

7/1/2020 2:22:54 PM

I'm with the Charter Commission changes. I approve. In the end I want financial resources going more toward social services. I want people better equipped to handle mental illness episodes to accompany police. I want those better equipped to handle autism behaviors to accompany police.

I want police to be accountable and I believe the Charter changes proposed reflect that.

7/1/2020 2:24:03 PM

We need to amend the city charter in order to effectively defund the police and begin the process of creating new and better public health and safety institutions. Let us vote to amend the charter! Ward 8

7/1/2020 2:24:15 PM

Absolutely worst work of city council. Telling everyone I know to vote no.

7/1/2020 2:24:38 PM

This is a horrible idea! You want to dismantle the police with the amount of gang violence and domestics on the North side. Do you care about children and women at all?? Dismantle the City Council they are a bunch of crooks that don't care about this city period!

7/1/2020 2:25:36 PM

Nooo I do NOT want this charter amendment to abolish the police.

7/1/2020 2:25:51 PM

I am messaging you today to ask that you do the right thing and move forward with the steps needed to defund the MPD. I know they have been campaigning hard to make sure this doesn't happen, and I worry it might be effective. One of the many issues with the police is their excessive amount of political clout.

To be frank the current system we have doesn't work. The statistics show it.

They only cleared 22% of all rape cases in the last three years

Have a 1,700 backlog of testing rape kits,

Cleared only 56% of all homicides in 2019

Were caught on bodycam footage repeatedly telling medical responders sedate people using ketamine, (classified as a date rape drug),

Had severe racial disparities in traffic stops and low level marijuana stings

And are notorious for using slowdowns & other tools to intimidate businesses and elected officials.

This is a system that can't continue. For the safety of the people in your ward there has to be change.
Ward 10

I was born in Duluth and raised in the Twin Cities - 61 years. I love the area for its diversity of people, businesses, festivals, lakes, parks, sports, theater, music, and outdoor activities. I've been traveling across the USA and internationally for over 23 years and would compare these places to my home. I never thought I would live anywhere else.... until now.

The Mpls City Council is not qualified to run this town. What qualifications do they have to manage a budget this size? They make decisions based on emotion and not facts. They are more concerned about plastic bags and bike lanes than maintaining the city's infrastructure and providing protection for all citizens. I've never heard any of them take responsibility for the unrest these last several weeks, yet they've been the ones in charge.

Are there bad cops, you bet, and they should be drummed out of the force. But there are many, many more good than bad. Are there bad citizens, you bet, and a lot more of them than bad cops. To defund the police and change the city charter for a police force is nothing but a power grab by a city council that is incompetent and an embarrassment to the community which they serve poorly. I've never seen a better example of the Peter Principle: "people in a hierarchy tend to rise to their level of incompetence." Please don't sign on to this craziness, instead let's get a charter going to reorganize the city government structure with a strong mayor who has the power to actually run the city. The crime rate is already one of the worst in the country, as laid out below, and if this madness to defund the police is enacted - well, all hell will break loose. The result - a mass exodus of tax paying businesses and residents, and a city looking a lot like Chicago, Detroit, Baltimore, and Seattle.

Per NeighborhoodScout.com

With a crime rate of 50 per one thousand residents, Minneapolis has one of the highest crime rates in America compared to all communities of all sizes - from the smallest towns to the very largest cities. One's chance of becoming a victim of either violent or property crime here is one in 20. Within Minnesota, more than 98% of the communities have a lower crime rate than Minneapolis.

Importantly, when you compare Minneapolis to other communities of similar population, then Minneapolis crime rate (violent and property crimes combined) is quite a bit higher than average. Regardless of how Minneapolis does relative to all communities in America of all sizes, when NeighborhoodScout compared it to communities of similar population size, its crime rate per thousand residents stands out as higher than most.

For Minneapolis, we found that the violent crime rate is one of the highest in the nation, across communities of all sizes (both large and small). Violent offenses tracked included rape, murder and non-negligent manslaughter, armed robbery, and aggravated assault, including assault with a deadly weapon. According to NeighborhoodScout's analysis of FBI reported crime data, your chance of becoming a victim of one of these crimes in Minneapolis is one in 123.

In addition, NeighborhoodScout found that a lot of the crime that takes place in Minneapolis is property crime. Property crimes that are tracked for this analysis are burglary, larceny over fifty dollars, motor vehicle theft, and arson. In Minneapolis, your chance of becoming a victim of a property crime is one in 24, which is a rate of 41 per one thousand population.

Importantly, we found that Minneapolis has one of the highest rates of motor vehicle theft in the nation according to our analysis of FBI crime data. This is compared to communities of all sizes, from the smallest to the largest. In fact, your chance of getting your car stolen if you live in Minneapolis is one in 191.

7/1/2020 2:26:51 PM

I do not agree with the charter amendment and will not be voting for it in November. I feel like there are no details as to what this change actually looks like and we as citizens are not being informed. The council does not represent my beliefs and I'm tired of the rhetoric. I also find it very hypocritical that 3 council members are having taxpayer paid for personal security while our Mayor and others seem to not care for my neighborhood's security and let it be burned to the ground. I don't believe abolishing the police department is the answer. I feel less safe living in Mpls. then I ever have and if things get worse I'll consider moving.

7/1/2020 2:27:15 PM

Please wait until a formal plan is in place before demolishing the existing arrangements. Give the new police chief a chance.

7/1/2020 2:27:35 PM

We support defunding the police and creating the Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. Thank you! Ward 8

7/1/2020 2:27:54 PM

I am so proud of the City Council for taking the first steps toward dismantling the Minneapolis Police Department and creating a safer and more just Minneapolis for all of our citizens.

I am concerned that the proposed charter amendment does not go far enough in increasing accountability and oversight for any future departments that are created. While I understand the urgency of action, I would like the council to do more engagement with BIPOC communities in Minneapolis- to listen, learn, and really uncover what lasting reform might look like.

While I support moving forward to a city charter amendment as soon as this November, I need to see clearer language that says our new department of safety is NOT led by folks who are currently employed at MPD. We need a huge change, not more of the same.

7/1/2020 2:28:04 PM

The fact that this has proceeded to the point in the process where public comment is required should be alarming. While public safety is the number one priority of any government, how we get there is a relevant discussion. However, disbanding the police department and replacing it with Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department is baffling at best and sad at worst. At some point, the elected officials of the MPLS City Council should examine its own conduct and decades long policy path. Simply put, what they are doing does not work. Once a city that was a blessing to visit, raise a family and build a business, is no more. Policies proposals like this are systematic of a group of people who do not know their role and are clearly punching above their weight limit. My suggestion is to address the relationship with the current MPD Union and renegotiate with accountability and results. Allow for disciplinary and removal of bad cops. Provide the leaders of the police force with the tools they need,

not the tools the City Council thinks they need. Remove obstacles for police to do their job in the manner they want to. Support them, don't vilify them. This type of proposed suggestion wreaks of people making unwise, uneducated and unguided policy that is not supported by any data or basic organizational ethos. Not to mention, even the press surrounding this has caused the once stellar reputation of the Twin Cities to be forever tarnished and will always be questioned among the wiser, more prudent and experienced leaders on the planet. As a businessman, who happily call Minnesota my home, I would no more want to build, locate, relocate, a business or even personally visit the City of Minneapolis for any level of entertainment or commerce as a result of this type of amendment. The further research I do on the background and historical policy work of the City Council, the more I am convinced the City is headed in the wrong direction. When I travel, this is one of the top topics of conversation. Not Cv19. Not the economy. Not opportunity but Minneapolis City Council voting to disband the Police Department. This is a bad idea. No civil society had flourished without law and order enforced by a well supported police presence. Please do yourself a favor and do not approve this proposal and do the noble thing and examine your own role. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 2:29:03 PM

Because of ridiculous cost of doing in downtown Minneapolis and the problems associated with crime in downtown after 17 years we have been forced to leave. I could no longer guarantee the safety of my employees. The change in the city charter will only make things worse. I will personally work to see that more moderate politicians are elected to the city council. Ward 7

7/1/2020 2:29:07 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please support expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolisians can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election. Please, let us vote. Ward 9

7/1/2020 2:30:03 PM

We as a city and as a country of a critical mass of citizens demanding that we recon with the history of institutional and systemic racism and make real changes. For Minneapolis this means we must embrace this as an opportunity to restructure our public safety system

Please do everything in your power to let residents of Minneapolis have the opportunity to vote on the future of our public safety system.

It is clear that police reforms have not made the changes they were intended to make. The foundation of the MPD remains that of police historically, and thus communities of color, particularly Black community members, are targeted, harassed, brutalized, and murdered by our public servants. 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.

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7/1/2020 2:30:54 PM

I understand that the Charter Commission is holding a meeting today on the City Council's move to change the charter and replace the MDP with a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

I believe such a change to the charter is absolutely necessary for us to move forward as a community and address the the pain, suffering, and violation of rights that so many in our community - in particular, people of color - have experienced at the hands of the MPD. Systemic change has to happen, and we must move forward by ACTION in good faith - trying and trying again, until we get it right. Thank you for listening to the many voices of the community on this issue. Ward 3

7/1/2020 2:31:01 PM

I beg you to slow this amendment down for further study of its impacts on all Minneapolis residents. Folks are reeling from Covid 19 disrupting and permanently changing their lives. Many struggle to understand the implications of the death of George Floyd and the protests and civil unrest that followed. I think very few Minneapolis residents understand Minneapolis' form of government and don't realize the full impact of the amendment. This appears to be a scheme for the City Council to grab more power, hiding it under the Abolish the Police part of the Amendment.

The inadequate response of city government to the unrest demonstrates what happens when 13 Councilmembers run most of the city government but the Mayor controls the police. It is time to consider if Minneapolis should get rid of its very bizarre form of government and replace it with a more modern form with a mayor or manager responsible for implementation of policy set by the City Council. The City has revenues of about 1.6 billion. According to a January, 2020, article in the StarTribune this is more than 91 of the top (by revenue) 100 nonprofit organizations in the state. All these organizations have a president, administrator, or head. St. Paul has the strong mayor form of government. That city's response to the unrest was much better than Minneapolis. Ward 7

7/1/2020 2:32:23 PM

No to the city charter amendment! We don't trust city council or their non-profits!

7/1/2020 2:32:31 PM

Please DO NOT defund the police. We need comments from city residents not a ballot initiative this November Ward 5

7/1/2020 2:32:54 PM

This should absolutely go on the ballot. City council should help build a movement of people to stop the charter commission from stalling out our vote. The city should also take immediate steps to reduce the police budget instead of cutting other departments budgets due to the covid shortfall.

7/1/2020 2:34:08 PM

Please look into this further, Look at what Camden, NJ is doing, I am for defunding the police, not abolishing. Please do this with care. Keep Rondo, defund and funnel some of those funds towards mental health, addiction services, etc. Please also get community input.

7/1/2020 2:36:04 PM

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7/1/2020 2:36:17 PM

I support defending the police department but not abolishing it. We need better training on de-escalating situations and anti-racism as well as a ban on neck restraint.

7/1/2020 2:36:23 PM

What this city and State needs is a complete defunding of the Met Council, the Governors office, and the entire Minneapolis City Council, and the mayors office.

I have lived here for 75 years and the last fifteen of them I have been in downtown Minneapolis just once and that was enough. The last 60 years of democrat control in the city of Minneapolis has destroyed this once great city.

Defunding the police? What the hell are you thinking?

All of you resign resign immediately and get some grownups in there. Shame on you all.

BTW, Bender, this winter, get your rear end out and do your shoveling. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 2:36:56 PM

Please do not abolish the police entirely. Prominent members of the black community like Raeisha Williams and Nekima Levy Armstrong have stated that police are still necessary, just with less funding and less responsibility with community programs for certain functions. Chief Arradando wants to make reforms, but needs tools/power to make that happen. All officers should have to reapply for their position and be thoroughly investigated. Please work with members of the community to revise the charter.

7/1/2020 2:37:11 PM

Hello! I would like to see money from the police budget divested from the MPD and invested into community safety resources. I do not support the MPD or police reform. Reforms end up costing more money, and have not proven to be effective.

Issues I would like addressed: the housing crisis, decriminalizing drug use, decriminalizing sex work, reducing the number of incarcerated individuals. I'd like racism to be addressed as an ongoing public health issue. I believe police institutions perpetuate racism, misogyny, and transphobia. For these reasons, I want to dismantle the MPD.

Funding for police departments is out of control. They are only protecting property and white people, and that is disgraceful. Invest this money in protecting vulnerable citizens of Minneapolis. Cops do not protect the people, they just protect themselves. Ward 1

7/1/2020 2:37:53 PM

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7/1/2020 2:38:13 PM

The current charter requires the city to fund policing at .0017 x the population. Yet police are being utilized for many functions that shouldn't be approached through a law enforcement lens including mental health crisis calls, homelessness, substance abuse and overdoses, school discipline, and other societal issues. This funding requirement should be removed to allow us to significantly reduce the size of the police force and shift funds to mental health crisis responders and social service agencies that would do a better job of addressing these issues. In fact, language on the charter should make it clear that this change will happen- no SHOULDs or MAYs.

In addition, whether or not a charter amendment ends up on the ballot, the City Council and Mayor should move forward NOW with actions to rein in the MPD and hold them accountable. You can start by dismantling the ineffective OPCR and replacing it with true community oversight of the police, including empowering the community to directly oversee the police chief and assign discipline.

7/1/2020 2:38:18 PM

NO to abolish Police. Yes to defund police.

7/1/2020 2:38:47 PM

Changes I support to this charter in addition to another comment I just made:

- ☐ Require police officers to carry their own professional liability insurance.
- ☐ Require police chiefs to adopt a disciplinary reset mechanism.
- ☐ Enact robust civilian oversight of police.
- ☐ Overturn MN Statute 609.505, Subd. 2.
- ☐ Require the MN POST Board to adjudicate complaints on chief law enforcement officers.

- ☐ Require the MN POST Board to take prompt, consistent action on licenses.
- ☐ Pass legislation recognizing the right to videotape police and document their conduct.
- ☐ Ensure badges are visible and legible.
- ☐ Create an independent agency for investigation and prosecution of law enforcement critical incidents.
- ☐ End the practice of allowing officers involved in critical incidents 48 hours before giving a statement.
- ☐ Ensure officers involved in deadly force incidents are treated the same as other suspects.
- ☐ Prosecute excessive force, investigator misconduct and perjury.
- ☐ Require detailed reviews of law enforcement critical incidents.
- ☐ Lengthen the statute of limitations for wrongful death civil actions.
- ☐ Require the state to pay for independent autopsies in deaths associated with law enforcement activities.

Training

- ☐ Improve the course approval process for the MN POST Board.
- ☐ End fear-based, military style, “warrior” trainings and significantly increase the amount of de-escalation training through POST Board requirements.
- ☐ Change the foundation of police response with better basic education.
- ☐ Require training for law enforcement in recognizing and interacting appropriately with people on the autism spectrum.
- ☐ Require annual in-person anti-oppression training conducted by community-based organizations that represent people from oppressed groups.
- ☐ Require EPIC or other peer intervention training along with a duty to intervene.
- ☐ Stabilize and increase training funds.
- ☐ Create certification tracts for sexual assault investigators, homicide investigators.

NO MORE HALF STEPS: WE DEMAND REAL CHANGE TO END POLICE VIOLENCE

- ☐ End police-only responses to mental health crisis calls.
- ☐ Protect our immigrant neighbors.
- ☐ End anti-camping and other ordinances targeting homeless people.
- ☐ Restrict use of deadly force to last resort.
- ☐ Ban lateral vascular neck restraint (LVNR), choke holds, body-pins to the neck, hobble tying and other potentially lethal restraint methods.

- ☐ Change canine policy from locate and bite to locate and bark.
- ☐ Review and improve pursuit policies.
- ☐ Mandate appropriate law enforcement response to civil disturbances.
- ☐ End the use of military equipment in our community.
- ☐ Significantly limit the use of SWAT teams and no-knock warrants.
- ☐ Require law enforcement agencies to conduct mandatory psychological testing.
- ☐ Require drug and anabolic steroid testing after a police critical incident.

Collective Bargaining

- ☐ Require community participation in negotiations of collective bargaining agreements.
- ☐ Split police federations into separate unions for rank-and-file staff and supervisors.

Data

- ☐ Provide for penalties in MN Statute Chapter 13, the MN Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA) for failure to release data timely, especially the “super public data” outlined in MN Stat. 13.82, subd. 2.
- ☐ Ensure better access to body-worn camera footage.
- ☐ Require the release of unedited video footage to families of people killed by law enforcement officers within 48 hours of the fatal incident.
- ☐ Require law enforcement agencies to collect data for every encounter, whether it results in arrest or not.
- ☐ Post lawsuit data on a dashboard or other access mechanism.
- ☐ Make information on use of force information quickly available to the public through a dashboard or other access mechanism.
- ☐ Require departments to review search warrants relative to the results of those warrants.

WHAT WON'T WORK

- ☐ Residency requirements.
- ☐ Implicit bias training.
- ☐ Police- community relations efforts.

7/1/2020 2:40:47 PM

I am not sure about anything other than I am sure that the leader of the Union KROLL is a MAIN reason that Minneapolis has gotten our bad reputation with Police. Unions themselves can be very evil when money is involved. If money means someones Job, which means their 300,000 home is on the line whether they stop a killing or not?? Union leader power trips and being republican supported is the issue. Kroll should not be a leader there anymore. He is not a leader for the good of humans. Police

should learn how to do the right thing, and not worry about peer pressure. Unions in general should have a RULE that they can no longer be involved in Politics using "UNION money". Union money is the DUES the people pay to have the job. I am highly against dues being used politically. Change the Union. The other issues with racism and citizens is working itself out. (re: calls to police on assumptions) etc. So basically laws created on the "NON PROFIT UNIONS" should be looked into, because those "UNIONS" (which I am part of a union) are insanely power and money hungry and pay no taxes. Go figure. They use all our dues to do political stuff, and never help us. Or do what is right. Unions are mini governments.

7/1/2020 2:41:12 PM

The police department should be kept whole. I understand their hands are tied enough, we are a minority family but I would not feel safe living in Minneapolis without the mpd, most officers do have good relationships with the community, officers have gotten to know who does what on streets, problem properties etc. they have built relationships with informants. Years and years of building relationships and information down the drain.. weed out the bad ones and replace..

7/1/2020 2:41:29 PM

I am in full support of the amendment to the city charter. I see no reason why police should be the ones issuing parking tickets, or responding to those experiencing mental health difficulties or homelessness; and I believe that we need to adopt a proactive approach to violence in our city, by ensuring that the needs of the community are met. To be clear, I believe that some amount of armed law enforcement officers are necessary and will continue to be so, but I believe that they should only be responding to issues where the use of force may be necessary (assault, gun violence, etc.). I believe that police are ill-equipped to deal with many of their current responsibilities, and those responsibilities should be distributed to organizations better suited to dealing with them. I do not believe this is a radical position. We already have separate professions and organizations which respond to fires and medical emergencies, why shouldn't we do the same with non-violent crime or other disruptions to the community?

7/1/2020 2:41:33 PM

Please give Minneapolis residents the opportunity to vote on this amendment.

I want a public safety system that keeps ALL residents safe, one that no one has to fear. Minneapolis has been failing the communities of color since the birth of the city and police force. Just because that's the way it's always been doesn't mean that's the way it has to be.

Reform has historically failed time and time again. Officers that want to be good and do better are not standing up to or condemning officers who are harming and murdering people of color. The union is protecting murderers. Officers are using force at an alarming rate. We need to reinvent what emergency response looks like.

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.

This is OUR city. We deserve to determine the future of public safety. Ward 1

7/1/2020 2:41:37 PM

I have already left a comment today, but after doing more research, I would like to update my comment.

I do not approve of abolishing the police force. I support defunding the police force and using the funds to promote mental health and community organizations as preventative measures for people who might otherwise have issues with the law later on.

As a resident of Minneapolis, I am begging you to not abolish the police force. I have not felt safe in my own community since the death of George Floyd, and I can't even imagine the panic it would cause to completely get rid of the force. I do NOT support that.

I DO support a BIPOC led group of community leaders who work with the police force, city council, and mayor to construct a NEW police force. I would like to see all police officers fired and have to re-apply for their jobs. I would like to see better training on how to de-escalate situations. I would like to see a complete removal of militaristic training. I would like to see a complete background investigation into each officer before they are rehired.

Our city cannot survive without the police. Please do what's right and have community-led input to guide this decision. This could be disastrous for our communities. Having 2 days to provide public comment is not just or fair. I do not appreciate the lack of process that has been displayed in a rush to get this on the ballot. Our city is not able to respond in that time and I am very disappointed in these actions on behalf of city council and our mayor.

7/1/2020 2:41:39 PM

I am not a resident of Mpls nor do I work there- however my family went to several Twins games and concerts, went shopping, had senior pictures there and ate at many of the restaurants and bars. We had date nights and special events centered around going to Mpls. We are too afraid to be in Mpls now- and the thought of defunding/dismantling the police department sounds ridiculous- we will NOT be spending ANY money in Mpls- as well as my family and most of my friends and coworkers. I see many more businesses saying goodbye as well. What a shame! I grew up here

7/1/2020 2:42:05 PM

This is incredibly important. We need to be able to make decisions about Public safety and this document limits that ability.

7/1/2020 2:42:11 PM

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

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

We as a City cannot tolerate the police brutality and mistreatment of the public from our Police Department. While the chilling murder of George Floyd was the loudest wake-up call, I know there are many other instances of violence and abuse, especially towards Black and Native American members of our communities. Rampant and even indiscriminate tear-gassing and firing on the public, protestors, and

journalists by Minneapolis Police are further evidence that our Police Department is not squarely under the control of our democratically elected leaders or the official chain of command.

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

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

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

Please support expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolitans can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election. Please, let us vote. Ward 12

7/1/2020 2:42:20 PM

re: Director of Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department - it seems absurd to list specific, arbitrarily derived criteria for this individual. as this new department is built out there are any number of important characteristics that may present themselves as overriding of these specific experiences. imo this should be kept as loose as possible such that no good candidates go uninspected and to remain as agile as possible when building out this new vision.

tenure for the police chief (8.2(5)) was removed but no corresponding rules replaced those for this new individual. was this intentional? it sort of looks like someone lazily did a find/replace for all references to police.

same comment for 8.4(4). Ward 11

7/1/2020 2:42:32 PM

We should defund the police. Take money out of their budgets, make them accountable to civilian oversight groups, fire the lot of them, and hire officers that can be trusted to deploy lethal force only when absolutely necessary. To that end, let us vote on the charter amendment. Ward 10

7/1/2020 2:43:37 PM

As a Minneapolis resident, I demand to see the option to install a Community Service and Violence Prevention division on the November ballot. It is time we rethink how our community is protected - with community-led, trustworthy, reliable organizations. It is on our city, and you as our City Councilors, to stand up and lead the rest of our country in this change. Thank you. Ward 13

7/1/2020 2:43:59 PM

As someone who has had interactions with police officers many times in life, I can wholeheartedly say that reform is necessary. It's going to be messy and mistakes will be made. But, this is what people need. The reasons why people call police are often not for violent crimes and we need to restructure the responses to suit the needs of the communities you serve.

What if 2020 isn't cancelled?
What if 2020 is the year we've been waiting for?
A year so uncomfortable, so painful, so scary, so raw —
that it finally *forces* us to grow.
A year that screams so loud, finally awakening us
from our ignorant slumber.
A year we finally accept the need for change.
Declare change. Work for change. Become the change.
A year we finally band together, instead of
pushing each other further apart.

2020 isn't cancelled, but rather
the most important year of them all.

— Lexie Dwight

7/1/2020 2:44:09 PM

Please pass this. Put it on the ballot. Give the people a say for once. It's important. If you truly believe in reform and meaningful change against racism you will pass this bill. Public opinion is very supportive of taking this action. It won't solve everything but it's a huge step and it will help prevent overt terrorism of our black community. Black lives matter! Thank you.

7/1/2020 2:44:51 PM

I wholeheartedly support that the city council has proposed amending the city charter in order to allow for the abolition of the police force. I am, however, concerned about current language of the charter, as describe by the recent Communities United Against Police Brutality pamphlet (<https://www.cuapb.org/>), which raises concerns about the new "Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention," including but not limited to its potential lack of community accountability (it would report to the city council and the mayor) and it opening up the possibility of recreating the police department under another name. Again, as a Saint Paul resident, I STRONGLY believe in the spirit of the amendment -- that of disbanding MPD -- but I believe there must be substantive community input on the language of the charter as it moves through the process. A rushed amendment can be a flawed one, and it must pass muster at the ballot box.

7/1/2020 2:45:04 PM

I am in support of this effort to reshape the city's approach to community safety, but I am concerned that this particular amendment does not protect against one outcome that the community clearly does not want: a simple "rebranding" of the MPD. It seems like improvements could be made in terms of the specific wording of the amendment.

I do not wish to force my opinion on exact wording, but my stance is informed by the response of community groups such as CUAPB and Movement for Black Lives. It seems like improvements could be made with more community consultation on this amendment. I would encourage the Council to pursue this.

7/1/2020 2:45:29 PM

This is a very serious issue that affects everyone in the city, radical changes are needed and it seems to me that the citizens of Minneapolis agree. We need to be allowed to vote on this issue and find out for sure what the will of the people is, and then enact that democratic will with new policy. Ward 10

7/1/2020 2:45:33 PM

I think defunding the police is a bad idea for the city of Minneapolis and I do not support it. Our council is not prepared and making a knee jerk reaction. If we defund the police we will see more violence, drugs, domestic abuse, poorer communities, and more deaths in Minneapolis. We will see more businesses move out and the city crumble.

The city council is also very hypocritical if they are hiring private protection and then saying we do not need police. If we do not need police the security invoice for the city council and the mayor should be \$0.00. It is a "do as I say, not as I do attitude".

The city council needs to be changed so we can have a powerful major system that allows the city to unify and collaborate behind a powerful leader which the major and city council members are not "leaders" in Minneapolis as they can not manage a budget, have no real life experiences, and cannot stop the violence in the community. It is time for new leadership in this city to step in that can effectively lead unlike our current mayor and city council.

7/1/2020 2:45:43 PM

As a resident and taxpayer in Minneapolis for more than 30 years, and a property owner for more than 20, I urge you to use my extremely high property tax burden to establish a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department.

Please stop using my tax dollars for a militarized, racist gang of enforcers responsible for multiple deaths and injuries to my neighbors. I believe in the good intentions of the chief and community officers, but they are unable to control this force.

Only de-funding them, and the horrific police federation led by an open white supremacist who accused a former mayor of gang affiliation and appears in uniform to intimidate citizens at community gatherings, will begin to heal some wounds in this city.

This amendment to the charter is a start. It must be followed with policies for safety for all, equity in housing, income, and education, lower rents, and prioritizing people over developer's profits. Thank you for beginning the work.

7/1/2020 2:45:46 PM

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

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7/1/2020 2:45:53 PM

Can't wait. So excited 😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊

7/1/2020 2:46:57 PM

I am totally against removing the police department!! The union is the one of the problems and no accountability for BAD policemen is another! I have lived in the Kingfield neighborhood for 70 plus years and I love this city ! This is one of the worse city council decision I have ever seen!

7/1/2020 2:47:11 PM

I support police and want safety in my neighborhood Ward 11

7/1/2020 2:47:39 PM

Doing a charter amendment to replace the police department without having a solid plan based on community input is foolish.

What happens when the amendment fails because of the lack of specificity? I would not vote for the amendment as presented.

7/1/2020 2:48:25 PM

I do not believe there is enough clarity around how creating another layer of governance is actually going to improve our police department.

There are really specific and actionable recommendations from reputable organizations like CUAPB. I recommend using their list of proposed actions as a starting place.

7/1/2020 2:48:32 PM

I would like to see more community involvement and planning done on this action. Please don't rush the process. I support the dismantling of the current policing system and rebuilding it in conjunction with community support initiatives and getting the right kind of response for all emergencies. There are many times when a police force is needed and should be there to serve and protect all. But many instances don't require a military level response where the slightest provocation can result in an innocent life being taken. Please work with the Police Chief and Mayor to take these steps together. And also don't leave Minneapolis residents defenseless against true crime that will continue to happen in the meantime.

7/1/2020 2:49:09 PM

My husband, our daughter, and I are residents of the Armatage neighborhood.

We agree that the culture of the police department, the police union and the overall militarization of the police needs to change. We are happy to help with this undertaking, and to look out for our neighbors. But we refuse to live the way that we have since the murder of George Floyd.

We, like most, are significantly concerned about the state of this city, given the rampant violence and lack of police action to contain any of the violence. As you know, there have been reports of at least 1,600 shots fired in our city since the murder of George Floyd. Every day, there are more reports of incredibly violent, senseless, lawlessness in every corner of our city. The solution to this problem is not to abolish the police force. I firmly believe that the recent uptick in brazen crime that we have seen is a direct result of the lack of response and complete loss of control over the city in the days and weeks following Mr. Floyd's murder. Dismantling the police force will only encourage more of this behavior.

We pictured raising our family here; enjoying the lakes, many parks, local restaurants and uniquely Minneapolis attractions. Sadly, with no police force and parks now being used as homeless shelters, we will be forced to move elsewhere, taking our tax dollars and business with us. Dismantling the police force in favor of social workers etc. responding to emergency calls will significantly decrease property values, and may or may not produce better results than the current policing system. We will not take the risk of something happening to our daughter. Our friends are in the same boat and are coming to the same conclusion. A once vibrant city that was home to many age groups and socioeconomic statuses will no longer be that way.

7/1/2020 2:49:14 PM

Do Not Abolish!

Defund MPD and reallocate funds for community based programs.

Reform MPD and elevate voices of color within MPD.

Remove and prosecute racist/abusive MPD officers.

City Council and Mayor Frey, please slow down and listen to voices of color that have been demanding MPD reform for many years already. If you can't do that, then step down. Do Not Abolish!

7/1/2020 2:49:34 PM

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7/1/2020 2:50:23 PM

I think the council is moving too rapidly on this matter. No research has been done, no input. It almost has the impression of "strike while the fire is hot" and that is not logically the way to approach this matter. Take time, do the research, discuss, debate, get input, then move forward. Rushing is going to drive people to the ballot boxes, and I don't think it will be pleasant.

7/1/2020 2:50:43 PM

I am against abolishing MPD.

MPD is broken and upholds White supremacy. It also has the first police chief in history who is committed to changing this. We are asking for our police to be reconstructed, defunded, and demilitarized, not abolished.

We are having this conversation from a place of concern for our city's most vulnerable residents. But without police, who will protect them from gun violence? Kidnappings? Activity from outside drug cartels? Outside sex trafficking?

Let us start by hearing what proposals Arradondo has for improving policing.

A few ideas I have heard that are appealing:

- Zip Code hiring. Why are suburban officers policing Minneapolis? We need officers who care for our communities.
- Minority hiring. Our force should look like our city.
- Rewrite use of force policy.
- Demilitarize. Officers across Europe make do unarmed or with tasers.
- Aim for an end to Qualified Immunity at the MN level.
- Use data science to predict which officers will be repeat offenders, based on complaints against them. This technology already exists, because it has been used on criminals, often to the detriment on BIPOC residents - Let's use it on the police!
- Establish a Division like in Eugene, OR to have officers trained in social work for calls related to mental health and homelessness.

I appreciate all of the time that is going into this process. Let us reform our broken department!

7/1/2020 2:50:57 PM

I am NOT in agreement with abolishing the police.

My name is [REDACTED]

I have lived in Minneapolis all of my life.

I strongly disagree with the charter amendment to abolish the police.
Reform and defund. NOT abolish.

[REDACTED]

7/1/2020 2:52:08 PM

I think this is absurd. The Federal Government is beginning police reform measures for the country and we are ourselves in MN and in Minneapolis. I believe there are wonderful and well trained officers in Minneapolis and the reform measures will help them. I don't think this amendment is well thought out or thorough. It is not a valid answer, only an idea and won't be well done in that short of time anyway.

7/1/2020 2:52:11 PM

I support this initiative with faith and confidence that the concerns of Mayor Frey and others will be addressed, and the result will be strong professional police and investigators where strength is needed, and other competent professionals in other respective fields to address other public health & safety issues and events.

7/1/2020 2:52:31 PM

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

7/1/2020 2:52:36 PM

Worst idea yet. And proposed during a time of unrest and rising crime. I will not feel safe in Minneapolis from violent crime without the police. If this proposal goes forward, I will move out of Minneapolis. Property values will plummet. Businesses will leave. So much for law and order. Nothing but an open invitation for criminals, thugs and lawlessness. Say hello to the new Detroit. It will be all yours. The Mpls City Council will own the result.

7/1/2020 2:53:57 PM

I fully support 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.

The Minneapolis Police Department is broken and traditional methods of reform have not and will not work. The culture that has been created and nurtured has become toxic and will not change willingly. This is true of many police departments across the country. Minneapolis stands on the precipice of creating a model that other communities can follow.

I believe the model that is being proposed and explored is a better alternative to the death, fear, racism, bullying and corruption that the MPD doles out to the citizens of Minneapolis every day. Ward 2

7/1/2020 2:54:13 PM

The amendment does not tell how the new department is to be organized. The amendment does not require approval by voters of the specifics of the new department. I am concerned about giving such complete authority to the City Council to develop a new system without any ultimate approval by the voters of Minneapolis. I was an assistant city attorney for 36 years and have witnessed the Council give more weight to a vocal and impassioned advocacy group without considering the City as a whole. There need to be some checks and balances on whatever mechanism the City Council intends to implement.

I prefer NOT to give my full name, address and phone number, because some Council Members have a history of shaming and releasing personal information of those who express opposing opinions.

7/1/2020 2:54:41 PM

I am writing to say that I believe that residents of Minneapolis deserve to vote on the future of the MPD in November.

As a white woman, I rarely feel unsafe in the presence of police officers however I have spent the last month listening to BIPOC members in our community and I am learning that they are not afforded the same right. We all deserve to live in a city where we feel safe.

Reforming the MPD has been done and it didn't stick. Thanks to people like Bob Kroll on the force, nothing has changed. People still feel afraid when they see the police and the police continue to brutalize our BIPOC community members. We as a City cannot tolerate the police brutality and mistreatment of the public from our Police Department.

We as a city deserve a community process that allows us to re-imagine what health and safety look like without looking to our outdated charter to tell us what needs to happen.

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.

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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

7/1/2020 2:54:47 PM

I totally support the amendment to the City Charter. I support the defunding of the police force, taking away the weapons, and firing those who tend to be sadistic because they cannot be retrained.

I have had a run in myself with an officer who drew a gun on me 3 doors from my house. I am white, 5' 2" tall and was 74 years old at the time. I stopped to offer assistance to a group of old women in front of an unoccupied house on my block and was greeted with police hostility.

You cannot train that or Chauvin's motives out of people. You have to fire those people and hire people who are willing to Protect and to Serve.

Right now we have cowards and sadists. Evidence: The defense in court for killing unarmed young people is "I was afraid." Justine Damond, from two blocks away died because the cops "were afraid."

There is no fixing the current police force. It must be disbanded. Money has to be channeled to Economic Development, jobs, education and health care. A community safety force should be created with employees who are educated, intelligent, kind and willing to Protect and to Serve.

Amending the Charter is a first step.

7/1/2020 2:55:15 PM

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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.

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7/1/2020 2:55:25 PM

The proposal is being pushed much too quickly in an attempt to make the November vote. We need more time to seriously consider what is best for the future of the city. The current proposal does not offer any real solutions, only that what we have now is not working. There is room under the current charter to begin making changes (since we currently fund over the required limit), and give the city more time to carefully think through something as important as a change to the charter.

7/1/2020 2:56:03 PM

Commissioners,

I strongly support a city-wide vote this November to amend the charter. I believe this to be a feasible path forward to make our city better and safer for all citizens, and it will go a long way to rebuild trust in the system. Please, let us vote on this. Ward 3 North Loop Neighborhood

7/1/2020 2:56:15 PM

I do not agree with or support this amendment.

I would ask that someone with a background in law enforcement take part in creating this charter and envisioning the future. Jeremiah Ellison did not confer with the communities who need this support. Hold officers accountable, defund and ramp up social programs, but do not immediately move to abolish without a proper plan in place. The community does not want this.

7/1/2020 2:56:34 PM

I like the direction of this amendment, but as always the devil is in the details.

As long as humans are still violent towards each other, we will need a part of the government that has a monopoly on violence. Giving that monopoly to the current MPD hasn't worked well, and has inflicted a huge toll on the citizens of this city.

But replacing the MPD with some sort of neighborhood watch, as some proposals from activists have suggested, would be much worse. We've seen the results of community "justice" many times through history, and it's horrific. We need well-trained full time people to respond to violent criminal activity, with the emphasis on well-trained.

It's also vitally important than any new programs come with clear conditions for evaluations of success. I fully support defunding the police and putting that money into other programs that support communities. But how will we know if these programs are successful or a waste of funds? I urge you to make sure that every new program comes with clear conditions for evaluation and a time frame for regular re-evaluation. Maybe if we'd done that with the police we would've realized long ago that the money we give them could have been better used elsewhere.

Related to all this, is there anything the city government can do about the prevalence of guns in our city? Surely that is at least part of the reason police officers have historically been so violent. They have a very reasonable fear that any encounter with the public could result in a gun fight. The fewer guns in the hands of the public, the better we can hold law enforcement to very high standards of engagement and de-escalation. And fewer guns also means fewer deaths by suicide, accident, and violence overall.

Take the time to do your research. Do more than simply throw money at the best sounding programs. Don't let any program or department become sacred and untouchable, like the police were for decades. If you can do those things, we may make this one of the best cities in the country. If you fail, we'll become the much-mocked example that stalls progress for many years to come.

7/1/2020 2:57:13 PM

NO! I think you have to be careful to not abolish and put white supremacist civilians in charge of protecting. Please think of a way to defund police, NOT abolish. Have MPD fired and reapply. Look at examples across the country. Ask the Black community what they need! We support Chief of Police Arradondo. You cannot abolish the man connecting the community to the police force.

7/1/2020 2:57:27 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis, I am concerned with the language in the City Charter amendment as proposed by City Council. I wish to be clear that my concern stems from full support of abolishing the police long term. We must work to abolish the police and replace it with community care initiatives. It has been shown time and again that the police department cannot overcome its racist and white supremacist roots through reform therefore abolition is the only path forward. Please note that all emphasis in the below quotations of the proposed amendment is my own.

Firstly, the amendment of the charter must make clear that any new "department of community safety and violence prevention" will not be led or staffed by current or former police officers.

The language of the proposed amendment is critically important; the City Council could have and should have held a public hearing and taken recommendations for appropriate and complete language prior to sending this amendment through to the Charter Commission.

Of the current proposed changes to the City Charter, I unequivocally support the following: striking Section 7.3(c) from the charter.

In closing I would request the City Charter Commission, as outlined in Minn. Stat. 410.12, subd. 5, submit a substitute proposal to be considered by the City Council if and only if that substitute proposal can be mandated to receive a public hearing and have input from the community. If a substitute amendment from the City Charter Commission can only go back to the Council for a yay/nay vote without the above stipulations, then the Council should, quite plainly, go back to the drawing board.

This is fundamental and too important to get wrong.

Same letter attached.

7/1/2020 2:57:32 PM

Once again these so called elites tell us "do as I say, not as I do". The city counsel needs to be eliminated from Minnesota. They take away our protection by defunding the police yet they take those same tax dollars to hire private security for themselves.. it's time for you ignorant liberals to wake up. When it's your son, daughter, wife, husband or grandchildren being hurt by radicals you only have yourself to blame. WAKE UP MINNESOTA

7/1/2020 2:57:35 PM

I write in opposition to the proposed amendment to the City Charter. The action being proposed by the City Council is not well thought out, does not provide for measured and meaningful reform, and will leave us with a community and neighborhoods that are less safe. As you consider the proposed action, I hope that you will send it back to the City Council for deliberation and direction to develop a specific, thoughtful, and meaningful plan to achieve police reform. Simply eliminating a policing function without a plan for what will replace it is bad governance. I do not believe that voters should be asked to vote on such an ill-conceived plan. More time is needed to develop a plan, to take community input and to work with civic leaders to achieve lasting goals for reform.

7/1/2020 2:57:48 PM

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

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

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

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

Please support expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolitans can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election. Please, let us vote. Ward 13

7/1/2020 2:58:07 PM

Replace the entire city council and mayor

7/1/2020 2:58:10 PM

Do not remove/abolish the police. Good lord!! Dismantle, clean house, defund then. But don't remove them! And speak with experts and community.

7/1/2020 2:58:22 PM

I support the charter amendment and want to see it on the ballot.

7/1/2020 2:58:27 PM

My son recently had a mental health/psychiatric emergency on May 11th, 2020 in Dinkytown.

An armed police officer from the MPD showed up, intimidating him, his roommate, and his roommate's family.

My son is thankfully now in an appropriate treatment facility, after spending 10 days at HCMC.

There was no reason that he needed to be further traumatized by armed police, treating him as though he was a criminal!

GET THE POLICE OUT OF THESE SORT OF SOCIAL/PSYCHIATRIC SITUATIONS NOW!!!

7/1/2020 2:58:33 PM

DO NOT MOVE FORWARD WITH THIS KNEE JERK REACTION. In an city that needs more police not less, what you are doing is simply insane. Police reform is needed but not abolishment. I come from the mpls area, and still enjoy its perks. However, if this passes I will not set foot or spend another dime in mpls. Not even for my favorite sports or music. I will not be able to bring my family there because of all of the crime that will happen from every angle. Stop it.

7/1/2020 2:58:41 PM

I am not in support of the charter amendment establishing a new Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention and removing the Police Department as a charter department. The process for such a change was not well thought out and no specific plan has been developed.

Nothing we do will work if the training is not there, expectations are not clear and there are issues with accountability.

I am in support of our police department and feel strongly that they can make the needed changes that our community needs.

7/1/2020 2:59:27 PM

To the Charter Commission -

I urge you to approve, as written, the proposed Charter amendment to change how community safety is outlined in Minneapolis' Charter.

I also urge you to put aside your personal opinions on the proposed amendment, and rather consider if this question deserves to be put to a vote and decided upon by the voters of Minneapolis.

Given that the Charter Commission does not reflect the diversity of Minneapolis, and especially does not reflect the diversity of communities most negatively impacted by the current Minneapolis Police Department, I ask that you keep in mind especially our Black and Indigenous communities in Minneapolis. Resident of Northeast Minneapolis Ward 3

7/1/2020 2:59:31 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis, I am concerned with the language in the City Charter amendment as proposed by City Council. I wish to be clear that my concern stems from full support of abolishing the police long term. We must work to abolish the police and replace it with community care initiatives. It has been shown time and again that the police department cannot overcome its racist and white supremacist roots through reform therefore abolition is the only path forward. Please note that all emphasis in the below quotations of the proposed amendment is my own.

Firstly, the amendment of the charter must make clear that any new "department of community safety and violence prevention" will not be led or staffed by current or former police officers.

The language of the proposed amendment is critically important; the City Council could have and should have held a public hearing and taken recommendations for appropriate and complete language prior to sending this amendment through to the Charter Commission.

Of the current proposed changes to the City Charter, I unequivocally support the following: striking Section 7.3(c) from the charter.

In closing I would request the City Charter Commission, as outlined in Minn. Stat. 410.12, subd. 5, submit a substitute proposal to be considered by the City Council if and only if that substitute proposal can be mandated to receive a public hearing and have input from the community. If a substitute amendment from the City Charter Commission can only go back to the Council for a yay/nay vote without the above stipulations, then the Council should, quite plainly, go back to the drawing board.

This is fundamental and too important to get wrong.

7/1/2020 3:00:05 PM

I demand that you drop this charter amendment. Go back to the drawing board with community members and community activists from group like Justice 4 Jamar and Communities United Against Police Brutality. The community has been working for years on plans to address police criminality and accountability - these are the plans the community wants to see, not this charter amendment.

We don't want you to start a new police force answerable to the city council rather than the mayor. We want actual police accountability - bring back the Civilian Review Authority, cut 20 million from the MPD budget and invest it in Black lives. We don't want R.T Rybak, the Minneapolis Foundation, and your professional nonprofits coming in to make money and change nothing. We want a board of 9 civilian community activists, paid as much as the city council, to oversee the police department.

7/1/2020 3:00:26 PM

I am a resident of downtown Minneapolis and I have lived in the city for 10 years. Never have I felt more unsafe living here than I do now and I cannot fathom how badly we have regressed as a society that anyone has to feel this way in the United States of America in 2020. Its actually unbelievable. The audacity that the City Council has to dismantle the police dept. during this time of unrest is astounding. There have been upwards of 100 shootings since the tragic death of Mr. Floyd, with armed carjackings at the forefront of violent crimes; and the City Council wants to confront this severe safety issue with a dept. of "peace officers" and social workers...The level of insult is mindboggling. Our police dept. needs reform. There needs to be better training, more patrols, more funding for different roles within the police dept (like community engagement). There needs to be accountability within the dept. and processes to eliminate horrible renegade cops from holding a badge. This city has been complete chaos for over a month now and it needs to end. I view their proposal as an utterly ineffective way to restore order. Please do better to help your citizens. Thank you. Ward 7

7/1/2020 3:00:34 PM

No to the city charter amendment on the docket today! The city council and their non-profits are making a mockery of the charter commission and it's member and the democratic process. They have met behind closed and avoided telling residents and tax payers what they are doing. This is travesty! It must be stopped.

7/1/2020 3:00:43 PM

I have a difficult time supporting an amendment that does not give more specifics on what the new department will look like. Who will you call, response time, will I continue to feel safe living in the City of Minneapolis. I do believe we need to revamp the police department but talk of removing the police is scary and mainly because I don't know what that means. I have had nothing but positive interactions with the police...I am white and realize I come at this with white privilege. So, right now, I will wait and see if something more concrete comes forward.

7/1/2020 3:01:37 PM

The Minneapolis Police department should be disbanded completely, and I'm excited to see the city council taking steps to do this! Community based solutions are what we need in order to truly address people's needs, not just the symptoms of their problems. The more we can redistribute this money to public housing, health care (including mental health), and education, the more our communities will thrive. I believe in the work of Reclaim the Block and the Black Visions Collective and I sincerely hope the Council will follow their lead!

7/1/2020 3:01:50 PM

I would like to formally submit my support of the removal of the Police Department and to replace it with a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. It has been proven that reform is impossible, and the funding of an alternative that can break the harmful cycle of violence and racism (as well as be more effective to help all those who need it with the right experts) is the best course of action.

7/1/2020 3:02:12 PM

Minneapolis needs a police department but it needs to be brought up to speed:

1. Policemen should be required to be Minneapolis residents.
2. Policemen need to be rigorously tested to be sure they are not racists.
3. Policemen should be made aware they will be immediately fired for needless brutality or any unprofessional actions that would be an embarrassment to the City of Minneapolis.

7/1/2020 3:02:18 PM

Please do not abolish the police. Please defund the police and make stricter guidelines and consequence for police brutality, such as firing officers who use chokeholds.

7/1/2020 3:02:42 PM

I absolutely do not support removing the police department or any of this language from the city charter. It seems particularly foolish with no plan to replace them! Reform is absolutely necessary. We need to remove bad cops - which the mayor could do now under the current charter! But we also need to protect and advance the good ones and we need them now more than ever.

The police have been asked to do more and more these days. People call 911 for minor domestic disputes, or if their fast food order is wrong, they are also being asked to go into situations they don't control that are increasingly violent and confrontational. There is a legitimately greater need for public service in many of our Minneapolis communities. Instead of eliminating the police, I would like to see the ADDITION of a public safety group of licensed peace officers who work in conjunction with the police to provide a presence, diagnose, de-escalate and determine the necessary action to hopefully eliminate the conflicts, violence and demand on the police department and fire departments so they can focus on other priorities. This group could be created to help serve the community for these types of situations perhaps with a local representative serving each neighborhood. I think the Minneapolis DID ambassador group is a great starting point. My wife wrote this and I wholeheartedly agree, "I don't believe a small enforcement division within the Safety prevention department should replace the current police department. I also feel removing the Police Department from the city charter will have an enormous economic impact to the city. National conferences, sporting events, companies will look at that when considering to do business in Minneapolis, and I feel they will choose not to. but abolishing the police department is not the answer. I also believe all of this is being too rushed just to make the November ballot. If this is truly something the City Council wants to consider they need to take their time and actually have public hearings to listen to their constituents before pushing through a reactive agenda. Please do not amend the City Charter to remove a police force."

These issues are complex and anyone who claims that they have the solution before they have listened, investigated and discussed with everyone in the community is a real danger. A sense of urgency is extremely important to determining what the right path forward is, however reactionary poorly vetted decisions by those seeking to deflect from their own role in this crisis will have a serious long term impact for everyone and will do more harm than good. A comment in the Star Tribune regarding this story said "US Bank stadium took 9 years to design and build and 6 years to determine where it should be located". As an architect who has lived and worked in Minneapolis for 25 years I have seen many projects planned and built - and those that are pushed through planning rapidly without thought for details or input from those who are impacted are prone to ugly mistakes which may or may not show up at first, but are certain to create serious problems down the line. Thank you for reading.

7/1/2020 3:02:47 PM

Three strikes for police officers, any violation of civil rights is strike 1,2, and 3 is termination. Any infraction of violence, excessive force is immediate termination and prosecution, former officer is placed on a national database and deemed ineligible for any further employment in any police/law enforcement defense department, security officer position, or any such authority position. Police department will STOP protecting their own and all police unions are disbanded. The public is NOW in charge!!!

7/1/2020 3:02:57 PM

I am 100% in support of this effort and the subsequent plans to work with the community to create a racially just and equitable support system for Minneapolis. I only hope the required funding for mental health, social services, education, healthcare and housing actual come along with it because frequently those budgets are cut for policing.

7/1/2020 3:03:26 PM

Please allow the City to vote on a charter amendment. We have the chance to something big to protect all residents and stakeholders of Minneapolis, and to deny that choice to citizens would be shameful.
Ward 10

7/1/2020 3:03:45 PM

I feel strongly that the police department in its current form has defied all attempts to Reform. I think the primary causes are the culture set by the union president and the huge percentage of officers who aren't even members of our own community. It's clear that to make our streets safe for all people the current police force must be eradicated and a new public safety force should be built from scratch that includes people from the community who are experts in mental and behavioral health, social work, case work, homelessness and addiction. A much smaller force could be called for violent crimes but instead of jailing people we should find them a place to sleep and help them get treatment for their difficulties. I want to see peace officers in my neighborhood who know all the shopkeepers and have relationships with people. Not only do I never see a cop in my neighborhood, they don't even come when I call.

7/1/2020 3:03:49 PM

In Article VII, Section 7.3(a)(1), the proposed ordinance states that the persons eligible to be appointed as the director of the department of community safety "will have non-law enforcement experience in community safety services, including but not limited to public health and/or restorative justice approaches." My concern with this language is that it allowed former police officers who may have

taken a short course or training on public health/restorative justice approaches to fulfill the job description and take back a position that is not meant to be theirs (according to the weeks of protests and community demands). This position should not be given to a former police officer, point blank. If we want to reform policing, there is no sense putting this new department in the hands of someone who has been a part of the system causing deaths all over the Metro area, let alone the rest of our state and country. I understand that some new members of this department may be former police officers, but those people should not be in charge of this revolutionary new city department intended to eradicate police brutality. Thus, in addition to the language that ensures that the new director of this community safety department has "non-law enforcement experience in community safety services, including but not limited to public health and/or restorative justice approaches," I would press the City Council for more language defining who may not be eligible for this role. For example: "Persons who have served any other municipality or agency as a police officer, criminal investigator, immigration officer, [any other law enforcement positions the city council may be aware of that are missing from my short list] or any other law enforcement role are not eligible for the position of director of the department of community safety and shall not be nominated by the mayor or considered by the city council." In that same vein, Section 7.3(b) of Article VII should include more language on the requirements needed to become a "peace officer" under the ordinance. I would suggest that applicants be subject to screening for bias (including racial and gender bias); complete written, video, and in-person tests to determine the threat level that triggers an applicant's aggression; undergo assessments for empathy, impulse control, paranoia and independent thinking; and if they are former police officers, submit all police misconduct, civil allegations, and criminal charges with their job application for review. Additionally, the director of the law enforcement services division (Section 7.3(b)(1)) shall also be subject to the same language, ensuring that this individual is as thoroughly vetted as the department they will be overseeing. I also think there needs to be language on how much we pay the law enforcement services division to ensure that it does not grow to the same size or magnitude as the current Minneapolis Police Department. The department of community safety and its peace officers should not have the budget to purchase military-grade weapons: rather, this department and these individuals should be paid enough to sustain community safety and guarantee persons a stable income to provide for them and their families. Finally, any military weapons that the department may receive as a sort of hand-me-down from the former Minneapolis Police Department cannot be used and the city council must provide a way to get rid of the weapons without donating them to other police departments or selling them to civilians.

7/1/2020 3:04:00 PM

It is clear to me at this point that the city council does not have any kind of defined plan for police reform, or police abolishment, or whatever it is they are doing. Sorry, but this looks like political posturing, given this same city council's egregious failure to address police brutality in the past.

Who was consulted before proposing this charter amendment? I don't recall any hearings. I don't recall any kind of meetings that were open to the public. I don't recall any communication with the community. The city council claims they are listening. Who are they listening to?

Who is calling for police abolition? Because to me, this is not, by any means, a consensus in the community. Seems to me like this is the city council doing what they want to, not what the community is asking them to do. As it has been for years. I will not be voting for any of the existing city council members in 2021. I do not support this amendment.

7/1/2020 3:04:07 PM

I do not agree with removing the police department. I think the head of the union should go and reforms should be put in place.

7/1/2020 3:04:10 PM

Police have proven time and time again that they are not interested in serving our community and that they cannot be trusted to police themselves. I want the MPD defunded and dismantled and reset as a much smaller force under a community safety organization that used a multifaceted approach to preventing and treating violence.

7/1/2020 3:04:28 PM

As a member of the Minneapolis community, I expect and deserve to vote on this in the coming election. Thank you Ward 11

7/1/2020 3:04:34 PM

The existing charter sets a minimum size for the police FORCE, not the number of police OFFICERS so it is not necessary to change the charter in order to change the nature of the police department.

There should be no changes to duties and authorities of the Council and Mayor without full mapping of the consequences and serious consideration of a different form of government. It's enough of a mess as it is.

Many residents are upset by the idea of abolishing the police department. They live in neighborhoods that have very few major crimes. They wonder how much service they will receive from the new Department. Will it be less because there are fewer traditional police officers and they can usually take care of their own mental health and family problems? What do they do at 2 am when the neighbors down the block are away and their teenage child is having a party with loud music with intoxicated guests wandering around? How can residents vote when they don't know what it means to them?
Ward 7

7/1/2020 3:04:47 PM

I absolutely agree that the PD must be removed and we move forward with specialists that can be anti violent. This would be a huge move for MN. Many residents would feel safer knowing there are professionals that can protect the city without the risk of unnecessary force.

7/1/2020 3:05:58 PM

I think that changing the name of the Police Department to include more of a service and peace-making emphasis is good for starters. I do hear repeatedly in comments from the public (e.g., on the NextDoor site) that there will remain a need for the department to have a responsibility to ensure individual and community safety, but I sure do hope that function is approached more from the perspective of caring and support for the human being-ness of us all, rather than the stomping out, of undesirable behavior. And I hope that employees of this new department are screened more carefully so that racists, white supremacists, and such hateful types of people are not hired.

7/1/2020 3:06:43 PM

Do not abolish Mpls. Police; defund. Broaden community representation on this important topic. Mpls residents feel as if you are making decisions in a vacuum...slow down, do due diligence before your actions hurt us...Please!

7/1/2020 3:07:12 PM

I am in favor of the proposed amendment because from what I have read and heard directly from friends and loved ones, current ways of policing Minneapolis has not and is not working for all residents. My thinking is that it is worth trying this approach and giving it our best shot. Other communities have had success. Let us reimagine how to keep everyone safe. We could commit to trying for a period of time and if it proves unmanageable/unworkable we can try another approach. Reform has not worked. Time for another way. Ward 1

7/1/2020 3:07:18 PM

Hello, My name is [REDACTED] and I have lived in Minneapolis for nearly 27 years. I'm writing to urge you to allow the residents of Minneapolis to vote on the amendment in the city charter. To be completely honest, I am new to following the hierarchy of our local government. I do know that systemic racism is real and have closely watched as police brutality has truly shown its ugly face; which we all know is not new.

Let's show up and show the country that we want to pave the way for change, safe access for help for communities of color among many other reasons.

Be smart, safe and wear a mask.

Thank you for your time and reading my note. Please strongly consider what we want. Ward 12

7/1/2020 3:07:42 PM

I have serious reservations about the proposed amendment to the City Charter and I would vote against it if it was up for a vote in November. I think it is premature and possibly dangerous. The basic problem to this amendment is that it provides both a diagnosis (the police system is unmanageably flawed) and a solution (a new entity, controlled by the Council). However, it does both of these things without any kind of plan for a new system and without clarity on the proposed amendment change impacts in the short-term without a plan. I see this as a set-up for institutional failure.

I believe that deep, structural change to policing needs to happen. I am disappointed that the Council resorted to grandstanding for political gain instead of attending to both process and serious action. I also see it as a systematic attempt to throw both Police Chief Arradondo and Mayor Frey under the bus... a deep mistake because the City needs these two committed people to enact lasting and significant change. Policy making should never have as its primary intent a public punishing or shaming. Both of these leaders have been doing good work and have good insights into what needs to happen to make change in Minneapolis.

The Council must first engage with the entire City and its citizens around police changes. This discussion needs to be inclusive and passionate, thoughtful and focused. This would be an excellent leadership opportunity for the Council. If, after a year of exchange, there was general support for a plan that also required a Charter Amendment, then and only then would a proposal to change the Charter make sense. By doing it at this time, the Council is attempting to put the cart before the horse, control the process (rather than lead it), and define the scope of the debate as well as its solution. This is not

democracy in action. And I have serious concerns about putting any new system in oversight of the Council given this behavior.

I have been very impressed thus far with how Police Chief Arradondo and Mayor Frey have been proceeding with policing policy change, beginning with their first act which was to fire the officers involved in George Floyd's death. I see that they understand the systems they face as well as the obstacles. They are working forward in a transparent and forthright way, and I think that we need to give them a chance to do their work while the political momentum is present to do it. We must have lasting change. We need the expertise and commitment of Police Chief Arradondo.

I recommend NOT approving this proposed amendment to the Charter for November's ballot. I encourage the City Council to work diligently and passionately to work with Police Chief Arradondo and Mayor Frey, and to lead discussions among the voters of Minneapolis to support further actions. Systemic change makes no sense without culture change. The Council can lead on both without this amendment to the Charter. We must do better as a society. And the Council must do better, too. Thank you for the opportunity to offer a response and suggestions.

7/1/2020 3:07:54 PM

Please do this important work and let mpls Residents vote in November

7/1/2020 3:08:02 PM

Please do not disband, defund, or remove the MPD. The citizens, businesses, and visitors of the city deserve police services. If the City Council can obtain private security paid for by tax payers, the tax payers and people deserve the same amount of protection and treatment.

7/1/2020 3:08:09 PM

I have read through the text written by City Council members Ellison, Cano, Gordon, Fletcher, and Bender, and there are a number of severe concerns I have. Firstly, they simply strike out the section outlining the police department, then in essence they simply rename it, this "Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention", under which it is quickly added that "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.", clearly indicating that in removing the Minneapolis Police Department, the EXACT SAME content as that department is simply now under the jurisdiction of a different department.

In addition to this, the amendment refuses to make clear who the department directly reports to in matters of discipline. Previously the Mayor oversaw this, but now it is lost in the vague mess of the language of this amendment, saying only that it is the City Council's responsibility to establish, fund and maintain, and "engage the public about" this department.

The most vital question is still never even touched upon, that of how will this institution be accountable to the community. Having lived in this city for a long time, I've seen how the City Council (and the Mayor, whose responsibility the MPD was under the previous charter) cannot be trusted to hold this institution accountable. It remains still true that the former police officers that murdered George Floyd, though arrested, have not been indicted, convicted, and sent to jail, and for that matter 3 of them have been admitted to pay bond and leave, all while the City Council has tried to entertain us with this dance around the actual questions of justice.

This proposed charter amendment does nothing to ensure justice, does not even truly dismantle the police department, and in fact makes far more vague who has the power to discipline, hire and fire, etc., which simply makes it more difficult to demand justice, and to actually hold the institution in question accountable.

7/1/2020 3:08:38 PM

I fully support de-funding MPD. Their current outcomes are completely horrendous as a department from just a crime solving perspective. We need to shed the police union which has halted progress, and replace the police department with a more segmented list of resources to send out in times of crisis such as social workers, nurses, etc. We also need to invest in long term social programs to help cure systemic problems in the future. We're reaping the seeds of defunding community programs right now and that has to change long term. We still need a police force but it has to be smaller, and community focused staffed with people who are invested in their communities. Re-focus the budget on community programs.

7/1/2020 3:08:48 PM

I think that hearings should be held and the specifics of the new department outlined and only then should the Charter be amended to create the new department. In that way the voters will know what they are voting for by approving the Charter amendments

7/1/2020 3:08:53 PM

While I do believe there are necessary and radical reforms to our police department, including a vast reduction in power bestowed upon the Federation/Union when it comes to employee training and retention/discipline, I feel it's completely irresponsible to rush through this process and amend the Charter without specific details. Public Safety is NOT the sort of thing that can be figured out as you go along. I'm also not confident, based on the proposed amendment, who would be determining those changes. If the City Councilmembers plan on making these changes unilaterally, then I am most certainly not in favor of that plan.

Due to lack of an actual, cohesive plan, I cannot support this proposal. Ward 1

7/1/2020 3:09:16 PM

I have lived, went to school and worked in Minneapolis for many years. I currently live in Saint Paul but still frequent Minneapolis for sporting events, meeting friends, and other activities. I have been more concerned about my safety the last few years while in Minneapolis than I have at any point in my life. I do not feel taking my family, particularly my elderly parents, to Twins games or other activities is feasible due to behaviors in and around the light rail. We depend on that to get to and from our Minneapolis destinations. I do not have faith that a plan can be developed and implemented in such a way to remove the presence law enforcement from the downtown area that actually improves the state it is in right now. The idea proposed suggests a disconnect between the council members and the experience that ordinary people currently have just trying to navigate the streets of downtown. Thank you. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 3:09:19 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please support expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolitans can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election. Please, let us vote. Ward 10

7/1/2020 3:09:23 PM

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

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

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

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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.

Personal note here... I've grown up here, I live here now. Watching the police defend their building while they let the neighborhood burn was disgusting. Abandoning the building only to then no longer police the neighborhoods was tough. We called 911 twice during the days that followed, once for witnessing potential explosives planted on a neighbor's yard and once for an individual trespassing on my yard and breaking my fence as a threat for me organizing a lookout system. I put my faith into a system I knew was broken but had no other choice. No one came, no one ever followed up and I realized we mitt only ask too much of our police but they're not even doing the basics at this point. I know they care, not all but most, but nobody sees it anymore; the status quo is lost. We can do it better. Law enforcement can adapt; they must adapt. We still need badasses, but we need to call the shots - this is history in the making, and bureaucracy had its chance but there's too much pain and the trauma is real. Give us a voice. Ward 2

7/1/2020 3:09:29 PM

I hope that the Charter Commission agrees to add questions to the ballot to determine whether the Police Department is replaced by a Department of Community Safety with a division comprised of peace officers. Thank you! Ward 8

7/1/2020 3:09:35 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis, I am concerned with the language in the City Charter amendment as proposed by City Council. I wish to be clear that my concern stems from full support of abolishing the police long term. We must work to abolish the police and replace it with community care initiatives. It has been shown time and again that the police department cannot overcome its racist and white supremacist roots through reform therefore abolition is the only path forward. Please note that all emphasis in the below quotations of the proposed amendment is my own.

Firstly, the amendment of the charter must make clear that any new "department of community safety and violence prevention" will not be led or staffed by current or former police officers.

The language of the proposed amendment is critically important; the City Council could have and should have held a public hearing and taken recommendations for appropriate and complete language prior to sending this amendment through to the Charter Commission.

Of the current proposed changes to the City Charter, I unequivocally support the following: striking Section 7.3(c) from the charter.

In closing I would request the City Charter Commission, as outlined in Minn. Stat. 410.12, subd. 5, submit a substitute proposal to be considered by the City Council if and only if that substitute proposal can be mandated to receive a public hearing and have input from the community. If a substitute amendment from the City Charter Commission can only go back to the Council for a yay/nay vote without the above stipulations, then the Council should, quite plainly, go back to the drawing board.

This is fundamental and too important to get wrong.

7/1/2020 3:09:46 PM

Dear Commissioners:

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

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

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

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

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

Please support the expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that we can exercise our democratic right to vote on a significant barrier to re-imagining public safety in our city. Please let us vote. Ward 12

7/1/2020 3:11:19 PM

The City Council is comprised of ill-informed reactionary idiots who have caused Minneapolis to become a global laughing stock and disgrace.

Now some of the fools are receiving tax payer funded private security because their lives are being threatened. Do they truly believe they're the only Mpls residents whose lives are being threatened or otherwise endangered? What about everyone else's private security?

DO NOT DEFUND THE POLICE! Instead, provide ongoing comprehensive training so these poor souls can better deal with the disastrous ramifications of the Great Society. You wanna go do their job?

7/1/2020 3:11:40 PM

I am in full support of the Police Department being replaced with a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. The police were created to reinforce slavery, in the form of prison labor, by brutalizing and rounding up more people to be put in prisons. Predominantly Black and Brown people. Systemic racism is in the blood of the Police Department, and they have proven unwilling and/or unable to reform themselves. They do not live in the communities they police, so they have no stake in their well being. The communities they inhabit (both within the force and in their homes) do not hold them accountable, and the ones the police are unable to. That much has been proven by this uprising. There are studies upon studies on layers of why the police force is irreparably and, more importantly, inherently flawed. From the school to prison pipeline, to the daunting fact that 40% of police officers abuse their spouse (and that is only the ones who have come forward), the level that the police department has run rampant is unacceptable. There is no need for uneducated, racist beefheads to carry deadly weapons and exercise excessive force (a conveniently subjective term) against people they have sworn to protect, who need help rather than brutality. A community based prevention department could actually help lift people out of situations where they feel compelled to commit "crimes." Or people who have been abandoned due to mental health or disability. They could help house the houseless and work to employ them. We can imagine so much more than this bleak police state dystopia. And we are setting the example for other cities, maybe even the country. Please do this.

7/1/2020 3:11:44 PM

While I believe that the an overwhelming majority of the city's residents agree that changes must be made to address the horrible event of last Memorial Day, and all of the inequities that proceeded it, and that no delay should be permitted to enact those changes in culture and services, I am concerned that the proposed Charter amendment does nothing but give the Council a blank check on reform. Before I can support such a proposal I need to know the details. This is too important a moment to waste. I fear that the rush to address the issues, without providing the residents of Minneapolis with exquisite detail of the changes, will not result in the advancement of a safer city for all. I understand the Council plans a year of listening, I'd like to make sure that they actually hear and promulgate an effective alternative to what now exists. Tell me what you want to do to gain my support. Do not waste this opportunity.

7/1/2020 3:11:56 PM

I'm up for major changes to restructure the police department to mitigate racial discrimination and violent encounters. But this amendment doesn't have a lot of details on how that would all work. Seems like a rash effort to 'do something'.

7/1/2020 3:12:23 PM

In general, I like this plan. While it may be more appropriate in legislation than charter, I would like to see some visible guardrails placed around the Law Enforcement Division's rights and responsibilities.

7/1/2020 3:12:39 PM

I urge the Minneapolis Charter Commission to reject the Minneapolis City Council's charter amendment to fundamentally change the Minneapolis police department. This is an unsound and deeply flawed non plan that should be rejected. Thank you. Ward 13

7/1/2020 3:12:49 PM

I am in support of amendment to the Minneapolis City Charter to provide for the establishment of a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and to remove the Police Department.

7/1/2020 3:13:09 PM

Hello, I am [REDACTED] a resident of the Holland Neighborhood in Ward 1. I understand this is all moving quite fast and it is a lot to consider. That said, I believe that our current police force is overwhelmingly problematic at best and we need to overhaul the way we look at public safety. This charter change enables that conversation to take place. One particular issue that I find concerning is the requirement that the director not have Law enforcement background? I don't know that is necessary but I do understand the goal to move away from the current model. Please support this charter change. Thank you for your time. Ward 1

7/1/2020 3:13:37 PM

I support the concept of what the charter is trying to do. I don't know if police reform can really occur with the current structure of the MPD and its relationship with the city of Minneapolis. I have a few concerns with the proposed charter amendment though.

The first is that it seems like a power play on the part of the city council (elected by local wards) to take this function from the control of the mayor who is elected by the city at large.

Part of defunding is to reallocate moneys to disadvantaged communities, but isn't some of that now the responsibility of Hennepin County? What is the county's role going to be in this? I think there's going to have to be a lot of coordination with Hennepin County services for this to be effective.

I do feel there will need to be law enforcement officers. I know the charter says that is conditional, but my experience (mainly from my youth) is that some sort of law enforcement is required to maintain some order in society.

My last concern is that I feel they are asking us to consider something that is very vague at the moment. I know there hasn't been a lot of time, but I wish there were greater specifics and detail about how public safety will be handled with the goals of greater social and racial equity.

7/1/2020 3:13:52 PM

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

No matter the color of our skin or where we come from, all of us deserve to live in a community where we feel safe and our lives are valued. We deserve to live peaceful, happy, healthy lives in spaces where

communities of color, particularly Black community members, are not targeted, harassed, brutalized, and murdered by our public servants. Despite good-faith efforts to reform, years of evidence show us that the problems of the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) are deep.

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

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

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

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

Please support expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolitans can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election. Please, let us vote. Ward 9

7/1/2020 3:13:57 PM

I am writing to urge you on a matter of utmost importance, to listen to the people as they express their rights to vote. Citizens

of Minneapolis must be granted the right to vote on the future of their public safety system.

People of all color, economic status, or color deserve to feel safe and thrive in the communities they live in. Peaceful, healthy lives are deserved and black communities have been targeted and denied the right of safety for too long. For too long has the black community been harassed, targeted, and murdered due to the systems that have failed in good-reform. Despite faithful efforts to reform, years of evidence show us that the problems of the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) are deep.

We cannot tolerate the police brutality and mistreatment of the public from our Police Department. George Floyd's murder had been a wake up call, reminding us all of the violence and abuse to Native Americans, Black and people of color, journalists, protestors and the public at the hands of those who were meant to protect and serve.

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

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

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

Please support expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolisians can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election. Please, let us vote. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 3:14:19 PM

I am a 57 year Mpls resident, moved here as an adult from Chicago. Three children and five grandchildren raised in Mpls, still live here.

I have some sympathy with the ideas and proposals made by those favoring this amendment but I am opposed to it largely because of the process that is taking place. This is a serious and important topic and it needs thorough and careful debate and discussion, not the "hurry-up and push this through" action that is taking place

This proposed amendment is a "pig in a poke." It lacks very important clarification and analysis on many major issues.

1. It eliminates the Mayor as the sole public official in charge of Police. Public Safety and apparently places that control in the hands of 13 council members and the Mayor. How will that work? has anyone else tried this approach? etc.
2. It says that this new department would take a "holistic" and Public Health oriented approach. What does any of that mean ?
3. It says that the Council MAY maintain some "law enforcement services." I'm glad to read that but it puts a lot of trust in the political/ideological make-up of any particular Council, this one or any one in the future
4. The process and structure for the leadership of this "Director of Law Enforcement" need a lot more work and thought before being adopted.
5. I gave up trying to understand where the Fire Department fits into all this.

I could go on but won't. This proposal is the BEGINNING of a work in progress; it's no where ready for a vote on changing the Minneapolis Charter Ward 7

7/1/2020 3:15:27 PM

As a resident of Robbinsdale but a commuter in Minneapolis, I am asking that you give residents the opportunity to vote on our own public safety system.

I have had family members experience violence at the hands of police, and will not tolerate continued police brutality, corruption, and militarization. It is ABSURD that the charter prohibits police accountability. Take a long look at yourselves, what are you protecting?

I do, however, vehemently support organized community safety solutions. As a city, we have the opportunity to build equitable, EFFECTIVE, preventative public health and safety measures that address the root causes of crime.

It's time we grow forward together as a city. Please support expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolisians can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election. Please, let us vote. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 3:15:48 PM

I will not accept the charter change merely renaming and reincorporating the Minneapolis Police Department to a "community safety & violence prevention department" while still including a Division of Law Enforcement Services "composed of licensed peace officers". We must DEFUND and ABOLISH the police. Our Black, Indigenous, and otherwise brown neighbors, cousins, and siblings deserve better.

7/1/2020 3:16:03 PM

More police and more training. Also increase their budget! We need them.

7/1/2020 3:16:09 PM

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

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

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

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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 3

7/1/2020 3:16:57 PM

Housing is a human right, I urge you to meet the demands of the Sanctuary Movement. Preserve the dignity and rights of the most vulnerable people of Minneapolis, we are watching.

7/1/2020 3:17:11 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis and more specifically as a homeowner in the Powderhorn Park neighborhood, I support the proposed change to the city charter. I believe that we need to get rid of the current police structure and replace it with a focus on more behavioral health/restorative justice measures. I do still support there being some sort of law enforcement agency as is called out in the proposed changes to the charter. Please pass this proposed change to the city charter. Thank you!!

7/1/2020 3:17:58 PM

Do Not Abolish! Defund MPD and reallocate funds for community based programs.

Reform MPD and elevate voices of color within MPD.

Remove and prosecute racist/abusive MPD officers.

City Council and Mayor Frey, please slow down and listen to voices of color that have been demanding MPD reform for many years already. If you can't do that, then step down. Do Not Abolish!

7/1/2020 3:18:03 PM

Charter Commission - As I know you are all aware, there seems to (finally) be some momentum for social change in some necessary areas. I think that, in principle, most Minneapolis residents agree on that. A much more difficult question is what those changes need to look like - but we can develop a plan based on information gathered through community comments, looking at research and studies of the issues, looking at what other jurisdictions do and studying what is effective and what is not, etc. I understand that barriers and delays to change (like a City Charter) can be frustrating. However, as a trained lawyer, I also understand that changes like this can't be made quickly and when we rush things there are often unintended consequences. I think about how many times we have to make administrative fixes or advocate for follow-up legislation because people who weren't the experts on something (elected officials) put a law together and their lack of expertise and the fact that they rushed it through meant that it didn't play out as expected and caused other problems.

In my practice area -- the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is a great example. It is a complicated set of changes. There are plenty of areas of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that still make very little sense to practitioners that work with it, clients can't get a lot of confidence on what to do, provisions have already been repealed, etc. The result has been great for lawyers and accountants that make lots of money helping people try to figure out how to exist with the new rules, but plenty of people and businesses can't pay anyone to do it and if the legislation causes confusion for the experts -- it is even worse for many of the people/businesses. Part of the problem with the current system (whatever system you want to talk about, really) is that plenty of people don't know how to influence change and even with the internet, that information is not always the easiest to find. Creating something of this magnitude on the fly/piecemeal without full preparation is likely to make it difficult for all sorts of people to manage the new world order that results -- again, not that change isn't good and needed -- but so is predictability, understanding, and preparation.

It could be that a city charter amendment makes sense after we are able to put together that plan -- but I do not think that this amendment is sufficient as written. At a minimum (and if possible) I guess it could be passed but not effective until x, y, and z happen. Implementing new changes of this magnitude will require significant amounts of new rules/regulations, procedures, handbooks, trainings, etc.,

particularly because there aren't a lot of examples for how it should work (and there isn't a one-size fits all answer). Thank you for considering my comments. Ward 3

7/1/2020 3:18:49 PM

I fully support this charter amendment being on the ballot. Please give us the chance to vote on this so citizens can have a say in how Minneapolis manages public safety.

7/1/2020 3:18:55 PM

It will be a lawless city that I wouldn't consider living in. Just who is going to respond to the rash of shootings that are occurring lately? It is interesting that it is never stated that most of these shooting are caused by Blacks shooting Blacks. Are these people going to be patrolling the streets of Minneapolis? I wouldn't live there if you gave me the house. I can't wait for the law abiding people to move out of Minneapolis to the suburbs.

I also can't wait to see parents pull their children out of Minneapolis public schools, where there is no police presence to another district where their children can be safe.

7/1/2020 3:19:18 PM

I've lived within a block from Lake Street for 50 years and I NEVER in my wildest dreams would I think that myself and my family would be left to fend for ourselves while our neighborhood burned. Now you children on our great City's council want to get rid of the police, what are you thinking?!? Rewind a few weeks to what just happened for a preview of a city without police will look like. Let's defund the weak mayor system and the Minneapolis city council instead, maybe then there can be true advancement in our city. Ward 2

7/1/2020 3:19:37 PM

I would like to express my strong support for this amendment. Despite the confusion and misinformation around this proposal, I am optimistic that by reimagining public safety in a way that places more emphasis (and funding!) in areas like addressing homelessness, mental illness, domestic abuse, and substance abuse, we can at the same time have a much more effective response when it comes to violent crime that does require response from some kind of public safety officer. Right now the police department tries to do too much with too little, and consequently does none of it well. When additional funds are allocated, they not invested in the areas that are most effective in addressing the complex problems we face in a large city like Minneapolis. Just hiring more officers is not the answer -- it means there are even more people with not enough training in the right kinds of skills and with the right kinds of interests. It is my fervent hope that we will not lose momentum on this process, and that we will have the courage to try to do something new.

7/1/2020 3:19:59 PM

I would strongly urge the City Council to incorporate all the work done by the MPD150 group as part of this process to amend the charter and change the ways in which policing is done in Minneapolis.

7/1/2020 3:20:11 PM

Before supporting this amendment, I would need to know more specifically what duties this "Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department" would have. Merely renaming the Police Department seems like an empty gesture.

I also question the idea of ruling out anyone with a law enforcement background from overseeing this department, although I would expect that individual to have significant training in a field such as mental health and/or social work, as well.

Perhaps it would be wiser to have a more precisely articulated set of expectations for such a department before we create it. While there seems to be broad agreement about what the department shouldn't do, I've yet to see a clear articulation of what it should do.

7/1/2020 3:22:10 PM

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

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

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

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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 10

7/1/2020 3:23:16 PM

I support replacing the MPD with a proper public-safety oriented department, and I support the stipulation that the director of this department have non-law enforcement experience in community safety services. I'm concerned, however, that the language in the proposed amendment may leave room for the director to have both non-law enforcement experience AND ALSO law-enforcement experience. I suggest an edit: "Individuals eligible to be appointed as director will have no experience working in law enforcement but will have non-law enforcement experience in community safety services, including but not limited to public health and/or restorative justice approaches."

Likewise, neither the head nor any of the members of the Law Enforcement Services division should be current or former members of MPD, and this should be stated outright. We have witnessed over and over that MPD, indeed U.S. law enforcement in general, is intrinsically white-supremacist. We cannot allow its culture to endure in our city institutions. Any alterations made to Minneapolis law enforcement should be directed toward the ultimate goal of abolition. We have all the evidence we need that policing harms our communities and that reforms do not work.

If the city is too timid in its confrontation with our police now, we risk a violent backlash by those forces, who, emboldened by the city's incomplete reckoning, will seek revenge against the communities that resisted them.

7/1/2020 3:23:30 PM

I desperately want to see police reform and a system put in place that allows all citizens to have equal access to justice and safety, but I can't in good conscience support this charter without more information on what the plan for the new system is and why we think it will result in better outcomes. We need to move quickly, but not recklessly. Making a decision to do something of this scale without a good understanding of what comes next is reckless and will likely result in worse outcomes for all citizens.

7/1/2020 3:24:11 PM

I am in favor of the charter amendment and the establishment of a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. I am curious what the requirements will be to become a licensed peace officer. Training in de-escalation, trauma intervention, social services? In the case of a potentially armed public (second amendment), would peace officers be allowed to carry firearms? My gut is to suggest that peace officers aren't given weapons, but I wonder if that is sending them into harm's way without protection. In any case, I wonder, in what forum will details like these, specifying the broad meaning of the amendment, be negotiated? Will it be open to the public? Who will be at the table? In the meantime, thank you for all of your good work.

7/1/2020 3:24:14 PM

There was not nearly enough time for comments from constituents. This in itself is a big part of the problem with the City Council.

Regarding the Amendments: This gives too much power to the City Council. We already have a weak mayor system and this further erodes the Mayor's role. I do agree to the idea of removing the police department in favor of a community safety group, however the City Council should not be responsible for this. We need division of power in the city.

7/1/2020 3:24:29 PM

We have seen in the recent weeks that Minneapolis, indeed the nation, is in need of serious policy reforms and real changes in the way we practice and envision public safety. The MPLS PD is protected by an outdated City Charter that does not allow the voices of constituents to be heard. Indeed, a charter that does not value the lives of all residents in this city. Minneapolis has in some ways led the way in police reforms but clearly these reforms have done little to nothing to protect black lives. We need to lead the nation by amending the charter and creating a new public safety system.

Please support the expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that we Minneapolitans can exercise our voices in the upcoming November election. Let us vote! Ward 13

7/1/2020 3:24:34 PM

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

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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 7

7/1/2020 3:24:37 PM

I support the charter amendment. As a resident of Minneapolis, I can only describe my relationship with the MPD as one of fear and apprehension. I do not trust them to provide any level safety to my community. As I do not fear that any group of armed individuals, no matter how pure their intentions, can provide safety to a community. The police department trades in the business of violence, even if that violence is intended only for "bad" individuals. The act of policing brings violence into a

community. I believe it is time for a modern approach to community safety. One that involves unarmed individuals aiming to deescalate violent situations rather to inflame them.

I fully expect this attempt to redefine the enforcement of safety will lead to uncomfortable situations and mistakes. However, one must compare this uncertainty with the system we currently have in place. A system that breeds violence and dissent and continues to dissolve trust between law enforcers and the communities they claim to serve. People should have trust in government and the institutions that serve the public good. Now is a chance to reclaim that trust and bring greater accountability and transparency into the local infrastructure and community. Let us show the nation and lead by example.

7/1/2020 3:25:58 PM

We need a transformation, not more reforms. Minneapolis has faithfully with good intentions facilitated trainings in their efforts to reform-

de-escalation and implicit racial bias training, tighter use-of-force standards, adopted body cameras and achieved a high compliance rate, initiated a series of police-community dialogues, enhanced early-warning systems to identify problem officers, banned warrior training, created incentives for officers to live where they work, improved the pursuit policy; the list goes on. But we see time and time again these efforts failing to protect and serve members of the community. The people of Minneapolis, especially Black communities deserve to feel safe, valued, worthy, and respected. Enough with reforms, it's time to for transformational change.

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

The City Charter belongs to the people, and we deserve a chance to exercise our democratic voice. Give people to exercise their right to vote on the Charter amendment this November on this crucial issue.

Please, let the people of Minneapolis vote. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 3:26:40 PM

I am heavily in favor of this. Heavily.

7/1/2020 3:27:33 PM

There is no doubt that changes are needed within the law enforcement department, but to disband the department as a whole makes no sense. We need true law enforcement in the city. Rather, assign the "policing" of the department to an outside group (the State AD), rather than the self-policing that is in place today. Further, the police union needs to be dis-banded, as it has and is a contributing factor in many of the problems that there are in the department. Ward 7

7/1/2020 3:27:59 PM

No

7/1/2020 3:28:13 PM

I support City Council's proposal to amend the city charter. However, I want to know that a Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department will not be led by current or former law enforcement. I do not want this amendment to the charter to end in the same police department with a different name, that is simply not good enough and would be in complete ignorance of what the people demand. Ward 10

7/1/2020 3:28:38 PM

I strongly support the proposed charter amendment. I am a resident of Minneapolis and this amendment would make me feel safer. Removing the Police Department and establishing a Community of Safety and Violence Prevention Department prioritizes the right things for Minneapolis, the things I care about: our community, our safety, and preventing violence. The residents of Minneapolis have experienced violence from Police. Community members deserve the chance to vote on this important amendment, so I strongly support putting it on the ballot in November. I am currently afraid to call the police for any reason, because I worry that I might be physically harmed or cause someone else to be harmed or even killed. Because I cannot call the police without fear, a new department would help me feel so much safer. I also worry for friends who have shared many stories of unjust policing, frequent traffic stops, and cruel behavior from Minneapolis police. We deserve the chance to vote for a community department that helps create safety for all residents. We deserve a chance to vote for an end to the deaths of our residents at the hands of the police. Please help us build a safer community, a community dedicated to justice, a peaceful community. Please advance this amendment and put it on the ballot.

7/1/2020 3:28:59 PM

I am for defunding the police, not completely dismantling it and giving those resources to invest in community organizations that can help with a variety of crisis. Take the police out of responding to every call.

It is absolutely imperative that the black community be involved in the creation of a new system of transforming what policing looks like. Organizations like Communities United Against Police Brutality. Not only do we need to reform and defund our police, we also need to reform our prison systems, along with defunding the police.

7/1/2020 3:30:03 PM

As a member of the Minneapolis community, I have seen/been a part of enough firsthand examples (frankly, any more than zero is unacceptable) of the MPD abusing their power and systematically discriminating against people of color. The time is now to address their issues. I was at several peaceful protests where I saw tear gas and "non lethal" weapons discharged irresponsibly/illegally by cops with a vengeance. This is a system beyond reforming, beyond retraining, and does not deserve additional funding in a feeble attempt to address this deeply rooted issue. George Floyd's death was an unfortunate catalyst for this type of change, but it is the community's right to vote on this issue and amend the dated City Charter language that is holding us back from a safer and less racist society in Minneapolis. Please, grant us the right to vote on this critical issue. Ward 10

7/1/2020 3:30:19 PM

We need more funding for social workers and resources for homelessness. I was a social worker and have done many different forms of social work in my past. If we had more programs to educate, help become sober and affordable housing, many of our social issues would work themselves out within a generation.

7/1/2020 3:30:32 PM

Do not just rebrand the existing MPD and offer the same folks jobs with a new title! We need real change. We need to be truly free of Bob Kroll and the police union and we need to get rid of officers with violent records & histories of domestic abuse at the BARE minimum. No qualified immunity. The entire culture of the MPD is broken and you won't fix that by rebranding it, and you won't fool anyone if that's all you do.

7/1/2020 3:30:44 PM

I am writing today to implore you to allow residents of Minneapolis to vote on amending the City Charter. This has significant implications on the future of our City's public safety system and we deserve the right to have our voices heard.

As a white person, I am deeply troubled by how vastly different my experiences have been with the Minneapolis Police Department in contrast with my Black friends and neighbors. All residents of Minneapolis deserve to live peacefully and not in fear of a Police Department that actively targets, harasses, and murders our Black and Indigenous populations. Sadly, there are many examples of this, but the murder of George Floyd is the most recent reminder that decades of reform has not been enough to eradicate the Department of racial biases that are decades or even centuries old.

I have little faith in our Police Department leadership and believe it is imperative that our City Charter be amended to remove the impenetrable protection it currently gives our Police Officers. Currently, we are unable to hold our Department accountable because it restricts city council oversight, and that needs to change. This is a problem unique to Minneapolis and as a resident and face of this community I urge you to let our voices be heard.

Please support the approval of Charter Amendment language so that us residents of Minneapolis can vote and provide our input into a critically urgent issue in this upcoming election. Thank you. Ward 3

7/1/2020 3:30:58 PM

As a long term Minneapolis resident since 2003 I have only seen police mistreat and abuse people. Whether it be being observed outside my front door or downtown at a protest, which we are legally allowed to assemble. I am for the amendment, as I see wide sweeping change as something that absolutely needs To happen.

7/1/2020 3:31:05 PM

Hello, I am a 5-year resident of Minneapolis, and I wanted to express my strong support for the proposed amendment to remove the Police Department. I stand with Black Visions Collective and Reclaim the Block in advancing the proposed charter amendment as soon as possible. A new, safer community is possible, and the new Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department should not just be a "reformed" version of MPD. Thank you.

Regarding the Minneapolis City Council's proposed amendment 2020-00668: Community Safety and Violence Prevention charter amendment:

I believe that this proposed amendment violates the Minnesota State Constitution's prohibition against special legislation impairing contracts.

I have attached a document with more information:

Attachment:

Regarding the Minneapolis City Council's proposed amendment 2020-00668: Community Safety and Violence Prevention charter amendment:

I believe that this proposed amendment violates the Minnesota State Constitution's prohibition against special legislation impairing contracts.

The Minnesota Constitution prohibits special legislation in the form of bills of attainder.

<https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/pubs/specleg.pdf>

Minnesota Constitution

Article I, Section 11. **Attainers, ex post facto laws and laws impairing contracts prohibited.**

No bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or any law impairing the obligation of contracts shall be passed, and no conviction shall work corruption of blood or forfeiture of estate.

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/constitution/>

This is equivalent to saying that Minneapolis Charter Commission shall not pass a law revoking, invalidating, or altering a contract.

The amendment that City Council is proposing is simply revoking the Police Chief's contract and also removing the Mayor's ability to establish, maintain, and command the police department.

Section 2. Article VII, Section 7.3 of the Minneapolis City Charter

(1) Police chief.

(A) Appointment.

The Mayor nominates and the City Council appoints a police chief under section 8.4(b).

(B) Term. The chief's term is three years.

<https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/3886/MPD%20Charter%20Amendment%20Articles%20VII%20and%20Article%20VIII.pdf>

Without providing a proper definition and clarity around this proposed "Community Safety and Violence Prevention" department, it gives the appearance that City Council is merely renaming "Police Officers" to "Safety or Security Officers" and shifting public funding to private contractors without public accountability.

This is further evidenced by the fact that City Council has hired private security for 3 council members and provided no information to the public regarding the bidding process used to select this contractor as well as a rationale for not utilizing either Minnesota Peace Officers or a locally based security contractor.

<https://www.minnpost.com/glean/2020/06/minneapolis-paying-private-security-firms-to-protect-3-council-members/>

We also have no information about the standards that these private security contractors are held to and how public safety and trust is being upheld with this choice.

Furthermore, Ward 6 is currently without City Council representation and a special election is scheduled for August 11, 2020.

Ward 6 includes areas impacted by the recent civil unrest as well as some of our most vulnerable citizens.

How is it upholding liberal democracy to ram through a major change like this without representing their voices?

Lastly, the City of Minneapolis's website has been hacked and is preventing citizens from educating themselves about the proposed changes and this process.

As a citizen of Minneapolis I ask the Charter Commission to uphold the core principle of liberal democracy - the right to self-determination - and either decline this or extend the review period to 60 + 90 days so as to allow time for a Citizen-initiated petition

7/1/2020 3:32:11 PM

I think the city council has lost their minds. Disband the police? Did any of you think to possibly introduce more training for officers? Look to see what other successful cities are using in their police department? Look to hire experts in the field? Instead you have chosen to buckle under pressure from people who have ZERO law enforcement backgrounds. It's ridiculous that you don't realize how real crime is and how unsafe you have made locals feel. However, we will fight back to hold on to our police departments. We will support the law and law enforcement agencies. We will stop the reckless behavior of City council, who had the audacity to hire private security paid for by tax payers and would rather see their city burn, then to work together in a bipartisan way. We will vote ALL of you OUT!

7/1/2020 3:32:22 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please support expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolitans can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election. Please, let us vote. Ward 13

7/1/2020 3:34:12 PM

I do not support this Charter Amendment. Although I do not live in Minneapolis, I spend a lot of time there and I have been listening and following the Black community leaders for years. Please listen to those who have put their lives on the line to improve police accountability against police brutality. You need to defund the police department and redistribute the \$193 million to the community. Defund the police, but don't abolish it! Listen to the Racial Justice Community leaders!

7/1/2020 3:34:35 PM

We need police reform but it is asinine to move forward without a concrete plan or even a framework for a plan. I therefore do not agree that the city charter should be amended at this time.

7/1/2020 3:34:42 PM

I do not agree with or support this amendment.

I would ask that someone with a background in law enforcement take part in creating this charter and envisioning the future. Jeremiah Ellison did not confer with the communities who need this support. Hold officers accountable, defund and ramp up social programs, but do not immediately move to abolish at this time. The community does not want this.

7/1/2020 3:34:57 PM

I urge the Charter Commission to approve, as written, the proposed Charter amendment to change how community health, safety, and well-being is outlined in Minneapolis' Charter.

Proven time and time again by members of our community that they are not protected from our current systems in place and we will need to begin the work to create a new system that allows for the protection of all community members. Police are expected to be more than just peace officers for their communities and one cannot have possibly all of the training they need. I am in support of beginning to reallocate funding and structural changes to police departments including, but not limited to social workers, community safety organizations and drug and alcohol response teams. Ward 1

7/1/2020 3:35:35 PM

Dear Charter Commission, As a resident of Minneapolis, I want to vote on the proposed city charter amendment this November. I call on you to permit the charter amendment to move forward so that the people of Minneapolis can choose if we want to amend our city charter.

Communities throughout the city have been terrorized by the police department in its current form. I, and many others, believe that our communities would be better served with a complete rethinking of how we treat public safety. The proposed amendment to the charter is critical in allowing this to happen.

Please approve the proposed amendment so that we, as Minneapolis residents, can vote in November and decide how we want to move forward with our community safety.

7/1/2020 3:35:54 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please support expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolitans can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election. Please, let us vote. Ward 2

7/1/2020 3:36:39 PM

I do not want this amendment. We do not need another layer of government. We need more highly trained police officers, not less. I have lived in ward 1 since 1983 and will move out of the city if we defund the police. Ward 1

7/1/2020 3:37:23 PM

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

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

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

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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 8

7/1/2020 3:38:02 PM

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

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

We as a City cannot tolerate the police brutality and mistreatment of the public from our Police Department. While the chilling murder of George Floyd was the loudest wake-up call, I know there are many other instances of violence and abuse, especially towards Black and Native American members of

our communities. Rampant and even indiscriminate tear-gassing and firing on the public, protestors, and journalists by Minneapolis Police are further evidence that our Police Department is not squarely under the control of our democratically elected leaders or the official chain of command.

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

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

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

Please support expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolitans can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election. Please, let us vote. Ward 12

7/1/2020 3:38:50 PM

Entire city government needs to be changed. Get rid of Bob Knoll and police union. Get rid of the weak mayor and hold city counsel accountable.

The culture of the MPD has been horrible for decades - why doesn't St. Paul have the kind of problems we have in Minneapolis?

The deceased editor of the Spokesman wrote about the culture of racism and violence in the MPD back in the 1940s.

7/1/2020 3:39:11 PM

So, as I read this document and I see that the proposed changes I see two things. The police department as we now know it is being crossed off (literally) and being replaced with A Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention and that those tasked with service in this field primarily must meet this condition, that they "will have non-law enforcement experience in community safety services." However, then the proposed change allows that "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." To which I see the key word here is "may" which is a very big word. What then exists in that "may"? As someone who has served as community based chaplain and hospital chaplain for nearly 18 years I would like to know what that "may" means? I have also been an advocate for victims rights professionally and personally as my best friend and her sister were killed in a double homicide in February 2014. Their murders was solved by professional police work. Their killer is now in prison because of this murder. How do you plan to continue to deter, investigate, solve and prosecute violent offenders such as murders, serial killers, and rapists in the city of Minneapolis? How are holistic community safety 'people' supposed to deter, investigate, solve, and prosecute violent offenders? Presumably they will be involved in the "deterrence" work but knowing that a certain percentage of violent crimes is not emotionally predicated and is beyond deterrence because of the nature of the psychopathy of the offenders, how are these community safety people supposed to deal with them? Considering the chaos that is currently breeding at Powderhorne Park and in our city pushing our murder rates back to 1996 Murderapolis, how are these community safety "people" supposed to address increasingly violent criminals? Finally, what proof do I have that this

comment is going anywhere, that it will be, along with my concerns, be addressed? As a homeowner and long time resident of Minneapolis I do not trust that my concerns will be addressed by this city council or even taken into account. I believe that you have all shown yourselves to know exactly what you want no matter what the citizens have expressed.

7/1/2020 3:39:25 PM

It is absolutely unacceptable to amend the city charter to remove the "police," only to maintain the police force by renaming it a "division of law enforcement."

Did you know that recently, only 14 out of about 850 officers of the MPD signed an open letter condemning Chauvin's behavior? This shows us that 98% of the existing police force is okay with murdering civilians who have not been proven guilty of any crime. Or, if they're not okay with it, they're okay not speaking up against it, thereby giving this behavior (which, again, is murdering another human) a free pass.

This is the department the amendment proposes to preserve; the group of "experts" who should have a say in public safety. Since 98% of those "experts" are okay with murder, they do not get to be a part of the conversation.

We do not need "licensed peace officers" with lethal weapons and dangerous training to protect our city. We need qualified peace workers to intervene in dangerous situations, detectives who do not carry firearms to follow up after crimes are committed, mental health specialists to help those in crisis, and community advocates and organizers to bring people together and fight the systems that cause crime in the first place. If a situation arises where we need a real army to fight with lethal weapons, ask the governor for the National Guard. WE DO NOT NEED ARMED "PEACE OFFICERS" POLICING THE CITY.

DO NOT VOTE THIS AMENDMENT INTO THE CHARTER. Renaming the police and sweeping them under another layer of pretend accountability that will inevitably fail, when the police murder another person, is not acceptable.

The MPD has violated trust on a level that cannot be restored unless they disband. That is the only solution to this persistent violation. They have proven time and again that attempts to reform them do not work. We must do something differently. And while we may not know what the perfect answer is, the MPD continues to clearly demonstrate that they have no interest in taking any responsibility for the damage they have caused, the deep pain and violence they, as an entity, have wrought on our community. It's time to close this chapter and forge a new path.

7/1/2020 3:39:30 PM

I am a resident in the 4th ward I have reached out to Phillippe Cunningham as well and have not heard back. I voted for Phillips but will not again if this charter plan moves forward. I appreciate your work for our city and neighborhoods. I am white woman who owns my own medical business here in the Twin Cities. I reside in the Jordan Neighborhood of N. Minneapolis and am a white ally.

I want you to know that myself and many other Jordan neighbors, both white, black and other ethnicities DO NOT agree with defund and/or dismantle the police. Many of my white and black friends across the city DO NOT agree with defund and/or dismantle the police.

I attended the Powderhorn rally a few weeks ago. I understand the premise and definitely want to dismantle everything that is evil about the MPD. I do not want to live in a city where my 911 call is answered by a social worker if I have someone breaking into my home or shooting bullets through my

yard. I also don't call 911 on my black neighbors because I don't trust what the police will do to them if the police even respond. I only call 911 if I see a person in direct danger of being assaulted or killed and then I stick around to video in case the police abuse their power. So there is a tension in my own use of 911.

I do support creating a new partnership between law enforcement and other community professionals who would respond together to a 911 call/crisis- e.g. mental health experts with an officer to a mental health crisis, or a local community gang team who might be more skilled in de-escalation, etc. I am in favor of re-writing the contract with the federation union so they can no longer dismiss police brutality offenses and allow these officers back on the force.

Extreme positions are needed, but creating a community team approach is more powerful in real situations. Is our goal just to be radical? Or is our goal for POC and others to be safe and feel safe? There are so many radical changes we can make without an all or nothing approach.

I encourage you to immediately reach out to the Jordan Neighborhood Council and listen to our black leaders--they have great ideas for this neighborhood and are not in favor of defund/dismantle. Or immediately meet with neighborhood councils in your ward.

Please don't dig your heels in or refuse other effective, radical paths just because things are in motion in one direction. Hundreds of people in North Minneapolis do NOT support abolishing the police.

7/1/2020 3:39:45 PM

I am unlikely to vote for this until there we see a plan for the new department. "Trust us, it will be good," is not sound governance.

7/1/2020 3:40:43 PM

The MPD needs to be dismantled. I live 7 blocks from where George Floyd was killed and I'm disgusted and no longer feel the current structure is here to serve and protect. I can't give you the name of ONE MPD officer and I've lived in my house on Park Ave for 10 years. 10 years?!

Since the protests started we never see them patrolling. Even before then we rarely saw them. I'm on a major street one block from Lake Street.

During the riots they caused more harm than good attacking peaceful protestors.

Enough is enough, I pay too much in taxes to sit quiet any longer.

Lastly, can we get people that live in this city to work here? I'm tired of people from the suburbs patrolling streets they don't care about! Ward 9

7/1/2020 3:41:19 PM

Yes to DEFUND and NO to abolishing the police please. As a healthcare worker I value working with the police when it comes to violent crimes and I also highly value community care and the role of social workers and mental health workers for non-violent crime. It has been said that the heart of a city is reflected in its budget and too much of the heart of Minneapolis policing and not enough heart is education support, homelessness support, and mental health services support for our most vulnerable citizens. Let's change the heart of our city and let it reflect the needs of our most vulnerable community members. When they are served with dignity and justice we will all be served. Thank you. Gracias. Danke. Mahadsanid.

7/1/2020 3:41:41 PM

How will the charter foster rather than prohibit the change the MPD clearly needs.

7/1/2020 3:41:44 PM

I strongly oppose the City Council's proposed charter amendment to remove the Police Department and establish a Community Safety Department. I support Chief Arradondo and the work he has begun with the department. I support de-funding and requirement of officers to reapply to their jobs, be screened for competency, get rid of the officers who don't care about the communities of Minneapolis. Require a larger percentage of officers to LIVE IN MINNEAPOLIS and maybe they would care more about the communities that they are policing.

7/1/2020 3:42:16 PM

Today you are receiving a hasty and poorly thought out Charter amendment that the City Council adopted without any public process, public hearing, or input. It is similar to the hasty Charter Amendment passed by the City Council shortly after the killing of Thurman Blevins two years ago,. but far more radical and with broader impact. Both are meant to shift more power to the City Council.

It is a shame that the Charter Commission has to deal with something like this again.

Though you should have not had to deal with the amendment two years ago, I want to say that I was VERY impressed by your process, the depth of your research, and your conclusions that last time! Fortunately, at least some of that work will help in your consideration of this amendment.

I am confident that you will once again approach this amendment with the seriousness that you showed two years ago. Though I am (correctly) identified as a radical, I respect a conservative approach when major decisions are made. If the Charter is amended in this way, it is something we will likely live with for decades or even generations.

I trust you will take the time to consider public input, do the research, and make an informed decision.

As in the past, whether I agreed with you or not, I respect your dedication and hard work.

7/1/2020 3:42:25 PM

Switch to community police, social & mental health workers on mental health calls. Police should have to live in Mpls. Throw the civilian review board, replace it w/ something that will work. Get rid of Kroll racist union leader & all officers that have record of violence, dui, criminal records. Make it possible to sue officers personally for killing, injuring, or profiling minorities.

7/1/2020 3:42:32 PM

Clearly the Police Federation has been extorting the City of Minneapolis for years. This is intolerable and has led to the expectation that no degree of malfeasance will bring meaningful consequences to the uniformed perpetrators. I strongly urge the citizens of Minneapolis to replace this rogue presence with a more balanced and reputable alternative. Some remedies will await a more responsible group of legislators at the state level but we have our own opportunity to right an egregious wrong and assert greater authority to our own government in this city of the first class.

7/1/2020 3:42:56 PM

You are rushing into a bandaid fix without consulting with communities of color who are most affected by police brutality and misconduct, who have been crafting alternatives and presenting them FOR YEARS AND YEARS. The status quo do not know how to fix this problem. Time to listen to Black people, Indigenous people, Latinx and other marginalized groups who know what works for their communities. Well meaning white people's ideas have not solved this problem up until now and it is BEYOND HUBRIS not to mention a stupid waste of time and money to continue thinking we know how to fix this problem. Do you want more chaos, death and destruction? MPD not only abandoned Minneapolis but openly attacked its citizens and caused immeasurable damage and destruction. They need to go, in a meaningful way that can actually work, not just lip service.

7/1/2020 3:43:45 PM

The amendment to provide a Community Safety and Violence Prevention department, and to remove the police department from the Charter must be on the ballot this November. Reform will not make the citizens of Minneapolis safe from the police. Voters demand to be able to have their say in who's responsible for public safety in our city. Ward 13

7/1/2020 3:43:50 PM

Stop threatening the lives of law abiding, tax paying citizens and provide them proper safety by hiring the 400 additional officers that have been needed for years. The idea of defunding and/or abolishing the MPD is absolutely outrageous and reckless. Ward 5

7/1/2020 3:44:36 PM

Hello city council, thank you for leading our city through this important times.

I wanted to voice my strong desire to DEFUND but not ABOLISH our MPD. In the charter amendment discussion, I do not support the current proposal to remove our police chief and build anew.

Chief Arradondo must stay in his position so he can reform our important police service. Empower him by:

Terminating the Union contract

Reviewing all officers history

Shifting some police funding To other important city safety agencies

Combatting our state law so officers must live in the areas they patrol

I urge you to fight against calls to "abolish" the MPD. Voices in our black communities strongly state that's not the solution!

I will be closely following this matter and hope to see you advocate for thorough reform, but reject calls to abolish. Thank you

7/1/2020 3:44:50 PM

Community control of police is a critical step in undoing the incredible damage they have inflicted on black, indigenous and minority communities. The police will be held accountable and the city will answer to its constituents.

7/1/2020 3:45:08 PM

This charter amendment should be dismissed and removed from the ballot. Do the three City Council members who have hired, with tax payer dollars private security, expect the citizens of Minneapolis to do the same once the police department is dismantled?

If you are ever in harms way in Minneapolis, who are you going to call? A Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department, that's who. I don't think so.

7/1/2020 3:45:20 PM

Do not abolish the police department. We finally have a good chief. Empower him to make bigger changes and not be stopped by the union.

7/1/2020 3:46:11 PM

As this process moves forward, PLEASE ensure that you listen to, create leadership opportunities for, and follow the lead of BIPOC folks on the ground in Minneapolis who have been leading the fight against police violence for many years. This includes groups like Reclaim the Block, Black Visions, MPD150, and individuals like Nekima Levy Armstrong and Raeisha Williams. We need to ensure that the police is held accountable to a greater degree, not less, and not just under the auspices of the City Council. We need active community engagement and leadership moving forward.

7/1/2020 3:46:52 PM

I would like to exhort the Minneapolis city council to slow down the process to amend the city charter. As a lifelong Minneapolis resident and member of a multi-racial family, I wholeheartedly support systems reform that addresses systemic discrimination, including the police department. However, I do not believe current hasty process is the most thoughtful and diligent approach. There are many factors to consider for any major reform, which is why any charter amendment should be discussed at length and all stakeholders allowed to voice their opinion since the charter is our city's overarching guiding document. Unintended consequences are highly likely with the current approach and I ask that my city council works collaboratively with the mayor and police chief to develop a shared strategy to address the issues at hand. Both of those essential stakeholders have been very explicit in their agreement that change is needed. I disagree with the current approach and ask for you to not pursue a charter amendment on this accelerated timeline.

7/1/2020 3:47:03 PM

I oppose this amendment as stated. It's uncertain what "Community Safety & Violence Prevention" means or which changes would take place along with the terminology change. Removing armed law enforcement would result in a massive increase in crime in the Twin Cities. More careful consideration needs to occur before changes are made.

7/1/2020 3:47:09 PM

We cannot remove the police. It's not safe for people in Minneapolis without police. Police need more training and there need to be funds for mental health and social workers. This is not a good plan to remove the police, major reform is needed.

7/1/2020 3:48:12 PM

Please don't get rid of the black chief that is from southside . Please include actually black people from our community . Hear our voices. Come to Broadway and talk to us

7/1/2020 3:48:52 PM

Commission Members: My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Ward 11 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I urge you today to move the charter amendment forward and let the people of Minneapolis decide the future of public safety in our city.

For far too long, our Black, brown and Indigenous neighbors in Minneapolis have asked for safety in their communities and received no support, or only words instead of action. The police force continues to murder citizens of Minneapolis due to the color of their skin. As a government body, you must answer the plea for accountability. Help us chart a new way forward, and create a city in which all people are safe, protected, and can live in our city knowing that their lives are valued.

Move this amendment forward today, and let the people decide the future of safety in Minneapolis, one in which every life is valued and protected.

7/1/2020 3:49:47 PM

I have been shocked by how the city council has used rhetoric of abolishing the police. The riots and recent violence in this city has been very damaging, and I know multiple people who are now moving, or not able to stay in their homes. I think reform is really important, and I hope that there can be real change in policing that would stop violence and discrimination against people of color in this city. I think there have been some good reform ideas out there. But to disband the department and talk of abolishing the police seems to me irresponsible, and something that is emboldening those who are committing crime in this city. We have a police chief right now who wants to reform. Why can't we work with him to bring real change to the department? I do not feel that the proposed changes are representative of what most people in this city want, it seems more like they are the agenda of a vocal minority with views that are quite radical.

7/1/2020 3:50:00 PM

I don't think defending the police is the answer.. we have seen what happens when police cannot do their jobs.. Evil doesn't need a uniform or color all it needs is a body and a willing participant. stop! Stop being bullied and stop being bullies, take this city back and show the country you have a spine. Don't ask for help if you are not gonna do your jobs..

7/1/2020 3:50:10 PM

Please let us vote! The residents of Minneapolis must have the opportunity to vote on the future of our public safety system.

We are not all treated equally by MPD. As a small white female, I am highly unlikely to be perceived as a threat by MPD, and yet I have encountered intimidation, anger, and also been treated like I am a burden when asking for help. The system is broken. Our community trust with MPD is broken.

I've not had follow-up to a single police report I've ever filed. This includes a hit-and-run where I had photos of the car, license plate, and descriptors of the two individuals in the car. I also recently received footage from a neighbor of an individual stealing the spare tire off the back of my car while it was in my apartment parking lot. I haven't filed a police report as the suspect is a black man and I'm terrified he'll

be killed in an encounter with MPD. I've personally made a vow NOT to call MPD unless I am in dire emergency if I am involved in an incident with someone of the BIPOC community.

The escalation of violence by MPD were largely at heart of the disruption in South Minneapolis, my home, the past weeks. Indiscriminate tear gassing, flash bangs, rubber bullets being fired at media, medics, and peaceful protesters escalated situations that could have been deescalated with intentional conversations and meaningful change. We have funded the militarization of our police force against the communities they are meant to serve and protect. Many, including myself, live in fear of police interactions.

We deserve to be at the table. We MUST be allowed to vote. Minneapolitans deserve a meaningful community process to re-imagine health and safety. To discuss how reallocating resources can begin to heal communities long beaten down. To determine how to review policing practices and hold police accountable for violations of human rights and community trust.

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 10

7/1/2020 3:51:37 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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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.

A friend read this to me and I could not have worded it better myself. Let us decide. Ward 10

7/1/2020 3:51:46 PM

I fully support this amendment and ask you to ensure that it appears on the ballot this November.

Our communities have the right to safety and to violence prevention for everyone. We deserve solutions that actually help resource our communities and prevent harm rather than send officers with guns to situations after the harm has already been caused, often causing even more harm. We need true transformation, and this amendment is a step towards that.

The people of Minneapolis deserve the opportunity to vote on this measure.

7/1/2020 3:52:34 PM

No to the charter amendment. Are you listening to the activists? Do they actually support this? I believe they support keeping Chief Arrondondo. We want it reconstructed and defunded. Without research and studies we cannot just cross it out on paper and hope for the best! Come on. Slow down and LISTEN. And stop giving raises to The Mayor and The Council members until all the unhoused people in Minneapolis are taken care of!!!!!! Ward 2

7/1/2020 3:52:36 PM

We absolutely need this charter amendment to be sent to voters. So many of us Minneapolis residents have witnessed the corrupt, haphazard and irresponsible behavior of the MPD for far too long. They operate with impunity in our community and make a mockery of the idea of "serve and protect".

When I see an MPD car in my rear view mirror, I immediately feel scared and anxious, even though I am abiding by the laws. They have created that culture with their accusatory demeanor, and power-drunk attitudes. They are a broken cog in the infrastructure of this society. The City of Minneapolis is a wonderful place despite them, and will be even better when they are eliminated. Empower us to act in our own best interest, and let us remove the MPD, which for so long has acted only in its own.

We desire law and order in Minneapolis, but we desire, and possess, the ability to enact it ourselves. That is the root of what this change could bring about. The people of this city will achieve glorious things when they are no longer impeded by fear. Minneapolis can be a model for the continued development of just societies, and allowing this amendment to move forward would be your key contribution to this. Please make this happen. Ward 6

7/1/2020 3:52:48 PM

The people do not trust the city to negotiate this behind closed doors with the police. We need community control over the process to dismantle MPD, through an all-elected Civilian Police Accountability Council (CPAC) with direct power over police budget, hiring/firing, policies, etc, as proposed by Twin Cities Coalition for Justice 4 Jamar and others. Unless the charter amendment meets these criteria it will be viewed as an un-democratic process and further deaths at the hands of (renamed) MPD will continue to cause unrest.

7/1/2020 3:52:58 PM

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

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

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

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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 3

7/1/2020 3:53:35 PM

Absolutely, the City Council has moved at the request of residents to amend the Charter and put it forward to vote. This absolutely needs to happen no later than this fall. Let's make Minneapolis a model for our nation as we collectively finally come to grips and begin to address the long ignored problem of systems of racism in our police, police brutality, and over policing communities of color.

7/1/2020 3:53:55 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis concerned about the safety and wellbeing of our Minneapolis Community I am strongly opposed to ANY police involvement in the community safety plan going forward. The police have shown themselves to be a racist and violent institution fundamentally at odds with public safety and incapable of reform from within. We have seen this in the numerous instances of police brutality particularly against black and brown communities and in the many reforms Minneapolis has attempted to put in place to reduce police brutality which have not worked. Police involvement in the safety plan, in any form, is essentially giving MPD a chance to recreate themselves under a different name with the same purpose. We have done that many times before by attempting reforms and attempting to create civilian reviews of the cops. The police department has too much political and financial leverage backing

its corruption for that kind of reform to be effective. THIS IS NOT WHAT WE WANT, NOR WHAT WE NEED.

That being said, I stand with suggestions and plans made by MPD-150, Reclaim the Block, Black Visions Collective, and Native Lives Matter, among others. The plan must reallocate funding previously used for police contracts to community organizations. Policing is a response to crime, but in order to reduce crime, we need to invest in the services that are proven to do so. Such services include services for mental health and rehabilitation, violence prevention and restorative justice, education, food and housing assistance programs, vocational training programs, childcare, recreation, etc.

The plan must also provide alternative emergency response teams that do not include highly armed or militarized people except under the most extreme circumstances. 911 calls should be triaged to send out specialized response units depending on the emergency. Social workers, EMTs, emergency evacuation teams, firefighters, trained violence deescalation experts etc should be sent in place of the police. Emergency response teams should focus on safety, rehabilitation, and deescalation with a goal to end brutality and the mass-incarceration of black and brown people.

Minneapolis needs to cut all ties with the police and go forward with more just, more community-oriented, and actually effective plan for community safety.

7/1/2020 3:53:58 PM

The way it works now it doesn't... We need something new.

7/1/2020 3:54:27 PM

I want to vote on this amendment, plain and simple. I think a lot of Minneapolis citizens want to vote on it too. Please don't hold up our ability to vote on this amendment in November. Ward 6

7/1/2020 3:54:35 PM

Please allow residents of Minneapolis the opportunity to vote on the future of our public safety system.

I am proud to be born and raised in the city of Minneapolis, but I am deeply disappointed by our current public safety system. I know we can do better. Reform can only do so much. We need a democratic voice through our elected city council to help us work toward dramatically improving our public safety system so it works better for everyone.

The people of Minneapolis deserve the chance to exercise democracy to determine if the City Charter should evolve to meet our current needs. Thank you for your consideration. Ward 8

7/1/2020 3:54:46 PM

NO! I see our elected leaders walk away from problems rather than solve them all the time. We need law enforcement, but it needs to be fixed. We need protection from gun violence in North Minneapolis, what we currently have needs to be fixed. We need kids in the neighborhood being able to cross the street to get to the park without being hit by speeding cars, what we have needs to be fixed. It's a lot more work to clean up than it is to sweep under the rug. Walking away from the police completely is sweeping the problem of systemic racism under the rug. Racism hasn't been addressed, we are just pasting another fancy label on things to make people feel better. Defund the militaristic aspects of the police department, spend money on community education and community involvement based on well researched recommendations FROM the community. Don't throw more words at us just to look good and pat yourselves on the back. Roll up your sleeves and tackle the problem with action, not words.

7/1/2020 3:55:00 PM

Change is important and I feel it is important to include community leaders in addition to elected officials. While some city council members have recently moved from reformers to defunding. There are leaders who have been working on this for the entirety and who have different strengths and viewpoints that need to be heard. Let the people speak

7/1/2020 3:56:56 PM

The proposed amendment is a measured and nuanced approach to addressing a very challenging problem of transforming public safety in our city. We in Minneapolis have seen the death of too many people at the hands of police. Those deaths come on top of many more injustices committed by officers that are often not held accountable.

The need for a change in our approach to community safety has become ever more apparent in the days following the brutal murder of George Floyd. Police officers used rubber bullets and tear gas on peaceful protesters, creating chaos. Police failed North Minneapolis, where white supremacists and outsiders terrorized the community. Homes and businesses were broken into, and police did not (or would not) respond.

We need law enforcement that cares about our community and protects us, in every part of the city. We also need investments in our community and changes in policy that address the underlying issues. We should be able to all have a voice and vote on this issue. If it is passed by the voters, the new department should be set up to quickly respond when people or businesses are in crisis. Because this is a nuanced issue, and the charter amendment and the process it establishes are vital for our future.

Ward 12

7/1/2020 3:57:22 PM

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of Minneapolis. I fully support the proposed amendments made to the city charter including the removal of the Police Department and the addition of a new Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department. Minneapolis needs to do something different. It is clear that systemic racism and injustice exist with our current policing structure. Working within this structure to create change is impossible because it is operating precisely in the manner in which it was designed. The creation of a new way, a Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department, would allow the community to take control of policing and to establish new systems that support people, help them access resources, and make our city safer for everyone. Ward 2

7/1/2020 3:57:46 PM

Through many years and many reforms, it is very clear that the MPD can not do what they say they will: serve and protect. It is time to reimagine a new idea of public and community safety that centers the people most affected. It's time to disband the MPD and invest in education, housing, jobs, food and other community services and actually start to prevent the root issues of crime by helping to meet peoples' basic needs. We need to make a community feel safe and that can't be done with the MPD still intact.

7/1/2020 3:58:58 PM

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

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

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

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7/1/2020 3:59:03 PM

In order to replace the police department with any kind of alternative you need to fully research what that alternative would/should look like, consult a range of people including experts and Minneapolis citizens (from multiple neighborhoods), and ---MOST IMPORTANTLY---you need to have a detailed plan outlining exactly what the replacement will look like.

It's a terrible idea to "defund" the police as people are so confusingly calling it without any kind of plan in place about what the city will look like after traditional policing ends.

I am an anti-racist educator and have spent my entire career engaging with various forms of overlapping structural oppression and I absolutely believe that there are major issues with the way that policing happens in America. I would like to see a new kind of policing happen in concert with a host of other political changes meant to address structural racism.

But the rushed, amorphous, non-specific nature of this plan and its lack of ACTUAL DETAILS is irresponsible. There is no way that I would vote for this and I would imagine that folks more to the middle and to the right would be even less interested in it than someone like me who falls into a pretty far-to-the-left box on the political spectrum.

Do some research. Come up with an actual plan. Then put it to a vote. Ward 3

7/1/2020 3:59:09 PM

Please better clarify that the requirement for the director of community safety and violence prevention department have "non-law enforcement experience in community safety service" does NOT mean that individuals with law-enforcement experience will be excluded. Currently, I find the wording comes across as such.

7/1/2020 3:59:14 PM

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7/1/2020 3:59:21 PM

I write to support the proposed charter amendment, but ask that the Commission delete the proposed section 7.3(b). The Minneapolis Police Department has shown that it is a fundamentally flawed institution. I support this charter change because it abolishes the department and the requirement that the city fund officers, and so allows the broadest possible range of outcomes after City leadership undertake the community-listening and input that they have promised. I ask that the Commission delete proposed section 7.3(b) because the permissive language does not grant any power that the Department would not already have, but suggests a presupposed outcome before undertaking the promised community-wide discussion.

7/1/2020 3:59:25 PM

I support complete defunding of the Minneapolis Police as currently constituted. No amount of training or reform will be able to remove the current culture. People in the city need help, not some gun-wielding white supremacist with qualified immunity. After watching how the protests played out, I don't see how we can continue with the current system. It's anti-democratic.

My sister is a ER nurse, and she has to deal with just as many unpredictable, unstable people as the police do. She doesn't carry a gun, and she doesn't need to. That's what happens when your bottom line is to help people instead of hurting them. Ward 13

7/1/2020 3:59:28 PM

Be bold. Fix the police system and be anti-racist. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 3:59:35 PM

Re-imaging is in order. Finding a way to have officers without a union, given the state law, needs to be actively pursued. Given the # of crimes that go unsolved, finding a way to increase the number that are solved would also be in order.

If "dismantling" means no police force, you have an amazingly optimistic view of human nature and an extraordinary underestimation of how those who wish to commit crimes will take advantage of the situation.

FWIW, I think you'd get a lot more support and a lot less pushback, if you can find a way to express your goals without using the word "dismantle." It elicits a strong reaction and likely prevents some from even hearing you out on your desired outcomes.

7/1/2020 3:59:39 PM

I'm a long time patron to Minneapolis. It's a city I've loved and enjoyed for 41 years. I'm deeply saddened by the events happening in Mpls. Norm Coleman wrote an Op/Ed piece for the Star Tribune that echoed many Minnesotans thoughts and concerns about the management of the city. For far too long, they've been only interested in bike lanes, social issues, and plastic straws and bags. You've only to look in the mirror to find out where and why the problems continue in Mpls. I've been a teacher for over 35 years and understand first hand that throwing more money at the problem and blaming the people in the trenches as the reason for societal ills.

We need the police. We are not residents of residents, but I can honestly tell you that Minnesotans as a whole will no longer patronize a city that will not be safe. Our friends have said they will frequent other eateries, attend other sporting events, and spend their money elsewhere. This isn't just a problem for residents. The ENTIRE state sees Minneapolis as their crowning jewel. It isn't any longer. Goodbye Final Fours, Superbowls, concerts, and shopping. GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER.

7/1/2020 4:00:55 PM

I can not wait to watch the complete destruction of your shithole city with no cops. It will serve as a great example to the rest of America of what NOT to do and what kind of idiots NOT vote into public office. Also to think that you 12 clowns deserve taxpayer funded security is laughable. You 12 idiots are the worst that America has to offer. You should be ashamed and embarrassed.

7/1/2020 4:01:03 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis, I wholeheartedly support the amendment to the City Charter replacing the Police Department with a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Dept., especially the language pertaining to a focus on restorative justice.

7/1/2020 4:03:38 PM

I support the charter amendment with the hope that it will allow the city to break with the union.

7/1/2020 4:03:44 PM

This proposed charter amendment is the first step to making the real and lasting change that we residents of Minneapolis have been demanding in the wake of the murder of George Floyd. It is a measured approach which clearly is focused on transitioning gradually to a community-focused public safety system. Please do everything you can to ensure that this is on the ballot in November. Thank you for your support in moving forward with this referendum immediately.

7/1/2020 4:03:52 PM

Put the charter on the ballot in November! We deserve the opportunity to vote on this. I support the amendment, but the city needs to see how many people support the change. Ward 10

7/1/2020 4:04:10 PM

The idea of defunding the MPD is an issue that should not be rushed into. I'm in agreement with Mayor Frey that changes are needed rather than defunding. I would agree some adjustments to the system are necessary but a total change is not. My experiences with the police have been nothing but fantastic. As a 20+ year resident of Northeast I have grave concerns with the actions by the current city council members and what they will do moving forward with the MPD. Northeast and Minneapolis are great places to live, work and play. They need to stay that way. Use caution and not knee jerk reactions when making decisions that greatly affect the quality of life for the entire City of Minneapolis.

7/1/2020 4:05:17 PM

To whom it may concern, It is imperative that you open a dialogue with our community and stop having closed conversations with politicians. Too long have people with power made decisions based on what they THINK their community wants. However, fail to include us in the conversation to actually LEARN what we want. Please allow public comment at ALL discussions regarding police reform, especially in these crucial foundational steps this movement needs to take. If you fail to hear the people, you will be left behind.

7/1/2020 4:05:45 PM

This is exactly what I would expect to hear from the utopian bunch that call themselves the city council. There is no doubt in my mind that more police officers are needed in a stand alone police department. The bad ones need to be weeded out and have a discipline system that is enforced. I would tell the council not to get too creative because I don't think any of you will be in office much longer. I will be working actively to see that happen. As far as reduced speed limits, it doesn't matter what they are when traffic laws aren't enforced, i.e., hit and run not enforced. Only lived in Mpls for one year and wow, what a bunch of clowns!

7/1/2020 4:07:30 PM

I would like to recommend approval of this measure as a first step towards a safer city for all those who live and visit Minneapolis.

The current police department is an instrument of violence. We need more and better community support options.

7/1/2020 4:10:12 PM

I strongly support the proposed charter amendment and ask that it be placed on the ballot for our city to vote on this fall. The council must have authority, beyond simply approving an annual budget, to develop and manage a more comprehensive approach to community safety. This amendment will allow for that flexibility. Without it, our community and our police department will continue to be trapped in a rigid system where armed officers are our only response to a range of complicated city issues, such as mental illness, homelessness, addiction, human trafficking, and other problems that need complex, holistic responses. Until we give the council the authority to develop this broader approach to community safety, we will continue to get the same poor results: chronic problems that plague our city, mass incarceration, and outrageous racial disparities. W12, Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood.

7/1/2020 4:10:17 PM

I have strong concerns over police misconduct, racial prejudice and injustice. Simultaneously, I do not see dismantling of the MPD as an effective way improve the safety and well-being of our community. Decisions by the city council to dismantle the MPD make me as a law-abiding resident of Minneapolis concerned. This rapid response decision is impulsive, reactive and has not been carefully examined. Those who are loudest (protesters, politicians) have successfully hijacked conversations over what direction we should take with police reform. Whether or not it is the minority or majority of public opinion – we must seriously consider the opinions beyond those spoken loudest on social media and on the streets. Labeling an individual as racist or bigoted for having a difference in opinion is not only conceited but it is also dangerous. Our city's safety, stability and economics rely on an intact and respected police force, because it is undeniable that there are circumstances which require trained and armed law enforcement to effectively prevent crimes. Although this may be an unpopular suggestion, I would like to suggest that ADDITIONAL funding be provided to the Minneapolis police department to provide comprehensive mental health screenings, and support for our officers. Additional officers should be hired and placed in communities of various ethnic and racial backgrounds to help heal resentment and encourage dialogue. Violence and safety affect everyone's life and livelihood within our community-regardless of race. The last few weeks have been an example of this. Shootings, looting and arson have not gone unnoticed and will not be forgotten by our community. Not only will swiftly attempting to dissolve the police force result in increased crime, it will recklessly shut down meaningful discussions on the best way to improve law enforcement. I encourage that you ensure you have thought thoroughly through other options before making a decision.

7/1/2020 4:10:22 PM

Please stop this insane proposal immediately. The radical City Council is purposely destroying the livability of Minneapolis.

7/1/2020 4:10:29 PM

Do not change the Charter and do not defund the police.

Effects of changing charter - Citizens fleeing the city. Businesses fleeing the city, Increased Insurance rates for all types of insurance for homeowners and businesses. decreased tourist dollars, no more major league sports attendance because of high crime rates. High crime rates. Anarchy will reign with no police deterrents.

Identify the problem - bad. bad police officers

Identify the solution - Remove the bad officers and work with the police union to allow for this; arbitration seems to be a big part of the problem.

Consider the repercussions of removing the police department. Who will be the new "peace officers" be, what is their training.

7/1/2020 4:11:00 PM

I support the city council and their work to defund the police and re-imagine what our community could look like without all the needless death at the hands of those who are supposed to be protecting and serving ALL people. Those who reject this work may be uncomfortable with the idea, but nothing worth doing was ever done by people being comfortable. This is hard work and it is worth doing.

This is a step in the correct direction and I urge the city council to continue this important work. Thank you.

7/1/2020 4:11:17 PM

Totally abolish the MPD.

Rehire the best of the best on a two year contract, after which, they must attend the two-year long police academy unless they already possess comparable training (e.g. bachelors degree in criminal justice).

Contract with Hennepin County Sheriff, BCA, MN highway patrol, etc to assist in two year long transformation.

Hire a senior consultant with extensive experience in police reform to assist and guide the current mayor and chief of police. I would strongly encourage involving Rocky Anderson, former Salt Lake City mayor and human rights attorney.

7/1/2020 4:11:47 PM

DEFUND - DO NOT ABOLISH!

7/1/2020 4:12:08 PM

Increase duration of police academy training to two years. Award graduates an associates degree in criminal justice. Require four year degree in criminal justice, or related field (e.g. JD) for ranks of lieutenant or above.

In police academy require semester long courses on psychology, abnormal psychology, civil/human rights, constitutional law, black history, and basic EMT skills.

Include intensive training in deescalation methods.

Use results of MMPI to weed out officers w/ severe sociopathic or narcissistic psychopathology (I'm looking at you, Bob Kroll).

Absolute intolerance of police, cadets, instructors bullying each other.

Including training in duty to warn, duty to intervene, and duty to report.

Background investigations, review of tattoos, etc. as needed to reject candidates with affiliation with white-supremacist/militant alt-right/boogaloos, etc.

Make it a crime for a cop to join or participate in hate group activities.

Annual training with MN National Guard on PROPER management of civil disturbances.

7/1/2020 4:12:45 PM

Civilian involvement in review of all complaints. Officer(s) involved are entitled to counsel. Complaints are allowed to address the review committee. Complaint review committees includes one officer from internal affair, lawyer, and 3 Minneapolis residents. Complaints review conclusion included recommendations for the Chief of Police (or whatever new title is). If chief disagrees with conclusion, or recommendation they must talk to the review committee and come to a consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, case goes to mayor and city council. All appeals go to mayor and city council. All cases involving use of lethal force are reviewed by mayor and city county council. To avoid conflict of interest, when complaint alleges unlawful behavior on the part of the officer, it will be investigated by non-MPD agency (sheriff, BCA, FBI). Finding of investigation are reviewed by complaint review committee to determine if prior recommendations to chief of police need to be amended. All cases where suspect was injured, firearm was discharged by police, or less-lethal weapon was used are reviewed.

Civilians who work on complaint review committee are compensated at or above the City minimum wage.

Four year degree in appropriate field required of officers at rank of lieutenant and above.

In addition to law enforcement reboot, need to determine what response team will be for mental health emergencies, reports of abuse/neglect, etc.

People who are too out of control for the police to (safely) control, too disturbed to talk to mental health professional, or too drunk for detox belong in an emergency department.

City council members meet regularly with precinct captains in their ward to review and analyze activity of precinct.

Suspects and victims are informed about their right to file a complaint, and are given a card with the phone number, web site, TTY, and email address to use (or its electronic equivalent). Card will include the name and badge number of officer(s) involved and identity of any witnesses willing to provide a statement. Officers have a duty to provide this card, with their identity, when asked by anyone who is questioned, suspects, victims, potential witnesses, or when otherwise in contact with the officer.

More cops patrolling area of heavy crime on foot or bicycle.

7/1/2020 4:13:10 PM

I am in favor of amending the Minneapolis charter to allow more flexibility in defining how we will keep ourselves safe. Removing the mandate that we hire a specific number of police officers is an excellent start. I thought Richard Carlson's Opinion piece in the StarTribune on July 1, 2020 gave an excellent analysis of why this change is timely and appropriate.

Please let us vote on Nov 3, 2020 to amend the city charter and continue the process of healing our city.

Time is of the essence! Ward 7

7/1/2020 4:13:23 PM

Completely ridiculous idea. When the police disappear, crime and violence will immediately fill the void. So sad an idea with so little forethought is being advanced. The city is dying! Ward 5

7/1/2020 4:13:43 PM

i support dramatic and lasting change in how we do police work in Minneapolis. This change must include ways that The Police Chief or the Mayor can remove from employment officers who clearly evidence white racism, a pattern of continually violating black and brown people their civil rights and certainly for criminally attacking or killing another human being. If police unions and covenants of behavior are what is keeping the police chief and or the mayor from

then unions and covenants of understanding should be done away with.

The proposal for establishing a Community of Safety and Violence Prevention is what I believe is necessary as a reform of the Police Department in Minneapolis not a Charter Amendment.

7/1/2020 4:13:48 PM

I am a 12 year South Minneapolis resident, local Pastor, former educator in Minneapolis Public Schools and Hennipen County Foster Care. My wife is a small business owner.

I have seen over and over how our Minneapolis Police Department respond too little too late. Or too much too soon. It is a toxic work environment that relies on a military style environment of racist bullying. They are not public servants and they refuse to be trained or change. We can't continue to waste tax payer money on a system that doesn't work. I don't want to pay another \$40 million in police abuse settlements.

We want the new city charter to remove the language of the police department and use Community Safety Plan. I would like to be able to call 911 and get culturally competent, non-racist, people with the specific skills needed for each emergency. I would like to have public safety teams of homeless outreach workers, addiction counselors, youth outreach workers, after school programs, nurses, domestic abuse de-escalators, and a specific team that responds to violent crimes.

I do not have all the answers but what we have now is too broken to fix. We need to defund and disband the current Minneapolis Police Department and the union. We need to rebuild from the ground up.

7/1/2020 4:15:02 PM

Public notification of surveillance by the police, including (but not limited to) helicopter, cell phone data/intercepts, camera, and license plate readers. Make data available to the individual being surveyed but protect privacy and disallow any access by third parties. Require warrant to use data to track a specific individual.

Require police to stay with anyone brought to hospital who is under arrest or a mental health hold, unless specifically released by the attending physician.

Child protective services or similar child welfare experts must be included.

7/1/2020 4:15:28 PM

This is the stupidest idea I've ever heard of. That's all. Ward 12

7/1/2020 4:19:11 PM

I think the police union is a big part of the problem. While I am generally in favor of workers rights to organize, the police force should be treated as a special case as the members of the union are carrying deadly weapons and are being accused of very questionable behavior including murder. This is way beyond serving burgers or assembling cars and trucks.

The entire current union/arbitration agreement needs to be scrapped and redone/reimagined in a way that protects the public as well as the workers, not protecting the workers at the expense of the public.

7/1/2020 4:21:30 PM

I strongly oppose this charter amendment. In a social contract, which removes humans from the state of nature, the government's job is to provide security and in exchange citizens agree to limitations on their rights. If the government can't keep us secure then it isn't upholding its end of the contract. Reformed yet still armed law enforcement is required for security. Armed law enforcement has failed communities of color because of the current police union. We should spend our capital at this moment in history dismantling the barriers created by the police union in order to truly transform our police department. Why government would jump over this obvious step and go right to effectively scrapping its obligations under the social contract is extremist and baffling. I fear that they're listening to the loudest, though sincere, voices in the room and not those in our city most vulnerable and most affected. Furthermore, to the extent that there are more appropriate and better trained resources to respond to 911 calls it makes perfect sense to build and expand that capacity. However, as long as America is awash in guns there needs to be an armed law enforcement function. If for no other reason than to the same extent police aren't adequately trained to respond to mental health emergencies, so do mental health workers deserve safety and security on the job. Sending city employees of a new community safety department into an unsafe situation/workplace is illegal under federal law and wrong. (Consider domestic violence calls, the most volatile and dangerous to respond to - we must not require therapists to walk into such situations unprotected.) The armed and unarmed safety functions must coordinate and work together as resources for each other within each skill set and the current police union's barriers must be removed as the obvious, acute hurdles to ending police violence and racism so that all people regardless of skin color receive the benefit of the bargain under the social contract.

7/1/2020 4:21:40 PM

I absolute support this amendment. Disband the police, defund and start anew. MPD culture has been violent and toxic for years. If the department is disbanded then the union is as well. Start anew including any sort of representation community peace employees would have.

7/1/2020 4:22:50 PM

I fully support the removal of the Police Department as one of the charter departments, as the Police Department has perpetuated violence against communities of color with impunity for decades. The citizens of Minneapolis have a real need for safety that would come through a harm reduction and community investment focused department that took the enormous budget of the police department and channel into much needed programs that provide stable housing, mental health services and youth support. Thank you.

7/1/2020 4:23:18 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please support expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolitans can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election. Please, let us vote. Ward 7

7/1/2020 4:23:45 PM

I find the spirit of these changes to be heading in a good direction but I think it is missing some key detail. The fact that the person heading this new department of community safety and violence prevention will not be of law enforcement background is good, but the Council being in charge of

maintaining the law enforcement division doesn't make a lot of sense to me. If there isn't a direct relationship between the director of the safety and violence prevention and the law enforcement division where would accountability of the law enforcement division fall to? Where does the mayor fit into the picture of accountability structure? Is there a public oversight committee that can seek to remove individuals from the law enforcement division based on inappropriate behavior? It also seems odd to eliminate any further divisions to be maintained that relate to public health and safety. The assumption is that the new director will be maintaining sub divisions for public health, community response structures but seems odd to only point out the options for law enforcement divisions. Also the lack of clarity or parameters for what the law enforcement division will be subject to is worrying. The original police descriptions had much more detail as to what was required. Are they armed? Are they trained? Licensure required? The current description would allow for a military style law enforcement unit because of the lack of definition and the fact that it is posed as an optional choice by council and the director of this means it could be ramped up or disintegrated with every term. The suggested changes also do not speak to tiers of community engagement or responsibility delegation. The director could simply declare a need for law enforcement divisions and continue in a similar way as the current MPD. How can we ensure funding and support will be maintained for regional community level response? I don't see any mechanism here for this only high level oversight without accountability. I think in addition to defining what the law enforcement division would entail, its responsibilities, and accountability relationships we need to add residency clauses to ensure that division is made up of people living in the communities they serve and represent the region's demographics. Because there is no definition of what that division consists of we put ourselves in a position again to be policed by people from outside our communities who have no relationship or understanding of the people who live here. If the people in that division have no connection to the community we will again be discriminated against and more violence will be targeting our communities from armed government forces who instigate instead of serve and protect. Ward 2

7/1/2020 4:23:50 PM

Dear Minneapolis Charter Commission,

The people of Minneapolis deserve a meaningful community process to re-imagine health and safety that is not blocked by the City Charter. For years, the Charter has been a barrier to addressing the atrocities perpetrated by the Minneapolis Police Department because it restricts the city council's ability to hold MPD accountable. The Charter also restricts how the City practices public safety by requiring a minimum number of MPD officers. Neither of these barriers exists for any other City department.

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

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

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

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

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

7/1/2020 4:24:32 PM

As a resident of ward 4, I hear gunshots every night and experience crime in my neighborhood. I agree that reforms need to be done to change the impact of certain outcomes, but I don't approve of the charter. This creates risk for myself and my neighbors, who are scared and don't want the police to go away. We value our interactions with officers and the safety they provide. We don't want the city council to control the police as it'll be too hard to hold someone accountable. We want the charter change defeated and for our mayor to propose changes to the police department as it operates today.
Ward 4

7/1/2020 4:25:56 PM

after reading the council proceedings from June 12th re this charter amendment, I have two questions/comments - 1) Where does this plan leave the police union? Are they still intact? Do they play a role? Because if they are involved, I do not support this amendment as their leadership is corrupt and the city council /mayor's office has caved to their demands on previous attempts to make changes resulting in nothing getting done and the continued murdering of our black and brown community members with no accountability. 2) I am very concerned with WHO you are choosing to lead this change. I see you choosing the same established organizations that have been trying and failing to manage our MPD for years (i.e. Police Conduct Oversight Commission) and NOT the community members and front line activists doing the work who truly understand what the community needs. Please do better. More accountability of your work. More community involvement. More listening to community activists. Stop rushing this through and do it right. This charter amendment should have had community input before it was put to the charter committee.

7/1/2020 4:26:59 PM

Dear Charter Commission, I urge you to approve the proposed charter amendment so that the public can vote on this issue in November's election. I strongly support replacing the Minneapolis Police Department as a charter department and replacing it with a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. The Minneapolis PD has proven again and again that reforms don't work--we need to develop a new community safety department, with the guidance of the community, to make sure that our city's emergency services are truly meeting everyone's needs and keeping our citizens safe. Thanks for taking the time to read this message.

7/1/2020 4:27:54 PM

Disbanding / defunding the police is insane. Even since your vote, murders and/or crime has skyrocketed. Don't give into the mob. Minneapolis used to be beautiful, but being ruined by politicians. I'm extremely glad I no longer work there. If this insanity continues, you'll see a mass exodus of businesses and people. Lastly, your board should be ashamed of provided private protection for 3 of the members. You don't find that hypocritical and ludicrous? I will try to dissuade my relatives there to vote NO to removing the police and to vote OUT those socialist board members.

7/1/2020 4:28:02 PM

The MPD should not be a part of developing or staffing the departments/organizations that replace them.

The MPD have fought every attempt at even the most reasonable and minor reforms. 70% of them decided to vote in Bob Kroll to represent them, a violent corrupt and racist man. A man who repeatedly praised the men that killed George Floyd.

Only 14 police officers have spoken out against Chauvin's use of force. 14 out of 850. That's less than 2%. The rest either support him or are the kind to easily bend to peer pressure.

The police repeatedly used excess force in managing peaceful protestors, including harassing and attacking legitimate media, targeting medics, and generally escalating every encounter they had. Many of them are half-threatening to quit because the idea of even the most basic accountability and the loss of the ability to buy tanks they don't need or abuse the overtime system.

They have proven themselves over and over again to embrace a violent, corrupt, and bigoted culture.

They have lost the right to influence what we create to replace them. They have lost the right to be employed by the organizations that replace them. They had decades of opportunities to change for the better, but never did.

Removing the police department cannot just be a tiny amount of defending and a name change. Please. They had their chance. Let us have ours.

7/1/2020 4:28:40 PM

Thank you so much for the smart move. I look forward to the new Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department.

7/1/2020 4:30:13 PM

I would feel confident about supporting this amendment if I saw a detailed plan about what this new department would look like and how they will be run.

7/1/2020 4:31:06 PM

This is absolute pure insanity based on pure knee jerk emotional reactions. While I don't live directly within Minneapolis borders, I am essentially & basically close enough here in Richfield, being only a couple short miles from city limits. If you push through with this idiotic nonsense I fear it's only a matter of time until the problems you will have directly caused by this, spills across your borders into the surrounding cities like mine worse than it already has. I already make a conscious point to try to avoid traveling into Minneapolis for anything unless I absolutely have to...or if for a sporting event/concert, and even then it's right in and right back out, because of the crime problems you already have now...so I can only imagine how much worse it'll be if after you do what you're proposing to do. Just look at how many shootings, stabbings, muggings, robberies, ect you currently have...and especially the explosion of them recently.....those things aren't being committed by the police officers in Minneapolis, they're being committed by the citizens of Minneapolis. If anything needs reforming, it's the citizens of your city and the "gangbanger culture" to which some of them ascribe to. The biggest threat to minorities in your city isn't the police, its each other. I pity the more sane residents of your city who are not out there screeching in the streets demanding the police department be "defunded/dismantled"...because they will suffer the foolishness of you all who are. Oh, and to each one of you who is pushing to dismantle

the police department, drop your taxpayer funded security detail you hypocrites. Just hire a social worker to be with you instead, clearly you think that's good enough for your citizens, so therefore it should be good enough for you too right? Clowns.

7/1/2020 4:32:47 PM

This seems crazy to me. I believe the city Council is jumping the gun. They need to do extensive research and come up with a Detailed plan to present to the public. Who in their right mind would vote to abolish the police department without first knowing how the Minneapolis citizens will be protected. This seems like a knee-jerk reaction to put something through it before it has been well thought out because they think the mood in the community makes it possible. Give us the details! Tell us what this would look like and how it would work, and how much would it cost? I'm open to the concept if the details illustrate a plan that has a good chance of success. There is nothing more important than the public safety and it feels like the city Council is playing with the citizens safety and well-being.

7/1/2020 4:33:28 PM

I do not support abolishing the police. I do support defunding the police and redistributing the funds to the community.

7/1/2020 4:33:33 PM

I do not support this amendment. It is not vetted and researched and does not have input from the residents of this city, especially our Black residents.

Please do your thorough research, pull in experts and be diligent in this process before asking us for any vote.

7/1/2020 4:33:38 PM

White supremacy/boogaloo/militias/organized hate groups/etc pose a grave threat to the people of Minneapolis. Minneapolis law enforcement needs to coordinate with state and federal agencies, as well as ADL and SPLC to monitor these groups.

Provide security at protests. Block traffic a block away (so people driving can detour but people trying to use a car as a weapon are blocked/early warning), survey roof tops, open windows, balconies for hate-group/domestic terrorist group snipers. Remember that hate groups like the 3%ers, Patriot Front, etc often have members "counter protesting" with their AR-15s. They are NOT exercising their 1st and 2nd amendment rights, they are there to intimidate and interfere w/ peaceful demonstrations or directly attack members of a peaceful protest. Police need to figure out how they can safely escort these people away, as their presence just increases the number of legal concealed weapons and is a recipe for disaster.

Require Police captain or chief authorization of less lethal weapons against crowds. Require all less lethal weapon use to conform with manufactures Rocco ended stand off. Less lethal munitions, like rubber bullets become lethal simply by closing with the target and changing the aim point. These are serious weapons and use needs to be proper, restricted, controlled, and authorized.

7/1/2020 4:33:54 PM

May I start by saying, I cannot imagine what you are going through in these unprecedented times? This city has been known as clean, beautiful and full of "nice" people. I live in uptown and I work at Abbott Northwestern. I am from a small town and have felt safe, until the horrific events. When I go to work, and leave work, my patients are the top priority. My patients had to look out the window wondering if they are going to die from covid, or burning to death. Without the police, national guard, fire fighters and security, they would have died. I had to sleep over night because our hospital was unsure if we could drive to work.

My sister and brother-in-law own a duplex in uptown. They are now moving. I understand the backlash officers have gotten due to few coworkers, but the truth is, WE NEED THEM. You need to stop satisfying social media and people RUINING this town. Stand up for the officers, so I can finally sleep again. If not, you will be losing the people you actually want in this town..(my sister, RN and brother CRNA).

I ASK YOU, PLEASE, STAND UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT, OR THERE WILL BE NO BEAUTIFUL MINNEAPOLIS EVER AGAIN. WE NEED THE POLICE, AND WE NEED YOU.

7/1/2020 4:34:30 PM

If the proposed amendment passes and the police department is removed, I will never return to the city of Minneapolis. I will not watch another Twins, Viking, Timberwolves, or Lynx game. I will not bring my family to go out to dinner in Minneapolis, and I will not visit the Walker art center, or watch a play at the Orpheum, or see a concert at the State Theatre. I do not see the logic in this idea at all.

7/1/2020 4:34:35 PM

We need a police department to protect our citizenry. A "Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department" would only find usefulness in an adjunct basis, not as a replacement for the police department. To prevent potential criminals from perpetrating crimes those potential criminals need to know there will be swift and serious consequences for their actions. If we remove police protection in our city crime will be rampant. Criminals will come here from other locations because they will know they can get away with crime here. Thinking a police force can just be replaced by a violence prevention department is childish thinking. That kind of thinking shows lack of awareness of human nature. People will do horrendous things if they think they can get away with it. We need to work on crime prevention, but we also need to uphold the laws with a strong police presence. There will always be a need for police. Mature thinking will see the logic of that fact. If crime was only happening because people are underprivileged then there would be no white color crime or no criminals coming from wealthy neighborhoods. Criminals come from all socioeconomic levels and law abiding citizens need to be protected by police.

7/1/2020 4:35:16 PM

White supremacy/boogaloo/militias/organized hate groups/etc pose a grave threat to the people of Minneapolis. Minneapolis law enforcement needs to coordinate with state and federal agencies, as well as ADL and SPLC to monitor these groups.

Provide security at protests. Block traffic a block away (so people driving can detour but people trying to use a car as a weapon are blocked/early warning), survey roof tops, open windows, balconies for hate-group/domestic terrorist group snipers. Remember that hate groups like the 3%ers, Patriot Front, etc often have members "counter protesting" with their AR-15s. They are NOT exercising their 1st and 2nd amendment rights, they are there to intimidate and interfere w/ peaceful demonstrations or

directly attack members of a peaceful protest. Police need to figure out how they can safely escort these people away, as their presence just increases the number of legal concealed weapons and is a recipe for disaster.

Require Police captain or chief authorization of less lethal weapons against crowds. Require all less lethal weapon use to conform with manufactures recommended stand off. Less lethal munitions, like rubber bullets become lethal simply by closing with the target and changing the aim point. These are serious weapons and use needs to be proper, restricted, controlled, and authorized.

7/1/2020 4:36:00 PM

This change is unwise in the extreme. Things are violent enough as it is, with no Police Department it will be ghastly. (I have not left contact info because I'm worried about retaliation for my opinion.)

If this change goes through we will sell our house and leave the city.

7/1/2020 4:36:55 PM

I think every council member that voted to defund the MPD is an idiot. Caving in to terrorist and threats is not leadership. What prompted these riots and burnings is despicable and the bad cops are getting what they deserve (jail time i Hope). But to allow rioting, looting, violence and arson is unforgivable. The Police Dept. did not kill George Floyd, a couple of bad cops did! Who in their right mind believes a city without a police dept. can be safe for all the law abiding citizens. I believe the city must not cave in to the union's demands that shields all officers from any liability. I believe the police should be held accountable for any of their bad acts. Why are taxpayers stuck paying millions of dollars in settlements for the bad acts and misconduct of "bad" cops? Make them carry some type of their own insurance, but DO NOT DISBAND that thin blue line that protects us all.

7/1/2020 4:37:40 PM

To The Minneapolis Charter Commission,

As a third generation business and property owner in Minneapolis, I am requesting the Minneapolis Charter Commission to pause in eliminating the police department from the City Charter. With over 30 years of doing business and owning property in Minneapolis, the events of today require all of us to spend the necessary amount of time to do a thorough review of our current state of affairs before changing our governmental structure in such a knee jerk reaction to have not properly vetted a reliable solution to help repair the damage that has been done over the past 6 weeks, let alone 60 years.

Our city residents, with a population of over 400,000, deserve the right to participate in public engagement that is inclusive, deliberate, and transparent in process for all to weigh in on such a HUGE change of policy in such a brief time period. Only then, should this issue be placed on a ballot for a full vote of all citizens. This can only be accomplished within a realistic timeframe of the November 2021 election cycle.

I have committed my entire working career and life to the revitalization of North Minneapolis and West Broadway Avenue. I have made substantial investments in my community over the past several decades and hope to continue on my path. I have survived the days of "Murderapolis" in 1996, the acts of Mother Nature in the tornado that wiped out my businesses and community in 2011, and now human nature that in its lawlessness has destroyed over 1500 businesses in Minneapolis and threatens to rewrite how the law-abiding citizens of our communities are protected from bad actors.

This is not a time for fast tracking a change of policy without a plan that can insure how the City of Minneapolis along with law enforcement can properly protect its citizens and businesses. I implore you all to not to rush to judgment but engage with all in our city to develop a plan that allows for proper input from all citizens in Minneapolis.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Best Regards, Ward 5

7/1/2020 4:38:25 PM

I am a ten year resident of Minneapolis who builds affordable housing with a nonprofit. I am fully behind the spirit of the program and support having the charter amendment on the ballot.

So many problems that the police are asked to deal with shouldn't be addressed by a public servant coming in with a gun, a badge, and the legal authority to kill their fellow citizens. Much of the resources and training to address those problems should be put toward others better trained to handle them. Modest reforms and changes of leadership have failed due to the systemic nature of the problems, and a failure of accountability baked into the current system. An overhaul is due.

However, my biggest concerns are tearing something down without having the plans and infrastructure to replace it that has a proven track-record of success. The charter amendment whether it passes or not, doesn't address this. Removing the requirement for a police department (as currently described in the charter) leaves entirely open how the transition occurs, how replacements are piloted, and what incentive structures are put in place to ensure the safety of Minneapolis citizens. The charter amendment doesn't address that (nor should it). All the hard work will remain to be done.

7/1/2020 4:39:55 PM

I am a professor at the University of Minnesota and resident of Minneapolis. I am concerned that the voices of the black community are not being consulted about what is needed for a charter amendment to defund or abolish MPD. It seems the same bad practices of not listening to the needs of the community are getting perpetuated in this charter amendment. This is disturbing and I demand that the correct action is taken to listen to local black, indigenous and POC organizations and leaders that have made their needs for changes to public safety very clear, and it seems City Council is not listening to them and proceeding to do what they have done in the past, and continuing to fail the community on measures to improve public safety and violence prevention WITHOUT listening to the voices of the communities that are most impacted by the violence perpetuated by the current system. Please do the right thing and don't allow any former or current MPD officers to be involved in the decisions to restructure a community-oriented and run public safety committee. MPD officers should not be allowed to be involved in this process. The demands from local black, indigenous and other POC organizations is that ALL MPD officers are removed and not allowed to be involved in the new system that this Charter Amendment is supposed to do. They all need to be removed and screened and re-trained and to undergo rigorous and continued mental health screens BEFORE they can REAPPLY to be PEACE OFFICERS. Additionally, this committee should be predominantly filled with representatives from the black, indigenous and other POC communities to ensure white supremacists practices are not taking control of this situation. Get rid of the Police Union. Get rid of Bob Kroll. Get rid of militarized equipment for first responders. Our public safety officers should not look like an armed militia of white men that don't live in Minneapolis terrorizing communities of color. Completely restructure our public safety and actually LISTEN to the communities that are demanding change. CHANGE THE CHARTER to include the feedback from the community.

7/1/2020 4:40:19 PM

We oppose the proposed Charter Amendment due to difficulty recruiting people, businesses and jobs in Minneapolis without the security of law enforcement. Taxes depend on stability of jobs.

For example, my spouse recently spent \$5,000 on a professional interviewing process to recruit candidates for an executive position job opening. In April, they had narrowed the field down to a person from Chicago, who was willing to move his family to Minneapolis. This candidate just withdrew himself from the opportunity, citing mismanagement of the City of Minneapolis in their amendment to defund the police.

This is only one example of what will be future difficulty in recruiting business people to Minneapolis. The inexperience of the City Council is driving away investment by implementing a restricted vision of change. Thank you.

7/1/2020 4:40:58 PM

I am fully in favor of abolishing the police department and creating a Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department. We should be able to call 911 and get culturally competent, non-racist, people with the specific skills needed to address complicated situations. I would police department funding to go towards a team of responders who are top-notch at trauma-informed de-escalation.

We should be spending all our energy in PREVENTING violence in the first place, and that means housing, jobs, grocery stores, better and equitable schools, parks, medical care, trauma counseling, deep community organized social work, and working to address historical inequities.

Honestly, Junauda Petrus-Nash said it pretty well when she wrote, "Give the Police Department to the Grandmothers." When people are in trouble, in pain or about to cause violence, they need to be met with care and de-escalation skills, not guns. This is a vision for what caring for whole people can look like.

<https://ragamuffinfemme.wordpress.com/2017/07/13/could-we-please-give-the-police-departments-to-the-grandmothers/>

7/1/2020 4:41:47 PM

Hello, I have read the proposed charter amendment carefully. I generally support a strong revision of policing. However, I believe the words of our constitution are important. I can think of 2 areas that I would want to debate (background, I am a financial advisor, and a married father of 3 young children). 1st - the proposed amendment removes a funding rule (.0017 per resident) and replaces it with a funding guidance (using the word 'sufficient funding'). 'Sufficient funding' is not a good phrase for a constitution. You can leave the 'sufficient funding' phrase, which captures the spirit. However, there should then be a disclaimer that says 'overall funding for the new community safety department should not dip below the .0017 equivalent' or something along those lines. 2nd, and maybe more importantly, the chief of police, and his or her budget, should be directly accountable to the mayor, Not to the community safety director. Without this division, you create additional friction and political problems. The chief/head of police will be fighting for dollars from a social worker, who may or may not be sympathetic. There will be arguments about crime and how it is coded (did an individual threaten someone else, was it an assault, or was it a mental health issue?). These statistics will relate to funding. The head of police cannot lose all of those arguments under the constitution - that is neither accurate nor fair. So the police need their own budget, still accountable to the mayor. The chief of police and community safety can then compete on attention and budget, each petitioning the mayor, and there

can be clean winners or losers on the merits of their arguments. The overall budget should remain the same. Allocation between the two departments should NOT be determined in the constitution. Rather, this should be decided by voters via mayoral and city council elections. If crime surges, pressure will build for a mayor and city council to spend more on traditional policing. If community safety is working, pressure will build to continue to move funds away from policy and towards the holistic/social work approach. The constitution should not pre-determine this conversation. However, it should mandate that the conversation can happen every year (as opposed to the current constitution, which disallows any conversation at all, and mandates all dollars to traditional policing). I am happy to talk further.

Ward 2

7/1/2020 4:43:26 PM

My comments to the city charter commission were just submitted: "I want to go on record stating that I believe our police department and public safety initiatives beyond police need complete overhaul and reimagination. Having read this charter proposal or whatever y'all are calling it, this here, is not that. This is hollow, lacks substance, and gives zero assurances as to what public safety and criminal justice will actually look like (beyond "restorative justice" which process has not been revealed). We need change that is well thought out, carefully considered, not this cut and paste cool sounding phrases we googled nonsense. Hell no on this here amendment. I hope it doesn't get to ballot, if it does I'll vote no, and by the way, Communities United Against Police Brutality has issued 44 recommendations that could be implemented right now, without a charter amendment, and y'all want to keep acting like the real substantive solutions haven't been offered up to you on a silver platter. Stop insulting us."

7/1/2020 4:44:49 PM

I am invigorated by the possibilities this amendment creates for meaningful transformation of local law enforcement & public safety. I understand that many will balk at the "lack of detail," or "impracticality" of these measures. I believe these constituents are not considering the benefits of engaging in a process together, as neighbors and citizens, to build out these details in a way that incorporates not only our right to public safety, but honors our collective responsibility for establishing public safety that centers the needs of ALL, not just some, community members. I look forward to engaging in this process with you. I hope you will also hear from many like-minded constituents ready to do the work of creating the transformative change that is so badly needed in Minneapolis. Ward 5

7/1/2020 4:45:28 PM

I think that this needs to be better thought out and that the black community needs to be consulted on this. How will community safety ensure non racist law enforcement?

7/1/2020 4:47:12 PM

A "Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department" would be insufficient to prevent all violence or serious violations of law. Augmenting the Police Department with another group that might handle non-violent situations would be fine, but eliminating the Police Department would be most unwise. Not all rapists, burglars, robbers, muggers, or other assailants will respond "appropriately" to an unarmed counselor appearing at the scene of a crime. We need to improve our Police Department and emphasize de-escalation where de-escalation is possible. We need to closely monitor officers and properly deal with racist behavior or inappropriate use of force. We need to ensure that any collective bargaining agreement does not prohibit swift and effective discipline when racist behavior or inappropriate use of force has been documented. We may need a Citizens Review Board with authority to review complaints, including unedited body camera documentation.

But eliminating the Police Department, eliminating our ability to have armed and trained officers on the scene when needed, would be idealistic nonsense.

7/1/2020 4:50:34 PM

I am strongly opposed to the nebulous plan to remove the Police department. While review and discussion of what we expect of the department is indicated and punishment of officers who break the law must be done, removing the police is not the solution. Not many of us have the money to hire private security and certainly not at public expense. Chauvin needs to be proecuted, police shouldn't be called upon to be social workers, but remove the department? I've tried to be objective but, really, remove the police department ?

7/1/2020 4:51:01 PM

I oppose the abolishment of the MPD, but I believe in police reform starting with changing the laws which uphold systemic racism.

7/1/2020 4:51:17 PM

I believe prevention is a great tool that is needed. However, what happens when safety is compromised and law enforcement is required? We can't rely on county and state resources. Or are we implementing vigilante justice?

7/1/2020 4:53:22 PM

We must not disband, defund, or abolish the Minneapolis Police Department. We must increase the funding for, and size of, our department to provide more officer training, better officer pay, and lower rates of crime and violence in our city.

During the riots following the death of George Floyd we saw what our city looks like without police. With damages totaling more than \$500 million, more than twice the police budget for an entire year, we simply cannot afford to repeat this experiment in lawlessness.

Our police are not "rotten to the root", and our officers undoubtedly save countless lives every year. We must not abolish, disband, or eliminate our police. I will not vote to (re)elect any candidate at the local level who supports abolishing the police, including my current city council representative, Cam Gordon. Unlike, members of the city council, who can afford the privilege of private security, I, and most other Minneapolis residents cannot. This is deeply unfair to us and our families. We need the police to keep us safe.

There are several options for police reform that would avoid dismantling the entire police department including simply abolishing the police union, requiring more training (especially in Brazilian jiu-jitsu, which was proposed by Democratic Presidential Candidate Andrew Yang), and higher officer pay, to attract more highly qualified applicants.

7/1/2020 4:55:22 PM

I am afraid of the police. Suburban and rural people should not be policing in the cities.....they have gotten their info about black people via the racist media and their racist culture/families. This is not a war zone and should not be policed as such. Ispend the money on schools alleviating poverty. Police and police unions are inherently racist, i say, AND I AM WHITE.

7/1/2020 4:56:54 PM

To the Minneapolis City Council, We want MORE officers with better training, and a meritocracy not union protectionism. Disbanding and dismantling the police is NOT the solution. We have the utmost respect and appreciation of Chief Arandondo and stand behind him and the officers of the MPD. We trust his recommendations on reform. He knows Minneapolis and its people. We do NOT trust the city council and your judgment at all!! Thank you!

7/1/2020 4:57:01 PM

I oppose the current proposal but support police reform. I grew up right near 26th St. and Bloomington Ave. and the Minneapolis police promoted safety for children, the elderly, and families by police presence, community outreach at parks, and quick response to violent crime, and other proactive crime suppression measures. Our police men and women need more training, more funding, and more care for their wellbeing given the uniquely stressful and traumatic nature of their roles. Mandated time off, regular training in verbal de-escalation, regular physical hand-to-hand training to build "open handed" skills, and shooting training to promote healthy, skilled, emotionally rested professionals is what we need. Rather than a system tied to the mayor, an independent sheriff elected directly by Minneapolis or Hennepin County residents would positively connect our law enforcement professionals with us, the residents. A large sheriff's department would promote a stronger community connection. But trying to create limits and rules predicting when a responding officer may or may not need to defend their life and the lives of the vulnerable with physical force is a risk-decision that should not be taken away from our brave men and women who seek to keep our city safe. Personally, I hold to communities believing in the Catholic faith to promote the health and flourishing of families in our city for the purpose of protecting life, growing in the classical virtues, and building a culture of life. I also take responsibility for the defense of my family, myself, and others unable to defend themselves by exercising my 2nd Amendment rights and aspiring to stay physically fit and aware of my surroundings. If the city unwisely removes its law enforcement professionals in an already tumultuous year, I fear for the elderly, the children, and all those unable to defend themselves from unjust aggression. Ward 13

7/1/2020 4:57:37 PM

I am not in favor of abolishment of police

I am in favor of better pay & counseling/training for police

I am in favor of establishment of a community outreach & mental health Department

I am in favor of establishment of a separate tactical unit to deal with drug gangs and terrorism

Police is an integral part of the enforcement of law.

An effective well trained and compensated police will ensure fairness in the treatment of people in violation of the law . It will give law abiding citizens a sense of security which will assure them that there is no need to arm themselves. This will result in less arms in hands of citizens.

The inability of the city to protect Citizens, businesses as well as their private property during the 4/5 days that followed Mr. Floyd's killing by a police officer bluntly exposes the problems Minneapolis has with its current law enforcement department. The protests/riots clearly demonstrate that the police had 3 issues to deal with And failed in doing so on all three accounts

A) peaceful protesters - police was unable to give these individuals a safe environment to express their grievances

B) terrorism (Arson and destruction of public and private property) - police was unprepared to deal with the organized urban warfare evidenced during these days.

C) criminals (looting and stealing) - police was unable to distinguish crime from terrorism and was unable to organize itself to address both groups appropriately

The establishment of community outreach & mental health department are both imperative and serve as hedges to crime and terrorism. This would allow connection of police to the community and the creation of bonds of Mutual trust And flow of information. The assistance of counselors will identify mental health issues give guidance as to treatment and hopefully avoid people to spiral into extreme mental distinction and avoid the self medication route to drugs and drug dependency. It is important to realize that this department should be separate from the police and need to be regarded as early intervention. Once the individual is mentally ill and a drug addict that is resorting to violence one needs the intervention of police.

As the Violence and destruction of the recent protests/riots clearly demonstrate It is also imperative to have a highly trained tactical team specializing in organized urban warfare and sophisticated Well funded drug gangs.

Our police has been organized along a social profile of the 70's/80's/90's. We need to evolve and prepare for our new reality on the streets of Minneapolis

7/1/2020 5:00:47 PM

Remove the police as a charter organization

7/1/2020 5:00:55 PM

Please do not dismantle the police. It's become so dangerous everywhere lately. Ward 5

7/1/2020 5:02:08 PM

I DONOT WANT THE POLICE REMOVED FROM SERVING MY CITY OF MPLS.

SHOOTINGS HAPPEN EVERY NITE IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD AREA I WANT LAW ENFORCEMENT TO RESPOND . PEOPLE LIVING IN TENTS THAT'S NOT RIGHT. PEOPLE CANT ENJOY THEIR PARKS , NEIGHBORHOODS, WE DONT NEED YOU GUYS POLICING. KEEP RONDO AS POLICE CHIEF & WORK TO SERVE YS NOT TRYING TO POLICE US YOU ALL DONT KNOW ANY THING ABOUT LAW ENFORCEMENT.

REBUILD OUR POLICE BUT DONOT ELIMINATE THEM. THE PRESIDENT CAN BE VOTED OUT & SO CAN YOU ALL IF YOU GET THIS WRONG.....PLEASE DONT GET THIS WRONG !

7/1/2020 5:02:14 PM

A department of Public Safety is much needed and should be adopted

7/1/2020 5:02:23 PM

I am in favor of a city charter amendment, but I am not in favor of the amendment proposed by the city council.

I am in favor of a charter amendment which would defund the city council. If not eliminating it entirely, I would like to see the Minneapolis city council reduced from 13 members to seven. The council is a drain and waste of tax dollars. I would like to see the city charter amended so that the mayor has more authority and has authority over the MPD.

I am not in favor of a reduction of the MPD. That is an absurd proposal considering that at least 100 people have been shot in Minneapolis since May 25. Cars are drag racing on city streets and violent crime and drug trafficking is on the rise. We need more and better policing.

The city council are the very people who failed to protect citizens in recent riots. Now they want to make changes, but have no plan. These are the same people who have had no plan for years and by willfully ignoring the problem until it exploded are as guilty of causing it as the police organization they blame. Also, their hypocrisy is beyond belief. Three of thirteen are being protected by private security while citizens are being shot and killed almost daily. Defund the city council. Leadership by committee is not leadership, it is chaos. And it's long past time for the chaos to end.

7/1/2020 5:04:00 PM

Dont defund the police department. Or even take away money from them. Raise the property taxes if you want to make more money for more programs. I know so many people (of all races) that want to move out of Minneapolis because of this. We all support the BLM movement but taking away money from the police is ridiculous. They need more money for new and better training too. Wheres that going to come from? Less police and less funding police for police is not the answer whatsoever. Who cares what other states and cities have done in the past. The crime rate here is slowly getting higher and higher. And you just want to throw money and social workers at the problem? Ha! I know some people commit crimes for various reasons, and they wont always commit crimes. What about the people that are literally career criminals? Having a strong police force will help prevent those people from committing more and more crimes.

I dont even know why I'm writing all of this. It's obvious you're going to do whatever you want and you'll only listen to the loudest people and not the majority.

7/1/2020 5:05:42 PM

Yes yes yes PLEASE PUT THE QUESTION OF ADDING THE AMENDMENT TO REMOVE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT. I am a therapist moving back to Minneapolis in just under a month and strongly believe in the role mental health workers have to play here. We need to remove the police and replace it with a Community Safety and Violence Prevention department.

7/1/2020 5:06:04 PM

I am totally against defunding the police department. I believe we need some reforms, but I also believe we need more police, more training, and more money for that department.

7/1/2020 5:06:47 PM

I am in support of real change in law enforcement and public safety. We must create a system that doesn't create fear in our community. Police officers must be held accountable for their actions. All measures must be taken to de-escalate situations, with extreme measures only acceptable as an absolute last resort. I think it's important to listen to our black and brown community members. I am also interested in learning more about what current police officers think could help. I hear a lot in the media about MPS being a toxic, racist, sexist environment, which leads me to believe that we need to start over. However, I know I don't know the whole story. I understand that there are many things this community needs beyond law enforcement, and that working to create better lives will go a long way in reducing crime. What we consider crimes must also be scrutinized. Please take your time on this, listen, and work with many people to get it right.

7/1/2020 5:07:37 PM

I would like to know what the City of Minneapolis will do to guarantee that the new proposed Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention will not be intended with the same systemic racism that the current Minneapolis Police Department is allegedly infected with. For the past 42 years the DFL has had control of the City Government of Minneapolis, including the Police Department, so why has the DFL allowed this racism to flourish? And since the DFL is in control of the current City Council that is designing the new Department, what makes us think that the DFL will not foster the growth of racism in the new Department? Ward 8

7/1/2020 5:08:34 PM

I strongly believe that this is the correct time to take up this amendment. Regardless of one's thoughts on the police department, there will never be a better time with more community engagement or public interest in this issue than right now.

Preventing this ballot question from coming before the voters in November would deprive Minneapolisians of a unique opportunity to shape the future of the city. I am urging you to please move this charter amendment forward. Thank you for your time and attention.

7/1/2020 5:08:48 PM

There has not been enough information nor detail provided for me to vote to change the charter to remove the police department. The devil is in the details. Reform is needed but there has to be clarity as to what shape that reform will take. I want to point out that Camden NJ lost 10% of its population immediately following the elimination of their police department. My house is paid for, I am close to retirement and will not tolerate loss in the value of my property because of this issue.

My opinion is that without changing the city charter in any way a new division should be created under the authority of the chief of police. The new division will take the shape of whatever the end goal is. They need to show they can be effective with a very limited and specific type of 911 call. Once they have shown they can be effective on the first limited call type; expand to another type of 911 call. Continue this evolution based on success.

Based on what is known at this time, I will not support a change to the city charter.

7/1/2020 5:08:52 PM

Minneapolis police department must not only be defunded and disbanded, but also not be replaced by a police force from the state or federal level. The police department must ONLY be replaced by a community-informed and resourced network of professionals that are not weaponized or militarized. Absolutely no state patrol or federal police-type forces should replace our already militarized police force that had murdered and terrorized so many members of our community.

7/1/2020 5:09:26 PM

Do not defund the police. There is a crime problem in Minneapolis, not a police problem. Why do you think Chief Arradondo asked for more police? You are discriminating against an entire police force based on the unacceptable actions of a few bad ones. Yet, it is not ok for the public to label all blacks as bad people based on the actions of a few. Seems very hypocritical. Instead, educate yourselves on police training and spend a few shifts with police so you can witness firsthand what is going on in your city and how the police handle the calls. Do you know that police training focuses on de-escalation with use of force as a last resort? Do you know that deadly force is .02% of calls that are recorded? And that 1 of every 100 calls is a use of force call? You need to consider the facts, not your feelings. Unfortunately there are bad people who commit crimes and aren't willing to face the consequences which is why they resist arrest and run from the police. They don't like getting caught. Have you considered educating the citizens that if they commit a crime, they can expect to be arrested. I haven't felt safe in Minneapolis for a few years now and I've worked downtown for 20+ years. If you defund the police, I will no longer spend any money in Minneapolis and will try to find a new job. Good luck getting any major sports events or large conventions without a police department. Didn't you witness firsthand what happens when there are no police during all the rioting and looting in May? You can expect more of that and your city will be controlled by gangs and thugs. Do you really think mental health workers will want to respond to calls without a police officer present? Who will decide who gets sent to which calls? Did you know there are mental health workers who go to calls with police? The fire department and EMS already don't want to respond to calls without police. There is no logic in this proposal. The city council is completely out of touch with reality as they sit comfortably in their homes with private security while the citizens they represent live in fear. Shame on the city council and the mayor.

7/1/2020 5:09:48 PM

As a caucasian who's lived in and around Minneapolis nearly my entire 40 year life span, I can say, without a doubt in my mind, that I'd most likely be dead if I were born an African American. I've been hit with a riot shield for peacefully leaving a Rage Against The Machine concert during the RNC held here, had guns drawn and myself and my passenger for following police instructions to the letter while removing my insurance and registration from my glove box during a pull over in which I recieved no ticket, been told by police to never come back to Golden Valley because I dared to return to my parked car at 8:02pm when the park I was taking photographs of for a school project closed at 8pm, etc, etc., etc., and I'm a bald, white dude and even I feel unsafe when the police are around because of they way they act toward anyone not in a uniform. And I'm not trying to denigrate the BLM movement, complaining about "poor me", I'm saying I got off lucky simply due to the color of my skin. During that park fiasco mentioned above, I was walking back to my car and came around a cluster of trees to find two cop cars and a tow truck taking cars away. My car was last in line and had yet to be locked up. In an attempt to keep that from happening, I sprinted towards them waving my hands above my head and when they noticed me, every one of them put hands on guns and screamed for me to halt. I stopped as suddenly as I could and guns came out anyway. They asked what I was doing hanging out in a closed park and even though I told them I didn't know the park closed before sundown, they assumed I was

doing drugs despite the 35mm camera around my neck. I was questioned and patted down before they told me never to set foot in their city again. I was allowed to go to my car and left as quickly as I could but if I had been a black person sprinting through a park at them at dusk, I have little doubt they would have just opened fire. Bob KKKroll and his merry bunch of murder happy fascists have had their way too long. We need police living in the cities they police! We need mental health experts helping the mentally ill, not armed lunatics with a license to kill. We need non-lethal answers to traffic stops and minor offenses. We need warrants to mean something. The police and their "warrior training" bullshit needs to go and anyone who spent their spare time and money attending those classes needs to be fired outright! We aren't the enemy, the police are supposed to work FOR us, not murder us in our fucking homes. And if nothing is changed, if no one is found guilty, then those who ignore us will be at fault when this city is burnt to the ground again and again. Stop this senseless carnage now and defund the police!

7/1/2020 5:11:39 PM

I believe the proposed charter amendment is grossly irresponsible with the potential to endanger Minneapolis citizens and businesses. I have lived and work in this city for the past seven years and do not want your actions to not only potentially harm me but hinder the growth of my hometown.

The proposed amendment does not address protecting life and property, which should be the top priority of any policing structure. What are the citizens that cannot afford personal protection such as city council members have recently enacted supposed to do if they cannot trust police will be there when most needed to alleviate a threat?

The preventative measures and community approach as laid out in the proposal are an idealistic pipe dream that fail to address harmful and threatening crime. Preventative measures need to come secondary to ensuring safety of all law abiding citizens.

Unfortunately, the reality we are living through now since George Floyd's death is severe under-policing in an attempt to correct one issue which has created a new one. I'm fearful this proposal will exacerbate the current environment that lacks law and order needed in a civilized society. Thanks

7/1/2020 5:14:28 PM

I support the defunding and disbanding of an extremely racist police force, from the police federation to the out of city junior officers. We need resources for mental illnesses that do not involve the police. We need trained escalators instead of Out of control trained escalators. I have never had a positive encounter with a cop. Never. I've had cops point guns at my face. I've had cops throw pyrotechnics at my head. I've been arrested on numerous occasions due to me expressing my 1st Amendment rights. Officers called me "pussy" and "faggot" and other names for expressing these rights. I was hog tied and laughed at after marching in an anti war march. Another officer pointed his gun at my face while smiling. I do not want a white supremacist occupiers in my community. And whatever takes its place after defunding and dismantling, we need a civilian panel or board that is 100% electable and which has hire and fire power and the ability to prosecute. Please allow the charter amendment to go through. Thank you.

7/1/2020 5:15:29 PM

I think this charter amendment is CRUCIAL to the safety, security, future of Minneapolis. The police cannot be reformed. They are functioning in the way they have been set up to, which is in direct threat of my well-being and my right to sustainable life. Defund the police, all \$190+ million of it, and give those hard-earned resources back to the individuals and communities who have been presently and historically SHIT on. Yes, profanity is necessary. Ward 9

7/1/2020 5:15:37 PM

The proposed charter amendment to the Charter Commission is a very bad idea and, if approved, could have serious consequences for us, the citizens who rely on our police department for their help from time to time. It does not appear much thought was given to correct the problems our police department has before coming up with this charter amendment. The City Council needs to do more research on decisions of this magnitude before they act on it. The citizens of Minneapolis need much more information related to this decision if we are expected to pass the amendment in November.

7/1/2020 5:16:00 PM

As a Powderhorn Park resident, I have seen the effects of police violence on our community, and the hurt and trauma inflicted by our current model of public safety. Now, I also see a community healing from that violence, actively working towards some new version of public safety that looks fundamentally different than that status quo. This ballot measure is an important part of that work - the conversations that happen between now and November will help our community to connect and to heal as we all collectively figure out where we go from here. This is why it is so important for the Charter Commission to allow the measure to move to the ballot; rather than acting as gatekeepers to the ballot - simply allow our community to have input in the form of our vote. Where we go from there remains to be seen, but at least being given the option and the voice is a necessary tool to transforming the status quo.
Ward 9

7/1/2020 5:16:40 PM

It does not appear that the City Council (the Council) has given adequate thought to the structure of the proposed revisions in the City Charter. Whereas reform is necessary, there appears to be a lack of clear understanding as to how law enforcement will be carried out and under whose direction. (1) Is there evidence that a non-uniformed director has the experience to direct law enforcement? (2) How will civilian review take place? (3) Under the proposed new charter who will decide the distribution of funds between new community safety programs and "traditional" policing. The latter seems crucial as the proposed changes in the Charter will result in competition for resources between groups. Defining the distribution of funding in advance will less this need.

In short, the Council appears to have rushed to a "solution" without having thought through the proposed changes.

7/1/2020 5:17:30 PM

Please move along with the charter amendment so that it can be on the ballot in the 2020 election Ward 3

7/1/2020 5:17:38 PM

I liked the funding that the present charter mandated. The proposed charter does not mention it, but I think it is necessary.

7/1/2020 5:17:42 PM

I strongly support bringing the proposed amendment before voters this November. Voting on the charter amendment in November would be the first step in a long process of the citizens of Minneapolis reimagining what the public safety of our city looks like. Ward 9

7/1/2020 5:18:18 PM

This is a joke right?! This is the craziest thing I've ever heard!! You do realize that if you get rid of police that you are making yourselves huge target for more crime than ever before!! Businesses will leave, truck drivers will refuse service to your city. Residents will feel unsafe and vulnerable for imaginable attacks on them and their homes, the majority of which never asked for any of this chaos. Forget about tourism as well!! I live in central mn, and if you go ahead with this grossly irresponsible "amendment", I will never visit your city again (Sorry Twins). I couldn't imagine putting my son in a more dangerous situation. I really can't believe this foolishness is actually being entertained. It's time to stop pandering and start acting like grown-ups!!

7/1/2020 5:18:41 PM

I truly believe that the city of Minneapolis should stop pandering to the interest groups and start dealing with issues. As you have noticed (or not) the GLBT activists are now joining the BLM group to increase the protesting and activism in Minneapolis. Removing the Police Dept will in effect put in charge the type of people who let CHAZ go crazy in Washington. Liberals who have no respect for what it takes nor the incredible effort and sacrifices our police have taken in the past to keep Minnesotans safe. Imagine having every move and action every second of every day scrutinized by people who have no clue as to the pressures and daily abuses of protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens only to be charged with excessive violence. Imagine watching lawless mobs who are allegedly fighting for justice by sheer numbers over match the police force and burn down police precincts and businesses. Yes, we need to do something about the abuses that have taken place. Yes, something must be done about the pressure and hardening of a police mans heart which becomes cold dealing with the fact he must enforce the laws we have given him and send him out each day not knowing if he gets to come home to his wife and children. What we do not need is to start by re-naming things and adding bureaucracy and and oversight. Start a commission on help, not change. We need to support our police dept, not disband it.

7/1/2020 5:18:56 PM

Thank you to the commissioners that spoke up during the meeting to take this at a slow pace and get input from everyone. That is the type of leadership we need right now! Let's get this right and not rush anything! Thank you!!!! Ward 7

7/1/2020 5:19:12 PM

Hello, I applaud the City Council on moving this initiative forward. In general, I support removing the Police Department from the Charter and establishing a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. In particular, I support removing the funding requirement in the city charter so that we may begin the task of defunding MPD.

I am concerned about what would happen to state mandated law enforcement tasks were the city to successfully alter the Charter. Would Hennepin County Sheriff take over these functions? What mechanism of accountability would we, the city, have over them?

I hope that regardless of what happens with this process, the City Council will take steps over the course of this summer to address our budget shortfall through defunding MPD--a reckless, abusive, racist institution which causes harm to many. They need to pay their price.

7/1/2020 5:19:42 PM

Plz create a new safety and prevention department. It's what our city needs. Ward 5

7/1/2020 5:20:13 PM

I believe the MPD is getting in the way of progress. Funds should be moved from MPD to mental health organizers, school counselors and organizations helping people experiencing homelessness, and supporting POC and LGBTQ+ groups.

7/1/2020 5:20:17 PM

The city council should be disbanded NOT the police . We see the terrorism , the violence , the anarchy, the mob rule murder and destruction inflicted on the twin cities BECAUSE of the reprehensible irresponsible rhetoric and speech put forth by city council members ...you should all be arrested , not making partisan decisions that effect law abiding citizens. May lawful good people save .Minneapolis from your sinister agenda .

7/1/2020 5:20:24 PM

The city council has presented no information for how this department would work. This entire suggestion lacks details and is being pushed through by Lisa Bender without any thought. A change as drastic as this one needs to be researched and thought out. Thank you to the commissioners that advocated to take this at a slow and steady pace to get input from all parties! Ward 3

7/1/2020 5:21:51 PM

I would greatly encourage the commission to allow the voters to decide THIS YEAR. We've been told to wait, that reforms are coming, that with a bit more time things will turn around. Enough is enough is enough. If you vote to delay this, the next black man killed by the police, the next family ripped apart by needless escalation, the next community ravaged by violence perpetrated by their so-called "protectors" (and there certainly will be more) will be on your heads. Please, I beg you to do the right thing and let the citizens of Minneapolis take back their safety and their streets from the brutality of the MPD. Thank you for your service to our city, and thank you for reading my message. Ward 10

7/1/2020 5:22:47 PM

Our policing system needs to change. Our police do not protect our residence, but rather create fear and hostility. I am a social worker and believe that much of the work that our current policing system does could be done by other social workers. I do think that there are wonderful police officers that care about our community, I would like them to live in our city and have required social work or psychology degrees. There is a rule for policing in our community, but I would like us to re-imagine what that means.

7/1/2020 5:22:55 PM

I do think a serious overhaul of what we call policing is a good idea. However, I want to forward on the concerns of Communities United Against Police Brutality and Twin Cities Coalition for Justice 4 Jamar:

<https://www.minnpost.com/metro/2020/07/what-to-do-about-the-mpd-how-three-activist-groups-are-rethinking-public-safety/>

I don't feel confident that the current plan provides enough community accountability. I don't want us to exchange one problem for another.

7/1/2020 5:23:37 PM

I am embarrassed to say I am from Minneapolis to my friends and family that live out-of-state. This was a horribly tragic event but let's come together and make things better not make quick emotional decisions that are so drastic and not thought-out. Ward 4

7/1/2020 5:26:42 PM

I am a Minneapolis business owner that has a hard enough time dealing with COVID but if this measures passes, I will certainly shut my doors for good. We have a great relationship with the police and seeing the entire department be dismantled without a step-by-step plan is the worst idea I have ever heard of. There are some great police officers out there and this attempt to vilify an entire department by the city council is sickening. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 5:26:58 PM

Hi, I am deeply saddened by the death of George Floyd and the failure of the police department. However, I am deeply concerned with the plan to defund the police department. The system needs to be overhauled, not dismantled. Crime will surely increase, businesses and residents will leave, and property values will fall leading to a decline in our schools and standard of living. Please reconsider your plan.

7/1/2020 5:27:16 PM

Hi, I am deeply saddened by the death of George Floyd and the failure of the police department. However, I am deeply concerned with the plan to defund the police department. The system needs to be overhauled, not dismantled. Crime will surely increase, businesses and residents will leave, and property values will fall leading to a decline in our schools and standard of living. Please reconsider your plan.

7/1/2020 5:27:24 PM

The amendment is unacceptable as is. No person who has previously worked for the police force in any capacity should be allowed to work in the new department in any capacity. If you allow them to, you are killing us.

No non-profits or elites should be involved in oversight in any way. We need total transparency and public access to all investigations of all employees of the new departments in all aspects of their operations, with protection only for the names of non-employees who may have been victims or vulnerable.

Twin Cities Coalition for Justice for Jamar has done all the work of planning civilian oversight for you in a meaningful way. All you have to do is work with them on their existing proposal. I am the admin of a Facebook group with 20,000 people that coordinates all needed services and interventions for people in South Minneapolis. We have protection squads, medics, mental health professionals, food deliveries, medication support, child care support, help with overdue bills, baby supplies, everything that people need. We haven't had to pay anything for it, but obviously pay will make it sustainable. I will happily show the City Council how we have coordinated all those things. It is not hard to do, but it must be done with care to ensure that the services provided are consistently anti-racist. I will help you work on that if you are willing, and not just trying to sell us all out. Show us we can trust you to actually listen and actually create something new.

Don't forget that social workers are desperately needed, but their current jobs are not sustainable. They need twice the pay and half the caseloads, or they are useless to us. You need to be looking at those measures, in addition to intensive anti-racist and deescalation training for EVERYONE who work in the new department(s). These are just the absolute basics. Show us that you are serious about keeping the people who pay your salaries ALIVE.

7/1/2020 5:27:56 PM

This issue is too important to rush through a charter amendment before an alternative to the current system has been thoroughly reviewed. The city council has said this will take a year to discuss this with the community and determine the path forward, so it seems premature to amend the charter before the alternative is found.

Changing the charter without a viable alternative will only add to the uncertainty, keeping businesses from reopening, keeping residents and visitors from feeling safe, and needlessly damaging the city's economy. Ward 10

7/1/2020 5:28:07 PM

I strongly support the City Council's proposed amendment to the charter and want to vote on it this November. Ward 8

7/1/2020 5:28:23 PM

As a resident and also a business representative of the community, I am against removing the Police Department. I do believe that reform, additional training, and accountability are widely needed, but I disagree with completely removing the MPD. For me to support such a large amendment I would need further detail and clarification of what I see in the amendment(s).

7/1/2020 5:29:17 PM

Thank you to the commissioners that advocated for doing this the responsible way - slowly and concise. An overhaul that effects hundreds of thousands of citizens and their safety during a time when crime is rising beyond what the police department can keep up with needs to be done responsibly. I do not believe in disbanding MPD. Ward 9

7/1/2020 5:29:33 PM

I recommend that every city council member goes for a 40 hour ride along during different weeks. It will be an opener. Crime is going to go up and the non law enforcement people are going to be put in grave danger and may not realize it until its too late. Its easy to sit on the sidelines and judge so until you see what they deal with every day you may want to rethink things.

7/1/2020 5:30:28 PM

I do not believe in disbanding MPD. It was a travesty of an event that should never happen again but these city council members have no idea what they are doing or what the future holds. Ward 6

7/1/2020 5:30:32 PM

I used to live in Minneapolis and in years since have frequently visited restaurants and events in the city. Those visits have become less frequent in the last few years due the deteriorating level of civility of many it's residents. After the recent riots and call for eliminating the police dept. I will spend no more time or money in Minneapolis. It is a shame that a once great city is being ruined by decades of incompetence in city hall. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 5:30:55 PM

It's really too bad how unsafe we feel now to go out to the bars downtown. We usually pick a weekend and have a girls night down there with my Mom, niece, sister, and daughter. Last year we didn't feel safe to stay the weekend, so my husband dropped us off and picked us up. The amount of shootings and open drug use was the reasons why we no longer felt safe. This is the first year in 6 years we won't go at all.

We also like going to the farms market and restaurants around the city during the day with our kids. That has all changed this year as well. We just don't feel safe!! The thought of not having police downtown at all is terrible. We have a lot of restaurants and bars in Minnetonka to go too, its just too bad that we no longer feel safe to go to the ones Minneapolis as well.

7/1/2020 5:31:42 PM

I am a strong democrat but this proposed measure makes it an embarrassment to call myself that. Public safety and support for our brave police officers should not be a partisan issue as the city council is trying to make it. This does not represent the democratic party and needs to be stopped. Ward 11

7/1/2020 5:31:53 PM

This amendment is necessary. I have no confidence in the MPD to treat all residents fairly. The Police Officers Federation board members' recent interview is just one sign of this failure and the need for this amendment. It's now clear to me that it is not just Bob Kroll & that they speak for their members, as they want us to know. I don't feel comfortable knowing that the people who are supposed to protect and serve us are afraid of this city and the people in it, like Sgt. Anna Hedberg seems to be.

I am concerned that the racism from the MPD will continue into this proposed group, the Division of Law Enforcement Services:

"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."

As Mary Moriarty keeps sharing on Twitter, traffic stops, part of what I consider "enforcement," are not carried out in proportion to the demographics of the city. What will Minneapolis do keep this pattern from continuing?

Do not delay the charter commission process. I am ready to vote on it in November. Ward 3

7/1/2020 5:32:09 PM

To change the charter without having a clear plan on public safety “re-imagined” is asking too much. The study should be conducted first. There is no need to rush into changing the charter. You are asking us to give you control over our safety. You are not qualified to make public safety decisions. Chief Arredondo should be the one working with an appointed committee that is exclusive of council members. Your agenda is not compatible with all of the citizens of Minneapolis. All lives matter. Everyone should be represented. The council has shown that they represent only part of the citizens. Conduct the study. Present a cohesive plan. Then request a charter change.

7/1/2020 5:32:27 PM

The city does not need a new department. Fix the issues within the existing department. Maybe the police in each precinct need to live in that precinct, thus providing accountability and improve relationships within each neighborhood. Perhaps reevaluate the union. Certainly there are issues within the police department that have been developing for decades. Let's start there. I find it disheartening a person with 4800 votes, and a council of 13 people is able to have this degree of influence on the safety of over 400,000 people.

I implore the charter commission to separate feelings from facts. A Police department is an absolute necessity. Please don't imagine a new department. Calmer minds need to prevail.

7/1/2020 5:32:30 PM

i live in the ghetto of north minneapolis and i think this is a stupid ass idea. what do you think that says?
Ward 5

7/1/2020 5:32:33 PM

I am not in approval of this charter amendment as it is written. I am hearing significant community concern from Black community members about this charter amendment. While I understand there is a deadline for getting the amendment on the ballot in November, I would encourage the Council to recognize that while change is absolutely needed, acting out of a sense of urgency without taking the time to fully listen to and consider the voices and concerns of community members, particularly our Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other community members of color, comes out of a culture of white supremacy. I am a white woman who supports police abolition, and also feels urgency in my body to make change now. However, I recognize that my sense of urgency comes from socialization in a white supremacist culture and I want to make sure that I do not push for this amendment to be passed before the whole community has had a chance to truly be heard. I would encourage the Council to continue conversation with Communities United Against Police Brutality, Reclaim the Block, Black Visions, and Black Lives Matter to ensure that all voices are heard and any amendment to the city charter that we would vote on in November would be something that is agreed upon/accepted by leaders of these groups, who have been doing this work of fighting against police brutality for years.

7/1/2020 5:32:49 PM

I don't believe it makes sense to disband the MPD and replace it with a new organization. I think you can restructure the existing department to make it more effective and that will be a more affordable alternative to effect change. There are many things that work and some that don't so why tear everything apart. It feels like this has become a political solution instead of one to make this a safer city to live for all citizens. The police that have done their jobs well on the front lines are getting totally disrespected and distracted. I am a liberal and a democrat but am worried that fringe elements are

taking over the discussion. We need people to obey laws and be held accountable. No excuse for what happened to Floyd, but we can't throw the good things out with the bad. Our leaders need to appeal to the central majority in our society no matter which party they might vote for. Ward 7

7/1/2020 5:34:05 PM

While I feel that change must happen, I feel that more specifics are required before I can vote for , or against, any new plans. Is this the only way to rid the police department of the dangerous police union led by Bob Kroll? Does this mean we lose Chief Arrandando? He seems to be the one who can create the necessary changes, if allowed to. Is there a way to remove mental health related calls from the police jurisdiction? This, and other problems like homelessness, will require a very dedicated will and enough resources to humanely handle people caught in these situations. It should not fall on police to deal with these societal problems.

7/1/2020 5:34:23 PM

I know several police officers in Minneapolis and they put their lives on the line everyday. This is a punch in the face to the good officers who truly care about us and want to protect us. They are as disgusted by those officers actions as everyone else but this proposal is a kick in the groin to every one of those brave officers that do more for our city than the minneapolis city council has ever done. Ward 10

7/1/2020 5:35:02 PM

I am absolutely opposed to changing the city charter in order to abolish the MPD.

As a 30 year homeowner in the Powderhorn Park neighborhood I feel that the Minneapolis City Council is only hearing a few.

We all agree that there needs to be reform. I have have numerous incidents (including gunfire through a window 2 feet below my 7 year old son's bedroom window) throughout the years. I did not always like the way the police responded but now I feel like there are no police out there at all.

Is this because so many think we don't need them? I feel like I need to move out of the home that I love thanks to the words and actions of those you don't care what I think.

I will not be voting for my current city council person again. Thanks for your attention.

7/1/2020 5:35:16 PM

I would rather drag my scrotum across a mile of broken glass than see this get passed. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 5:36:34 PM

Simply put, the proposed amendment should not happen unless and until there is a plan in place. The recent horrible events should not bring about an ill-conceived plan by an ill-prepared city council. Minneapolis is already experiencing a rise in violent crime since this proposal was announced presumably because criminals believe there is and will be less law enforcement.

After September 11, all Americans were asked to not view all Muslim Americans negatively due to the heinous actions of a few. Why are we seeking to condemn the Minneapolis Police Department over the awful actions of a few. All professions have bad actors among them, why not earnestly seek to improve the structure and professionalism of the Minneapolis Police Department rather than simply an over-reaching initiative that will put Minneapolis and its visitors at risk. Ward 3

7/1/2020 5:39:49 PM

I am prepared to vote yes for this charter amendment. I look forward to seeing this on the ballot. Ward 10

7/1/2020 5:40:20 PM

Yes I am EXTREMELY INTERESTED in seeing CHANGE. Get it on the ballot. Give people a choice for change.

7/1/2020 5:41:31 PM

A few thoughts:

1. I think that the only way to eradicate the white supremacist culture contaminating the MPD is to break the organization and replace it with a public entity comprised of a range of public service professionals (many are mentioned in the charter). Arbitrary harassment/bullying of black and brown citizens must stop. Tear down the MPD and begin again at ground zero. This would eliminate the police union.
2. The arbitration process as it exists within the MPD must be eliminated. 3 strikes and you're out. With severe transgressions of the code of conduct, 1 violation should end a career. There is no excuse.
3. Given the fact that crime thrives with opportunity, police patrols are needed.
4. I question the quality of police education (the curriculum and instructors) given the volume of conduct violations. The entire education and training process may need to be overhauled.
5. Police are needed, but not this police department, not the current MPD. There are examples around the country of law enforcement departments that operate with greater professionalism and equity. Seek advice from the wise.
6. This charter, assembled so quickly, is a good beginning. We know, it will need to be amended. An amendment process will no doubt be a part of the charter. Ward 6

7/1/2020 5:44:44 PM

As a resident and homeowner in Minneapolis for the past 20 years, I think it is critical that we address this as soon as we can, and in my view, that means putting this proposed change to a citywide vote at the earliest opportunity. I have long been aware of the dangers faced by my BIPOC neighbors in policing, and would be extremely disappointed to see action on this topic delayed. The shameful history, as well as recent events, speak for themselves. We need change, and we need it now. Please do not delay the community's chance to vote on this amendment. Ward 12

7/1/2020 5:45:23 PM

I have lived in Minneapolis for 29 years and this is easily the most asinine thing I have ever heard of. Ward 9

7/1/2020 5:47:14 PM

As a social worker I worry for my clients' safety when interacting with police and have grown immensely frustrated with having to navigate the structural violence imposed on them due to the impact of law enforcement. Defunding the police and diverting those funds to things like housing and education will increase city safety far more than policing ever has. I have seen the research and any issue is better solved through proactive support like providing adequate nutrition, mental health services and access to medical care than by reactive policing. We don't need cops we need community.

7/1/2020 5:47:18 PM

I want the police charter amendment on my ballot in November. I do NOT want this tied up in Charter Commission deliberations or consultative processes with neighborhood groups. While those are fine for less time-sensitive issues or neighborhood issues, they are inherently anti-democratic, favoring individuals who have the time, energy, and resources to know about local government micro-units and take a chunk of time to participate in meetings. The whole city wants to weigh in on this; the fastest, most efficient, and most open-to-all-interested-parties way to do that is to get it on the ballot as quickly as possible. Ward 12

7/1/2020 5:47:47 PM

I am concerned with (b) Division of Law Enforcement Services and (1) Director of Law Enforcement Services Division.

The Division and the Director are equivalent to the current police force and the chief of police, and there are no provisions that push for change or that hold them accountable to the public. While I recognize that we cannot immediately move to eliminate law enforcement—we will always need investigators, for instance—the new and hopefully small division of law enforcement that we create must be different from the current police force. The new Division of Law Enforcement and its Director should:

(1) Be demilitarized. A SWAT-type force for emergency situations can be trained in firearms, but I would advise that the more everyday patrol officers who regularly interact with the public not be allowed to carry or utilize lethal force, specifically firearms and potentially lethal restraints. In general, we should move towards eliminating firearms as a standard-issue weapon for law enforcement.

(2) Not include current police officers, or at least not include officers with complaints of violence on their records. We should be doing everything possible to ensure that the new Division of Law Enforcement truly serves and protects the community, and that includes preventing violent people and authoritarian people from joining the new Division.

(3) Be accountable to a special investigator and a special prosecutor, who are independent from the Division and the Director and responsible for oversight of the Division and the Director.

a. Complaints against an officer would be handled by one of these independent offices, rather than by the Division itself.

b. These independent offices MUST be newly established, and control should not be handed over to an existing agency that is likely besieged by the same problems that prompted the call to dismantle the Minneapolis Police Department.

(4) Be accountable to the community. We have been fighting for community accountability, not a bureaucracy. Limiting the oversight of law enforcement to the Mayor and City Council is part of why we are here today—they failed to act with any sort of alacrity until the city literally was set on fire. Community members should be invited to play an active role in building the Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention and the Division of Law Enforcement.

Also, if the new Division includes a union, then it should either be a civil service union, which currently represents and protects most government employees, or be subject to restrictions that prevent it from garnering the power of the police union. When the community calls for the abolition of the Minneapolis Police Department, it includes the abolition of the police union, which has long prohibited reform and accountability.

This is just the beginning. This is not going to be a simple or easy process, and the community and its advocates (CAIR-MN, Communities United Against Police Brutality, Twin Cities Coalition 4 Justice for Jamar, Native Lives Matter, Black Visions Collective, Reclaim the Block, Families Supporting Families Against Police Violence, Racial Justice Network, and others) have been fighting for this change and fighting to have their voices heard. I advise you to do more than listen to them on the surface—really listen to them. Invite them into the conversation. Let them advise the government on the changes they want to see. Let them help build a better Minneapolis.

Same letter attached.

7/1/2020 5:48:16 PM

I am writing to call for the amendment to remove the requirement that the city have a minimum number of police officers go to the ballot this Fall and not wait until next year. For too long the police have held the city hostage in our budget procedures, sucking up critical resources that could be used for social services that prevent violence from happening in our communities rather than respond to violence after it happens.

7/1/2020 5:48:52 PM

In the first, I completely support the Council's decision to remove the Police Department and replace it with a better model of community safety centered on actually providing help to the community instead of escalated conflict.

In the second, I have full faith the city council will act on this issue with prudence and involve the community, as they have promised to do, to make sure the new CSVDP reflects the needs of the community. While it is hard to comment on a structure not yet set, I look forward to much needed change.

And lastly, my main concern is that this will be a new coat of paint, as expressed by many in the community. While I know armed officers will be a part of the new system, I am worried of the possibility the existing officer core and it's embedded and established hostile view of the community will simply be rehired, given minimal training, and let loose on the citizenry again. In no uncertain terms, I want most of the existing officers to be replaced with this department change and the assurance that we won't have a group of rotten apples spoiling the bunch again.

7/1/2020 5:49:00 PM

I do not support this charter. It's short-sighted and reactionary but doesn't address the behaviors that lead to improving the character of the police officers who are on the ground working. Just choosing to make this an issue of "the police are bad" doesn't fully account for the services police provide OTHER than law enforcement. Do not pass this charter.

7/1/2020 5:49:05 PM

The city council no longer represens the majority of their residents. I have lived in Minneapolis for 30 years and seen many changes. I will be selling in the next year, as you have successfully driven out small business and law-abiding property owners. Good luck turning into Seattle.

7/1/2020 5:49:10 PM

Until recently I honestly thought this was some sick joke. I can't believe this is what I pay the city council members for.

7/1/2020 5:50:42 PM

Fuck everyone on the city council. I hope they need the police and they don't respond.

7/1/2020 5:51:13 PM

I support removing the minneapolis police department! I also feel strongly that no current police officers should serve in the safety and violence prevention department. I believe this is the only way to rebuild public trust.

7/1/2020 5:51:33 PM

We need our police. End of story

7/1/2020 5:51:37 PM

So when do I get my private security?

7/1/2020 5:53:11 PM

I encourage you to allow the proposal to be put on the ballot. Let the entirety of Minneapolis vote on the proposal.

It's passage will allow the elected representatives of the city to have more flexibility in deciding how public safety can work for the city's residents. Reform, retraining, and other initiatives have not worked to protect the residents of this city.

Further delay only reinforces the status quo, which is unacceptable and not working for the majority of Minneapolis residents. Ward 2

7/1/2020 5:58:02 PM

The bad guys will not get rid of their guns if you force the good guys to get rid of their guns. We already have gun laws and the bad guys don't follow the gun laws because they're bad guys. $1+1=2$. "C" follows "A" and "B". Armed defenders of a free society are not optional in a world such as ours. No armed police, no one to defend against armed bad guys. Gravity is a demonstrable scientific reality. There is a sun. There is good and there is evil. Be a responsible person and mandate effective police reform not police removal or police disarmament. Thank you rational human being. Ward 3

7/1/2020 5:58:35 PM

I can't believe I have to waste my time to say this but: This Idea is so fucking Stupid i can't even believe professional politicians would propose this.

7/1/2020 5:58:38 PM

Please submit this ballot question in a timely manner and let the voters decide. You have the opportunity to be on the correct side of history, regardless at to whether the question passes or fails in November. At least give it to the people to decide! Do the right thing! Ward 10

7/1/2020 5:59:59 PM

Minneapolis is already dangerous because the police are under-funded and this is the solution the city council has come up? Shaking my head! This is idiotic! Ward 3

7/1/2020 6:01:06 PM

I shit out better ideas than the minneapolis city council! Tell them to come fight me without their private security. Fucking hypocritical cowards! I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 6:01:32 PM

Hi, I live two blocks outside of Minneapolis, in Saint Anthony. I wholeheartedly support making the MPD part of a broader community support organization. The police don't need to respond to every call, let's bring in different types of counselors and specialists to handle the non-violent situations. I love that this is taking steps forward, bravo!

7/1/2020 6:02:46 PM

Motion to challenge Lisa Bender to a duel! Ha! #VoteThemOut2020

Minneapolis City CLOWNcil are so incompetent my 12 year old son could govern better than her. Ward 8

7/1/2020 6:04:26 PM

Phillipe Cunningham said he "met with the gang leaders" and 4 shootings in 3 days with 9 shot and 2 dead happened in the days after .

This goes to show the competence and ideas of this idiotic bill and the lack of competence of the city CLOWN cil. Ward 1

7/1/2020 6:05:12 PM

I support the amendment. Most importantly, it clarifies the relationship between community safety and law enforcement. The enforcement of laws is not a goal in and of itself, and shouldn't be pursued as one. Rather, law enforcement is one of many tactics that further the goal of community safety.

The amendment also puts responsibility for community safety in the hands of the City Council, in line with every other department in the city. There's no reason for this part of the city government to be organized differently from others.

Finally, it eliminates arbitrary staffing requirements. The city government should have the freedom and responsibility to determine how many employees are needed to keep the community safe. This doesn't need to be written into the city charter. Ward 10

7/1/2020 6:06:28 PM

Yes, we need to have this on the ballot this year. I also want to see more about how neighborhoods will be in charge of creating safety solutions that work for us, and how these groups can communicate and be accountable both within the city and within the neighborhood they're serving. Naybahood heroes in cedar-riverside, freedom riders in north, and aim patrol on franklin have all been doing a good job, but approached differently. I want to get the ties to the police out of the city charter, and make sure they're replaced with holistic solutions, not just police with a different name.

7/1/2020 6:08:19 PM

I do not agree with this amendment. I think there is work that has to be done to deal with the problem of our police department in Minneapolis, but not having a police department will surely add to the problems that are already out of our states control and ability to handle. I am born and raised in this state as well as I am a African american female raised in North Minneapolis and I have watched our city deteriorate in all areas for quite a few years now. Changes have to be made and now!! Our city and reputation is being destroyed in all areas.

7/1/2020 6:08:59 PM

I strongly urge the City Charter Commission to adopt the amendment to the City's charter deleting reference to a "police department, chief of police and funding. The idea of a "Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department" makes sense to me. Should this be approved, I hope that it is created with great thought, deliberation and constant review and participation from city residents.

I this this new department need to, literally, start from scratch. That is, develop with community participation, a mission and set of values. Then, define a set a major divisions to carry out the mission. Finally, hire new employees who can commit to this mission and values.

As this new department takes shape there is also a need to put in place citizen based accountability structure. This accountability structure needs to have the power to subpoena for required information and testimony and take corrective action. Ward 8

7/1/2020 6:12:26 PM

I am currently work in downtown Minneapolis and commute there Monday thru Thursday. I have worked shift work prior to my current assignment and would drive and park downtown at all hours of the day and night.

I am very concerned at the thought of defunding the Minneapolis Police. Many a time when I would've leaving downtown at night I would not feel safe because of all the shootings and assaults that occurred. I would tell my family when I left work I would be 'running the gauntlet.' I personally saw many assaults and saw open drug usage. Often times the Minneapolis Police wouldn't do anything when people were openly smoking marijuana.

I still don't feel safe going into downtown and now there are many people with tents up in the green areas with trash all around. I don't see any police doing anything about this.

Defunding the Minneapolis Police is not the answer to the issue right now. It takes a community to raise a family. Please allow the police to do their job and restore order to downtown so I can feel safe commuting to work.

7/1/2020 6:13:33 PM

I am in favor of this amendment. Just yesterday I saw a huge MPD presence, including officers with some sort of assault rifle, in response to the arrest of one black man, for some nonviolent offense I couldn't even ascertain. Enough is enough. We really need structural change to address these inequalities. I recently moved to Minneapolis, in part because it is a forward thinking place. I think it has a lot of potential to lead innovative reform. I hope it does!

7/1/2020 6:14:32 PM

this is fucking stupid. thanks – Ward 6

7/1/2020 6:15:58 PM

Please allow voters to consider changes to the charter on the issue of public safety this year. Ward 9

7/1/2020 6:16:11 PM

this is a no from me bro I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 6:18:57 PM

I fully support putting this amendment on the ballot for Minneapolis citizens to vote on this November. While this has certainly seemed like an "of-the-moment" type movement, it is important to note that changes like those proposed in the amendment have been called for in many past annual budget hearings. This movement to look at police alternatives is not new. It has been thought out by those most affected. I believe we have the right and duty as citizens to decide on this for our city. Please proceed with pushing this amendment to the ballot, and please let Minneapolis citizens decide. Thank you.

Ward 4

7/1/2020 6:19:04 PM

i have lived in Minneapolis for over a DECADE and this is the worst idea i have ever seen.

this is also the first time i have publically commented because that is how strongly i feel about being safe and in support of our men and women in blue Ward 6

7/1/2020 6:19:20 PM

Please postpone voting on this proposed change until 2021. We will not have adequate time to make an informed decision by November, we do not even know what the process will be. This is too important to rush. Ward 8

7/1/2020 6:21:14 PM

I am a democrat and i do NOT support this idea. public safety and having a secure neighborhood should not be a partisan issue. we need real leadership now not rushed action by the city council Ward 10

7/1/2020 6:22:48 PM

It needs to go on the November ballot.

7/1/2020 6:25:15 PM

Hello Charter Commission,

I am [REDACTED], a resident of ward 3, and I want the opportunity to vote on the charter amendment in November! I know you have held up amendments regarding police in the past, but in an effort to uphold and respect our democracy, I ask you to not repeat that! Please review the charter Before August 1st so we can vote on it. Ward 3

7/1/2020 6:25:29 PM

I support this ballot question to create a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police Department from the Charter. Ward 8

7/1/2020 6:25:53 PM

Yes, remove the MPD as soon as possible!

7/1/2020 6:25:56 PM

I am concerned by reports that the charter commissioners are dragging their feet on amending the Minneapolis charter. As a resident of Minneapolis for 15 years, I wholly support removing MPD from the Minneapolis charter. Ward 12

7/1/2020 6:26:52 PM

Hello! I just want to say that I support letting voters decide on whether or not to change the City Charter. Our charter should be a living document that, like Constitutional Amendments, updates as our society evolves on issues of race. The current Charter is very limiting in terms of making changes to the Minneapolis Police Department. Thank you very much! -A Nokomis East resident Ward 12

7/1/2020 6:27:34 PM

I wholeheartedly support this amendment/ change to the charter transforming from a police department into one of community safety. The police department has shown it cannot be reformed and must be replaced with something that serves the public as a whole. The police department has shown itself to be a racist organization, in which members do not understand nor care to protect and serve the Black and Brown residents of Minneapolis. I am a resident of ward 9 at lake street and 11th Ave. Ward 9

7/1/2020 6:29:01 PM

Please see enclosed pdf. Thank you

Ward 9

Attachment:

Dear Commissioners,

First off, I appreciate your service to the community in this role. You conducted your business today in a most professional and thoughtful manner.

From the meeting today, there was the comment that many people have been saying this process is happening "too fast!" I want to make the counterpoint that there are many people saying this needs to happen now and move with great speed. Here are some reasons below for keeping this process moving swiftly so that a vote can happen in November 2020:

1. There are certainly factions in the Greater State that feel as they are owed to keep the police status quo and are working on creating dysfunction to the process. These (not everyone obviously) are out-state lawmakers, friends and family of police, anti-liberal political individuals and groups, and individuals that only spend their time in Minneapolis for work downtown, hanging out by Bde Maka Ska lake, downtown, or work downtown. These individuals and groups are 1) not citizens that pay the salaries of the police or a rightful voting member of this jurisdiction; 2) have conflicts of interest since they may be trying to save their police family or friends reputation or livelihood; 3) have alternative political agendas

that could be self-preserving or seek to use a bargaining chip in larger out-state politics; and 4) only see the police in a sanitized version that protect security for large entertainment events, low crime homogeneous areas, and routine business affairs downtown.

All these entities offer a skewed or even illegitimate voice in this conversation and decision. They should not be allowed to hijack the worthwhile and just reasons for asking for this change.

2. Minneapolis rightfully so is having a national and global spotlight shown on us for our truly awful racial disparities and neglect of pursuing sexual violence perpetrators. Besides it being plainly morally wrong, it's downright embarrassing that we can't get this right. This amendment is one meaningful and concrete way that we correct this injustice. Please know that if the police were getting most (nobody expects perfection but we do expect accountability) things right, then the public would not be out in the streets every day, putting their lives on the line to get this change done. We need the poor police work to stop. We need to tackle racial disparities head on. We need a force that deals effectively with sexual violence. We need change beyond a Mayor, Chief, and Council. In fact, that is why we elected all these reform-minded officials to enact reform that they promised us they would do.

3. We are not talking about voting on this amendment overnight in the immediate aftermath of the emotionally outcry of George Floyd's death. We have four months from now to deliberate, argue, petition, rally, and contemplate the choice on the ballot. Think about how many editorials and neighborhood blog posts will be written between now and November. Think about how many rallies and public forum debates will be held over those four months. It will literally be an everyday occurrence on multiple

levels. That is enough time. Yes, humans need some time to make thoughtful decisions. Four months is enough time to decide. In reality, one of the criticisms leveled at our American system is that we talk, talk, and talk endlessly about issues that people have made up their minds about a long time ago. It comes across as needless, archaic, frustrating to the average citizen, and mostly a tactic of opposition to never allow real reform to take place.

Furthermore, it is a new era with electronic communication. People are able to spread information in seconds and people are accustomed to responding to issues very quickly than in-person or snail mail forms of communication of the past.

4. Are supporters of this amendment (like myself) just trying to steamroll this through to keep their momentum and ultimately gain voter approval at the polls? Answer is no and yes. Truthfully, I don't know if this strategy will work. There could be backlash of people that just think this moved too fast. The police and the mayor may have a silent majority in the wings waiting to show their dominance.

However, truthfully it momentum is important to me and I don't want to lose this opportunity of public will to enact a fairer system of law enforcement and public safety. There is no sin in wanting a better, more just, more transparent department that we consider so integral to our overall quality of life and perspectives of a functioning democracy and government. So no and yes.

In conclusion, I hope you see the wisdom of moving this issue forward to meet the November ballot. As always, please let me know any questions about any of my statements in the case that something needs clarification or different perspective.

Sincerely

7/1/2020 6:29:07 PM

WITHOUT POLICE, YOU CAN KISS ALL MINNEAPOLIS PRO SPORTS FRANCHISES GOODBYE. THEY PRODUCE MILLIONS IN TAX REVENUE THAT PAY THE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS SALARY

MINNEAPOLIS MUST KEEP ITS IT POLICE DEPARTMENT!! WE DEMAND THAT WE HAVE A POLICE DEPARTMENT

7/1/2020 6:29:34 PM

WITHOUT POLICE, YOU CAN KISS ALL MINNEAPOLIS PRO SPORTS FRANCHISES GOODBYE. THEY PRODUCE MILLIONS IN TAX REVENUE THAT PAY THE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS SALARY

MINNEAPOLIS MUST KEEP ITS IT POLICE DEPARTMENT!! WE DEMAND THAT WE HAVE A POLICE DEPARTMENT

7/1/2020 6:32:44 PM

I grew up in Minneapolis, I still have family there, all of whom I have lawfully provided firearms and training to for their own defense, always hoping they never have to used. Should this amendment go through, not even that will be enough to keep them safe, so getting out of the city at last will be the next step. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 6:35:17 PM

Don't let the naysayers stop progress, please. Too many people, BIPOC, white, mentally ill are killed at the hands of the police. This has to stop.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE disband the police, work with the community to make this city better. Ward 4

7/1/2020 6:35:49 PM

I live in Robbinsdale (a first ring suburb) I love Minneapolis I have been going downtown on the bus since I was a little girl... I loved the shopping , I use to go to Orchestra Hall , The Guthrie,dine at many of the restaurants ... I love the new Twins stadium ... We are Viking season ticket holders... I have always valued the Minneapolis police force ... I was comforted by their presence ... We need a full functioning police force... Please create an adendum to the charter ... that the voters can vote on for a mayor who is solely the head of the Minneapolis government the city council answers to him ... and make sure that the Police force is kept intact and NOT defunded.

7/1/2020 6:36:07 PM

I am strongly opposed to the proposed charter amendment.

I strongly believe the steps forward to creating better public safety in Minneapolis should include:

- keeping most of our current police force
- maintaining our current Police Chief Aradondo
- limiting the ability of the Police labor union to overturn decisions of the Police Chief
- out-sourcing requests for police to intervene in mental health or other social concerns to mental health experts and social workers whenever possible
- requiring Minneapolis police to reside in the city of Minneapolis

- increasing the amount of time every police officer is involved in community outreach
- banning the choke hold to restrain someone
- implementing as many recommendations as possible from the Final Report of The President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing of May 2015 Thank you for your serious consideration of my comments.

7/1/2020 6:37:01 PM

Do not change the name.

7/1/2020 6:39:03 PM

I am a life-long Minneapolis resident. I love this city. And I am very opposed to the charter amendment. It seems hasty, rushed, and ill-conceived. We all know changes must occur within the MPD. but change will not occur quickly, and is an immensely complicated process. Please take the time to consider all options, research and study, and seek opinions from affected communities. A rushed amendment based on a hastily conceived plan will be an absolute disaster.

7/1/2020 6:40:30 PM

I support the removal of the Minneapolis Police Department and establishing an alternative system for protecting our city. The police department has repeatedly failed to protect black and brown citizens and it is long past time to listen to the needs of these groups who have suffered wildly disproportionate police brutality for so long. I thank you for standing up and will be watching to ensure that you follow through on your promise.

7/1/2020 6:42:04 PM

I am very concerned that the proposed charter does nothing to actually defund or abolish the Minneapolis Police Department, aside from giving it a new name. First, all the power would still be in the hands of the council and mayor's office. Both bodies have long track record of letting the police murder and maim with impunity. They had their chance, many chances over several decades, and they blew it. There is no reason to believe that in a few months, the city council won't revert back to appeasing the police force and the FOP.

Significantly, there are no details in the proposal about how things would change, except in name and in letting the city council have a say (instead of just the mayor) in picking the new "director."

The city council's proposal does not spell out any new disciplinary measures or oversight of the police, nor does it spell out what community involvement will look like beyond a vague "consistently engaging the public..." Without discipline and true community engagement (and not token community involvement, either), change will not occur. This proposal is trying to take the easy way out: saying what they think the public wants to hear without doing the hard work of getting rid of violent cops.

We want community control of the police through CPAC, an all-elected, all-civilian council with power over the police department to hire, fire and prosecute cops. The charter does not do enough to actually dismantle the MPD and police state at-large.

7/1/2020 6:45:31 PM

The status quo with policing in Minneapolis is broken. We need flexibility to implement necessary structural change. Four months is plenty of time for community groups and neighborhood organizations to engage their constituents. It would be sad if the charter commission winds up putting police reform in a straitjacket by forcing the charter to stay as-is. Please allow the citizens of Minneapolis to vote on this in November. Ward 1

7/1/2020 6:47:33 PM

I work in Minneapolis. I would not feel safe going to work with this amendment and would hope that my company would move to the suburbs in response. There needs to be an adequate police force. The existing charter should remain in place unchanged. To address the recent events there should be consequences to complaints earlier. Officers should be dismissed if they use excessive force.

7/1/2020 6:50:13 PM

How can taking this away from the Mayor help? We need to get rid of the bad cops and keep the good ones and hire more good cops. How will mental education and funding help with the violence and crime in our city? we don't need more oversight we need true reforms. We need to create a city open to all and help with homelessness. Stop pointing fingers and be the change not the problem.

7/1/2020 6:50:59 PM

I believe there are some major changes that need to be made to the police department at this time. Bob Kroll should be gone but that probably can't happen here. I suspect there eventually still will be some kind of police force. We live in a time where, if we believe in laws of some sort, people will break those laws, could be simple items but could be significant, deaths, major property damage, vehicle violations of all kinds. I believe there are just some bad people out there that are not going away anytime soon. Lots of reasons they do break the law and lots of things that we could do better for our community. The police now probably are put into situations that they may not be trained for and others could do better. Having different forces covering those non criminal activities would be good. Better training for police, ability for co working officers able to question what their partners do without repercussions would be good.

Police probably have one of the worst jobs I can think of, I can sympathize with those good people who want to do a good job but are trapped by hidden rules.

Having officers live in MPLS to be an officer I think has some merit as well. An occupying force of outsiders is not so ideal.

7/1/2020 6:54:07 PM

I am deeply disappointed with the City Council for starting the process to dismantle the MPD. You have already tied the MPD's hands by lack of funding, publicly denouncing them, and limiting offenses that can lead to arrests. If you supported the MPD, the union would not be as strong and rogue cops like Chauvin would be nonexistent. There also would be funding to do extensive training. Most importantly there would be funding for more cops so that stress levels from constantly responding to calls would decrease and cops could actually develop good relationships with residents in the neighborhoods they protect. Your lack of support has set up the MPD for failure. The death of George Floyd and the riots lie on your shoulders and the mayor's. My family and I deserve police protection. In the last 5 years my house has been broken into, items have been stolen from our cars, our cars have been keyed, my youngest had his locked bike stolen from the 46th Street light rail station, and my oldest son was

physically assaulted at his job at Lake Nokomis. These crimes are also your fault. Support and adequately fund the MPD. Do not dismantle it because you and past councils made major mistakes with your pontificating to further your political careers.

I also want to mention that Cano, Jenkins, and Cunningham are the ultimate hypocrites for having private security paid for by tax dollars, yet they all want to Defund the MPD. Where is my private security detail? Ward 11

7/1/2020 6:55:36 PM

I do NOT agree with this charter!! I vote NO! Defund the MPS not abolish it! This is the worst idea ever!

7/1/2020 6:58:00 PM

You are a bunch of wimp idiots, can't wait till you reap what you sow!!

7/1/2020 6:58:07 PM

I would like to see this amendment added to the November ballot. The timeline is tight but I strongly encourage the Charter Commission to move this forward to a vote. Thank you. NE Mpls Ward 1

7/1/2020 6:58:24 PM

Hello, I am writing you today to ask you to vote YES on amending the Minneapolis City Charter. For over 150 years, the Minneapolis Police Department has been a force of unequal enforcement and oppression. The MPD has inflicted continued harm against our Indigenous and Black populations, and this must end. In order to move forward, the MPD needs to be held accountable. In order to hold the MPD accountable, we need to move forward with a City Charter that allows for a new vision of public safety. The Charter Amendment, supported by the Minneapolis City Council and by people who live in Minneapolis, would allow for a process of continued engagement as we work towards community-led safety solutions. Everyone who lives in Minneapolis deserves to live free from the fear of violent oppression. In order to realize that goal, we must re-imagine public safety, and that process starts with removing the barriers that keep the MPD operating without oversight, without accountability, and without justice. Vote YES to amend the City Charter.

7/1/2020 6:58:30 PM

I am fully in support of the removal of the Minneapolis Police Department. My main concern is making sure the same police are not rehired for the new peace officer position, effectively not changing the bias that is currently prevalent in the system.

-What will the new level of training and qualifications include, and how will it be made into systematic change for new and current law enforcement?

-Will the new peace officers be involved with community activities and public health in addition to law enforcement duties?

-Will there be accountability for the new peace officers as well? Will there be qualified immunity

-Will this include demilitarization and reduction in the number of lethal weapons used by law enforcement as well?

7/1/2020 6:59:24 PM

This proposal is more divisive and destructive than something Trump would support.....

7/1/2020 7:00:50 PM

Thank you so much for putting a proposed amendment to the City Charter on the ballot in November! This is exactly what the community demanded after the lynching of George Floyd, and it was the right thing to do. Thank you for listening to your constituents and functioning properly. Minneapolis can be the example we're all looking for when it comes to police reform. Keep up the good work! Ward 2

7/1/2020 7:01:22 PM

Currently, just with the talk of defunding the police, we have seen a significant increase in violent crimes throughout the Twin Cities. Everyday I hear of another shooting in Minneapolis and stories of Minneapolis in the national news and not in good ways. There's been so much more violence in the Twin Cities that you had to hire private security to the sum of \$63,000 of taxpayer money to protect yourselves from violent threats. This reckless idea of defunding the police force has done nothing more than embolden criminal acts and increase disrespect for the law. What are law abiding citizens supposed to do? Are we to arm ourselves and have more shootings in the streets because law abiding citizens are protecting themselves and their property from emboldened criminals? Who do we call when we're threatened? Who do victims of domestic violence and criminal assault call...I doubt they have private security funds available...I don't have a spare \$63K to hire private security for my loved ones, but you feel entitled to use taxpayer money to protect yourselves. And wouldn't that \$63K be better suited for helping to clean up the destruction the rioters committed on Lake Street and help small businesses get back on their feet...destruction you were complicit to? Maybe invest that \$63K in more police training. Not having a trained police force for a city of more than 400,000 people is pandering to mob mentality and to criminals and is dangerous to the good citizens of Minneapolis. If this passes you will drive good, law abiding citizen out of Minneapolis.

7/1/2020 7:02:43 PM

I used to live in south Minneapolis and moved back to the suburbs in 1999. My office is in south Minneapolis on Chicago Avenue. For several years I have been concerned about coming to Minneapolis in the evening as I was almost attacked in a surface parking lot downtown after walking 1/2 a block after enjoying my favorite group of vocalists, Cantus. Prior to this event I had been in the same area during the daytime and felt relatively safe, however, I did get to my car and lock and was able to drive away around 10PM on a Friday night. I was wondering at that time why the police were not patrolling the area better at that time.

Over the past several years (being a widow) I have been reluctant to be downtown and to be in many areas in Minneapolis including the Powderhorn Park area. This saddens me as I used to be unafraid. Without police, what is one to do if harmed or robbed. I believe police presence deters crime and would say that we need more police in Minneapolis. Defunding a police department makes no sense to me and I, for one, will not be going downtown for any event if there is no police presence. Just because there are a few bad apples does not mean all apples are bad. That happens in any profession.

I am pleading with you to not only maintain a police force but to increase its size so they can do their job properly. The government exists to protect its citizens and that includes police officers. With the recent violence and increased shootings and homicides since George Floyd's death, even with the police force as is, I will not be going downtown, until the crime is cleaned up.

7/1/2020 7:03:08 PM

There are too many untrained officers carrying guns on the streets of Minneapolis. They need to have sensitivity training and knowledge on how to de-escalate the intensity of a situation. They need a greater number of black police patrolling black neighborhoods. It's just not fair because most white police have an attitude that they are better than those that they serve. Abolish the police union because no matter what the officers do the union gets their job back.

I agree we must get a new system. Don't get me wrong there are plenty good police but the present system will not allow the City get rid of the bad ones.

7/1/2020 7:04:45 PM

The proposed Public Safety Transformation amendment is easy to understand and positions Minneapolis to better adapt to the will of its citizens. The Charter Commission should advise that the city council adopt the amendment.

It would be an injustice for the Commission to drag its feet and take too long to review this five page document if it prevents the citizens of Minneapolis from voting on this amendment in November. Ward 5

7/1/2020 7:11:11 PM

NO to your "plan."

WHEREFORE, you have yet to explain exactly how a new department of social workers, presumably without guns, could be able to apprehend an armed killer, I'm going to require a lot more of your "plan," instead of the complete nothingness of a "plan" that has been made available to the public, at the very least, in order for any SANE person to even consider your "plan."

Again, My answer is NO to your public inquiry question, as it appears the City Council is attempting to allow this city to be destroyed, and I will have no part in it, nor will any rational resident.

7/1/2020 7:13:27 PM

I am totally opposed to the proposed charter amendment. While I do believe there needs to be changes with the MPD, this was done with absolutely no input from the community. I am appalled at our city council.

7/1/2020 7:13:33 PM

I support the charter amendment, and I look forward to our community completely re-imagining public safety, completely outside of the current norms of policing and MPD.

7/1/2020 7:17:26 PM

I am not in favor of defunding the Minneapolis police department. Currently the city Council has not brought forward detailed information on how the end goal will look and how we get there. Until I can understand the complete picture can I then make a determination on the funding the police department.

7/1/2020 7:18:38 PM

In addition to renaming our police departments, we need to be explicit in how we downsize their GM percentage and their current number of officers.

We need to speak to the process of hiring and firing officer still able to carry firearms.

We need to have a plan for where funds formerly allocated to MPD will be utilized/distributed.

I want to respectfully and humbly add that this amendment is a great start. Thank you for working for and listening to the people you serve.

7/1/2020 7:18:56 PM

FULLY SUPPORT the City Council. Dismantle the Police dept. and replace with new initiative. The police dept. has a corrupt culture that cannot be "reformed". The department is also overburdened with responsibility, any crisis is met with impatient, armed response. We need much much more nuanced, thoughtful system of responses to crises. PLEASE PLEASE DO THIS.

7/1/2020 7:19:38 PM

We need more mental health employees, educators, soup kitchens, community centers and public spaces. These are all more useful to more people than armed law enforcement.

7/1/2020 7:19:42 PM

It is crucial that this amendment (removing lower bounds on number of police) be brought to a vote as soon as possible (this year, not a year from now). It gives the city power and flexibility to design a better system, whatever that may look like.

7/1/2020 7:23:21 PM

Let us vote. No one elected you. It's not your call. Ward 11

7/1/2020 7:25:04 PM

Don't abolish Minneapolis Police Department, as a Taxpayer i would like Chief Rondo to continue building great men to Protect and Serve.....we As Community reject the thought of Policing ourselves...especially since I've paid for Police through my taxes. Stupid idea and would appreciate being Asked what my needs are as a citizen. I'm 55411 Redlined always and living in a Gang War Zone...no Police presence since May 26th....Police I see are in hidden areas....if the City isn't going to do City business that will benefit me as taxpayer I would like my Taxes back....haven't been outside since March 12th because of Covid19...except for a community meeting at Bethune Park 6/30....i have nowhere in my community to shop....my value of life has been subjected yet altered without my permission or knowledge of.

7/1/2020 7:26:10 PM

You will still need a armed police force or crime will go way up. You can not send a unarmed police or peace officer to a crime being committed where there are guns and knives. They will not be able to protect themselves and the victims of the crime.

But I do think there are cases where you could send a peace officer to that you do not need to send a armed officer. But you would have to train your 911 to make that call and what if they make the wrong call and send a unarmed officer and they get shot.

Also crime will not go down until fix the problems of why the crimes are happening.

7/1/2020 7:26:21 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please support expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolitans can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election. Please, let us vote. Ward 13

7/1/2020 7:26:29 PM

We are at a pivotal point in history where we can create real change. Literally, the whole world is watching Minneapolis, Minnesota.

I haven't had a lot of personal experience with the police. I grew up and now live in safe neighborhoods where police usually pass through. I've been pulled over a couple times and felt uncomfortable, but I've never feared for my life. Let me repeat that again: I've never feared for my life when encountering the police.

Mayor Melvin Carter, who I knew growing up, made a few comments that stuck out in my mind. He shared about the several times he was pulled over by the police. Someone asked him why he didn't reveal his position in the City of St. Paul. He shared that it shouldn't matter where he lived or his standing in the community. It was then that I finally saw with my own eyes the absurd patterns of police brutality against black people in our city. Didn't seem to matter if they were on or lived by Lake Harriet.

We have the resources to make different choices. We don't need to call the police for everything. I live in the Lynnhurst neighborhood and there have been public efforts to re-educate the community about who can be called besides the police-social workers, friends, animal control, you name it. It's good for the community and good for job security.

Let us, the people of Minneapolis, be a part of co-creating a different future of our city. I want to look back on this moment in history and say that we rose to the challenge and created change.

7/1/2020 7:27:31 PM

This is a simple rebranding that accomplished nothing real but paying lip service to something that deserves more. Come up with a real plan for change and then a rebranding that supports that change.

7/1/2020 7:28:02 PM

I hope you will put this charter amendment on the ballot so that we have the chance to vote on it in *this* election. The work of reimagining public safety needs to be begin now, not a year from now, and our democratic process needs all options on the table as we do it.

7/1/2020 7:28:27 PM

The vast majority of Minnesotans are opposed to this action. People and businesses in Minneapolis are already jumping ship. Council Members should take the hint; READ THE ROOM. I fear the path you're on will lead to the complete death of the city. Please don't allow it to become the next Detroit.

7/1/2020 7:31:02 PM

My comments to senator Dibble

Hi Scott Let me tell you You have known me a long time We have been thur a lot The policy's of the governor And Mayor during the time Of the riots has set the state and city back 30 years All the hard work everyone has done Gone! And my local city council person Andria Jenkins With the city council policy of defunding the police has our business down 60% In March I had 16 employees Now I have 9 What iam hearing from insurance partners No one what's to come to Minneapolis Also talking to a business broker No one what's to come to Minneapolis I was going to pass our business on to our kids But now the banks wouldn't even talk with them And to be honest I don't think if I was them I would want to be in Minneapolis Look everyone can spin this anyway They want But I have been here for 41 years And Mulroys body shop has been here 60 years I know If things don't change and I mean Fast we are leaving All my family's hard work Gone!

7/1/2020 7:31:37 PM

We think the police department should be changed, not eliminated. Maybe the Council has an idea of how this can be legally done so it's possible for bad cops to be fired and/or prosecuted. Maybe we can dispense with arbitration in excessive-use-of -force cases and perhaps the union's power can be curtailed.

But, honestly, the City Council members who, at the beginning of the George Floyd murder crisis, publicly and passionately called for the defunding of the police department, scare us more than the police department's excessive use of force. If the Council members didn't have the good sense to control their inflammatory language and show level-headed leadership at the beginning of the crisis, how can they be trusted to craft a public safety program that will protect citizens?

We don't think this council exhibits much common sense or wisdom and simply don't trust their judgment. For several years now we've had the feeling that the Council's vision for the future is to create a 'little Chicago', increasing density without taking adequate parking into consideration, thinking that older people and handicapped people will be able to get around on foot and on mass transit in the winter when walks and intersections by bus stops are snow-packed, icy and dangerous.

We are a married couple, aged 73 years and 79 years. We have lived in the City for 26 years and were hoping to live here for at least the next 5 years. However, if the police department is done away with, we will not hang around to find out how this ill-conceived experiment turns out. We will sell our home and move out of here just as fast as we can.

7/1/2020 7:32:56 PM

I live in Saint Paul right on the border with Minneapolis. My friends and family live there. During the uprising the MPD attacked them like feral dogs for peacefully protesting. Folks deserve the right to vote on this and they deserve swift action because there will be more deaths caused by MPD before too long. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 7:33:41 PM

This amendment is deeply flawed and rushed. The Minneapolis city council needs to take the time and energy to listen to public comment and work together with the community in the interest of public safety. Even though I live in Saint Paul, we are watching to see how you move forward with this so that we might work towards a better public safety in BOTH of the twin cities.

7/1/2020 7:34:06 PM

I support this charter amendment. Recent history had shown that the MPD has not been an ally to the black/brown communities as shown by the horrible incarceration rate, and the events that took place after George Floyd's death. It's clear the culture of mpd can't and won't change and we have to build something new, and as we've seen the community is very capable of doing this Ward 1

7/1/2020 7:36:51 PM

This is a disaster. Complete lack of reason and reality. I will never set foot with my family in MPLs if this non-sense moves forward. This city council is making MN a National disgrace.

7/1/2020 7:39:47 PM

I am a Minneapolis resident OPPOSED to this charter amendment. The City Council is asking for oversight and control over something they have not shown themselves fit to lead.

7/1/2020 7:41:08 PM

Getting rid of the police department will not solve anything. It will cause a rise in crime. Good luck finding social workers to go out and deal with drunks and ppl that are high. Once they start getting assaulted, spit on, or worse you won't be able to fill the positions. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 7:41:33 PM

Hi,I would like to be allowed to vote on the charter amendment this fall. Please don't "pocket veto" or "filibuster" this opportunity for Minneapolis residents to have a say in our safety - one way, or the other.
Ward 13

7/1/2020 7:41:54 PM

I believe we should remove the police department and establish a community of safety and violence prevention department. So much money goes in to the police department that could be used in much greater ways.

7/1/2020 7:42:52 PM

Like most residents, I watched as our city was burned to the ground. Living just blocks from ground zero (the 3rd precinct), gave me a type of fear that I have not in 30 years experienced. With the police left to defend their building and officers, the residents were literally left defenseless- no help was coming. I have never felt that type of fear or helplessness. We watched as buildings were burned, businesses were looted, and cars were torched. There was no law and no order. Not only as a resident, but also as an employee involved in a large chain that operates in Minneapolis, we were left defenseless.

Now, less than a month later, you are proposing that we reduce officer presence, and replace it with people trained for crisis. I am understanding to the idea for crisis interventionists, though I am strongly against the reduction of officers to bring said workers in. I have witnessed first hand the lawlessness that people within Minneapolis exhibit. No amount of social work and negotiation will have an effect on that mindset. Unfortunately sometimes the only thing people respond to is force, and without the Minneapolis Police to exhibit such presence- we as residents are again left defenseless.

On a regular basis my children have been subjected to public intoxication and drug use, homelessness, witnessing assaults, having our property damaged and stolen, the list goes on. None of these things will cease or become less common, with the reduction of police in our city.

I ask that you consider the residents and not just the political optics. I pay unprecedented taxes to live in a community that I love, though I will not continue to make that justification if myself and my children do not feel safe.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

7/1/2020 7:43:55 PM

You have got to be kidding?! This great city needs more law enforcement not less. Have you seen the gang writing on every corner? Have you seen the mayhem in downtown late at night- total disrespect for property! Have you seen the tent cities (plural)? The greenway is not safe- it's a biohazard of trash, drug/alcohol and tents. The mentally ill that threatened me as I walk through parks? (Oh city council members have private security due to threats, but I don't)? What has happened to our lovely city that I grew up in, along with my parents and grandparents? It's a shame. We need to focus on law and order. Spend some time walking the city- day and night. See for your own eyes what is going on. Then honestly ask if we don't need Minneapolis police.

7/1/2020 7:46:43 PM

This is a chance for Minneapolis to make history. Blaze a trail. Please establish a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. Reform has not worked. The police union undermines the efforts of the chief, mayor and people.

7/1/2020 7:47:46 PM

I highly disagree with the MPLS City Councils vote to defund the police dept. My husband and I used to go down to the cities at least once a week for events, shopping, theater and dining for just a few to offer. We visited our grown sons who live there too.

But no more. It's not safe to do anything. Robbery has been up for a while. The town is getting rundown. We went to visit last week and we will never go down again. Our sins are putting their condos on the market. It's a lawless Twin Cities. The city council appears to make non fact based decisions. We need more officers. We watch how disrespected they are by you the city council, the Mayors and by the protestors screaming in their faces and trying to hurt or kill them. While a police officer runs in to help...the city council does nothing to help them. What a shame to see two once beautiful cities crumble so quickly into disrepair. We spend millions on a building that may and probably won't house dead bodies from COVID but boy oh boy you shameful council members are so willing to throw good people committed to serving the community and protecting businesses to the ground and stomp on them for good measure. Meanwhile making take payouts pay for private security. This happens over and over to big liberal led cities....yet your all so willing to do so again. You couldn't pay us to come to the Twin Cities again. I apologize to the small business owner for this.

7/1/2020 7:49:31 PM

We have four months to Election Day. This is plenty of time to discuss the charter amendment and vote. The charter commission needs to approve the amendment to the November ballot. Ward 12

7/1/2020 7:50:04 PM

I really think you need to stop and find out the concerns of the folks most impacted by the changes. Is this just a power struggle to transfer power from the mayor to the council. Neither group has done a lot to earn the trust of poor POC on either the north or south side.. These are the same people who keep rushing and not giving the people enough time or sufficient input.

I/m for change but I don't like the way you are going about it.

7/1/2020 7:50:32 PM

I DO NOT agree with the proposal. Minneapolis has descended into lawlessness instead of supporting its residents, visitors, and the good police officers who put their lives on the line every day. Why is it so difficult to protect your citizens and actually help poor communities succeed? I am sorry I have a full time job and have no desire to protest this despicable behavior of the elected officials. I have lived in this state my entire life, and love Minneapolis. I will NOT bring my family anywhere near downtown anymore as there is NO priority for the safety and wellbeing of anyone. Please stop trying to please your constituents and do the job you were elected to perform. It's not easy, but you are doing a great injustice to all, including those you claim to support, by proposing such an amendment.

7/1/2020 7:51:03 PM

Please move this through the commission expeditiously so Minneapolis voters can have their say in November. Our city urgently needs to overhaul its safety infrastructure to meet the needs of ALL residents, and the existing charter is a giant roadblock to meaningful change. Waiting another year to consider an amendment means another year my neighbors must live in fear of unaccountable police. Ward 11

7/1/2020 7:52:15 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please support expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolitans can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election. Please, let us vote. Ward 8

7/1/2020 7:52:23 PM

To whom it may concern,

The election is more than 4 months away and this amendment should be placed before the voters of Minneapolis. I urge you to vote for this amendment. Ward 12

7/1/2020 7:52:33 PM

As a recent transplant from Detroit, I don't see the benefit to defunding the PD. I already feel unsafe enough walking the streets of Minneapolis. Defunding the police would be enough to convince me and others to leave the city.

7/1/2020 7:53:39 PM

I have vowed not to come to Minneapolis until this nonsense is resolved. Your actions have proven that even the thought of a lack of a police department drives up crime. Until I can be assured of my safety I will not set foot into Minneapolis.

The city council appears to think that it has no responsibility for the current state of the Minneapolis Police department. The mayor, governor and city council have had opportunities over the last 20-30 years to fix this issue and nothing has been done.

So now the city council wants to disband the police completely as to blame the PD for all of the problems. Why can't they see that this is partly their fault, partly the police departments fault and partly the unions fault. Maybe an elected republican or independent could help here...it's clear the democrats need some help.

The government in Minneapolis is a disgrace in my mind. Letting the protesters run free and demolish the city for DAYS and now the citizens of the state of Minnesota have to pay for that?

Now that the city council wants to disband the police, they incur costs of private security for their own protection. Shouldn't they get their neighbors to protect them? That is what they are recommending for the city, right?

7/1/2020 7:54:16 PM

We have an opportunity to do something truly historic, and take a tangible step to address police brutality and institutional racism. DEFUND THE POLICE!!! Ward 1

7/1/2020 7:54:31 PM

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

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

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

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

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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 8

7/1/2020 8:04:37 PM

If you go forward with defunding the police with what I have seen the last month, I will be giving up my twins and Vikings season tickets and will never spend another dollar in your town. This is the worst leadership I have ever seen and the city council should all be impeached.

7/1/2020 8:05:13 PM

Please do not prolong the process of reviewing the charter. We need to vote on this in November!!
Ward 11

7/1/2020 8:06:39 PM

Please vote yes to allow the charter amendment on the ballot. Then please also commit to actually defunding and abolishing the police, NOT recreating the police under the name "peace officers." Please commit to building a process that brings in as many people from Minneapolis as possible. Commit to a process where we look at past examples that we do not want to replicate (like Camden) and mine our communities wisdom for building into the future.

7/1/2020 8:08:34 PM

We need additional information on the structure, scope and authority of the proposed Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department to determine whether it is an amendment that will lead to a safer, more responsive and responsible Department than the current Minneapolis Police Department.

7/1/2020 8:11:59 PM

I do NOT support defunding the police department nor abolishing it. The proposal by the unanimous vote of the City Council should have been considered at open community meetings.

Yes, there are corrections/changes that need to be taken by the MPD - greater transparency, better training in de-escalation, consistent follow-through on reprimands, perhaps more individual responsibility accepted by each officer.

Additional burden should not be placed on our already overworked social workers who might be called in on domestic situations or some mental health problem issues.

7/1/2020 8:13:56 PM

I have worked in Minneapolis for nearly 20 years, taken public transportation to and from work, enjoyed entertainment venues and have taken part in many activities the city had to offer. I did so with confidence that my safety was a high priority. The recent events in Minneapolis are unsettling for many reasons and my heart hurts for a community that feels targeted, disheartened and hurt. I understand the desire to push back on what is considered acceptable and demand change, there should be change. However, I also believe the plan to defund and disband police in Minneapolis is short sighted, dangerous and a promise given without thought to consequences. Based on these actions I will no longer chose to visit Minneapolis for reasons outside of what my employer will require. Should my employer chose to remain in Minneapolis after such a careless decision I will be requesting to move my work location from that area, without the police departmentI will no longer have confidencethat my safety is important. Should I be required to attend a meeting in Minneapolis I will no longer commute via public transportation; because I have absolutely no confidence in the Council's ability control the environment I will not visit any of the local shops or restaurants. While I may be one person, I can assure you others in my family and network feel the same. Change is a must- for the safety of the community as well as

those who stand on the front lines to protect. The council members who have recklessly made this decision did so in a bubble, without thinking through what will occur after this is carried out. There are many well trained, GOOD police officers, who get up every day and go into a place that hates their existence with the only intent of doing a job well and helping others- they will now be without jobs and a city that just started making its mark for good will end up in ruins.

7/1/2020 8:20:05 PM

As a Minneapolis Public School teacher and resident in South Minneapolis for over twenty years I am in full support of dismantling the Minneapolis Police Department. Considering that the recent murder of George Floyd at the hands of four MPD officers is just the tip of the iceberg in regards to the corruption and inhumanity that is rampant within the MPD, I believe approving this charter is in the best interest of public safety and public health. To redirect the funds currently used for the MPD to be put into public services that actually help our community rather than criminalize our residents is an important step towards building trust for public institutions that are meant to look out for the common good of everybody. With complaints and lawsuits piling up over the last twenty plus years I think it should be clear by now that the MPD is a liability to Minneapolis, not an asset. Minneapolis residents should not be forced to pay settlement cases for residents who have been brutally beaten or murdered by a police force that has shown itself to be disrespectful and inhumane towards us. And yet we have been forced to pay for the police to beat us up and murder us. The recent settlement in the wrongful death case of David Smith for \$3 million dollars paid by MPLS taxpayers is a prime example of just how much of a liability the MPD is to our city. The stories I have heard from my BIPOC friends of harassment, beatings, unconstitutional arrests and illegal searches are too many to begin to summarize. Most of my friend of color don't even call the cops anymore because they believe cops would escalate the situation and make it worse. One of my black friends struggles with schizophrenia and there have been numerous moments when he has lost control of reason. But in fear that he could be beaten or even killed by the MPD we have had to take dangerous situations into our own hands by forcing him to go to the hospital or doing our best to calm him down. But it isn't just BIPOC folks that have a problem with the MPD. Personally as a white man living in Minneapolis my interactions with cops have been tense, uncomfortable, and unproductive. In most of my interactions I have felt the need to be overly friendly with the officer in order to calm their nerves when the opposite should be true. The MPD should be friendly to the people they serve. They often are not. The MPD has never been openly friendly to me when I see them in my community, and they have been downright antagonistic when they have pulled me over or when I have called for help. I would like a police force that is capable of building trust with their community through dialogue as opposed to being a force that judges all residents as criminals before they are even charged with a crime. As a public school teacher I am a public servant. That means it is my duty to protect the well being of every student that comes into my class regardless of race, ethnicity, class, or nationality. The MPD as an institution has failed in its duty to protect and serve the public, it has failed to protect those that are the most vulnerable and least able to protect themselves. Instead they have exploited the homeless, the poor, and the historically marginalized by bullying them and criminalizing them, making it that much more difficult to end the cycle of poverty, and historic trauma. All the while they have protected the interests of those that are more privileged and wealthy. As a resident I witnessed this during the housing crisis in 2008 where the police stood on the side of the big banks kicking residents out of their homes in the interest of private corporate profit. The MPD has undermined the public trust by continuing to serve the interests of wealthy private individuals over us. For all of the reasons mentioned above I am in full support of the proposed amendment to that would remove the Police Department from Minneapolis and establish a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department.

7/1/2020 8:20:50 PM

Please please please let us vote on this in November instead of delaying it and killing our chances. Let the people vote. Ward 3

7/1/2020 8:21:44 PM

I support this.

7/1/2020 8:24:11 PM

While I don't reside in Minneapolis, I do work downtown Minneapolis. While I am blessed enough to be able to work from home during the "pandemic", I will tell you that I am not willing to go back to work there without police presence. While I love supporting local businesses, I do not feel safe in a city that chooses to eliminate or greatly reduce law enforcement. I feel that this proposal is foolish and will ultimately result in many businesses leaving because of loss and business in what once was a beautiful city (until you all allowed it to be destroyed by mobs of hateful people). I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 8:24:37 PM

I don't support your charter amendment. I have lived north Minneapolis for the last 40 years and there has been questionable moments with the police but I don't agree with removing the police as they also have help with a satiation just a couple of summers ago with the neighborhood. We can work together to make changes

7/1/2020 8:25:25 PM

I vote NO! Let us the community do the work. I stand behind Chief Arradondo!

7/1/2020 8:25:37 PM

I am writing to urge the Charter Commission to allow the charter amendment proposed by the City Council to be placed on the November ballot. Ward 12

7/1/2020 8:26:28 PM

As a resident and tax payer of 20 years I don NOT support your amendment to get rid of the police dept in the city of Minneapolis. That will put me, my 8 year old and everyone else in extreme danger of criminal activity. Please do NOT do this. Please reform police and lock criminal up for felony's. My neighbor has 9 and commits auto theft weekly. Lock up felons. Ward 8

7/1/2020 8:28:26 PM

I don't think this should be an amendment and think there should be a solid plan in place to present to the community prior to a vote. How would this keep me and my neighborhood safe, who would I call if Needed help? I don't think my neighbors can support me better than police but think there should be a hybrid with more support services to 911 calls

7/1/2020 8:29:40 PM

Getting rid of the Minneapolis Police department would be dangerous to it's residents and any one who dare to visit. Let's learn from what happened in Seattle when the police were removed and not allowed to enter the area that became known as CHOP. 2 young lives were taken! Removal of the police would encourage evil to prevail in their intentions. Mpls already has experienced an increase of violent deaths this year . This will not encourage business owners to stay in Mpls...there would be a huge loss of

revenue for the city. As a resident of a northern suburb I ABSOLUTELY WANT POLICE PROTECTION when I go into the city. If the police department is removed my husband and I WILL NOT go into Mpls to eat, take in any event...no baseball, no football, no shopping...NOTHING! Please be wise, learn from what other cities and states have already experienced. Reform is good...REMOVAL is NOT ACCEPTABLE. thank you! Deb L. Blaine, Mn I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 8:36:24 PM

This city council has shaken the residents of Minneapolis to their core based on improperly used words. WORDS MATTER CITY COUNCIL...I personally will vote NO or AGAINST the city council "reimagining". If this council idea passes, this town is going to lose a lot of tax revenue and residents will move out of Minneapolis. Words matter and they lack of clarity, transparency, and strategy proves the "reimagination" of this uber-liberal council is a risk our community/city cannot afford to take. Gun violence is up and getting rid of police protection is only going to invite more violence. Lisa Bender needs to stick to worrying about bike lanes and green initiatives and not matter of public safety. Mayor Frey campaigned on closer relations between the police and communities at the local neighborhood level. Why not collaborate with him and bring that vision to be instead of being so hardheaded about your own individual agenda.

Sending in non-police forces into life or death situations where there are guns or deadly weapons should be a no brainer but obviously our current city council wants everything to be unicorns and rainbows. Words matter, are you going to send in social workers and therapists when there are bullets flying??? I believe we can augment the current system and break up the police union but cannot afford to get rid of police protection unless Lisa Bender and her council members want all houses in Minneapolis to be armed with a shotgun because I guarantee there are a lot of residents who already intend on defending their homes if the police presence and protection is "disbanded" or "dissolved". Again, words matter city council....represent ALL residents of Minneapolis and not push your own uber liberal agenda. Think sensibly, rationally. Already as of today, July 1st, you have already changed your tune and said using the words such as 'disband', etc were to get the conversation started. You scared a lot of residents and I hope it results in a NO or AGAINST voter turnout in November and the ousting of each of you at the next election. Shame on you!

7/1/2020 8:37:38 PM

My grocery store I worked at was burned down on 5/29. My car was stolen on 5/29. My home was broken into on 5/29. 300 of my coworkers are out of jobs. Not ONE council member has reached out to us. I was born and raised in this city!!! I am leaving!!!! The police did not respond to any of my calls!!! Still haven't!! Shame on you!!!! Shame on you!!!!!! Shame on you!!!!!! Of course I won't get a call. Thrilled that all of you are getting protection!

7/1/2020 8:38:58 PM

I absolutely disagree with "Removing the police department". A safety and prevention team is great, but do it in conjunction with the police force!!

Work with the police department to institute change. Get rid of the union if that is what is needed, but Minneapolis Absolutely NEEDS their police department.

7/1/2020 8:39:21 PM

Defunding the police is a horrible idea. You will be putting the public as well as social workers and psychologists, etc in very dangerous situations with no protection. If anything the PD needs more funding for retraining and to have psychologists on staff to go with to mental health calls. If Minneapolis defunds their police force, I will not be stepping foot into Minneapolis again as I will not feel safe.

7/1/2020 8:39:31 PM

I want this on the ballot this fall, and I can't wait to vote in favor of it. Ward 5

7/1/2020 8:42:35 PM

Defund the police. Black lives needed to be included in determining the community safety plan.

7/1/2020 8:42:50 PM

i DON<T HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION about City Councils plan. What is the transformation plan AND WHO AND HOW IS IT GOING TO BE IMPLEMENTED.

7/1/2020 8:43:12 PM

The idea of getting rid of the police department is completely ridiculous. It will create a greater disparity between those with means to pay for their own security and those that can't afford to. People from the suburbs already don't feel safe coming into Minneapolis after the riots. Getting rid of police will cause businesses to move out. Then what is the point of living in Minneapolis and paying higher taxes?

7/1/2020 8:44:37 PM

Hopefully This body represents the adults in the room, and not the left leaning activists who comprise the City Council. This measure should not be placed on the ballot primarily because the authors of this measure were acting in a state of frenzy during the riots, looting, and the police actions resulting in the death of Mr. Floyd. At their core, and especially the 9 who paraded their disdain for the entire Police Department at the park, they would be part of the protester's if not elected. They are acting on their deep seated hatred of the department, rather than trying to fix the issues. It is not the department that has to be re-imagined; its all internal including better training, non lethal restraint, conflict resolution, community relations, a better selection process, weeding out the bad officer's who have a history of disciplinary actions. I go so far as to suggest the Mayor/Chief of Police have the authority to decertify the existing Police Union, and start fresh. We can not be a safe and vibrant city without the Minneapolis Police Department. The City Council can not in honesty say this was anymore than a publicity stunt, and allowing this to proceed to a city-wide vote given the climate we are in, dooms all the citizens who believe that a city absolutely needs a strong police department, to the whims of a council that has never supported the department in the first place. This amendment needs to be challenged in the courts, and this Commission should table the entire matter for one year during which alternatives can be discussed and weighed against all of the very apparent consequences Ward 9

7/1/2020 8:45:04 PM

Removing the police from the City of Minneapolis would be a dangerous thing to do. people would not go down there 4 business or entertainment or sports games. The city would lose an enormous amount of Revenue. People would know that if they went down there they would be going at their own risk facing the potential of theft bodily harm and even death. Gangs would be running in the streets knowing

that they wouldn't be paying any consequences at all for any Mayhem they may do if you want businesses to leave the city and people not to go down there anymore then this course of action would be appropriate. However if you want businesses to stay and people too frequently go down there then have a good police force. Changes can be made for the better. But to throw the whole Police Department out would work to do to the demise of the city I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 8:45:33 PM

I agree with Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police Department from the Charter. Ward 6

7/1/2020 8:48:17 PM

I support the charter amendment. The people of Minneapolis urgently need a new public safety model, and approving this amendment is a critical step in that process. Ward 8

7/1/2020 8:48:45 PM

I would like you to consider a move to defund the Minneapolis Police Department, rather than entertaining a notion of abolish. Fire every MPD officer. Defund the department. Throw out Bob Kroll permanently. Then, allow people to reapply for the revised version of MPD and have the communities that are the most affected by the negative actions of the MPD have a say in who is rehired. Defund and give back to the community, many of whom are more than ready to do the work of righting their ship. Many activists and concerned citizens are ready to be involved in a new chapter of what our city and what the future post George Floyd will look like. I am not currently a resident of Minneapolis but I do work there and have family members there. Involve the community and by that I do not mean involve a bunch of well meaning white liberals. I mean people of color, citizens and activists, that want to be involved.

7/1/2020 8:50:22 PM

I agree with the oversight moving from the mayor to the city council, and also having any law enforcement body reporting to and accountable to a broader public safety department. Extensive community input should be gathered to determine what public safety looks like to Minneapolis residents, specifically focusing on safety for the historically under-served and proactively addressing systemic white supremacy throughout the future of public safety.

7/1/2020 8:51:06 PM

I have two Adult children who go to school and work in Minneapolis. This proposal is extremely concerning to my family and I fear for their safety in a city without adequate police protection. Crimes have continued to increase in Minneapolis and this most recent proposal will only encourage more crime and drive residents and businesses to leave Minneapolis. I cannot believe this is even under consideration and should in no way be supported. Ward 6

7/1/2020 8:52:46 PM

Disband the department. Community trust is completely broken. Bob Kroll and the gang should not be policing our communities. Start over and rebuild something better

7/1/2020 8:53:56 PM

I think it would be stupid to get rid of the Minneapolis Police Department. If that happens there will be no Law & Order. Crime & violence would go up. It's a stupid idea to get rid of the Minneapolis Police Department

7/1/2020 8:54:46 PM

I think it is the dumbest idea I have ever heard from the government.

When something isn't working you fix it not, replace it with no clear action or plan in place. But Government is notorious for putting a band aid on it only to dig deeper into the hole they made.

These are the people who saved your city when rioters and looters were ruining the cities and this is how you treat them?!?

I already do not feel safe in Minneapolis and now I feel even less safe. The violence has only gotten worse and is it going to stop? I have not heard any ideas on that problem. You are already losing businesses from you actions.

When this idea with no idea behind it back fires the all results are on you.

I can only hope and pray for the safety of all people that they wake up and vote you out!

7/1/2020 8:58:09 PM

Please allow Minneapolis citizens to vote on the amendment to the city charter!

Even as a white woman who grew up in the suburbs, I learned not to trust the police. It was my late father's belief that police had too much power and too much ego, and too often took advantage of their position. He was an engineer and an avid reader, and read too many stories of police abusing the authority they felt their badge bestowed them, often violently.

Minneapolis has plenty of reason to seek out a new strategy for maintaining public safety in the city, but more importantly we have reason to disband the MPD. From murdering citizens for low-level offenses like reaching for a license or buying groceries, to the thousands of untouched rape kits. We have almost no recourse for correcting problems within the MPD or for ensuring officers are disciplined for misconduct in an effective timeframe. We need structural change, and we need it NOW.

Perhaps there is not yet a clear plan in place for new public safety measures, but I would argue that that is not a reason for delay. By the time we are able to actually remove the MPD from our streets, we will surely have a series of measures ready to implement. The people of this city are inventive, careful, and passionate about creating peace and cooperation. The real priority will be to heal communities that struggle with crime through efforts that are actually proven to help: better schools, better mental health care, more resources. Crime is not a result of a lack of policing, but an inability to thrive. Help us begin this process so we can direct funds to the programs we need.

LET MINNEAPOLIS VOTE ON THE CHARTER AMENDMENT.



7/1/2020 8:59:31 PM

The people of Minnesota deserve a chance to be heard on the proposed public safety charter amendment this fall. The Charter Commission should give their input ASAP, and not delay it's placement on the ballot. Ward 12

7/1/2020 9:01:27 PM

YES, we need a charter amendment!

7/1/2020 9:01:34 PM

No police in the current police department can be allowed to work in and or positions of authority in the community of safety and violence prevention department once it is created. If the city council is serious about abolishing the MPD and taking bold steps to replace it with community-centered justice, we cannot allow the replacement to simply be a rebranding of the old department, with all its bad actors still in positions of power. If all the current officers in the MPD just get new jobs in the new department, we will have failed, we will have accomplished nothing. You cannot abolish the police while still keeping the police officers in positions of power. To do so is pointless.

7/1/2020 9:06:52 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7/1/2020 9:08:59 PM

I would like to say YES to the Charter Amendment. A yes means we can change the ratio of cops to Minneapolis residents. I'd love to have fewer. If we say yes, we can also move away from having a police department to start working on the budget, to balance it and distribute money and resources to help the citizens of the city.

7/1/2020 9:12:08 PM

I am concerned of the speed at which the city council is trying to push this charter amendment through. I am also concerned that community members have not been involved in the process, especially BIPOC leadership organizations that have given thought and studied different policies that might work well for what we are trying to achieve, a new department of public safety. I would also like to recommend that the council take the time to engage subject matter experts so that what ever we end up with will truly serve all people in our Minneapolis communities. I work for an organization driven by policy governance and any time we are considering critical changes, we have to engage multiple stakeholders to make sure new policies will serve our community. Often times, when we try to push things through quickly, we miss important details and disappoint our constituents. What is in front of us is a huge change and we have the ability to inspire many others in our country. Let's make sure we do our due diligence to make sure there is appropriate accountability and service departments/organizations that will serve our city well. Please make me proud Minneapolis. I don't want to be 2 - 5 years down the road and realize my fine city made a big mistake. Thank you!

7/1/2020 9:12:26 PM

If this is done cut from the top down. Mayor Frey's police ride to work or any police, or private, protection of senior city staff.

This will free up resources needed in other areas still where the police is still needed.

7/1/2020 9:13:26 PM

My concern for this charter lies in whom will then be left in charge of community safety and violence prevention. How can we ensure that we aren't simply replacing white supremacists with white supremacists?

7/1/2020 9:14:17 PM

I'm writing to share my support of the changes to the city charter. I hope this change will allow the city to more fully address public safety instead of solely addressing "crime". Ward 6

7/1/2020 9:14:26 PM

Please support the change in charter language foe defunding the police. They have shown in ability to be reformed in other ways. I am a 44 year old, and homeowner in NE Mpls. Thanks

7/1/2020 9:14:51 PM

The world watched in horror as George Floyd begged for his life. He was murdered by the Minneapolis Police Department, as countless others have been before. It's time to stop giving our tax dollars to a racist system that ruins lives but never rehabilitates them. It's time that low income, homeless, and black people feel safe in their communities, rather than being persecuted for simply existing. It's time that we stop watching idly as our own countrymen are killed. We have a chance now to run with abandon toward justice, peace, and safety in our communities. Please give the citizens of Minneapolis that chance. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 9:16:01 PM

I work in Minneapolis at the address below. I feel defunding the MPD is a horrible idea that will only cause more harm to our community! I will REFUSE to work in the city of Minneapolis if you don't maintain a well funded, well trained, safe police force. A single horrific incident shouldn't justify defunding the MPD. The fired police officer responsible for George Floyd's death was arrested and charged (as well as the 3 other officers present.)

Take a good look at all the businesses that were looted and destroyed during the protests/RIOTS. Defunding the MPD will only create more of this unacceptable, irrational, criminal behavior! I SUPPORT OUR BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING IN THE MPD!us

7/1/2020 9:17:20 PM

Not feeling in strong support of the charter amendment. Restructure. Look at the funding is a better idea.

7/1/2020 9:18:13 PM

I favor abolishing the current police department and establishing a new public safety agency. Reform minded chiefs and mayors have come and gone but the MPD's culture is as toxic as ever. Now is the time for a new start. Ward 11

7/1/2020 9:20:47 PM

I have spent much of my time in Mpls. over the years. I lived there, taught there for many years,etc. I have input that I would very much like to share if it is okay for a resident of Brooklyn Center to do. My heart is still in Mpls. and my sons live there. I am very concerned about the direction the city is heading lately!!!

7/1/2020 9:21:08 PM

Dissolving the police to get the unions out. Then you rebuild with the same good officers, and drop the bad ones. Unions are keeping bad officers on the streets. Also, police need to answer to someone other than the police or their local district attorney friends. Body cameras need to be streamed to a server monitored by an oversight committee. If your body camera is off during an incident, bye bye you're fired, and possible prosecution to follow.

7/1/2020 9:24:43 PM

I have two children who will be working, attending school and living in Minneapolis. I am absolutely against this amendment as I would fear for their safety. Without an armed police department, what will deter criminals from committing crimes? Who will show up when violence erupts in the city? How will armed criminals be restrained? It is unbelievable to me that this amendment would even be considered. It seems to me that this will cause residents and businesses to flee the city. I am absolutely against this amendment and will discourage my children from living in the city if it passes. Ward 7

7/1/2020 9:25:34 PM

I do not agree with defunding the police.

If you do I will not travel with my family to any business past burnsville or south of elk River. You are ruining lives if you do this. If you do this taxes will need to be cut so people can afford their own security detail like your members of city council.

I am a nurse and I know that when I have had to call the cops in my different nursing fields. I never am calling to have some social worker or therapist show up. I want a cop that can do the job. People are evil and dangerous. Maybe figure out that your real problem in the cities is the drug overdoses. They've killed more people this year in your city then the whole state of MN non nursing home covid deaths. And those were just numbers released at the beginning of shut down. ADDRESS THE OPIOD CRISIS! Mr Floyd might have gotten in the car if he wasn't doped up on Meth & fentanyl. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 9:27:33 PM

I'm a white man, a middle-class, Gen X homeowner in Armatage, who has worked in social services for years. For most of that time I've worked adjacent to a police state that governs my low-income black and brown clients. I've seen police escalate mental health emergencies into violent, terrifying arrests. I've had clients beaten by police in their homes. From my clients I know that as a matter of routine people stopped by the MPD often lose their ID's and driver licenses. The sheer pettiness of it! During the recent protests, I saw the Minneapolis Police Dept. repeatedly generate violence, not prevent it. We all read the lie the MPD put out stating the cause of Mr. Floyd's death. Through repeated reforms and tweaks for decades, the MPD has steadily grown into a thuggish and unaccountable paramilitary occupation that exudes contempt for Minneapolis residents. With the MPD union's support in the legislature, changing the city charter to remove the requirement that our city maintain a police force is the best democratic means we have to end the MPD union's grip on the city. If the charter commission refuses to permit a vote on the proposed change of the charter, preferring to care for property and business interests above justice, fairness, and the lives of residents enduring the ongoing brutality of the MPD, they set their city up for greater uprisings in the future. We need the opportunity to change the city charter by popular vote. Ward 13

7/1/2020 9:32:30 PM

If the city council members think this amendment will make Minneapolis safer, they are sadly mistaken. This will only increase the upheaval that is still happening. This will help speed up the destruction of Minneapolis. As it is, businesses and residents are leaving because they already don't feel safe.

While I don't live in Minneapolis proper, my proximity is close enough to feel unsafe. I also feel that you people need to put your brains back into your heads and listen to the overwhelming voice of reasonable people when they say THIS IS NOT A GOOD IDEA!

7/1/2020 9:36:05 PM

The City Council needs to publish specific details defining the Safety & Violence Prevention Department. Also, please provide evidence that the "new ideas" will work (e.g., have worked in other cities).

In addition, please provide a definition of goals for these changes so that we may determine their effectiveness.

My concern is that, while the progressive ideas may sound good, we need a means of determining their effectiveness.

7/1/2020 9:36:16 PM

The killing of George Floyd further reinforces the need for change within the Minneapolis Police department. The question at hand is how will this change come about.

The Minneapolis City Council has rushed through a bumper sticker statement to defund police with absolutely no plan to support this objective. They are now asking the charter commission to rush through a vote to SIGNIFICANTLY change the city charter again without a plan which is absolutely ludicrous. This same council has not been able to adequately address any single issue they have worked on and now they want the public to trust them on an issue as important as public safety.

I would encourage the charter commission to unanimously vote to reject this request from the city council and force them to engage the community and build a plan which can then be presented to the voters in the city. Ward 3

7/1/2020 9:42:12 PM

Are you guys ABSOLUTELY insane?? I hope they come for you all first...

7/1/2020 9:45:05 PM

MPD should be disbanded so that the money wasted there can be spent building the community. Education, housing services and affordable housing, child care. It heartbreaking to see so many people suffering from this broken system. All children have a right to a great education, not only in certain parts of Minneapolis. Although segregation is no longer a law, it is obvious that we are still a segregated society, and it is hurting us. We have so much work to do as a city, state, and country. But in Minneapolis, we truly have the opportunity right now to make a real change. Set an example for the rest of the country. Defund the police, and put the money toward community. Thank you for your work as council members; I truly hope you all can come together to do even more.

7/1/2020 9:45:11 PM

I'm currently a student at the University of Minnesota, and I'm honestly scared for my life. I'm so scared of the fact that choosing to continue to pursue my education may get me hurt or killed. I'm worried that people will see "disband the police" as a free-for-all in which they can hurt people with no substantial consequence. The USA prides itself on being a safe place to get an education, but is that true after this proposal passes? We won't know until the students return to their universities in Minneapolis, but I definitely know that I wouldn't want anything bad that happens to us be on my hands.

7/1/2020 9:47:21 PM

I'm currently a student at the University of Minnesota, and I'm honestly scared for my life. I'm so scared of the fact that choosing to continue to pursue my education may get me hurt or killed. I'm worried that people will see "disband the police" as a free-for-all in which they can hurt people with no substantial consequence. The USA prides itself on being a safe place to get an education, but is that true after this proposal passes? We won't know until the students return to their universities in Minneapolis, but I definitely know that I wouldn't want anything bad that happens to us be on my hands.

7/1/2020 9:47:25 PM

This is a TERRIBLE idea. Ward 5

7/1/2020 9:48:18 PM

I will not be going into Minneapolis ever again. The way you treat the police in your city sickens me. I can clearly see thugs are getting away with crimes, including murder. Shame on you!

7/1/2020 9:49:45 PM

I support defunding and dismantling the police however would like a law enforcement force that has community oversight. I would also like the Director of Public safety to be directly responsible for their actions.

7/1/2020 9:54:59 PM

It is critical that we pass this Charter Amendment, and therefore that it is promptly advanced to reach the ballot in November. The people of Minneapolis are demanding change. I am too tired of having my neighbors be intimidated and die in the streets at the hands of the Minneapolis Police. Public safety cannot wait another year. Let the people vote NOW!!!! Charter Commissioners, you need to do your duty. Ward 10

7/1/2020 9:55:02 PM

Hi You absolutely need to get this on the ballot and put this before the public for them to vote on

Trying to delay / run out the clock / prevent this from getting in front of voters on the ballot would be a terrible miscarriage of your duties, and a massive disservice to the communities you serve - let me repeat that: the communities you serve. Also - are yall white? My God in Heaven, we need to diversify the hell outta this commission Good day b ps - do. your. job. Ward 7

7/1/2020 9:55:18 PM

I lived in Minneapolis for years (near lake Harriet and Uptown) and couldn't be happier that I'm out of there. The vote to defund police has not only made Minneapolis the laughing stock of the country it's put residents and visitors in increased danger. Im an avid cyclist and regularly ride the bike trails. No more! Two weeks ago I was on the paths near Theodore Wirth and the following day there were multiple shootings blocks from where I rode off victory memorial. Last weekend I took out of town visitors out to dinner at Mannys for a once in a lifetime dinner given how expensive it is. While returning to our car there was a partly clothes man obviously high sitting in the middle of the street and then he got up and started pounding his chest, walking like a monkey and acting very odd. Being with 2 kids it was terrifying watching him out of control approaching people. It was also heartbreaking seeing what could have been a beautiful life destroyed by drugs. Not a cop to be seen (and why would they)

and I refused to call 911 about the out of control man because he was black and I didn't want to put an officer in a situation of needing to confront a black man.

Before you make radical decisions ride with police, see what they do and why. Go through police academy and learn what they learn. Look at facts. Police brutality is not the social justice issue that needs attention. Heck why don't you go after doctors who commit malpractice or teachers who fail to educate our children or drug dealers who poison our communities and kill thousands. You have it all wrong and your lack of support for police has and will continue to result in more crime. As a single woman who also lived in Uptown, I never felt unsafe. Now I'd never go there alone. I dare you to walk downtown Minneapolis with your children in the evening. Drive or ride your bike with your kids in every part of the city. If you don't feel safe why should expect residence to feel safe. We need more police, not less. We need more strict adherence to the law. Not the giving in and letting criminals run wild and unencumbered.

Facts:. The #1 cause of death for black men under 44 is Homicide (CDC statistic). 53% of all murders are committed by blacks (FBI statistic). Help our black community by going after the real issues, education, neighborhood safety; economic opportunity; building strong families; providing strong role models.

You just killed our once beautiful and safe city. I just hope it's not too late to recover. Blood is on your hands as crime increases. Before you decide to dismantle police ask yourself if I was confronted by a robber, rapist; violent offender who would you want helping you. If your child was abducted or assaulted by a pedophile who would you trust to have stopped the crime or helped you solve the crime? I know who I'd want....evil sadly exists. Weakness encourages it. And you and then mayor have shown weakness and crime is rampant and criminal behavior is excused and allowed.

7/1/2020 9:55:44 PM

No changes needed in the Minneapolis Charter!!

CHANGES THAT ARE NEEDED:

1. Change ALL the City Council Members. 2. ABILITY to FIRE poor performing/BAD City Employees - which includes BAD Police Officers.

7/1/2020 9:56:34 PM

I am a lifelong Minneapolis resident, as is my Dad. I am one of those tough roots that just stayed put.

At the start of all the weirdness, sadness, and fear that 2020 has wrought in, I thought there should be an addition to Police Officers. Much like Block Captains, it could be a volunteer Peace Officer, someone to be a liaison between the people they may know in their neighborhood and the new form of police - whatever that may look like.

I realize it's tricky as some dangerous situations do need to be dealt with by a more trained entity. However, an extra layer, or perhaps lessening the police force while creating this buffer position might prove helpful.

I thought of this as I reflected on my deescalation training when I was a bar waitress. If 2 men were fighting, often it made sense to send a woman bouncer over, instead of more testosterone that could sometimes make the situation worse. Using this on a more macro level worked with the National Guard intervening - an unrelated 3rd party to cool things down. I think it could also work with the new police force. Hmm, maybe not calling it a force could also be helpful. Law enforcement is also an ominous word. Part of this verbiage could create the scary loyalty in which other officers will have their partners'

backs at any cost even if it is wrong. The thought of a unified front is good in some aspects, but it should not be cultivated like military. Loyalty should be to the city's citizens not to each other, although trust does need to be built somehow. I'm sure there are other ways.

On another note but related, now would be an excellent time to give Neighborhood Organizations a chance to be more relevant and helpful between citizens and city administration. I think it would not be a good time to dissolve Neighborhood Organizations. It is what makes Minneapolis unique and creates a smaller town feel to our growing city. Minneapolis has great tools to use, please don't let these valuable assets waste away.

Finally, my husband and I are concerned about the rebuilding of Lake Street and other areas impacted by the riots. We have seen so many developments rushed ahead just to put up housing. Yet too often these housing establishments are done cheaply by the developers, with little regard to quality building materials, creative design, or green space. Variance after variance has been approved and the city is looking like a cheap temporary fix with cheap metal paneled buildings, losing so much character for fast and inexpensive construction. The developers are not providing enough affordable housing in the mix and those variances have been approved time and time again. The developers are making money with less durable materials that will need repair sooner than more long-term choices like brick and stone. An example of a better new project is on Plymouth and the Mississippi River Parkway. Those actually have quality materials and some thoughtful design.

In the wake of these many unfortunate events, Minneapolis has a chance to rebuild. Please think about a long-lasting effect and legacy that this renewal can accomplish on many levels: administratively, visually, and sustainably.

Thank you for considering input from Minneapolis residents about the future of our great city.

7/1/2020 10:02:08 PM

Please do not defund or dissolve the police department. Leave the city charter as it is. Now with crime spiking it is more important than ever to have a police force in Minneapolis.

7/1/2020 10:02:53 PM

I am concerned about the lack of clarity on the proposed amendment regarding how/whether peace officers would be part of the future of policing in Minneapolis: "7.3B- The Council may maintain a division of law enforcement services"

How would this be decided? For how long would the division be maintained? Would it be subject to renewal on a timed basis? Ward 13

7/1/2020 10:03:12 PM

I think this is an excellent move in the right direction. By the time I moved to Minneapolis in 1996 the Minneapolis Police Department already had a deeply entrenched history of violence and problematic behavior toward Black, indigenous, and people of color, particularly folks with low to no income. Little has changed in the intervening years. I firmly believe that the only way to shift the culture is to break the model and create something new. While it is scary to leave the decision up to city residents in a ballot item, it is also the right thing to do for city unity and democratic process. I support this, and any other measures to disrupt the power and control of city police and the police union and move into more holistic care for the safety and equity of our city.

7/1/2020 10:04:04 PM

Like most residents, I watched as our city was burned to the ground. Living just blocks from ground zero (the 3rd precinct), gave me a type of fear that I have not in 30 years experienced. With the police left to defend their building and officers, the residents were literally left defenseless- no help was coming. I have never felt that type of fear or helplessness. We watched as buildings were burned, businesses were looted, and cars were torched. There was no law and no order. Not only as a resident, but also as an employee involved in a large chain that operates in Minneapolis, we were left to fend for ourselves.

Now, less than a month later, you are proposing that we reduce officer presence, and replace it with people trained for crisis. I am understanding to the idea for crisis interventionists, though I am strongly against the reduction of officers to bring said workers in. I have witnessed first hand the lawlessness that people within Minneapolis exhibit. No amount of social work and negotiation will have an effect on that mindset. Unfortunately sometimes the only thing people respond to is force, and without the Minneapolis Police to exhibit such presence- we as residents are again left defenseless.

On a regular basis my children have been subjected to public intoxication and drug use, homelessness, witnessing assaults, having our property damaged and stolen, the list goes on. None of these things will cease or become less common, with the reduction of police in our city.

I ask that you consider the residents and not just the political optics. I pay unprecedented taxes to live in a community that I love, though I will not continue to make that justification if myself and my children do not feel safe. Again, I ask you to reconsider the charter amendment and restore law and order in our town.

7/1/2020 10:11:09 PM

You are all morons.

7/1/2020 10:16:11 PM

The Charter Commission should recommend putting this amendment on the ballot as soon as possible so residents can vote this year.

Minneapolis residents deserve to have a say in the future of our public safety, and we cannot wait any longer. Ward 3

7/1/2020 10:18:47 PM

I will vote no to a change to remove police and instead create the "department of community safety and violence prevention". It seems like this is just a fancy new department (with even more bureaucracy) without any plan on what this would look like. I feel there should be more energy placed on correct training, doing something with the union to ensure that violators are not left on the police force. Changing the charter to remove police, because you think this will appease the masses is the wrong decision. The creation of a new department will NOT magically fix what has gotten us to where we are today.

I will be a NO vote as I want to see signs of change rather than creating more confusion and no clear plan. Please choose to use this time to determine how to fix the issues that have gotten us here.

7/1/2020 10:24:07 PM

I am a Mpls resident and a public school teacher. I DO NOT AGREE WITH THIS PROPOSED CHARTER! We the people do NOT WANT TO ABOLISH THE POLICE DEPT.

In our country, police officers are asked to do too much. They're asked to do the work of social workers, substance abuse counselors, psych staff, psychologists, educators and child development workers. All the ails of society fall on their laps. They're asked to do all of that not because they have the training, but because they're the only ones with funds. THAT is what the "defund the police" conversation is about.

"Defund the police" is about freeing up the funds that police hold that necessitates they respond to the thousands of non-emergency situations that police respond to now. It frees the police up to do the job they're actually supposed to do. It gives people with proper training and credentials to respond to those specific non-emergency situations the funds to do so. It does not mean "completely defund the police" it simply means moving SOME of the money elsewhere. It does. It mean ABOLISH the police

Fix this! Look to Camden NJ. For advice, not Jeremiah Ellison!

7/1/2020 10:26:06 PM

I do not support abolishing the Minneapolis Police Department. I want complete reform via defunding (specifically defunding of weapons and militarization), reconstruction (require all officers to reapply and pass more stringent standards), regulations (for example, officers required to live in the city) and reprioritization (community connection, de-escalation, servant leadership). I believe that "community violence prevention" will lead to heightened white supremacy, racism and violence.

Furthermore, constituents deserve an explanation of the detailed plan behind "community violence prevention." What does that even mean? How can anyone vote on something without clarity on what it entails, how it will work, etc.

Finally, I am deeply troubled that a commitment was made to disband the police department with little to no discussion, feedback or input from constituents in mass.

7/1/2020 10:27:45 PM

Thank you for quickly reviewing this proposed amendment. This city really needs major changes to the police force and it is clear that the current structure is not working. The police department should be moved under the city council along with the mayor like all the rest of the city departments, no reason for this to be an exception! This charter amendment does not in itself create the reform needed, but it is a great first step in creating the needed accountability, and I strongly support it. I know people have talked about this moving too quickly, but given how little this charter amendment actually changes the department, I think this is a reasonable amendment to consider expeditiously.

7/1/2020 10:31:22 PM

The most important thing is to dissolve the current police union and its contract. I'm pro union generally but police unions have evolved into a protection racket for officers, shielding all from accountability.

Furthermore, the rot inside our PD is so deep there is no reforming it. We already tried. But we couldn't do much with white supremacists like Kroll and his beloved "warrior style" training keeping a hold on the union. And the fact that officers have elected this type of person to represent them is all we need to know.

We need a municipal service dedicated to truly keeping residents safe, not soldiers showing up at our doors. Yes, we will still need a small unit of officers to respond to truly dangerous or deadly situations, but most things cops do now - traffic stops, accident reports, wellness checks, etc., can be done, and done better, by someone other than police.

7/1/2020 10:32:03 PM

Do not change the city charter. MPD can be reformed within the current charter if the city council and the mayor have the courage to do so.

That they have failed to do so is not an argument for removing the protections of an adequate police force guaranteed by the charter.

It is an argument that the council NOT be given the discretion allowed in the proposed amendment.

7/1/2020 10:32:57 PM

I am shocked at your decision to defund the police. I find it incredibly short-sighted. Reform is certainly needed. Getting rid of union protection for bad cops is certainly needed. But to defund them is unwise. I live in Minnesota but not in Mpls proper. Mpls used to be one of my favorite place to go. I will no longer visit Mpls if this continues.

7/1/2020 10:33:33 PM

Absurd, crazy and ridiculous ideas by our city council.

Let's reform the Police department and not defund the Police department. Give Chief Arrondondo a chance. He grew up in the city. He has the respect of the city.

Let's change the arbitration system so when the Chief fires an officer it actually sticks. Lets recruit more black officers to the department.

I do like the idea of employing more social workers. However any social worker is still going to want an armed escort(Police officer) with to a majority of the situations that they would be involved with.

But to radically change the department like the council wants to do? LMAO.

7/1/2020 10:35:03 PM

I am not in favor of no Police ! I definitely think we need changes made and reform to the Police Dept. I stand for BLM and criminal justice reform. Right now in Mpls I don't feel safe! Police aren't responding to some calls or arrive much later. I am glad you are asking input from the community.

7/1/2020 10:35:32 PM

I strongly believe that the citizens of Minneapolis should be given the opportunity to vote this fall on the changes to the City Charter proposed by the City Council. I trust that the Charter Commission will allow our democracy to function unimpeded by approving the proposal quickly so that it can appear on the November ballot. Thank you.

7/1/2020 10:37:04 PM

I am in favor. The current charter is too constraining, as it requires a certain number of Police Department employees per city population. The city should have more flexibility when determining budgets and staffing to meet residents' needs.

7/1/2020 10:37:20 PM

Please be more thoughtful about this and LISTEN to the people living in the communities of Mpls that are most impacted by violence about what they want and need to feel safe. The eyes of the world are on you. Be leaders. Be wise. Do the jobs you were elected to do and bring people together around this deeply complex and troubling issue. This cannot be 0-60. This Board has an opportunity to create change and healing in a diverse, vibrant, grieving and engaged community. This is not the way, but you can get this right. We are approaching the most important presidential election of our lifetimes. The terms "abolish," "dismantle" and "defund" are alienating many, many (especially white, but people of color too) voters, voters who believe that dramatic change is needed. Listen to longtime local activists who are with the people and who know the people. Do what you can to change the narrative so people who vote will listen. Justice Reinvestment means the same thing that many are saying Defund is all about. Use terms that don't shut people down to get the job done. Get with your Mayor and your Police Chief (the hope of many of your Black constituents) and take back the narrative. Stop bending to the loudest voice and most incendiary hashtag and stop bickering in sound bites back and forth on national television with Bob Kroll. Also, be proactive at Powderhorn Park before it becomes this generation's Wounded Knee. Find some housing vouchers and a housing specialist and get those folks into housing and/or treatment. (If you need police support, use it to prevent new campers from settling there, but DO NOT force people out now or wait around until September, 2 months before the election to create a violent conflict). Things will end badly if you do not act to help these vulnerable people. Work with your Mayor. He may be young and inexperienced, but his intentions are good. Help each other get this right. It matters to every Minnesotan and every American, BIPOC, White, Asian, Latinx and LGBTQ alike. Be brave.

7/1/2020 10:37:37 PM

The police have been allowed supreme power over the people for far too long. the system that they work within is inherently racist, and encourages attitudes within itself not only of racism, but sexism, classism, ableism, and homophobia. For too long they have been allowed to mistreat the people they say that they serve. i believe that no current or former cops should be included in the future decisions surrounding the safety of our communities. This could be a truly historic step forward, not only for this city, it for this country as a whole.

7/1/2020 10:40:07 PM

I fully support this amendment and feel it is a necessary step towards safety and increased equity in Minneapolis. I am a therapist who used to work on the COPE team and in various community mental health position. I have seen first hand that there is a lot of deescalation that can be done by an unarmed helper, and I have also seen the terrible effects of over-policing, inadequate housing, inadequate food programs, etc, on people's lives. Our budget needs to be reorganized to prioritize the needs of Black and other marginalized communities. Although I believe that some armed persons will need to be a part of any public safety force, I believe that the Commission would be wise to not allow any current MPLS police to be involved in such a force. At the very least, they should have to reapply for their jobs and should have records free of complaints of bullying and violence. Thank you.

7/1/2020 10:42:48 PM

I am a 20-year resident of South Minneapolis, a Minneapolis Public Schools parent, and am committed to the well-being of my city and my neighborhood. That's why I want to see the city amend its charter and create a more just, equitable model of safety and violence prevention that ensures that all of our neighbors are treated with care and compassion by public safety teams who know their names and their neighborhoods.

7/1/2020 10:47:29 PM

We need this to be on the ballot this year it should have been on the ballot years ago we can not wait the police have to go every day we wait it's thousands of black and brown lives at risk at dying from the hands of the MPD that are supposed to protect us... "justice delayed is justice denied" let the people decide if you refuse then next person murdered by the police is at the fault of your hands just as much as theirs is

7/1/2020 10:47:55 PM

Do NOT abolish the Minneapolis Police Department! Clean it up, but police are needed!

7/1/2020 10:51:12 PM

If Minneapolis is able to work towards creating a society where people attack crime, poverty and violence at the root source, I still wonder about those who are not part of the community and don't care what happens there or if they hurt the community, have no invested interest in the community or its people and who are going to commit crime regardless of any ideals that the community may hold.

What about:

1. HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is already a huge issue in Minneapolis. How many more people, young children especially, will lose their freedom, innocence and lives at the hands of unchecked human traffickers? Does anyone believe that human traffickers are going to follow a community code when they have zero respect for human dignity, life, age, gender or race of any individual, and view a human life as a commodity? Who will be looking out for these incredibly oppressed victims?

2. DRUGS/WEAPONS

How will drug and weapon dealers face real consequences without a professional, highly trained police force? Is an armed drug dealer just going to listen to an unarmed social worker and stop their crime?

3. GANGS/CARTELS

How long can a police free community last without gangs and/or drug cartels just taking over? This happens where there IS police force present, so how can we think it won't happen to the extreme without trained law enforcement?

4. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

What happens when a criminal from another community enters the police free community? Does that police free community now have to rely on surrounding police forces to come in and catch that person? Will a police free community always be relying on and paying for other jurisdictions to come protect their residents? Who is going to pay for that? How does that work?

5. SECURITY

Who will provide security during community events, sporting events, parades etc? If a community like Minneapolis has no police, and the Timberwolves have to hire their own private security, will it end up reflecting those costs in ticket prices? Will resident taxes go up to pay for security for community events like parades or marathons?

6. WORKER SAFETY

It is a good idea to send along a social worker to help deescalate situations if possible. But who will be protecting these unarmed social workers in the highly volatile situations that are faced during domestic calls etc.? Someone has to be equipped to protect against armed, dangerous criminals that don't follow a moral code set forth by the community. Who will be that protection? We cannot be ignorant and think that criminals won't use deadly force on anyone trying to enforce a law.

7. SCHOOLS

Have we forgotten the rise of school shootings in this country and the issues that happen in schools? How is the safety of our children going to be ensured without police officers? Why do our children always have to pay the price for political ideas?

8. "THROWING THE BABY OUT WITH THE BATH WATER"? ARE WE THINKING LOGICALLY OR ONLY WITH EMOTION?

If a list of all the heroic acts of police officers since the year 2000 was put side by side with the illegal acts of police officers, which side would TRUTHFULLY be larger? Are we forgetting the innumerable times that police officers were of help to the public, and even heroes? Are we not forgetting that we are in need of people willing to put their lives on the line every single day to protect us and our children? Can any society actually exist without laws or without those willing to be in extreme danger to enforce them? Is it ACTUALLY impossible to work on reform instead of dismantling, or is this a political statement push that is not representative of the majority of the constituents? Are we ensuring a good future for ALL people, ALL genders, ALL races, and ALL lifestyles by removing their protection?

7/1/2020 10:55:34 PM

Please do not abolish the police. Keep Rondo in Charge And defend and reconstruct the police.

7/1/2020 10:56:12 PM

Blow Me 😊

The hypocrisy behind the "disbanding the police" while also having taxpayers shell out 4500\$/day for private security for yall makes everyone sick to their stomach.

7/1/2020 11:03:07 PM

I would like to know why we don't enforce laws anymore and what we are planning to do about it specifically. Peace officers sound great in theory but how exactly are they going to stop the carjackings at gunpoint (with AK47s)? The nonstop explosions and gunshots on my street that at the very least is a fire concern and absolutely against the law. We agreed to dismantle the police, not become autonomous. We still have laws that are being blatantly ignored.

7/1/2020 11:03:52 PM

This cannot be delayed. Action now! Status quo cannot continue and the city needs to prioritize this for the fall.

7/1/2020 11:08:05 PM

I am very concerned about the accelerated timeline in this proposal by the City Council and ask that this review be extended to allow for more careful thought in how Minneapolis Police Department be reformed and held accountable.

I am supportive of creative alternatives to our current police force, and am particularly interested in seeing options for police to be held accountable and disciplined, and that the community has more direct oversight. However, this proposal by the city council does not appear to be very clear direction in how the city will seek to transform the current public safety approach.

I am concerned that in the enthusiasm to make swift action, community members, like myself, do not have an opportunity to make their voice heard. It seems as if the City Council is wanting to move too quickly and is not taking the time to identify where real change is needed, and how they can partner with existing city resources and processes to improve policing within the existing charter.

Please consider rejecting this proposal, or ask for the review of this proposal be extended, perhaps eventually replacing it with a more comprehensive alternative to public safety for our city, so that myself and other residents can have more clarity in what those solutions will look like before being asked to vote on them.

7/1/2020 11:14:56 PM

I completely disagree with removing the police department. We have already seen shootings and crime in the increase. It will only get worse until our beautiful city is destroyed.

7/1/2020 11:15:12 PM

I don't know if the charter amendment is the answer but, I do know the following; the police union should not have so much power. Definitely NOT the power to prevent firing or removal of police who use excessive force, illegal holds, and repeated complaints. Arbitration—how can there be fair negotiations when one side is bearing arms and can threaten safety or lack of safety if their desires are not met?

Also, there are so many calls that police should not be called on...mental health, heat attacks/medical emergencies, cats in trees, etc. Police can NOT be all things. Protect and serve—not the first call for everything.

Why should police be on paid administrative leave when investigated?

Always, always require body cams.

Get rid of 'no knock' Warrants.

Eliminate warrior training—make it verboten so union cannot do on own.

More, more, MORE De-escalation training. More equity and racial justice training.

Better hiring of PEACE officers.

Things can NOT stay the same. But the whole legal system needs review from bail—eliminate cash bail—to PD's and the DA. HOW TO ELIMINATE SOMETHING THAT IS SYSTEMIC?? Hire consultants and replace most people!!

7/1/2020 11:16:48 PM

I want to see a number of changes to the laws that create and regulate the MPD. However, the current City Charter offers an important protection: The MPD cannot simply be eliminated, regardless of the City Council's wishes. I oppose this charter amendment because it places too much power in the hands of the City Council. The current City Council is unwilling to listen to other viewpoints, and has failed in its duty to involve Mayor Frey and Police Chief Arrodondo in their planning for change.

The true change has to start with the state legislature. Abolish arbitration for police officers fired for cause. Remove police supervisors from the union -- they are management, not labor. Eliminate Warrior Training, no matter who provides it. At least 50% of MPD officers should be residents of Minneapolis.

7/1/2020 11:16:51 PM

I am dumbfounded and disgusted with Minneapolis City Council. I've lived in Minneapolis for over 10 years and have been witness to its gradual but ever-obvious decline. I first lived downtown and watched as Block E was ceded to gangs and drug deals in broad daylight.

My wife and I bought our first home in Uptown five years ago and have watched the Greenway turn into a haven for addicts, crime, and vagrants. The Greenway used to be a beautiful oasis within the city. It's now common to smell spray paint fumes and see drug users hunched over in piles of trash left behind for someone else to clean up. One of my good friends moved out of the city five months ago after two men broke into his Minneapolis home while he, his wife, and new born were sleeping. But I never made a peep to leadership. I let the city slowly erode without voicing my opinion. That changed after the horrific and abominable death of George Floyd. His death was an absolute disgrace and I hope Chauvin faces justice. What is an equal disgrace is City Council's response to this.

Lisa Bender said on national television that calling the police "comes from a place of privilege". She is saying that we're PRIVILEGED if we need to call upon law enforcement to protect ourselves. If only we could all be so lucky to have our houses robbed or to be mugged on a morning run. The sheer lunacy of a UNANIMOUS vote to disband the police department is mind boggling. I can't comprehend that this is my city leaders' solution. The most basic role of government is to protect its citizens. Not cede all public safety, property rights, and civic dignity. City Council is pandering to an ill-thought, knee jerk reaction to a tragedy. Rather than disbanding the police department, we should be investing in it for change. Change training, change community outreach, change image. Don't replace it with glorified traffic guards. Don't be so rash as to put your fellow citizens' lives at risk in hopes of political advancement. I will vote against disbanding the police department and I will vote against any politician that supports it. And God-forbid the police department is disbanded, I promise you I am moving out of this once great city for good.

7/1/2020 11:17:00 PM

It is absolutely essential the residents of Minneapolis be able to vote on this amendment this year. This has been a community led action that has garnered the support of city council. For the charter commission to run down the clock so that we can't vote on this is suppression of democracy in action. The longer MPD remains intact the longer people's lives remain in danger. Ward 3

7/1/2020 11:27:02 PM

I feel that the proposed Charter Amendment regarding public safety is getting ahead of the public process. Just a couple weeks ago, when announced, we were promised a year long engagement process. It seems like the time for a Charter Amendment would be at the conclusion of such a process. While the structure suggested in the CA may be appropriate, that should be part of the engagement and discussion that was promised. No doubt, there is a need for a radical transformation, but process is so important. Plus, the benefit of a process will be greater support for the ultimate results of that process.

As I understand it, the current size of police force is far larger than the current size, so within the current CA, that could be reduced in the current budget process and the funds applied to other programs to get to the root causes. There are so many really great preintervention programs already in place, let's boost those up now with the savings from a reduction in police staffing and make a restructuring of public safety the next step.

I also find it concerning that the proposed CA would put another layer between the public and the enforcement component of the plan and make that less accountable to the public. Accountability is a key component and let's not codify that in the Charter until we have made a decision.

7/1/2020 11:27:57 PM

I am completely in support of disbanding the police in favor of a new charter department intended to take over the responsibilities of violence prevention and community safety, assuming a few things:

- 1) The current police force must be examined thoroughly, individual by individual, to assess which of these officers are fit to serve in the new charter department. We must weed out those with histories of bigotry, brutality, and indifference toward the community, while celebrating and re-purposing those who have shown care and support for said community, while residing within it, and/or stood against aforementioned bigotry and brutality. Those chosen to serve within the charter department must be further trained in de-escalation protocols, diversity, and psychology, while being subjected to routine psych-evaluation and assessments of their contribution to and attitude toward their community. They must also be mandated to spend off-duty hours volunteering within their community. Body cameras must be mandatory at all times, and officers may be subject to termination if serious actions are taken without proper surveillance.

- 2) Appointed peace officers and any other employees in relation to the newly founded charter department must be held highly accountable for their actions and responsibilities, meaning we must move to eradicate "qualified immunity" and police unions as they exist currently.

- 3) The distribution of funds from the disbanded force (including subsequent funds from excessive property, weaponry, and gear that is dismantled, repurposed, melted down, etc.) is decided on by the community, whether brought to a city-wide vote or decided by the council. The distribution must be constantly transparent to the public and serve it in a way that supports the community and strives to prevent crime and promote citizen well-being, in areas of education, health-care (physical as well as mental), job security/creation, homeless sheltering/resources

If measures like these aren't addressed and put into legislation, this new charter is capable of creating loopholes for those with ill intent (white supremacy groups, political extremists, religious extremists, capitalist opportunists, etc) to take advantage of the funding as well as the positions within the charter

department. I believe I speak for a lot of the city when I say that, while we are optimistic about "cleaning house", we also need to be extremely cautious of allowing the opportunity this creates to fall into the wrong hands.

7/1/2020 11:29:55 PM

The only thing that needs to be abolished is the entire city council and the mayor that has ruined that city. Every single one of them are incompetent and bat shit crazy.

7/1/2020 11:30:46 PM

I do not support the approach if the current city council. It does not appear to be well thought out and I am concerned about the safety of my neighborhood, the viability of a solid business community and great parks - all things that made me choose Minneapolis instead of a first ring suburb. I do not feel the council is fostering an environment that listens to all members of the community and believe this will become apparent during the next election cycle. I agree Minneapolis needs change and accountability. But, this feels very reactive and not sustainable.

7/1/2020 11:37:53 PM

As I read the plan, there seems to be lots left unsaid—what an alternative for the police force will look like, the size of the safety organization, who will be accountable and oversee the group. As is, the plan is too vague to be reassuring to citizens.

I also wonder how many current MPD police officers will leave knowing their positions will be cut. It seems like highly qualified and quality officers will be the first to leave.

7/1/2020 11:38:01 PM

Eliminating the police is ridiculous. I agree that there needs to be police reform but dismantling is not the answer. Minneapolis will suffer more than we already have thus far. If you get rid of police I'd like for the city council members who have spent thousands in taxpayer dollars for security to pay us back. If we don't get security then neither do you. Ward 3

7/1/2020 11:43:33 PM

I have been a resident of Minneapolis for 24 years. In that time, I have never had a positive experience with the MPD. On two separate occasions, I have been pulled over and ticketed while on my bike. Not because I was caught doing anything illegal, but because the police seem to be on some weird power trip. My husband too, was once detained in a MPD vehicle and roughed up for no other reason than he vaguely fit a description of a suspicious person. Here's the thing, we are both pretty "white" people. So if members have of the MPD feel like they can push us around for fun (seriously the two times I have been stopped the cops were just bored) is it any surprise what happened to George Floyd?

I used to work in a coffee shop on Franklin Avenue and a woman I worked with had to shut down early because she got arrested? Why was she arrested while at work? Because a homeless man, beat up and bloodied stumbled into the place looking for a great place to hide from the police. And when they showed up and she expressed concern for this person, they arrested her! The way they act, it's like the MPD wants the citizens to despise and mistrust them. They are bullies. I am 100% in support of exploring radically new ways of keeping our streets safe. The MPD had many chances to change, but they obviously blew it.

7/1/2020 11:46:03 PM

What type of training will be put in place for the community safety and violence prevention department?

7/1/2020 11:51:13 PM

I believe, due to the harmful and racist history of the MPD, that our city would be much, MUCH better served with a more adequately trained and community-focused group of people that showed up to things like:

- domestic abuse calls
- incidents involving mental illness
- people experiencing homelessness
- school hallway patrols
- basically anything that isn't an actively gun-violent situation

If the people summoned to these were not armed and trained in a military fashion, I think we'd see a lot less violence, death, etc. especially of BIPOC and other marginalized people groups.

Instead of investing in police to punish crime, let's invest in communities to lessen poverty and desperation. Let's provide adequate mental health services, not jails. Let's provide adequate education, not a school to prison pipeline.

This is our chance to pursue a police-free future. Please, please do not throw this moment away, or create "Police" by a different name. Defund the police, and fund the community.

7/1/2020 11:55:45 PM

I believe that voters should be able to vote on this issue. Given the wide reaching and widely negative impacts of the police on Minneapolis residents, Minneapolis residents should be able to decide the way in which they want to be protected. This is a time in history where drastic and systemic change could happen. And we need to take advantage of this moment and abolish a racist system, creating a more just future.

7/1/2020 11:58:56 PM

I am very excited about this amendment to the charter. I think it will be a great experiment to learn how to police our community in a less oppressive and more just manner. Ward 3

7/1/2020 11:59:25 PM

Hell no. Minneapolis is violent as hell WITH a police department, could you imagine how it would be without one? I definitely would not drive over there anymore. Y'all need to think about this for real, and this is coming from a black person! You've got those wild Somalis committing crime, then there's the other blacks, and then the whites and Latinos. Look at the stats. Even go read the CrimeWatchMpls Twitter feed and take your head out of your asses. The city is not safe even with a PD because y'all let people off. Hell when I moved to MN 8 years ago I only lived in Minneapolis the first two weeks, would not EVER live over there again. The white people and anyone with money will leave that city. Why because they want to be safe. Even the precious gays and trannies won't be safe, most black people are

NOT fans of the rainbow crowd and neither are those Muslims. Hopefully the lawlessness you guys permitted during the riots and overall will get Trump elected. HOPEFULLY.

7/2/2020 12:00:46 AM

While I definitely agree that we need to change the method of law enforcement in Minneapolis, changing our city charter (our constitution) is a serious matter with far reaching implications not just for the current time and situation, but for a largely unknown future and language that makes law enforcement services optional at the discretion of a few people in power at a given moment seems entirely irresponsible and dangerous.

I would support the proposal to restructure law enforcement under a public safety department, but given the reality that there will always be some violent crimes in a human society, law enforcement services are essential to public safety and the charter must make them a required part of that department.

If the proposal put forth by the City Council is the only way they can find to transform the current police department, it is their duty to dig deeper and take the time to arrive at a solution that is safe for the citizens of our community.

7/2/2020 12:09:45 AM

defunding and abolishing police is not the solution. the choice shouldn't be allow police to continue to abuse and murder our residents OR no police.

let the 5 officers who sued the city be part of selecting which officers stays and go. whoever was in squad 420 like 10 years ago should lose their license to be a police officer.

additional training is not so much the solution, as requiring a degree and proper credentials to get your license to practice. also psychological testing prior to hiring. people who serve in the army are required to show more restraint in war zones than mimics do to our residents. while racism is definitely an issue many police have a bully mentality and come to our poorer communities to take their aggressions out on our residents regardless of color, they abuse their authority and brutalize our community members.

there should also be physical requirements. many officers shoot because of their egos when someone runs because they know they can't catch them. if they do catch them they beat them up after restraining them, slam their heads into the hood, ground, etc.

why is our community not treated like rich communities treat their white residents? why does the city council attack don samuels on national television and the white female president stating a black man is coming from privilege because he reported a crime? why is reporting a burglary considered white privileged when any other community does it? especially when renters insurance and homeowners insurance requires it. does the commissioners think our community members are either too poor or too dumb to have rental insurance and home owners insurance? or are we expected to pay for those protections but not use them because then we'll be using "privilege "

none of the commissioners sought community feedback they are all only after their own self serving agenda. we've had well over 800 consecutive days of gun fire in north minneapolis but NONE of our commissioners have spoken on it prior to uptown shooting.

cunningham meeting didn't allow people to connect. then blamed "new technology" when the city and county have been using videoconferencing and webinars for well over 8 years.

they focus on and her government calls "busy work" so it appears they've achieved something and have been productive. for example bike lane on 44th a busy street that's had many parked vehicles totaled, that's not including basic hit that don't total the vehicles. plus during the school year there's fights and robberies on 44th.

they have not even placed a simple white line to help people stay in lane properly, but they want to remove all parking film residents that would have no where to park. not to mention victory memorial parkway is one block away. no other city has bike lanes on busy streets like that. they put them a block over. if you look at 45th ave all houses are corner houses the have other street parking and garages. NO RESIDENTS PARKING WOULD BE AFFECTED NO EXTENSIVE COSTS. there is also the parkway that is definitely not at capacity ever and is right along 45th well lighted, well kept. and plenty of room to expand if needed or just add a lane on 45th. this is all busy work that nobody asked for. they did not have accurate statistics at wenbery park when they sought feedback, and they did not listen at all to the community that affected. they just want to push it over to add a completed task on their list.

i've never seen an commissioners at any vigils for murder victims in their ward. i've seen no real achievements other than them collecting a large check.

7/2/2020 12:11:23 AM

I support this amendment. It's hard to think of another public entity that costs so much in lives and money —and is simultaneously so ineffective. It's long past time that we create a Community Safety and Violence Prevention program. The racism in the police department has proven intractable, even given the best and monumental efforts of Chief Rondo and others. It's time to do something else.

7/2/2020 12:20:04 AM

Okay, let me see if I've got this straight. Rather than the Mayor having power and command over the police department, the City Council has decided that's a power they should have for themselves. I do notice that the City Council only wants to "engage the public about" their new Department of Peace and Love rather than "have command" over it - is that because they don't want to be held accountable for it the way the Mayor would have to answer for the police department?

Instead of "the City Council MUST fund a police force...", now the City Council only "must" fund their new Department of Peace and Love, and "may" (or may not) choose to include within it law enforcement - and only then if it is firmly under the "supervision" of the Director of the Department of Peace and Love, whose only specified qualification is that they are forbidden to have any clue about law enforcement.

So, I have a question for the City Council. Are you prepared to shoulder the responsibility of protecting the people of the city of Minneapolis? Because I don't see it. I see a lot of vaporous buzz words. What exactly are your plans for a "holistic, public health-oriented approach" for public safety? What does that look like in the real world? Law enforcement is diminished to a small part of the "Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention" - what exactly are the other parts? How would they deal with real safety issues - crime, drugs, gangs, domestic violence, reckless driving (keeping in mind that more than one traffic stop has resulted in a dead officer) - none of these is a no-risk proposition.

The men and women of our Police Department put their lives on the line for us every day - knowing that anything, even something as simple as a traffic stop, can suddenly turn ugly. They work in the real world.

My neighborhood wasn't touched by the recent rioting, arson and looting - but we lived with the fear of it, and saw storefronts being boarded up, gas stations closed. I can't even imagine the pain of those who lost businesses and livelihoods and neighborhoods. I never would have believed it could happen in Minneapolis. Especially after all that, I am very disappointed that this is the best the City Council could come up with. Somehow I don't see the Department of Peace and Love being very effective in such a time. But then, I don't really see them being very effective at any time.

7/2/2020 12:21:42 AM

Hello and thank you for giving an opportunity for public comment. This is a critical moment in our country and in our great state of Minnesota. I want to start by saying we need ALL of our community involvement that includes concerned residence, community organizers/activist, local officials and the governor. This is not the time for egos and trying to keep people out of the process. It's too important and it's history in the making. We want change we want the police department dismantled and reimagined and we don't get to do it in a rushed or haphazard way. I'm from here and although I don't live here anymore I came back for several weeks to be a part of this change. Minnesota deserves better than what we've had so far. The country deserves better. Deserve to be able to live without fear of each other or law-enforcement. The police don't push protection into communities. It works the other way around, communities push protection out starting at our front doors, then to our next-door neighbors, then to our street, then to our block, and then to our city and beyond.

7/2/2020 12:23:43 AM

Defund the police, I dare you to. Let's see what happens when people come for your house and threaten you. Who you gonna call. Don't be fucking stupid. All 13 of you are fucking morons. I am completely disgusted that this is even being suggested. You all should be ashamed of yourselves. Never have I done this before I usually split 50/50, but I cannot wait to just check all republican in November. You guys are a fucking joke.

7/2/2020 12:36:35 AM

We need reform, but removing the police department is not the answer! I agree on putting more funds into other areas to an extent, but if there's no police department here I can't see any world in which that goes well.

7/2/2020 12:42:49 AM

Yes, remove the police from Minneapolis, n replace the police department to community safety. There is other cities in the u.s.a. that has it. Plus there is other countries that has it. It works for them, so why not for us...

7/2/2020 12:57:58 AM

Please vote YES and let us vote on changing the charter. We need to defund the police, like, 100 years ago. Thank you! Ward 12

7/2/2020 1:12:33 AM

I oppose placing this amendment on the ballot in November 2020. Instead the Minneapolis City Council should conduct listening sessions to learn how residents want to change the department, support Chief Rondo in making structural change, and redirect some of the \$192M to community based organizations.

After a period of listening consider placing a charter amendment on ballot that has been shaped by community input. The community may not want to abolish the police. But either way in a year's time we will know what we want. The current amendment is not sufficiently supported by community members.

7/2/2020 1:24:35 AM

I do not understand the disproportionate amount of financial and material resources that disproportionately overshadows spending for poverty reduction and social services. Poverty is made worse by this unbalance of resource allocation. The narrative of the proposal does not legitimately address the needs of the black community. Please actually take time to get the black communities concerns addressed and incorporated into this proposed amendment. As a resident, it is obvious to me in daily life to see what our city's priorities have been based on analysis of the 2020 City of Minneapolis budget. Do the right thing and start shifting resources aimed at healing the black community rather than oppressing it and keeping it impoverished by criminalization. Please take a look at the 2020 budget numbers provided in the attachment. Thank you.

Expand All	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
Public Works	\$ 301,410,628	\$ 306,436,103	\$ 324,544,328	\$ 347,906,921	\$ 393,939,290	\$ 382,346,503	\$ 398,884,167
Other/Non-Departmental	229,857,552	203,101,459	210,937,678	244,897,054	269,758,382	440,148,415	239,187,780
City Coordinator	170,202,581	179,221,431	180,429,691	186,458,186	245,697,338	267,116,825	288,753,046
Capital Improvements	152,197,348	135,383,375	222,395,566	291,510,193	192,604,738	302,314,174	169,381,092
Police	145,642,335	152,176,515	159,358,421	167,634,009	178,938,619	181,165,152	194,898,079
CPED	112,703,822	125,524,282	128,084,916	111,433,227	137,198,687	144,304,165	202,748,870
Independent Boards	110,765,521	111,981,641	112,703,362	132,311,032	138,478,495	144,552,246	158,754,881
Debt Service - Non Departmental	97,767,008	102,778,438	99,326,484	114,498,842	116,911,376	165,073,823	150,935,075
Fire	58,270,396	61,467,189	63,048,478	66,901,013	67,725,795	69,300,090	71,259,172
Health	19,991,847	21,390,374	21,684,636	23,781,537	24,103,711	25,967,216	26,755,000
Regulatory Services	19,492,000	21,040,083	22,097,778	23,392,615	24,326,666	24,911,804	28,246,156
Attorney	15,064,721	15,721,814	16,943,415	17,015,433	17,240,044	17,386,673	19,831,125
City Clerk	6,412,354	6,155,449	9,046,836	7,213,858	9,121,486	7,860,121	12,631,619
Assessor	4,499,647	4,612,972	5,162,275	5,189,041	5,593,191	5,602,225	8,086,717
City Council	4,570,960	4,803,574	4,702,306	4,823,637	4,995,408	4,907,117	5,547,568
Civil Rights	3,104,512	3,423,586	3,721,217	3,981,308	4,334,588	5,082,658	5,760,752
Mayor	1,827,368	1,979,371	2,067,613	2,000,721	2,408,345	2,451,261	2,473,669

7/2/2020 1:30:48 AM

I live in Saint Paul please don't do this, Minneapolis is violent enough. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/2/2020 1:36:54 AM

Please do not disband or defund the Mpls police. This would be devastating to the city and residents.

7/2/2020 1:42:46 AM

Not sure what changing the name is going to accomplish other than appease the politicians who believe that changing the name is somehow going to make the masses more comfortable. WRONG!!!

Police exist because some people choose to ignore the law, which is intended to protect the citizenry. Some individuals will not or cannot respect the rights of others and need to be kept in line with an authority by which it is not an option to ignore. It is also imperative that law abiding citizens can take comfort that such an authority exists to protect them. The proposal to "eliminate" the police is a knee jerk reaction to unforeseen circumstances which no one had control. The fact that there are institutional

flaws within the system does not justify eliminating the system. Without a doubt, radical changes do need to be made in order to insure a comprehensive and balanced approach which will enable both law enforcement and citizens alike to establish a strong, positive and effective approach to dealing with those who may need assertive guidance or discipline.

Understandably the roles law enforcement must take in order to maintain order in an efficient manner go well beyond what can be reasonably expected given the nature of traditional training and the complexity of the human condition. Adding specialists in different areas of expertise makes sense. Not all situations require a gun. Most DO require the mantle of authority that "POLICE" carry in order to assert direction to the misguided and provide the sense of security to those who may be threatened.

YES! The force must be re-imagined! It is not, however, cause to put on the velvet gloves in the belief that somehow by not calling law enforcement "Police" it going to resolve the issues of poor vetting , training AND DISCIPLINING of officers who are incapable of using power and authority in a responsible manner. There are bad actors on all sides but not all are bad actors. In my experience it is often the result of poor management which results in poor performance by those in their charge. We cannot take for granted that individuals who are given responsibility for certain tasks are going carry it out as expected. EVERYONE must hold each other accountable. In my mind the Government is responsible for insuring the institutions which are intended to serve the community are run properly ie. The Police Department. The police are responsible to insure the citizens remain law abiding and help when there is an eminent threat, danger or disregard for what is deemed acceptable behavior. The citizenry is responsible for holding the government responsible. It's EVERYONE'S responsibility to aid each aspect of our society. The notion that "POLICE" is a bad thing that needs to be eliminated is WRONG! What's wrong and needs changing is everyone taking law enforcement for granted, not holding them accountable for bad behavior and not giving them the tools, resources and education needed to provide our community and citizens with a sense of confidence and comfort that our best interests are being protected and wrongdoing is going to be addressed in a just and timely manner. Changing the name is pointless!

7/2/2020 1:50:15 AM

I am from North Minneapolis. I do not want the MPD to be dismantled Ward 5

7/2/2020 2:23:52 AM

I believe the police need to make the following reforms: 1) Racial diversity with at least 25% racial minorities 2) Background checks including social media for ties to white supremacy 3) Require four hour degrees and 4000 hours of training 4) investigations into police only by outside prosecutors 5) End qualified immunity and require individual liability insurance for police brutality 6) Routine drug testing for street drugs and steroids 7) Periodic background checks for white supremacy involvement 8) Substantial investigations and prompt prosecution for brutality 9) Ban on rehiring police fired for past brutality 9) Require police to live in the communities they serve 10) Ban on lethal holds 11) Parking tickets, calls about mental health, calls about petty crimes, calls about minor accidents should be handled by specialists who are not armed 12) Social workers and housing specialists embedded within the department 13) Regular screening and treatment of police for PTSD and substance abuse 14) Remove all military-grade weapons and garb from the police force 15) Disband the police union 16) Ban all military-style training 17) At least 10% of the police force should be women 18) Ban chemical weapons like tear gas 19) Restructure the force so elected officials have meaningful power over the police force 20) Create community-focused goals/policies with measurable benchmarks to hold police accountable 21) Ensure current leadership is demoted and replaced 22) Punish officers who do not

intervene and report brutality 23) Fire any officer conceited of domestic violence or child abuse 24) Increase community liaisons with the police force 25) Fitness for duty evaluations should include measures of racial bias 26) Substantial, frequent, and meaningful diversity training 27) Turning off body cams results in immediate termination 28) Extensive and meaningful training in deescalation techniques and non-lethal holds 29) Mandatory training in social work strategies such as referrals to community resources, active listening, motivational interviewing, suicidal assessment, substance abuse screening, mental health screening, domestic violence training, and solution-focused interventions 30) Meaningful training and wide availability of peer counselors

7/2/2020 2:31:22 AM

I do not agree with the proposed charter to remove the police department. There needs to be community involvement in this decision. We are putting ourselves in the same place if we do not connect with the community and ask for their ideas and opinions.

7/2/2020 3:03:33 AM

While I generally support the idea of the amendment, this sounds more likely simply renaming the department than anything else and moves control of the police from the mayor to the council, not to the communities being policed. I would urge the council to actually listen to activists when they talk about what abolition looks like, unless of course they feel that not enough black, indigenous, and disabled Minnesotans have died in the name of "safety". The system is beyond reform, several of you have agreed as much, so why are you trying to simply rebuild the same system you have already said is broken? You say you see us, you say you hear us, and yet you very obviously have not been listening to us, and instead of doing what has been asked of you have decided that merely appearing to support abolition is enough to secure your reelections, it isn't.

7/2/2020 3:05:21 AM

Getting what you deserve voting these idiots to run your city.

7/2/2020 3:14:07 AM

PLEASE replace the MPD with this community based protection department. Not only do we need protection and help from a department that is not so corrupt and filled with racists the police were also asked to do too many jobs at once. With the development of this new Department more and different community-based Protective Services could be formed.

7/2/2020 3:38:17 AM

Are you insane? The suburbs around you would have to erect a border wall if you did this. Are you literally saying that Minneapolis, the 'big city' we all grew up on the edge of is going to become a haven for lawless individuals and require the cities around them to stop those individuals at their borders? We don't want check points to keep your criminals in, we want you to have a normal, trained police force able to deal with and resolve problem individuals. You know, like a normal city does. Deal with your problem officers, but get the other 98 percent of well trained professional MPD officers back out there with full support.

7/2/2020 3:45:34 AM

No!!!!

7/2/2020 4:55:01 AM

I work in Minneapolis in the healthcare industry. My husband and I are recent transfers from out of state and have been shocked at the amount of violent crime that occurs in the twin cities metro. I've lived in Atlanta, DC, Seattle, and Dallas- and I have never felt less safe in a major city than I have here. While I condemn abuse of power in any form, I have very real concerns about what the landscape of the city becomes when the police are no longer present.

7/2/2020 5:48:35 AM

Please do NOT disband the Mpls police department. They do a very good job overall and as a tax payer, we do not need more waste from you clowns in our Government. Do your job and respect the laws. If everybody just obeyed the current laws they would not have to have an encounter with law enforcement !! Ward 7

7/2/2020 5:50:18 AM

Without MPD I wouldn't enter MPLS for any reason. I wouldn't spend a penny in the city which includes attending sporting events, conventions, retail, or dining. I wouldn't even drive through the city via any of the interstates or MN trunk highways. This is the worst idea ever! Who would want to work for your newly imagined public safety touchy feely not a real police department? This is a poorly rushed knee jerk reaction that wasn't thought out at all. Do you think crime will cease to exist in MPLS? The problem lies with the politicians from the mayor on down to the council & police chief. MPLS has been ruled by democrats for so long that the problem obviously lies at their feet. HOLD THE POLITICIANS FEET TO THE FIRE, save the MPD!! I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/2/2020 6:17:00 AM

Please remove police from the city charter. My household will vote in favor of this change in November. Ward 8

7/2/2020 6:21:51 AM

I do not support this proposed charter amendment for several reasons. The suspension of council rules shut the community out of the drafting process, the wording is faulty, and moving oversight to the council is a huge error in judgement when it comes to police accountability. Instead I support the elimination of the clause mandating a police force based on population size and to keep police oversight in the hands of the Mayor.

7/2/2020 6:24:57 AM

Please spend more time with this charter amendment, make the deliberation process transparent to the community, and tighten the language so it is unimpeachable when it comes to a vote. The following are essential:

Police department accountability directly to the people, not via the City Council

An end to the .0017 funding requisite so that social services can receive appropriate funding without being herded into the same category as policing

7/2/2020 6:26:15 AM

I as a Minneapolis employee have found that since the recent activity that has gone on, it has become extremely difficult to feel safe while at work .

I am a manager of a group of 6 to 12 employees, we have been harassed, lives threatened and treated unjustly. being a City employee with the City logo, we feel like we are a target. a lot of the folks in my group feel like there is more tension now that the City Council is trying to defund the Police.

It seems as the folks creating hostility know that the police are not coming to help if needed and that is scary.

We believe if the Council can get protection, we should be able to as well I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/2/2020 6:43:41 AM

NO, NO, NO. I'm a 30 year police retiree and lived my whole life in Northeast. City services have been a huge reason to live here. City services have been reduced over time. The city has become a location I do not embrace as I have been accustomed. Can't reinvent the wheel. Your losing me as a neighbor. Ward 1

7/2/2020 6:54:25 AM

I support this amendment. For any complaint I see on my NextDoor app, whether people see a stranger walking on their block or throwing dog poop in their garbage, people simply urge each other to "call the police." They're in the schools, they're rounding up the homeless, they're responding to instances of mental illness. It's an unfair expectation and they are not trained to handle these situations appropriately. We also have a police brutality issue and whether they're committing the aggression or staying silent about seeing it, it's got to stop. Thank you.

7/2/2020 6:58:51 AM

Until the council can provide a detailed plan of how the city would be protected from criminals, I strongly oppose the idea of changing the charter. I'm very open to the idea of modifying the police department, but allowing them to abolish the department without an alternative plan is clearly wrong.

7/2/2020 7:13:46 AM

As a 46-year resident of Minneapolis, I feel it is definitely time for a change in the way we police. Unabated violence by officers has no place in the force. As we re-invent public safety measures, we need paid civilian representation in decision making and oversight. We also need to take our time and get it right this time. Listen to the activists and volunteers and those on the front line! Involve social service organizations and mental health workers and work together to the benefit of the entire community. Do not pass up this opportunity for real, substantive change. We need to act with compassion and respect for ALL community members.

7/2/2020 7:15:10 AM

What a joke. I just moved from Minneapolis to Maple Grove because of how absolutely horrible Minneapolis has become. I literally sold my house and purchased a new one elsewhere. You guys have got to get your shit together for the remaining residents. You have crime everywhere, you don't plow the roads for shit, you're removing the only thing that protects the citizens instead of just properly vetting and training your police force, your roads are absolute garbage with potholes and patches that

destroy vehicles, your education sucks worse than outlying cities, and your city is falling apart. It's starting to confuse me - is it Minneapolis or is it Chicago? Clean up your act - this is the worst state of the city I have seen in the 15 years I have lived in it. I will not be moving back. Used to be a great city. Now it's horrible.

7/2/2020 7:16:48 AM

I strongly disagree with the proposed amendment to remove the Police Department. We have a wonderful Police Chief who is in a position to create change within the existing system. I am very concerned with the rise in crime (especially violent crime) in our city.

7/2/2020 7:21:11 AM

The police force that in the past has been militarized, should be transformed back to a community and safety force. More visible and more involved in the local community.

However, you need it all. Patrol is a small part of policing our city. Undercover, organized crime, community partners, murder investigations, large emergencies like 35W collapse. Patrol is one small piece.

How does the council plan on addressing all of this? The amendment seems far too vague.

The struggles of some segments of the community, are the struggles of all humanity. Ward 3

7/2/2020 7:24:10 AM

I believe we need more Police. Certain area of downtown were very unsafe I and had many issues before all of this happened. Your team requested for more police in January. It's only going to get worse. You might as well kiss the 2040 plan goodbye if you plan on getting rid of the police, people are not going to want to live in the city and move to the suburbs. How is it a privilege for me, my wife and son to have the police in Minneapolis but certain city council members can have private security during all this?

7/2/2020 7:28:24 AM

I am in favor of the amendment to the charter. However, there needs to be alot of work out in between now and November so there us a plan in place to replace the MPD. We need community outreach and input on this matter. This is a decision that can not be made be politician alone.

7/2/2020 7:30:51 AM

I do not support the charter amendment as proposed by the city council. They started with a change in required police manpower, which seems like an important step to any reform so the department. However, I believe they added extra, and unnecessary, steps around the structure of the department and who it reports to. This amendment as written cuts out the voices of many city citizens and reflects the views of one constituency on this important topic.

7/2/2020 7:38:46 AM

Minneapolis needs a police force. As long as there are guns (of which we have way too many) and violence, we will need an armed force. Our predominantly black neighborhoods will actually suffer the most from a lack of police, as that's where the most guns and violence are. Removing the police won't magically fix that. Look at the data from studies and you will see that police do reduce crime and that police reforms can work, despite the rhetoric. There will be so many other negative repercussions from a lack of police that they are too numerous to mention here. But essentially you will see people and

capital leaving the city, that is anybody who has the means to do so. You will have built a much more polarized and wealth-divided society than the one we already have.

It's completely unclear what the "Community of Safety and Violence Prevention Department" would be, but what the city and all of its residents need is a completely rebuilt police force, one that represents, serves, protects, and respects all of its communities. We need to break the police department, get rid of the Bob-Kroll-type mentality and rebuild it from the ground up.

7/2/2020 7:45:15 AM

If this misguided plan is implemented my family and I will never step foot in Minneapolis again. My mother was born in South Minneapolis and my grandparents spent their adult lives there (and were teachers in the public school system). All people are entitled to the protection from crime by a police force and all of the violence prevention programs that your council can dream up won't put a dent in the violence the likes of which you are responsible for after the killing of George Floyd.

7/2/2020 7:56:22 AM

I own property in Minneapolis and work in the city. My concerns on the proposed amendment:

1. Safety of citizens, employees, & visitors to our city.
2. Fire Department needs police protection during civil unrest & your amendment removes that option. Not a safe environment for our fire-fighters or EMS employees.
3. Safety downtown in particular has been a serious problem for several years - murders, assaults, etc. Businesses cannot prosper without public safety. How can we expect to have major conventions, sporting events, & concerts downtown without armed & trained police protection? A "holistic, public health-oriented approach" won't stop criminals intent on harming others.

If you want to add "community safety peace officers" for non-violent situations I'll support that but not a total abandonment or defunding of our police department.

7/2/2020 7:59:32 AM

We need to start searching for new ways to address these problems with the police department. Reform has been proposed after the previous killings. But no effect has been seen from those. It is time to disband the police department so that we can form it into something new. Will there be an armed response unit to deal with violent crime? Of course. But that will be all they are asked to do. And they won't need anywhere near their current budget. Use those funds to address the root causes rather than trying to suppress the symptoms. We have seen time and time again that this system is broken. At some point, you can't repair it anymore and need to go out and find something new. Will there be kinks to work out? Of course. But let us defund the police in the spirit of finding something better that works for all of our community, not just white people. This new council needs to have representation of people with various trainings and various backgrounds in order to represent our community. Ideally they would live in our community as well, but that can be worked in as things are established.

7/2/2020 8:02:38 AM

7.3.1b "...may maintain a division of law enforcement services." should be "...shall maintain.."

I heard some people freak-out about the "may" (previously "could").

It already says "...shall appoint the director of the division of law enforcement services"

7/2/2020 8:05:04 AM

I do not agree with this amendment. Let Chief Rondo do what he needs to do to reform the police department. Defund the police and get rid of racists like Bob Kroll.

7/2/2020 8:06:23 AM

I support the proposed charter amendment. This is a good first step towards much needed change.

7/2/2020 8:08:41 AM

I applaud this effort to advance policing into something more adaptable to our current social advances. I view this less as a "defunding" and more of an evolution. The old way is not working, we have advanced as a society, there are large structural problems, the main one of which is racism. There is also this sense that the model of policing that has been used in this country is out of date, not useful, and actually harmful. We should recognize the trauma the old way has caused, recognize the burgeoning sense of larger community that we are seeing, and a recognition of the connectivity between health and safety, poverty and crime. Certainly laws will still need enforcement, but not all current police work is law enforcement, this should signal a need for change, for advancement, and particularly because, as taxpayers, if our police are committing state sanctioned violence, we are complicit if we don't demand change.

My main questions and comments are more technical and practical. Will this allow for ongoing adaptation in the process? This certainly will need to be fluid to adapt with the constantly changing social and community environments. How much of the old system will follow into the new one, infrastructure, personnel, etc? Certainly many of this will be needed and can be well adapted into this new vision of community service and violence prevention.

7/2/2020 8:09:09 AM

I support the charter amendment and the establishment of a new Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. I look forward to envisioning what such a department could look like and living in a city that provides safety and justice for all residents.

7/2/2020 8:10:33 AM

You will imperil the safety of Minnesota citizens by defunding the police Dept. I work in downtown Minneapolis and am adamantly opposed to this effort.

7/2/2020 8:14:16 AM

It's obvious we can't trust MPD and they need to be dismantled and forgotten. What we've witnessed throughout the past weeks after Floyd's murder, is the utter disregard for humanity fueled by the hate speech of our horrible nations so called leader. ("Don't be too nice when you put THEM in the car") Trumps reaction of "you need to dominate Minneapolis" should be met with success in the opposite direction. MAKE AMERICA MINNEAPOLIS! I WONT BE CALLING THE COPS. My community is far more trustworthy.... Do the right thing and make us proud. Abolish this evil. We are capable.

7/2/2020 8:14:39 AM

Don't have the new department decide by this shady ass "Minnesota federation" were too smart for that. Have one of the many community activists groups involved, listen to there demands. Also the people need voting power in a democracy which means WE will decide the department's head not city council. You guys lost the right to do that last time you try passing this amendment and faile.

7/2/2020 8:16:40 AM

Have you all completely lost your minds? Agreed we need more mental health and community service but not without the police!

7/2/2020 8:16:54 AM

End police.

7/2/2020 8:18:08 AM

As a lifetime resident of Minneapolis I believe this change is desperately needed and I fully support it.
Ward 8

7/2/2020 8:19:38 AM

Just hope it's taken into consideration how safe or unsafe people will feel about coming into the cities. My husband and extended family and friends love going to shops and eat downtown. But will not be if you disband the police department. Seriously people have to feel safe. Including the residents. You have a small group that are being very loud ...please fix what needs to be fixed within the police department.... if anything they need more policebetter training...

7/2/2020 8:26:04 AM

The urgency of this amendment it NECESSARY to keep more Black and brown folks safe in our communities. PLEASE push this through so I can vote on it in August. Ward 10

7/2/2020 8:26:16 AM

The charter commission should not delay sending the proposed amendment to the city council in time for the November 2020 election. Changes to the way the City of Minneapolis structures public safety CANNOT wait. I was extremely disappointed to learn some members of the commission are considering delaying action to keep this from the voters in November. Just know, if you delay, this voter will not forget and will do everything in her power to change the composition of the charter commission.
Ward 13

7/2/2020 8:28:00 AM

Please do not imagine that we aren't paying attention. We will not let our efforts to disband MPD die in committee through bureaucracy and pop-up commission meetings. Put the question on the ballot this November. If you don't, you're participating in a sham of democracy.

7/2/2020 8:28:04 AM

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this proposed charter amendment. Our City should be focusing on real reform of the police department and public safety - not disbandment. You have the opportunity to spend your time developing and proposing true, (and for the first time) impactful reform that the majority of residents will support. But instead of concrete solutions and problem solving, our government is

pursuing highly disruptive, controversial and radical action. I am disappointed in our leaders and urge this not to be on the ballot.

7/2/2020 8:30:19 AM

Fuck this idea Ward 4

7/2/2020 8:30:59 AM

Are you guys fucking crazy? Ward 6

7/2/2020 8:31:22 AM

I don't think we should remove a police department (article 11). Under article 15 we already have the ability to create a department for violence reduction.

Yes we need to make changes in how the police department functions, one of them being there needs to be more psychological assistance for things that they see and deal with on the job. If we create a department of Community Safety and Violence prevention then these two departments should work hand in hand. Honestly Community Safety and Violence Prevention is part of what a police department is, we just need to have better focus on those aspects of the job. Ward 1

7/2/2020 8:36:19 AM

I was a homeowner in North Minneapolis several years ago. There is a reason there is 1 inch thick bullet proof glass surrounding the cashiers in the convenience stores and its not systemic racism. My neighbor was held up at gunpoint as he was entering his house one night. I had two attempted breakins. There was a Target department store on Broadway that pulled out several years ago because of all the shoplifting. The community once complained about too many police patrolling the streets. Some time later I was watching the news and there was a crime and a delay in police arriving to the scene and the cry from the community was, "where were all the police?!". Getting rid of the police? Will that cause rape, black on black crime, shoplifting and murder to simply disappear? Getting rid of the police? Good luck with that./// ONE BAD POLICE OFFICER AND ONE BLACK MAN WHO RESISTED ARREST WAS WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY. THE RESULT TERRIBLE BUT NOT SYSTEMIC RACISM IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

7/2/2020 8:37:51 AM

I am a former renter in Uptown and homeowner of a Minneapolis home in the 3rd precinct. I am also a Mom, and consumer who likes to visit bars/restaurants/shops in Uptown and Downtown, my hairstylist, my kids' eyeglass shop, aquatennial, the lakes, events at the bandshell, etc

If the police department is defunded, there is no way I would go back to Minneapolis for any social or business reason. My and my family's safety is my #1 concern and I don't have confidence that the city feels the same way.

I am also Realtor and can tell you that I've had at least 7 buyers change their minds about purchasing their next home in Mpls and a handful of sellers contact me with the intent to sell. Once property values go down, so will the city itself.

In fact, you need more police, not less to make people comfortable visiting or living there. It is pure chaos and lawlessness right now

7/2/2020 8:39:34 AM

We deserve a chance to vote on this amendment in November. Delays are unacceptable. Black Lives Matter. Ward 2

7/2/2020 8:40:54 AM

Would propose adding some language to the amendment to abolish the Minneapolis City Council in its entirety. Ward 10

7/2/2020 8:41:24 AM

I fully support the proposed public safety transformation amendment. The residents of Minneapolis have been crying out for a change to the current public safety system for years. This amendment finally gives voice to our concerns. The current system is irreparable and it's time to try something new. The city council has unanimously backed this proposal, and there is no reason the public safety department shouldn't be managed the same as every other city department. It's time to give the residents of Minneapolis a say, by putting this measure on the ballot in Nov. The word is already out regarding this amendment. Neighborhood groups will have four months to hold meetings and discuss the amendment, and frankly you'd have to be living under a rock to not know what's in the amendment. If the murder of George Floyd by a city employee and the subsequent outrage shown by the residents of Minneapolis doesn't convince you of the urgency of this matter - then you're just a bureaucratic buffoon. Any attempt by the unelected members of this Charter Commission to filibuster or delay putting this amendment on the ballot will be seen for what it actually is - an undemocratic, gatekeeping attempt to steal the power to make this decision from the voters in Minneapolis. It would make you no better than any other type of voter suppressionists. I look forward to this amendment being placed on the ballot this Nov. Ward 3

7/2/2020 8:43:08 AM

We, my family and I live on 31st and Bloomington. We happen to know many wonderful officers that have chosen for their lives to protect and serve Our city. They are not

Like Chauvin!!

We want more good officers in this city. WE NEED MORE GOOD OFFICERS in this city. If the MPD had been five what they asked for (400 more) this city wouldn't be in the danger it is now.

Please give us more. DO NOT GIVE LESS FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR PEOPLE IN THOS CITY

7/2/2020 8:43:26 AM

While I see that the MPD needs a major overhaul and the future must contain oversight and defunded military spending, more community policing and residency requirements, I cannot accept a total dismantling of the MPD.

7/2/2020 8:43:30 AM

I encourage the Charter Commission to approve this proposal and enable the amendment to be submitted to the voters. This is an issue many Minneapolis residents have strong feelings about and voting will allow us to use our voices to support the change we believe in. Ward 1

7/2/2020 8:45:25 AM

Your city is not a safe place for me to visit and spend my hard earned money right now it will definitely not be on my destination list in the future if police are abolished may god have mercy on the souls of residents and business owners

7/2/2020 8:47:10 AM

No this is retarded

7/2/2020 8:52:31 AM

I want police reform, but this process is backwards. I will vote No. I do not trust our current council, and shudder to think of what they would do with a changed charter.

Instead, give voters a detailed plan and budget for what public safety transformation will look like. (For example, where will all these social workers come from?) And listen to the police chief; his years of service to Minneapolis should be respected, not dismissed. Thank you. Ward 3

7/2/2020 8:52:43 AM

The Charter Commission needs to do its job and provide advice on the proposed amendment. Their job is not to delay the process. The proposal is 5 pages and took me less than 30 minutes to read and consider. If commissioners are unable to timely review and provide advice on a 5 page document, they should resign. It should be up to voters to consider the merits of the proposal. Let the people vote. Ward 8

7/2/2020 8:55:25 AM

I'm against the proposal to disband the police department. Fewer police officers will make this the Wild West, with more people carrying guns for their own protection, which will lead to even more violence. The "Camden" model that everyone cites offers correlational (not causal) evidence that defunding the police leads to lower crime. Please listen to the organizations that have been making evidence-based recommendations for years about how to improve public safety. Improve police accountability. Also understand that policemen commit suicides at higher rates than most other professions. They often work multiple consecutive shifts without sleep, which likely results in their exercising poor judgement. Small changes can make big differences.

7/2/2020 9:02:08 AM

I am in strong support of defund and abolishing the MPD. As a young woman who manages ticketing for First Avenue Productions and all associated venues the MPD has never made me feel safe or secure. Our city deserves better. The police system is not broken. It is doing exactly what it was built, and the officers are trained, to do. It makes no sense that becoming a licensed cosmetologist requires more training than becoming a police officer. We need a complete system overhaul. Please listen to your people, or the civil unrest will only increase.

7/2/2020 9:08:39 AM

If you don't have a police department I won't shop or visit Minneapolis. There was a complete failure to protect lives and property- I've never seen a social worker make an arrest or put out a fire in my life. Are they going to ask criminals to please put down their guns? Are they going to ask rapists to please pull their pants back up? Are the council members who have private protection going to pay for that

privilege when other citizens must fend for themselves? Think about this before you act. I'm not the only one who has these questions. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/2/2020 9:10:10 AM

Please do not defund the Mpls Police Department. Please use the money the transition would inevitably cost to instead increase deescalation training and staffing of the Mpls. Police department. The increase in violent crime in Minneapolis due to lack of enforcement directed by city political leadership is being felt by those of us who live, work and recreate in the city of Minneapolis . Ward 12

7/2/2020 9:10:31 AM

We need swift movement on a charter amendment to dismantle the Minneapolis Police Department. This is not the time for hemming and hawing, it is the time to act and restore justice for our communities. A charter amendment gives us the opportunity to create public safety solutions which fit our communities. A delay to this process is an act of cowardice.

7/2/2020 9:10:55 AM

Some of this is good to de fund the police but I would like to see Rondo the police chief be eligible to head the unit.

7/2/2020 9:14:41 AM

I do not agree with proposed amendment to the charter. I think the increased gun violence the last few weeks speak for itself. I believe one of the many reasons for the increased violence is people feel emboldened by this proposed charter. How is it that the City Council can propose an amendment before having all of the details on how this will work vetted out? This seems illogical and unfair to those of us who will be affected by this change. This really should be carefully thought through by people more qualified than them. This is all being rushed through with no consideration for those of us who do not agree. They have not taken the input of the entire City into consideration. They have the luxury of private security and well paying jobs to protect themselves while many of us do not. Please take into consideration that Lisa Bender received 4,883 votes in the general election. She and the council members are not speaking for all of Minneapolis, they are unfairly only speaking for themselves. They should not be allowed to force this charter amendment when they will be the ones least affected by it. Ward 3

7/2/2020 9:15:02 AM

Won't go to Mpls.

7/2/2020 9:15:40 AM

Removal of cops would only help criminals. It's a joke and would destroy our beautiful city.

7/2/2020 9:15:46 AM

As someone who came to Minneapolis to study journalism and then served as a local journalist for a number of years, I have witnessed and needed to cover far too many instances of police brutality in this city and the surrounding metro. It would be naive to think that the Minneapolis Police Department, which is heavily influenced by known racist Bob Kroll, isn't responsible for setting the tone for abusive policing in our area and beyond.

However, it is not sufficient to view this as a regional issue only without acknowledging the historical context of policing in both this city and the US. Policing in this nation has a racist history that we have an opportunity to reckon with and leave behind, instead of continuing to leave a harmful wake of violence. Decades of data demonstrate that our policing systems do not deliver safety or meaningfully address crime. We need to immediately do what we can to cease harm and refocus our efforts on restorative justice and healing with the community. That means listening to affected residents' experiences and demands for a less militarized, more specialized, better trained civic safety department.

Finally, as a resident of Minneapolis, I expect attention to be dedicated toward creating a civic entity that is not simply reactive, but is instead a proactive resource that can connect vulnerable residents with assistance programs, social support networks, and tangible aid designed to divert people away from the prison system and poverty. Furthermore, I would like to see an incentive program incorporated to encourage accountability, integrity, and transparency to protect whistle-blowers from the retaliation that has been rampant in MPD and other police departments. If the guiding principles really are to protect and serve, then officers must protect life -- not steal it -- and public employees must serve the community something other than warrants and terror.

7/2/2020 9:17:12 AM

I am extremely supportive of this transformation to our public safety and community. It is our decision as citizens to change systems that no longer serve us even if they're become familiar to us. We have a chance to make Minneapolis a historic and progressive city in this country. Ward 2

7/2/2020 9:23:33 AM

In my six years in Minneapolis, I have seen three deadly police shootings. Meanwhile, the police do nothing to prevent people biking on Hennepin sidewalks and loitering loudly in my neighborhood,. As such, I am definitely in favor of removing the Police Department and establishing a Community of Safety and Violence Prevention Department in its place. Thanks for the chance to weigh in!

7/2/2020 9:23:46 AM

I worked in mental health for 3 years. During those three years I was bit, scratched, hair pulled, spit on and called all different sorts of names. It was really mentally hard however, I learned so much about mental health, deescalation and how to protect yourself in dangerous situations. While working here I didn't get any "self protective weapons".

Defining the police shouldn't mean not supported. They should have rigorous training and get certified yearly in deescalation, restrains that don't hurt people and mental health and how to spot it.

Defunding shouldn't be a suggestion but at this point mandatory. Start supporting our education, mental health and poverty

7/2/2020 9:24:25 AM

The name public safety department sounds weak. When I call 911, I want to feel like legitimate and qualified help is on the way. Public safety makes it seem amateur and I'll be less confident in their abilities.

7/2/2020 9:26:12 AM

I support our police department do not dismantle it. Work to make it more responsive to Andrew brutality. Our police have a very difficult job and unless you've walked in their shoes you have no idea. I am a minority person I support our police department you don't throw the bat the baby out with the bathwater you get rid of the few poor policeman who are burnt out on the job. I can't believe any Private entity could do a better job. Ward 1

7/2/2020 9:29:44 AM

I am in full support of this charter amendment. Why? Because as the MPD150 report reveals (a performance review of the 150 year history of the Mpls Police Dept), police reforms don't work. The MPD has tried to "reform" itself many times during its 150+ year history (e.g., late 1920s, 1960s-1970s, 1990, 2003, 2013) and nothing has led to substantive changes around decreasing the level of police violence against Black folks, Brown folks, and Poor folks in Mpls. What prevents violence and crime ISN'T more robust policing. What prevents violence is a) decriminalizing the poor and BIPOC communities and b) removing the conditions that lead to homelessness, poverty, mental illness, etc. by INVESTING in programs that empower the community - those who are most harmed by top-down policies. So rather than putting millions of dollars toward the problem (i.e., funding the MPD), we need to reroute and divert those funds and resources to solutions that work: community-based public safety.

The foundation of policing in this country is built on white slave patrols criminalizing blackness in order to protect white property. Over the years, police was used to protect white neighborhoods, people, and property from not just Black people but also Native, people of color, and poor and working-class folks. The foundation of policing is built on white supremacy. And it has--from its inception--always worked to protect white power. If we truly want a "complete transformation" of the police system (as Mayor Frey says), changing the interior of the "house" with new policies, procedures, practices and a fresh coat of paint (via marketing and narrative-spinning tactics) will not get us there. A complete transformation requires the demolition of the house - including its foundation - so that we can build anew with a NEW foundation that is NOT built on white supremacy. This amendment allows us to dismantle the existing house and foundation so that we can build a new "house" of public safety founded on antiracism, community, collectivism, "people over profits," and loving care for others.

For these reasons, I'm in full support of this amendment and will do my best to get folks to vote for disbanding the MPD once it is on the ballot.

7/2/2020 9:39:08 AM

I work in downtown Minneapolis and I support the removal of the police from the city charter. I do wish more community leaders would have been brought in to discuss the best way to implement these changes.

This new "Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department" must be more than just the police with another name. And violence against Black and Brown communities needs to stop.

7/2/2020 9:40:02 AM

I am in strong support of the proposed charter, and I thank the city council for taking the necessary steps to impact real change at the local level. I am excited to vote in favor of the charter! Ward 3

7/2/2020 9:41:05 AM

I have been a Minneapolis resident for almost 40 years. I'm all for police reform and department restructuring, but the current proposal needs more, much more, details for me to vote for any change to the city charter. I'm glad city council members are confronting this issue, but please slow down. This is a complex issue and deserves the time and effort to meet the stated goals. I agree with the cooler heads like Black community leaders and the business community that have spoken out against the current proposal and asked very pointed questions. I will not vote to change the city charter with a promise of "details to follow". Ward 7

7/2/2020 9:41:39 AM

The charter commission needs to stop dragging their feet on the proposed amendment to the city charter. What are they so worried about? Get it on the ballot and let the people of Minneapolis decide the future of our public safety! Ward 3

7/2/2020 9:41:42 AM

The new language around public safety in the proposed charter amendment is very much needed to provide the city with the flexibility it needs to establish a system appropriate to its needs. The current language in the charter is far too restrictive in how it sets up policing, going so far as to set minimum headcounts, which is something that should be determined by city policy and ordinance, not by a charter. Moreover, the autonomous structure it gives to the police department (unique from any other city department) undermines the principle of civilian authority over the police and governmental transparency around policies and decision-making. Ward 7

7/2/2020 9:41:46 AM

Like Einstein said, doing the same thing over and over while expecting different results is insanity. New programming and training doesn't work; the system is either deeply flawed or an effective, calculated tool for white supremacy. Either way: abolish it. Abolish the police and our grip on Black guilt/white innocence. Change happens within relationships; let communities lead the way towards peaceful neighborhoods. Invest in human life: affordable housing, medical care, mental health support, green space, food access.

7/2/2020 9:42:15 AM

Dear Charter Commission,

As a resident of Minneapolis, I want to vote on the proposed city charter amendment this November. I call on you to permit the charter amendment to move forward so that the people of Minneapolis can choose if we want to amend our city charter.

As currently written, the charter is a barrier to accountability and change within the police department. We as a community have the experience, skill, and vision to expand and create better solutions for community safety. To do that, we need the freedom to decide if we should remove the roadblocks created by the charter.

Please approve the proposed amendment so that we, as Minneapolis residents, can vote in November and decide how we want to move forward with our community safety.

7/2/2020 9:46:30 AM

I work in downtown Minneapolis and I agree with the proposed amendment that the Police Department should be removed from the Charter. However, I wish that community leaders would have been invited to be more involved with the implementation of this amendment.

This new force cannot simply be a re-branding of the police. And it must be aggressively funded in order to protect the most marginalized in our society. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/2/2020 9:49:24 AM

I think sending shrinks, marriage and substance abuse councilors out with police would be a wonderful idea. We could even partner them up with police cutting officers in half but adding social workers etc. in there place. Most don't want police gone entirely that is insane but trained professionals could make an amazing change for the better.

7/2/2020 9:52:46 AM

Former Mpls resident. Generations of family still residing in and around the twin City's and rural communities. Bad idea! Restructuring a better idea!

7/2/2020 9:53:53 AM

Please approve or at least don't block or let this amendment flounder. The people of Minneapolis need the opportunity to vote on this amendment. This is a step to open the discussion but more importantly to move beyond words to claim control of the police force by the city government. The city council and mayor, elected officials, have little actual ability to change police policy and operations in order to have a public safety organization which serves and protects all its people. This amendment is open-ended because this will be a process but your part, your responsibility is to allow it to proceed for the city is nothing without the people. The people of Minneapolis are the embodiment of the Charter. Respect the people. Ward 3

7/2/2020 9:54:46 AM

As a resident of Minneapolis, I fully support this amendment to the city charter. The violence our Black residents are experiencing at the hands of the MPD is a public health crisis. There is no going back to "business as usual." We need to put money and efforts toward public safety, mental health support and crisis intervention, policies that support economic equity, violence prevention, and sexual assault support services. You will hear a lot from white residents who are afraid of this amendment, mostly because they are afraid of their property being stolen or vandalized or because of the perceived loss of economic activity and revenue. But being afraid is not the same as being in danger. Human lives and our shared humanity are more important than appeasing white fear. We must find a new way to organize our public safety and prioritize human lives.

7/2/2020 9:55:57 AM

This might be the dumbest thing I've ever seen a government body do. Businesses and tax paying citizens will flee as fast as possible. The residents of Minneapolis have proven they cannot police themselves, they can't even police their kids at a lake. We need to provide lifeguards or people will drown.

7/2/2020 9:56:27 AM

DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH this AMENDMENT!!!

There does not seem to be a concrete plan for replacing the MPD with a better system. I'm all for defunding the militarization of the MPD, I'm all for redirecting SOME or even MUCH of the MPD's funding towards community-led safety, health, education, anti-racism, housing, job training, mental-health, and other neighborhood-building & support efforts. I'm also all for cleaning house in the MPD and permanently barring known problem officers, permanently removing known racist and corrupt officers and leadership from serving in the MPD and making the rest of the force reapply, retrain, and re-establish a COMMUNITY SERVICE that actually "PROTECTS with courage and SERVES with COMPASSION!"

The MPD's leadership and City Council should be held accountable for this and the re-training and re-education and reestablishment of a service-based community safety and violence prevention POLICE department should come from within AND from outside criminal justice/violence-prevention/community-building experts AND most importantly be informed and led by the neighborhoods that are to be "protected and served."

PLEASE DO NOT immediately abolish the police or take hasty action. We want progress, real progress. Overhaul. Fix the culture. Fix the structure. Fix the funding priorities. Fix the training. Fix the hiring process. Require or encourage officers to come from and live in the neighborhoods they serve. But abolishing opens the door for an unknown that could at the worst be actually more dangerous and at the best be no better. We want Camden, NJ not CHAOS in Minneapolis.

7/2/2020 9:56:48 AM

I wanted to register a comment in support of the proposed amendment. I think this is a good foundational step in the right direction, and am pleased to see this moving forward.

7/2/2020 10:01:47 AM

Specialization and checks and balances. I'm an economist whose research speciality is the economics of conflict deterrence and resolution. There is no reason why the people in charge of responding to violent emergencies should be the same people who investigate crimes. As it stands it is a huge conflict of interest. Likewise there's no reason those in charge of enforcing traffic laws, walking the beat, etc. should be armed and granted arrest powers. Police patrols only stop ~1% of crimes in progress and cause almost all of the social incidents that erode public trust. There is no good evidence to support the idea that armed police patrols out there trolling for revenue and micro-policing "broken window" laws (loitering, jay-walking, disturbing the peace, drug crimes, etc.) deters any significant amount of violent crime. So overall it is key to split up the current department's functions into distinct, separate units that are accountable to each other.

7/2/2020 10:03:28 AM

I support a change to the city charter that expands the responsibility for public safety beyond the mayor's office to include city council oversight. The racist and violent history of policing is alive and well today and it will take fundamentally rethinking every aspect of community safety to move us forward. That has to change with the charter.

The Charter amendment language makes possible the work of reimagining public safety viable, politically and practically. I wholeheartedly support the charter change. Please move forward to bring this question to voters now. Ward 12

7/2/2020 10:10:21 AM

Definitely not!! Ridiculous that this is on the agenda Ward 9

7/2/2020 10:13:48 AM

This amendment does not follow the demands of local organizers who have been learning and advocating for changes to public safety in our community for years. There are major problems with the amendment as is. The first is the fact that it does not prohibit current and former law enforcement officials from leading the new department. Another is power this places in the hands of the mayor's office and the city council to appoint and approve leadership within the new Public Safety and Violence Prevention department - the people want community control. Third, even working within the parameter of the mayor's office and city council having so much control, there is a lack of specificity regarding what the process of community engagement looks like. If the city council and mayor will have control over choosing the director this new department, there is a need for specificity in terms of what their accountability process will be to the police.

My concern is that, as written, the amendment will yield many "no" votes from people who do want to see massive changes in how public safety works in this city, thus obscuring the will of the people. If this amendment doesn't pass, it won't be because people don't want to see change. It should be rewritten in a way that allows those in favor of that change to vote "yes" in good conscience.

7/2/2020 10:14:11 AM

The language describing the "Division of Law Enforcement Services" is too vague to be good policy. The word "may," as construed as a choice using your language, should not appear in a charter. The other instances of the word "may" imply that the subject has been given explicit permission to act as distinguished from being prohibited from acting by omission of the phrase. Your language leaves open the possibility of a Council to vote—by simple majority no less—to eliminate a critical public service with no input from the mayor or the public at large.

The language describing the "Director of Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department" is too specific by explicitly stating the "director will have non-law enforcement experience." A director could have both public health experience and law enforcement, but this language creates a barrier to hiring well-qualified candidates. A charter should not use sub an arbitrary standard.

7/2/2020 10:14:27 AM

I am fully in support of dismantling MPD as we know it. I support the formation of the Community Safety and Violence Prevention committee. Because racism is a public health crisis, I suggest making explicit that said committee is charged with providing relevant services. I also believe that, if we are to maintain a group of licensed officers that licensure be redefined to include de-escalation, harm reduction, non-violent disarming and restraint techniques (I.e. martial arts-based) and that peace officers need to demonstrate cultural competency. They should also live within city limits or, ideally, in the community they serve.

Consider an agreed upon metric of public servants of this committee in ratio to civilians served, as was done with police officers in the original charter. This can offer another method by which adequate funding can be determined.

I urge this charter to be passed as a citizen of MPLs and, more importantly, as a parent of both a white and a black child. This city is safer for one than the other and that is not a future I can allow for my children. Minneapolis can be a true leader in a broken nation. Begin by proving that such institutions as a police force should not be assumed to be the only (and therefore best) answer to community needs. We are in a crisis. Do not let this critical moment pass unheeded. Ward 6

7/2/2020 10:20:57 AM

This idea to defund the police is terrible.

1. Crime in Minneapolis has skyrocketed since the city council started to promulgate the idea. So much crime that council members themselves require tax payer money to enjoy the privilege of protection with private security, all while leaving the tax payer as a vulnerable victim. Outrageous!

2. It is NOT a "privilege" for a citizen to expect police security. Security against criminals is literally one of the very few expectations we have of government.

3. How childish to assume you will abolish one program without even having a plan for the services to replace it! You don't even have a clear plan other than an illusive suggestion to "imagine" a different way. How about you imagine the other way, then present a coherent plan for the tax payers to vote on.

Finally, I must say, I do not currently live in Minneapolis, although I did for many years. And I continue to visit the city 2 times a week. Since the unrest, I've been too concerned for safety with increased lawlessness and decreased police patrolling to drive in. And I'm not the only one who thinks this. Are you trying to kill business in your city?

7/2/2020 10:21:38 AM

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7/2/2020 10:27:35 AM

Are you out of your mind? While we are forced to pay for your private security the rest of us are helpless with no protection. Your job is to keep the citizens safe and you are not doing your job. What kind of morals do you have? That's right, none! You are paid to ruin our lives by the Dems. If anything you need to give more funds to the police Dept so they can have proper training. I guarantee that everyone of you will be voted out and replaced by republicans. You are trying to make Minnesota a third world country or trying to bring in Sharia law. I hope you can sleep at night. I am so disgusted for all of you!!!! There will be a special kind of hell for all of you. You don't care about anyone!!

7/2/2020 10:28:56 AM

I support the proposed charter amendment creating a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. The Amendment makes two essential changes to the Charter. First, it eliminates language requiring the City hire a certain number of police officers and, second, it gives regulatory and oversight control to the City Council.

The current Minneapolis Police Department ("MPD") appears to have a toxic culture and is not protecting and serving all of Minneapolis's communities. At the same time, the current Charter limits the City's ability to reform it: The Charter requires the city to employ a certain number of officers, and it limits the Council's ability to regulate the MPD. This puts the City in a bind, because Minneapolis's Mayors have proven ineffective in reigning in the MPD's abuses, and simultaneously the Council cannot simply eliminate, replace, defund, or otherwise alter the MPD itself.

The proposed Amendment solves those problems. It empowers the Council to eliminate the MPD and replace it with a public-safety oriented Department. And to the extent the new department employs licensed law-enforcement officers, it puts that subdivision under the control of the Council. The City could thus make a clean break from the MPD and rebuild a Department that works to protect and serve all Minneapolitans. Ward 2

7/2/2020 10:29:01 AM

I think it is an irresponsible decision to defund the police. Every person has the right to feel safe in the place they live. I Believe remove the police and all that will happen is the bad guys will run the city as nobody will be safe. You need rules and police to enforce them to function in society. I do believe there needs to be some reform of the MPD but allow them to do their jobs. I also fear that if they are not able to do their jobs fully it will be putting their lives in worse danger and I believe the majority of them do their job to make a difference and they put their life on the line for strangers every single day!!! Please give the police the resources they need to make Minnesotans be safe and proud of where they live again!

7/2/2020 10:35:40 AM

My worry is that the aspects of policing (peace officers) that will still exist will remain problematic, racist, and dangerous to BIPOC communities. I hope that many experts are consulted and that this is done with intensive and thoughtful reimagination that will actually disrupt and destabilize the system — also considering intersections with all other systems which may remain problematic. I support abolition of police.

7/2/2020 10:36:25 AM

MDP is a cancer of the city. They are solely responsible for me minimizing my time alone in Minneapolis. They have caused me FEAR while attending CONvergence 2019 at the Hyatt Regency. The organization as a whole needs be removed and replaced. One other thing that can not be overlooked is how the union is part of the cancer that needs to be cut out. Removing one while keeping the other will have little difference in the long run.

7/2/2020 10:37:56 AM

As a teacher in Minneapolis Public Schools I do not think we should ABOLISH the police but instead DEFUND the police and REDISTRIBUTE the funds through out the community. I SUPPORT Medaria Arradondo as the Minneapolis police chief but there needs to be a change in the organization. Police are showing up to calls they are not trained for. We need community organizations HELPING the police that are trained for such situations.

7/2/2020 10:49:31 AM

The police have shown that they are not able to hold themselves accountable. It is not acceptable for a city run department to kill unarmed citizens without consequence. Permanent oversight is needed as it is clear that reform efforts have failed. A new organization, outside of the current culture and leadership, is needed. The proposed changes to the charter make this change possible.

Many functions that the police currently serve would be better covered by unarmed responders with training and expertise in healthcare, social services, mediation, and de-escalation. Public health officials and community based councils should be involved in the oversight of these departments. Armed response should be used only when needed and it's use should be monitored. Changes to the charter open the door for these discussions.

Change the charter so the work can be started.

7/2/2020 10:50:29 AM

I fully support the wording of this amendment. It allows democratic flexibility for an issue (public safety) that demands flexibility. This amendment must not be altered to require the use of licensed peace officers; it must include the conditional 'may.' The City Council - the only geographically and demographically representative governing institution in our city - supports this amendment unanimously. It was written in response to vocal community outcry and inspired by community conversation. It encourages ongoing community conversation. It would be undemocratic for the Charter Commission - an unelected body - to delay a referendum on this amendment. I implore that they perform their necessary due diligence carefully and swiftly. Now is not the time to wait; the health of our city depends on it. Ward 2

7/2/2020 10:55:56 AM

this is absolutely outrageous. why weren't any of the residents consulted on this matter before a charter without a real plan gets proposed? There has been countless proposals for reform given to city council that went ignored until the national spotlight came about.

What is the plan for when a whole shoot out happens during a CHILDRENS football practice where 50+ kids had to duck and be covered by their coaches? What is the real plan when 18 year olds are getting multiple gun shot wounds in peavey park, feet away from the playground area and basketball courts, in broad day light? What is the plan to keep the residents YOU SWEAR to represent safe while the violent

crimes in the city spike to 107% in under a month, while 3 of your council members are using our tax dollars for private security? What is your plan to rehab the homeless encampments in the parks that you just spent all of our other tax dollars to rejuvenate and now they're absolutely destroyed with litter and hypodermic needles discarded randomly, that the park is supposed to be meant for the residents MAINLY the CHILDREN, to enjoy? What drugs are you people on for real? Is this your idea of taking accountability? By putting the residents in even more danger while you are protected and can sleep easily at night wasting our hard earned money?

And now I'm supposed to vote for my ward in August and every candidate supports this ridiculous charter that only represents you 11 and not nearly half of the residents you represent. It is really no wonder why nearly everyone in my apartment complex is searching outside minneapolis for residency. We do not feel safe in Ventura Village, we do not feel safe in our city, and each year it gets worse.

7/2/2020 10:59:45 AM

The thought of a major US city NOT having a police force is utterly ridiculous.

I have lived in Minneapolis for 12 years now - on the UofM campus, downtown, and now in Northeast Minneapolis. I love this city. I love it's people. I love the history.

What I cannot stand about this city is the lack of common sense held at the City Council. Instead of focusing on the things that make this city great (businesses, restaurants, parks, history), they have chosen to take sides with the things that make this city terrible.

The city's leadership has chosen to take sides with the people who riot, loot, and literally burn our city to the ground. The city's leadership has chosen to offer up it's small businesses and police stations as some sort of "peace offering" to appease the senseless killing of George Floyd.

The city's leadership has chosen to offer up our amazing parks to the drug users and vagrants, rather than enforcing park policies to make it feel safe for the contributing members of this society. The park in my backyard is now a tent city, despite the city ordinance for "no camping"... Maybe I should plop my tent in the back yard of the city council members, so they can understand this point of view.

All of these things that contribute to the city's decline will only be perpetuated with the lack of a police force. The police are a necessity to ENFORCE THE LAW. The problem is not with the police department, but rather the problem is with people breaking the law. If there is no one to enforce the laws set up to protect it's citizens, then you might as well not have any laws. And I can honestly say, that in a city without police - without laws - I will no longer be a resident. You will lose one more individual who does what he can to make this city a better place for the next generation. If you, the City Council, are not willing to protect my well-being and would rather try to shove this legislation through as fast as possible, pandering to a certain segment of the electorate, then I will be out of this once-great city.

I will be voting NO to disband the police.

7/2/2020 11:02:25 AM

This is the LAST thing Minneapolis needs!

I agree that the MPD needs changes/reforms. I believe they can be done under the direction of Chief Arradondo. It would be greatly helpful if the City could get the Mpls Police Federation to work with the Chief. If not, require changes with the Federation contract.

My biggest hope is that the City Council would put their energies into helping with the homeless and finding appropriate shelter before winter. This should be a priority. They should NOT be camping in the city parks. A Real Working City Council that cooperates with the Mayor and the MPD is a priority and would truly represent the People. I have little hope in that.

I do hope the Charter Commission will delay this amendment and NOT put it on the November ballot.

Thank you from a Very Concerned South Minneapolis Resident!!

7/2/2020 11:04:40 AM

I am for police reform but not for amending the city charter. There has not been any semblance of a concrete plan nor a review for how the power shift being presented will impact future legislation.

If this passes I will be voting for new leadership and then will likely move out of the city. I want MORE policing as people have been saying prior to the the tragic incident earlier this summer.

Statistically speaking, this amendment is not necessary, reform is necessary. Ward 3

7/2/2020 11:06:17 AM

The greater public safety is the PRIMARY function of public office. Reforming and restructuring the Police is needed - NOT abolishing or replacing. The police dept. takes its orders from the Mayor and the city council. Take responsibility and serve ALL the people, not just those being loud bullies.

7/2/2020 11:07:32 AM

I support the amendment to the charter to allow the council to create and oversee a public safety, violence protection group.

I look forward to us envisioning a new way to address our problems than a punishment based system that over polices poor people. Ward 1

7/2/2020 11:10:44 AM

As a Minneapolis resident who witnessed police brutality and had difficulty reporting it and don't know if anyone was ever disciplined. I think the current system badly needs reformed. Too many people have been killed, injured and jailed here. Ward 7

7/2/2020 11:12:21 AM

Nobody wants NO police (except anarchists and white supremacists) we want a better police force working hand in hand with communities that are funded with the police. You're being misguided.

7/2/2020 11:16:22 AM

It is absolutely crucial that the Charter Commission allow the amendment to be put on the ballot. We must shift our understanding of public safety in this city and this is a first step in a long process of no longer relying solely on an ineffective police department to be our social workers, drug treatment counselors, de-escalators, and more.

While the amendment does not go far enough in preventing law enforcement from participating in the new department, it is still important for the voters to be able to vote on it. Please do not delay it - you are an undemocratically appointed body that cannot tell the people of this city what we can and cannot have. Ward 6

7/2/2020 11:18:58 AM

I don't see anything explicitly written to involve a mental health responder division - this is ultimately what is lacking in police training. A person suffering a psychotic break doesn't need an armed, scared officer, they need a medically trained professional who understands what is happening in their brain that is affecting their reality. Ward 5 resident (Knox & Lowry)

7/2/2020 11:22:34 AM

Sorry we still need Police. We just need a new model and behavior. If that's what this is then we need more information and DETAILS on what this Community of Safety and Violence Prevention Department looks and acts like before this can even consider this for a vote.

7/2/2020 11:22:48 AM

In any organization, there will stand the capacity for growth and change. Defunding the police department is not how we accomplish the goal of change. Rather it is a dangerous knee jerk reaction that will cost our city and state businesses, revenue and lives. Please consider all angles and sides to this problem before jumping in with both feet.

7/2/2020 11:24:39 AM

I implore you all to do whatever you can to end all policing immediately. All. Your descendants will be ashamed of your moderate racism otherwise. While you're at it, dissolve the entire charter. Ward 1

7/2/2020 11:24:59 AM

I don't live in Minneapolis (thank God), but I do work here full-time. If police services are removed or reduced, I will resign and find employment out in the suburbs where I live. Trump 2020!!! I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/2/2020 11:27:06 AM

I am totally opposed to this Charter Amendment. To defund the police would make a disaster out of this city like New York. I do not live in Minneapolis, but we do own several rental properties in Minneapolis. This would create a threatening, unsafe environment.

7/2/2020 11:28:06 AM

I support the proposed amendment. I believe in safe communities, which the MPD has only proven to disrupt.

7/2/2020 11:28:16 AM

I do not support the City Council's proposed amendment. The city of Minneapolis does not need less police, it needs more. The recent uptick in violent crimes is an obvious depiction of this. How many times during the riots did we hear from the Governor and Police Chief, "we simply did not have the numbers"? If any charter amendment is considered it should be about upping the number of police officers required percapita.

The city council is obviously not in check with reality or simply ignoring. Unless the City Council has a specific plan in place with data to show how their plan will help reduce crime I don't believe it should be considered. I'm not sure how a public health official can successfully oversee law enforcement with no background in law enforcement and how it works. That would be like hiring someone who has watched

the show COPS to oversee an entire police department with no real idea how it works. No business would hire someone for a position that didn't have the proper background and training to oversee it.

While I am not a Minneapolis resident I would visit Minneapolis for concerts and events. I used to visit Minneapolis for evenings out but stopped a couple years back due to the violence. I have recently given up tickets to concerts/events in the next year that were to take place in Minneapolis due the uptick and violence and the city choosing to ignore the fact that more police officers are needed. Should this charter pass I will never attend an event in the City of Minneapolis again and I am not sure how any major event would want to come to the city.

The City Council wants less cops but yet they are able to hire their own private security for themselves? Don't the citizens of Minneapolis and those that work and visit Minneapolis deserve proper protection as well? I believe Minneapolis will lose a lot of businesses, events, and tax payer money should this amendment go through. In the end it will be those who live, work, and visit Minneapolis who lose and the criminals who win. That doesn't seem right to me.

7/2/2020 11:29:07 AM

Hello, I watched the commission meeting last night because I am very concerned that this proposed amendment by the City Council is being rushed through (and for political purposes. I've felt ignored and unrepresented by the city council in the past few years, and it greatly disturbs me. I was not notified, as a homeowner, of the 2040 plan, for example, and because I work double shifts to pay my bills and raise my disabled child, I did not have the time to "watch TV", which was the response I got, among other concerns.

I am also concerned about the ever increasing amount of crime. I was born and raised in this city, and never had I felt unsafe— until now. I've had friends that were mugged waiting for a bus downtown, with a mob around, I've had someone I know shot inside their house, I've heard gunshots regularly, there have been two murders- drive by shootings- at the end of my block— for example. I'm concerned this city council is ignoring this, and has been by not funding the police adequately as the Chief had requested. And as an RN at HCMC for 13 years, I can attest to the hard work the police has had to do, particularly when so short staffed.

While I was relieved that one commissioner seemed to take an interest in the resident feedback, and want to not rush things through, I am concerned that the onus for feedback is now on the neighborhood groups- and my group- has been particularly apathetic and does not even return phone calls or emails.

So I'd like to ask, given the two week deadline for the neighborhood groups to gather and report back to you their unbiased resident thoughts: can you provide me with your correspondence with the neighborhood groups to ask for this information? How will this information be gathered in a fair way?

I will hold the commission responsible for the fairness of this, if in fact, this is their requirement in order to make an decision on behalf of all Minneapolis residents on this rushed amendment proposal, instead of going through the usual process.

Also, this is a holiday weekend— I was told by your clerk- so the commission will be late with things— given that, don't you think additional time for everyone else would be fair. Ward 8

7/2/2020 11:30:29 AM

Under a system without police when someone breaks into your house who are you going to call? Cities need police or it will fall into anarchy. There have been several shootings in the past few days imagine how bad it will be without police. This idea is idiotic. Have you even considered the economic impact of people not wanting to live in Minneapolis because they don't feel safe so companies leave?

7/2/2020 11:31:05 AM

Over my 48 years, I've always been proud of Minneapolis. Growing up in the burbs, Island Lake elementary, and buying my first property in uptown in 2005. I graduated from UMN Carlson School of Management, spent 8 years in San Francisco during the tech boom, returning home in early 2000s then 5 years in Vancouver, Canada.

As part of my profession, I've hosted attendees to Minneapolis convention center events from all over North America & the world. I've hosted many friends to our world class local sports venue's. Everyone is always so impressed at how well kept a secret the clean hip and safe Minneapolis was. I've always been so proud to show off my hometown.

The killing of George Floyd was horrible and tragically changed the lives of many. The tragedy put Minneapolis on the world stage in a not good way. Hopefully that tragedy can at least result in meaningful change.

During the riots, the Wells Fargo 4 blocks from my house was burned, along with many small business owners lives are now also ruined. I get the emotions of the moment can lead to bad judgement.

But... !! Last weekend shootings in uptown. People being killed !!! Unprecedented violence. I am concerned for the first time of my life, and for my family. The criminal element has so quickly spun out of control. Very scary. Organized crime doesn't even appear to be a factor yet, but that will surely manifest itself. I'm concerned the worst is yet to come.

Publicly defunding police emboldens criminals. You're seeing it across our city. I'm seeing it in my previously very safe neighborhood.

Bad move to make criminals think you're going to fire all the cops. That's what criminals heard. You see it in their emboldened actions. That communication was a major mis-step and has directly led to exponential increases in gun violence. Very poor decision that has killed and injured many. You are directly responsible.

Maybe if I lived in downtown Seattle it might be worse, but maybe not. Seattle is restoring order, Minneapolis continues to spiral out of control. I know Police Chief Best. I'm certain she would be willing to offer her constructive ideas to help Minneapolis. I know other progressive public safety leaders, many in Canada, that would also be open to offering their experiences and lessons learned.

The right policy is to communicate an aggressive plan to define & root out bad elements. Redirect non law enforcement responses to some other agency rather than the cops.

Strongly reinforce peaceful protest, use public service announcements on TV and social media ads in target zip codes or geolocations. Spend money to get messages out. Be CLEAR that violence will not be tolerated. We need to win back our city.

Aggressively and publicly denounce violence and meet it with a decisive response- just as decisive as how you responded to the tragedy that precipitated this unrest.

Publicly identify policies/laws that stand in the way of rooting out bad guys. Build public confidence you're on it. Rise as leaders. Be bold about the agenda to eliminate and hold accountable bad cops. Be similarly strong about preventing and responding to violence.

Publicly communicate what other jurisdictions you are working with around the world that have good reputations for community oriented policing. What are they doing? What challenges did they overcome? What can we learn? Communicate these ideas publicly, aggressively and regularly.

Give the public things they can do to help fix policies or laws with their voice or their vote.

I'm happy to volunteer my help. I am comfortable speaking in front of very large groups, or in discreet 1:1 meetings at a coffee shop.

Having been in the military, I've never felt the need to carry a handgun. These times have me considering it. But, I'll first move somewhere I feel safe. I'm fortunate to have that flexibility. Others don't.

You have quickly lost control of the city I've been so proud to call home my whole life. Restore order.

7/2/2020 11:39:28 AM

Please have this amendment in the ballot THIS FALL, as the time for defunding the police and reimagining community safety is now. We cannot let this go on the wayside.

7/2/2020 11:42:37 AM

Dear members of the Charter Commission,

I have watched with alarm over the short-sighted actions of the Minneapolis City Council in its effort to disband the Police Department and replace it with a "Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention," whatever that is. I've read the proposed amendments to the Minneapolis charter, and it still isn't clear to me what this department would be or what it would do, or to whom it would be accountable.

No one disagrees that the Minneapolis Police Department, and indeed all police departments across the United States, are in need of serious, substantial reform with the goal of reducing the incidence of excessive force and brutality against the citizens they are meant to protect. The mayor, the police chief, and the City Council should seriously engage in this effort.

At the same time, the movement to disband the Police Department makes no sense. In the short time since the members of the Council announced their intentions, we have already seen a precipitous drop in confidence in the police and, concomitantly, a disturbing uptick in violence. One can only imagine how things might proceed if the department is eliminated completely, especially if its replacement is so vaguely defined.

How could the Minneapolis City Council possibly justify the mass, indiscriminate firings of police officers and personnel that would result from this proposal? Why should every officer, regardless of his or her record, be punished for the deplorable actions of a few? This is not justice. It does not respect the rights of officers who were not involved in the horrible incident on Memorial Day. It does not respect the autonomy of officers who were sickened by that incident, and are committed to making the reforms necessary so that it never happens again.

With regard to the citizens of Minneapolis and their right to institutions of public safety vis-à-vis the current proposal, allow me to quote Steven Belton, president and CEO of the Urban League Twin Cities: "Why now, when you have an African American chief who is highly regarded and trusted in the Black community? [...] The tension of living in many of these African American communities is that we are overpoliced, we are subjected to excessive police use of force, but at the same time we are also disproportionately victims of crime and witnesses of crime...And you cannot talk defunding the police if there is not a concomitant strategy of community safety in place as well."

I do not currently reside in Minneapolis, but I attended the University of Minnesota and lived there from 1997 to 2002. I have friends and family members who currently reside in Minneapolis, and I visit frequently. I may move to Minneapolis in the future, and so I am very interested in the outcome of this debate. Sincerely, A Concerned Former Minneapolitan Raleigh, North Carolina I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/2/2020 11:43:23 AM

I believe that this proposal is a knee jerk response to recent events. This proposed change has not been thought through with any stated reasons that the charter is the only/best solution. Also, the City Council members are proposing a solution that the new public safety department would be led by committee (City Council & Mayor;s office) where no one person is accountable.

We need more thought put into any proposed changes in the charter that provide clarity in the current challenges, purpose of specific changes and the ultimate goals that are being sought. Additionally, this should address why the current charter restricts the needs of the city/community. The substance of these needs to rise to the significance for such a foundational change.

7/2/2020 11:45:04 AM

I live in the Third Precinct. I am a lawyer. They have been awful for a long time. My car was stolen, and they didn't even put the license plate number in the report, so it technically wasn't stolen. Another time, my friends house was burglarized by an acquaintance and the burglar admitted in a text message to my friend it was him and he still had the goods at home. The police never followed up. They said they couldn't be sure he sent the text, so there was no evidence to go on.

The MPD has needed a drastic overhaul for a long time. The City's that have the best cops and statistics employ cops who LIVE IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS THEY POLICE. If MPD instituted this one simple change, above all others, it would end a huge number of the problems with policing.

Of course, better training would help. European police rarely draw a weapon, even when presented with a knife wielding suspect. If there's no gun pointed at you, you shouldn't be trained to have your gun out. Just like a civilian with a carry permit.

I'm a lifelong liberal and Mpls resident. I detest what are police force stands for and does. But this abolish the police rhetoric is nonsense. It's just a slogan in a 146 character format that sounds cool for hipster politicians to repeat. There's no substance. No sophisticated policy ideas. No research. No expertise. It's just a rhetorical device they latched on to so they don't get cancelled and made to do the walk of shame like the Mayor.

Since it won't happen, it will result in nothing happening. Make the cops live in the neighborhood. Hire cops from the neighborhood. Train them better. Force better leadership on them if they don't choose it themselves. But quit pretending tweets and fake votes about fake policy directives are doing anything besides getting you re-elected to do nothing.

7/2/2020 11:47:37 AM

I am opposed to the charter amendment passed by the city council on June 26th. I do support transformational police reforms that are beneficial but I believe this amendment would be counter productive to that aim. If this amendment were to become law I think that Hennepin county would end up hiring more deputies to cover the void left by the Minneapolis police, and city elected officials, administrators and residents would have less and not more over-site of law enforcement in our community.

I do support removing the requirement that the "City Council must fund a police force of at least 0.0017 employees per resident." At this time this is the only change to the charter that I support. Many other reforms can be addressed directly by the city council and mayor through their existing governance process. I have contacted my state and federal elected officials to voice my support of other reforms at those level of government such as ending arbitration in police grievances, allowing local governments to require police officers to live where they work, and transferring liability of misconduct to the individual officers.

Please do not support the city council's charter amendment. The only change that should be made at this time is removing the 0.0017 funding the requirement. Thank you, Ward 3

7/2/2020 11:50:04 AM

I support the proposed amendment as written. It gives the democratically elected City Council the authority and the flexibility to recraft what public safety means for our City, and it removes a significant hurdle to making the structural changes that we, the public, demand that they make. Ward 8

7/2/2020 11:56:10 AM

Reform of the MPD is imperative, not a choice. But this is entirely the wrong way to go about it. The Council went on record supporting an idea which was floated during a time of crisis, without any analysis, debate, or consideration of input from the entire community. They were stampeded by a few loud voices, and foolishly put themselves in a box. It is similar to the type of idiocy we have come to expect from Trump and his minions; "There go my people. I must find out where they are going so I can lead them there." Thankfully more responsible voices are speaking up, as detailed in the StarTribune of July 2. These voices must be heeded. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for significant and lasting change. Let's not mess it up with some haphazard, ill-conceived political stunt.

7/2/2020 11:57:31 AM

This idea is so stupid I can't believe I have to waste my time saying how stupid this idea is and voicing my opinion against it.

7/2/2020 11:57:59 AM

Something that has not been discussed enough is the notion that defunding police makes the department less safe because it also inherently defunds oversight and training. This should be part of the conversation too. Ward 3

7/2/2020 11:58:05 AM

The city at night I wrecked by gun violence and robberies. We need the police. Please go get an outside party to conduct research and come up with a solve to the systemic racism and our violence issues. If Minneapolis doesnt have police I will be forced to move like thousands of people and now businesses are starting to dom

7/2/2020 11:58:48 AM

I find it fascinating that the members of the City Council are the individuals who are purporting to lead the change in the structure and purpose of the MPD. There isn't a single person on the Council qualified to re-imagine a garage sale let alone re-configuring a massive gov't body with hundreds of employees, a union contract, more hurdles than a track meet, unforeseeable consequences, unintended consequences, etc. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/2/2020 11:59:06 AM

I think some of them are seizing upon the national spotlight to look as if they're making a difference
Ward 9

7/2/2020 11:59:36 AM

The City obviously faces serious issues, one of them being the complicated issue of reforming the police department. Like most serious and complicated issues, these require serious leaders with knowledge and expertise. Study, thought, and plans are necessary. The City Council offers none of the above and pretty much all of Minnesota realizes that. Ward 10

7/2/2020 12:00:26 PM

As a frequent visitor to Minneapolis and patron of businesses in Minneapolis, I would strongly oppose any major alteration of police department structure or manpower. City tax revenues will significantly decrease if these proposals are enacted. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/2/2020 12:00:40 PM

We need to listen to these voices who are challenging the Council. Also, from a purely strategy point of view, pushing a change like this charter change is dubious because it has a high probability of failing. I attended the Charter Commission meeting yesterday and the concern and lack of support was clear in the commissioners voices and their summaries of the comments they have been receiving. Then when the vote fails, where are we? We need targeted strategies that will actually work. LA and NYC have both immediately slashed the police budget, redirecting resources. Why didn't the Council embrace that sort of approach? Why wasn't Kroll fired? There are many many targeted actions that could be taken right now if the Council was serious about change. If this goes down in flames we are back to square one having wasted months of effort. Ward 10

7/2/2020 12:02:28 PM

The city council has provided absolutely no specific details about how this enormous overhaul would proceed or the future of it. This enormous change can not go forward without such details and studies.
Ward 10

7/2/2020 12:03:14 PM

city council is a bunch of worthless shitbags this proposal exemplifies that Ward 1

7/2/2020 12:05:17 PM

Terrible decision. Leadership in this city lives in a fantasy land where crime doesn't exist. They've been deliberately vague because they either have no plan or know anything specific they roll out will get pushback when actually analyzed. There is no reason to essentially give this city council a blank check to play around with our public safety. We all saw how nicely asking crime to stop worked when they allowed our city to burn. The charter is in place to prevent radical, knee jerk reactions like this.

7/2/2020 12:06:28 PM

Non-lethal force only. No guns as well as other procedures that are forbidden.

7/2/2020 12:12:30 PM

I believe that the Police should be Abolished. We need community support. We need funding in under served communities. We need social programs that lift people up. I believe abolishing the Police and sending that money towards these current and forthcoming services will help prevent the issues that people claim are the reasons we need the Police. Nurture our citizens and stop punishing them for just trying to live.

7/2/2020 12:13:08 PM

This process needs intentional and conscious time to create the future we need for us and our children. Every voice should be heard from, especially the communities that are being discriminated against and murdered by the police. People working in this new community and safety position should live in the city they work for!! Community outreach, education, and de-escalation techniques are imperative. Some form of police/safety is still necessary. Providing basic needs (affordable housing, healthcare, quality food, childcare) are foundations to uplifting and sustaining our community. Look up Maslows hierarchy of needs!

7/2/2020 12:13:39 PM

I grew up believing the police keeps us safe. I didn't see how that was only for white people. We need to do better. We've tried police reform and have failed hundreds of times. We need a system that keeps us ALL safe. Use the PD budget to prevent crime with social services, addiction and other mental health resources, and so on. People that can actually help in domestic abuse situations or sexual assault. People that will believe us. This is going to be difficult and I'm sure the first thing we try will need modifications. I'm being realistic about this but WE NEED TO DO BETTER. Please don't put your head in the sand again. People are dying.

7/2/2020 12:13:46 PM

Anyone with half a brain knows this is a very bad idea as is wasting taxpayer monies for private security. If you want private security, you pay for that not the taxpayers of Minneapolis! The actions of a single office do not make a corrupt department! The City Council is what needs to be reformed. Years ago Cam Gordon was given prove (FBI and DOJ exoneration letters) an officer did not abuse or in any way hurt a criminal he and his partners had dealt with an entire shift it took three officers to remove the perp from the property. He returned, the arrest looked bad yet the tazer NEVER touched him (jail photo proof). He allowed an innocent man to be fired for what!? To this day this highly decorated and well-respected officer and others in the department do not know. You all have been attacking these officers for years with no pushback sans the most recent. Vilifying, demoralizing, and jumping to conclusions with no real evidence or investigation is simply wrong. Get rid of the MPD like all other hare-brained Mayors and

their city councils you all are promising to do and you will have chaos as we have never seen before. Do your job which is to work FOR the people. STOP YOUR POLITICAL NONSENSE!

7/2/2020 12:14:29 PM

I love the idea. The new department should not carry lethal weapons on them as it does not prevent violence. Also, the people on the police force should not be allowed in the new department because they will likely be too upset and overstrained to kill.

7/2/2020 12:16:17 PM

I am a resident of Minneapolis and I support putting the Charter amendment to abolish the police and replace it with a department for community safety and violence prevention on the ballot THIS YEAR. It is the only way to address the failing MPD. Let the people vote!

7/2/2020 12:19:30 PM

I support the amendment to defund the MPD. Reallocate funds back into the community and put public service systems in place to address problems at the root. I would also like to see the decriminalization of drug use, especially marijuana. Ward 2

7/2/2020 12:24:40 PM

Work should be done to make sure that the Division of Law Enforcement Services is completely divested from the Police Officers' Federation of Minneapolis.

This amendment is a necessary step in helping municipal authority respond appropriately to mental health issues and "junk laws" (traffic stops, loitering, public intoxication). In most of these situations, no violence will ever be called for unless it is escalated by violence from responding officers. We should empower our city to respond to cries for help with compassion and support.

When all you use is a hammer, everything looks like a nail. Ward 2

7/2/2020 12:25:23 PM

I am in full support of disbanding the Minneapolis Police Department and in turn developing new departments and organizations that emphasize community safety, healthcare, housing, and equitable access to resources for all. I believe that providing ALL people with the resources they need to live healthy and fulfilled lives, will have an immense impact on reducing violence in our city. With funding invested in the community rather than the police department, this vision is possible.

7/2/2020 12:25:43 PM

Removing this stipulation in the charter is key to rethinking our approach to public safety: "The City Council must fund a police force of at least 0.0017 employees per resident, and provide for those employees' compensation, for which purpose it may tax the taxable property in the City up to 0.3 percent of its value annually. This tax is in addition to any other tax"

This proposed charter amendment gets us there and does more to shape the venue for rethinking policing in a harm-reduction mode and philosophy. Without it, we are stuck to the above language which has no businesses in a charter. With new language, we have the ability to rethink public safety for our city over the next year and beyond as many organizers and activists (and some politicians) have been doing for years!

7/2/2020 12:28:26 PM

You're incredibly stupid for wanting to disband the police force. You are not only putting white cops out of jobs but you're putting black cops out of a job to and that is racist. You're taking food from their families, roof from their kids but that don't mean anything to you does it oh no. Whos going to stop rapists? Who's gonna stop an armed robbery in pursuit? Who's gonna save the victim of a burglary? Social workers? You people have made me sick to my stomach and hope you lose your jobs.

7/2/2020 12:30:12 PM

This idea has no specifics and is too rushed. Not to mention it's embarrassing and idiotic. Ward 5

7/2/2020 12:30:41 PM

Comments on Legislative File 2020-00668 :

Your proposed revision merely allows the POSSIBILITY of some kind of law enforcement service to be created. Is this to be taken seriously?

Your proposed revision underscores a lack of thoughtfulness and misplaced idealism. I do wholly support the revamping of our police department in terms of its mission, training, methods, and accountability; and I support the added revision of "(a) Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention." But in your attempt to correct the problems in the MPD, your revisions seek to fix a problem by replacing it with another.

For example, while the prior version of section 7.3 went into detail concerning the police department's relationship to the city, its oversight, and other points, your revised text omits detailed information how such an optional "law enforcement service" is supposed to function and what its role would be, much less how it would be organized, trained, and implemented. In short, it is not a serious solution. Your "Department of Community Safety" does not look like a stopgap for a short-term or even mid-term solution for managing violent behavior, however minor you claim it to be.

For example, would you seriously send in unarmed social workers or other people to confront an armed person in a domestic dispute, an armed robbery, an armed car-jacking, a person brandishing a gun in public, or even an active school shooting?

To further underscore the lack of thoughtfulness and seriousness in this revision, I point out what others have: the hypocrisy of City Council members having city-hired armed private police (bodyguards) to protect them against real or possible threats. The irony here is palpable.

Here is an idea: Get rid of those expensive private police and employ social workers or violence-prevention experts to manage these threats and protect the City Council members. I'm sure the City Council members would approve. In short, put OUR money where YOUR mouth is. Show us, by example, how this proposal can work in reality.

The Camden, New Jersey solution of a ground-up reformed police department should be closely studied by the City Council. Have you studied it? While not yet all it can be, the police department's transformation (as opposed to a complete abolishment) shows a marked improvement in better policing and overall reduction in crime. It shows a city government more concerned with realistic solutions, not politically-convenient and superficial knee-jerk positions. Ward 12

7/2/2020 12:34:54 PM

I enthusiastically support the amendment as written. We must replace the police department with the more comprehensive Community Safety and Violence Prevention department. Thank you for your work on this.

7/2/2020 12:38:22 PM

Although I do not live in Minneapolis, I went to college in Minneapolis at the U of M and currently work in the city. In my opinion, removing the police department and putting a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department in its place is not a real fix. It is just a short-term solution cover-up to make people feel better. The only real, lasting change that can fix our problems is by shifting the long-term attitudes and cultures of ALL citizens toward unbiased inclusion. Making a "quick fix" like this WON'T solve the real problem. The real problem is not the police. The real problem are people's ingrained attitudes and biases.

I would not feel safe working or doing leisure/recreation in a Minneapolis without a police department.

Police receive intensive training and have a hard job to do. They are called on the spot to be involved in an enormous variety of scenarios and I trust police officers to use their best judgement. We have to respect police officers, and the law. No one is exempt from the laws that govern our state. If you break the law, or if you put police in a life endangering situation, there will be consequences. That is the law and order necessary for a society to function.

All of my interactions with MPLS Police (through my place of work and personally) have always been respectful and positive. But then again, I was never breaking the law or creating an inflammatory situation. In college I was reassured by having a police presence on campus, especially during late nights studying. We have relied on police officers for multiple scenarios at my place of work, and I have always been impressed by their professional conduct.

I fully support keeping the police department in Minneapolis.

7/2/2020 12:39:54 PM

I agree we need a change but removing officers from the streets isn't the answer. Morale in the police department is already low and they are overworked. Less officers makes no sense. Perhaps changing what they respond to will help.... like parents calling on their children for not going to school, neighbors complaining about problem properties etc don't necessarily need a police response. But in the event those situations turn violent we need officers! I grew up in MPLS. I don't live there now but I am a Minneapolis Dispatcher. Have you considered how you plan on compensating us for the extra work and skill I see this bringing? If we're now going to have to memorize different non-police responses and dispatch them out, check on their status, explain to callers police aren't coming etc. We are going to need to be paid more! Dispatchers are going to go to other centers if our needs aren't met. We are already overworked and underpaid as it is. Minneapolis is going to be left with not enough officers and rookie dispatchers who don't know what they're doing because all the senior ones are going to go elsewhere. If you call 911 do you want to speak with someone who has been there for 2 months or 20 years?

7/2/2020 12:40:36 PM

Require problem officers to be fired YES, but defunding the police Department NO! Over haul the union that protects the problem officer, YES. Require police to live with in the community they police, YES. They are a vital connection for many people and businesses. A connection for safety, social services, information & community.

Who will care for the accident victim, the victim of rape, the victim of child abuse, the victims of domestic violence. Who will push back the drug dealers and gangs?

I do not live in Minneapolis but come to do business as well enjoy restaurants, sporting events & Shopping. That will not be the case if you no longer have a police Department.

7/2/2020 12:43:09 PM

I do not support this. I do not feel the Council has done enough to try to rectify what we have and work with the Chief of MPD. They have no plan. They obviously aren't speaking to the leaders of the North Minneapolis community. They have no plan of this fails. If I am wrong; please make a public declaration with detailed historical record of what they have attempted to do, community efforts and funding numbers to impoverished communities.

I understand the MPD has problems. I support reform. I support dislodging the Union. Burning down the house the roof is leaky is not the way. Fix it.

7/2/2020 12:45:26 PM

As part of this, we need to make sure that voices are bear from communities most affected by crime and violence. Also, part of this plan with police reimagining, should come with investment in housing, mass transit, the "banning the box" on employment forms within the city (& beyond if possible) having dialogs with the school board about partnerships, and job creation, especially in areas of the city with the most need. I think that our new minimum wage will help too. Are there ways to require or incentivise that the law enforcement piece of the new plan live in the city? Create a more streamlined way to communicate different types of crimes within the city. I know that 311 is similar to this, but I don't think that it is clearly advertised as to how to use it by the city and it can be difficult to find things on the website. Maybe, just like with recycling, a step by step reference or web could be made, once the new system is set up to help guide people with how to use the system. Encourage the neighborhood/block groups and more night out types of events to get neighbors to know each other. Symbolically, stating that all of the race based clauses/contracts on home deeds around the city, are invalid, and if possible, removing those from those homes. Whatever we do needs to build up community assets and build connection between all parts of our community. It also needs to find ways to educate and clarify for all residents how they can access and get their needs met in our community.

7/2/2020 12:51:02 PM

I am extremely against the City Council's proposal to disband the police department. I feel it is a short-sighted, over reaction to recent events. I believe that reform of the Police Department, rather than total disbandment, is a much more logical approach. All citizens of Minneapolis have a right to feel safe in their city and home. Knowing that the police are available to assist in times of need is crucial to this feeling. As recently as last year, there were discussions to increase the number of police officers in Minneapolis due to increased crime. In recent weeks, crime and general disorder seem to be on the rise, partially because police are either unwilling or unable to respond to certain situations. If the police department is disbanded, this would create further opportunities for such activities to take place as

there would be fewer deterrents. The Minneapolis City Council is living in a fantasy world with this proposal and thinking that it would be an effective change. The behavior of this council does not make me proud to be a citizen of Minneapolis and I do not feel that this decision is in the best interest of the city.

7/2/2020 12:54:44 PM

No do not get rid of the police!!!! No don't do it!!!! My vote is NO!!!!

7/2/2020 12:55:27 PM

I am not in favor of the charter amendment. It would create a power vacuum likely to be filled by violent people who cannot be fired, disciplined, or voted out. Since the council has advertised its slogans on Twitter, we have witnessed increases criminal activity... nightly gunshots in the alley, at the park, fired at our neighbor's house during a fiesta. People need to know there are consequences for such behavior.

I am so happy with Chief Arradondo, and would like to see what he could do with better support and funding from the City Counsel and community.

7/2/2020 12:59:31 PM

I thoroughly support this proposed charter amendment. We have witnessed time and again, in micro and macro moments, the MPD dehumanizing, traumatizing, and brutalizing Minneapolis community members of color and working-class community members. It is clear that the MPD is structurally and systematically unsound, as well as deeply embedded in the violence of white supremacy and racism. The city of Minneapolis cannot continue to fund and reinforce the MPD. The MPD does not keep us all safe. The MPD actively causes harm in the Minneapolis community. Please, if you care about safety -- my safety, your safety, our safety -- please listen to the demands and dreams of local Black and brown organizers who have been envisioning and building structures of safety and accountability for years, and remove MPD from the City Charter. We keep each other safe, not MPD. Thank you.

7/2/2020 1:01:07 PM

My name is [REDACTED] (they/them) and I serve on the [REDACTED] Minneapolis Arts Commission and the Transgender Equity Council respectively, which sent the letters enclosed. I also did the lion's share of authoring them and they were both approved unanimously. On the TEC specifically, I'm working on an initiative that is launching a research project on MPD's failure to comply in reporting gender identity/expression based hate crimes to the BCA. But today, I'm speaking for myself as a resident of Minneapolis and a black trans person who has had to live through this mess right on 33rd and Nicollet. Vote yes and if you don't, we can talk to the Honorable Judge Ivy Bernhardson or whomever this next round of elections replaces her with about the next time appointments are made.

Minneapolis has changed and change happens a lot quicker than you all could believe. I've actually met Toni Newborn before. You probably don't remember me, but in 2017 I was the administrative assistant for MSP WIN of what was then called Minnesota Philanthropy Partners. I ordered food for the board, sat silently in a corner listening to hyperintellectualized presentations that wouldn't make sense to any of the people that were being served, clicking next on overburdened slides, and was somebody who nobody paid attention to. Over the last four months, I've raised \$27,000 dollars in mutual aid for black and native noncis artists almost entirely by myself. I've also been accepted as one of the Marsha P. Johnson Institute's black trans organizing class of 2020. If I can convince a bunch of cis hetero white folks with zero understanding of what trans even means to give that kind of money to the trans community, no

questions asked, in an economic crisis, I know that I can draw enough attention to this commission to make sure those who aren't listening to us don't come back.

As I said, change happens a lot quicker than you think. Vote yes, I'm pure hellfire, I'm very good at telling people what to do, and I'm getting better every day. Or vote no and see what happens. Either way, you'll be hearing from me or about me again soon.

Attachments:

To the City of Minneapolis Mayor and City Council:

We, the members of the Transgender Equity Council, write you today to express support for calls to dismantle and abolish the Minneapolis Police Department. We will also provide recommendations on the City's budget amendments and funding moving forward. It may be difficult for many to comprehend a world without police, but trans people--especially Black trans women and fems--have always existed in America without them.

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.

Sincerely,

City of Minneapolis Transgender Equity Council

6/25/2020

To the City of Minneapolis Mayor and City Council:

We, the members of the Minneapolis Arts Commission write to you today to express support for calls to dismantle and abolish the Minneapolis Police Department. We will also provide recommendations on the City's budget amendments and funding moving forward. It may be difficult for many to comprehend a world without police, but trans people--especially Black trans women and fems--have always existed in America without them.

Our role is to cultivate an arts culture that makes Minneapolis a more livable city. Public art has played a significant role in the revolution now taking place. Rather than telling the communities we represent that we know better, we've chosen to center this art in guiding us to think more critically about how we come alongside and support the most marginalized. We find that impossible to do without acknowledging and communicating what Black artists have been saying not only for these last few weeks, but for generations.

The incredible art of this moment has been direct and fearless in the message: both George Floyd's life and death matter, Black lives matter, and the police are an institution that can't coexist with these truths. MPD does not serve Black people and has in fact done what they can to undermine equity 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 light of the fact that our Black, trans, City Council Vice President came through the Arts Commission on her pathway to election, we can't let these attacks pass without comment. 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. Arts & Culture has also made significant pathways for Black artists, many of whom will be served by the Creative Citymaking dollars earmarked for the 38th street corridor. We are asking you, we hope preemptively, to not cut their funding. To cut funding to Race & Equity and Arts & Culture--which have not ever been separate but are united especially now--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 equity work in these two vital departments which have proven to center Black lives and vision Black futures.

Many of you have spoken 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. History books will show our actions, but the art in this moment will

show how the people felt. Listen to the art all around our City, generations of leaders before us. Let this art guide your actions in this moment. Reform does not work. Prioritize cuts to the Minneapolis Police Department in amending the 2020 budget, touch neither the Race Equity nor the Arts & Culture budgets, and develop a clear, long-term plan for divestment from MPD.

Article: NO MORE HALF STEPS: WE DEMAND REAL CHANGE TO END POLICE VIOLENCE (www.cuapb.org)

7/2/2020 1:15:46 PM

Hello, my name is [REDACTED]. I have lived in Minneapolis for over 35 years. In January of 2018. I was assaulted while at work. This is a block away from the police department over North. I called the police, while I was being threatened on the phone with a nine-one-one operator I asked if they could hear it? The response was yes I hear the man threatening you. An officer showed up without a name tag on and Mardi Gras beads on. He said in his professional opinion it was a work-related issue. The man threatened me with a piece of metal saying he's going to bust my s*** open over 6 times. The officer refused to write a report and give me his name. For about a month and a half to 2 months after I went to that Police Department across the street and I called trying to speak to a supervisor so I could get a police report and follow up on the crime being I was a victim. The City attorney called them for me to actually get a response because no one would respond to me. Their attorney told the City attorney that no report will be given. I don't believe Justice was served on that day or throughout the events in this wasn't just the officers Behavior. This was a management issue from the officer to watch commanders into the lead that were in that department across the street that allow that to happen. I don't believe taxpayer money was effectively or correctly use that day! I don't believe that conduct should be supported on any level. Thank you for hearing me.

7/2/2020 1:17:16 PM

Police reform has failed, repeatedly. It is time — it is imperative — that the city of Minneapolis fundamentally rethink and reinvent what public safety means, and what role police have in it. The Minneapolis Police Federation has for years blocked any meaningful engagement to address the deadly failures of the MPD to do its job “to serve and protect” the citizens — ALL citizens — of our city.

The people must have a say! Put the charter amendment on the ballot in November! Ward 12

7/2/2020 1:17:44 PM

I am writing to support a charter amendment to allow for dissolution of the MPD and removal of the requirement for a police department from the charter. MPD functions in our city as a violent gang. I watched them tear gas people from my front stoop. They function as a terrorizing force who cause violence in our communities - they do not prevent it. The city must move forward urgently with replacing MPD with a better, safer, more racially just system of public safety. Ward 8

7/2/2020 1:22:56 PM

If the start tribune is the paper of the city during this time of education and conversation the paywall should

Be removed. I understand they have bills to pay, but folks are hungry. having the paywall will stop this information from being circulated. So the city should support the paper for 90 days to insure accessibility. If Frey can put a \$800,000 sculpture in a building that 95% of the residence will NEVER see. He can cover this too. (Buying art while your city starves. It was starving before COVID.shame On you)

7/2/2020 1:25:51 PM

Our current police department has a difficult job to do and I am grateful to them for their basically fine work. We do not need to disband them over a few problem officers and system issues, just as we did not close down the public school system when there were a few teachers who abused students. We changed the guidelines for acceptable behavior and removed offenders.

What we need is local, state, and federal laws to hold officers accountable, a national data base, and to support police with partnerships with agencies who handle social work, mental illness, and other issues that should not be police responsibility.

I appreciate your concern and your wish to address the serious issues with the current police department. There are groups who have spent years working on reforms that need to happen, and the Council should be working to implement the recommendations of these groups, not spending time trying to repeat their work, or trying to create a new sort of police department. You have pressing tasks that you were elected to address for our city- affordable housing, job training, affordable child care, fairness and equal opportunities for all our residents. Your time needs to be spent focusing on these critical issues.

7/2/2020 1:27:57 PM

I fully support the Charter Commission taking action so that the City Council's proposed Charter amendment is referred to voters this November.

I support this because I support defunding the police generally (they are less effective, more costly, and more harmful than a public health approach to public safety) and because I support democratic decision-making. I'll save the argument for defunding the police for when the ballots start printing.

On the democracy point: The public should be able to weigh in, and it would profoundly anti-democratic for your body to deny the public that opportunity. On the process side of the question -- you're not even elected officials! City Councilmembers are. To greater or lesser extent, they take action with the imprimatur of voters. You do not. And on the substance -- there are hundreds of thousands of Minneapolitans of diverse backgrounds and circumstances who would be profoundly affected by this proposed amendment. They deserve a voice in shaping what their city looks like moving forward. Put this on a ballot, cede vast amounts of your power advantage, and vote on the thing like the rest of us should be able to do.

Finally, and I doubt I'm alone in this, I cannot count how many folks I have in my circle who decried riots and looting and arson and property damage and spent sleepless nights in early June wondering why oh why do people resort to destruction? Why isn't there a more peaceful path to progress?! My parents remember this same part of the conversation from more than 50 years ago. Here, dammit, is that more peaceful path. The community has poured so much into getting us to this new horizon. In this moment, I want you to take a breath and see something that I hope you never unsee: to the extent that you act to obscure the levers of democracy, you stand in the way of the more peaceful path. You have an opportunity to do better, here. For the sake of the city and people that I love, I hope you take it. Ward 8

7/2/2020 1:29:30 PM

I work in downtown Minneapolis, currently working from home.

As our office begins to re-open, last week I sent a plea to our office administrator to allow me to continue working from home. I no longer feel safe in Minneapolis.

Relevant text from my email:

"The biggest issue to me right now is personal safety. I've never felt particularly unsafe downtown (okay, don't get me started about the icy sidewalks on which the city refuses to act). But during the riots, the City of Minneapolis allowed entire neighborhoods to burn and told police and firefighters 'not to interfere'.

The fact that the City of Minneapolis wants to defund its police force also makes me feel unsafe. All outward appearances indicate that the criminal element has been emboldened by the weak leadership in Minneapolis. "

There needs to be an end to police brutality. START THERE.

7/2/2020 1:36:45 PM

We need this change now. I have a 6 month old son and he and all the other children deserve to grow up in a broader, more equitable safety. We have an opportunity to be at the forefront of antiracist history. We have to take all the steps. Thank you. Ward 2

7/2/2020 1:36:55 PM

I do not support defunding or removing the Minneapolis Police department. The idea that a Community of Safety and Violence Prevention Department could possibly replace the police department is insane. As evident by what is happening in the city currently, there is a serious violence problem and dangerous criminals who have been emboldened in the city. It is frightening to think of a city of Minneapolis' size with no police department. It is shameful how the cops have been treated and not supported by the mayor and council. Minneapolis is where I was born and worked for many years. I have always felt safe and have been proud to take my young kids, friends and family to theaters, sporting events, parades, bars, restaurants, and shopping in the beautiful city of Minneapolis. I will not return to the city again if there is no functioning police department. The city is a burned up shell now and in ruins thanks to the pathetic leadership by the council and the mayor. I am so grateful to not be a citizen of the city.

7/2/2020 1:40:18 PM

I am in favor of the change to the city's charter. When will we see proposals for the Public Safety Division mentioned? Ward 11

7/2/2020 1:43:15 PM

Do NOT remove the Mpls Police Dept.!!! Keep Police Chief Arredondo!!!! Per the MANY comments I've seen on Nextdoor, from at least 9 neighborhoods in So. Mpls, all are against getting rid of the Mpls Police Dept. Small business owners have also spoken & do NOT want to get rid of the Mpls Police Dept. Many are fed up with the Mpls City Council and mayor and may leave Mpls and move to an area that seems to be administered by saner more thoughtful people. We've lived in Mpls since 1973 & have BEEN home owners in So. Mpls since 12/31/80 and this is a new low for the city. Let the Police Chief do his job and reform the dept. and get rid of police who are not upholding the values that should be put in place ASAP. NO TO THE CHARTER AMENDMENT!!!!

7/2/2020 1:44:14 PM

I strongly oppose the proposed change in the city charter, and I strongly oppose it being submitted for a vote by the city residents at this premature stage. The city council has not developed any specific proposal for how the new approach to public safety would be structured and function. They have provide absolutely no evidence that their well-intentioned vision will work. The city council's proposed changes would allow the council tremendous latitude and significantly reduce the role of the mayor. There may be ways to improve the city's approach to public safety, but it is grossly premature to make changes in the charter. The city council needs to slow down, do the hard work of structuring a coherent proposal, present it to the city residents, and then ask the resident whether they support amending the city charter. Ward 12

7/2/2020 1:45:20 PM

We are writing to oppose the amendment to the city charter proposed by the Minneapolis City Council that would eliminate the Minneapolis Police Department and create a new "Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department." The City Council has not presented the citizenry with a detailed organizational plan of the proposed department. It has not indicated how many and what type of professionals and paraprofessionals would be hired. It has not indicated what specific services would be provided by divisions within the proposed department. And it has not tried to determine in a systematic way the preferences of the citizenry.

"Fast-tracking" is a totally inappropriate way to change the structure of a city's police force. The Council needs to be told to do its homework. Floating ideas under a trendy slogan like "Defund the Police" is a poor excuse for doing the tedious work of restructuring a major unit of city government. The lead editorial in the July 2 "Minneapolis Star Tribune" offers sensible proposals for change. If they were implemented, some restructuring of city government's relationship with the police union would still be required. Ward 12

7/2/2020 1:47:01 PM

I support the proposed amendment. I want our city to rethink public safety and put it under community control. The first step is to remove the Police Department from the charter. We need to be able to vote on that before we can move forward with the kind of public safety changes Minneapolis needs. Ward 9

7/2/2020 1:48:05 PM

I support the City Council's proposal to have the voters decide on the amendment to the City Charter. The people need to decide how to create safety in our communities! The MPD is not the answer. Ward 1

7/2/2020 1:50:49 PM

I support the charter amendment as a necessary step towards chipping away at the police in our communities. The current charter makes dreams of defunding the police and envisioning new, community-led, public health and safety initiatives impossible. We should congratulate ourselves for taking this step, but it is not enough. This new charter amendment is only as good as the brave policy change that could follow it. We do not want the police by another name of the "Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention". We do not want a Camden-style restart that keeps the same police officials in power and expands their reach via surveillance, effectively doing nothing to dismantle the power of policing. We do not need to police, surveil, and manage our communities as much as we need to care and nurture them. Ward 3

7/2/2020 1:52:38 PM

Reforming the MPD is forward movement and positive change in the right direction. Allowing it to remain as it is is shameful and blind leadership. We are watching and we will respond to you in kind and remove you all from office. This is not a joke as we the people are serious about fair safety and patrolling our city streets. Ward 1

7/2/2020 1:52:50 PM

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7/2/2020 1:53:32 PM

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7/2/2020 1:54:33 PM

I live in Golden Valley, and spend a lot of time in Minneapolis for cultural events, stores, restaurants, etc. I support this amendment. I would like to see an accountable, community-driven, and securely funded department. I'd like the city to dramatically change how it provides safety and violence prevention. I understand that the current charter won't allow meaningful change to take place.

7/2/2020 1:55:14 PM

Reforming the MPD is forward movement and positive change in the right direction. Allowing it to remain as it is is shameful and blind leadership. We are watching and we will respond to you in kind and remove you all from office. This is not a joke as we the people are serious about fair safety and patrolling our city streets. Support the Charter Amendment now. Ward 13

7/2/2020 1:55:53 PM

Reforming the MPD is forward movement and positive change in the right direction. Allowing it to remain as it is is shameful and blind leadership. We are watching and we will respond to you in kind and remove you all from office. This is not a joke as we the people are serious about fair safety and patrolling our city streets. Support the Charter Amendment now. Ward 10

7/2/2020 1:56:10 PM

Reforming the MPD is forward movement and positive change in the right direction. Allowing it to remain as it is is shameful and blind leadership. We are watching and we will respond to you in kind and remove you all from office. This is not a joke as we the people are serious about fair safety and patrolling our city streets. Support the Charter Amendment now. Ward 5

7/2/2020 1:56:17 PM

Please establish a community of safety and violence prevention department and defund the Minneapolis Police Department. The police department needs to evolve as a whole, just as many other departments have. We as Minneapolis residents put too much on our police force, requiring their response to petty law violations that are too often prompted by calls due to racial motivations and suspicions. This has resulted in an unacceptable amount of black deaths. For calls that do require the police, I demand that these police are held to the highest accountability when using excessive force. Please consider this amendment as a necessity to keep Minneapolis safe and just.

7/2/2020 1:56:28 PM

Reforming the MPD is forward movement and positive change in the right direction. Allowing it to remain as it is is shameful and blind leadership. We are watching and we will respond to you in kind and remove you all from office. This is not a joke as we the people are serious about fair safety and patrolling our city streets. Support the Charter Amendment now. Ward 12

7/2/2020 2:00:08 PM

I am writing as both a resident of Minneapolis and as pastor of a congregation in Minneapolis. I want to urge you to let residents of Minneapolis have the opportunity to vote on the future of our public safety system.

My values and faith teach me that 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 and Native community members, are not targeted, harassed, brutalized, and murdered by our public servants.

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

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

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

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

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

Please support expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolitans can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election. Please, let us vote. Ward 12

7/2/2020 2:00:47 PM

I am concerned about the process of moving too fast with this proposal in order to give MPLS residents the opportunity to vote on the charter. Slow down!!!

I don't believe you are listening to the MPLS black voices. Neighborhood Community leaders and others have plenty to say about the change. We need to get this right!! Slow down to give residents a chance to participate in the process!!

After the Noor conviction and also voting not to hire the requested 400 police officers, I didn't see any new proposals for change. Only chatter. The council has been talking about using mental health professionals and social workers for awhile now.

I agree that there needs to be changes made to how MPLS protects all its citizens, but I'm concerned about the level of crime that's been happening on the North side and the Powderhorn Homeless encampment. For example, the youth football practice and the convenience store drive by. The juvenile assault at the encampment. Children are living in trauma. I'm a teacher in Columbia Heights and we have many students from North Minneapolis that attend Heights schools.

As a teacher during distance learning, many of our marginalized students have poor internet service and broadband capabilities. I found out about this meeting and the chance to respond in writing by chance. There are also language barriers. Are the Somali and Spanish speaking community members able to access all this information? I did not receive a text message from the city of MPLS. As a registered voter, you have my telephone number. There needs to be better communication about this process.

SLOW DOWN THE PROCESS!! Listen to our BIPOC residents. Give them an opportunity to participate in the process in their neighborhoods. Ward 3

7/2/2020 2:01:37 PM

I think this is a fantastic amendment and gives our Minneapolis community the power of oversight. For too long we've been policed by those who live outside the city, do not do what's best for us, and see the city as a dystopia filled with criminals.

I look forward to having properly trained civilians who will respond in a helpful manner and work to prevent crime proactively by giving people the resources they need.

7/2/2020 2:03:57 PM

I full heartedly support the decision to remove the MPD and replace it with the proposed department. HOWEVER, what I DO NOT want to see is current police officers employed by MPD being rebranded and shuffled directly into the new department. A board of DIVERSE and equitable leaders need to screen and reevaluate EVERY INDIVIDUAL who will be employed by the new department, regardless of where they worked in the past so that the new workers under the new department will not be the same individuals with the same police force mindset that Minneapolis is trying to leave behind.

7/2/2020 2:04:56 PM

Get rid of Lt. Kroll, hire an obscene amount of police officers so the few don't get burned out and there are enough to walk beats and do community engagement/outreach, make a policy of firing officers with several sustained complaints and stick to it, not allowing the union to get their jobs back for them after the fact. Have a more in depth racial sensitivity training for all officers. Possibly have 30-50% of officers required to live in the city.

7/2/2020 2:05:50 PM

I do NOT support the charter amendment which would abolish the MPD and give the city council the authority to oversee a new Community Safety department. The mayor should oversee the MPD, not the mayor plus 13 council members. As the Star Tribune editorial board has stated "managing the department by committee would be a disaster".

Abolishing the police is an emotional, dangerous reaction to the death of George Floyd and the riots that followed. Reforms are needed, no question. Those reforms can best succeed by residents, businesses, and the MPD working together, not by 13 council members dictating their political views upon the city.

7/2/2020 2:07:12 PM

Dear Minneapolis Charter Commissioners -

I write to join my voice with all who are asking you to allow the people of Minneapolis to vote in the upcoming November election, on the future of public safety systems. Please expedite your approval of the Charter Amendment language so that roadblocks in the Charter are removed and people are allowed to vote.

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

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

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

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

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

7/2/2020 2:07:32 PM

I support the proposal to amend the Charter and dissolve the current Minneapolis Police Department. Further, I support the creation of a Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department, with the possibility of a special section of the new department to contain a special division of people to deal with law enforcement. I am concerned about the inclusion of vague wording regarding this new subgroup as it could easily be used in support of reinstating the police department. I would like more clear and strong wording regarding the limits of this potential (and likely future) division of law enforcement.

Ward 3

7/2/2020 2:07:56 PM

There was an over 4 year discussion regarding how and where to place a dog park that had been promised for over 15 years in this area, and this wants to get pushed through with no Oman , no data?

It seems to me that the council has had the police as enemy number one for quite some time- trying to sabotage them for one without providing safe funding (per the chiefs recommendations) for a city this size, leaving them severely understaffed as it was.

Can I ask where the third precinct is now? I live in this area and no one has mentioned that.

The councilperson for this area is unreachable and does not concern herself with anything other than her own agenda. She had initially refused to meet with people/ her residents or rr the 2040 plan, and the. Reluctantly did, and then told them they were oppressors.

I feel like I'm getting taxed without representation. If this continues and I don't feel safe, I'm moving.
Ward 8

7/2/2020 2:12:51 PM

I sometimes work and go to Minneapolis for entertainment, and have often thought of moving there. I have never felt safe around police in that city. If abolition was implemented and no reinstatement of the police department existed, I would definitely feel much better about potentially moving and working in Minneapolis.

7/2/2020 2:14:27 PM

I am not comfortable with moving forward in such a hasty manner. It seems that there has been a lot of different messaging about what the City Councilmembers plan to do here, and that there isn't much of an actual plan in place at all. So while I wholeheartedly agree that we need major reforms in our policing, to include reducing the power of the Federation when it comes to training, retention/discipline of staff, and department rules/policies, I feel it's totally irresponsible to categorically eliminate the MPD as-is and go through the process of rehiring staff. And I think though these changes are necessary, adequate time is needed to do proper planning, consultation, research and the like, so this reform reaches its intended outcomes of safe public safety.

7/2/2020 2:15:26 PM

The city council has no idea what they are doing or the far reaching implications this has Ward 6

7/2/2020 2:16:17 PM

I support the changes to replace the MPD with a Department of Public Safety more accountable to our community. Longfellow resident Ward 2

7/2/2020 2:19:45 PM

I have been advocating for police reform for years, but efforts for reform are not an appropriate response for the immediacy of the problem. Policing, as a system, is a corrupt institution that breeds corruption. It places too much power in the hands of corruption, which seeks to protect and serve itself.

When asked about my stance on abolition, defunding, or disbanding the police I am often asked "Who are you gonna call when there's an emergency?". That's definitely a good question to ask, since often times police will escalate or worsen a situation they are called in for. Efforts to train police at de

escalation have not been fruitful, and will not be enough to prevent the real threat they pose to our communities. Especially our communities of color and LGBTQ communities.

We can do much better to respond to emergency situations, and have teams of professionals who are specially trained to handle situations like mental health check ins, domestic violence situations (statistically speaking, 40% of police are domestic abusers), fires, medical emergencies, etc.

Now any new institutions for emergency responses must be made sure they're not just "police lite". I'd like to see officials who are unarmed, trained primarily for de escalation, and do not have incentives to unnecessarily ticket or arrest people. They should be there primarily to uplift our communities, not to place barriers on their lives and livelihood. Not to bring more people into prisons, but to get people the help they need in their times of need.

And let me finish by saying that disbanding, defunding, or abolishing the police is the first step. The next is to make sure all past and present police officers are held accountable to the highest extent possible. They need to face consequences for the hurt their system has placed on our most disadvantaged communities. I'd like to see communities of color and LGBTQ communities be centered in discussions on our new Community of Safety and Violence Prevention Department's formation.

Thank you for reading. Here's to hope for our future.

7/2/2020 2:19:55 PM

This is a terrible idea that flies in the face of any and all research. This is a poorly thought out pie in the sky initiative that will make the city and the city's most vulnerable that much worse off. Even the Camden NJ example, they actually increased total police presence per capita. The fact that dismantling the police force is even on the table for discussion as if there are two legitimate sides to this debate should terrify every citizen that just wants to be safe. Ward 9

7/2/2020 2:20:00 PM

The intent of any charter amendment should be to strengthen city government, not simply punish an existing department. With that in mind, it seems to me that BOTH the existing police and fire departments should be included. The new department should be organized according to the same pattern as the current park and school boards. It should be controlled by an ELECTED board, with its own taxing authority (subject to board of taxation).

The Mayor should be a permanent member of the board, probably as the chairperson. Other members could represent geographical districts, while the Mayor speaks for us all. Ward 8

7/2/2020 2:20:25 PM

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

As the mother of an Asian adult male I can testify that he has never been treated respectfully by Mpls Police. He has regularly been pulled over while driving home from his job as a shift manager in a theater at 2:00 AM. There is never a reason for these stops. ALL our city residents regardless of race, age, gender deserve to be free of excess harassment and violence from our own police force.

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.

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

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

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

Please support expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that those of us who live in the city can exercise our voices on this most important issue in the upcoming November election.

Please, let us vote." Ward 5

7/2/2020 2:20:45 PM

Lisa bender is a worthless self-serving politician Ward 5

7/2/2020 2:21:54 PM

The city council has no idea what the future holds and provides no specifics. As if this weren't bad enough they are trying to rush the process through and asked for expeditious review. This is two horrible parts of an enormous change that is the most idiotic policy I have seen in the 62 years I have lived on earth. Ward 8

7/2/2020 2:25:05 PM

I oppose the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Hugs, Kisses and Well Wishes with an 'optional' law enforcement unit. The proposed charter amendment indicates that the council 'may maintain' a law enforcement services division and as such gives the city council sole control over the staff level and budget of the primary law enforcement agency in the City. Given that the majority of the city council participated in a rally to 'disband the police' with a group whose leader 'dreams of a world of without police', the current city council clearly does not plan to fund a properly sized, armed and trained police force in this city. The minimum size of the police force being defined in the charter is good policy and the size of this important societal function cannot be entrusted to the whims of the city council. Ward 9

7/2/2020 2:26:34 PM

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

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

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

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

There is urgency here. Under the current system, BIPOC people are killed and brutalized by the current police force every day. The sooner we get this in motion by putting it on the ballot the sooner we can make the needed changes. The proposed amendment begins the process. It does not have to spell out each detail. It shouldn't. We, the community should. Please help us get started. Ward 8

7/2/2020 2:36:04 PM

Hello, this is [REDACTED] again. I forgot to include in my last reply. In the 35 plus years I've lived in Minneapolis. Through some of my interactions with Minneapolis Police Department. I have been assaulted, false statements and evidence has been presented in a way that would make it look like it was accurate and it was not. I've experienced officers receiving statements knowing that they are not the truth. I support law enforcement and it's structure! I do not support individuals that pick and choose who and how and when they do their job. I do not support people that lie while in the capacity of a law enforcement position. I do not support bigotry or assaultive behavior while on duty in a law enforcement position. I've experienced a lot of this in my youth and young adult hood. It's time to change that. I believe that enforcing rules and policies that hold people accountable that are dishonest and abusive. Is a good start.

7/2/2020 2:36:09 PM

I want to thank you for taking clear, courageous, and historic action to restructure the way we "Defend and Protect" all of our citizens in this city. While Chief Arredondo is an excellent person, I support the charter language that requires leaders going forward to have other, non-police force, backgrounds. My very white neighborhood (45th Av) is on board with defunding the police force. We have been reaching out to our neighbors of color (mainly renters), motivated by knowing that we'll NEED to know each other and help each other more in the future due to police department restructuring. Whatever that will look like, and whatever our opinions are, we all understand that community safety has to be group effort if it is to be equitable and just.

Thank you, Cam Gordon and Jacob Frey. I am hopeful for our idealistic community. Ward 2

7/2/2020 2:36:47 PM

I am very concerned with your plan to disband the Minneapolis police department. I have job opportunities, but they are in Minneapolis and I am uncomfortable of the police no longer being there and having a bunch of unarmed social workers.

7/2/2020 2:38:28 PM

YES to the charter amendment! We need to change things! We need to change the police force and DEFUND it!

7/2/2020 2:43:11 PM

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

No matter the color of our skin or where we come from, all of us deserve to live in a community where we feel safe and our lives are valued. We deserve to live peaceful, happy, healthy lives in spaces where communities of color, particularly Black community members, are not targeted, harassed, brutalized, and murdered by our public servants.

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

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

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

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

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

Please support expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolitans can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election. Please, let us vote. Ward 1

7/2/2020 2:43:59 PM

While I commend the the idea. I don't feel comfortable with this amendment until there is a more clear, detailed plan on what this looks like, how it will operate, and how it will be funded. I do believe we need to defund the police, and invest that money into helpful community services.

7/2/2020 2:44:49 PM

I'd like the Charter Commission to recognize how underhanded and undemocratic it was to schedule a same-day meeting without the opportunity for public comment, and to take accountability to a) involve the people of Minneapolis in all future actions and discussions with sufficient notice and in appropriate, accessible forums; and b) to move the charter amendment forward to go on the ballot, putting the future of our city in the hands of its voters.

7/2/2020 2:45:02 PM

While I am supportive of change, I want to be certain we have adequate time for the residents of Minneapolis to discuss and understand this. I know that some have discussed this for quite some time and others have not. For the latter, this is a radical new concept and is unsettling. There must be time for people to get on board with the idea. I would not want to see this amendment defeated because adequate ground work has not been put in place. And I also understand that this is a kairos moment in time to move while the concerns are front and center. I just want to build adequate consensus and explanation of how this could impact the citizens of the city. And, I don't want more Black and brown people killed, harassed, or injured in the meantime. Thanks for your thoughtful work on this important change. Ward 1

7/2/2020 2:46:09 PM

I support reforming the Minneapolis police department to ensure that it serves all people safely and equitably. I support adding or diverting resources to public service that will reduce the need for police calls in situations where they are not needed but are called because a lack of an alternative. I support addressing the issue of racial inequity in our city and reforming city services, including police, to that end. If amending the city charter is what must be done to accomplish these goals, then I support that as well. However, I still strongly believe that we need a police department of some sort; and that the officers should be trained in community policing and conflict resolution and that they should be paid well enough to attract a high quality, professional force.

7/2/2020 2:48:04 PM

Please let citizens vote on the structural change proposition submitted by our city council. We all should have a say in this. Ward 10

7/2/2020 2:48:28 PM

I urge the Charter Commission to act with speed on this matter. The time is long overdue and putting this on the ballot is the best way for the people of Minneapolis to make their voices heard, not through delay. Ward 12

7/2/2020 3:03:16 PM

Dear Minneapolis Charter Commission,

I am a Minneapolis resident residing in the Kingfield neighborhood.

Every Minneapolis resident deserves the right to vote on the proposed change to the charter THIS November. Please do not delay and stall this from happening. Ward 8

7/2/2020 3:07:42 PM

I have followed closely statements and ideas about restructuring or reinventing police services in Minneapolis. I am very supportive of novel ideas to provide security and prevent violence, such as invigorated mental health services, de-escalation measures and personnel, improved social services, etc. However, I am opposed to the charter amendment as written because there is no explicit acknowledgment that a police function to respond to violent crimes such as homicide, assault, rape will exist. The idealistic efforts to re-imagine policing and to provide new and different services will take a long time. What efforts are envisioned to maintain order during this transition time and into the future?

I do not think that novel and profound effects on policing are, by themselves, going to influence the broader discriminatory environment against minority populations, which are arguably at the source of social unrest and criminal behaviors. Rather, critical social and economic policies such as providing low-income housing, reducing barriers to home ownership (such as discriminatory mortgage lending), providing affordable and universal day care for children, establishing mandatory paid leave from work for illness, and others need to be implemented. I would like the Council to pay attention to these issues and work with the state legislature to support these measures.

I think the proposed charter amendment is extremely vague. I will definitely not support an amendment that doesn't require some form of traditional policing function regarding violent crime. I don't think that the wording that a police function MAY occur is adequate. I do NOT trust the Council as it is presently constituted to provide this service since your charter amendment proposal was so hastily presented. You did not seek adequate and broad input - as shown in the Star Tribune articles on black leaders' comments from the North Side. Your equally hasty decision to use imprecise and ill-defined language such as defunding and dismantling is having repercussions. Two weeks too late, Mr. Ellison said on TV that "perhaps" a better term is "reinventing." All of us could have rallied around that term and avoided the entirely predictable backlash from Republicans and Greater Minnesota people.

I have been very impressed by Chief Arradondo and his words and vision. Why did the Council not immediately have high-level conversations with him about what he would propose for the Police Department?

Finally, I am opposed to having any policing department - either a reimagined Police Department or a renamed Public Safety and Violence Prevention service - under both the mayor's and the Council's control. There should be clear lines of accountability in a re-imagined Police Department and having 14 opinionated people who each has the potential conflict of interest of representing only a small slice of the City does not promise rapid and clear direction and action. I favor having the Mayor be the accountable official.

Thank you for paying attention to my statement.

7/2/2020 3:07:58 PM

I am in favor of this amendment to the charter. It will allow for reimagining public safety in Minneapolis - not just surface-level reforms, which have not had any effect on the racist and dangerously unaccountable culture of the Minneapolis Police Department. I am especially in favor of the removal of the "0.0017 employees per resident" funding mandate. This will enable Minneapolis to move money out of MPD and into public housing, harm reduction-oriented treatment for drug users, violence prevention teams that work with youth, etc. I feel that it is crucial for public safety that the Charter Commission does the work necessary to get this on the ballot for voters to decide on this November. We need to have different systems in place for responding to people in crisis, and we need them as soon as possible.

In the last month, I have seen MPD officers tear gas protesters, shoot them indiscriminately, and prioritize property and themselves over the residents they are sworn to serve -- while not responding to instances of white supremacist violence. I also know that the vast majority of them voted to be represented by a white supremacist leader, Bob Kroll, and continue to support him. With all this in mind, I cannot in good faith call MPD. They have lost trust and legitimacy. The Charter Commission would be acting responsibly by allowing City Council to take steps to establish a department of public safety. Please do not slow-walk change because you think it's riskier than the status quo. Please listen to Minneapolis residents who have the imagination to create better systems and the willpower to make it happen. Ward 2

7/2/2020 3:09:23 PM

I am in favor of this amendment to the charter. It will allow for reimagining public safety in Minneapolis - not just surface-level reforms, which have not had any effect on the racist and dangerously unaccountable culture of the Minneapolis Police Department. I am especially in favor of the removal of the "0.0017 employees per resident" funding mandate. This will enable Minneapolis to move money out of MPD and into public housing, harm reduction-oriented treatment for drug users, violence prevention teams that work with youth, etc. I feel that it is crucial for public safety that the Charter Commission does the work necessary to get this on the ballot for voters to decide on this November. We need to have different systems in place for responding to people in crisis, and we need them as soon as possible. In the last month, I have seen MPD officers tear gas protesters, shoot them indiscriminately, and prioritize property and themselves over the residents they are sworn to serve -- while not responding to instances of white supremacist violence. I also know that the vast majority of them voted to be represented by a white supremacist leader, Bob Kroll, and continue to support him. With all this in mind, I cannot in good faith call MPD. They have lost trust and legitimacy. The Charter Commission would be acting responsibly by allowing City Council to take steps to establish a department of public safety. Please do not slow-walk change because you think it's riskier than the status quo. Please listen to Minneapolis residents who have the imagination to create better systems and the willpower to make it happen.

7/2/2020 3:17:23 PM

The idea to replace the Police with re-imagined "Peace Officers" is ludicrous. We pay for services as part of our taxes. One of those services comes in the form of a Quick, Strong and Forceful response to invasion of our home and property and immediate armed help to an current threat of violence to ourselves, whether it comes in the form of personal assault and/or rape! I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/2/2020 3:18:08 PM

This whole proposal is absolutely asinine. There's no solid plan to make this work. Just look at the daily call log in the 4th or 3rd precinct. Try to figure out who or what you'd send to respond to each call. You think call response times are long now? Wait until you try implement this government growing monster. This city has been a "progressive" led city for decades and there is little to nothing to show for it in the area of racial equity. With that track record, why would we trust you with something as important as public safety on this scale? As far as I've seen, there has been no input from actual cops on any of this nonsense, and the chief or his assistants don't count. They haven't done actual police work in years.

7/2/2020 3:21:55 PM

NO, to removing the police department. What in the world are people thinking? Where are our leaders when all this appeasing is going on? Stand up and do the right thing. If you want to see Mpls become another Chicago or Detroit, disband the police dept. the city council is a bunch of clowns and we will see come Election Day. Time for our leaders and politicians to stand firm on this matter.

7/2/2020 3:22:08 PM

I am in favor of replacing the Minneapolis Police Department with a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. The MPD has been resistant to reform for a long time, and is NOT keeping everyone in the community safe. I think it's time to try something different, to have an organization that keeps the peace by helping people, instead of inflicting more violence on poor and marginalized people.

7/2/2020 3:29:38 PM

Dear City Council, What happened to George Floyd was terrible and should not happen again.

But the day you stopped supporting our police department as a whole, and decided to do away with it, you gave a green light to every thug, murderer, and drug dealer in this state and the country to come to do business here. The gun violence in the last month says it all. Businesses

down town are closing because of it. Help to fix the MPD. Not get rid of it. I have lived on the north side for 32 years and I never thought I would leave. If you get rid of the MPD I will be one of the first to leave this city. From what I have gathered from friends and neighbors, you will

have a mass exodus from the city. I just hope I can sell my house before the property values take a dive.

7/2/2020 3:31:39 PM

I do not live in Minneapolis, but often visit the city for various reasons. With a lowered police presence, or zero police presence, I would not feel safe in the city and will no longer visit. In my opinion, which I doubt will be taken seriously by the Minneapolis City Council, since I do not represent a special interest or minority group, if you want real change, it needs to be applied both ways. As long as police feel threatened in communities/neighborhoods with high crime rates, they will continue to police the areas with increased scrutiny toward peaceful residents living there. Instead of pointing fingers and deflecting blame, do your jobs and clean up your city. In a world where we are all supposed to "pay our fair share", shoulder your fair share of the blame and be part of a real solution rather than a delusional one.

7/2/2020 3:32:46 PM

I support putting the proposed city charter amendment on the ballot in November. Let the people decide to create a new department of public safety and non-violence, so that we can all move forward in creation of our new systems.

For the charter commission to prolong this process, by not putting this amendment on the ballot, is unacceptable. Ward 5

7/2/2020 3:37:04 PM

No to the proposed charter amendment. Please be reasonable and listen to the community.

7/2/2020 3:42:30 PM

I have read the proposed amendment and I think it is a great start that will hopefully root out the worst of those who work in law enforcement. A clean slate will make it a lot easier to establish better practices as well. I think this amendment will do that.

With regards to the licensed peace officers, I would be curious to know how much effort can be put into changing what a peace officer's license entails. I assume with the wording of the amendment that it could not be the same as it is currently. I don't however think this hinders the proposed amendment.

I also want to applaud our city council for taking action and pushing our city forward. All change is hard, and there may be bumps along the way, but what we have now is not working, so change it must be.

7/2/2020 3:44:41 PM

There are countless reasons to modify the city charter and allow the city to move towards a public health-centered model of community safety - including but not limited to the countless deaths of Black people by Minneapolis police, the untouched backlog of rape kits, and the general distrust of the police by many local residents. Not changing the charter does not wholly get rid of armed safety officers (that work must be done later), but it is a step towards making all people feel safe here. Please promote safety for ALL people, not just white housed people.

7/2/2020 3:53:06 PM

Though I believe that deep structural transformation of the Minneapolis Police Dept. is essential, I DO NOT believe in dismantling the Mpls Police Dept. We need a period of time to solicit input from the community so that we can create a durable plan for change. Also, I do not believe that the police Dept should be under the jurisdiction of the city council; 14 bosses are too many!!

In addition, I think we should give chief Arradondo an opportunity to lead in this tumultuous time. He may help lead us to a new vision of the Minneapolis Police Dept; one that values every life and sees violent confrontation as a failure. Ward 11

7/2/2020 3:54:08 PM

As a resident of the Bryn Mawr neighborhood Minneapolis, I'm proud that we will be leaving behind our current policing model. Our city's current model of policing

- suffers from the rot systemic racism
- lacks any meaningful accountability for individuals and the department as a whole
- is stuck to an ineffective and dangerous "one size fits all" approach to emergency response
- demonstrates poor performance in solving and investigating crimes
- does not protect and serve *all residents*

Time is of the essence. This proposed amendment needs to be in front of voters in November. If the Charter Commission hides behind process and delays this amendment beyond November, it will be tragic. Ward 7

7/2/2020 3:54:32 PM

mental health professionals for mental health issues, not police

social workers for family disputes, not police

animal control/DNR for any type of wild life/animal issues, not police

homeless issues handled by social workers and mental health professionals, not police

Schools should not house police officers/they should have mental health/social worker trained professionals on staff to deal with any issue involving the school

7/2/2020 4:00:14 PM

For quite some time, I've been hesitant to go anywhere in Minneapolis. It's been years since I would go to a Twins game that didn't end before the sun went down.

Now, there is one business that I will even consider going to in Minneapolis. And it would have to be an extreme emergency to do so.

The city is unsafe, due to leadership, not Police. I only hope I live far enough away that my families safety is not at risk. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/2/2020 4:02:20 PM

I do not agree with this. I feel that it is irresponsible and does not align with the best interests, safety, and well-being of the community. Do not abolish the Minneapolis police department. Do the work. Let's roll up our sleeves and reform the police department to make it a more just and equitable institution that our community can be proud of.

7/2/2020 4:06:07 PM

Please make this change. Let's be the ones who model this for the rest of the country.

7/2/2020 4:07:57 PM

I strongly support approving the proposed amendment as-written and sending it to the ballot in 2020. The amendment offers the flexibility needed to thoughtfully determine the future of public safety in Minneapolis. Having it on the ballot this year, rather than waiting longer, means it will benefit from the intensive focus these issues have received in the wake of George Floyd's death.

7/2/2020 4:12:11 PM

Take away their guns and train them to be compassionate. Ive seen so many people with autism and other conditions pushed around and abused by police. The police bully their way through and process because they have no specialized training. They are completely ill equipped to be peace officers because they are trained to show force. They shove around the elderly and the homeless, they don't save the day, they rarely act heroic but expect complete obedience by the people they prey upon...and if you don't believe they prey upon them, hang out on lake and Hiawatha...they strong arm vulnerable adults all day. We don't need them, they are certainly not in it for us. Kroll needs to resign too, he's a biggot and a bully.

7/2/2020 4:20:23 PM

Yes, do it. However you have to whip an alternative plan up quickly, or it's not going to pass. I have dealt with kind, helpful cops...but I'm white. I know for a fact there are bully boys and the head of the Union is one of them. Get some screening questions to ferret out the bullies. Also, 50% women!!! Have diversity, but watch out for males from other cultures with possible misogyny. And part of the training should be lessons on speaking up when a coworker does dirty. Most important thing to get it to pass with voters is to assure them the new people will protect them from violence.

7/2/2020 4:20:32 PM

DO NOT AGREE WITH THE AMMENDMENT PROPOSED. DO NOT ABOLISH THE POLICE.

7/2/2020 4:20:35 PM

Honorable Charter Commission Members,

I urge you to support putting the charter amendment on the ballot in November. This proposed amendment to the Minneapolis Charter replaces the Minneapolis Police Department with a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

I am disappointed in media portrayals of this issue. It is actually very simple: Do we as residents have the right to greater say in the oversight of policing in our community? Too often, critics are able to sidestep needed reform by complaining that the work is too hard, or demanding answers to every contingency before the work is done. I ask those critics, what harms are we inflicting by continuing the cycle of ineffective reform followed by more incidents of police brutality? The city council is hamstrung. Who will be the next George Floyd or Jamar Clark if we don't take ownership of the problem?

We need to embrace this work as a way to protect ALL members of our community, and recognize that this is just step one. Let the people vote on the amendment.

This step will allow our elected council members to confront systemic racism and pervasive violence against People of Color. The murder of George Floyd and the violent actions taken against peaceful protesters and journalists should make it clear that it is time to break the cycle. This amendment is a critical step, and far from the last one that will be required of us. Empower our city council to take on big problems and you will empower their constituents to help guide them along the way. Please put this ballot before the voters in November. Thank you for your consideration. Ward 10

7/2/2020 4:21:57 PM

Good afternoon,

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in Ward 3. I wholeheartedly support defunding the MPD as it stands now. This form of carceral law does not make me feel safer or like the city is looking out for what's best for the people who live here. While I recognize the need for some formal safety and violence prevention protocols, the MPD has routinely shown that these are not their actual interests and priorities and that they are not reformable as they stand. They want the citizens of Minneapolis to live in fear and be punished for the most minor of offenses, and the problems are proven to be much worse for POC, especially BIPOC and the homeless in the city. The budget the MPD takes and the amount of my tax dollars that goes to supporting a department and system I don't believe in frustrates me, to say the absolute least. That budget should be redistributed to those with training in de-escalation and crisis intervention, into a system that shows care and consideration for the people who live in Minneapolis.

Thank you so much for your efforts to make this happen until this point. I look forward to creating a better system and better community with the City Council leading the way on defunding and disbanding the MPD. Ward 3

7/2/2020 4:33:51 PM

I am a NE Minneapolis resident and work in North Minneapolis.

The community (specifically black and brown folks) are not asking to abolish the police force, but to defund and re-allocate funds, but with sufficient and community-centered planning, input, and a measured timeline to ensure the right perspectives are tapped, the right decisions are made, and extends the support and tools necessary for our current chief to reform the department.

I do not support the charter.

7/2/2020 4:34:50 PM

100% in support of this.

7/2/2020 4:37:05 PM

Please allow citizens of the city to vote on a new form of public social control apparatus.

7/2/2020 4:38:16 PM

Hell no to abolishing the police department and hell no to removing the first black police chief!

Listen to our community- listen to the voices of those doing the work, not the token black politician playing politics.

7/2/2020 4:41:35 PM

I think we need to remove the Mayor and the City Council and keep the Police Department.

7/2/2020 4:41:44 PM

Our city council is idealist and has wonderful ideas about making Minneapolis a diverse crowded city. I live in a ward where I rarely see a police car. However, I think all citizens in our city need to feel safe. Who will control the gun-toting gangs? I doubt a social worker would be called to break up a gun fight.

Reform the police department. Get rid of the bad cops, they are not many. Train officers to intercede when other officers are doing something illegal or dangerous to the citizens or other officers. Get rid of the police union as it is now. Ward 13

7/2/2020 4:44:07 PM

It took 4 years for a dog park to be established in ward 8 (after being promised one for 15 years), and the city wants the residents to just rubber stamp something this large? Neighborhood groups in this area aren't very well organized to get resident feedback— I never even hear from mine at all, and they are unresponsive the few times I've tried to get in touch— (FRNNG) so I don't even know what they do! But I know they won't be able to do this task!

I do know that there have been two drive by shooting with murders (separate incidents) at the end of my block, with a few other drive bus with no one hit, I hear gun shots all the time, I'm scared to walk to my car at nig to go to my 11 pm job, I can't keep anything in my yard or it will be stolen, etc etc. I'm applying for a permit to purchase a firearm presently, and already have recently purchased bear spray and a stun gun. I'm afraid for my safety.

The city council has n out been forthcoming with residents who actually don't agree with them or who want more information. They have seemingly tried to deceive residents, in my opinion, which is really upsetting. I work and pay taxes and try to be an honest and good citizen. But if this is how this city is conducted, well my life is too short and I value my life and safety- and I am seriously considering moving to Wisconsin (I'm about 90 percent sure at this point). I work and really don't have a whole lot of time for much else- other than shoveling and mowing etc. I do t feel I'm in a revolution as these council members seem to, and I don't feel they have thought out their "restorative justice and holistic policing.

I was a staff nurse for 13 years on the trauma unit at HCMC, so I've dealt with all the victims of shootings, stabbings, assaults, injuries due to drunk driving. It's not the polices' fault. The police are underfunded and understaffed and stressed and I think the city council has tried to sabotage he them bu not providing the minimum funding that Chief arrondondo asked for, they only got funding for 13 additional officers which is not really extra funding- that was to cover some spots left by attrition.

So you tell me, am I happy here in Minneapolis?? NO.

No I am not.

I do not even feel safe as it is. My friend also got bested and mugged waiting for a bus downtown by a mob. The downtown mobs are unenforceable because the loitering laws were taken away. So no one really goes downtown anymore.

This city is really not fun or safe anymore. It's drama filled and tense and angry. And I believe a lot of that has to do with the leadership. Ward 8

7/2/2020 4:44:33 PM

I am writing because I believe this charter amendment is incredibly pre-mature. After announcing that they would begin the process of "re-inventing public safety" the city council avoided laying out the details of their proposal by saying they would only come to their conclusions after a year of intense community input, and this premature charter amendment is at odds with that promise. In essence the council wants to be given the power to enact sweeping changes before laying out their plans rather than after, which seems like the ultimate in putting the cart before the horse. They want to have their cake and eat it too: be given powers immediately while also hand waving away concerns with a vague promise to figure out what they actually want to do at a later date. Furthermore, I fear that progress towards the changes that are needed could be blocked if this amendment ends up failing at the ballot box because it was sought prematurely without voters being given a real knowledge of what the council was actually planning to do with these powers they are seeking. Ward 11

7/2/2020 4:44:46 PM

Please add Community Safety Charter amendment to this November's ballot. Ward 5

7/2/2020 4:48:24 PM

I think disbanding the police force is a terrible idea. I used to be a resident of North Minneapolis for 5 years until last fall 2019 and I know how often police made a difference in that neighborhood for the better. It is sad to see the damage that happened to that community in the short time that police force were called to other areas, not only the buildings burned to the ground but the amount of people just blowing through traffic lights and stop signs. With 3 young kids ages 4 and under, I would not feel safe walking around that neighborhood on my own and without checking several times before crossing the street. People are so quick to acknowledge the few bad incidents that happen, but not to acknowledge all of the good things that might be taking place with police help without our knowing it. I am so glad we are out of that old neighborhood, but deeply saddened for what our might become of the police force there is disbanded.

7/2/2020 4:49:37 PM

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7/2/2020 4:54:46 PM

No. Keep the police!

7/2/2020 4:58:30 PM

First, this amendment seems to be a power grab for the City Council. The City Council needs this power in order to complete their desire to remove the police department. Secondly, forcing the Director position to be a candidate without law enforcement experience is short sighted and prejudicial. The DFL controlled city government has had 70 of the last 74 years to create or alter the police force, its members, its hiring policy, and its training. The belief that removing the word police, and giving the hiring and funding control to the City Council will create a better safer city is arrogant. I am completely against any change in the city charter. Ward 12

7/2/2020 4:58:40 PM

I believe that the police department is in need of strong reform, however, I don't want the Police Department unfunded. A good start is to weed out officers who are constantly getting complaints against them-possibly a desk or administrative position rather than community contact. I also wish that new police hires would live in Minneapolis. I firmly believe that community policing where the officer knows the neighborhood, business owners, families, etc. is a key component to fair and respectful policing. I am also disappointed that officers were removed from all MPS schools even though at least two schools requested to keep their SROs. We need to develop better relationships between the police and the people they serve and it seems we need to start somewhere. Ward 11

7/2/2020 5:07:08 PM

I am in support of sending the amendment to voters. Personal feelings of the commission toward police should be left out of this. The entire council is behind this, and delaying would be denying them the ability to govern.

7/2/2020 5:07:12 PM

I fully support this amendment as well as placing it on the ballot.

7/2/2020 5:16:00 PM

I have lived in South Minneapolis for 30 years and this is the first time I have ever considered selling my home at 26th and Park Ave So.. The increase in gang activity, drug dealing and random violence in south Mpls since the murder of George Floyd is frightening and heart breaking.

Police should not be doing the work of social workers...but social workers can not do the job of the police. For those of us that do not have city provided/paid body guards (like the city council members) we need to be able to call 911 in an emergency and know that #1 someone will answer the phone and #2 that they will have the ability to deal with a violent offender.

Eliminating the MPD is an invitation to every gang, drug lord, prostitution ring and criminal from across the country to make their home in Minneapolis. Long time residents will head for the suburbs/rural areas and potential new residents will think twice before they invest in a home in a city with no organized police force.

There must be a better solution...let's find it!

7/2/2020 5:20:49 PM

As a resident of the Kingfield neighborhood in South Minneapolis, I oppose the proposed amended to the City charter to remove the Police Department as a Charter Department, Article VII and Article VIII.

Abolishing MPD without a clear, ready-to-go alternative to provide public safety, nor a clear plan to re-allocate resources from MPD to other social programs, is irresponsible and hasty. I urge the City to work with BIPOC community leaders and organization to come up with a solution instead, and concurrently end its relationship with the Police Union entirely.

7/2/2020 5:21:31 PM

We are at a rare moment in history. We now have significant interest in deconstructing an essential piece of our governmental infrastructure which has long been a source of disparities within our community, i.e. re framing how we provide public safety. It is clear that a lot yet has to be formulated, but getting to the point of imagination and vision is the first step. This is to support the Minneapolis City Council's recommendation to put to the voters the call for a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. This change in the Charter would still allow a law enforcement division, but it opens the door to addressing public safety in ways that do not always require armed police officers. We can be better.

7/2/2020 5:24:25 PM

I'm not a resident but live in a 1st. tier suburb. That being said, I'm disgusted with this action. Everyone I know avoids Mpls. because of the high crime rate.

7/2/2020 5:24:56 PM

My wife and I are deeply troubled by the plan to defund the police department. Living in Minneapolis is a daily experience of sirens and an increased need for police support after the protests and riots.

As a resident of Minneapolis and also a CEO of several organizations, I have never seen a an organization and leaders of that organization propose changes without a clear model to go by. Defunding a police department that is funded to provide protection against crime without anything more than vague concepts of replacing police with social workers is not only crazy but totally irresponsible, unless you can show us an example of where that has worked and how it was implemented.

Camden, NJ is the only city that I can find that tried to do something like this and people that lived there said that even though the city police department was defunded, the county police were increased significantly and there was also increased monitoring through cameras and technology. The most significant statement that I have read related to their experience is that rather than the police presence decreasing (which is what you appear to want to accomplish), the police presence actually increased. This is what brought the crime rate down in this city, not the irresponsible idea of reducing the policing.

Being a business owner, if the police department is defunded instead of improved, I will move whatever business presence I have out of the city of Minneapolis, because it will be too dangerous to conduct business here.

7/2/2020 5:25:17 PM

My family and I regularly travel to Minneapolis for shows, to eat, and to athletic events. If there is no longer a police department we will not travel to Minneapolis for anything. We will find a better place to spend our dollars where we know we will be safe.

7/2/2020 5:28:44 PM

I am not a resident of Minneapolis, but I live close by. I will not be coming to Minneapolis and spending any money unless I feel safe. Minneapolis is not a safe place with the amount of crime going unchecked right now. I will Not becoming for a twins games, no Vikings games, no restaurants, no plays or movies or any commerce of any kind. I am not Going to spend one penny down town. If I need to I will go to St. Paul or find it in a burb.

7/2/2020 5:35:57 PM

Please do not abolish the police!

7/2/2020 5:36:11 PM

Please ensure that this change focuses on social justice. It must address long-running policies that lead to the unnecessary and undesired criminalization of groups who have historically been maltreated by the law enforcement and criminal justice systems. The is not about old wine in new bottles. Look at what infractions are pursued and why. Look at the impact of incarceration on communities of color. Please. Also, how can average citizens engage with this proposed charter change?

7/2/2020 5:48:24 PM

I am a long-term resident of Minneapolis. I am a short, white, fat woman in my 70s, having worked in and with communities of color in both North and South Minneapolis, as well as being the executive director of People Serving People for 10 years. My initial reaction was a NO to the idea of community control of a department that is charged with those activities that are now part of the police department's charge. After reading the current summary of the proposed changes, I am reiterating that NO. Having a politically weak mayoral system the City Council can act more like operators than board members. Why have city executive (Mayor) to run the city and then have the Council recommend the community make the governing system weaker. Figure out how to modify the current systems for greater effect, not try to recreate another hierarchy that may or may not work. Change may be inevitable, but new is not the same thing as making processes better. I vote for better, not installing a new system that has nothing to prove it may be successful.

7/2/2020 5:54:11 PM

Dear City Council Members,

Thank you for working on this critical issue and the opportunity to comment.

I am in support of the restructuring if 1) more detail is added to make it clear that there will be a sufficient force of licensed peace officers to equally protect all people in the community from violence, especially those most affected by crime (e.g., BIPOC peoples) and 2) there is further consultation with the community to appropriately revise and increase support for the proposed changes. Broader outreach and engagement is needed to accomplish this. Please also consider allowing the current police chief Arradondo to be a part of the newly established department.

7/2/2020 5:54:58 PM

I think the City Council made a grave error in not speaking to the people of this city before they came up with this plan. They did not ask a single constituent about this idea, which I find unconscionable, considering the fact that WE elected them. Now they're trying to shove this through your committee.

Here's what I want: fire all of the police, then interview each and every one who wants their job back. Do not rehire anyone who has more than a few complaints against them. Period. Conduct thorough interviews, do background checks, do whatever it takes to make sure THIS is the RIGHT person for the job. And yes, hire social workers for calls that don't involve potential violence. Hire more EMTs for medical emergency calls. Take away the military toys they've been buying over the years, and rid the department of anything or anyone quasi-military. Hire more PoC. Require that new hires LIVE in Minneapolis proper - not a suburb or exurb (allow for grandfathering for this requirement). Get rid of arbitration in the police union, which has helped keep rotten officers in the force.

These are just some ideas. I'm sure constituents would like to talk to your committee AND to the City Council about their ideas, too.

The violence and shooting in Minneapolis is insane right now, and I know folks who live on the North side who are scared of losing the cops - as badly as they've been treated by them over the years.

I guess the biggest conclusion here is to simply LISTEN TO US.

7/2/2020 5:58:05 PM

This knee jerk reaction to remove the Edina police department is absurd. Who do you want to show up when you or your family needs help? When your house is being broken into? A social worker? A city council member? The mayor? Absolutely not. I want a police officer. We're already seeing an increase in violence in Minneapolis due to the cowardly "leadership" who are clearly disrespecting our police officers. The city is supposed to be focused on doing what's best for the citizens, not doing what's aligned with a leftist political agenda. It's disgraceful that this is even a discussion.

7/2/2020 6:00:29 PM

Hello, I am writing this comment to urge the Charter Commission to act quickly to ensure this question will be on the ballot in November.

We have an opportunity to make systemic change to policing in Minneapolis. Far too long have BIPOC communities been brutalized by the Minneapolis Police Department.

We need to establish a new department that has a holistic approach to community safety and violence prevention. Modifying the charter is the first step to changing policing in Minneapolis.

Our current system of policing is not working, and it would be disappointing if the commission were to "pocket veto" this proposal by needlessly delaying the process. Ward 10

7/2/2020 6:04:33 PM

I am in agreement with this amendment and would ask that the planning includes in-depth training around conflict resolution as well as rigorous screening of potential employees. Thank you!

7/2/2020 6:05:22 PM

Haven't we seen enough examples of how this city will look without police? I have heard gunfire EVERY night since the death of Mr Floyd. In recent days, there have been shootings starting around noon, as opposed to the overnight hours, and people are getting hurt in broad daylight along the West Broadway corridor. Without question, this is a result of emboldened criminals who are quite secure in the knowledge that the police are completely overwhelmed. Simply the PROSPECT of getting away with shooting has increased just the RANDOM gunfire tenfold. In my part of North Minneapolis, in the last three months, I have seen more squads pass by my house than I have in the last THREE YEARS. As a rule, police are only in this part of the city in response to something, not for purposes of patrolling. Prior to the looting, Independence Day has always been a little more dangerous, but this year our anxiety has been entirely replaced by outright FEAR. As a law-abiding citizen, I have been legally and responsibly armed for almost my entire life, yet I've never felt that I might need to defend myself and my loved ones with deadly force until now. I'm afraid this is only the beginning. This CANNOT end with the disbanding of MPD. People and businesses are STREAMING out of what once was a vibrant and welcoming metropolitan area as a direct result of the actions of a COMPLETELY inept governing body. Not one member of the city council has ANY of the background or life experience necessary to properly run a city with a 1.6 billion dollar budget. There is ZERO finance, budgeting, management, or law in any of their qualifications. The voters picked a group of social workers, activists, and community organizers to lead us and we are now reaping the "Benefits" of their utter lack of competence. This situation, sadly, will get worse, long before it gets better.

7/2/2020 6:43:07 PM

FULLY SUPPORT the City Council. Dismantle the Police dept. and replace with new initiative. The police dept. has a corrupt culture that cannot be "reformed". The department is also overburdened with responsibility, any crisis is met with impatient, armed response. We need much much more nuanced, thoughtful system of responses to crises. PLEASE PLEASE DO THIS.

7/2/2020 6:47:27 PM

I 100% disagree with disbanding the police. Absolutely not. I agree with disbanding the Police Union or re working the Police union. I pray in the name of Jesus that law and order is established that is respectful of everyone. God bless.

7/2/2020 6:50:35 PM

Please do not remove police from the city unless you have a new plan in place to maintain or restore ore if crime starts rising.

7/2/2020 6:52:04 PM

We need More police! How about more police so the ones we have are not spread thin and working extra long hours. Working overtime on a regular basis takes its toll on a person's physical and mental abilities. You say we are not to blame an entire race over the actions of a few but you are condemning all police over the the actions of a few. I along with many that put you in office will be voting against you next time.

7/2/2020 6:54:11 PM

Please don't pass this amendment. Restructure and defund the Minneapolis police department instead. Listen to the black activists who are speaking out. Support Arradondo to restructure and clean house in the Mpls police department.

7/2/2020 7:03:22 PM

I can not stress this enough. We need to defund the police. We need to replace that with properly funded social work. THAT Is how we're going to change society positively. We need to stop hurting people.

7/2/2020 7:06:34 PM

I do not on any level believe the MPD currently keeps me safe. I have tried to work with them on some community crime issues and was told that the only thing they have time to do is address 911 calls. In saying that they are clearly stating that they are only available to come after a crime has been committed.

We need to educate the community as we work to transform how we are protected. The only thing that will really make us safer is to work towards eliminating racism and other forms of hate in all of our systems, the police, schools, social service agencies, housing, businesses and health care. The entire world now knows how racist Minneapolis is, its time to stop admiring the problem and make sweeping systematic change. Those changes will be good for everyone including visitors and businesses. We all know that Minneapolis businesses struggle to retain Black professionals who after living here just a short period of time realized they cannot raise their children here. You would be hard pressed to find a Black man or woman in our city who hasn't had a negative encounter with the police.

All three of my adult Black children as children had guns held to them by the police even though they never committed a crime or even received a ticket. The worst part is that after each incident they went on with their lives under the idea that this is just a normal thing that happens to young boys and girls who are BIPOC. No therapy, no processing, just, that is what happens in Minneapolis and our surrounding communities. This must change!

We need a system that promotes peace and equity not law and order. I want children that are caught drinking or smoking marijuana to be brought home rather than arrested just like they do in the suburbs. The same with children out after curfew. I want interventions that include making sure all our neighbors know each other and we work together as communities. We who live in neighborhoods understand our communities themselves are less broken than the news would lead anyone to believe. Those communities that are struggling are doing so due to all the residual affects of racism from disparate education and health care to police brutality and mass incarceration. Its time to understand that the MPD has been a major contributor to all these problems. This isn't about good cop's vs bad, this is about a cultural of violence and militarization against our BIPOC communities and GBLTQ communities that has gone on throughout our lives and has only gotten worse.

I am a 5-foot-tall cis old white woman who has worked my entire life within communities that most people deem dangerous. In fact many of the people I have always worked with are at times dangerous when their mental health is exasperated, and yes, there have been times where I have felt afraid and have been in pretty precarious situations. Yet never have I been in a situation where I believed a person with a gun could make it better. We all need to learn to talk to and support each other.

We can do better, and we must do better. We must re-imagine what it means to keep our neighborhoods and each other safe.

7/2/2020 7:08:04 PM

As a clinical social worker who works with children in mpls who have experienced and witnessed violence and I trauma I will ask you to NOT remove the PD. This is a terrible idea and will result in great danger. The citizens plan will not meet the needs of our community.

7/2/2020 7:10:02 PM

I have many concerns about the proposed amendment. First, Chief Arradondo should not be pushed out by this charter amendment. That is ridiculous. He is trusted by the community; do not remove him. He is the first real leader who is going to fight for racial justice. I do believe all officers, especially those who do not live in Minneapolis, should have to reapply. Use Camden, NJ as a guide. Make sure to do a deep and thorough background check on each new applicant. The new hired officers should reflect the racial diversity of the city, and not tokenism - make sure it's actually comparable to the actual racial makeup of the city.

ALL discussions about this amendment should be public and MUST include BIPOC community leaders (e.g., Raeisha Williams, Nekima Levy Armstrong, Leslie Redmond, Black Visions Collective). Do not abolish the police; we can't put our BIPOC community members in more danger from white supremacists who will make life worse for black and brown community members. DEFUND the police and channel those funds to programs that will build the community (e.g., early childhood education, after school programs, drug treatment programs, etc.) Ward 8

7/2/2020 7:10:49 PM

I generally support the amendment for three reasons:

- 1) It is undemocratic to have the unelected commission delay the process, rather than let the people decide.
- 2) A requirement of a certain number of police officers, as the charter currently reads, provides an inordinate amount of leverage to the Police Federation, as it knows that its members must be retained, so that must be removed in order to ensure that tactics and discipline for the new department reflect the needs of the community.
- 3) Providing the council with the authority to appoint seems like a power grab and will make accountability difficult, but providing full control to the mayor, depending on their style, is potentially problematic, so the model used for the fire chief might be better. Therefore, I would be willing to consider an amendment to that proposed provision, but, in any event, the people should be allowed to decide on this year's ballot while there is a sense of urgency, as I fear further delay could result in more violence. Ward 2

7/2/2020 7:11:25 PM

I have many concerns about the proposed amendment. First, Chief Arradondo should not be pushed out by this charter amendment. That is ridiculous. He is trusted by the community; do not remove him. He is the first real leader who is going to fight for racial justice. I do believe all officers, especially those who do not live in Minneapolis, should have to reapply. Use Camden, NJ as a guide. Make sure to do a deep and thorough background check on each new applicant. The new hired officers should reflect the racial diversity of the city, and not tokenism - make sure it's actually comparable to the actual racial makeup of the city.

ALL discussions about this amendment should be public and MUST include BIPOC community leaders (e.g., Raeisha Williams, Nekima Levy Armstrong, Leslie Redmond, Black Visions Collective). Do not abolish the police; we can't put our BIPOC community members in more danger from white supremacists who will make life worse for black and brown community members. DEFUND the police and channel those funds to programs that will build the community (e.g., early childhood education, after school programs, drug treatment programs, etc.).

7/2/2020 7:13:58 PM

I fully support the removal of MPD. We can all agree we need systems in place to protect public safety, health, and wellness. Why not transition to a system that actually does this? I believe in following the data - and the data shows the Police Department is failing to achieve its goals and meet our expectations (I would be happy to provide my references). This would not be tolerated in any other industry - and I believe if anything the Police (and the system it will be replaced with) should be held to an even higher standard. Reform has been attempted and clearly failed miserably. Again, I think it's critically important that this would never be tolerated for me at my job or the average citizen whose hard earned tax dollars are paying for the exorbitant policing department.

Poverty is the single largest driving force of crime. The police have had their chance to reduce crime in Minneapolis - and again if you look at the data, they have failed. Let's put our money towards something that works for all of us. Let's become the Minneapolis we want to believe we are.

7/2/2020 7:22:33 PM

The rule of law is essential to the idea of democracy. If it were not, the judiciary would not be a part of our constitution. The idea that "community patrols" can do what the police do is ludicrous. Police are held to a higher standard in everything they do. They are trained for what they encounter on a daily basis and still sometimes they falter or fail. Do you think untrained, unskilled community patrols can do better? I fear for the republic if that comes to pass, as none of them will have the courage, skill or experience to face what professional police encounter everyday, multiple times a day.

7/2/2020 7:25:04 PM

Please work towards reform and education and training - don't defund/dismantle the police. Those of us who live in and around Minneapolis will not feel safe supporting local businesses if there aren't law enforcement officers to protect us. People who can afford to will leave Minneapolis, and those who can't afford to will be left behind and unprotected. This will hurt the economy. Starting over isn't the answer. Work together!!!

7/2/2020 7:56:22 PM

It is imperative to make a clear detailed transition plan public before voting on this idea. It seems ludicrous to one day have an MPD and then next a whole new department. The new one should be grown as the MPD shrinks, i.e. both in existence at the same time in some form. There has been too much making decisions without having any clue as to how to implement the choices getting made.
Ward 7

7/2/2020 7:58:35 PM

It doesn't sound like anything is going to change on this. Police by any other name are still police. Prevention may work in the future but the police are still needed now to respond to current crime.

Any re-allocation of funds away from the police department will severely damage communities of people of color. Disbanding the police will make the streets unsafe for every person, regardless of race. The city council knows how important they are because they have taken on their own private security to protect themselves while the rest of the city will have no one. The city council should consider keeping the safety of its constituents as its number 1 priority, and a complete disbanding of the Minneapolis police department will make Minneapolis less safe, not more safe, including for first responders like EMTs and firefighters who cannot function if the scene is not safe. More people have died or been injured from shootings in our city in the last few weeks than have since the beginning of 2020. Reform the police, and work with the other side to do so. Don't abolish them. We need them, communities of every color.

7/2/2020 8:06:53 PM

We now live 45 east of Mpls and enjoy dining, attending sporting event, community events and fine arts in Minneapolis. I lived in Mpls throughout my college years.

I believe that changes need to be made w/ the Mpls Police Dept but disbanding is not the answer. If an alternative is chosen I will definitely rethink frequenting Minneapolis and chose areas around the Twin Cities that I feel safe and protected. I believe that Mpls City Council has overstepped there boundaries where our safety is concerned. This is not the answer to Minneapolis' issues!

7/2/2020 8:07:13 PM

This is a really bad solution and almost comically silly. We need to DEFUND and move resources to crime prevention, affordable housing, substance abuse, etc but we still need a police force. We also need to demilitarize our police (hey! Use \$ from the proceeds to spend elsewhere, there's an idea).

This feels like a political stunt for council members to pass the blame on to voters who won't want to take such drastic measures.

There are enough reforms out there that we must push forward to reform the MPD (see 77 CUABP recommendations). Shrink their budget until we get real systemic change, but abolishing it isn't worth the political capital nor is it a good idea.

Spend your time reducing their budget and investing in our community - not this silly political stunt please.

7/2/2020 8:15:42 PM

Removal of the Minneapolis Police Department would be an error of historical proportion. In the absence of law, and those to uphold it, corruption, chaos, and crime will thrive. Organized crime will have the potential and incentive to fill the void that would be created.

I have grown up attending a church in Minneapolis and am thankful for our excellent Minneapolis Police. I am a soon to be college graduate with a degree in Accounting. I was planning to work in Minneapolis upon graduation but if this were to pass and the Minneapolis Police Department was no more, I will not be pursuing employment in this city. I would expect many graduates to feel similarly and that many businesses would leave Minneapolis. This would greatly damage the economy of this great city.

As City Council members, I ask you to reflect and consider the hard work and sacrifice our Minneapolis Police Department has done to provide security and safety to the public. I fear the city that believes it is above the need for a Police Department and I would avoid living in, and even visiting, such a place.

7/2/2020 8:19:25 PM

This amendment is a substantial early step that this city can take towards truly becoming the beacon of justice and opportunity that all of us Minneapolites know it can become. Specifically, the words "prioritizing a holistic, public health-oriented approach" are a marked and welcome departure in tone and focus from the sections that are proposed to be removed. Ward 11

7/2/2020 8:32:51 PM

Hello, I want to voice my support for this amendment, as it opens up a door for real change to the way the city of Minneapolis approaches public safety. Our city should be safe for everyone. I think this amendment will help. I hope it will be brought to ballot. Ward 3

7/2/2020 8:42:00 PM

This is not enough information to comment on. We have had poor experience with the Minneapolis Police. Our experience with them the past few years is one where you question if MPD cares about any residents, really. That said, I also don't trust city leaders to take violent crime seriously and Minneapolis has a terrible track record of agencies coordinating. You are proposing creating a federated department with competing priorities over a unified department with competing priorities. And last I checked people

of color also don't trust social workers. In the end, I don't care what you do as long as A) the department in charge of public safety treats people of color (and everyone, honestly), better and B) there is no corresponding increase in crime (especially violent crime and burglary/vehicle theft). In fact, I expect your new department to treat people better AND get better results than MPD in terms of a safer city for everyone. If nothing else, please tell us what specific, measurable standards you intend to evaluate the new department by before you create it, so we can follow along and hold the city accountable. Accountable for both state violence and public safety. Take this seriously. Use data. Find a way to hear regular people (especially people of color) who don't have megaphones. Their lives are at stake. You need to do things differently from how you've always done them because the city (all of it, not just MPD) have no track record of success.

7/2/2020 9:03:42 PM

I supposed this proposed charter amendment.

7/2/2020 9:09:48 PM

Please return your recommendation on the Public Safety proposal to the City Council in time for this issue to be put on the November ballot. This is a community issue that deserves to be put in the community's hands, not one that to be held up in filibuster by a small, unelected group who are not representative of the city they serve. Please try to see this from beyond your personal perspective and make a recommendation in line with the best interests of our city's most vulnerable folks. Thank you for your time. 15-year Minneapolis resident Ward 2

7/2/2020 9:17:57 PM

The proposed amendment does not require a replacement for the capabilities alluded to by the section in the current charter identifying "fire police." Therefore, a skilled resource able to provide protection or support needed by the fire department when fighting fires would no longer be required.

Note, while the current charter only provides for "fire police" or similar, that seems inadequate and so suggest adjusting language to require the new department's Director to consult with the Fire Chief to define the nature of resources needed and either provide them or provide them in conjunction with the Fire Department. Ward 13

7/2/2020 9:21:14 PM

This charter amendment sounds like a good idea, but, before I can support it, I need to see a more detailed plan of how it would be implemented and function, how much it would cost, and what outcomes are predicted with some sort of a timetable, backed by research. Further, I think the plan without a police presence at the start is a very bad idea. Thank you for listening. Ward 1

7/2/2020 9:22:11 PM

I support the need for change in our community - drastic change - but I do NOT support this charter amendment for two key reasons:

1) It gives the council the authority to give the police \$0 without a plan. They are basically saying "trust us" and I don't think anyone in the community should put trust in something that hasn't been presented, especially on something as critical as this and a scope of change no one on the council has experience in.

2) It's misleading (potentially intentionally misleading). It leaves the police department but allows the city council to give them \$0. This gives them the ability to abolish the police but they are saying defund. For people who don't fully read the amendment, they may think they are voting on reform based on the language so if it ends up on a ballot, it needs to be CLEAR what the amendment gives them power to do.

Overall, the City Council promised to connect with the community for a year and build a plan after announcing their original plan (also without talking to the community). I do not support the amendment. I'd be happy to vote on something when there is a plan, one that the community was a part of. Thank you.

(a) **Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.** The City Council **must** establish, maintain, adequately fund, and consistently engage the public about a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention, which will have responsibility for public safety services prioritizing a holistic, public health-oriented approach.

(1) **Director of Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department.** The Mayor nominates and the City Council appoints a director of the department of community safety and violence prevention under section 8.4(b). Individuals eligible to be appointed as director will have non-law enforcement experience in community safety services, including but not limited to public health and/or restorative justice approaches.

(b) **Division of Protective Law Enforcement Services.** The Council **may** maintain a division of protective law enforcement services, composed of licensed Minnesota Peace Officers, subject to the supervision of the department of community safety and violence prevention.

(1) **Director of Protective Law Enforcement Services.** The director of the Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department shall appoint the director of the Division of Protective Law Enforcement Services, subject to confirmation by official act of the City Council and Mayor.

7/2/2020 9:22:49 PM

Worker's unions have no place in the public sector. They inherently go against public interest, that is why they are created. If we really want to give power to the people, to freely choose what type of policing they want for their community, we need to break down the barriers. We need more competition for the job. I would even suggest giving bonuses for highly skilled officers, as long as it is the people who get to define "highly skilled", not the union. The people speak by electing the mayor, who hires the police chief, who should be setting the standards. If officers don't like it, they can get a job somewhere else. That better ensures the officers and the public have the same vision for policing. And since we are a democracy that should make the majority of people happy. Ward 3

7/2/2020 9:28:44 PM

No current or past mpd officers should be a part of the new department. And the agents of the new department should not bring guns or less lethal weapons, or expect to use force , for a majority of incidents.

7/2/2020 9:32:44 PM

I would like to see a specific replacement plan first before I'm asked to vote on the charter. They could spend a year developing a proposal, then ask the public to vote on it. Ward 13

7/2/2020 9:37:33 PM

Dear Commissioners, I am writing to you because I do not support the City Council's proposal to amend the Charter to create a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention and disband the Minneapolis Police Department as a chartered city department.

I have been a homeowner in North Loop for the last twenty years. I love Minneapolis with its rich history and all of the amenities that it has to offer. I am concerned that the downtown area is becoming increasingly unsafe and that the disbanding of the Minneapolis Police Department would only exacerbate this problem. I am concerned that residents and retailers and small businesses and corporations will leave downtown in greater numbers if this trend in decreased safety should continue. I am also concerned that tourists and local visitors will not come into the city for entertainment and leisure if they feel that it is unsafe for them to do so.

I believe that the City Council's proposal to disband the Minneapolis Police Department, rather than to focus on its reform, is emotional and reactive rather than thoughtful and deliberate. Their proposal lacks the clarity and specificity one would expect to see when addressing a matter of such importance. I understand from the City Council's proposal that they wish to remove Order as an element of the criminal justice system but I cannot discern how they propose to uphold Law in the absence of Order.

I do not support this amendment of the City Charter and do not believe that the proposal is sufficiently well-defined to belong on the ballot in November. Ward 3

7/2/2020 9:47:29 PM

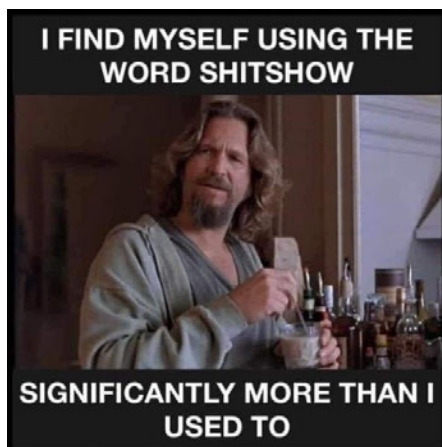
Hold the police accountable, and stop settling cop abuses out of court.

7/2/2020 9:47:51 PM

I am opposed to the amendment to the charter The city council has presented at this time. I'm 100% in favor in making changes to our police department in light of recent events and other events that have come to light, but in no way will I support getting rid of our police department. I've read through the amendment and not only does it lack any type of solid plan, the language would allow our city not to fund any type of police force. Let's spend the next year talking as a community and figure out what actually needs to happen as opposed to forcing something though. Thank you for your time.

7/2/2020 10:06:29 PM

Are you fucking STUPID?



Please see attached letter Re: Objections to Proposed Community Safety and Violence Prevention Amendment. Ward 7

Minneapolis Charter Commission
c/o Minneapolis City Clerk's Office
350 S. 5th St., Room 304
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Re: Objections to Proposed Community Safety and Violence Prevention Charter Amendment

Dear Charter Commissioners:

I write today in opposition to the proposed Community Safety and Violence Prevention Amendment ("Amendment") to the Minneapolis City Charter ("Charter"). I have resided in Minneapolis for 46 years and have practiced law in downtown Minneapolis that entire time. This written opposition is submitted on my own behalf and is not submitted on behalf of, and is not intended to represent the position of, my law firm, any organization on whose board of directors I serve (including but not limited to the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota), or any other person or entity.

While I have long been convinced that systemic racism is a serious problem in Minneapolis that needs to be addressed urgently, and while I also am convinced that the Minneapolis Police Department ("MPD") is in serious need of significant restructuring and repurposing, I nonetheless oppose the proposed Amendment for the reasons set forth below.

First, there has been insufficient consultation with the community, and insufficient discussion within the community, about what a restructured, repurposed and/or defunded law enforcement agency in Minneapolis should look like. While this has been a topic of discussion in certain quarters and among certain organizations, the community as a whole has not become engaged in this topic until recently. There is insufficient time between now and the November election for broad community discussions and engagement to take place in a thoughtful and respectful manner. We should not be altering the Charter, in effect our city's constitution, before the community has had a full and fair opportunity to express its views in a deliberate and considered manner on the subject at hand, and certainly not before there has been an opportunity for a thoughtful and comprehensive approach developed to address the problems. At this point in time, the City Council has not offered no plan, let alone a detailed plan, for consideration or discussion. I am unwilling to support an Amendment which gives the City Council carte blanche to deal with the problem without knowing how they plan to do so and whether or not a change in the Charter is really required in order to accomplish the goals of any plan that is adopted.

Second, as you know Minneapolis has a weak mayor system. As proposed by the City Council, the Amendment --- unsurprisingly given the source--- strips away from the Mayor one of the few powers he has under our weak mayor system, the power to control the police and supervise the chief of police. Whether or not we should continue to have a weak mayor system, and whether or not the Mayor should be weakened further as contemplated by the Amendment, is a legitimate subject for community engagement at this time. As Minneapolisians consider what changes they want in the City Charter and in the way law enforcement and other services are delivered, I hope that serious and sober consideration will be given to whether or not we should change from a weak mayor system to a different system.

Third, as noted above, under the current Charter, Section 7.3(a) provides that “The Mayor has complete power over the establishment, maintenance, and command of the police department.” Moreover, “the Mayor may make all rules and regulations and may promulgate and enforce general and special orders necessary to operating the police department.” In addition, the Mayor “may discipline or discharge any employee in the department.” In other words, the current City Charter is clear and unambiguous: The Mayor is in charge of the police department, the Mayor is accountable to all voters for the management and operations of the police department, and the buck stops with the Mayor. Under the proposed Amendment it appears that no one individual, or even group of individuals, elected by the public is in charge, no one elected official is accountable to all the voters, and there are fourteen potential elected officials --- the Mayor and the thirteen Councilmembers --- to whom the buck may nor may not be passed. The Mayor fired the four officers accused of murdering George Floyd because he had the power under the City Charter to do so. Under the Amendment, it is not apparent that anyone would have had the power to take that action. Taking these powers away from the Mayor without knowing what the alternative plan will be is inappropriate; voters should know what the alternative will be before, in essence, firing the Mayor from one of the key jobs he holds.

Fourth, the proposed Amendment creates a department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention which, according to proposed Section 7.3(a), the City Council “must establish, maintain, adequately fund, and consistently engage the public about . . .” This new department “will have responsibility for public safety services prioritizing a holistic, public health-oriented approach.” What in the world does that mean exactly? The word “holistic” is impossibly vague in this context and really gives me as a citizen no clear idea whatsoever of what this department will be doing.

Fifth, there is not a single word in the proposed Amendment about who is responsible for maintaining the department, who is responsible for commanding the department, who may make rules and regulations necessary to operating the department, or as noted above, who may discipline or discharge any employee in the department. Will the Council have these powers? Will the Mayor have these powers? Will nobody have these powers? As drafted, the Amendment would take accountability to the public away from the Mayor and give it to absolutely no one.

Sixth, at the present time there is nothing in the City Charter prescribing the qualifications that must be possessed by the head of any existing city department. Indeed, the Charter doesn’t even require the chief of police to be a licensed peace officer. Under the proposed Amendment, there will be an eligibility requirement for the Director of Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department, making that person unique among city department heads. Most strikingly, that individual must have “non-law enforcement experience in community safety services, including but not limited to public health and/or restorative justice approaches.” That person then appoints the “director of the division of law enforcement services,” if there is such a department at all, subject to confirmation by the City Council and the Mayor --- thus taking away the Mayor’s existing power to nominate a police chief for confirmation by the City Council. Putting aside whether these job qualifications are desirable or not, I do not see how it is better to have a public health physician or epidemiologist, or a practitioner of restorative justice, select the person who will be director of the division of law enforcement services --- the functional equivalent of police chief --- than it is to have the Mayor, who is accountable to every voter in the city, making that selection. This makes no sense to me, and it seems like poor public policy. Accountability is critical to the success of any effort to change law enforcement in Minneapolis. I want someone to be accountable, and the only person accountable to the entire city is the Mayor.

Seventh, Section 7.3(c) of the current Charter requires the City Council to “fund a police force of 0.0017 employees per resident.” This works out to about 731 employees at the current population level. The Charter provision does not say that all, or even any, of those employees must be licensed peace officers, though Section 7.3(a)(2) does require that “each peace officer appointed in the police department must be licensed as required by law,” but establishes no minimum number of peace officers who must be employed. The use of the word “employees” in Section 7.3(c) means under the current Charter there can be licensed peace officers employed by the police department as well as non-licensed personnel, which in a reimagined police department might include social workers, psychologists, paramedics, or other professionals. In other words, there is more than ample room in the current Charter to “defund” the police and assign the funding now used to pay peace officers to pay other professionals if that is the direction chosen for the city. Thus, there is no need to change the Charter to accommodate some of the ideas that are being floated, but in any event there should be no change to the Charter until we know what the shape of law enforcement in the future is proposed to look like.

Eighth, if this is the structure the City Council is advocating, what is the rationale for excluding the Fire Department and the Health Department from the Department of Community Safety? They would seem to fit within the rubric of “community safety.” If this is the structure the Council wants, logic suggests that it should fold those departments into the new department, especially given that one of the qualifications for being director of the new department is a background in public health. Please understand that I am not advocating for this outcome, as I think the whole proposal is a bad idea; but I am trying to point out that there is a logical inconsistency to this structure which is reflective of the fact that the entire scheme has not been well thought out and suffers from lack of opportunity for broad community engagement and discussion.

Finally, there are serious questions about whether this Amendment violates the Minnesota Constitution. Unlike the federal constitution, the Minnesota Constitution has an explicit separation of powers provision. Article III, Section 1 provides that “The powers of government shall be divided into three distinct departments: legislative, executive and judicial. No person or persons belong to or constituting one of these departments shall exercise any of the powers properly belonging to either of the others except in the instances expressly provided in this constitution.” The word “government” in this constitutional provision is not specific to state government, and therefore can fairly be interpreted to be applicable to municipal government. Thus, the Mayor (executive) cannot exercise the powers of the City Council (legislative) and the City Council (legislative) cannot exercise the powers of the Mayor (executive). In the proposed Amendment it is unclear whether the Council, the Mayor, or both, will have supervisory power over the newly created department, but since the department is an executive function the Council cannot constitutionally supervise that department. Because of the vagueness of the Amendment, it will be subject to serious challenge for being constitutionally infirm.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Very truly yours

7/2/2020 10:10:24 PM

Like in any profession, there are people that are good at their job and those that are not. I don't know if it's the training, the police culture, the rules that govern what the police can or can not do, or racism making its way into a public service that is supposed to protect and serve all our friends and neighbors, but something is broken. For some people it has been deadly. I think we need to really look and listen to the facts and first hand experiences of those that do not feel safe with police or that have been abused by police, and come up with a different solution to community safety and violence prevention. I think

we do need a department of some sort of licensed peace officers to handle violent crimes, but I think there needs to be some creative thinking done to create other responses to non-violent community problems.

7/2/2020 10:11:59 PM

I live in Minneapolis and I am definitely in support of radical change to the existing police department. HOWEVER I also think it's extremely important to ensure that COMMUNITY INPUT is being gathered and taken into account. What does "remove" mean? What would the new body do? How would we ensure that the new group does not become another tool of the racist system, but is built on input from BIPOC residents?

It's important to take action. BUT, it's also important to not rush and take the wrong action because you would rather do something now than wait to ensure it will best serve the community.

I would like to see more community focus groups and listening sessions to ensure that as many average Minneapolitans of color have an opportunity not just to vote yes or no on a proposal that's already been written up, but to actually participate in the discussion and problem solving to figure out how to move forward. What do residents in our historically black and POC neighborhoods want? What does Chief Rondo want?

Obviously not everyone will agree on the best way forward, but I firmly believe everyone should have a chance to co-create the plan rather than just rubber stamping what's already been decided.

I appreciate your commitment to take action, and I urge you to ensure the groundwork laid for these changes is solid, explicitly structured to anti-racism, and rooted in our communities of color. Whittier

7/2/2020 10:14:10 PM

Hello! I previously submitted comments for this amendment to go forward. The more I continue to learn, the more concerned I become about the speed that this is progressing and what I have heard is a relative lack of input coming from Black communities, that are most vulnerable to these changes. I truly hope that our city council will continue to look to Black leaders in the community that have been speaking up on these matters. I am also very interested in Communities United Against Police Brutality's 44 recommendations for police reform. I understand some feel that reform hasn't worked. But I understand that many of these reform proposals have not even been tried. Might there be a more gradual way toward this transition that ensures the safety of our most vulnerable neighborhoods? Thank you! Ward 8

7/2/2020 10:15:34 PM

First of all, I appreciate and applaud my city council for trying to take action against a long-time broken system. I need more information before I can decide on supporting this proposed department change or not. How, exactly, will the CSVP dept increase safety and order for our city? For everyone on our city? I'm in support of reallocating funds currently spent on the police department into mental health and other crisis-intervention programs. But abolishing the police department as a whole is scary. There are too many guns out there. There are too many violent and hateful people out there, many of whom own many of those guns. For instance, how will a community safety and violence prevention department thwart and prevent white supremacists from going around attacking, maiming, and killing Black and Brown people? How will this proposed department prevent increased vigilantism in the wake of the elimination of a police department? Who will make up this CSVP department and how will they be

trained? Will this be a phasing in transition or a cut-and-replace approach? I think we need more information on what this CSVP dept actually is, who will make it up, and how it will work.

Targeting better training for "peace officers", increased funding for mental health intervention (since many 911 calls involve people with mental illness), a climate of accountability instead of untouchability is needed. Thank you for your attention.

7/2/2020 10:19:45 PM

Really please stop. You are all incapable of making reasonable change. What a mess the city council has created. Please please stop making ridiculous propositions without a plan. Stop pandering to voters. Your group is embarrassing and making our struggling city worse. Ward 11

7/2/2020 10:20:21 PM

What the city council is doing is despicable. Their stance is NOT the people's, it's the voice of a small few. They have weakened the public's view of the police as a generally GOOD authority that keeps law and order and empowered the criminals and law breakers at the expense of safety in our neighborhoods. Our safety and the safety of our kids are at stake! This will only lead to worse neighborhoods and higher crime in the areas that need help the most! They are blind guides! I could go on and on, but my fear is they aren't listening anyway... Ward 3

7/2/2020 10:25:08 PM

Forgot to mention in my last comment that, we elected you all and trusted you to represent our city. The trust that was placed in you has quickly diminished now that our safety appears to be of no concern to your "council". It is very upsetting you would even think of doing something as drastic and thoughtless as "abolish the police" in a huge city like Minneapolis. The only ones who truly support that idea, and I mean TRULY, are The criminals. Minneapolis will be a devil's playground if this dangerous move takes place of removing police. It was the biggest mistake ever made in our history in this city that you so immaturely announced this idea. I am deeply hurt and so is a lot of the rest of us who live here. I hope you will make this right.

7/2/2020 10:34:38 PM

I do not agree with abolishing the police. We still need police to solve murders, and crimes that are very serious. There should be a reform of the PD BUT NOT ABOLISHMENT!

7/2/2020 10:39:47 PM

As a resident of Mpls for 44 years, I feel it necessary to voice my objection to the amendment to abolish the Mpls Police Dept. I definitely feel like defunding and reform is necessary but not abolish. Get rid of the bad apples, Reallocate money to the community but we cannot do away with the police all together. Shame on the city council for not partnering with the community before making such a bold statement.

7/2/2020 10:40:27 PM

In specific response to the proposal, I list my immediate concerns:

- The Director of Law Enforcement Services Division should be publicly elected (by ranked choice or approval voting). I am not opposed to educational and career history requirements for nomination.

- Despite my enormous gratitude for this unprecedented action taken by the council, I am concerned that the council and/or other committees may be excessively assigned with oversight and decision making.

- I expect that the proposed Division will require leadership willing to make bold choices and statements which may not be immediately popular, and this need is more easily met by a sole elected official. I fear that common downsides of design-by-committee processes will hinder progress and feed into public perception of an incompetent bureaucracy. I prefer an elected Director in order to preserve the people's say in the direction of the Division while preventing the potential hindrance of clashes between elected representatives, e.g. the city council and the mayor.

In general response to the proposal and the concepts and events that led to its making:

I fully support a phased abolition of the police department concurrent with the establishment of a public institution that is wholly centered around the task of ensuring the safety of human beings in the city, a task I believe is in opposition to criminalizing the maximum possible number of residents, and extracting funds from the poorest segments of the community. This task is also in opposition with the use of deadly, and often "less-than-lethal" force. This task is in opposition with the training, culture, and history that the current department has been steeped in from top to bottom, and thus starting over is the most practical solution, not the most radical.

Also, I have absolutely no concerns about taxpayer expense, other than limiting backlash from some of the politically powerful, as I know that my personal expenses in trying to help limit the harm of the MPD have already far exceeded any tax increase I might incur. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

7/2/2020 10:42:07 PM

The Minneapolis City Councils proposed dismantling of the MPD frightens me. It seems a majority of us living in the city of Minneapolis agree that real police reform is a must. However the City Council's answer to reform, the dismantling of the MPD, is a display of their inexperience.

7/2/2020 10:48:11 PM

I am deeply concerned that the city council is moving ahead with needed structural changes in the police department much too quickly without the input of the public. The public must provide input before a charter amendment is voted on with only the city council's input. This process must be slowed down before a charter amendment is to be voted upon. This issue has too many deep ramifications for all Minneapolis citizens and businesses to be pushed through without thoughtful and broad discussions by means of a methodical process over a number of months. I urge that the charter amendment not be voted upon in the November 2020 elections. I do agree that policing must change in Minneapolis but disagree with the process to get to that place as presently proposed by the city council. Ward 10

7/2/2020 10:54:57 PM

I am not a resident of Minneapolis, but I'm a season ticket holder to both the Vikings and Twins and I will cancel both of them if I cannot safely visit Minneapolis. You are going to lose millions of dollars of tourism business every year if you do not maintain enough police officers to make people feel safe. They already cannot respond to all the 911 calls because they are understaffed. All the negative rhetoric is only making it worse. All people who live in and visit Minneapolis deserve to feel safe while they are there. Yes, an overhaul of the police department would be okay, but no, dismantling the police department and replacing them with purple unicorns is not okay.

7/2/2020 11:00:09 PM

Hell no! Don't abolish the police. Listen to the black women leaders of the community. Support our excellent police chief. Let him clean house. Reform don't abolish. Thanks!

7/2/2020 11:02:30 PM

As a resident of Northeast Minneapolis, I strongly support the creation of the new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department, as well as the removal of the Minneapolis Police Department from the city charter. The people of Minneapolis deserve an organized, thoughtfully designed safety infrastructure that prioritizes the needs of all people to be safe, healthy and well. As a city, we have an opportunity to be at the forefront of a national sea change in public safety. I know and love this city and my neighbors, and I know we can do more and do so much better to keep one another safe, whatever the future holds for us.

With gratitude to the Black and Brown organizers who have led us to this historic moment, I strongly support the Minneapolis City Council's work dismantling the MPD and re-envisioning public safety. Thank you for your work. Ward 1

7/2/2020 11:07:56 PM

The people of Minneapolis deserve a vote on the proposed amendment this November. Ward 3

7/2/2020 11:11:21 PM

From § 7.3(b): "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 appears to have the potential to be misinterpreted as a mandate to recreate MPD (albeit with a different name), however the following replacement may assist in closing loopholes regarding this potential misstep.

"The Council may maintain a division of law enforcement services, composed of commonly-licensed peace officers with diverse and credentialed expertise, which respond to incident(s) such that the nature or category of said incident(s) is(are) in accordance with the credentialed expertise of responding officers. Such a division shall be made subject to the supervision, investigation, improvement, and management of the department of community safety and violence prevention".

I would also advise that Commissioners include binding quotas in associated amendments, detailing a mandatory percentage floor (60-90%) of Community Safety and Violence Prevention as well as Law Enforcement Services employees that are current Minneapolis residents. Both entities should affirmatively prioritize and incentivize the hiring of additional current Minneapolis residents, and refrain from hiring current MPD officers with any history of complaints or who were hired prior to 2010.

Doing so is necessary not only to improve community trust in law enforcement, but to ensure that future officers value, respect, and identify with the communities they serve.

7/2/2020 11:27:17 PM

Keep the Minneapolis Police Dept The Dept needs Good Administration with back bone that can Lead it.

The public dose not respect the PD The Mayor cannot continue to bad mouth the PD and expect People listen and respect the officers

7/2/2020 11:27:26 PM

While I don't reside directly in the city, I frequently patronize Minneapolis businesses. The insanity I watched over the last month between the riots and then the city council insisting the police department be defunded is enough for me to reconsider my safety when in your city. While there may need to be reform in the police department regarding police brutality, throwing the baby out with the dirty bath water typically doesn't work out too well. The actual data on police interactions and race does not support the claims of the city council. The people who will end up hurt most are those who are vulnerable who reside in the city, young women, the elderly, and anyone else who is weak and vulnerable to predators. I cannot support disbanding or defending the police in any way. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/2/2020 11:37:37 PM

While I don't live in Minneapolis, I do live in a nearby city and my family and I drive into Minneapolis frequently for shopping, dining and other types of recreation. I do NOT support removing the Police Department from the City Charter, dismantling the police department or defunding the police department. If Minneapolis does not maintain a police department, we will no longer feel safe visiting the city, would not shop there, go to restaurants there, and would not drive to Minneapolis for things like watching sporting events and concerts. I believe removing the police department would hurt all of the businesses in Minneapolis and would negatively impact the property values of homes both in Minneapolis and in the surrounding areas. I will not support any of our elected officials that support dismantling or defunding the police. I find it hard to believe that the Minneapolis City Council is even considering removing the police department. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/2/2020 11:39:08 PM

As a 25 year resident of North Minneapolis who lives, works, plays, shops and worships in the North Minneapolis community AND is a parent of two African American males, I oppose the proposed amendment to "remove the Police Department and establish a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department" in the City of Minneapolis.

I absolutely support the deep and systemic REFORM of the Minneapolis Police Department to eradicate the historic philosophy, policies and practices of white supremacy, racism and police brutality that have disproportionately impacted Black and Brown people in Minneapolis. We should not have to live in fear of the police. My family and I want to live in a city that is safe, with police who live out their charge to "protect and serve." This is our right.

I believe there is a place for alternative approaches that appropriately respond to the myriad mental health and other needs that may not require a police response. However, I do not believe that dismantling the entire department is the way to meet that need. A "both/and" approach is most appropriate during this historic moment in our community and in response to the level of violence and unrest that is we are in the midst of. The call to "defund the police" is ill-timed, irresponsible and void of community input and a detailed strategy. A more thoughtful approach to reforming the Police Department is needed (informed by people who live in North Minneapolis) to create the right kind of a responsive police presence that protects and not harms its citizens and non-citizens alike. Chief Medaria Arradondo, Minneapolis' first African American Police Chief needs the support of the City Council and the community to bring change to the department. He needs the head of the Police Union to resign or be removed so that new leadership committed to humane and ethical community policing can emerge to create a new culture in the Minneapolis Police Department.

As I write this I nightly hear bullets flying across the N. Minneapolis community, and I fear for my sons, my family and all of us who live here. We need the police to come and do their jobs. I urge the Commission to decline the request of the Minneapolis City Council to place this question on the ballot this November.

7/2/2020 11:39:15 PM

Do not disband the police department. I have a family and a young child. I live in the Corcoran neighborhood right between the George Floyd memorial and the former 3rd precinct. Day 1 of the protest the police presence was heavy. After that they vanished and my neighborhood burned. This can never happen again. The city council has gone too far and need to be stopped immediately. The police are our only line of defense against violent criminals and are often the first to respond to emergencies. We need our police. Police reform is acceptable but changing or replacing the current system is extremely negligent, we will not tolerate it and the city of Minneapolis will be on the hook for victims of crimes like the child who was raped in the Powderhorn Park homeless camp. Thank you A concerned lifelong resident

7/3/2020 12:11:22 AM

I think this would be an amazing idea! As a person of color the police does not make me feel safe and normally are used by racists to harass people of color. The police department has become more of a symbol of fear, control and hate in our community. A community of safety & violence department, I believe would be the best idea to enforce safety for all. As I hope this department comes to people who are truly in need rather than harassing people who are taking a walk in their own neighborhood. I want to feel safe and I believe replacing the police with this department is the right move. Plus, the police department carries out violence and are not trained to diffuse a situation peacefully. Having a violence prevention department that can diffuse situations in a nonviolent manner will change the climate from a violent one to a peaceful one.

7/3/2020 12:22:45 AM

I did not feel safe when the city allowed the protest to escalate and I realized that I was on my own to defend myself/property and am I am now considering buying a gun for the first time in my 50+ years. I believe that it's obvious that crime has escalated here, in Seattle and all over the country when/where police were "instructed" to stand down. Shooting injuries and deaths are still up everywhere that this "unrest" took place. PLEASE, everyday start your meetings by counting/discussing the criminal shootings that have taking place and decide if THOSE lives really matter to the city council members and then compare/contrast those numbers to the fatal officer involved interactions. I believe that it's possible to reform and improve police departments, procedures, trainings, expectations and finally firings. Far more African/Americans are killed by criminals than by police and this will only get worse as this past month has demonstrated. Don't judge and eliminate all police (who risks their lives daily) by the action of a few. Think about the thousand/millions of police interactions with criminals and citizens alike and yet we only hear about the few with bad/tragic outcomes. City money should NOT be paying for private security services for the same council members that are completely disregarding public safety. Security is either good for all citizens or for none at all. Gun and ammo purchases are up because people no longer feel safe and soon many of our "normal" break ins will also end up with fatal gunshot wounds. The lawlessness that was permitted has also caused a HUGE economic toll; fire, lost business, unemployment, property damage, housing, increased insurance rates (?) and the city leaders are largely responsible for this destruction due to statements made early that emboldened the rioters as well as their slow response for enforcement action and yet the council members continues to advertise to these

criminals that their crimes will be tolerated (even embraced) over everyone else's safety. What will the city' and ultimately it's finances look like when businesses continue to flee and the law abiding citizens move out of the city? Will tourists ever see the city as a safe place to visit/spend their money? Currently, I'm ashamed (and afraid) to live in this city. Please reconsider defunding the police. Ward 8

7/3/2020 12:37:59 AM

A well thought out reform is needed rather than abolishing the police. I do not support this amendment.

7/3/2020 12:43:40 AM

What the hell? How could you even consider defunding the police? Can you even imagine the crime rate? You're bending over backward to give carte blanche to all of the thieves, murderers and rapists. Oh let's not forget vandals! The leader of the BLM said n New York has said,"If we don't get what we want we are going to burn down the system". WTF!! I saw that video, but I also read that he said, "What ya want, dead cops! When to you want.em? Right now!". Tell me Minneapolis City Council:. Does this warm you up to their cause? It has the opposite effect on me. This has nothing to do with BLM. They have criminal minds.and you want.to turn the country over to them. I am talking about the thieves, vandals, murderers, etc..

7/3/2020 1:54:19 AM

is the city clownsil happy now? all of this violence is directly their fault. blood is on all of your hands. every single one of them need to resign and stop wasting our tax dollars so we the residents who pay your salary can feel safe again. shame on all of you.

7/3/2020 3:20:06 AM

You people are nuts if you think anyone will be safe without police, if you do abolish the police I will be moving out of Mpls.

7/3/2020 6:41:43 AM

I had weighed in previously in support of the amendment—and I think big changes are needed. What I forgot to say is that I feel it's key for Black leaders to be at the front of this moving forward. I don't know what it's like to walk in their shoes so my opinion doesn't have the same weight. I hope first and foremost MPLS leaders are working with the people most impacted by police brutality and the system of mass incarceration.

7/3/2020 6:46:46 AM

I fully support the defunding and abolishment of the police and see this as the only step. As a resident Of south Minneapolis I have seen how they have abandoned or terrorized our neighborhood. With all this said, while I support this I also want to see the plans of how we are going to build up safety and violence protection group. Thank you for all you are doing.

7/3/2020 7:15:26 AM

Why in the world would you like no police would ever be a good ideal.. I'm thinking you dont really with the fact City Council members have to have private security to keep them safe.. Is that not hypocrisy!

Shooting are up , crime is up , murders are up and you bright ones want to dismantle the police dept.

I know people and businesses owners of Minneapolis and they are not for this and will fight it tooth and nail some of them have lost there businesses due to the fact of no action being taken on the part of the Mayor and Governor Walz shameful...

7/3/2020 7:17:25 AM

Please hold public hearing and make sure you are getting community input from Black residents and many of the groups who have been fighting for this for many years. This process cannot be rushed. It must be well-researched and done in collaboration with many groups. Not exhaustive but some groups that must be consulted are Black Lives Matter Minneapolis, Racial Justice Network, Twin Cities Coalition for Justice for Jamar, Communities United Against Police Brutality, and CAIR. We must take the time to do this well and make sure it is what the community wants and needs, especially those who will be most impacted by it.

7/3/2020 7:33:15 AM

It's premature to change the charter. I have confidence in the police chief. The police union is the problem. Just change that right now! Ward 7

7/3/2020 7:38:08 AM

I support amendment of the charter to include a Community led alternative to traditional policing. For too long, BIPOC residents of Minneapolis have been mistreated by the police. I support a model similar to the one used in Camden, NJ which reduced violent crime. I support residency requirements for Minneapolis Police officers and believe they should be living in the communities they serve. Ward 1

7/3/2020 7:49:00 AM

After reading the proposed charter, I am concerned by a few things. 1) the information on the proposed new charter department is extremely vague and I do not understand who will be a part of this new department and what their role will be. 2) I am concerned that there is no term limit for the director of this new department. 3) I am also very concerned that the director will not have law enforcement experience. 4) I still do not approve of the move to remove the Police Department as a charter department and as our main law enforcement/peacekeeping department.

7/3/2020 7:53:09 AM

After review of our current city's charter and the proposed changes adopted by our current city council, I am committed to voting against your recommendation should this vote be put to the ballot.

The reforms we are all seeking in how we are policed can be achieved without rearranging the structure of our city's governing documents. And even if it does require us to change our charter, I would expect to be consulted prior to thrusting your immediate reaction to a situation down my throat without proper research and proposal.

I am not alone, I've spoken with my neighbors. We support the city collective in changing how law enforcement interacts with our community. We do not support your move to alter the city's charter, the core of how we govern and are governed, without proper consultation with your constituents. Too fast, city council members, too fast. Ward 5

7/3/2020 7:57:59 AM

Please don't rush this process. It needs to be well-informed and well-thought out. Please get input from community members that this will have a huge impact on! LISTEN to them and HEAR them, many of them, in intimate discussions, before you push a plan through that will impact them.

7/3/2020 8:13:08 AM

This proposal is not the product of thoughtful, strategic planning. It's the knee jerk, politically motivated response of the city council seeking an immediate solution to quell citywide unrest. As a downtown resident I've grown tired of police not being staffed to a level where 911 calls can't be answered. Performance of police is being mitigated by certain council members who cherry-pick issues that resonate with constituents but don't bring about meaningful change. Instead of advocating for defunding the police, the council could be looking at how they can minimize their individual agendas and work together to accomplish change: (1) assessing the strengths of MPD based on the value added to citizens; (2) identifying internal MPD leaders who can be tapped to implement new initiatives that address institutionalized racism and practices; (3) Develop positive relationships with rank and file officers to nurture the concept of support while minimizing the role of the union as the only outlet that officers have in addressing issues; (4) as a governing public body, the council should enter the process of formal strategic planning on policing which as a transparent activity illustrates the areas of agreement among council members which can be used as the foundation for change; (5) in all activities the council should demonstrate a committed allegiance To "anti-racism" as its guiding principle.

7/3/2020 8:31:20 AM

Let's see removal of the police department would make crime go down..... The police department is managed by the police chief which is managed by the city council, seems to me that you folks should be held accountable!!

You failed to let the police get the protest under control and gave them no direction. Now the criminals have the run of the city, shootings every day! I was recently in the 94 and Broadway area for business and several shootings in broad daylight!

Your failed actions have hurt the economy and safety of the citizens.

I will not be going downtown to support your business or restaurants as I am concerned with my family's safety!!

You folks should be held accountable for your lack of management and removed from office!!

I will be forwarding a copy of this to the Minneapolis business and restaurant associations.

7/3/2020 8:54:04 AM

Dear People - Please let the residents of Minneapolis have the opportunity to vote on the proposed charter amendment by expediting the approval of Charter Amendment language.

There have been good efforts to address the issue of lives of color being unfairly targeted by the Minneapolis Police; brutal mistreatment and death persist unabated. Nothing could be clearer when watching a man's life taken when he was clearly no threat. George Floyd's death leaves us no excuses, no avenue to pretend that there is not a problem.

Watching to film of the protests, it is clear the Police Department is not under the control of any elected official, or official chain of command.

Our system is broken and needs to go through a meaningful community process to fully re-imagine an effective, safe, just, fair, honorable, helpful system of public safety in Minneapolis.

The barrier to oversight of the Police Department by elected officials needs to be removed from the Charter. Thank you.

7/3/2020 8:56:48 AM

Good afternoon, I am a Minneapolis resident writing to voice support of the "Establishing Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department" amendment being on the ballot in November. This process is not moving "too fast"; it is long overdue. We want the opportunity to vote to defund the police in November. Please expedite this process so that you can complete your review by August 21st. Ward 10

7/3/2020 8:59:46 AM

A great first step! Ward 10

7/3/2020 9:06:15 AM

GREAT JOB!!!!!!

7/3/2020 9:20:03 AM

I used a fake name because I do not have a high degree of trust in the leadership of Minneapolis. I have lived in Minneapolis for years and I own a home in the city. I want a more just, diverse and equal city free from the terrors of socioeconomic pain.

Here's what I've seen: open drug deals, someone murdered in broad daylight, numerous cars being broken into and an epidemic of citizen on citizen violence and abuse. This trauma has spread like fire across the people themselves. The police are responsible for managing the outcomes of really bad situations and they need to improve; however, City Council and the Mayor own a huge part of this fuck up. For years, they've pushed a progressive agenda that has increased home pricing (new energy standards, super restrictive land lord laws, absolutely awful ADU and tiny home restrictions) which has created an economic Grand Canyon between the haves and the have nots. It's been sold over the veil of "protecting the people" but it's completely pandered to the wealthy members that can afford single family housing, energy star appliances and yoga memberships.

The police need reform but it's fucking stupid to defund the police when they are stretched so thin. I called the police to report a domestic violence situation (incredibly scary and immediate danger to an individual). They showed up 3 fucking hours later, knocked on the door and left after 15 minutes. If they arrived earlier, when the abuse was in daylight, maybe someone would of been helped. Who has more power over the economic and socioeconomic problems of this city - a shitty cop union or the thousands of political leaders and city administrators that have done nothing to address the systemic problems. They sit on the sidelines, create shitty outcomes for the police and then throw the police under the bus when shit gets bad.

What about the other 80 percent of our city budget that has proved incredibly ineffective at reducing crime, increasing opportunities and reducing the divide? It's a fucking joke and I firmly disapprove of this city continuing to enable crime because of a fear of cracking down. We need firm leadership and we have to look at the entire budget to address these systemic divides. The City Council is throwing a beaten down group of cops (who have a shitty union) under the fucking bus. Why can't we use this tragedy to improve the safety of our city. It'll take fucking years for proactive programs to reduce crime -

it's going to take generations to heal and that's incredibly sad. This failure is equal parts police and city leadership. They all need defunding and reform - it's a fucking joke.

Hey I'm super glad the Vikings and Twins got those stadiums. And super grateful for the continued NIMBY pandering that has increased my homes value. And the huge tax benefits paid to Hq corps! With a little more work, the city will defund the police, continue pandering to the wealthy and let the poor neighborhoods most at risk continue to feel pain.

I have no solutions but I am confident the poorest neighborhoods will get the short end of this stick. Why can't we have a strong police force that takes care of the people? Brings protection from the trauma that is so rampant? Let's build towards that equal or just goal. It's not only a police union - it's all the leaders in Minneapolis that have created this mess. Look inside, listen to both sides and come up with something that works. Do not defund the police when there is this much pain.

7/3/2020 9:20:07 AM

Please let residents of Minneapolis have the opportunity to vote on the future of our public safety system.

We are facing a true opportunity to reform the way public safety works and to dismantle some of the systemic racism built-in to the way policing is done in our city.

Everyone, regardless of the color of their skin or where they were born, deserves to feel safe and to believe that if there is trouble, help is available.

We need to rethink and rework the whole system. The only way to do that is to amend the city charter.

Please allow the people to agree (or disagree) with that first step. Ward 3

7/3/2020 9:32:43 AM

City Council of Minneapolis,

I'm writing you today to make sure your aware of my wishes that I do not want the Mpls Police Department to be Defunded. I have lived in Minnesota for my entire life, I call MN home and I want it to stay as my home.

Over 1600 shootings (as of June 22) since the death of George Floyd, Homicides in Minneapolis are close to double compared to last year, other violent crimes are up as well, across the river in St. Paul where homicides have increased 130%, I could go on but I promised myself to keep this short. I would ask given this information and other facts why would you remove resources to keep our society safe?

As elected officials, you are in a place to do some great work! Reform, better trained, better standards need to be established and implemented, everyone agrees. Please do that, but as leaders of this great community, please reach out and listen to the people of Minneapolis and the state. I would suggest hiring a independent, non-partisan research firm to ask the people for what we, the people want, non-emotional.

The City councils job is to enact local laws and public policies that strengthen and preserve the health, safety, and welfare of the community. Please do your job.

7/3/2020 9:35:02 AM

I support the amendment of the city charter and the creation of a department of public health and safety, with all the durable structure and pro-active anti-racism protection that can be built into it. I am a retired MPLS public school teacher with a deep desire to see the children I taught and my grandkids grow up in a healthy Minneapolis where the public money is used to ameliorate and heal the underlying foundation of racism that has damaged the city.

I have done a lot of reading and studying along with my church community: EPPN/ECMN, NAACP, SURJ, ACLU, ISAIAH. Action alerts, community action and development training. Ward 11

7/3/2020 9:42:52 AM

Something with such complexity and far reaching consequences should not be done in such a hasty manner. It requires time for scrutiny, broad community input, and consultation with experts and community leaders. Without this kind of due diligence in place, this amendment appears performative rather than a viable step toward a solution.

7/3/2020 9:53:47 AM

I am wondering what the transition plan is? How will we move from having a police department to solely a community safety and violence prevention department? It is not clear from the information provided if this department will take on all of the tasks of the former department and have the power to arrest those charged with crimes? Who will investigate violent crimes, sexual assaults, and robberies? I think you will need to provide a lot more information to the public in order for us to make an informed decision on the ballot.

Another suggestion I have is to follow 8 Can't Wait by Campaign Zero, an evidence based source for steps forward in police reform. It suggests steps that should be taken in the short term while in the process of reforming and or defunding a police department. This site is all research based with no competing interests. Ward 13

7/3/2020 10:00:56 AM

While I am concerned about police behavior reform I am more concerned about gun violence, drug trafficking, and other egregious behaviors which are negative and violent in the city of Minneapolis., especially on the Northside.

7/3/2020 10:15:44 AM

I support this change to the Minneapolis City Charter. I will vote for the change in November. Ward 7

7/3/2020 10:26:29 AM

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

We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police! Ward 1

7/3/2020 10:26:33 AM

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

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

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

7/3/2020 10:27:10 AM

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

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

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

7/3/2020 10:27:58 AM

Justice cannot wait for another year: let the people decide how to create safety in our communities! We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum number of police! We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want.
Ward 7

7/3/2020 10:29:27 AM

Dear Minneapolis Charter Commission, The people of Minneapolis deserve a meaningful community process to re-imagine health and safety that is not blocked by the City Charter. For years, the Charter has been a barrier to addressing the atrocities perpetrated by the Minneapolis Police Department because it restricts the city council's ability to hold MPD accountable. The Charter also restricts how the City practices public safety by requiring a minimum number of MPD officers. Neither of these barriers exist for any other City department.

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

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

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

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

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

7/3/2020 10:29:30 AM

We don't want a brutal, unaccountable police department protected in our city charter! Eliminate MPD and create a new civilian-run Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. We don't want more police in our communities! Remove the Charter requirement for the minimum # of police! We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want.
Ward 8

7/3/2020 10:30:01 AM

My reaction to the proposed amendment is favorable on many counts. However, an area that I am concerned about is the shift in power from the Mayor to the City Council in item (a). The Mayor is elected by the entire city and is accountable to them. The City Council is also elected by the entire city, but each member is elected by a small constituency and is accountable to that constituency. I wonder about the rationale for this shift of power to the Council in being in charge of the newly proposed Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department and away from the Mayor who presently oversees the Police Dept. Thank you. Ward 2

7/3/2020 10:30:19 AM

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

7/3/2020 10:31:19 AM

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

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

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

7/3/2020 10:31:24 AM

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

7/3/2020 10:31:33 AM

As you have seen, we citizens of Minneapolis not only fear the very police who are supposed to protect us, but are also angry at their complete and utter lack of accountability. The best way to resolve these issues is to remove the minimum number of police, as well as create a civilian task force to increase the transparency and honesty of the police department. Allow us to make the change we want to see.

Ward 2

7/3/2020 10:32:58 AM

Changing the charter is an essential step toward promoting justice in Minneapolis. Please, please, do not let the opportunity pass by and neglect to seize this chance to create lasting change. Ward 8

7/3/2020 10:33:03 AM

My name is [REDACTED] and I live at [REDACTED] 4th St. NE. I stand with Reclaim the Block's demands that the MPD as is needs to be dismantled and replaced with a community led, non-lethal department of safety. The charter requirement for the number of police should be removed, and the citizens of Minneapolis deserve to vote on new charter amendments that call for defunding the police. It is our democratic right to decide this, no one else's. Ward 3

7/3/2020 10:36:00 AM

We deserve to be a part of the process, and justice cannot wait another year! Letting the people of Minneapolis vote on the charter respects our democratic right to determine the kind of city we want. Ward 13

7/3/2020 10:37:17 AM

Hello, My name is [REDACTED] and I've lived in the North Loop for about 10 years, condo owner for about 7 years. We need to defund MPD immediately. I am a 35 year old white male and I do not feel safe around MPD or knowing that MPD can operate with near impunity. How do people of color and other disadvantaged people feel? I can't even imagine.

MPD is entirely beyond repair and is rotten to the core. There is no amount of training or regulation that can address the core issue; MPD is a brutal and discriminating state sponsor of violence. MPD is not redeemable at this point. We need to start fresh with a new model. Ward 3

7/3/2020 10:39:23 AM

I support this amendment to the City Charter and believe it should be put on the ballot for citizens to vote on. We deserve a say in our how city is managed, and the people should decide how they want to maintain safety, whether through traditional methods of policing, which have been shown time and again to be flawed, or through a new Community Safety Violence and Prevention Department, which

will meet the many and varied safety needs of a community by, for example, providing mental health and addiction treatment and other social services in addition to community-led violence prevention.

I urge you to let the people of this city decide how we will make ourselves safe and put the proposed amendment on the ballot! Ward 1

7/3/2020 10:39:55 AM

MPD is irredeemable! Change the charter.

7/3/2020 10:40:05 AM

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

7/3/2020 10:40:14 AM

A police department that murders a person (George Floyd) and then lies about it (MPD said he died after experiencing medical distress without disclosing that an officer was kneeling on his neck for a prolonged time when he died) is incompatible with a safe and civil municipality. The proposed charter amendment address a long overdue problem by removing MPD as a chartered department. I've lived in Minneapolis since 1999. I very quickly learned that police in this city are threat to many and can't be trusted. For the more than two decades I've lived here, I haven't had a number to call in an emergency that I could trust would arrive an make the situation safer. As a result, I've never called the police. I don't want to take an action that could end up hurting or even killing someone. We need a different option. This charter amendment. Ward 1

7/3/2020 10:40:31 AM

Please incorpoate community-run public safety programs in lieu of the MPD. Involve the local communities in the process of building those programs. Additionally, remove the heavy handed regarding minimum numbers of officers. Ward 10

7/3/2020 10:42:31 AM

As someone who was born in Minneapolis, currently lives in St. Paul, but will be moving back to Minneapolis in a few months, I wholeheartedly support amending the charter. We have seen for years that the MPD doesn't "protect and serve," especially Black and Brown communities. Instead, it upholds white supremacy and uses its authority as a weapon to terrorize, hurt, and kill people. Besides the total number of people who have died at the hands of police, so many more have died because they knew the police could not or would not help them, and would instead arrest them – for drugs, underage drinking, violation of parole, or something else that should never have resulted in their punishment, let alone their death. As a survivor of sexual violence, I also feel very deeply that police and prisons do nothing to support survivors and end rape, instead perpetuating the cycles of trauma and abuse that create the conditions for sexual violence in the first place. We don't need police, but we do need investment, in education, in affordable housing, in high-quality care for children, elders, and people with disabilities, we need good-paying jobs with pensions and economic security for all, especially Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities. We could do so much good with the money that is currently being funneled into the MPD. Amend the charter! I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/3/2020 10:42:36 AM

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

7/3/2020 10:44:50 AM

I am a south Minneapolis resident and registered voter. We need to change the city charter to allow for real change in community safety. The brutal MPD should not be a protected department and we should not be required to have policing based on population. We need to drop funding the militarisation of our communities and fund a community safety and peacekeeping department and to do that we need to change the charter. This cannot wait. Thank you for allowing the community of Minneapolis to shape the future of safety and justice here. It is time to change the charter.