which our City Council has been packed with lunatics means we have no choice but to keep additional power out of their hands. Regrettably, there is more hope of finding a solution with the Mayor's Office than the City Council.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/17/2020 8:31:14 AM

Get your city under control. Law and order is needed. People in the suburbs will not be coming into town to dine, go to plays, sporting events, etc. You must hold criminals accountable otherwise they will keep violating our laws. Sort of like raising your kids.

HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE!!

Our family morals and values are dwindling with so many kids without a family unit. Put programs in place to educate people on this, maybe even in school programs. We have to get kids to learn morals, values and empathy.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/17/2020 8:47:27 AM

I understand and support the need to make changes. However, this proposal is too vague and gives the council too much authority. Additionally, "the council MAY maintain" is frightening. The council's proposal is too broad, lacks specifics, and does not address how the city will fight violent crime, arrest criminals, and respond to the realities of today (e.g., active shooter). I CAN support changes such as a civilian police board, removing and replacing the union, and strengthening internal controls and placing them under the council. Law enforcement is a function of the executive, not council. I will vote against this, as written.

Ward 2

7/17/2020 9:04:56 AM

I have already made my statement on the matter by moving out of downtown Minneapolis to outside the city limits. I'll speak with my tax dollars which are going elsewhere. The city as I've lived in for the past 10 years since moving back here, and this city I grew up in the first 18 years of my life has transformed considerably the past 6 months. I no longer feel safe in parks where I live near and frequently used to spend time. I also no longer use light rail transit which I commonly used to travel between Minneapolis & St. Paul for events after someone seated right next to me was mugged as they got off the train, & in another instance a man was passed out on the train laying across the aisle and urinated causing a puddle to form in the walkway. Between all of this, and in addition the road construction which closed Nicollet Mall (costing businesses to close) & now on Hennipen where it's difficult to get to those businesses, this city is going in the wrong direction FAST.

I spoke by taking my tax paying dollars elsewhere. I agree attention needs to be given towards police reform & training. But disbanding them is a decision which will lead to more people leaving Minneapolis.

I alone will not have a say in this, but when large multi-housing buildings are losing tenants, large commercial buildings don't fill their leases, & hotels no longer fill up and all of them leverage their tax paying power because they don't have tenants paying them rent anymore, then you will make a decision to try and create a safer city once again.

Ward 3

7/17/2020 9:21:54 AM

Hire more police. Fully fund their needs. They are the experts in fighting crime. Do don't allow the city council authority over police policy or operations.

Ward 3

7/17/2020 9:37:55 AM

You people are insane and need to be replaced. You have no sense of civic duty or loyalty to your constituents. You have willfully stood by and actively encouraged criminal looting, arson, rape and murder. God help you all.



7/17/2020 9:42:32 AM

I'm a resident of Prospect Park and I support the recommended changes to the City Charter. Cam Gordon met with a number of us recently and outlined the history and rationale for the items we seek to change and it makes good sense. While I believe Minneapolis will need some form of law enforcement organization, it should be managed in an overall context of public safety and violence prevention. Furthermore, these departments and their policies should be managed and have the same transparency as other city departments which report to the Council. Please put this charter change on the ballot for November.

Ward 2

7/17/2020 9:45:35 AM

Attached please find the Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association's statement on the Charter Amendment for MPD reform. Thank you

Ward 7

Attachment:

Statement adopted by Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA)

On Charter Amendment on Public Safety and MPD Reform

1. **Voters need a plan, not a promise.** There should be no charter amendment vote until there is a plan for what would replace the current police department. Voters need to know what they are voting for. Betting our safety, even our lives, on a promise rather than a plan is absurd.

2: **Exhaust other solutions first.** A change in the charter should not be made until other solutions have been exhausted. The City Council claims it has done so, but it has not. It has not supported the reforms requested by our excellent police chief. It has not, year after year, beaten a path to the legislature to ask for reforms.

3: **The amendment is based on utopian and unrealistic assumptions.** The assumption underlying the "defunding" of the police department is, in effect, that there is no — or at least very little — evil in the world that we can't "social work" our way out of. This is utopian and unrealistic. There are and always have been bad people, and it is the fundamental responsibility of government to protect society from them.

4: **The proposal comes at a dangerous time.** This is a particularly dangerous time in history to be entertaining a proposal that even hints of risking public safety. The man in the White House and his followers are actively fanning the flames of discord, no doubt hoping for a civil war to save his presidency. The pandemic has frightened everyone. We live in a hair-trigger environment that bad people, sensing confusion and lack of trust in government, can and will take advantage of — and perhaps already are — if there is a perception that public safety measures are in any way diminished.

5: **Diffused responsibility is dangerous.** It is irresponsible to have the police force effectively reporting to 13 or 14 people — who are, historically, in perpetual disagreement with each other. This would risk politicization of the department, and in any event would simply be bad management: no one would be in charge of public safety.

6: **The proposal is a power-grab.** We hope the Charter Commissioners recognize this proposal for what it really is, at least in the minds of some City Council members: a power grab. It would further weaken our weak-mayor system, making the City Council president the only true political power in the city.

7: **Minneapolis needs a strong-mayor system.** We recommend that instead of an amendment to put the MPD/Public safety under the City Council, the Charter Commission should recommend a charter change that would make Minneapolis City government function under a strong-mayor system. That would help give greater direction and order to our city, eliminate at least some of its proclivity toward dysfunction.

Adopted by CIDNA Board July 8, 2020

7/17/2020 9:47:45 AM

This is the worst idea I've ever heard. This administration in a joke.

Ward 3

7/17/2020 9:50:04 AM

I strongly support putting on our November ballot the proposed amendment to the City Charter that would create a new department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

Please make sure this matter gets to the voters.

Thank you

Ward 2

7/17/2020 9:55:31 AM

Let us vote!

Ward 9

7/17/2020 9:58:58 AM

Absolutely ridiculous idea to remove or defund the police. The City Council needs to go!! They are radicals and need to step aside. I feared for my life while they decided to let the violence run wild. And the violence is still going on. We use to love this city but it's now a shit hole because of the Mayor, city council, and criminals.

Ward 1

7/17/2020 10:06:33 AM

I fully support the amendment to the charter, and I would like to remind the commission that their approval simply puts the amendment to a vote. It is your duty to allow us to exercise our democratic right to vote on this issue. Please do not let your personal political opinions affect whether you allow this to go to ballot or not. Also, assuming this is passed by the public, it would not immediately remove that police department - it simply allows the city council to actually have power to hold the police accountable.

Some commissioners have asked the city council to create a full community safety plan before asking to change the charter, but this is unreasonable - before asking them and the community to invest their time developing a plan, we need to know that the council will actually be able to implement it. Otherwise, organizers and the council can plan differently based on what's possible without a charter amendment.

Ward 3

7/17/2020 10:13:16 AM

No. Just no. Restore law and order. Do not defund the police for your special projects. Crime is getting worse. Our city has been destroyed by the stupidity of DFL "leadership". We will vote you out.

Ward 3

7/17/2020 10:17:28 AM

I support the ability for Minneapolis residents to vote on the proposed charter amendment this year. The Charter Commission is doing its duty to convene and facilitate conversations about the amendment to raise awareness, but should not hold up the amendment's appearance on the ballot in November 2020.

Ward 4

7/17/2020 10:19:00 AM

Last Friday I was listening to MPD scanner traffic and they were so overwhelmed with calls, a dispatcher had to ask multiple times for squads to respond to a domestic situation where a woman and her child were locked in a bathroom while her significant other was high on meth, destroying their home. Is this part of your utopia?

Being a Minneapolis resident for the last 9 years, I did not think the actions of the city council and mayor could get any more ridiculous. I was wrong. We now have "leadership" that allowed parts of our city to burn and put lives at risk in midst of a global pandemic. We have you pushing to "defund" and "abolish" the police with an increasing number of felonies being committed on a daily basis. Not to mention the \$152K being spent on personal protection for council members, provided by at least one company who has a questionable reputation with the State of Minnesota.

If anyone is to blame the current state of the city, it starts with the city council and the mayor. Your coddling of criminals and anarchists has led to a deeper distrust between certain communities and law enforcement. It's unfortunate that Floyd died the way he did, but this is one unfortunate interaction among hundreds of thousands that law enforcement has with Minneapolis on a daily basis. It that has morphed into something other than seeking justice.

You want better cops? Don't take away their already limited resources. Provide them with funds to receive more training. Get more officers on the street to reduce overtime for the already overworked cops; more stress on the job means you're more likely to make a mistake. Listen to your Chief of Police who knows what he's doing. And lastly, I implore you to do a ride along and see what kind of atmosphere you've created.

Ward 3

7/17/2020 10:38:49 AM

This proposal is far too vague to be considered. Leaving critical matters of public safety to a committee destroys the concept of accountability and creates an environment ripe for finger-pointing, denial, and mistrust. Reform is needed, but ust be tied to accountability. The current city council structure cannot provide leadership in this key area.

Ward 8

7/17/2020 10:42:11 AM

I support the charter amendment and demand the right to vote. The Minneapolis Police Department is beyond reform.

Ward 9

7/17/2020 10:46:44 AM

I live in the Longfellow neighborhood and I support including the charter amendment on the ballot, pertaining to the creation of a new Charter Department to provide for community safety and violence prevention, and the removal of the Police Department as a Charter Department. Please allow the citizens of Minneapolis to vote on how we want our homes and streets protected.

I want to have police in some form. We do not currently have police, which is, to me, the biggest problem. We have an occupying army that considers residents, and especially residents who are people of color, as an enemy. As it currently exists, the Minneapolis Police Department is beyond reform. At least since the Rodney King uprisings in Los Angeles, we have been talking of police reform in America; we even discussed it and theoretically made changes in light of the murders of Philando Castile, Jamar Clark and Justine Damond. Nothing happened--nothing that could have prevented George Floyd's murder.

We must have public safety that works, that is a complex response to the complex problems in the city. A home is a complex place, imagine if I only had a hammer to fix my electrical, plumbing, broken windows, etc. The police currently are only a hammer--I do not feel comfortable having the police, armed with a holstered gun, a billy club, and a shotgun in the car, to respond to a noise complaint. Or a mental health issue.

Please allow the people of Minneapolis to determine how best to ensure their safety.

Thank you.

Ward 2

7/17/2020 10:50:01 AM

The Minneapolis Police Department is beyond reform - we need public safety that works - I support this charter amendment and believe the citizens of Minneapolis should be allowed to vote on this issue

Ward 5

7/17/2020 11:06:59 AM

The Minneapolis Police Department is absolutely critical for the safety of the city. As with many organizations change is a constant and cultural change takes time.

I believe this change is happening and the department has fantastic leadership. Yet we need the police department and they need to be supported and funded properly. Having many interactions with the

officers within the Minneapolis Police Department, the department is filled with folks who care about the community and work hard everyday to keep the citizens safe.

I do believe there needs to be additional support services in place that will provide for social workers to be able to respond to crisis situations but ultimately they will still need the support of the police department. The department is wholly understaffed and are unable to do the community service work because of the volume of calls. This is due to the City Councils lack of understanding.

I would encourage each of the city council members to take the time to ride with officers for multiple shifts. Experience the challenges they face and the struggles they have. You as a city council member go and see the job first hand before you decide to eliminate the department.

There is no doubt if this charter is amended, I will refuse to work in the city of Minneapolis and will refuse to bring my business or family into the city!

Support the leadership of MPD, understand the challenges officers face.

Ward 7

7/17/2020 11:16:09 AM

Officers need discipline and they are not getting it. The records of the many killings by police in Minneapolis shows in every case that the officer had a problem that was verifiable through complaints to the Office of Police Conduct Review. The present proposal by the City Council is being done to cover the fact that the Council has NOT used its real power in hiring two very powerful seats in Minneapolis government, that of the City Attorney and of the head of the Civil Rights Department. The Council has allowed these two powerful seats to be occupied by people who did nothing to further justice, and in fact harmed accountability for police. The City Council has the power of the purse, and failed to require protocol for Body Worn Cameras before they were purchased. The cameras have proven to actually be detrimental to transparency. The subjects of the footage have a difficult to impossible task trying to obtain the footage. The cops get to look at the footage to be able to make up their side of the story. The footage in one fatal "incident" was altered to favor the police story. This present bid by the City Council to "turn the page" away from the incredible debacle that was started from the hideous death of George Floyd is shameful and will allow more deaths to occur. It's long past time to cull the ranks and get rid of those officers who are headed for disaster. The City Council is tremendously irresponsible in this bid to make things "kinder and gentler" but not place justice ahead of empty rhetoric. Shame on them.

Ward 6

7/17/2020 11:17:39 AM

I urge you to support the Charter amendment as proposed by the Mpls City Council. Prompted by residents, the city has put forth significant reform efforts over the past few decades aimed at eliminating police abuses. These abuses have not been rectified, and all these efforts at reform have ultimately failed.

A new Department could be constructed that would take into account this history, and build its structures and policies to create a variety of positions to address the wide range of issues police officers currently respond to. Those of us who live in the City deserve accountability from its departments.

Reform has been tried and so far proven to be unsuccessful. After 150 years, it is time for a new approach and an amended Charter gives the City opportunities that the current Charter does not.

Ward 2

7/17/2020 11:29:31 AM

The police system does not keep all people safe. It never has, but as a white person, I grew up believing that it did and that they were the only option. Police have proven they are not the answer to safety; and in fact, are an active danger.

Another belief that I've held all my life is that voting is a way to make systems change. It is a way for my voice and the voices of my fellow community members to be heard. We have an opportunity right now to step into the urgency of this moment and allow Minneapolis residents to create a future of public safety that actually means safety for all people, instead of safety for white people, and fear for everyone else.

I ask you to support the charter amendment. By making a recommendation about the charter by August 5th, we can move closer to a transformed city, a city where all voices are heard, and people aren't living in fear but are more connected to each other and true safety.

Let Us Vote

Ward 3

7/17/2020 12:12:47 PM

I support the proposed Minneapolis City Charter amendment, and am ready to have the opportunity to vote yes on my ballot.

Ward 10

7/17/2020 1:28:49 PM

This charter amendment doesn't enact the change we need; it makes it possible to have a debate. We constituents need our elected officials to have the ability to make these changes,

I'm asking you to not delay this process. Make your honest recommendation, but allow us to begin the conversation about the future of public safety in our city now.

Ward 13

7/17/2020 1:42:37 PM

The city council has greatly overstepped its boundaries and needs to be held accountable for this level of corruption. We have some of the highest taxes in the country yet have not been provided the services those are intended to pay for, and now they want to officially remove the main service. At the same

time there expect private security to be provided to many of them, I feel like I've entered into a parallel universe. I will never support this charter amendment.

Ward 12

7/17/2020 1:46:54 PM

Hi!

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Ward 3. I am writing in support of the amendment to the City Charter. I believe that it is a change that is long overdue and is step one in our efforts to begin to repair the immense damage done by the police department to communities of color and to the city in general.

It has become apparent that the MPD holds a ridiculous amount of power of the citizens and politicians of Mpls even though they continue to prove that they are overly aggressive, inept and racist. I was shocked when Steve Fletcher said that when he didn't vote to increase the MPD's budget that officers intentionally slowed down response calls to residents in his ward. THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE! We should not continue to fund this department!

I am also completely horrified that despite their sizable budget they had over 1K rape kits that went untested for decades. Other than raises and military style equipment, how are they spending the money given to them by tax payers?? It is disgusting. There should be no more increases to the police department budget.

I am hopefully that City Council will continue to push forward on this issue and continue their commitment to abolishing the police department as it is today.

Ward 3

7/17/2020 1:47:32 PM

Very cool that the city council found a way to market their capitalist austerity measures with a radical veneer. Each and every person on the Minneapolis city council is a class collaborator. Ya'll will find any way to manufacture consent for whatever your ruling class owners deems good for capital. Shame on all of you for your continued betrayal of the working class. Have one of your ruling class patrons pay for the next round of security for council members, we all know that is who you answer to.

Ward 8

7/17/2020 1:55:38 PM

What are the benefits that the Council sees in taking over the police dept. as opposed to leaving it as a responsibility of the Mayor?

Ward 10

7/17/2020 2:01:39 PM

I am in support of amending the charter and demand that we are allowed to vote on it this fall. However, I am concerned about the level of control being given to the city council and would like to see another body made up of private citizens involved as well.

Ward 3

7/17/2020 2:02:37 PM

With the recent violence and shootings in the city of Minneapolis, I cannot believe that the city council has proposed something so completely absurd. The residents and businesses here have a right to expect adequate police protection. If the council is unhappy with the performance of the police department, then change it. You don't throw away the entire basket because of a few bad apples, and then cut down all the trees in the orchard.

Ward 1

7/17/2020 2:13:28 PM

Police don't need a slap on the wrist. They don't need more "sensitivity" training. We need to completely re-think what law enforcement and civil service looks like in our city. I support the proposed charter amendment.

Ward 7

7/17/2020 2:28:23 PM

As a resident of Ward 8 I am appalled by the disproportionate policing of specific neighborhoods and demographics in South Minneapolis, the brutality displayed by our police department, and the lack of impact policing has on violence in our communities. I urge the Charter Commission to move the amendment to the City's Charter forward ASAP so that voters can approve it in November. We need to rethink Community Safety & Violence Prevention. I fully support the change to the charter and look forward to voting for the amendment in November.

Ward 8

7/17/2020 2:28:42 PM

Although I feel strongly that transformation of the Minneapolis Police Department is needed, I do not support the proposed amendment and do not believe it should be placed on the November ballot. The proposed amendment is terribly vague and general, lacking in thought and detail. Rather than spending time advocating for the amendment, the City Council should be working with the Mayor and Police Chief on reforms that are needed. It may be true that the Charter will need to be amended to implement a new model for the department, the framework needs to have more thoughtful input from the broad community. This proposal has been rushed and is inadequate.

Ward 3

7/17/2020 2:50:56 PM

Hi there,

I'd like to make sure the amendment proposal makes it onto the November ballot. I am in favor of the amendment. Thank you!

Ward 3

7/17/2020 3:12:28 PM

Get rid of Bob Kroll and keep the police department. The chief needs to be able to fire the bad cops. There are good cops and we appreciate their hard work. Let the chief lead.

Ward 7

7/17/2020 3:43:55 PM

This proposed amendment would reallocate funds to promote true community safety and well-being for our most marginalized community members. Data has shown that the Minneapolis Police Department does not effectively protect the residents of Minneapolis, especially its Black and Indigenous people of color. In fact, the murders of George Floyd, Philando Castile, Jamal Clark, and so many others that didn't make the mainstream news show that the MPD actively harms innocent citizens. I believe strongly that creating alternative safety programs, based on community support & assisting those in need who might otherwise be drawn to crime, will create a safer city for everyone. Please give voters a chance to change our city for the better in the upcoming election by letting us vote on this proposed amendment.

Ward 2

7/17/2020 3:44:00 PM

§ 7.3, a (the revised "a"): I'm not enthusiastic about the word "holistic" and I can see many moderate-to-conservative residents feeling the same way. It brings to mind healing crystals and yoga. This is not a top priority, of course, but could go a bit of a ways in bringing people toward, or pushing them away from, this amendment. "Comprehensive", "integrated" could be better words.

§ 7.3, a1 (the revised "a1"): It unnerves me to have someone with, specifically, NO law-enforcement experience at the helm of this new department. I strongly believe that SOME law enforcement experience is valuable, and can lend some perspective to the challenges that will be faced with this new department and charter amendment. I suppose if you still have a person at the helm of the new Division of Law Enforcement Services who has law-enforcement experience, that's a good thing. But I just get worried that this pill, while life-saving, is a bit too big and bitter to swallow all at once.

Ward 8

7/17/2020 3:44:05 PM

We need more officers, including more park police. I would support more training since the police must deal with so many difficult and different situations. I support firing officers that continue to get verified serious complaints after the officer receives proper warnings. I am angered that the City Council wants to experiment with our safety but some Council Members have us paying for private security at the cost of \$4,500/day/council member.

Ward 9

7/17/2020 3:59:48 PM

I oppose the proposed Public Safety amendment and ask that you oppose it as well.

The status quo is not working. The status quo killed George Floyd. The status quo has left too many people in all parts of our community without the safety they deserve and expect. We certainly need to re-envision and re-create how we enable our community – all of our community – to be safe.

I believe the authors of this proposed amendment intend it to achieve that purpose. I also believe that the charter will likely need to be changed – but not until we have in fact re-envisioned the path to safety and are ready to re-create it.

The proposed amendment asks us to do exactly the opposite. The proposed amendment asks us to create a new department to replace the existing one and then envision how it will work. Further, the proposed amendment asks us to do this city-wide – in essence to experiment on the whole city at one time, hope that this version of a new department is what we need, hope that it works, and risk the whole city when it does not.

In the StarTribune last Friday colleagues and I suggested one alternative.

<https://www.startribune.com/a-path-to-explore-redesigning-public-safety-begins-at-the-third-precinct/571697012/?refresh=true>

I am sure there are others. We suggested starting in the 3rd Precinct. Work with that community to re-envision public safety for everyone in that community. Find out what works and what doesn't. Make it right for that community first before we make it city-wide. And once we know what will work – change the charter to enable that re-envisioned approach to be re-created for everyone.

Changing the charter now is a distraction from the real work of engaging the people of this city – all of us- in the work of envisioning and creating how we will enable safety for all of us.

Ward 3

7/17/2020 4:18:04 PM

I demand that the charter amendment move forward this year so that Minneapolis citizens can vote on the amendment this November. We cannot let this be pushed to another year. The charter amendment is the only way to being removing the MPD and transitioning to a safer option.

Ward 3

7/17/2020 4:18:15 PM

Hello, I was on hold during the last meeting and am unable to attend this Tuesday's meeting so I am writing here.

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in Northeast Minneapolis. I am a public school teacher. I think often about how to have the most positive impact on the mental health of small children and their families. I have seen how the current police system sets off anger and resentment and distrust in the populations that I teach. I also know that there is a need for more and a different sort of social work in the neighborhoods. I believe we can make significant changes going forward. It has become clear to me that working with this commission is part of the way forward. We need to vote. I am in full support of the amendment.

Ward 1

7/17/2020 4:20:05 PM

I am supporting the public safety transportation amendment and want the charter commission to advance it to the people of Minneapolis to vote on.

Ward 10

7/17/2020 4:29:32 PM

I was there when this all went down. I watched as the police started a riot and then stood back and did nothing. I watched the tape in horror as someone who is supposed to be responsible for the safety of our citizens willfully murdered a man. Those images won't go away.

This change to the city charter is long-needed and cannot be implemented fast enough. The police department has run unchecked for years, ignoring court orders to change their behavior and training through a belligerent police union. Our citizens will be safer with a public safety department and people will get help instead of a bullet or suffocation. My greatest wish is that we can stop the needless killing of Minneapolis residents and that other cities will follow in our footsteps.

Resident of Minneapolis

Ward 12

7/17/2020 4:39:36 PM

Members of the Commission: i am opposed to the proposal to abolish the Minneapolis Police Department. i have no doubt that public safety in our city needs a complete overhaul. But, let's develop the plan first and then, design a charter change that helps us implement the new system. The City Council is wasting valuable time and resources by proposing a charter change before anyone (include Council members) knows how to redesign our current public safety system.

Thank you.

Ward 13

7/17/2020 4:52:46 PM

The Minneapolis Police Department is beyond reform - we need public safety that works - I support this charter amendment and believe the citizens of Minneapolis should be allowed to vote on this issue

Ward 9

7/17/2020 5:17:56 PM

After the horrible murder of yet another black innocent man the country finally is demanding a complete change in the departments that "keep law and order ".

Enough!!!!

We all White, Black, Hispanic and all other people of color want change and we want it NOW

Ward 1

7/17/2020 5:20:26 PM

Dear Councilwoman Goodman,

I oppose the charter amendment and I encourage you to do so as well.

It is abundantly clear that transformational reform is needed, and the charter may well need to be amended for that to occur. However, it should not be done before there is a workable plan for what will replace it.

I support Peter Hutchinson and colleagues' plan (published recently in an opinion piece in the StarTribune) to start with a pilot to re-envision the 3rd precinct to see what a new kind of system might look like and delay any move to change the charter till after that experiment has been evaluated.

In addition to the lack of a plan, as the charter amendment stands now, accountability would be unclear and there is no commitment for a law enforcement function at all. It is too soon to make that determination.

Thank you for your service at this most challenging of times. I am glad you represent our Ward.

Sincerely

Ward 7

7/17/2020 5:21:04 PM

I have lived here since 1982. We have tried incremental changes and "tweaks" to change the police department. It has not changed because the police do not want to change. Public Safety must be manged in a new way. This proposal must be on this year's ballot. No one should EVER die in custody.

Ward 11

7/17/2020 5:30:47 PM

We oppose the Minneapolis City Council action to amend the Minneapolis City Charter (see attached Council action "Amending Article VII of the City Charter). We believe this would be a profound mistake, for these reasons:

1. We cannot eliminate the police department without NO REPLACEMENT. Right now the Council does not have a plan. It only promises to develop the plan and how to implement it in the future. This process must be slowed down to carefully build and test a workable plan.
2. It is wrong to eliminate the authority of the Mayor and invest oversight by a Director of Community Safety and Violence Prevention who would report to the Council and Mayor - with no clear lines of authority and accountability. This puts in place 15 "bosses" which means no boss. This also makes authority more distant and less accountable to the electorate.
3. The proposal has NO COMMITMENT to have a law enforcement function. The proposed Charter Change states: "Division of Law Enforcement Services The Council may maintain a division of law enforcement services, composed of licensed peace officers, subject to the supervision of the department of community safety and violence prevention." This removes from the current Charter language that City Council must establish, organize and otherwise provide for these departments...a police department.

This is a major change to our city government and should not be rushed. We need the Charter Commission to have a thorough, robust, inclusive public assessment prior to a vote of the electorate.

The people must know what public safety and law enforcement functions will be provided by the city.

Respectfully

Ward 7

7/17/2020 5:48:54 PM

I fully support the proposed amendment. We need to make it possible for us to start changing policing in Minneapolis, and stop the systemic racism that is prevalent today.

Please do your part to allow Minneapolis residents to decide this issue.

Thank you.

Ward 8

7/17/2020 5:56:17 PM

The Minneapolis Police Department is beyond reform - we need public safety that works - I support this charter amendment and believe the citizens of Minneapolis should be allowed to vote on this issue

Ward 8

7/17/2020 5:57:36 PM

Transformational reform of the Minneapolis Police is essential and urgent. We continue to believe that this Charter amendment is a distraction from the critically needed action. We are writing today to ask you to contact the Minneapolis Charter Commission with your concerns (see below Commission members and their contact information).

We oppose the Minneapolis City Council action to amend the Minneapolis City Charter (see attached Council action "Amending Article VII of the City Charter). We offer you our reasons for opposing the Minneapolis City Council action to amend the Minneapolis City Charter.

The proposed charter change:

1. Eliminates the police department without NO REPLACEMENT. Right now the Council does not have a plan. It only promises to develop the plan and how to implement it in the future.
2. Muddles ACCOUNTABILITY. It eliminates the authority of the Mayor and invests oversight by a Director of Community Safety and Violence Prevention who would report to the Council and Mayor. If there is a Division of Law Enforcement Services, "the Director of Community and Violence Prevention shall appoint the director of the division of law enforcement services, subject to confirmation by official act of the City Council and Mayor." This puts in place 15 "bosses" which means no boss. This also makes authority more distant and less accountable to the electorate.
3. Makes NO COMMITMENT to have a law enforcement function. The proposed Charter Change states: "Division of Law Enforcement Services The Council may maintain a division of law enforcement services, composed of licensed peace officers, subject to the supervision of the department of community safety and violence prevention." This removes from the current Charter language that City Council must establish, organize and otherwise provide for these departments...a police department.

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

Ward 5

7/17/2020 6:20:46 PM

I demand that the Charter Commission move forward on the amendment to create a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police Department from the Charter.

Ward 6

7/17/2020 6:53:10 PM

I am opposed to the proposed amendment being considered by the City Council. While some change is required it is premature to take specific actions before an overall plan is agreed upon. The best run governmental, business and non-profit organizations plan before taking actions. The council is putting the "cart before the horse" and therefore jeopardizing a successful outcome.

Ward 13

7/17/2020 8:42:15 PM

I oppose the proposed Public Safety amendment and ask that you oppose it as well.

The status quo is not working. The status quo killed George Floyd. The status quo has left too many people in all parts of our community without the safety they deserve and expect. We certainly need to re-envision and re-create how we enable our community – all of our community – to be safe.

I believe the authors of this proposed amendment intend it to achieve that purpose. I also believe that the charter will likely need to be changed – but not until we have in fact re-envisioned the path to safety and are ready to re-create it.

The proposed amendment asks us to do exactly the opposite. The proposed amendment asks us to create a new department to replace the existing one and then envision how it will work. Further, the proposed amendment asks us to do this city-wide – in essence to experiment on the whole city at one time, hope that this version of a new department is what we need, hope that it works, and risk the whole city when it does not.

Ward 3

7/17/2020 8:57:01 PM

Strongly opposed to defunding the police. Our city is becoming a hotbed for opportunistic criminals. It's lawlessness already because of the reduction in police presence in mpls. Enough is enough. We paid the taxes and have a right to police presence and a voice. The city council is the least qualified and WAY overstepping.

Ward 5

7/17/2020 9:10:58 PM

I do not believe you should immediately vote to end the police department.

How about trying a new public safety department in a limited area first to see how it works.

Too drastic, too fast.

No question the current situation is not effective

Ward 7

7/17/2020 9:11:48 PM

Please amend the charter to de-escalate police violence so that murder by police such as happened to George Floyd can't happen. There should be no military style training of police officers, and they should be trained to use violence only very rarely, as is the case in many countries, and mental health professionals should take over much of what police do now.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/17/2020 9:50:50 PM

While I want to see significant change to the MPD and would be willing to vote to defund if there was an acceptable replacement plan in place, I am not comfortable leaving an opening for the current city council to create a sound replacement plan on their own. I feel like community input for the current city council equates to "lets let them talk so we can say we listened and then do whatever we want because we only listen to voices that we agree with". The lack of commitment to public safety and basic community standards (such as not using drugs in public parks where children can inhale pot smoke and step on used needles - there is a fog of smoke over Kenwood park these days thick enough to get you high just walking past) by some of the council members does not instill confidence in those of us who want change, but also want to live in a civil society where one is not constantly wondering if what they are hearing are gun shots or fireworks (I am listening to revving motors and gun shots/fireworks as I type). Until this defund movement, I felt safe in this city, that is not longer the case. I have had multiple concerning experiences (above and beyond the total destruction of large areas of the city and the shooting of 10+ people blocks from my home), including people drinking & partying on my lawn and throwing my garbage around at 6 am. This happened because the cops had to focus all of their efforts on continuing the mass violence elsewhere instead of patrolling my neighborhood like they used to. I want a specific replacement plan which shows a strong commitment to the safety of everyone, not just a vote to defund. I need to know we will still have a law strong law enforcement presence in out neighborhood to deal with the drunks & drug users who use the lake to buy and sell drugs and the establishments on Hennepin to get drunk and party.

Ward 7

7/17/2020 10:20:46 PM

The people of Minneapolis and Minnesota deserve real institutional change, not lip service or apologies. The treatment by police of minorities, the disadvantaged, people with mental illness and non white residents has been disgusting. We need people who are actually in the community, who are caring, thoughtful, and properly trained to handle matters. Now is the time to start.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/17/2020 11:52:49 PM

The council has wanted authority over the police department instead of the Mayor for at least the last two years and is using the present social unrest to get it. I also can not find any where else within the charter that lists the qualifications of the director of a department.

Okay my family, which includes Latina and Black, may not have had the best experiences with the police some of the time but we could say the same about schools, social workers and city planners. But there are just as many times, we would be able to tell you how much we appreciated their work, even saved a family member's life. I believe the council has not supported the present Chief nor the one before him - both coming from communities of color within Minneapolis; a claim most council members can make and expected them to make changes overnight from problems the white system including the council has helped to create over the years.

Ward 12

7/18/2020 1:56:31 AM

Dear Commissioners,

I was going to write: "Don't be bamboozled. The Community Safety and Violence Prevention Charter amendment proposal is an attempted coup by the City Council, masquerading as greater democracy because citizens can vote on it, and as greater transparency because MPD policies will be openly debated." But with the poison pill of an optional police force, and ballot language "to remove the Police Department," no sane person believes this will pass if put on the ballot. So you should be asking: why is the Council proposing this?

Is it because they are deluded and think it could pass in November?

Is it because they're pandering to demonstrators in the streets expressing their outrage at the killing of George Floyd?

Is it because they're simply trying to crush the police union?

Is it because they want it to fail, so they can say, "Well, we tried"?

Is it because they're using the Charter referendum process just to generate discussion?

If the answer to any of those is "Yes," you should do everything and anything you can to keep this off the ballot.

On the other hand, Commissioner Giraud-Isaacson's second substitute proposal removes the only barrier in the Charter that is preventing the City Council from moving toward its goal of a holistic, public-health-oriented public safety model. If you believe the City Attorney's memo of 2018, Council members will have sufficient legislative and other tools to accomplish their goals as described in Policy 84 of the Minneapolis 2040 Plan.

In addition, it certainly is awkward and inappropriate that the minimum staffing level of a City department is prescribed in the Charter.

And finally, such a proposal could pass if put on the ballot. The Council's proposal clearly can not.

Recommend the Giraud-Isaacson substitute proposal.

Yours

Ward 6

7/18/2020 7:06:11 AM

I would like the people charged in caring for the safety of Minneapolis citizens to live in the area and have a desire to care for the citizens and not feel only hostility for the citizens. A good government can instill trust between the police and citizens. But, lets face it, we need equality for all people for this to work well. Good luck to all of us in our new venture.

Ward 10

7/18/2020 8:12:30 AM

I believe this charter change proposal has been rushed and while well intended, it should not move forward at this time. There is no plan behind the change so no one can know what the outcome of the change will be. It is impossible to make a well informed decision with no plan.

Ward 3

7/18/2020 8:30:44 AM

Thank you city council members for your time and work on the city charter and public safety transformation. I urge you to let Minneapolis voters decide for ourselves this November and put the charter amendment/updates on the ballot for referendum. Minneapolis voters want our voices heard. Do not let us down.

Thank you.

Ward 13

7/18/2020 8:57:45 AM

We need to reimagine public safety in our city, among many tasks to increase racial equity. But I strongly oppose this charter amendment, because it puts the cart (a chosen solution) before the horse (a public inquiry into how best to ensure the safety of all our people). It also imposes a radical change on the whole city before any testing of its value and viability. Its language does not even guarantee that we will have a law enforcement agency in the city. Many functions of law enforcement can best be handled by others, but surely it cannot be right to say in the charter that having a law enforcement agency is optional.

Instead, we should examine best practices elsewhere, engage the public in discussions of options, and experiment in one or more areas of the city how best to accomplish our shared goals. Then, and only then, should we consider amending the charter.

Ward 3

7/18/2020 9:17:47 AM

I oppose the change to Minneapolis' charter. I want to see a plan before I would vote for anything like this. Most people with whom I speak feel the same way. We definitely need change. We need better police recruiting and training. We need focus on de-escalation and understanding of mental health issues. Police need more tools in their tool box. They need to build community trust. Please bring wise leaders together to create a plan. A great plan was laid out in a Star Tribune Op Ed by Peter Hutchinson. I would hope leaders to read and learn and listen and act.

Ward 5

7/18/2020 9:56:55 AM

I want to start by thanking each of you for serving on the Charter Commission and playing this vital role in city governance.

I implore you to continue studying and working on this critical issue and NOT to approve it for the November ballot. This proposal fails the basic measures of good government: it lacks both specifics and accountability.

This proposal would replace our police department with a department of community safety and violence prevention, but provides no details about the new department. Reviewing three questions and answers from the Q&A section of the Minneapolis City website on the amendment only reinforces this conclusion. Is there a legal analysis of the proposal? Not yet. Is there a fiscal impact analysis of the proposal? No. Is there a racial equity impact analysis of this proposal? No. How can anyone possibly evaluate the replacement system when no details are provided? Particularly during a pandemic when the city is facing tax revenue decreases and expenditure increases, it would be irresponsible to approve such an open-ended proposal. The amendment should fail for lack of specifics.

Likewise, the proposal lacks accountability. Under the current system, the police chief is appointed by and answers to the mayor, and the mayor is elected by and answers to the voters of Minneapolis. Under the proposed system, the new director would answer to the City Council, and each City Council member would answer only to the voters in his or her own district. Having thirteen bosses instead of one will ensure confusion and discord rather oversight and accountability. This is the City Council trying to usurp the mayor's role. Rather than eliminating accountability, I would instead invite any or all of the five city council members supporting the amendment to run for mayor and face city-wide accountability.

Rather than approve this proposed amendment or any substitute proposal for a vote, I beseech you to take your full 150 days to study the matter and submit a report with detailed recommendations on what a replacement proposal should contain.

Ward 13

7/18/2020 10:20:39 AM

I oppose changes to the charter at his time. We need to know what the alternative will be.

Ward 3

7/18/2020 10:56:54 AM

The Minneapolis Police Department is beyond reform - we need public safety that works - I support this charter amendment and believe the citizens of Minneapolis should be allowed to vote on this issue

Ward 3

7/18/2020 11:06:01 AM

Hello,

I am a 62 year old white woman, residing in the Kingfield neighborhood. I am here to support our local Black community and Black Lives Matter. I am in favor of an amendment that would create a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police Department from the Charter.

About 20 percent of Minneapolis's population of 438,000 is black. But when the police get physical — with kicks, neck holds, punches, shoves, takedowns, Mace, Tasers or other forms of muscle — nearly 60 percent of the time the person subject to that force is black---that is according to the city's own figures.

Since 2015, the Minneapolis police have documented using force about 11,500 times. For at least 6,650 acts of force, the subject of that force was black.

By comparison, the police have used force about 2,750 times against white people, who make up about 60 percent of the population.

All of that means that the police in Minneapolis used force against black people at a rate at least seven times that of white people during the past five years.....need I say more?

Thank you

Ward 8

7/18/2020 11:18:55 AM

As a Ward 11 resident, I am in full support of this proposed amendment to change the charter to create a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department that is driven by community and meets our community's needs.

Ward 11

7/18/2020 11:35:17 AM

Dear Charter Commission:

Transformational reform of the Minneapolis Police is essential and urgent. I believe that this Charter amendment is a distraction from the critically needed action.

I oppose the Minneapolis City Council action to amend the Minneapolis City Charter and offer you the following reasons for opposing the Minneapolis City Council action to amend the Minneapolis City Charter.

The proposed charter change:

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

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

Ward 8

7/18/2020 12:53:56 PM

I live just across the border from Minneapolis in Ramsey County. We need to let voters decide on this amendment to the City Charter - the people who are most affected by the violence inflicted by the Minneapolis Police Department should be the first ones to have a say in alternative solutions.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/18/2020 1:41:46 PM

To Charter Commission Members:

We urge you to reject the City Council proposal to amend the Charter at this time, replacing the Police Department with a new ill defined entity. There are many reasons to reject this proposal, but we would like to cite a few of our primary concerns:

- 1). The proposed Charter Amendment would be rushed onto the Fall Ballot without even the benefit of thorough analysis regarding options and consequences that might result from study and public hearings.
- 2). The Amendment does not provide sufficient clarity of purpose or principles that would guide further work and discussion in the process of needed reform in public safety.
- 3). It would weaken the role of the Mayor and Chief of Police at the very time they are trying to implement essential reforms in public safety at the community and neighborhood levels.
- 4). The proposed amendment would greatly weaken accountability. Accountability depends upon clearer, not weaker connections between authority and responsibility of the Mayor. The amendment substitutes a chaotic governance structure of direct reports to at least 13 different individuals. It actually defeats or at least weakens the leadership roles that can insure greater accountability for just and effective practices in public safety.
- 5). The MPLS Communities need public safety practices that are clear, value-centered, fair, just, and more accountable. The MPLS Police is part of our vital network of first responders in emergencies--e.g., they with University Police Officers were the very first to respond to the I-35 Bridge collapse; they protect our vital neighborhoods, including ones that surround the U campus with 53,000 students and about 15,000 staff; they handle safety issues 24/7 for a complex community with millions of residents and visitors in venues throughout the year. We cannot pass an amendment without greater clarity regarding how these vital functions will be addressed in any new model.
- 6). The proposed amendment assumes that some policing functions will be replaced with more appropriate responders to mental health and other presenting issues. These are good ideas that are working elsewhere, but it does not take a Charter Amendment to accomplish these goals (see the recent column by Peter Hutchinson et al. in the ST). They can be addressed within the current Charter, a Charter that may be worth reviewing for future modifications with further study. It is also important to explore synergies with Hennepin County, a governance entity with considerable core strengths in many of the areas cited as concerns in the proposed amendment.

We need urgent reform in current policing practices. This amendment will most likely delay such needed reforms. We urge you to reject the proposal.

Ward 3

7/18/2020 2:21:26 PM

I am opposed to the charter amendment.

We do need to re-environment what we expect of the police, their proper roles and the training and resources required to implement that vision. However, that vision must be developed before and not after any charter amendment.

Also, it seems to make sense to first run a pilot project in one or two precincts in order to test and refine any new vision. That must be done first before we make a massive change that impacts the entire city and all precincts.

Ward 3

7/18/2020 2:50:03 PM

I am writing you as a former intern for and a former member of the Charter Commission. I believe the proposed charter change is unnecessary. While we need reform in the Police Department, elimination of it without a clear plan on how to reconstitute is foolish. The Legislature, the City Council, the Mayor, and the Police Chief can all adopt changes that will improve the department. Your role as a charter commission member is to ensure we don't rush to judgement on matters as important as this proposed change.

One of the most significant objectives I have is that the Mayor will no longer be in charge of the Police Department. It will be the City Council and the Mayor in a shared manner that will mean no one will be in charge. Remember that with the Mayor clearly in charge of the police, Hubert Humphrey cleaned up the police force and reduced the corruption in Minneapolis.

Also, there is no guarantee that we will actually have uniformed officers to police the city. Which points out the greatest weakness of the proposed charter change: there is no specificity as to what the new department entails and how it will function. Will a social worker respond to a shooting by a deranged person? For something this important there should be a clear, detailed plan that has been reviewed by the citizens of the city adequately.

The proposed charter change is a raw power-grab on the part of the city council to reduce the power of the Mayor. Without adequate details it is premature at best, and a misguided plan at worst.

Thanks for your service and consideration of my thoughts.

Ward 13

7/18/2020 3:16:42 PM

I wanted to add my voice to the growing dissent about the Minneapolis Police Department. We really need to disband the MPD and really invest in the communities of Minneapolis instead of funding violence and fear of those communities. I want the city charter to amend to reflect this change to support the needs of the BIPOC people of Minneapolis. Thank you.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/18/2020 5:16:32 PM

I am in favor of the proposed amendment to remove the Police Department from the Charter and replace it with a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. The Police Department as it stands now takes a reactive and, unfortunately, often discriminatory and violent approach to their work that undermines public safety and causes harm to marginalized communities; especially people of color,

people in poverty, and people struggling with mental health conditions. As a social worker and mental health professional, I believe that we should be taking a proactive approach to public safety that includes addressing the systemic issues that contribute to crime and focuses on building and strengthening the Minneapolis community through increasing access to social services, mental healthcare, restorative justice, and other services.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this amendment.

Sincerely

Ward 3

7/18/2020 5:59:07 PM

Let the people vote on the amendment to the City Charter that would create a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police Department from the Charter. It should be on the ballot in November.

Ward 8

7/18/2020 6:44:52 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am a ward 3 resident and ardent supporter of the proposal to remove a Police Department from the City Charter and replace it with a Department of Public Safety. I fully support this because the Police in Minneapolis have not made me feel safe. They are not members of the community, and they seek to be no more than an armed response force; furthermore, they respond brutally.

I am calling for you to move to add the charter amendment to the November ballot NOW because after the senseless and needless murder of George Floyd, the police responded to peaceful protests by using tear gas and rubber bullets in a possibly lethal and certainly damaging manner. At a time when the eyes of the world were literally turned on our city the Police were brutalizing citizens who were grieving and practicing their constitutional right to protest. No one was safe. CNN crews were arrested during live broadcasts; citizens were shot with paint while on their own property. There has been permanent, irreparable harm done to the people of Minneapolis by the Police of Minneapolis.

Yours is not a political job; you have no right to say whether or not a charter amendment should be made. That is for the people of Minneapolis.

I ask you to do your jobs and approve this proposed amendment so it may move on in the process.

Thank you

Ward 3

7/18/2020 6:46:29 PM

This amendment to the City Charter would be a huge disservice to the residents and employees of the City of Minneapolis. The City Council only works to serve themselves, not their constituents. Employees of vital City Departments are being forced into mandatory furlough because Minneapolis is in such a budget shortfall, yet the council is paying for private security? This council cannot be reliable enough to make decisions for the good of our city. We cannot rely on them to come up with a new form of protection for all of us. The city needs to get rid of Bob Kroll. And the Police Union as it sits now. We need a police department, and the one we have now doesn't work, but we can't let them completely abolish it.

7/18/2020 8:04:16 PM

I fully support disbanding the police department and replacing it with a community-based, restorative justice-oriented public safety system. I am interested in justice that brings people in, rather than shutting them out. I want to live in a community that creates new beginnings, not hardened criminals. I want to reduce gun violence and racial segregation and increase opportunities for people to receive help rather than punishments. Please move the amendment forward so we can vote on it in November.

Ward 10

7/18/2020 8:21:16 PM

As it stands right now - the City Council's plan to Disband the Police Department (via potential charter amendment proposal) is not fully developed or presented in a way in which the community can understand what will take its place and how it will work. We are being given high concept ideals as an approach to policing. But policing is so much more nuanced than how it is being presented by the City Council. Police officers are responsible for rape charges being made, they facilitate investigations, they coordinate with other states so that crimes that happen in different jurisdictions are still prosecuted.

Lisa Bender's proclamation to disband the police has been made at a time when the police are needed more than ever. To have the City Council remove themselves from cooperation with the MPD and Chief Arradondo and call for them to be disbanded completely undermines the legitimacy of the MPD. It was irresponsible to stoke the overall feeling of resentment the community has for the MPD and do it in such a way that offers absolutely no solution or plan for the replacement of the MPD. There is no concrete plan. Lisa Bender - in her actions has contributed to the ongoing violence by having the same apathy, the same disregard for the institution of the MPD. To disband the police would be the last step of a well developed reform plan, not the first step. When I think about the amount of time and resources it took to allow for the light rail to be built - I don't see how our city is taking a proposed large scale infrastructure change with the same level of due process. Where is the feasibility study? Where is the economic, environmental, and social impact study? What reform efforts lead to results? Do we have examples to look to with concrete numbers? To disband the police would be the end goal, not the first thing to go. In their approach, the city council has simply grabbed the juiciest headline with no substance behind it. This is completely irresponsible and completely undermines the processes of our current justice system.

Ward 12

7/18/2020 10:17:20 PM

As a long time resident of Mpls I strongly oppose this amendment change and suggest you take the full 150 days to review. I believe the proposed charter amendment should not go to vote until the public is able to attend public meetings in person, and a clear detailed plan of what the new department would entail is given to voters.

We are currently having police quit at an alarming rate to the point it is likely we will not have the minimum amount of officers the city charter requires at the same time that crime is so bad here that a federal law enforcement task force has had to assist. One can only assume it is due to the reckless actions of our city council asking for the power to dismantle the MPD and have the possibility of having no police, when there is NO plan of what they want to replace the MPD with. Great job of making us safe. Why on earth would we give the city council more power and trust them with our lives?

They all say they will take a yr to get community input to create a new plan, which means they do not expect to have a plan until next summer or later. That means if this charter amendment goes on the Nov 2020 ballot voters will be asked to give the city council more power and the ability to create ANY replacement for MPD they want. Voters will have no idea how this increased power given to the city council will be used. Many might think they are voting to allow them to drastically reform the police, when in reality we could have no police at all or a skeleton crew with no data or precedent to know if their plan could even work.

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

I believe the city council is rushing the process to dismantle and replace MPD, despite having no clear plan, in order to get on the ballot for Nov 2020 because they know larger numbers of young voters will turn out because it is a presidential election yr and before the steam goes out of the defund/abolish the police sentiment that came from the riots, also so it will not be on the ballot when they are up for re election. I also believe they want to pass this quick before individuals and groups come out against their plan to dismantle the MPD. For example the violence prevention group A Mothers Love held a press conference saying the city council has refused to speak with the founder Lisa Clemons despite the fact she works with crime victims and trying to end gun violence in Mpls. They want to keep the MPD and work with the police chief on police reform.

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

All members of the Mpls city council have repeatedly stated they will take a yr to gather in put from the community to develop a plan. I propose that you force them to do just that BEFORE we vote, not AFTER

we vote in 2020. Please make sure that all citizens of Mpls are able to give their voice and to become more informed on this issue before voting. Democracy only works with an informed active public.

Ward 12

7/18/2020 10:57:44 PM

I support the City Council's amendment to remove the police department from the city's charter and replacing the department with a more holistic approach in the Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department.

This is an important transition that doesn't ask officers to tend to challenges that are better suited for other trained professionals while training officers on the ground for longer periods how to deescalate (as is the case in certain Scandinavian approaches of reducing harm) and calmly asking questions and "checking in" emotionally for highly-charged situations. There should also be more mental health training for officers before they're put out on the street.

As a resident of Minneapolis, I ask that this amendment be given back to the council right away in time for the city to vote on it on the November ballot.

Ward 12

7/18/2020 11:13:47 PM

After talking to people on both sides I feel that more needs to be done before you can outright abolish the police department. When Mayor Frey took office he pledged reform of the police department. No such reform has been seen. I do believe that the police department needs to be dismantled and retraining needs to be done, with emphasis on accountability and de-escalation. It seems to me that the plan the City Council has so far is inadequate. We need to fire and rehire the police much like the model of Camden, New Jersey. We need much more stringent and longer training for someone that is accountable for our protection. I acknowledge that policing is a tough job but police were hired to serve and protect and not act as thugs.

I believe that there needs to be a civilian review board that needs to be involved in hiring and firing of police officers. I also believe that once charges are brought against an officer and he or she is found guilty they should lose their credentials and cannot be rehired as a police officer anywhere. I do not know that I have complete trust in the Mayor or City Council on this matter. I also believe that there needs to be changes in the Police Union. The union should be there to negotiate fair pay and benefits not to protect thugs that go way beyond what should be allowed.

I am totally in agreement with defunding the police as far as totally replacing them, because of the reasons I have given above I feel there needs to be a much more solid plan before this can happen.

Ward 10

The Charter amendment for replacing the Minneapolis Police Department is being proposed by the City Council without any clear, concise replacement of law enforcement until something else is “re-imagined” in a year. The City Council would very mistakenly like to rid the city of its police department and then for a year “reimagine” what its replacement would be for “community safety” and “violence prevention”.

Enforcing the law, done by the police, helps protect citizens lives, well-being and livelihoods. That is not something to be “imagined” about. It’s something to be real about; it’s something that is immediate, especially in light of all the high level crime that has taken place over the last month and a half; and it’s something to get serious about, not to “imagine”. You’d think we were all sitting in a circle singing John Lennon’s song “Imagine”! Imagining is not going to stop crime; more trained, accountable police on the streets stops crime. A great example is the Broken Windows policing and CompStat Accountability police management in New York City which made that city much safer in the 90's.

Contrary to the anti-police activists, Minneapolis does not have a “brutal, racist unaccountable” police department. 99.9 % of Minneapolis police officers are good, dedicated, hard working public servants. Does the police department need to be improved? Yes. Can it be improved under our totally capable Chief Arradondo and Mayor Frey? Yes, Absolutely.

The Charter Commissions job is to make sure Minneapolis has a seriously effective and all-encompassing charter that is unambiguous and has the citizens’ interest at heart. Allowing this amendment to a possible passage will provide a gap in protective police services to the citizens, businesses, and visitors of Minneapolis. This would be completely irresponsible on the part of the Charter Commission and City Council. The proposed amendment as drafted by the City Council is too vague for Minneapolitans to have confidence in voting on: the terms “community safety”, “violence prevention”, “Public safety services”, and “holistic, public health-oriented approach” are not defined.

The City of Minneapolis is a civil society organized in part around the City’s and State’s RULE OF LAW. In order to maintain a civil society under a rule of law, those laws must be followed, enforced and maintained. The proposed charter amendment does NOT require that the City enforce laws! The amendment reads “The City 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”. The city charter (and its overseeing commission) is the constitution of the City of Minneapolis. Legally, it is a delegation of a portion of the State’s central governing authority exercised at the local level. The city charter fulfills many purposes; among these are specifying the processes by which official acts and decisions are made, implemented, and enforced. Therefore, if the Charter Commission approves this amendment to go to the ballot in November, it would be a dereliction of its duty since the proposed amendment does not require that the City enforce its laws. Laws without the backing and requirement of enforcement become null and void, resulting in a lawless land. The Charter Commission and City Council should NOT forward this amendment to the ballot in November 2020.

7/19/2020 9:08:13 AM

I believe that the police department needs a major overhaul to change its outlook, scope of practices, its procedures and the ways in which misdeeds are investigated in a more transparent way. This should probably mean repurposing of some funding to other means of community support. However, I do not support the semantics of "defunding" the police or the idea that a change in name for this type of service is an effective means of dealing with the problem.

Ward 7

7/19/2020 9:09:12 AM

The Minneapolis Police Department is beyond reform - we need public safety that works - I support this charter amendment and believe the citizens of Minneapolis should be allowed to vote on this issue. Thank you.

Ward 9

7/19/2020 9:36:12 AM

I support the Charter Amendment to create a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. The time has come to shift away from a militarized police force which indiscriminately kills Black, Indigenous and People of Color. Instead, let us establish de-escalation practices and provide appropriate interventions for those with mental health issues.

Ward 11

7/19/2020 10:11:37 AM

Please CHANGE the policies and procedures in the Minneapolis Police training to reflect a strategy of Peace Keeping-instead of brute force.

- 1) Have diversity and inclusion training
- 2) Teach non lethal methods of restraint
- 3) Have all officers, especially younger/rookie officers trained to STOP an action when another officer is overly aggressive and/or using excessive force.

Thank you for your time. And know IT IS TIME TO CHANGE NOW~

Ward 13

7/19/2020 10:15:01 AM

I am VERY supportive of putting the Charter Amendment on the ballot. We need to get the Minneapolis Police Department out of the Minneapolis Charter. Please make sure you vote to put it on the ballot.

Ward 12

7/19/2020 11:09:29 AM

I ask for the Charter Commission to provide it's recommendations on the proposed police / public safety amendment as quickly as possible so the proposed amendment can be added to the ballot for November 2020. This will surely not be the final word on these subjects, but given all that has happened in the city this year I believe citizens deserve to see action sooner rather than later. Thank you.

Ward 8

7/19/2020 11:26:57 AM

I am opposed to putting this on the ballot at this time. I believe we need to know the details of what transformations to the MPD before writing a blank check for change. I believe that the situation with homeless campers in the parks illustrates how good intentions not well thought out can result in poor outcomes. I think the council should develop a proposal then ask for whatever is required

Ward 13

7/19/2020 11:40:08 AM

Listen to and follow the lead of Black and Brown leaders! Communities most affected have the best solutions.

Ward 13

7/19/2020 11:44:54 AM

There is a strength to the City government where the Public Safety department reports to the Mayor rather than the City Council. This should remain in place, whether it is called the Police Department or the Department of Public Safety.

In this manner, the Mayor is accountable, the Mayor can be voted out of office (as opposed to the need to vote out Councilmembers that are not part of my Ward). This has greater accountability.

Thank You.

Ward 8

7/19/2020 12:38:42 PM

We need to be able to vote in November to change the Minneapolis City Charter. We need to begin the process of changing policing and public safety in this city.

Ward 7

7/19/2020 1:22:34 PM

We want this on the ballot in November

Ward 1

7/19/2020 3:29:14 PM

Totally oppose proposal to abolish or materially change police department . Reform is needed but council proposal is lazy, immature, truly reckless. Like many other mpls residents and businesses I will move if proposal is approved

Ward 3

7/19/2020 3:36:28 PM

The charter commissioners needs to approve the amendment set forward by the city council regarding the creation of department of community safety and violence prevention. The council voted unanimously on the language of the amendment and people deserve to vote on it in November. We know what your job is. Please do it.

Standish Neighborhood

Elementary special education teacher

Ward 12

7/19/2020 3:56:21 PM

I've worked 25 years in downtown Mpls., lived in Mpls. for 9, and now live in a suburb within 20 min of downtown. I come to Mpls. frequently for work, family, and social activities. The recent increase in crime in Mpls., in various places throughout the city, has been disturbing and would make many people think twice about going to different parts of Mpls., not just downtown. There has been crime in the middle of the day, even before noon. Crime at iconic downtown Minneapolis locations like right on Nicollet Mall—a place where people have memories like Dayton's department store, or more recently going to restaurants or music venues like the Dakota. To think there are assaults happening in these common areas, even in daytime, in recent weeks is sad and a scary bellwether of what may be coming for the city. The recent crime has come in a wide variety, but is much more than random gun violence. There have been personal assaults or threats to the person if they don't hand over their belongings or vehicle; stabbings; people beaten with objects; and many carjackings. Criminals knowing there are fewer police working is likely a reason for this increase in crime. I can't imagine what it would be like if the police were disbanded in favor of a community safety system.

If this charter amendment is approved for the ballot this fall, I think it's imperative that the City Council describe in detail how they plan to have serious crime handled (robbery, shootings, assault, vandalism) in their proposed new system. Voters would need an explicit, detailed plan for how they plan to handle true crime. The amendment should provide a clear example as to what would happen if someone were in Minneapolis, and were approached by someone with a gun, knife or explosive, who threatens them if

they don't hand over their wallet, phone, or vehicle. Or someone caught in the crossfire of violence, and wanting to report it.

How could a citizen vote for this amendment if they weren't confident in how these things would be handled? Wanting improvement is one thing, but people need to feel safe to go to work, or walk on city streets in daytime. If we lose that, we will lose companies having their businesses in Minneapolis, which means jobs, which means all those new residential buildings downtown with professionals living there, will start to empty. And if people don't feel safe to go to a restaurant, theater, or music venue, they will struggle to survive. Minneapolis could go downhill fast.

In addition, residential neighborhoods have had to handle some of the crime in recent weeks themselves, to the point where some of them have barricaded off their streets to prevent non-residents from driving through. With the recent crime that has accompanied the tents in some of the parks (including juveniles being sexually assaulted in Powderhorn), law-abiding residents that usually used those spaces have said they are staying away because it's unsafe. A pattern of areas of the city being unavailable—streets you can't drive down, parks you can't use—is not the Minneapolis we know and love. The Minneapolis we want has free-flowing streets, parks open for use, and no “mini cities” where people have blockaded it off either due to crime within or to protect their own area.

As much as people want improvements and change, we need a plan for handling true crime as well. Thank you for allowing citizens to weigh in on this proposed charter amendment.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/19/2020 4:15:44 PM

Dear Charter Commissioners,

As I saw the video of MPD officers killing George Floyd, witnessed MPD incite riot and then fail to quell unrest, I realized what others have known for a long time: MPD is not reformable, and we need transformative change. I asked my council member, Steve Fletcher, to pursue structural change, including rebuilding a new model for public safety.

The proposed amendment to the charter commission is important in enabling the council to start to implement such changes. I personally support the creation of a new community safety and violence prevention department. I urge you to make your recommendations quickly and let Minneapolisans vote on the amendment this November.

Thank you for your urgency.

Ward 3

7/19/2020 4:23:26 PM

I am writing to urge the Charter Commission to support the proposed amendment and ensure it is placed on the November ballot. Thank you for your serious consideration of this petition.

Ward 1

7/19/2020 5:28:46 PM

I am writing to support the Minneapolis City Council's efforts to amend the city charter. The city charter requires a certain level of police staffing and allows for no deviation. We cannot allow guidelines created in the mid 20th-century to dictate a 21st century world. The charter in its present form is a barrier to desperately needed changes in city security and well-being following George Floyd's murder. Council members want voters on November 3 to have a say in how the protection of Minneapolis citizens can be transformed. I am in favor of the Council's desire to replace and amend language so that a department of community safety and violence protection may be created. This change is a necessity for the voices of our city's citizens to be represented in the reformation of our city's structure and safety. Justice and change cannot wait another year.

Ward 12

7/19/2020 6:21:37 PM

I strongly support Minneapolis City Council proposed charter amendment for community safety and violence prevention (CH2020-00014).

Ward 2

7/19/2020 6:32:51 PM

I support this amendment as a first step in a ongoing process to shift the city's economic resources toward violence prevention programs, affordable housing, education, healthcare, mental health care, and conflict de-escalation experts.

Ward 3

7/19/2020 7:41:59 PM

Dear Charter Commissioners,

Since I last wrote you with one of my rants about the process the City Council has used with respect to the public safety Charter amendment proposal, you have heard from the five authors of the proposal, from the Mayor, and from the Chief of Police. So let the rant continue.

At your July 8 meeting, in response to a question from Commissioner Rubenstein about whether the authors would be open to divide the two main issues -- 1) the new department; and 2) the governance structure -- Council Member Cam Gordon told you this (see 2:00:42 of the meeting video):

"Could I just note on that issue in terms of what we have presented, we worked long and hard on the pieces and the elements of that. So the items that we chose to repeal were really important to the whole design, and the items that we decided to put back were really important. And we were able to get twelve of us to reach consensus over that, after hours and hours of discussion and actually consultation internally with other staff and with representatives from the community. So I'm a little bit reluctant to think what piece you would undue, or how you would divide the question, and what that would do to it. And if you're asking me to guess on, would that hold the twelve feeling comfortable with what we

ended up with -- and there's not many words there that we put in, and each one of them was painstakingly put in and changed and fixed, so it took a lot of thought. So dividing the issue might change it pretty dramatically from what at least the Council felt comfortable with. But, of course, we'd love to hear your ideas and all the options you come up with" [highlighting added].

At best, the highlighted portion ["after hours and hours of discussion and actually consultation internally with other staff and with representatives from the community"] is misleading. Here are my problems with it:

1. None of those "hours and hours of discussion" occurred in public. No committee referral, no public discussion, and no real discussion in the June 26, 2020, Council meeting at which this proposal was passed.

2. As your Public Safety Work Group learned at its July 14, 2020, meeting, the Chief of Police was not included in those staff people who were "actually consulted internally." On such a proposal, how is that possible?!

3. At a community meeting organized by Council Member Gordon, I asked, who were the "representatives from the community" who were consulted? It turns out they were only those "representatives" who had one point of view: abolition of the MPD. The only groups mentioned were Black Visions Collective, Reclaim the Street, and MPD150, all of whom espouse total abolition very strongly. Council Member Fletcher has frequently said that the existing Charter is a barrier to a whole set of options -- abolishing the police department, community control over the police department, making a variety of transformational reforms, etc. -- and that all of them, as well as the status quo, are still on the table. If so, why were only those "representatives from the community" who advocate abolition consulted? In fact, some of those who advocate community control and other transformational changes oppose this Charter amendment. The "representatives from the community" who were consulted were hardly representative.

In previous communications to you, I believe I called the process "abysmal." I take that back. It was an abomination.

When we amend the City's Constitution, we CANNOT do it by such a process. You should not let such a sloppy, one-sided, abortive, and unprincipled process continue. Your only responsible action is to pocket-veto this proposal for the November 2020 ballot.

Keep safe; stay healthy.

Yours

Ward 6

7/19/2020 8:14:50 PM

We not only should do this, we must.

Ward 3

7/19/2020 8:49:17 PM

After carefully reading this charter amendment several times, it's clear that this change does not accomplish what its proponents claim it does. As a governmental attorney I read statutory language for a living. With no intention of being glib, I read the change before us as "move the police power from the executive to the city council and more details to follow."

My two objections to changing the charter as proposed are as follows:

1) Policing by its very nature should not be conducted by committee. Throughout history, in all different types and levels of government, police power is wielded by the executive branch for good reason. Responding to emergencies, a disciplined chain of command, and the need to receive/follow orders mean that this is not something that an ever-changing group of 13 politicians (with 13 ever-changing sets of goals and agendas) can command easily. As the last few months have shown us, it's difficult enough for one person. I would challenge any of the proponents of this part of the charter amendment to point out any police or military force anywhere that was effectively run by committee.

2) While the rhetoric and sentiments by elected officials regarding the proposed Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention is laudable, I have serious reservations that a city council in any city in the United States can realistically make this dream a reality on its own. Minnesota devotes billions to its Department of Human Services; grant funded non-profits all over the city spend millions if not billions; the federal government, even more. From what little I have heard or seen beyond the rhetoric, at best it seems as if the intention is to merely overlap and duplicate the social services already provided. Like these other agencies, the people, places, and causes that receive this money will be subject to ebb and flow of political tides. Quality mental health care, drug treatment, jobs, and housing are needed in the city, there's no doubt. However a group of 13 with no experience, knowledge, or budget to accomplish this Herculean task is going to fail-- regardless of how many consultants hired or studies conducted-- where the state, county, and federal government have already failed.

I believe Minneapolis needs more quality mental health care, drug treatment, jobs, and housing. I believe police have to shoulder the societal failings of our city and thousands of other cities. When there's a mental health or drug issue, they get called. I also believe a lot of sworn officers on the street today are unfit to serve as we see in the headlines time and time again. Respectfully, I don't believe that this charter amendment is anything more than a vague half-baked spark of an idea. I would urge the Charter Committee to slow this process down until there's a satisfying level of detail or plan in place.

Ward 3

7/19/2020 9:30:23 PM

I do not support the proposed amendment to the city charter. I think the current police department needs major reorganization and a review of its personnel. The fact that over 90% of the current officers reside outside the city is a formula for poor community policing and this has eventuated in the present dysfunction. The leadership of the city in the form of the mayor, the police chief and the council need to be given the authority to fire incompetent and dangerous officers and to begin the process of forming a force that represents the communities that it is sworn to protect. Merely changing the name of the police department and making it more responsive to the council and less so to the mayor and the police chief will not work. I see this amendment as a power play by the council to make the force less responsive to the mayor and the police chief and to further weaken an already weak mayoral system -

exactly what we do not need at this time. Let's make a major push to improve the police department, not buy into some currently vague promise from this already dysfunctional city council.

Ward 7

7/19/2020 9:45:24 PM

It is clear that the time has come for a better approach to community safety and well-being in Minneapolis. It is time to de-fund the police department and redirect funding to provide real safety and well-being in the community. I would ask the Charter Commission and the community to consider the following:

a) Support community input, including the principles articulated by Reclaim the Block, Black Visions, MPD150, and Communities United Against Police Brutality.

b) We do not yet know how the new “safety without policing” system will function or what it will look like. It’s hard to vote for something that we don’t yet fully grasp. So it is important to clearly explain everything that is known about the new system. And to clearly state a) what aspects still needs to be figured out and b) who will do the work of figuring it out and how that will happen. Don’t just say “trust us.”

- Ultimately, we will need to be clear about what the new department will do. In the past the city operated under the assumption that “everyone knows what police are supposed to do.” We cannot afford to operate by assumption any longer. Spell it out.

- Ultimately, we need to know what the budget will be for the new department and also what programs will be funded to provide equitable solutions for housing, health, child care, education, food and nutrition, youth development, employment, and other vital areas that need to be enhanced to provide for public safety and community well-being.

- Ultimately, we will need a “decision tree” or “triage” procedures that define what kinds of people are sent to respond to what kinds of situations in the community and how those people are expected to respond. We will need new positions and new training for people in those positions.

c) For now, it is vital to lay out the path forward.

- Stop requiring that the city have a “police department” as currently defined.

- Establish the rough outline for the new department – a statement of purpose.

- Establish a process and reasonable timeline for defining the structures and functions of the new department, including full community input, appropriate research and due diligence, and who’s responsible for getting this work done.

- State what public safety will look like in Minneapolis during the interim, until the new

department is fully in place.

d) What parts of this need to go into the Charter amendment? I'm not sure. But we need responses to these ideas in order to support the Charter amendment.

Thank you.

Ward 12

7/19/2020 10:19:01 PM

You had the SAFE UNIT but that ran its course. There has been a total

erosion and lack of support for the police for years. Almost pitting them against the community instead of encouraging unity and recognizing the good cops. So this is the result. Good luck! I will be putting my house up for sale like several other neighbors I know.

Ward 1

7/19/2020 10:37:10 PM

Please take the full 150 days to reply to the City Council regarding the recent City Charter amendment (CH2020-00014). There are two primary reasons for taking the full allotted time are:

1) we are in a pandemic with limited participation options, detailed in the following three paragraphs, and

2) this amendment is extremely important and worthy of a lengthy public dialogue

All City Council, and Charter Committee, meetings are now virtual. These virtual meetings limit the ability of residents to participate in the meetings. To view the meetings one of the following is required: 1) Comcast cable, 2) CenturyLink cable or 3) broadband internet to view City Council TV. While I could not find any statistics on the percentage of households with cable TV, approximately 20% of Minneapolis households lack access to broadband internet*. This lack of broadband access coupled with reported declines of cable TV subscriptions lead me to believe a sizable portion of the population is being left out of these discussions.

In addition to the lack of access to meetings there is also a technology issue. During the meeting on July 15th I was having technical issues while trying to watch the proceedings via City Council TV. After being connected fine for the first few minutes, right before the first public speaker was about to begin, I was disconnected received a message that read, "The live stream is either down or has ended." While refreshing I continued to receive a message of "Cannot load M3U8: 404 Not Found". After about 10 minutes of refreshing and relaunching I was finally able to connect.

When I was reconnected, there were quite a few people who were called on who did not respond. The issues I was having with the livestream makes me wonder if people who had the call-in number were also having connection issues. I was not keeping track, and you probably have this in the meeting notes, but about one-fourth to one-third of the people called upon to speak did not answer. Strangely, after one of the speakers, I believe his name was Dylan, mentioned that he believed there technical difficulties preventing some people from connecting their phones, the feed on City Council TV stopped

again, but this time I was unable to reconnect. My US Internet fiber internet was working fine during these disconnections, so I am not sure why the meeting was disconnected.

Given that this proposed charter amendment will have a profound impact on both the safety of the Minneapolis residents and health of the Minneapolis economy, a thorough and engaging discussion is needed. The City Council has only provided extremely vague buzzwords about what they see as the future of public safety in Minneapolis. We, the residents of Minneapolis, deserve a plan of what public safety in the city will look like before we are asked to change the charter.

Please provide your final recommendation during the November 4th Charter Commission meeting, and not before. This will ensure that we have a long, thorough public dialogue, hopefully including in-person meetings, prior to this amendment going on the November 2021 ballot. When the proposed amendment is on the ballot, I will likely vote "No".

*<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/minneapoliscityminnesota/PST045219>

Ward 12

7/19/2020 10:53:17 PM

Dear Mr. Fletcher,

I am asking you to support placing the amendment to the Minneapolis Charter on the November 2020 ballot.

As you know, public outcry to defund the MPD and invest in community-led safety and violence prevention programs have been at the forefront of rallying cries since the murder of George Floyd. To do this, we must first remove the MPD from the charter, which can be done if the public is given the opportunity to vote to change the charter. This must be done this year, and we need your support in order to be able to make our voices heard through our votes.

Please, put the amendment on this year's ballot. Let us decide.

Thank you for your support,

Ward 3

7/20/2020 7:57:58 AM

I oppose the Public Safety amendment. This amendment is premature. We need major changes within not only the police department but within all levels of our city government. I do not have confidence in the current city leadership to grant them this authority prior to having a new vision in place. Change needs to happen but granting the City Council more authority is not the way to achieve the radical change necessary.

Ward 11

7/20/2020 8:05:30 AM

I urge you to pass on the Charter Amendment so the voters can decide. We are at a historic moment with an opportunity to greatly increase our community safety and security. I strongly support abolishing the Police Department as it is and creating a new city approach to community safety and violence prevention. Please act and allow the people to vote. Thank you.

Ward 13

7/20/2020 8:20:14 AM

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Give the people of Minneapolis the space to craft something better than policing, we can do it, but the charter can't stand in the way.

Ward 7

7/20/2020 8:22:31 AM

Although I no longer reside in the City of Minneapolis, I did at one point call it home. The charter should not be a barrier in creating new working solutions for the people in Minneapolis. I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/20/2020 8:27:47 AM

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Give the people of Minneapolis the space to craft something better than policing, we can do it, but the charter can't stand in the way.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/20/2020 8:29:37 AM

To the Minneapolis Charter Commission :

I am a resident (and taxpayer) of SE Minneapolis. My family has lived in this city for several generations. I write to express my opposition to the City Council's proposal to amend the Charter. Their plan is controversial; the loudest voices at public hearings may not represent the majority of residents. The Council itself is divided on their vague yet rash plan; the Mayor opposes it.

I am strongly in favor of major structural reforms of the Minneapolis Police Dept. There is clearly a disconnect on several levels between the police and the community. But the remedies the Council has proposed - reducing Police funding, changing the name of the department, reducing mayoral oversight, restricting policing on behalf of "community-based safety" - these will not solve the problems. What is required are specific changes in police training, oversight, and accountability. City funds should support

both adequate police staffing, training and renovated community response services. The goal should be mutual understanding and respect between both police and the public in every neighborhood.

I encourage Commission members to read carefully the New York Times report of a few years ago by Alec MacGillis, on the policing problems in Baltimore, Maryland. You can find the link here : <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/12/magazine/baltimore-tragedy-crime.html?smid=em-share> . The Minneapolis City Council seems to be set on a trajectory to repeat many of the mistakes made in Baltimore. Idealistic plans for dismantling police departments and reducing the need for cops lead to a sense of impunity among criminals and criminal gangs. The result is more crime and more innocent death. There needs to be support for a basic level of public order and safety. The vague pablum about this emanating from some members of the City Council seems unrealistic to me. I encourage the Commission to listen carefully to other voices from our community, particularly those on the North Side, who have a great deal of experience with neighborhood crime, and recognize the need for a humane, community-based, yet EFFECTIVE deterrent to crime. The problems of youth unemployment, gang activity, and crime in our city will not be solved by blaming the police - in spite of the fact that much of the blame is deserved. The answers are to be found in targeted reforms, not a further erosion of trust between Council and police.

Please reject the Council's arrogant and demagogic calls for radical defunding and restructuring of the Police Dept. Thank you -

Ward 2

7/20/2020 8:35:05 AM

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Give the people of Minneapolis the space to craft something better than policing, we can do it, but the charter can't stand in the way.

Ward 1

7/20/2020 8:35:08 AM

<https://youtu.be/1Mr4WEEI0rk>

And

<https://youtu.be/yKJFKf8wUC4>

Videos I made for testimony.

Too large for upload

Ward 9

7/20/2020 8:35:40 AM

I do not reside in Minneapolis, but I work for a company with a presence in the city, and visit the city regularly. I know that the city is not safe as it is now. I understand that there is a massive gap between

the way white people and people of color are treated. I can not support a city that supports this gap. To make meaningful change, it is necessary for the city of Minneapolis to change it's "police" force so it can support the community instead of targeting certain people in the name of "law and order." This amendment to the city charter must be approved and enacted so the city of Minneapolis can be safe for all of us.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/20/2020 8:35:48 AM

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. By allowing people to vote, citizens of Minneapolis can design public safety organizations themselves, and locally driven public safety organizations have been proven to be more effective than standard police departments.

Ward 9

7/20/2020 8:35:54 AM

I urge the charter commission to move the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Give the people of Minneapolis the power to re-shape their own community into one that is safe for all residents.

Ward 10

7/20/2020 8:38:45 AM

There is no question that police brutality and corruption are the biggest issues facing the City Council and Charter Commission in Minneapolis right now. Please, give the people the opportunity to vote on this issue. This must be on the ballot this November, Black lives can not wait one more year under the current system.

Ward 8

7/20/2020 8:41:51 AM

Hello, I'd like to remind the city charter commission that they are not community safety experts, and that it is their Responsibility to let Minneapolis residents vote on whether or not to change the charter in regards to whether or not Minneapolis needs a police order. The city has made It's intentions clear, let the people decide whether or not they want police.

Ward 10

7/20/2020 8:43:11 AM

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. We, the people of Minneapolis, deserve the opportunity to create something better than policing. The charter can't stand in the way of what our community needs.

Ward 2

7/20/2020 8:43:21 AM

I support the Charter Commission changing the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Give the people of Minneapolis the chance to create something better than policing as we know it.

Ward 8

7/20/2020 8:43:44 AM

We live in a world that has always classified Black individuals as "less-than" and while it infiltrates all aspects of life for Black people, our current police system is egregious and puts their bodies in direct harm daily. Minneapolis has the chance to be a leader in changing the way the country, and the world, approaches policing.

Ward 3

7/20/2020 8:45:37 AM

The police in Minneapolis are being asked to do too much. We need to defund the police and allocate those resources to another organization that will be more helpful. Imagine how situations could go differently--instead of a drunk individual being met with an uneducated person with a gun they could be met with a caring educated individual who can help them get to safety. We need less guns and more love. Please.

Ward 7

7/20/2020 8:46:00 AM

I support the charter commission moving the language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Minneapolis citizens have the right to create a safer, effective alternative to the violent, militant police force we're currently being oppressed by. The charter cannot stand in the way of this change.

Ward 5

7/20/2020 8:49:19 AM

I do not support changing the charter to remove or dismantle the police department. I support police reform. We need the support of the police department.

Ward 4

7/20/2020 8:49:58 AM

It should be up to the citizens of Minneapolis to decide how we want to be protected. I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November.

Ward 8

7/20/2020 8:52:17 AM

Every day we in Minneapolis delay or prevaricate over language regarding safety from police violence is another wasted day--a day when our Black and Brown residents don't feel safe on our streets. I support the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Let's show the world how Minneapolis can lead in transformative ways!

Ward 4

7/20/2020 8:55:31 AM

We must cut \$45 million from MPD's budget immediately, and redistribute those funds into affordable housing for all of our community members. We must also end furloughs and salary cuts for workers affected by the pandemic, who still need to feed their families and pay increasingly unaffordable rents and mortgages. MPD does not serve this community, and they make our black and brown and indigenous and queer community members feel less safe, rather than more safe. MPD serves only to protect wealthy, white families who gentrify neighborhoods and fear their neighbors. We must defund MPD now, rather than wait until next year, and we must redistribute their funds.

Ward 10

7/20/2020 9:07:13 AM

I support moving the current language of the charter amendment to a ballot vote in November. The people of Minneapolis can craft a better, more nuanced community safety and security department, but if the charter language forbids it, we don't even have a chance to try.

Ward 2

7/20/2020 9:11:14 AM

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. The charter cannot stand in the way of Minneapolis reimagining a future that is safer for everyone without the police.

Ward 6

7/20/2020 9:11:38 AM

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. We need the charter commission to allow the people of the city to let their voices be heard by voting.

Ward 13

7/20/2020 9:14:04 AM

I support moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Don't let but the charter stand in the way of crafting something better than policing.

Ward 8

7/20/2020 9:15:28 AM

As a Minneapolis resident I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Give the people of Minneapolis the space to create something better than policing. We can do this, and we WANT to do this, but the charter can't stand in the way. I want my voice heard, and I don't want an unelected, homogenous commission you stand in my way.

Ward 9

7/20/2020 9:19:01 AM

I urge the Charter Commission and the City Council to reject the proposed City Charter proposed amendment to create a Safety and violence prevention department. This Amendment has been proposed much too hastily without enough detail and public debate and input to know what the city may be creating. There need to be reforms in the Police Department and City Government, but let's make the changes in a open, careful and positive way.

Thank you

Ward 3

7/20/2020 9:19:58 AM

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Give the people of Minneapolis the space to craft something better than policing, we can do it, but the charter can't stand in the way

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/20/2020 9:30:44 AM

In 1991. I was on the Minneapolis school board. The board was on a Superintendent search because we had let Robert Ferrera go. We visited New York, Boston, and other cities to identify good urban superintendents.

Our preferred candidate, an area Superintendent in Boston, finally told us that he , an educated Black Man with a guaranteed six figure salary, Did not want to raise his black son in Minneapolis.

We ended up hiring Peter Hutchinson, I was the only dissenting vote

Ward 9

7/20/2020 9:40:16 AM

I will vote against the Charter amendment because it makes the Division of Law Enforcement discretionary. If the City chooses to do away with law enforcement, I will be moving out of Minneapolis after living here for virtually all of my 62 years.

Ward 7

7/20/2020 9:47:18 AM

The militarized police have no place in our community. We are afraid to call them, because they are as likely to make a situation worse as better. Police presence should be limited, and their weaponization dramatically reduced. Divert those funds to other resources my neighbors and I need and can trust. We need other resources - more housing, an honorable wage, intervention by trained mental health workers - to do the work that has been put on the police force's shoulders.

Ward 8

7/20/2020 9:48:47 AM

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Give the people of Minneapolis the space to craft something better than policing, we can do it, but the charter can't stand in the way

Ward 1

7/20/2020 10:00:18 AM

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Give the people of Minneapolis the space to craft something better than policing. We can do it, and we cannot let the charter stand in the way.

Ward 3

7/20/2020 10:14:04 AM

On language, "Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department" is too long. And it's not the way people speak--it's government-speak.

The Fire Department could be called the Combustion Combat and Burning Prevention Department but it's not. Everyone understands what the Fire Department does.

So why not just "Community Safety?" Or maybe just "Safety" because when we're talking about a city department, community is implied.

Ward 11

7/20/2020 10:16:50 AM

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. It is clear the police system has and will continue to fail locally here in Minneapolis and nationally unless we set a precedent of what is possible by putting funding back into the community. Don't let the charter stand in the way of this movement.

Ward 10

7/20/2020 10:23:57 AM

I beg you to take me seriously even though I take my points mostly prewritten from an organisation. I do not present anything here that I do not heartily agree with.

Defund police terror tools. All of this seems dreadfully archaic and frankly medieval. We don't want City dollars funding intimidation and scare-tactics! Immediately cut funding for special operations, the canine unit, and the mounted patrol.

No more duplicate, duplicitous departments. MPD is the only department that has its own records request and communications departments, and they use them to obscure evidence of their crimes. Eliminate MPD's duplicate departments!

Homes for everyone. Feeling safe means having a home - if we spent just a fraction of MPD's budget on housing, we could house everyone in the park sanctuaries.

City Council: keep your word. Last fall the Council told us to wait until it was more politically viable to fund alternatives, then they gave MPD a raise. Now MPD has killed George Floyd. We need to tell the Council to put its money where its mouth is.

Ward 1

7/20/2020 10:33:01 AM

I am writing to you today in support of the proposed community safety amendment. It is the right of the citizens of Minneapolis to be able to vote for this on the ballot in November. We need to lift up, acknowledge, and support the work that communities are already doing to keep each other safe. Please do not let the charter stand in the way and let us vote.

Thank you.

Ward 5

7/20/2020 10:34:47 AM

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Give the people of Minneapolis the space to craft something better than policing. We can do it, but the charter can't stand in the way.

Ward 10

7/20/2020 10:40:40 AM

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. I am sick of my tax dollars paying for a dangerous and inhumane policing and criminal justice system, when we could instead be investing in systems that provide preventative care that increases our wellbeing through affordable housing, health care for all, free addiction and mental health services for all, and better public education. This bottom up approach will prevent crime. WE ALL DO BETTER WHEN WE ALL DO BETTER.

Ward 8

7/20/2020 10:43:58 AM

I support putting this amendment to the charter up for vote in November. The Minneapolis Police Department has fundamentally lost my trust. This new language in the charter would allow for more creative and cooperative solutions to the problem of public safety in Minneapolis.

Ward 3

7/20/2020 10:44:14 AM

Hello, I am once again voicing my support to the charter amendment. It does not on its own eliminate the MPD. It opens up a pathway for the city council to make good on their unanimous vote and promise to engage with the citizens of Minneapolis to reimagine how we create public safety in our city. This is democracy! The people's rule. If you block this change, as an unelected and unrepresentative board, you are acting with the same callousness as the Boston School Board on bussing, or countless other municipal agencies that held up civil rights and other positive changes for communities in America. We are trying to live up to our ideals. Do not stop us.

Ward 2

7/20/2020 10:47:22 AM

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Give the people of Minneapolis the space to craft something better than policing, we can do it, but the charter can't stand in the way.

7/20/2020 10:52:14 AM

My neighborhood does not feel safe with the current police department. I want a better solution for my community and believe changing the charter is the first step. I support moving the amendment to a ballot vote in November.

Ward 9

7/20/2020 10:53:23 AM

please let us citizeners vote on a charter amendment in November

Ward 3

7/20/2020 11:15:58 AM

As a resident of Minneapolis who also works here and does all of my family's business here, I believe that this amendment is bad news for minorities in our city. I for one, will not stand for it. I am tired of the lack of community involvement in policing our streets - the streets that are occupied by police officers who don't even live in the jurisdictions they work in. We need real, lasting change, not just a change in the name. This political game needs to stop. I vote NO to putting the amendment on the November ballot. People's lives are at stake. We need a community-involvement heavy process that focuses on leaders from the BIPOC community to voice what their individual communities are saying. Virtual meetings and online public comment just do not allow for that depth of involvement. I stand behind Justice for Jamar and their desire for a Minneapolis Civilian Police Accountability Council.

Ward 3

7/20/2020 11:18:30 AM

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. The people of Minneapolis deserve to think beyond our current broken police system and create a system that supports ALL residents of our city. Please allow us the chance to envision something safer and better. Thank you.

Ward 10

7/20/2020 11:19:01 AM

Please allow the proposed City Charter amendment to be added to the ballot for a public vote in November. The people of Minneapolis deserve to have a say in how we can reenvision policing and make our city a safe place for ALL people.

Ward 7

7/20/2020 11:22:45 AM

I urge the charter commission to put the Public Safety Transformation amendment on the ballot in November. This CANNOT wait. It is long past time the people of Minneapolis got the chance to craft a new version of community safety that actually supports us all.

Ward 10

7/20/2020 11:22:52 AM

Please let us vote and put amending thee charter on the ballot.

Ward 12

7/20/2020 11:26:58 AM

We must change the city charter to allow for new methods of public safety. Having a police-only approach has proven not only ineffective, but actively dangerous for so many in our community. It's time we start over and reimagine what we can do to keep our community safe together. Let us vote to amend the charter.

Ward 1

7/20/2020 11:28:41 AM

Give the people of Minneapolis the power to move beyond police. Let us vote on the proposed charter amendment as written, do not stand in the way.

Ward 1

7/20/2020 11:33:20 AM

I support the charter amendment (2020-0068) removing the police department and creating a new community safety department. Please support our city's democracy and allow the language to move forward for a vote in November.

Ward 2

7/20/2020 11:42:28 AM

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Give the people of Minneapolis the space to craft something better than policing, we can do it, but the charter can't stand in the way.

Ward 12

7/20/2020 11:54:06 AM

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November.

The current relationship between the police and the people is not sustainable. We need an opportunity to create a public safety system that the people trust.

Ward 2

7/20/2020 11:56:20 AM

I lived in Minneapolis for 10 years, and now I reside in St. Paul. Minneapolis residents should be able to vote on this amendment in November. This is an essential first step to defunding the MPD and funding a better way to support safety in the city.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/20/2020 12:02:41 PM

Please make sure the changing the charter is on the ballot in November. We don't need to have a plan to decide that its time for change. Voting for potential change is the first step!!

Ward 5

7/20/2020 12:07:16 PM

To whom it may concern, Minneapolis City Charter Commission:

As a resident, taxpayer, and investor in the City of Minneapolis, I strongly plead you to vote no (oppose) to defunding the Minneapolis Police Department and changing the Minneapolis City Charter to remove the nomenclature, functions, and requirements of the "Police" department. Police reform is appropriate, whole-sale public safety changes should not be made quickly without due process.

No Plan in Place, Moving Too Quickly for Public Process. The Minneapolis City Council does not have a solid plan in place to so-called "defund the police" or even change the City Charter. Changes to public safety should be carefully planned with vast amounts of community input and expertise – anything short of that is irresponsible. We should not move forward with any changes to public safety (not even changes to the Charter) until we have a well-vetted, community-supported, or even Mayor-supported plan. There has not been enough time to submit comments for this milestone on such an important issue. With continued unrest and division in our great City, this is not the time to make such drastic changes quickly and without proper process. This affects all residents of the City, and should NOT be made based on voices of a few (as is happening right now).

No Public-Funded Private Security for Council Members. It is not appropriate for Minneapolis City Council members to have private security funded by City of Minneapolis taxpayers. The Council is not above its constituents and should not receive special security detail outside the protection of the Minneapolis Police Department that they want to defund. This is hypocritical, and furthers their agenda to defund the police department.

As a resident of the Howe neighborhood, the past few months have greatly affected our family. During the riots we felt unsafe in our own home. Defunding the Police Department and changing the City Charter is the wrong move for the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, and the State of Minnesota.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ward 12

7/20/2020 12:13:52 PM

No matter how much Alondra Cano and other members of the city council may assert to the contrary, they are nothing but consnet manufacturers for the ruling class. The alleged threats that were used as a pretense to spend 6 figures on private security were probably a hoax. Never forget that the working class of Minneapolis was terrorized while these class collaborators hid behind hired guns. Shameful!

Ward 9

7/20/2020 12:17:00 PM

I'm writing as a South Minneapolis resident to urge the charter commission to bring the Community Safety and Violence Prevention amendment to the ballot, allowing Minneapolis citizens a critical role in how their communities are policed and protected. It is paramount that we move quickly to keep our neighbors safe from further police violence. The charter cannot be allowed to stand in the way of progress, safety, and livelihood for all Minneapolis residents.

Thank you

Ward 12

7/20/2020 12:18:12 PM

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Give the people of Minneapolis the space to craft something better than policing, we can do it, but the charter can't stand in the way.

Ward 2

7/20/2020 12:52:57 PM

I urge you to allow the people of Minneapolis to vote on the charter amendment. Incremental change has not been impactful so it is time for inspirational change. I want to build a safer community with and for the people of Minneapolis. It is time to move past policing, to a better future.

Ward 13

7/20/2020 12:59:55 PM

The charter commission needs to allow the people to vote on the current language of the amendment in November. Without the amendment, we have no choice about designing a public safety system that actually works for all residents, rather than a system of oppression that targets our black and brown neighbors. And without a vote, a tiny committee finds it within their power to deny the democratic process and the will of the people.

Ward 13

7/20/2020 1:07:52 PM

Minneapolis residents have made it clear that we want the opportunity to address harm outside the law enforcement system. The current charter is a barrier to this change. We cannot wait years when every day brings the potential for police brutality. We must have the opportunity to vote for this amendment.

Ward 10

7/20/2020 1:09:51 PM

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Give the people of Minneapolis the space to craft something better than policing, we can do it, but the charter can't stand in the way.

Ward 3

7/20/2020 1:11:52 PM

"I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Give the people of Minneapolis the space to craft something better than policing, we can do it, but the charter can't stand in the way."

Ward 8

7/20/2020 1:21:34 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 9

7/20/2020 1:21:56 PM

Please see attached letter from the Board of Directors of the East Isles Residents Association.

Ward 7

Attachment:

Dear Chair Clegg,

The East Isles Residents Association Board of Directors would like to acknowledge the generations of Black, Indigenous, People of Color, queer people, and women whose struggle has led us to this moment. We stand in solidarity with organizing groups such as Reclaim the Block and Black Visions Collective, whose leadership and moral vision have helped channel the grief, anger, and trauma our city feels over the murder of George Floyd into a movement for concrete institutional change. Their work has allowed us to comment on the proposed amendment to the City Charter and we value the opportunity.

The East Isles Residents Association Board implores the Charter Commission to recognize the urgency of this moment and complete its evaluation of the proposed amendment in time for it to be placed on the November 2020 ballot. The City Council unanimously voted to refer the proposed amendment to Minneapolis voters for ratification. Given the City Council's unanimity, we believe it would be anti-democratic and disrespectful of Minneapolis voters for the Charter Commission to preclude Minneapolis voters from voting on the proposal this November. We fear that precluding a November vote would also exacerbate the trauma inflicted on Minneapolitans by the murder of George Floyd.

We emphatically believe that residents deserve to determine the future of community safety in Minneapolis. Regardless of the outcome of any vote held this November, we are committed to leveraging our resources to help ensure that the future of community safety in Minneapolis is the product of a deliberate, considered process of engagement with all relevant stakeholders in our city. We are committed to working with our elected officials and our community to help achieve a future where no resident of Minneapolis feels unsafe.

Sincerely

7/20/2020 1:23:37 PM

Let us vote on amending the charter. When trust has been broken, we need more than superficial fixes; we need a chance at genuine collaboration and creative re-imagining of what community safety actually looks like. It's not just Black and Brown residents who are in danger, it's all of us!

Ward 9

7/20/2020 1:25:46 PM

I implore the Charter Commission to recommend that the proposed public safety amendment to the Charter be placed on the ballot for the November 2020 election. The City Council has responded to the voices of our community calling for change, and the best way to evaluate if the majority of City residents want to get serious about changing the way we provide for public safety in our community is to allow voters to vote on this amendment this fall. Stonewalling, delaying, or otherwise denying residents the chance to vote on this amendment in November would be an egregious abuse of the Charter

Commission's responsibilities, and in my opinion be hugely detrimental to any progress we as a City can make in the wake of the murder of George Floyd and the subsequent mass movement to finally make public safety something that works for all of us and all of our neighbors.

Ward 11

7/20/2020 1:27:09 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis, I support the proposed amendment removing the minimum number of licensed peace officers from the city charter and adding a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Put the charter amendment on the ballot in November and give the people of Minneapolis the chance to vote on it. This is a public health and safety issue, and it can't wait.

Ward 9

7/20/2020 1:32:30 PM

We need *Community Control* of whatever form of law enforcement succeeds the Minneapolis Police Department. We need a truly accountable system and the only way to achieve that is for a community elected board that allows for the dismissal of imprudent officers. The proposed charter is just more of the same lip service from the Mayor and City Council.

Ward 2

7/20/2020 1:32:41 PM

I speak as a privileged white resident of Abiitan in the Mill City area, with all the benefits that bestows on me. I see a need for change in our city and I believe I need to support that change.

A major culture change is needed in the MPD. Years of attempts at incremental change have been thwarted. Therefore, I support a change in the city charter to refocus public safety on community needs.

Police have been charged with maintaining safety and property rights for privileged white folks at the expense of other communities. They are trained to and do approach every encounter as though force and guns are needed. Please allow them to deal with genuine acts of violence and refocus city budgets and city programs to address community needs for diversity in health care, housing, education, and employment. This will not happen immediately, but it will never happen if we don't make room in our city for dialogue and development of real changes in our society and our economy

Ward 3

7/20/2020 1:32:53 PM

I support the proposed charter amendment that would divest resources from the police and move them to a new department of community safety and violence prevention. The people of Minneapolis deserve to feel safe in their communities, and this means giving control of public safety back to our communities. The proposed charter amendment would be an important step in this direction.

Ward 7

7/20/2020 1:50:08 PM

It is imperative that voters are allowed the choice to vote on the amendment to the charter regarding the violent policing that occurs in Minneapolis paid for by our tax dollars. We deserve the right to defund the police because they don't serve us, and never have.

Ward 9

7/20/2020 1:52:29 PM

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November.

Please, give the people of Minneapolis the space to build a future better than policing. The charter cannot stand in the way of letting the people build a future we want.

Ward 3

7/20/2020 2:06:21 PM

I oppose the placement of the charter revision to the 2020 ballot. I believe that the city council and others are reacting out of panic and are not thinking rationally. The City should at least have some of plan in place before jumping off the end. This amendment could placed on the ballot next year with some structure in place. I find many council members responses to this situation to be ill thought out and almost hostile to the citizens.

Ward 4

7/20/2020 2:08:55 PM

I think the fair thing to do is to let the voters decide about amending the charter. We certainly need to make some changes to provide more equality and fairness to our city.

Ward 7

7/20/2020 2:16:36 PM

The proposed amendment calls for a fundamental change in the basic governing structure of the City. It should be given thorough and detailed consideration by the Charter Commission before it appears on the ballot in any year. It is not realistic to expect that this process could be reasonably completed over the course of a few weeks during the summer in the midst of an unprecedented pandemic.

Ward 7

7/20/2020 2:21:25 PM

This Charter Amendment is needed to provide community police tactics such as a public oversight committee. The police in Minneapolis have not been policed themselves, and such a committee is imperative in keeping our streets safe for all Minnesotans. The MPD should immediately be terminated as we know it. That being said, I support a vote on the Charter Amendment asap. Vote Yes. Minneapolis has waited its entire existence for this kind of change and I cannot stand by and watch more of my friends getting terrorized by the police. However, this is the first step. I expect more to come after this charter amendment and these reforms should be a no-brainer for Minneapolis, and their elected and non-elected officials.

Ward 2

7/20/2020 2:40:21 PM

As a young Latinx community member in solidarity with Black lives and the movements for Black liberation, I am writing to express my support for this charter. To maintain in any form the Minneapolis Police Department (or a related faction of armed police) is to continue to exacerbate the violence and threats placed against Black communities by the police. Allowing our Minneapolis voters to vote on this resolution is crucial, as it can have long-standing changes for the immediate safety of our Black and other POC Minnesotans, who are not kept safe and secure by the police force. Even as a non-Black POC, I feel unsafe and nervous when the police so much as pass me on the street. I have friends and family who have been pulled over for arbitrary reasons, and whose fear of the police shapes their daily lives. The MPD will not keep us safe, and city residents deserve the ability to vote on this charter.

Ward 1

7/20/2020 2:44:35 PM

The long suffering taxpayers of Minneapolis are very excited to be able to vote directly on something that could affect their lives immensely, or perhaps not. After all, this is how things are supposed to work in a democracy. However, voters should take a closer look at this issue before getting too excited about voting. Could this opportunity to practice democracy be an attempt to distract attention from the fact that the City Council has not done its due diligence when it comes to the police? The Council has claimed that they have no power over the police, but this is not true. They can veto the mayoral appointments of two pivotal positions in our city government. The City Attorney has a lot of power over what goes on with the police department, as does the head of the Civil Rights Commission, Velma Korbel, who has done a terrible job, not only of setting policy, but also of managing her work force.

Former City Attorney Susan Segal defended many brutal cops and presided over a lot of expensive payouts for their criminal acts, essentially setting a precedent for police misbehavior. Velma Korbel has provided exceptionally poor leadership in her position as head of the Civil Rights Commission, asking lawyers under her command to falsify equal opportunity hiring quotas, which generated several lawsuits. Her workplace has generated many complaints, and she wrote a scathing letter to those who made complaints, basically threatening the future of wayward employees' careers, touting her connections and power over employees getting hired in the future. The City Council failed to stop the purchase of Body Worn Cameras, which they funded in spite of not having a policy about the complicated legal ramifications of their use. Perhaps they would have chosen not to grant the money at all had they known how even the most basic rules regarding their use and the handling of footage would be ignored. I hope that people will consider these questions before they get too excited about voting on the issue. It would seem that this gambit by the City Council is very clever, but it could backfire. Take a closer look at the motivation of calling for this vote, please.

Ward 6

7/20/2020 2:47:59 PM

My name is [REDACTED]. I'm a resident of Minneapolis and have been living and working in the city for nine years.

I'm disgusted that through my taxes I help fund the Minneapolis Police Department. Policing as we know it is deeply racist, violent and barbaric, and it must be abolished. This charter amendment is the current best chance to realize the end of policing as we know it.

I urge to you to pass the charter amendment along to voters.

Ward 1

7/20/2020 2:52:44 PM

My name is [REDACTED] and I have lived in Minneapolis ward 8 for a year and a half. I support Minneapolis divesting from their police department and the investment of their budget into our communities. Every single one of my neighbors deserves to feel safe when calling for assistance, and every one of them deserves access to assistance that supports both them and their community. No one should have to fear being brutalized and/or murdered by the police, period. The money we have currently invested in the police should not only be used for these new services, it should also be put into improving our schools, resources for the homeless, getting lead out of homes, and creating places where we can celebrate one another. Our community will never grow stronger if we respond to brutality against the community with more brutality. We have to invest in all of us. If all we do is invest in the police, while we chase the homeless from one park to another and arrest them, while we send children from school to prison, while we allow parts of our city to fall into disrepair while developers chase out my neighbors, where does that leave us? Please don't give in to the fear of the unknown, please honor George Floyd, and all those before and after him, please divest.

Ward 8

7/20/2020 2:58:11 PM

My name is [REDACTED] and I grew up in Minnesota, just outside of Minneapolis. I support divestment from police and reinvestment in our communities, and I am calling on the Charter Commission to let the people vote on the charter amendment. The police and their unjust methods of brutality have destroyed Black, brown and Indigenous communities. They're not protecting the communities they serve and are in fact making people feel unsafe and fearful for their lives. Voters like me should have a role in determining the future of public safety of Minneapolis, because we know what our neighborhoods need to feel supported and thrive.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/20/2020 2:59:02 PM

This is a long and difficult story to share. It needs to be reported.

Here is what happened to me:

Early in the morning on Saturday, March 3rd, 2012, I was walking home from the bar in uptown (William's Bar). I went there without a jacket in a cab on a 30-degree evening. At bar close, I got separated from friends and had to make my own way home. I had no money left by this point, and my phone died, so I attempted to walk. I was intoxicated and became lost and quickly delirious, walking in a t-shirt. Somewhere near 4 am, I had to pee. I found a discreet bush, but no sooner than I started to urinate, I saw red and blue lights. The next thing I know, I was on the ground getting pummeled. I thought I was being mugged. Nobody said, "Police." To defend myself and assess the situation, I had to make myself descent (zip up my fly.) The beating increased. Kicks and punches and the command, "Stop Resisting!" (Again, nobody said "police.") That's when a knee fell on my neck, and I became asphyxiated. I tried to say, "I can't breathe," but words couldn't manifest with such pressure. The knee remained there for several minutes, even after I was forcibly handcuffed. I thought my neck was going to snap. The officers kicked me over and then accused me of masturbating. Thankfully it was winter, and they could see yellow in the snow. They dragged me into the squad car by the scruff of my neck, took my phone and wallet, and then drove me to HCMC without answering questions or declaring me under arrest. At HCMC, I was held down against my will and injected with ketamine. The last thing I remember is screaming, "Get that needle out of my arm! I do not consent to this!" The next morning, I could hardly move. Minneapolis police officers beat me so savagely I was injured for weeks. HCMC presented me with a form the following day and said, "Sign it, or we will hold you for 72 more hours." You can't begin to understand the awful feeling I experienced from this... like being raped. I had to see a therapist for two years because of this. I've tried numerous times to voice my encounter but haven't been given credence until now. This. Cannot. Go. On. If I were black, no doubt officers would have killed me. I was never charged with anything for this encounter. I was attacked, abducted off the street, and injected with date-rape drug against my will via needle... for urinating in a bush. At no point was my well-being brought into consideration. Before officers encountered me, I likely had minor hypothermia. A simple ride home would have sufficed. Instead, I've been diagnosed with PTSD and have to live with trauma every day.

I hope this reaches someone who can do something to ensure that NO PERSON ever experiences anything like this again. It happened to me. It happened to others, and it's going to continue to occur until a change is instigated.

Please call with questions.

Ward 10

7/20/2020 3:00:48 PM

There's no reason why the police department can't become more people centered and less combat centered. Take away the implements of war and retrain them with the help of professionals in mental health, social services and the like. Train them with care. Train them for caring.

Ward 5

7/20/2020 3:04:13 PM

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a resident of Minneapolis. I support divestment from police and reinvestment in our communities, and I am calling on the Charter Commission to let the people vote on the charter amendment.

This initiative is our best chance to build stronger, safer communities for everyone in Minneapolis. Please pass the charter amendment along to voters, and respect our democratic right to decide the future of our city.

Ward 3

7/20/2020 3:05:20 PM

I am joining the chorus of voices calling for a vote on the amendment. I work with students at the South Education Center, which serves the most vulnerable students in the Twin Cities. These are students with trauma, developmental disabilities, and emotional behavioral disorders. The administrators decided to shift from police presence to trained social workers four years ago and I have witnessed this decision create a space of care and respect that allows these students to flourish. It keeps them safe and keeps them listening and keeps them coming to school every day knowing they are valued and accepted. I am a white homeowner in South Minneapolis with small children and I want to see the same thing happen in my neighborhood.

Ward 10

7/20/2020 3:07:21 PM

If the police department and union is built on the murder of unarmed Minnesotans why should we be funding them. Why are we funding the free range murder of innocent Minnesotans?

Ward 3

7/20/2020 3:10:15 PM

As a business owner in Minneapolis and resident of a nearby suburb, I urge you to VOTE DOWN this charter amendment.

Before embarking on this course, the Minneapolis City Council needs to:

- * Slow down and think through options
- * Devise a plan that will ensure the citizens, businesses, and visitors to the City of Minneapolis will be safe
- * Then bring that plan forward

My employees do not trust the current approach being put forward by the City of Minneapolis - in fact, they think the city council is completely out of control and have lost their minds.

Vote this down.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/20/2020 3:11:58 PM

I am in favor of putting the Charter amendment on the ballot. The current policing system is not serving our residents fairly or efficiently, and allowing us to amend the charter so we can fix that is the right move.

Ward 1

7/20/2020 3:12:32 PM

We have tried the reform the approach, we have tried electing "progressives" to the city council, we have tried to fill roles related to policing with people of color and all these actions either failed or have been stymied. Enough is enough, it's time for a different path that at MINIMUM results in severe funding cuts for the police (maybe start by settling their misconduct cases with payouts from the police pension?). This is only a small, first step but it is a crucial step. Put this on the ballot and let us make the decision since you all seem reticent to do your jobs.

Ward 3

7/20/2020 3:17:40 PM

Hello, my name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident in Minneapolis. Civil rights leaders and scholars have said for decades that there are two Americas: White America and Black America. Right now we have a chance to heal some of the pain in our Minneapolis community by listening to our Minneapolis community. I support the decision to let the people vote in the charter amendment. I believe that by divesting from the police and reinvesting in our communities, we can begin to create a positive future for Black and Indigenous people. This can only be done by giving weight to their expertise and lived experience. Please pass the charter amendment along to voters, and respect our democratic right to decide the future of our city.

7/20/2020 3:19:19 PM

I am strongly in favor of this amendment to the City Charter. Since the Minneapolis citizens has come together through mutual aid, donations, and overall public service and safety, I have never felt more protected and looked out for. As a white woman this world is made for me so I cannot imagine the difference community safety will have on BIPOC communities and I encourage Minneapolis officials to promote a safer and kinder public safety program proposed by this amendment.

Ward 5

7/20/2020 3:29:05 PM

I work in Minneapolis in the Kingfield neighborhood where I know (and care about) many Minneapolis residents. This charter amendment is crucial to preventing more unnecessary harm to citizens and could greatly improve the response to non-violent events in the community. I applaud your work in this area and look forward to seeing what the outcome will be as a model for other cities who are looking to make similar progress.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/20/2020 3:32:42 PM

The charter commission needs to change the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. The people of Minneapolis need the space to create something better and more sustainable than the police. We can do it and the charter can't stand in our way.

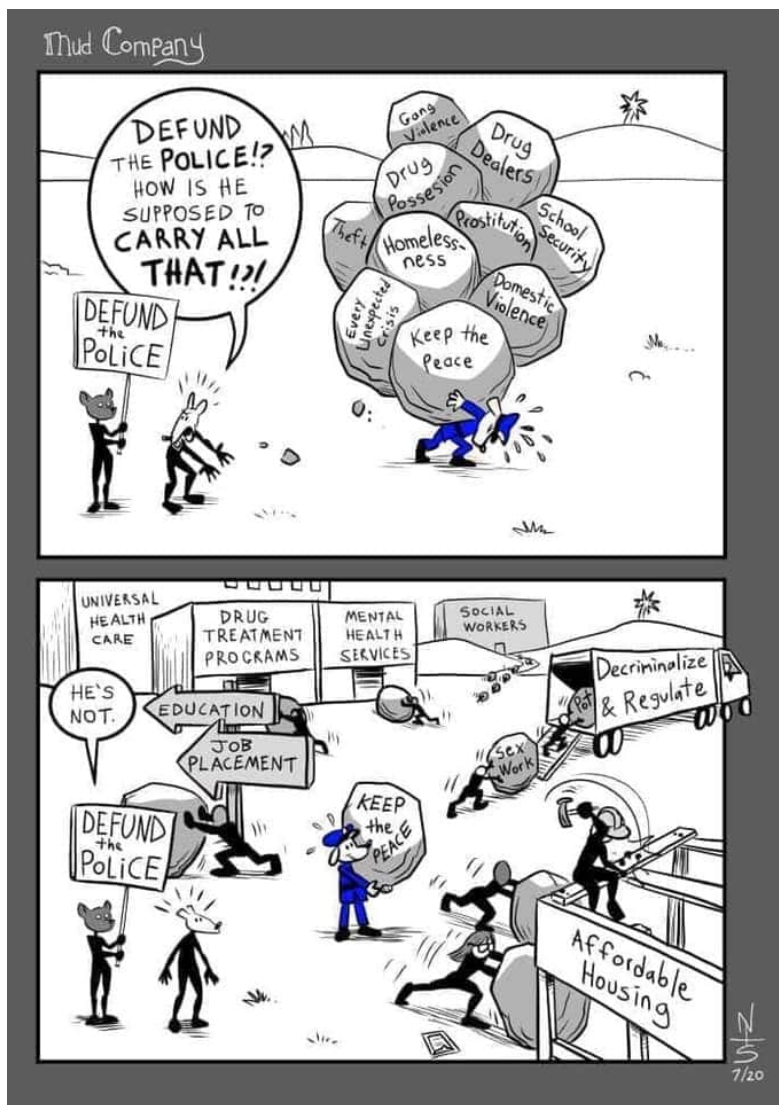
Ward 6

7/20/2020 3:35:58 PM

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a resident of Minneapolis, who is also a mental health professional.

I know with certainty that there are people better qualified and trained to support those in crisis, that should be better funded as the first responders to a vast number of situations where police are currently dispatched as the first response. The presence of a person with a gun is antithetical to the process of de-escalating. And we don't end crimes of that stem from poverty by over-policing. Please let us vote to create a charter that will actually build a safer city!

I fully support divestment from police and reinvestment in our communities, and I am calling on the Charter Commission to let the people vote on the charter amendment. Over-policing and police violence have destroyed Black, brown and Indigenous communities while failing to keep us safe. Voters like me should have a role in determining the future of public safety in our city, because we know best what will allow all our neighborhoods to really thrive.



Ward 13

7/20/2020 3:41:33 PM

Years of incremental “reform” have not fixed a violent and biased police system. Citizens need a chance to vote to enable a discussion for real change.

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Give the people of Minneapolis the space to craft something better than policing, we can do it, but the charter can't stand in the way.

Ward 11

7/20/2020 3:48:33 PM

To: Barry Clegg, Chair, Minneapolis Charter Commission

RE: Proposed Change to Minneapolis Charter

Date: July 20, 2020

Dear Mr. Clegg,

We are writing in opposition to the proposed amendment submitted by the Minneapolis City Council to the Charter Commission on June 26, 2020. We have been homeowners in the Seward neighborhood since 1983 and ask that the Charter Commission refrain from referring this amendment, as currently written, to the City Council for inclusion on the November 3, 2020 ballot without the opportunity for increased review and further citizen input. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

In particular, we are very concerned about the proposed Charter amendment for the following reasons:

- 1) The process for review and input is extremely rushed. We did not learn that City Council members were contemplating proposing such substantial changes to the City Charter until an impromptu meeting was held by a subset of City Council members at Powderhorn Park on May 31, 2020. The amount of time for review and input will amount to less than two months. This is entirely too short a period of time for such a complex issue.
- 2) The current language of the proposed amendment states that the City Council "may maintain" a Division of Law Enforcement Services, which would include "licensed police officers." We strenuously object to this wording since it easily could permit this or a future City Council to provide for NO licensed police officers.
- 3) The proposed charter amendment, as currently written, is inexact and imprecise about the formation of Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention that would "promote, holistic health-oriented approach to safety." This strikes us as poorly thought through given that no organization of this type currently exists anywhere in the United States to provide for public safety.
- 4) In addition, the proposed amendment appears to create additional bureaucracy and to further confuse the public over who at the City is responsible for public safety. Finally, our City recently has experienced severe disruption due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the killing of George Floyd, and devastating riots. Now is NOT the time to be considering substantial and potentially harmful changes to the City Charter.

Ward 2

7/20/2020 3:55:18 PM

I strongly support the proposed Charter amendment to end the requirement of a "police force", and allow a more comprehensive approach to public order.

I'm a 69 year-old white male, living in downtown Minneapolis for 13 years. My limited interactions with the Minneapolis police force have all been negative. They have been snarky, officious and demanding, without cause. That's just the default position, apparently. We need root-and-branch change, which requires a change in the legal structures on which the current police force has been built. It's time for real change, not just polite hopes for improvement that are blocked by the police officers themselves -- or at least enough of them to set the culture of the Department. Don't be cautious -- we need to move ahead.

Ward 3

7/20/2020 3:58:24 PM

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a resident of South Minneapolis.

I think we should be working WAY harder to prevent violence before it starts in our streets, and the Office of Violence Prevention has a proven track record in this. It needs a budget that will fully support its efforts. We should be defunding the police in order to invest in our communities with this office and other efforts.

The current policing charter has us locked in to the status quo, which is killing Black, brown, Indigenous, queer, and disabled communities. If we can't change the charter, we can't even begin to dream of other alternatives. If we want to have better community safety, we need to be able to make changes to policing that really will make an impact, and if the charter is not changed we'll be in a stalemate with the police union forever. Changing the charter gives us OPTIONS.

The people deserve a choice. Let us vote on the Charter Amendment.

Voters like me should have a role in determining the future of public safety in our city, because we know best what will allow all our neighborhoods to really thrive.

This initiative is our best chance to build stronger, safer communities for everyone in Minneapolis. Please pass the charter amendment along to voters, and respect our democratic right to decide the future of our city.

Ward 9

7/20/2020 4:04:22 PM

I support moving the current language of the charter amendment to a ballot vote in November. It is important to listen to local leadership and work through a democratic process to improve the health and safety of our city without our current police department.

Ward 10

7/20/2020 4:04:35 PM

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a resident of North Minneapolis. I support divestment from the police and reinvestment in our communities, and I am calling on the Charter Commission to let the people vote on the charter amendment. The policing system is not working for everyone. It disproportionately punishes and harms Black, brown and Indigenous communities, and does not keep all people safe. Voters like me should have a role in determining the future of public safety in our city.

This is an excellent opportunity for Minneapolis people to talk, listen, and work together to reenvision public safety in Minneapolis. Please pass the charter amendment along to voters, and respect our democratic right to decide the future of our city.

Ward 4