

6/30/2020 8:44:05 PM

Dear Chair Clegg and Commissioners:

Thank you for your service on the Charter Commission. I urge you to ensure that Minneapolis voters are afforded the opportunity to vote the proposed amendment up or down this November.

Reasonable minds may differ as to the merits of the amendment, but Minneapolis voters are perfectly capable of making up their own minds on the issue. Preventing them from doing so would undermine the democratic foundations of our city.

The fact that the entire City Council unanimously supports referring the amendment to voters should give you some reassurance that the amendment is ripe for public referendum this November.

If the Charter Commission chooses to frustrate this unanimous exercise in democratic self-governance, I believe you run the risk of fatally delegitimizing the Charter Commission in the eyes of Minneapolis voters. Each of you will be personally remembered as enablers of the pernicious social and institutional forces that led to the murder of George Floyd.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Ward 7

6/30/2020 8:44:54 PM

I am supportive of the amendment that will create a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. This department will be able to re-focus how our city approaches interactions with our citizens. Our current police department has been trained to respond to violence with violence, and unfortunately now seem to see most situations as violent. I appreciate that under the new department there will still be a police force, but one that will be answerable to a department that is focused on non-violent, community-centered dispute resolution techniques. The system we currently have does not work, and expecting to do better without implementing systemic change is unreasonable. This amendment to the Minneapolis City Charter is needed and should be supported. Thank you. Ward 8

6/30/2020 8:45:05 PM

I am totally against the public and the charter commission being rushed to judgement by the city council in an obvious power play to consolidate more power and remove the Mayor's responsibility to appoint the police chief. Bender who leads this change represents @ 4,000 people who voted for her and for Ellison it is a family affair to gain political power for the democratic party by creating an unsafe and unstable city by pitting Blacks and Whites against each other. The charter commission should take the time they need to review and communicate with the public. I am against dismantling the police department. It will only lead to more death in poorer neighborhoods and the rise of private security forces that are paid to protect the rich and politicians.

6/30/2020 8:45:33 PM

I favor reform of the police dept.

6/30/2020 8:45:48 PM

I am a resident of Robbinsdale but my front yard is the nomi parkway and I encounter mpd frequently. I wish you to defund the police and re org it with the leadership of community member and led by the current Cheif Arradondo. We need kroll to resign immediately.

I do not support the abolition of the department but a community led reorganization.

6/30/2020 8:48:00 PM

I do not agree with the proposed charter amendment. Yes, defund the MPD and share that money woth the community, with partners that are doing the work and investing in the community but do not abolish the MPD. We finally have a police chief that is working on behalf of the community and we support him. We need clean up in the MPD but not get rid of them all together!

6/30/2020 8:48:35 PM

I'm not opposed to changing the name of the police department. If the word police is the trigger word, the word that causes anxiety, fear, tear. In our African American, Native American and Asian Neighbors.

But I am opposed to removing armed officers from our community. I live in North Minneapolis, I know plenty of people who have drug dealers parked on their front lawn, whose homes are broken into weekly, who live pretty much as prisoners in their own homes. Right now police officers are doing nothing. Why, because most of the people parked on their front lawn, breaking into their homes and stealing from them are minorities. And right now the bad guys have free rein in our city. Doesn't really matter what color their skin is, it's their intent that's important. Every Police Department should have large numbers of social workers, psychologists, and people trained to diffuse situations so violence is not needed. We need to rework, rethink, restructure our Police Department and if that means removing the word police then so be it. But do not equate that with removing armed officers. I live in North Minneapolis as I said already, I'm under No Illusion that this city isn't filled with people absolutely praying that officers will no longer be armed and they will have free reign to terrorize the citizens of this city. That I do not support.

Let's restructure a police department that sends armed officers when needed. But sends officers with Community activist, social workers, therapist, hostage negotiators if needed. Not every situation needs an armed officer. The sheer volume of fireworks keeping us awake at night doesn't need an armed officer but maybe a negotiator, Maybe someone with authority to conduct an arrest, to enforce the law, but they don't have to be armed.

6/30/2020 8:50:12 PM

I highly approve of the charter change, which paves the way for a real and true reimagining of what "public safety" means in Minneapolis. Having said this, my major concern is that it won't go much beyond a name change—calling it a "Minneapolis Public Defense Team" or whatever instead of "the police" wont make much of a difference if the structure, culture, mission, tools, training, and fundamental ideology towards public safety stay the same. I applaud the city for taking what feels like the first step towards meaningful, substantive change, but I feel strongly that we need to be proactive and intentional in our mission to make sure that this first step doesn't become the last—we can't afford to spend all this political effort only to have the lasting result be all the same problems under a different banner. Thank you for taking the time to hear my comments.

6/30/2020 8:50:19 PM

I absolutely DO NOT support removing the police dept in Mpls. I have many friends and family members that live in various parts of the city. I also coached football recently at Pearl Park for 7 straight years. While I can understand people's thoughts on this issue from all angles, the ideas put forth by the council, or rather lack thereof, aren't viable.

6/30/2020 8:51:37 PM

What happened in our city the day Mr. Floyd died till now is a travesty.

Our properties, business and homes destroyed. What I personally grieve most is that we are divided and there is hate among us. I am not sure how we recover but if we are going it will happen when people stop blaming and pointing fingers.

I am an older citizen who was frightened by the violence. I could not understand how our government could watch it burn. In our present state there is no policing, or law and my neighborhood is unsafe. There is theft and gunshots and yet who is responding.

I first learned of your meeting in the park from the national mews. news. I was shocked! My first impression was the words "defund the police". Knowing that this was the chant heard at many riots, I was and currently am wondering if you realized how using those words at that time would continue to drive discord among our citizens

As community leaders you have the fiduciary responsibility to respond for the greater good , to think through the repercussions and What I witnessed is a reaction in a way that does not serve your citizens.

You have not given any indication that we are save.

It is my understanding that the council has been working solutions on police reformers for quite sometime, and I am sure that you know many caring dedicated officers whom you have let down. Not because there needs to be changes but because the light you have casted on them. You are not accepting any responsibility for your failure that is a part of this disaster.

I do believe we all need to have a system that works and that if our leaders can take some responsibility that words and tone and being savvy enough to not repeat the words shouted by protestors as they destroyed our law abiding citizens.

"Defund the police department" I hope you can come up with a better way to present your selves. I couldn't possibly be on board with you if you don't make all cops look bad and recognize that it is a broken system one that you play a part in.

6/30/2020 8:51:57 PM

While I do not live in the city of Minneapolis, I have worked in the city for over a decade. Many of those years have been in a social services organization that serves vulnerable populations.

People worry that reimagining policing would put undue pressure on mental health first responders, social workers, and case managers, putting them in defenseless positions around people who are potentially dangerous. What I would urge those people to understand is that this work is already happening. Every day. These people are already on the front lines, and they are having to work that much harder because of the actions of police officers who approach the people in the communities they serve as potential criminals first. . . who respond with weapons by default.

I have witnessed restorative justice efforts between police and the communities they have harmed. The fact that these efforts are ongoing, yet people continue to be harmed by police shows that reform is not working. We have to start over. We have to imagine community safety as a proactive rather than reactive effort--as something that heals and encourages from within rather than deters through force and fear. Let the people already doing the proactive work have the support they need to truly make positive change on a large scale. See what happens when compassion is put first.

6/30/2020 8:52:11 PM

I am not in favor of defunding or abolishing the MPD. With all the recent shootings, carjackings Mpls needs help. Schools need Resource Officers that students can relate to. I do believe ongoing training for police would be most helpful. Mayor Frey and the city council need to get on board and stand up for all the good police we do have in the city. It would be helpful to see more on the street .Instead of less police we need more or there will be an exodus out of Mpls

6/30/2020 8:52:50 PM

I do not support the defunding of the Minneapolis Police Department. I believe the department needs more officers to protect the city. More officers provided more time for community engagement!

6/30/2020 8:53:01 PM

I support this change to the charter. It is exhausting to write these endless messages supporting this transformation – it is time to unplug from this cycle of impotent reforms. Our representatives on the council hear their constituents. This is a change the people of Minneapolis support. Do not stand in the way of democracy.

6/30/2020 8:53:32 PM

I support the police,they might need more training i think you need to hire more,but they should be the best available, no quota hires . If council people Want private security, they should have to pay for it themselves. When you say and do things that upset normal people there are consequences

6/30/2020 8:54:00 PM

I am appalled by the decision of the Minneapolis City Council to go this route. I moved from to Minneapolis from the suburbs with my teenage son because we loved urban living and felt safe. While I want to see the police department reformed, I will not stay in a city that does not provide adequate police protection for its city. Minneapolis was wonderful city but now crime and violence is steadily increasing. It is complete insanity for the city council to propose this. I will be voting against this charter amendment in Nov. As well as voting against my council rep next time he is up for re-election. This move will endangers the citizens of Minneapolis as well as the economic well being of the city. I'm deeply disappointed and will do all I can to support defeating this admentment in November. I support the recalling of every single council member.

6/30/2020 8:54:16 PM

The city council has been busy designing an unfriendly climate for business in Minneapolis for years. Now in an effort to finally drive out the “holdout” law abiding citizens/businesses they've decided chaos and lawlessness should rule the city with this charter amendment. What do you think the lawless want? Less law enforcement. Ward 1

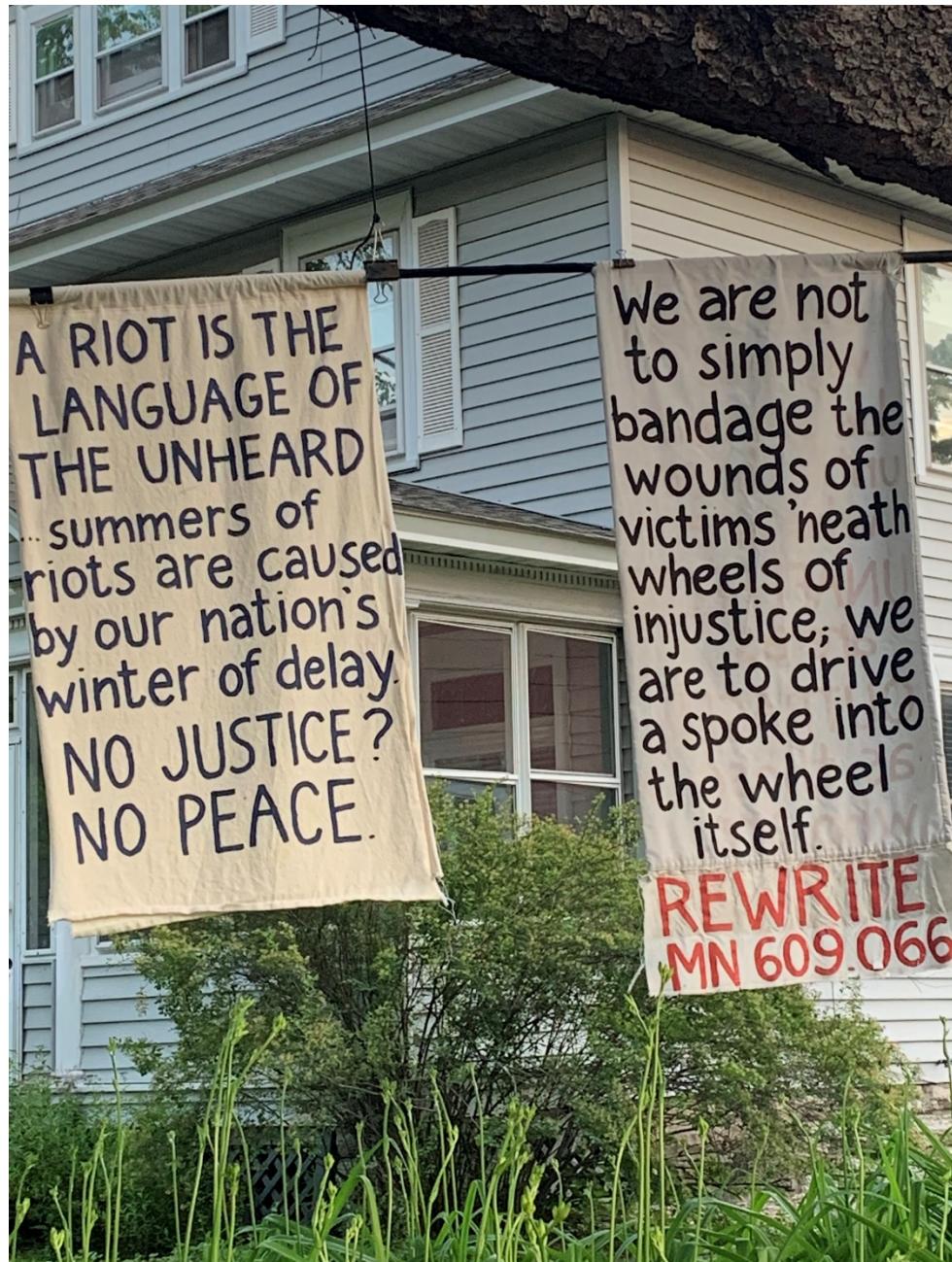
6/30/2020 8:54:31 PM

I'm in favor of the proposed amendment to remove police and establish community safety. It is imperative we reform the structure so everyone is safe. The current system is not working.

6/30/2020 8:54:42 PM

Where are these police officers going and are any going to be on this new community of safety and violence. What governs them and what role does the union have?

I really feel problem oriented policing is the best way to go due to the trauma informed practice that is needed to life people from where they are at. I lived in Minneapolis for 4 1/2 years.



6/30/2020 8:54:53 PM

I am opposed to any type of disbandment of the Police Dept. Does some serious overhaul need to be done? YES of course! City leaders, community social workers AND the police department need the time and money to do that overhaul TOGETHER!

6/30/2020 8:55:26 PM

I have been a resident in Minneapolis since I moved here in 1995. For the last 25 years I have heard talk of reforming the police department, de-escalation training for officers, accountability, etc, etc. Things have not gotten better and they seem to have gotten worse, despite having mayors who appear committed to reform and at least one police chief who is committed to reforms. Minneapolis police continue to brutalize Black and Brown residents.

Its time to disband the police. It is time to establish a Safety and Violence Prevention department that is lead by community members and not by police or former police. Please amend the charter and remove the Police Department.

6/30/2020 8:56:11 PM

Abolishing the Police Department is a bad idea. What you need to do is abolish the Police Federation and it's power. Secondly, you need to de-militarize the police and train all officers that they work for us and they are not here to traumatize the population. Here in Linden Hills we would think twice about calling them as they treat us like criminals, even before doing an investigation.

6/30/2020 8:56:43 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis I have concern for a charter change to remove the Police Department. We as a city need to have some have some law enforcement for people's safety.

If you remove the law enforcement, then we have no one that we could contact for our safety as residents. Your then leaving each of the neighborhoods to police themselves. This will create even more unrest. No one will feel safe.

Their will be individuals or groups of individuals who will rule the way they feel is just.

It will be like the city of Chicago back in the 1920's and early 1930's. The days of Al Capone.

( Example: I heard of a case of sexual abuse by someone just recently in the tent community in Powderhorn Park. The tent community is protecting the perpetrator. Their not allowing investigation into the case to be conducted. It was the Doctor at the hospital who had filed a report as to what happened to this girl.) It's now been several days since the incident.

So, I do not want to see the Mpls. Police removed.

6/30/2020 8:56:46 PM

I am absolutely in favor of disbanding the mpd

6/30/2020 8:57:44 PM

According to Minnesota Statutes "peace officers" as currently provisioned for the Minneapolis Police Department by 7.3(c) of the city charter are licensed, gun carrying law enforcement. Also because of 7.3(c) the size of the Minneapolis Police Department (or any law enforcement agency that would take its place) is directly provisioned by a ratio to city population.

If our CSVDP will actually address community concerns, I think it must accomplish several things. When adjusting the Charter I ask either for the term "peace officer" to be omitted entirely, so that we are not locked in to a specific ratio or number of licensed firearm carriers, or that the ratio be drastically reduced for "peace officers," and a new (and larger) ratio introduced for community-oriented staff, who would be unarmed and variously trained for mental health crises, homelessness, and other social work and conflict resolution.

Minnesota Statutes do NOT offer enough variability in provisioning of powers for the rewritten Charter to rely on simple phrases like "peace officers" to accomplish the scope of changes and roles we demand. I would ask that, in the new sections, you use more specific language to define and circumscribe the new roles we'll introduce to the CSVDP, and potentially also determine ratios.

I also think it's vital that no members of the CSVDP, be they licensed "peace officers" or not, should be pulled from current MPD members, and I would approve of writing that language into the updated Charter.

I believe that individual members of the CSVDP should also be privately insured, so the city will not be liable for lawsuits against them, and that the threat of personal financial liability will keep their behavior in check.

I would also support, and here I am less knowledgeable, but SOME measure to allow for heightened powers to fire or suspend CSVDP employees, whether they have a union or not. Real justice and real community safety should not be held hostage by union politicking.

I also believe that CSVDP employees MUST live within Minneapolis city boundaries.

6/30/2020 8:58:14 PM

I love the idea of something that focuses on mental health and addiction. The police are more harm to the community than good. We need community based services that don't involve weapons.

6/30/2020 8:58:48 PM

Keep up this non-sense about defunding the police department and we will take the following actions. I will be cancelling my season baseball tickets and refuse to attend another football game. My wife and I have enjoyed dining downtown. Although we don't seem to get out to dinner often enough, we will not be doing that again. The last time we were there, we were threatened and your city is no longer safe.

In addition, we will be having a conversation with our legislative representatives to indicate our lack of support not only for the defunding of police but the rebuilding of the destruction the Mayor and city council allowed.

6/30/2020 8:59:16 PM

I don't support removing the police department! Putting another name on the department doesn't reform it! I support removing the Mayor and City Council! If they are not removed, there will be a mass exodus from the city? Put your big boy pants on city leadership and make our city great!!

6/30/2020 8:59:24 PM

Very unfortunate and it would not be safe to live here without police. Businesses will move out, some already have and I as well as many other residents will leave.

6/30/2020 9:01:26 PM

I absolutely support the police department & DO NOT APPROVE of removing it. However, we definitely the City of Minneapolis needs to take a good hard look at "the bad apples". I k now for a fact that Kroll & his buddies have in the past supported police officers that should have been removed. We need more good police that hopefully would be from the community of Mpls.

6/30/2020 9:02:57 PM

I support the charter amendment and am proud to see these changes brought forth in our city. I have two concerns relating to items not addressed in the revisions:

Funding: we should specify a minimum level of funding, which may be difficult to do given that the new Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department is a work in progress. I want to be sure that it will be adequately funded to be effective. I have reservations about the funding being specified by property tax, however. With education, property tax has proven to be a source of great disparity.

Temporary needs: will the new Director of Community of Safety & Violence Prevention have the ability to specify emergency staff? this seems like a good approach to urgent needs.

Aside from these two points, I am very excited to see these changes come about. We need justice for George Floyd, to be sure, and this amendment lays the foundation for something further--a just approach to community health and safety for Black Minneapolitans, and Minneapolitans in general. I believe this change will prevent racist policing before murders can occur and enrich our communities in so many ways. Most of the big challenges we face--including but not limited to domestic violence, opiate and alcohol abuse, human trafficking, mental health crises--can all be best addressed by a department that is flexible and more tailorable to each situation. We need this change on so many fronts.

6/30/2020 9:04:12 PM

Yes! Defund the police

6/30/2020 9:04:32 PM

Hello, I'm writing to urge you to allow this charter amendment to appear on the ballot.

Although I'm temporarily out of Minneapolis, my two adult children live there and I'm in the city often.

There can be no significant forward motion on the desperately needed public safety changes without this charter change. The best time would have been decades ago, the second best time is NOW.

Please let the voters of Minneapolis decide. Get this amendment on the ballot.

6/30/2020 9:05:43 PM

We need a referendum to DISBAND the Minneapolis City Council! I no longer feel safe in Minneapolis and will not be spending my entertainment dollars there. Your abdication of duty to protect the citizens of this great city is a travesty.

6/30/2020 9:05:48 PM

We should break up the responsibilities. The most severe violent crime should be dealt with by extensively trained individuals structured like a volunteer fire department, and exclude anybody with links to white supremacist groups.

We also need to monitor the assets of the police department so they don't "disappear" like footage of their wrong doing so often does.

We need heavy oversight to seize their file systems before they start erasing evidence and records on file.

We need to test the untested rape kits. We should have every MPD officers DNA on file. Every cent of civil asset forfeiture should be accounted for.

We should be reimbursed for every tax dollar spent on behalf of the police department law suits. Even if it has to come from their pension funds, or auctioning officers own property.

There needs to be a taskforce to keep an eye on ex cops and white supremacist groups.

Cops with complaints should have to serve 100 hours of community service for each complaint and in each community they have complaints from.

Tasers should absolutely only be used for armed assailants and never to torture unarmed people into compliance.

The new community safety organizations must be made up from people of the community it serves.

There must be transparency and accountability.

There should be a human trafficking task force.

The law must be equally enforced between minorities and non-minorities and the rich and poor.

Fines must scale with income.

We need a commitment to judicial reform which is a large part of the problem.

6/30/2020 9:05:54 PM

PLEASE DO NOT SEND THIS THROUGH! I VALUE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. THE REFORM IS NEEDED. I HAVE TOTALLY SUPPORTED CHIEF ARRADONDO! I LIVE IN POWDERHORN AND I SEE THE MANY MEETINGS AND CONFUSION AND HORROR IN HOW THE COMMUNITY IS TRYING TO PUT THIS TOGETHER. WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER TO REFORM! SHARE THE MONEY WITH THE COMMUNITY

THAT IS DOING THE WORK TO HELP THE AT RISK AND ROOTED COMMUNITY! DO NOT ABOLISH, DO NOT ABOLISH, DO NOT ABOLISH!

6/30/2020 9:08:04 PM

I believe this amendment to the city charter is vitally important and must be on the ballot for a public vote. The MPD has utterly lost community trust and has repeatedly demonstrated its resistance to any reform efforts. Ward 8

6/30/2020 9:08:51 PM

The actions of the Minneapolis Police Department have proven they are not here to keep people safe. The MPD does not make me feel safe. In fact, they make me feel unsafe. The fact that George Floyd, Justine Damond, and Jamar Clark were all murdered by the MPD within five years of each other says a lot about how the MPD functions. I would feel much safer with a safety and violence prevention department, particularly one that is built by the Minneapolis community and does not train employees to murder people.

6/30/2020 9:08:55 PM

This is the dumbest idea ever. Police aren't the problem the politicians and bleeding heart judges are. The idiot mayor gets on national TV automatically calling the murder of George Floyd a hate crime even though there was a black officer and Asian officer there. He condoned the rioting and didn't do anything about the city burning to the ground same with useless Walz. The city counsel gets letters and emails of supposed death threats. They get personal security meanwhile the rest of the city gets to live with bullets.

The crime in this city is out of control. Gun shots are a daily occurrence. A little 7 year old just got shot. Do the "city counsel" have any idea what it takes to be a cop and the crap they deal with daily? These "city counsel" need to do a 40 hour week ride alongs. The criminal justice system needs reformed. Cops catch the bad guys and bleeding heart liberal judges let them off. Instead of prison have the non-violent offender perform community service (hard manual labor).

6/30/2020 9:09:09 PM

Please support the charter amendment and do so as soon as possible. The status quo is unacceptable, and other methods of reform, over many years, have proven ineffective. We need a new model of public safety, and we need to change the charter to make that possible.

I am appalled by the brutal, violent, disproportionate, and racist response of the Minneapolis police department to recent protests. A few weeks ago white protestors armed with assault weapons screamed violent threats in the faces of police officers, but were allowed to disperse peacefully. After the murder of George Floyd, protestors of color and their allies mourning his murder by police officers, as well as members of the press, were shot at, gassed, struck, and otherwise physically assaulted. This is not 'serving and protecting', and it is not an acceptable response; it is a retaliatory and overtly racist show of might by a police force that seems utterly incapable of acknowledging its deep systemic racism, of taking ownership of the crimes of its own, and of making amends with and truly serving justice to the families and communities it has harmed.

I and many others do not feel safe calling the police under any circumstance for fear of the violence they will commit. I refuse to be a catalyst of someone's murder.

6/30/2020 9:09:29 PM

This is a power grab by the city council. The amendment would have police reporting to both the mayor and the city council. That's too many cooks in the kitchen; reporting to 14 people, each with their different agendas and views, would make the police \*less\* accountable than if they reported to just one person. -- Finally, they are asking us to vote yes/no on a big change without telling us what the change would be. Let's see the details first and then we can cast more informed ballots in 2021.

6/30/2020 9:10:09 PM

I don't live or work in Minneapolis, but I will not visit Minneapolis for any activity (including personal business and recreational activities such as attending Twins games, attending concerts, going out for dinner, etc) until its streets are safe. Minneapolis is not safe now.

I also believe that the business climate in Minneapolis will worsen if the level of crime and disorder is not reduced - and I believe this will lead to businesses leaving the city, .

I believe the crime and violence in Minneapolis will only worsen if the city charter is changed and the Police department is abolished.

The Minneapolis City Charter should not be changed to remove the Police from the charter.

The Police should not be defunded.

Instead, more funding should be made available so that there is a higher Police presence - especially in high crime areas. 'Choke holds' and similar Police techniques should be eliminated.

Ongoing training of acceptable procedures should be mandatory.

Administrative procedures should be improved so that performance records are retained throughout a Policeman's entire career; these performance records should be utilized to evaluate and appropriately manage Policemen's performance which includes disciplining and firing Policemen when appropriate.

Modify or eliminate the the Police union's powerful ability to overturn appropriate Police firings and other disciplinary action. I don't reside in Minneapolis

6/30/2020 9:11:25 PM

I support amending the charter to create the Community of Safety and Violence Prevention, though this specific language proposed is not sufficient to gain my support.

1) Within this proposed amendment, There is no requirement for a minimum level of funding or staffing per resident to implement this Department immediately, or over time. As a resident I need to know there is a minimum threshold the city cannot fund under, and leaving the community health and safety vulnerable. As a corollary, I would like there to be a maximum level of funding, as an open-ended, blank checkbook is not a good thing to grant. Citizens, capital, property and business investment will flee, and then there will be very little tax base to fund anything.

2) The proposed amendment lacks a clear method of removal of Dept head. Is it the entire council, the mayor, do citizens have a method of removing an underperforming appointed department head?

3) A citizens' review board. I would like this proposed charter to include, solidify, funding and space for regularly called citizen review of the entire department. Such reviews should supply data directly related to goals and progress toward health, crime, violence, safety.

4) Term lengths. The proposed charter shows no indication of term limits for the appointed department heads -the director appointed by council/mayor, nor the director of peace officers appointed by the head of the Community Safety and Violence Prevention department. I would like term lengths to be included, such that there are regular points in time that each director in the department can be assessed and may be replaced with a new appointee.

5) The proposed charter lacks language describing the "reach" of Peace Officers in a geographical area, and how they would articulate with law enforcement in other cities, counties and states. Is this assumed?

I support amending the charter of the city of Minneapolis in a comprehensive and useful way with the purpose of establishing a Community of Safety and Violence Prevention Department to replace the Minneapolis Police Department.

6/30/2020 9:13:09 PM

In addition to seeing counselors, addiction specialists, and various other program outreach personnel responding to emergency calls rather than police I want to see the police lose all of their military grade equipment. I want to see the city sever all relations with the MPD Police Union. I want to see the entire department fired and reapplying for their jobs. I want MPD officers living IN Minneapolis. I want to see a civilian review board that actually has authority over the officers that complaints are brought against.

6/30/2020 9:14:17 PM

Please approve the proposed charter amendment and dismantle the police department.

6/30/2020 9:16:13 PM

The city council should be ashamed of themselves for threatening our public safety that they have sworn to protect. The crime in Minneapolis is twice as high as last year before the recent events. Yes we need reform They have done nothing to prevent violence prior and now want to defund our public safety. What happens when no body comes to help you? Are we supposed to fight back and then be in court cause we didn't want our families hurt? But its ok for you to have private security.

You have made this town a laughing stock of the nation. The once beautiful city of minneapolis I called home for 35 yrs my family and I have had enough. We pay to much and get to little. There is no leadership in this \$hitty council.

6/30/2020 9:16:33 PM

Please do not eliminate , change, alter, modify, or "defund" the Minneapolis police department. Your spur of the moment, latest - fad is reckless and irresponsible. Selling my house and moving to Anoka County would be a lot of work and I'm busy keeping my company in business ....in Minneapolis.....for now.

6/30/2020 9:18:06 PM

I have had the pleasure of working with many of the members of this commission either through my work with the city, via boards and committees or via political campaigns. Several of you I consider dear friends.

With that said, let me be explicitly clear: in my professional opinion as an urban planner, former Executive Director of the Heritage Park Neighborhood Association, and as a community engagement professional, you must put a stop to this amendment and table it until 2021.

I am making this request for the following reasons:

1. The city council has deliberately refused to implement many of the reforms that have been put before them both in public and in meetings with community orgs including recommendations from the City's own office of Race & Equity. They have had 5 year to act. Instead they choose the extreme of choosing to amend the charter.
2. The city council has refused to engage with community organizations in North Minneapolis specifically the Minneapolis Urban League, Minneapolis NAACP and the Racial Justice Network to name a few. To the best of my knowledge, not one Northside neighborhood has been contacted to engage their residents to have community meetings and discussions about this issue, which is odd because that is exactly their function - to provide the city with opportunity to engage with residents directly on issues like crime and safety as well as quality of life. The fact that this has not been done proves that the council is not interested in rel community engagement.
3. This amendment is proof positive that this council is not considered with black lives in North Minneapolis as they continue to deny Northside residents an opportunity to speak their truth about their concerns with this amendment. North siders what to feel protected. They want the police to come when they call. They want to be taken seriously and they do not want to die at the hands of the police. They want their tax dollars to grant them the same level of privilege that tax dollars from Southside residents receive. They want to be full citizens of this great city.

If you, the charter commissioners decide to approve this amendment and send it to the November 2020 ballot without demanding that the city council engage community, but specifically Northside and black residents FIRST, then history will record you all as being on the wrong side of this issue. The people need to speak, work to come up with a plan, and agree to the plan before an amendment is needed. The creation of an amendment to the charter should come FIRST from community with data and clear examples PRIOR to a change in the City's Charter.

To do so before hand is not only misguided, it is against best practices in community engagement. Please save the council from themselves and table this amendment until they can come back with a community engagement plan and with data from residents of North Minneapolis and Black residents.

6/30/2020 9:19:15 PM

I am completely dismayed by councils rush to "defund" the police. At no point have the council members given a clear, unified, and concise definition of what that term means. I have so many objections to this plan that I could write volumes about why this is bad, but I am sure these comments don't mean much because the council members have their own agenda and ignore the public when it suits them. I will therefore address one aspect of this plan that is horrible. I am a black man and I understand police brutality, not because I've experienced it, but I know those that have. I am angry that the council seems to be harnessing and manipulating the anger of black citizens to push an agenda they want. Black people don't want to get rid of the police, they want to get rid of the "bad police" instead. This plan if it is enacted will more than likely impact black and latino communities more than whites. Therefore this plan will likely result in more violence in those communities. It is infuriating that the council is only acting like they care about these communities. They have not engaged the communities at all, instead they are listening to the loudest voices. They are also manipulating the public by letting

certain council members that are not white take the lead, so that it appears that they are listening to the community. Council members Cano, Jenkins, Cunningham, and Ellison haven't not engaged their wards.

6/30/2020 9:19:58 PM

I'm glad the City Counsel has chosen this route. It's better than I could have hoped for, as I honestly didn't think real progress was ever going to be made.

I've had to take an officer to the Civilian Review Authority for aggressive behavior, swearing like a sailor, and making every threat under the sun at me for a traffic stop on my bicycle at 2 am (they had actually stopped my friend, who turned, but I stopped to watch and he motioned me over and for some reason then ignored my friend entirely and decided to lay into me 100%). At mediation, he never once apologized, and I discovered they never turned on the video recorders or wrote a report on it, which they were supposed to do. (and there were two officers present, though the younger one just watched.) Everything seemed to indicate that this whole thing was intentional and he believed there would be no recourse for his behavior.

I've also had problems with other aggressive officers, including observing them aggressively manhandle situations with both friends of mine and strangers on the street. One of my friends hired a lawyer to deal with the treatment he received at the hands of the officer.

I never had an issue with police in the suburbs. It was only when I moved to Minneapolis, where I've lived for the past 15 years, that I began experiencing serious problems with officers. I'm white, middle class, quiet, intelligent, and very rational. I shouldn't have had the issues that I've had with police if what the police are saying about people in their reports were actually true. The police themselves are the problem. They are often aggressive and escalate situations out of control of their own accord, independent of the situation or anyone around them. Enough citizens have died because of this that it is now an undeniable and absolute fact, which simply can't be ignored any longer.

Thanks again for all your hard work on this. I voted for Lisa Bender, and would do so again in a heartbeat after watching her (and the other counsel members) handle this so well.

6/30/2020 9:22:24 PM

Please add the proposed charter amendment creating a new Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention to the ballot in November. This will address public health issues and provide safe resources to the residents and visitors of Minneapolis. Ward 8

6/30/2020 9:22:27 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.

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.

6/30/2020 9:23:27 PM

Although I am not a Minneapolis resident, the push to defund the Minneapolis police by the city council will not only affect Minneapolis but the surrounding cities as well. That includes my home in Apple Valley and my family. Our government's job is to protect us, its citizens. Unfortunately, our government leaders failed to protect our local businesses, police, and citizens from the uncontrolled riots and crime that was allowed after the unjust killing of George Floyd. I understand that emotions are high regarding police reform, however, defunding the police will lead to more crime, more violence, more hate, and more death of innocent lives. I'm trying my best to be as professional as possible, but it doesn't take a PhD to know that that is the case. This proposition is beyond ridiculous.

I would challenge those who are proposing this unthinkable proposition to provide evidence that defunding the police will protect the citizens of Minneapolis and its surrounding area. You are welcoming more crime, more violence, and more innocent lives taken too soon if you implement this policy to defund the police. I think the intentions may be coming from a good heart, and we would all love to believe that there aren't bad evil people who commit crimes, but that simply is not reality. We live in a broken world and unfortunately, there will always be violent criminals who need law and order. Just look at all the increased crime being seen already in Minneapolis, New York, Chicago, and countless other cities as the police force is literally being handcuffed from doing their job. Please don't make matters worse in this complex issue.

Also, please help me make sense as to why 3 of the Minneapolis city council members have taxpayer dollars paying for their private security, but yet are taking that same right of safety away from the people they are sworn to serve. That is hypocritical beyond measure and such a disgraceful double standard.

If this policy is enacted, you will soon see my family's taxpaying dollars moving elsewhere to a state that prioritizes law and order. You can be sure we won't be alone.

6/30/2020 9:24:32 PM

Dear Charter Commission,

I am a resident of Minneapolis, and I want to vote on the proposed city charter amendment this November. I am writing to ask that you permit the charter amendment to move forward so that the people of Minneapolis can choose if we want to amend our city 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.

6/30/2020 9:25:00 PM

I understand the need for change. I believe the police department needs to change. I don't believe we should throw everything out and start something totally different without a reasonable plan. Since the 9 city council members decided to make the announcement to defund the Police... more violence has occurred. Now is the time to be wise, not reactive. We have the momentum to make great change. The

Egos of the 9 council members to jump in without understanding they represent everyone.. is not the action of wisdom but fear. Tired of Egos running the show... changing the system makes sense... destroying the current system without a plan.. is harmful to us all.

6/30/2020 9:25:25 PM

I am NOT in favor of the proposed charter amendment. There has not been an opportunity for scrutiny by experts or the public. This is a knee-jerk reaction to the events of the last month.

There is no doubt the police department needs a different kind of oversight and needs to be rebuilt. I do not believe the City Council has the knowledge or skill to get this right.

I own my home in the Harrison Neighborhood. I have put everything I have into this home. The neighborhood has changed for the worse..... in just a few short months. More police, you know, those folks who are licensed to arrest people, are needed. Not fewer. Read the paper. Check out what's happening on a daily basis on the Citizen App. Exactly who is killing and shooting whom? The problems in the city with race and problems in the African-American community are far more complex than what can be blamed on the police.

This is a bad idea, coming from people who lack the expertise to find the perfect solution. Without the support of the African-American community to police their own community, turn in offenders "their own", and own up to their complicity in these problems, the plan is doomed to fail.

You want to "reimagine" the police? Have fewer police? Be careful what you wish for.

6/30/2020 9:25:28 PM

This would help build trust within the community. Please strongly consider redistributing funding for the Minneapolis Police Department

6/30/2020 9:26:13 PM

I believe this is a good amendment. Public safety involves more than just law and order. And the police do not keep us safe. A holistic, community led division of public safety has the potential to be able to weave the many different strands of public safety together - which involves supporting all people to live in humane ways, changing the ways that formerly incarcerated people are treated, and reducing the number of challenges that police are asked to respond to. We need to build a culture of care and connection. Not discipline and punish - which is usually reserved for the black Brown Indian and poor - Even though the rich do as much if not more damage to each other and to society. Thank you for your bold moves, bravery and for this opening to chart a new course that uplifts the humanity of all Minneapolis residents Ward 9

6/30/2020 9:27:16 PM

I am a Minneapolis resident residing in Fulton neighborhood. George Floyd was murdered by a thug officer. That being said, I believe we need more police not less. We rarely see a police presence in our neighborhood and quality of life issues (garage burglaries, vehicle thefts, occasional robberies) are prevalent. I really feel for the neighborhoods that have more life-threatening issues including shootings. The replacement is the police with some neutralized force will disproportionately impact lower income neighborhoods that see more crimes committed. If there is an example in the US where this has worked that would be interesting. Camden is a poor example since they actually ended up significantly increasing the number of armed officers on the street. Reform don't replace.

6/30/2020 9:27:39 PM

As a homeowner in North Minneapolis I am deeply concerned with how this is being handled which seems to be the status quo of those around me, not to mention those outside of Minneapolis that I have spoken with. I am fearful of how this proposal will have a dramatic negative effect on our city. Besides seeing an uptick on violent crime, I am thinking of how this shall affect businesses in Minneapolis. Insuring a business will be of concern for starters. I believe people will not come to the city for entertainment, sporting events, bars, restaurants and business will dwindle in light of defunding and setting up a holistic way for preventing crime. I love Minneapolis and believe reform needs to be discussed but not to this drastic level. I am a law abiding, delightful neighbor who you would love to be part of the community but can assure you that I will sell my home and leave this state if this gains further traction. I am not knee jerk, just forward thinking and hope everyone making this crucial decision by are also. Ward 3

6/30/2020 9:28:40 PM

I support the rewriting of the charter to defund the current iteration of the Minneapolis Police Department for the re-imagination of a new community outreach program that can actually support the residents of Minneapolis in times of crisis without killing them.

6/30/2020 9:29:23 PM

I visit mpls quite frequently and my son will be living there come fall. I do not support removing the police. Minneapolis is all ready getting more dangerous, removing the police is just going to be a disaster and more people will end up hurt. You need to consider the consequences, the potential lives lost because of this.

6/30/2020 9:29:57 PM

I am trying to find one ounce of rational thought in this proposal but have yet to find one. This city council, mayor and governor are doing an excellent job of paving the way to make Minneapolis the next Detroit. I live in Minnetonka and I know that it's only a matter of time that even the sub-urban areas are no longer safe. Keep Minneapolis MPD, abolish the city council!

6/30/2020 9:31:37 PM

I want the police department to stay in Minneapolis. Obviously there may be a "bad cop" from time to time, but every encounter I have had with police makes me feel safer. They are there to protect and help us. As an older woman, I really value all they do.

6/30/2020 9:31:41 PM

I support dismantling the police 100% and the work MPD150 with [REDACTED] and many thoughtful, dedicated people in our community have been doing in talking about abolition and laying a blueprint down. Considering its origin, history and development the department is un-reformable. Thank you council members for having the courage to initiate this, I know the personal risk you are taking in pushing it forward.

6/30/2020 9:32:12 PM

Thanks for the amendment language. Following are two technical questions and a general comment.

If the City Charter amendment is approved by voters In November as it is currently written, is it legally possible for the City to maintain a Police Department in addition to the required Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department?

Does the removal of the Police Department impact any potential revenue source eligibility from State or Federal authorities?

The amendment language clearly strips the Mayor of control over public safety and essentially provides it to the City Council. I have some concern that the City Council President will become a more important position with greater responsibility and higher public scrutiny than the Mayor. My concern is centered on the fact that the City Council President is not directly elected by a citywide electorate. Is there a way to mitigate this loss of clear, direct, and citywide accountability for public safety issues? Ward 8

6/30/2020 9:32:29 PM

DO NOT place the amendment on the ballot! This is a knee jerk idea the council has come up with and should not be considered until AFTER a plan has been worked out on how this could actually be accomplished! My understanding is it would also put the Council, rather than the Mayor, in charge of this new organization. One more bad idea. The council has shown that, in a number of ways, they have no common sense and their actions could very easily endanger the lives, property and well being of the residents of Minneapolis. DO NOT PLACE THIS AMENDMENT ON THE BALLOT!!!

6/30/2020 9:33:22 PM

I fully support the creation of a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Our current police department does not work for the city or its residence. Ward 12

6/30/2020 9:33:34 PM

please disband mpd. they are terrorizing our communities. everyone would be a lot safer with a safety and violence prevention department. people with out guns. people whose jobs are not rooted in racism. people with out the power to kill us and get away with it.

6/30/2020 9:33:42 PM

I feel strongly against defending the police. Minneapolis NEEDS adequate police coverage. I'll never spend another dollar in Minneapolis if this happens.

6/30/2020 9:33:45 PM

I am a resident of Minneapolis and I strongly support the inclusive of the proposed charter amendment in November's ballot. I believe this amendment is desired by many in the city and Minneapolis residents deserve the chance to vote on this important issue and have their voices heard by local government. I urge the commission to include the amendment proposal on the ballot.

6/30/2020 9:34:07 PM

I strongly support dismantling the police dept and replacing it with safety focused organization. In addition, initiatives that support early childhood development and family support systems, which are rooted in an anti-racist framework, are essential.

6/30/2020 9:34:39 PM

keep the chief. He is good and will make good choices for humanity here in our city. We need people patrolling parks in this city too, definitely more training and definitely new ways of de escalation. Get rid of racist cops. Make it so cops are held to a higher standard than civilians. Make them pay their own settlements when they act with impunity. In fact, get rid of the impunity. I want my black husband and mixed kids to be safe here.

6/30/2020 9:35:06 PM

Do not change the charter. I am opposed to your proposal of modifications, in whole. Your proposed actions and lack of leadership emboldens criminal actions, and solves nothing. You are missing the point of helping the community you swore to serve. Our city is in greatest need of support of the oppressed, the needy. The proposed changes do nothing more than waste more time, money, and divides our communities.

You should refrain from further modifications of the city charter and instead work toward community and police unity. It is your responsibility to manage our city that encourages growth. You work for us. Our Minneapolis businesses are continuing to leave, in part, due to increased violence encouraged by your words of defunding, and unspecified plans of safety.

I ask you stop this counter-productive activity and instead turn your attention to restoring peace to our city by supporting our MPD with direct community involvement that supports ALL people. You should work tirelessly to ensure ALL people are treated with absolute equity and respect by the MPD and most of all, by all of you in the city council.

6/30/2020 9:35:09 PM

Getting rid of the police will be a death sentence for Minneapolis. People and businesses will leave in droves because people and customers don't feel safe. There are some people who will just resort to violence and lawlessness with no police presence as these present shootings demonstrate. Police are needed for law and order. With no police the city of Minneapolis will never recover.

6/30/2020 9:35:16 PM

I support the amendment on public safety! I trust the leaders that are making this amendment a priority. Ward 2

6/30/2020 9:35:22 PM

Please don't take our police away our town would turn into a nightmare I'm really scared about all this I know everything is not good right now but taking our police away is not the answer when I need help I want the police to come I believe that we have a few bad officers but the majority of police do really care please listen to me please

6/30/2020 9:35:31 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis I fully support the proposed amendment to disband the police department.

Aside from talking about blatant racism, a long history of violence toward black people, and the blind eye they turned on all constitutional rights during the uprisings, it's just not an efficient way to respond to emergencies.

There is no reason to have armed response to probably 90% of 911 calls. We could use those dollars to provide better mental health resources, better rape response teams (remember how the police just DON'T test rape kits?! they don't deserve our money), better domestic abuse services (remember how 40% of police are domestic abusers?!). We can also use those dollars to actually PREVENT these things from happening in the first place by providing social safety nets that ARE proven to work. We can do a lot of things with these dollars that actually help the community instead of hurting it. The police hurt the community.

There is a long history of reform attempts within the police department that have proved ineffective. To keep the police is nothing short of an act of violence against the most vulnerable in our community.

DEFUND THE POLICE PLEASE

6/30/2020 9:35:35 PM

I support this fully.

6/30/2020 9:35:38 PM

Defund MPD, do not abolish!

6/30/2020 9:35:43 PM

I respectfully ask that the Minneapolis Charter Commission approve the language proposed by City Council members Ellison, Cano, Gordon, Fletcher, and Bender to create a new department of public safety. For too long in our community we have had a police department that abuses its authority, remains unresponsive to oversight, and does measurable harm to communities of color. I believe the new charter amendment should be put to a vote for Minneapolis citizens so that we may lend our voices to the discussion of what policing should or should not look like going forward. Ward 10

6/30/2020 9:36:13 PM

I have several issues with this amendment. It is too vague and leaves a lot to the discretion of the city council who I do not trust. You should not get all of the power to change whatever you want. As your boss who pays your salary, I would like to know your intentions.

There are too many questions on this amendment that I do not feel comfortable leaving to your discretion.

Why don't you use one of your greatest assets such as the Minneapolis Police Officers themselves. 99% of them do a fantastic and heroic job! You are vilifying all of them. I have no doubt that they would have some great insight as to how to best change the department. Yes, we need to do something, but completely destroying the department is NOT the answer. Slow your roll and gather more data and insight so we can have a meaningful and smooth transition.

I also feel as if you are all forgetting that the people of Minneapolis pay a lot of tax money to pay your salaries as well as the Police Officers. We deserve Police protection and it should never be considered a "privilege" as some of my employees on the council think.

6/30/2020 9:37:23 PM

I am in favor of creating separate departments from the police that will be used for non-crime related events such as welfare checks of citizens. Our police unit still has a role in our community regardless what we call this group, but its focus must be to serve and protect the citizens. I'm in favor of community based education that creates a culture where the department of violence/crime prevention is aligned with the goals of the citizens. The police union must have a better system to audit its members. It's obvious our current system gives the police union too much power. If starting over with an entirely new system is the only way to remove the police union, then that is what must be done.

6/30/2020 9:37:26 PM

Do not dismantle the police department. Provide more training and community policing. Increase funding to make this happen. Defund the City Council private security. Live the way you make your citizens live. You are no better than those you "serve". Your position is a service. You do not rule over the citizens. If this is not done, please save this comment. Because it will be proof to that you were warned of what the future holds. Increased crime; citizens taking the law into their own hands; real mob rule; law abiding people leaving along with jobs and businesses. It is your choice. When you are going in the wrong direction, what do you do? Stop and turn around. You do not keep going. It is your choice. If you make the wrong one, you will be voted out. But more importantly, more innocent people will suffer.



6/30/2020 9:37:33 PM

I want to thank the city council for taking these steps in a deliberate and open fashion, allowing for the transparency that this will be done in stages and for the clarity that a transformational change is necessary.

I fully support the changes to the proposed charter amendment. The Minneapolis Police Department has repeatedly violated the public trust and their responsibility to the people they serve. We can and should reimagine what public safety looks like for our community, and this is just step one.

6/30/2020 9:37:42 PM

I fully support a plan to remove the Minneapolis Police Department and replace them with a well trained and screened Safety and Violence Prevention Department. Any current MPD officers should be required to go through rehabilitation and retraining before being considered for the new department. All armed officers in the new department should be required to carry liability insurance.

6/30/2020 9:37:47 PM

This amendment will only harm the people this city is supposed to protect. We need more police not less and they need to be trained in law enforcement. Anything else is less and a dangerous underestimation of what it takes to keep citizens safe. If this goes on to the ballot and gets voted in it won't be long for Minneapolis to turn in to Detroit. Those who can will LEAVE as we are planning to do.  
Ward 2

6/30/2020 9:39:32 PM

I do not support removing the Minneapolis Police Department from the charter. The MPD could benefit from changes, including more staff and training dedicated to crime prevention, sexual violence, mental health, and racism. However, I believe residents in Minneapolis deserve and need a police department.  
Ward 8

6/30/2020 9:39:55 PM

No, no, no. I don't like this and I don't want it. We need the police department, and we need it to be cleaned up. Reconstruct and revamp to make it better.

Please do not move forward on this charter. Find an alternative way to fix www.bestisbroken.

6/30/2020 9:40:50 PM

I do not support abolishing the police. Instead you must take money front the police budget and put it into the community to support work. Rebuild, not abolish. I work in mpls every day, I grew up in south, and I visit my mom and family in mpls- many encounters with police and community. Please listen to black and brown people who are giving you solutions

6/30/2020 9:42:08 PM

This feels like a rushed attempt to put out fires without considering the voices of people who live in North and South Mpls. What's to prevent the oversight board from being loaded with well meaning, mainly white people who have no lives experience in theses communities. Defund, and turn dollars over to community organizations who know the real needs.

6/30/2020 9:43:39 PM

I fully support changing the police department to a community of safety and violence prevention department. At least some (if not more) of the budget for the police department should go towards affordable housing, education, healthcare and other things that would actually help cut down on crime.

6/30/2020 9:43:52 PM

Please keep fighting the good fight for justice and equal treatment for ALL!! Make the city of Minneapolis something to be proud of again. A shining example for other cities across the nation, even the world hopefully!

6/30/2020 9:43:54 PM

I've stopped coming to Minneapolis until the city is secure. Ever since you started this path of defunding the police, the gangs have run wild. I won't be coming until you understand there need to be deterrence to these illegal activities. That starts with a fully functional police force. Appeasement to illegal activities only encourages these activities. If you don't believe me, drive down Lake Street.

6/30/2020 9:44:44 PM

I strongly disagree with disbanding the police in MPLS , you can just take a police department away from a city .

Who are people going to call for help with they are getting robbed, raped, or killed ??

I am extremely upset that the city council just used public security to keep them safe while you are supposedly against having police . They should not be using tax payers money to protect them if they don't want a police department. This is sick and you better start caring about the city and NOT just yourselves

6/30/2020 9:45:02 PM

To eliminate the police dept. is absurd. There has been little or no thought put into this. The impact on anything downtown, convention business, people and deliveries feeling safe coming into Mpls, just names a very, very, very few of things affected. I lived in the 8th ward for years, then my wife and I in ward 11.

6/30/2020 9:45:10 PM

I think this is a great idea and clearly the Minneapolis PD needs a thorough review. Problem officers should be let go/not rehired. Every officer should wear a body cam on duty. Body cams should have an external group review them every time there is an injury or death. Officers should live in the city they serve. Police should only handle violent crime. Non-violent crime should be given to a separate group. Having a group of social workers trained in de-escalation and mediation to deal with social welfare calls, noise complaints, and suicide prevention. There should be more social outreach programs for young people in poverty that involve creating social networks, job training, and resource sharing.

6/30/2020 9:45:28 PM

In our new world of community safety and violence prevention, excessive-force misconduct must be stopped by improving training, oversight, tracking and accountability.

I would like to see more transparency regarding use of force -- ie policies and statistics of use -- and public oversight of such policies. Many of us in the public are relatively uneducated on the intricacies of policing, and I think it would be beneficial to have more opportunities for public engagement to bridge understanding and awareness of why specific policies are in place and in what types of scenarios they are used.

I would also like to see mental health funding as a key component of the Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. By this, I mean I would like to see adequate funding to send well-trained professionals on all mental health calls so they can help de-escalate tense situations and connect people with the appropriate services. I would also like to see greater funding for those mental health services in the community, and for those services to be made more accessible for everyone as part of a prevention model. I also would like to see mental health services offered and highly encouraged for use by law enforcement officers as they have high-stress jobs. It is critical that they are healthy for their own well being and so they can provide the optimum level of service to the community.

It is my hope that Chief Medaria Arradondo can be a major player in this transition.

6/30/2020 9:45:44 PM

I used to visit Minneapolis to shop and eat, go to sports games often my whole life.

Defund the police and I do not feel safe, so will most likely never set foot on the city nor spend money again. Ever. I have family that lives in the city we are now actively physically moving them out of Minneapolis for good. They are elderly and have nowhere to shop or get medications as everything is damaged, and they are scared to leave their house.

I respect there are problems, but the turn of events has made the entire city of Minneapolis a no go zone for all our friends and family. Not just today but in the future.

Please reform the police do not defund. Thank you.

6/30/2020 9:46:55 PM

Think of society as a tapestry with threads woven in that give it strength, color, texture and form. Take away an integral part of the threads that keep it together and the tapestry unravels, falls apart. Some cities within the United States are contemplating removing an important part of that tapestry which would further decay and destroy not only their community but the tapestry as a whole. The police, sheriff and other agencies are important threads within our nations tapestry that provide a valuable service across this great land of ours and deserve our appreciation not out condemnation. The decision you are about to make in Minneapolis could solidify and unify us or bring about the downfall of our society that our founding fathers and millions of others have fought so valiantly to attain. Know your history and try to understand the ramifications of your actions.

6/30/2020 9:47:43 PM

I am 100% behind this charter amendment. It would be a huge blessing for the health and safety of the city I love.

6/30/2020 9:48:04 PM

No community leaders were consulted regarding the best way to manage the corruption in the MPD. This stance to abolish the police has left many people in danger. This is a political stunt and it is endangering the very lives of the people you claim to be protecting.

6/30/2020 9:48:49 PM

I have lived in Minneapolis for just over ten years and love so many things about living here. My home is a mile and half from where George Floyd was so egregiously and tragically murdered at the hands of Minneapolis Police Officers. In the short time since his murder, I have learned so much about the racist history of our city and the continued race based disparities that plague our community.

I applaud and support the efforts of the city council to bring forth an ordinance to remove the Minneapolis Police Department as a “Charter Department” within the City Charter. It is a fundamental first step in rebuilding our system of public safety. It is my hope the city council persists in its quest for real reform and stands by the call to defund the Minneapolis Police Department. Please do not fold to pressures from outside of our community, from members of the GOP and voices from the suburbs—they are not the stakeholders here. Do not cave to pressure from those who see the move to defund the police as contributing to the recent outbreak in gun violence. We must not lose sight of the need to purge systemic racism from public safety in our city and to allow the members of our BIPOC community to lead the way to creating a community that is safe for everybody.

I fully support the proposed amendment to remove the police department and establish a Community of Safety and Violence Prevention Department.

6/30/2020 9:49:09 PM

Defund, rebuild. Make officers re-apply for their jobs. Make a standard that they must meet with their record.

6/30/2020 9:49:25 PM

I support this amendment. We must reform the police to end violence against our citizens of color. Thank you for treating this with urgency. We must fund social services adequately.

6/30/2020 9:51:09 PM

A vote this November on the charter amendment is premature. Such a significant vote should not occur until more is known and has been communicated about what the yet-to-be-established Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department would look like. A clearer picture of this Department would allow for a more informed vote and perhaps more resident support for a change to the charter.

6/30/2020 9:51:25 PM

The idea of eliminating the police dept is an over-reaction to a problem that clearly needs attention. Training, monitoring, and evaluating the police force is what is needed here. Give the police oversight board some teeth to cull out the bad actors. Total elimination of law enforcement will result in increases in all types of crime, exodus of businesses, departure of residents, decreased tax base, societal withdrawal, increased gun ownership and a dying city. We can do better than Detroit, Baltimore, Chicago, etc., but this is one big step in their direction.

6/30/2020 9:52:22 PM

It's time. I'm a cis white woman whose family comes from money. I have lived in Minneapolis for seven years. I have driven with expired plates, expired registration, broken tail lights and broken headlights. Once, I had a tail light out for almost a year. I have friends all over the cities, and i've driven in all kinds of neighborhoods, at all times of night. I have never ONCE been pulled over by a cop. Not one time. Actually (and this is true), the only time I've been stopped by police was when I had a black Uber driver, and her registration was expired by a week. This is important, because a lot of folks who look like me, who come from my background, are unable to see the problem because the system IS WORKING for them. The system in place directly benefits me. But it benefits me AT THE EXPENSE of my neighbors. A system of justice that benefits some at the expense of others is not justice at all.

And, for those who think this is just about race... the police department's record in following through on cases of sexual assault is abysmal. If you're not protecting or serving women, and you're not protecting or serving black people, and you're not protecting or serving our youth ..... who the hell are you protecting and serving???

I am uplifted by those who are directly affected by these issues, who have taken it upon themselves to educate the world about the injustice they're facing every day. As an ally, it is my job to amplify their voices, and deliver their message by leveraging my power. So, here I am. As a City Council, it is your job to do the same. Listen to our neighbors. Amplify their voices. Use your power to build a new system by investing in the pre-existing networks - the neighborhood groups, the social workers, the teachers, the faith leaders - the folks already on the ground doing the work. Because there are people already doing this work. The groundwork is laid. This charter is the potential first step towards a future where the people doing the work in the communities are validated, supported, and funded. Here's hoping you'll recognize the amazing opportunity you've been handed: to work from the ground up, building upon the work of thousands of community leaders, to create something truly of, by, and FOR the people in the City of Minneapolis. I fully support this proposed charter, and hope to see it on the ballot.

6/30/2020 9:52:54 PM

I don't know What kind of drugs you people are on. Wake up and smell the roses! We need are police department plus extra officers. We have way to many gangs around here. Social workers are not going to rectify them that's for sure. We need as much help as we can get. Back off of your stupid ideas.

6/30/2020 9:53:22 PM

I would like more police officers. I would like social services liaisons. I would like a demilitarization of the police department. I would like the structure of the police department to be based on best practices and evidence based policies. I would like officers based in neighborhoods, to know the neighborhoods and their residents. Ward 12

6/30/2020 9:53:36 PM

I think the MPD should be defunded and replaced with a department of community safety and violence prevention. However, I don't think current police officers should be involved in leading this new department, nor in any large numbers inside of it. Furthermore, I believe this department should be subject to a community control board. I can think of no better organizations to reach out to for help facilitating this than Black Visions and Reclaim the Block. Public accountability is crucial, and if there is going to be real change, we need more than just a name change. We need full transparency and a department that answers to the community it serves.

6/30/2020 9:54:02 PM

I wish you would use language like "transform the police" instead of "defund the police" because both can accomplish the exact same thing, in the same way, but "defund" scares people and gives opponents to change a way to intentionally mislead people using fear.

Personally I would like to see all cops have to re-apply for their jobs, with only cops with good records and community references rehired. Then I would like to see a residency requirement put in place, with the agreement that any re-hired or newly hired officers must move into the city within 18 months of their start date. Also priority given to people already residences of Mpls.

6/30/2020 9:55:18 PM

I don't want the police department to be disbanded. As citizens we need protection. Protection for all will not come from vigilante groups in various neighbors .

6/30/2020 9:56:21 PM

There are so many good, decent police that want to help in the city. Why are you discrediting them all? How about instead of eliminating law enforcement you work on teaching the unlawful citizens of the city how to respect authority? We don't have the issues in the suburbs like we have in the big city. Ask yourselves why that is? Look to some of the governments and citizens around the big city and see what is different. They have respectful law abiding citizens. They don't have to defund their police departments. Stop holding everyone's hand and teach those that commit crime that they cannot get away with unlawful behavior. Instead They should try to be an upstanding citizen and be an example of righteousness and respectfulness. Ward 4

6/30/2020 9:57:06 PM

I enthusiastically support this amendment - thank you for your vision and for your courage. We need to reimagine how we handle public safety in our city. The policing model we currently have is broken beyond repair.

6/30/2020 9:58:09 PM

In favor of removing police department and establishing a more robust and better trained response system.

6/30/2020 9:58:20 PM

No. No no no. Defunding the police is a whiplash reaction to the pain and crisis the city is in. We need real reform, which will take time and public input. Voting on defunding without a plan in place is highly irresponsible. And it isn't leadership.

Reallocate funds? Yes. Defund the police? No.

Clean up the language you are using for this initiative - choose something that is less controversial - and present a plan to the public before putting this on a ballot.

Also, no one wants to pay for your private security detail when you created this situation by being reactive. It is a significant waste of taxpayer dollars that could be going towards a million other things right now. Literally.

6/30/2020 9:59:30 PM

I support this amendment. Ward 7

6/30/2020 9:59:40 PM

I am in favor of divesting from police and reinvesting in Black and Brown communities they unfairly target. Fire, vet and rehire officers accordingly. Get rid of qualified immunity and police unions. Employ at least half of all officers from the community they serve. But do not abolish the police in its entirety. As you were.

6/30/2020 10:04:07 PM

Please keep the Minneapolis Police Department because without it there would be no Law & Order. Because I'm a Republican & I support the men & women in blue. If you don't like it then too bad. Deal with it

6/30/2020 10:04:11 PM

Dear Minneapolis Charter Commission,

I am writing in support of putting the proposed amendment to the city charter's language on police on the November ballot. Major reforms to policing in Minneapolis are necessary and we all must have the chance to decide on them. All of us stand to live better, safer, fuller lives if we can root out abuse, support communities to create safety themselves, and ensure that Minneapolis does not function on a foundation of intimidation and violence. We need big changes. We need to be out front of big changes. And we need the chance to do so together.

6/30/2020 10:05:28 PM

We do still need people who are qualified to respond to crisis scenarios outside of the scope of a crisis social worker/mental health professional - for example when shots have been fired, homicide etc. – that is not to say social workers/mental health professional should not be involved in those cases once life threatening risks have been managed.

6/30/2020 10:05:43 PM

I am against rushing into a Charter amendment as proposed by members of the City Council. Changing our Charter should be the last step in reforming the police department, not the first. The Community Safety & Violence Prevention proposal is putting the cart before the horse by removing the Police Department language from the City Charter before developing specifics on what its replacement will be. The City Council should establish a process to flesh out the proposed changes that involves significant community input. Then and only then should we entertain a change to the City Charter. Ward 10

6/30/2020 10:06:10 PM

I am absolutely opposed to disbanding the MPD! I think we should work methodically and implement reforms while vetting their performance.

6/30/2020 10:06:19 PM

I am for this amendment. I believe there should be other resources depending on the emergency. We need experts to respond to the correct conflict not more police. More resources, not more money for the MPD.

6/30/2020 10:06:52 PM

I support the City Council's proposed charter amendment and their efforts to dismantle the existing police department and replace it with a new agency that will protect and serve ALL residents of our city. For decades the MPD has operated with impunity and failed in its stated purpose. Instead, MPD has used terror against African Americans (and Native Americans) and -- in tandem with other institutions -- used force to maintain separate and unequal spheres for whites and non-whites in work, residence and leisure. This soft apartheid must stop, and replacing the MPD is one key step in this process.

I trust our elected representatives and understand that they are not saying there will be no protection from violent crime, but that more will be invested in non-violent responses to social problems. As a resident and a voter, I will hold them accountable as I expect them to hold all city employees accountable.

This is a change that is long overdue.

6/30/2020 10:07:28 PM

I oppose this concept in its entirety. I will leave this city if it continues.

6/30/2020 10:07:45 PM

I want to see our city take the actions needed to address systemic racism. And we need to keep people safe. This move seems premature. The City Council is asking us to vote on something we don't have all the answers to. Quite frankly, systemic racism in the police department and the lack of investment in community is not news to this Council. If they cared enough, they would've had a plan years ago. But they didn't act. Now they want to play catch up. We should not take this vote before a clear plan is put in place, the people and businesses of Minneapolis are engaged and listened to, and a people- and outcome-oriented plan is created. My concern is the Council has already made up their mind and won't consult the community nor look to what evidence shows us will work.

6/30/2020 10:07:48 PM

WE NEED OUR POLICE! The unrestrained chaos, rioting, and looting in the aftermath of George Floyd's death is a clear indication that Minneapolis needs more police, not fewer. Disbanding the police force and replacing it with a vision that has no track record and has never been done in a major US city would be a disaster. Minneapolis is on edge even though the acute phase of rioting and destruction has passed. What will happen if any verdict arrived upon by our justice system in the upcoming trial is not what the masses want? Minneapolis needs its trained police force to keep order. All parts of the city have seen gun violence with increased shootings and deaths in recent weeks. How would this gun violence have been handled without a police force trained to deal with hardened criminals with no respect for human property or life?

The sad fact is that some Americans are simply opportunists, such as the looters who gleefully took what they wanted, unfettered, from shops and stores owned by immigrant entrepreneurs and large corporations alike. This element of society would welcome disbanding the police force and replacing it with a less trained and less authoritative department that would somehow be expected to keep the peace. Property crimes, robbery, and sexual assault would still be committed. The fundamental outlooks driving the greedy and disgusting behavior of those who commit arson and loot stores will not change if the police force is replaced with some other department. The genesis of this anti-societal behavior can be debated endlessly. The lack of moral and ethical integrity that leads these criminals to behave in ways unacceptable to society started when they were young and will not be affected by external factors such as replacing the police force. How to bring impressionable children, adolescents and young adults to respect authority and conform to the rules of society in order to lead productive and fulfilling lives is an important issue, but is a discussion entirely different from public safety.

It is the duty of government to protect its citizens from the element of the population that has no conscience about committing unthinkable violence and crimes against law abiding citizens. The citizens of Minneapolis need to be protected from lawbreakers, regardless of what led these lawbreakers to their current behaviors. A police force is needed to keep Minneapolis safe. The inability to control the violence and lawlessness of recent weeks screams for more and better policing. If there are bad police officers, discipline or remove them. The vast majority of police officers do an extremely difficult and dangerous job exceedingly well and allow citizens to lead normal lives.

Minneapolis desperately needs its police force now more than ever. Do not change the city charter. Add to the numbers of our good, hard-working police officers. Don't be bullied by the police union and remove any bad officers. Give our police force the respect it deserves and allow it to do its job: Protect and serve. Minneapolis Ward 7

6/30/2020 10:07:57 PM

We work, recreate and have a blind son that resides in Minneapolis at the University. The rise of criminal behavior and lack of safety for citizens means we won't be coming to Minneapolis as long as police are not funded. That means a loss of revenue and non-support of major sports, venues, establishments and the University. We estimate this to be more than \$20,000 annually. I have resigned my position. We have made choices based on the cities shortsighted decisions and support of criminality over law-abiding citizens and local populations. Our disappointment is beyond measurable.

6/30/2020 10:08:01 PM

Whatever policing ends up looking like going forward, I want Police to have to carry their own insurance and keep it active as long as they are working. If their insurance gets dropped, they don't work.

6/30/2020 10:08:17 PM

I support EITHER a) defending and disbanding MPD, and putting all funding into diversion programs for young people, community centers and activities for young people, and a well trained army of community resources OR b) a COMPLETE overhaul of the PD as we know it, including requiring that officers live in the city they work in, mandatory body cameras, extensive training on communication, cultural competency and deescalation techniques, as well as getting rid of Kroll and the Union, and any sort of immunity clause for officers.

6/30/2020 10:09:56 PM

I strongly support the amendment to the City Charter to create a Department of Community Safety & Violence and get rid of the Police Department. The Minneapolis Police Department is not working and cannot be reformed. We cannot continue with law enforcement that harasses and kills Black and Brown people in Minneapolis. The Police Department needs to be removed from the Charter so we can implement a public safety system that keeps all residents safe. Ward 10

6/30/2020 10:10:07 PM

we cannot step towards positive systemic change unless we TRY something. This proposed amendment could potentially benefit the hundreds of thousands of people surrounding and residing in Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 10:11:03 PM

I do not think a Community of Safety y violence prevention Department is going to have the ability to control the violence and crime in Minneapolis. This is a serious problem in the city. We need to evaluate and reform the police department to continue protecting the community.

6/30/2020 10:11:18 PM

I'm not in favor of this amendment being rushed through. I'd like there to be proper time to review the proposed ammendment by the community, come up with a plan, and vote on a change in 2021, if necessary.

6/30/2020 10:11:24 PM

I support adding the charter amendment question to the ballot this November. I recommend that language be added to establish a residency requirement for officers whether they represent the police department or the community safety and violence prevention department.

6/30/2020 10:12:19 PM

I am conflicted. I think the proposal has good intentions because I believe those who feel unjustly treated by the police. From a long-term view, I think we can work towards a preventative focus, but right now there are people who are hurt so deeply that they can cannot express it well. They may still express it through rage and violence, or they may not be capable enough to restrain their own selves even if they do not mean to.

I would support a PARTNERSHIP at this time in which there were other first responders to deescalate a situation in which police offers may be needed for restraint.

I also would want the police force to revise what is deemed as "acceptable" force. I think I have read articles in which certain means of force that seem unacceptable for the average citizen is legally ok by law. That should be changed.

I think that there needs to be a police presence to provide assurance to the community as well. I understand there is a "white" majority, but they want to be protected too and if Council wants them to be supportive of preventative measures, realistically this needs to be taken in a phased approach.

It is possible that it will be, but the tone that is being communicated in the public eye is of drastic change which appeals to some but not to many of those that will ultimately decide the fate of the vote.

You cannot force the hand to get support-- you can only force the hand to be in pain until it figures out a way out. You must hold the hand. If reform measures weren't possible before, then change the amendment to that people can have tangible %'s to show how much funding will be reallocated to the community and be specific about where it is going--make sure you can back up the destination and correlate it to the decrease in crime or arrests you anticipate.

I would like to know specifically how you plan to address the most common 911 calls. I also want to know how you are showing how you are listening to the other side.

At the end of the day do not try to politicize a safety issue. If you are so focused on appeasing only certain groups, you may not win. You need to remember you are still trying to provide safety for everyone, and not everyone views it the same way. Show how they will benefit from this too because right now you are actually instilling fear in those that did look to the police for safety. Figure out how to serve the whole and answer that and maybe you'll have a better chance.

6/30/2020 10:12:34 PM

I am expressing my support to create a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police Department from the Charter, and the ability to vote for this change in November.  
Ward 13

6/30/2020 10:12:42 PM

I am not in support of dismantling the police department. I would like to see more details on how a community safety and violence department would actually operate and function.

How will the safety of safety department personnel be attained when responding to urgent situations that are often dangerous due to mental illness or drug use.

I do believe we can have a restructuring within the police department, but Minneapolis has been experiencing rising crime and drug problems the past couple of years. These persons will take advantage of less police presence as we have seen this past month. This plan must be well thought out.

Where will additional funding come from? A program like this will require a large employee base and the city cannot afford to cut a significant amount of police/peace officers. Property taxes are already high and continue to go up year after year with lessened services. How will this actually be implemented?

Ward 12

6/30/2020 10:12:45 PM

Will be letting our home foreclose if this happens. You're incompetent handling of this will cost me not only \$200,000 for the loss of my home, but a lifetime resident Ward 4

6/30/2020 10:13:10 PM

As a Minneapolis resident the last 10 years I do not support disbanding the police department. Over the last 3 years I have felt it has become less and less safe for me to walk alone, especially after dark and that crime has increased, especially violent crimes/attacks. Police are needed to address crime; in particular domestic abuse, rape, break-ins, assaults, theft to name a few. Police also uphold Miranda rights which I believe are an important part of the due process. I do believe that there needs to be reform with the police department including increased funding for training as well as reform to police unions that allow bad cops to continue to work. Perhaps there needs to be a type of license granted and that license to continue policing in Minneapolis needs to be reviewed by an independent board on an annual or semi annual basis and any grievances must be brought to the board in between reviews. Failure to maintain the license would be course for immediate dismissal. I also believe cops for Minneapolis should live in the city they're policing. I believe Minneapolis can do much better than it is currently doing in both protecting all citizens and providing police the support that is needed to do their job. Hopefully a well thought out plan can be implemented over the next several years that works for everyone. I just don't believe throwing the baby out with the bath water is that answer.

6/30/2020 10:13:15 PM

I believe that the police department should be written out of the city charter. For too long, police in this city have acted with impunity no thanks to the charter guaranteeing that their job exists and will continue to be funded. Ward 8

6/30/2020 10:14:53 PM

I do not think a Community of Safety y violence prevention Department is going to have the capability to control the violence and crime in Minneapolis. This is a serious problem in the city. We need to evaluate and reform the police department to continue protecting the community.

6/30/2020 10:15:25 PM

MORE police are needed. De-unionize them. Give them the pay and vacation they need and deserve. Better, more, and mandatory training. Required annual training. Mandatory THERAPY! A lot of cops are ex military. Even if they're not ex-military, the stuff they have to go through would give anyone PTSD. MAKE THERAPY MANDATORY. Monthly, at least. Take the stigma away from therapy. Take away the threat of therapy being a bad mark on their record. Give them an outlet...so they don't take it out on the George Floyds of the world.

6/30/2020 10:16:30 PM

It goes without saying that George Floyd's brutal killing at the hands of the Minneapolis Police was an atrocity and all too familiar in our country. I know that people are ready to roll up their sleeves and make some real change.

That being said, I oppose the proposed charter amendment, and I encourage you to take your time, instead of rushing to put this on the November ballot. I think that the amendment as written shows a lack of foresight and experience. It is clear that the city council also wants to remove more power

from the mayor in a city that already has a weak mayoral office. The city council was elected by about a quarter of the registered voters in Minneapolis, and the president of the city council received 4,883 votes to be elected. They should not even have the power to be pushing this through, yet alas we are here. We need to slow down and figure this out before making changes to the charter.

I have lived in this city for nearly 17 years. We both have careers and are homeowners. We live only 10 houses down from the first home that we bought. We have invested everything that we have in this home, and now we feel that we are faced with choosing to relocate because we cannot risk the uncertainty. We have nothing to fall back on. There is no trust fund. Mommy and daddy didn't help us pay for college or put a down payment on our home. We don't have a lake cabin to inherit. We have to be realists and choose stability, even if it means moving.

This is like rewriting the constitution of the United States. It should not be done by a group of 12 people who hardly represent the majority of the city's residents.

6/30/2020 10:16:57 PM

If possible I would prefer to substantially reform the police department including steps such as: reduce power of union, replace union leadership, reinstate resident requirements, partially defund the police to allow for other personnel to be trained for mental health call responses and other lower risk activities, require extensive de-escalation training, better early warning for 'bad' cops and the ability to remove them. If those types of reforms are not possible or are unlikely (and I suspect they are) I would support the charter amendment. I do think we still need 'part' of any future department (the proposed name is silly) to be equipped to handle potentially violent/risky encounters (traditional police, SWAT etc); however the degree to which we have empowered and militarized our police has made almost every interaction/encounter fraught.

6/30/2020 10:17:05 PM

I fully support the abolition and defunding of the Minneapolis Police Department. The charter amendment should prohibit current or former law enforcement from leading the new department, and it should NOT create a new division for police officers. I do not want a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department - this sounds like renaming the MPD. I do not want to rename the department and hire the same officers who were trained under a toxic culture to kill.

I want to reinvest the money that the police had in mental health counselors, social workers, drug counselors, sexual trauma counselors, and other specialized support. I don't see any benefit to having police stay in our city. I have never been in a situation where they have been helpful or have kept me safe.

6/30/2020 10:17:38 PM

Just by changing the name won't do much and cutting down on how many police officers will be around to serve the public will make Minneapolis even more dangerous place to be at. First the citizens need to start to comply and behave then when there is not much for officers to do then work on how many officers should patrol the streets. The best thing to do is evaluating each officer every so often to make sure they're mentally capable of doing their job. Being police officer is very hard job especially emotionally but their job is very important for us and our safety. People need to wake up and evaluate what they actually want. I'm sure that normal people that care for safety on our streets and someone they can call for help will never vote to take down or cut down on police department!

6/30/2020 10:18:06 PM

I understand the situation but I also see what's not being reported and it will be complete anarchy. Tough spot to be in for politicians but you signed up for it. I won't be treading downtown MPLS any time soon and I am worried about my college student!

6/30/2020 10:18:30 PM

No to this charter amendment. People in the community have been coming to this city council for the last 2 1/2 years with well-researched, data driven information, recommendations and resolutions, to substantially change policing in Minneapolis, and they have ignored the People for years. Five people, majority Black people, were killed by MPD in the last 2 1/2 years, and they did nothing, but now they want to abolish the police, after doing nothing? I don't trust any of these council members, and I do not believe they know what the hell they are doing. Repeatedly they would say their "constituents want more police," and "we don't have any power over the police," but now that over 700 businesses/buildings burned down, and the People took over and lit the the 3rd Precinct on fire, not after 5 people were killed by police, after the city was on fire, now they want to go the complete opposite? No, to this charter amendment proposed by a group of people that won't even acknowledge their roles in the murders of 5 people, while they did nothing to stop MPD from killing people.

6/30/2020 10:19:42 PM

Let's think about this - reforms are definitely needed, defunding is a knee-jerk reaction. Crime seems to be high, more police are needed, not less. I'm all for police not being called for drug od, let medical personnel handle that. But, other crimes? Shooting, assault, etc - police are needed. Please, please think about this, before it's too late.

6/30/2020 10:21:15 PM

I support this amendment 1000%. The abolition of police must come with a reinvestment in black communities. This includes but is not limited to: education (I.e. funding schools in less wealthy areas rather than deciding quality of education based on property tax); healthcare (I.e. making it available for everyone) and especially mental health care.

The new system of public safety should be based on community and most of all TRAUMA INFORMED! There is SO much research on trauma informed care (I know of it in Nursing, but it definitely applies to social work and any other area of care for humans). I encourage you to read about it and build it into the structure.

Sincerely thank you for listening to your constituents and making this amendment; don't stop here with the work you're doing.

6/30/2020 10:24:24 PM

Pack your bags everybody. We're going on a guilt trip to crazy town. The loony liberals on the city council are living in a alternative universe. Start preparing for total chaos!

6/30/2020 10:26:27 PM

I am strongly against abolishing the police department and do not support the issue being put to voters this November. I have further thoughts on this matter that I will forward at a later date but wanted to get this email to you prior to your meeting tomorrow.

6/30/2020 10:26:50 PM

Please place this sensible charter change before the voters of Minneapolis. Our city council needs the same control over police as it has over every other department of city government. Furthermore, the current approach to policing has profoundly failed Minneapolis, and the department doesn't have the faith of the community and cannot gain it without a fresh start. We are all at greater risk because of the failure of the Minneapolis Police Department, and our elected representatives need the tools to bring us effective public safety.

6/30/2020 10:26:59 PM

I do not live in Mpls, but did formerly and still work in Mpls.

Please continue to defund the police, and reinvest in other more appropriate channels of civil service.

Reducing police duties, as well as hiring trained non-police professionals for many of those tasks will make Mpls a better city for all.

6/30/2020 10:27:10 PM

Please defund/disband, reallocate and rebuild. The cities need social services of all kinds more than they need military intervention. With fully funded services for Mental Health, Domestic Violence, homeless programs, housing, job training, drug and alcohol programs, education and health care availability, the vast majority of the strife that results in unlawful or violent action, would be eliminated.

6/30/2020 10:28:16 PM

I am writing in support of the proposed charter amendment. The city of Minneapolis has an opportunity to implement radical alternatives to community support: one not shrouded in "safety" and actually entrenched in racism but one created by and with community.

6/30/2020 10:29:19 PM

No guns. No uniforms. More money allocated for fixing issues rather than criminalizing them. There must be ways for these folks to be held accountable if they do their job improperly. Like firing without opportunity to rehire. This department must be trained to look past implicit biases. They must live in the community they serve. Decriminalize marijuana. Decriminalize sex work. No quotas or incentives for citations. Extensive background checks for violence/predjudices.

6/30/2020 10:29:30 PM

Is it really your intentions to fully disband the police? If so, will there be any protection? If there is no police or very little to the point of poor response times, can we as residents go to you guys -the ones who pushed for this when we are robbed, hurt, killed with no help? Being you are pushing this so hard, the crime and deaths that happen after should fall on you guys as well as when companies start leaving and Minneapolis starts to look like parts of Detroit should fall on you guys.

6/30/2020 10:29:46 PM

Maybe first get rid of corruption among politicians THEN move on to the police thing? Acting emotionally is not as prudent as acting rationally. The community can't handle interacting with itself let alone 'policing' it. Anyway, doom and whatnot.

6/30/2020 10:30:04 PM

I believe this amendment should be put on the November ballot. The police department is not doing an effective job and needs to be completely removed and overhauled into a new department. Ward 13

6/30/2020 10:31:05 PM

Defunding the MPLS police? Here's some reasons why you should NOT defund the police..

Who else is trained to protect those that can not protect themselves, like children?

Crime rates have already risen since the announcement, how high do they need to go before you realize your mistake?

Why do you want to push out businesses and taxpayers who do not want to risk their business and safety of family, employees and customers?

Why do the council members get protection when they just voted to not protect their own community that voted for them? And why do the tax payers have to pay to protect 3 council members when they would rather pay to protect the children in our schools?

Why not tackle the black on black crimes that comprise a. Larger percentage of crime in Minneapolis, vs the cops on black crimes that have the lowest percentage?

Have every council member ride with an officer to see what they actually do and how quickly they have to make decisions.

Why make a mockery of our state with these insane knee-jerk decisions, which will hurt our tourism and hosting major sporting event that bring revenue to the community? Who wants to come to MPLS if they don't feel safe, just like Detroit.

I am so glad to not reside in MPLS but I do fear for my daughter who attends the U of M. Her safety is my top concern. Why you would decide to defund those that have chosen to serve and protect our communities is incomprehensible and I pray for all of the citizens of MpLS that this does not pass.

6/30/2020 10:31:16 PM

[REDACTED]. I'm a retired social worker, stay-at-home dad, and volunteer peer advocate with the Sanctuary. I am but a humble working class family man who is proud to be a member of a much larger community of loved ones and friends in this awesome, history-making town of ours.

This is after all OUR town. So here are some concrete suggestions to defund and dismantle the police with the following 5 points as a springboard, evolving towards a caring, nurturing public health and safety organization instead:

(1) Recruit public health & safety officers solely from the neighborhoods they work in, and very crucially representing the racial makeup of the neighborhood. Essentially they will be uniformed peer outreach workers who live and work in the community, whose sole purpose is to help the most vulnerable people in our society. Right now, in Southside alone, there are so many young and middle aged adults, many unemployed due to corona; highly experienced in public health, social services, education, community organizing and more. A section of these adults can easily be brought up to the fitness level of a beat cop and be community advocates for the neighborhood, building community and social relations while helping maintain public safety and health. You wouldn't even need squad cars because beat cops buddy up and WALK the neighborhood, i.e. their beat (hence the need for practical lived fitness rather than bench pressing meatheads with guns). This is akin to a lot of countries who have made giant strides in reducing police brutality and impunity. Policing needs to be replaced by the city paying us to care for our own communities instead of paying ridiculous salaries for suburban adrenalin-junkies to beat and brutalize us.

(2) Train public health & safety officers rigorously in trauma-informed practice, de-escalation, community organizing, peer advocacy, public health, community safety, and intelligent self defense – while significantly decreasing enforcement training, arms training, punitive control, siege mentality nonsense, power & control bullshit. Again we have multiple experienced professionals in Southside and across the Twin Cities who can examine the training curriculum, and propose practical changes.

(3) Public health & safety officers must be disarmed of all lethal weapons. Have you seen the beat cops in some of the wealthiest, safest countries on earth? They don't walk around like our city cops, in full captain-america-wannabe tactical gear. They look like city volunteers at a local park with maybe a flashlight, a baton, or some mace. What about terrorists you say? What about situations where armed police are needed? Sure thing – have a small, tiny percentage of the peace officers be tactically trained and ready to be called on for the rare, rare time when such armed intervention is necessary. You know who has better response times than the majority of US police when it comes to dealing with terrorists? European police. Because they don't expect their beat cops to intervene in a tactical situation. The guns for beat cops just gives them this overwhelming sense of power and entitlement. I know what it's like to wear a uniform and have a rifle over my shoulder. The power of a gun is very, very addictive and absolutely counter-productive for the overwhelming majority of reasons police are called to intervene in America.

(4) Finally, all peace officers must be subject to rigorous civilian oversight. Each precinct must have a paid civilian oversight panel with prosecutorial powers, with panel members being residents of the precinct jurisdiction. This is kind of a bare minimum for any democracy. It's a crying shame we don't have this in our cities.

(5) This is JUST THE BEGINNING. All this and more ought to be coupled with TRUTH & RECONCILIATION COMMISSIONS on police brutality over the past many generations. Minneapolis can be the starting point. Open those files. Let the fiery healing process begin.

6/30/2020 10:32:17 PM

I like the idea of other options available for 911 (mental health professionals, drug counselors, etc.) but there's way too much violence & crime. We can't not have police. (You can re-name it "Dept. of Public Safety," but there'd better be some kind of law enforcement.) I help lead a church in Mpls., so I'm there several times/week.

6/30/2020 10:32:47 PM

I have been a Minneapolis resident for 60 years, living and being involved in racially diverse neighborhoods. I am not in favor of dismantling nor defunding the police department which would leave the door open for other factions to impose their version of law and order, vigilantism, higher crime rates, as has already been demonstrated during this experiment at Powderhorn Park, and a fleeing to the suburbs, greatly reducing property taxes and city funding. After several decades of work, LakeStreet had begun to be a cleaner, safer place in a city with low unemployment and a good economy. One night of unchecked rioting when we were abandoned by government leadership destroyed all that work. I love South Minneapolis, and I don't want to see it destroyed by more unchecked violence. Keep what is good, remove what's bad, reform, train, bring back the Police Chaplain program, but do not defund or dismantle the Minneapolis Police Department.

6/30/2020 10:33:22 PM

I am a white homeowner in south Minneapolis about a mile from where George Floyd was murdered. I have lived in Minneapolis for 17 years. I strongly support the amendment to remove the MPD from the city's charter. I believe the MPD is unreformable and make the public less safe, not more. I support exploring new ways of ensuring the safety and well-being of our people and the accountability of our government.

6/30/2020 10:34:07 PM

No do not abolish the MPD . Don't even know why this is even up for a vote.

6/30/2020 10:34:10 PM

End arbitration, But don't defund, Justice for all, Comes with law and order for all, And peace Comes with diversity

6/30/2020 10:34:13 PM

For the past 15 to 20 years I have been both a former resident of Minneapolis. A City of Minneapolis employee and my current company is downtown. I have slowly watched this city go from a booming City to constantly welcome out-of-state friends and relatives to see a wonderful quality of life. To slowly becoming not only ashamed, but embarrassed and fearful for the pathetic and chaotic direction that the city has slowly falling into. I watched as gang activity and violence have consistently become worse. after the addition of the crime ridden light rail system and completely ignored transit stops. What used to be safe areas to enjoy nightlife between 5th-6th and Hennepin turned into a gangland war zone on a regular basis, were shots rang out and there was no police to be found. Where before I would be safe to meetup for socializing after work. Now only to myself be followed back to my car and harassed by the many drug dealers and troublemakers hanging out on the street corners looking to jump an easy mark. which at this point I have witnessed too many times to count. Meanwhile very rarely seeing police even in the area or lifting a finger. even driving from point A to B through Minneapolis has become a nightmare onto itself. Where groups of young adults will deliberately stand and block traffic in the middle of an intersections, flip off the cars to provoke a reaction and then proceed in groups to attack or harass the drivers. meanwhile the police don't bother to lift a finger to get the random traffic blockers out of the way for their own safety. Instead they'll look directly at the situation and drive on past with the typical stand-down mentality, Unless blood has been spilled on the streets. This has gone on for far

too long while people in charge have turned a blind eye and tried to skew the numbers and act like it wasn't as big issue. When opportunities to have adequate police were made available, the mayoral candidates in charge constantly did the exact opposite which could have made the streets safer for residents and workers alike. Not to mention the fact that my own career working for the city was ended, when I was witness to police violence at the hands of the Park police on numerous occasions throughout some of our recreational departments. When I approached my supervisors and city council members at the time, I not only was ignored, but complaints were not filed. I found myself being terminated for speaking up two to three days later. I was vocal about the children that had been beaten and pepper sprayed under the age of 12. The other 10 to 15 employees had all written statements verifying the same evidence that was all discarded and ignored. So how after all this with a history of police misconduct, blatant disregard for public safety, unchecked violent crime and gang activity and simply wanting to put on a dog and pony show for the media meanwhile ignoring pleas of business owners that have been vandalized destroyed and citizens that have been attacked, beaten up or even killed at the hands of the criminals of this city. We then let our incompetent leadership lead our city into a week of arson, riots, violence and terroristic threats to only once again prove how completely unable to lead our mayor, city council and Governor seem to be. Not to mention in the aftermath of the George Floyd misconduct. We have seen violence quadruple in stabbings, shootings, carjackings and and way too many other violent crimes to count. We've relocated heroin addicts and rapists to the nearby powderhorn Park. this is the hellish tent Town round two. I had not only one, but five different friends jumped, groped and almost raped thanks to criminal and drug addict aspect that Minneapolis keeps shifting from one tent to the other. without forcibly finding treatment facilities or arresting the offenders. This is completely preventable. So no we definitely need a properly trained, competent police force. Perhaps we should start with defund

6/30/2020 10:34:33 PM

I have been actively following the many issues currently before The Charter Commission in recent months. Communities across our greater Twin Cities have been plagued with challenge at every angle. Safety, well being, economic justice, housing, childcare and the values formed with the Isaiah agenda are just a few dignities our society needs to offset the senseless deaths of minority neighbors. In recent years, I have felt Minneapolis become a lonesome city, pennies in its pockets.I smiled a lot at those on streets and in buses riding from Minneapolis to St.Paul

for twenty years, a thousand streets walked end to end.We spent thousands of nights listening to the city.Sometimes I feel I've always been just passing by on my way away or toward. But now, the travel has changed much and tonight we will not sleep well together in a world that seems like no ones.

We need to advance from the nature of existence as it stands and create a model going forward that lifts heaving despair from those who least deserve their burdens.I hope you will be intent as well.

The Charter Amendment on a November ballot will be a step toward reformation and a faith that those who oversee the city can be counted on. There is much work to be done,PLEASE stand up to bravery and be a part of the future success of Minneapolis. The voters are counting on it. Ward 13

6/30/2020 10:36:11 PM

I am heartened that the city council wants to create an improved system of public safety that prioritizes safety of citizens, equity, and accountability.

I like the idea of changing the structure of public safety to prioritize addressing the problem accurately whether it is a mental health crisis, a domestic violence situation, or a true situation of danger and serious crime.

I disagree with taking out some sort of guideline about the number of "officers." I think the term of officer could be defined more broadly to include more than people with guns. However, I do not support the idea of "defunding" as there are not enough details in the charter to know how this will affect the resources that are being allocated to public safety. I think the kind of training, restructuring and accountability we need will cost more, not less at least initially.

I want the department of public safety to be able to have the authority to determine which of their employees whether police or peace officers are competent in their jobs and are able to de-escalate conflict effectively with use of force as a last resort, and our public safety representatives deserve the proper training and testing of their skills to know if they are able to do the work as we expect and demand, with compassion, justice, equity, and to preserve life and livelihood.

Can we recruit more members of our community, i.e, fellow residents of Minneapolis to be our public safety representatives rather than having the majority of folks coming from outside our city who may be less invested in our city?

We need to cherish competent cops, black lives, and the sanctity of feeling safe in our communities.

6/30/2020 10:36:36 PM

I have been meeting for the last month with residents of Ward 12 and Ward 9 to discuss what our city could look like without the current police structure. There are many groups of neighbors like ours throughout the city who have been getting together regularly to talk about how we want to see the city spend its resources on safety and harm reduction. We are discussing what safety looks like without the Minneapolis police department, how we can be anti-racist as we move forward in pursuing safety for everyone, and what resources we would want to see in our neighborhood to make this a reality. Your vote on this charter amendment lets these conversations continue as we imagine what is next for Minneapolis safety. Ward 12

6/30/2020 10:37:34 PM

I oppose the charter amendment. In my view, there exist two primary reasons that the Commission should reject the proposed charter amendment.

First, such an amendment undermines the rule of law and adds to the atmosphere of lawlessness that currently exists in Minneapolis. Any cursory examination of history reveals that criminal elements quickly step into power vacuums. That situation is currently playing out in Minneapolis.

Briefly, the inexcusable killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis Police Officer led to unrest. The unrest quickly cascaded into rank lawlessness, and ineffective leadership by County Attorney Freeman, Mayor Frey, Governor Walz, the Minneapolis Police Department, and the National Guard permitted that lawlessness to blossom into the worst rioting seen in American history, save the Los Angeles riots of the 1990's.

The heated rhetoric emerging from the Minneapolis City Council has emboldened efforts to "abolish" or "defund" the Minneapolis Police Department. In this environment, the police are both disheartened and increasingly subject to hostility when they attempt to respond to violent crime. Criminal elements, sensing an opportunity, are stepping into the void that exists. As a result, violent crime is increasing. Any

further rhetoric or votes to “defund” or “abolish” the police will send the message to criminals that the streets of Minneapolis are theirs for the taking.

The simple fact is that dismantling the Police Department will increase lawlessness and decrease public safety. Any casual student of political science or history understands that, without the rule of law, anarchy ensues, and that is a recipe for disaster, as was revealed recently in Minneapolis.

Second, and perhaps more importantly, the City Council has no coherent plan for public safety. It is populated by twelve ineffectual leaders who have yet to articulate any plausible outline of what they believe will replace the current Minneapolis Police Department. There is no plan, only rhetoric.

Ironically, this same group of legislators has spent years failing to effectively reform the Minneapolis Police Department. Now, they expect the public to “trust” that they will be able to construct a comprehensive public safety system that will be unique and unprecedented in the United States. I, for one, am utterly unwilling to allow the City Council to experiment with my city.

You need to understand that I am not an apologist for the Minneapolis Police Department. Virtually all of my interactions with the Minneapolis Police have been resoundingly negative. The Department clearly needs major reform and restructuring. This is most obvious in its relationship with minority communities, but the need for reform goes beyond that. Non-minorities, including myself, do not trust the police very much, if at all, and find them to be largely ineffective when the time comes to assist us when we are victimized by criminal elements. But in the final analysis, I trust a regulated police department far more than I trust criminals or unregulated, self-deputized neighborhood patrols. And I believe that, with effective leadership, the Department can be reformed and transformed into an effective police force that respects all of the citizens it serves and guards public safety.

Minneapolis has enough obstacles on its road to reform and recovery. Do not add to its difficulties by irresponsibly supporting this charter amendment.

6/30/2020 10:37:53 PM

#### I AM AGAINST ABOLISHING THE MINNEAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT.

I understand there is reform to be done BUT abolishing or defunding the police department is not the answer to any and all problems in Minneapolis. I think the City Council should look at themselves as a group that should be held accountable for most of this unrest. I have lived in Minneapolis for 41 years and I have never seen such racial division crime and lack of safety. Minneapolis is not just one area or “community”. I think the City Council has forgotten that. I have lived all over Minneapolis from the University of Minnesota to Franklin Ave. to Uptown and South Minneapolis. I CHOSE to live in a very diverse city and have raised 3 children that all live in very diverse areas in Minneapolis. We all need to feel safe. All of Minneapolis need the police department.

We need more police more education and more transparency for the whole city.

#### ABOLISHING THE POLICE IS NOT THE ANSWER.

6/30/2020 10:38:37 PM

I'm curious of the liability implications for the city. More or less downgrading the city's protection must put it in the “high risk” category. My concern is that the city may not be prepared for this additional burden, especially if there is any kind of exodus from the business community.

6/30/2020 10:40:04 PM

I would love to see better supports for people who are struggling to prevent or end homelessness, a trained mental health crisis response team, and resources to help people not get into desperate situations that lead to crime in the first place. Mental health should be free to access and not dependent on health insurance. People shouldn't have to be in crisis before they qualify for support. Let's do this right and set an example for other cities.

6/30/2020 10:43:20 PM

I support the amendment to the charter. Ward 6

6/30/2020 10:44:28 PM

Abolish the police.

6/30/2020 10:46:06 PM

I do not think the police should be disbanded or any of that. We need the police. They have and always will be needed to enforce the laws. Disbanding or dismantling the police is a very stupid idea. I will never vote for the amendment to do this. Oh and I also don't believe we as tax payers should be paying for the security for city council members. Pay for your own or call the police.

6/30/2020 10:46:26 PM

The proposed charter amendment is hasty and ill-defined. Our existing City Council has been in office for several years and the lack of detail provided for such a sweeping proposed change underscores how little attention the Council has given to the problem of police violence and systematic racism in our City since taking office -- rather than provide a plan that displays forethought and engagement built over the last several years, we only get a soundbite that seems intent on grabbing headlines to boost political careers rather than productively engaging all residents of Minneapolis for proactive change. Our City Council has focused on superficial amenities like bike lanes and luxury developments while ignoring the issues which led to the horrific murder of George Floyd, as well as others before and after him. The proposed charter amendment is shoddy work put forth as a last ditch effort to save face amid a terrible failure of duty, and is not the work of leaders who are truly focused on making this city safe for all residents. I do not see the proposed charter amendment as productive change-making and will vote against it. I would support a more detailed plan put forth with adequate time for review and consideration, to be voted on in 2022. I urge the Charter Commission to consider whether the current proposed amendment has been put forth to serve the residents of Minneapolis or the careers of the City Council. When they have moved on to other positions in politics, we will be left here to continue our lives in Minneapolis and deal with any negative consequences of their shortsighted actions -- for them it is a publicity/career move; for us it is our home, our neighborhood, our community and future generations.

6/30/2020 10:47:33 PM

Do not defund the Minneapolis Police department. You can imagine the damage that would cause. It is not the answer. If we give in to this what's next?! The military? Give them a inch they will take a mile.

6/30/2020 10:47:43 PM

I am in favor of the charter, however, I think it should not be voted on until it has had input by the leaders of the black and brown communities, and all communities, found in Minneapolis. There should be a fleshing out of how this looks led by activists who have been advocating and researching this type of change for a long time before it came to light here.

6/30/2020 10:48:22 PM

It's completely inappropriate for a council who's shown zero interest in reforming MPD over the last decade that the community has been calling for it, it slap together a proposal without consulting experts.

6/30/2020 10:50:24 PM

Vote no! Of course, we need more investment in alternatives to policing and other community needs, but without concrete accountability measures for whoever is policing Minneapolis, we'll continue to see tragic deaths of civilians at the hands of violent and racist cops. We don't want a rebranding of the police department, and we don't want unelected/unaccountable civilian leadership. We don't need a new name for the MPD, we need community control over who polices are city and how.

6/30/2020 10:50:46 PM

I support removing our current police department and rebuilding something new. The murder of George Floyd is just the most recent example of an organization that is wildly out of control and out of step with the community they are mandated to serve. They are in breach of this mandate to serve. We as black people can not call upon those meant to protect us without fear of the police department escalating the situation resulting in our own murder. We know this from actual documented examples of mistreatment, disrespect and ongoing violence perpetrated against us. In light of all of this terrible, corrupt and brutal history of mistreatment and absolute failure of any reforms to improve the situation, I am in favor of removing the police department in favor of a well thought out plan employing highly trained and highly specialized professional people to carry the intended work of the police department forward, into a egalitarian future.

6/30/2020 10:52:26 PM

I feel that it would be an egregious mistake to defund/disband/dismantle the MPD.

Yes there needs to be reform on procedural protocols, but to reduce the police presence in any way would be catastrophic, when police presence should in all probability be increased from the usual as well as compensatory increases for the high risk jobs these men and women do each day.

6/30/2020 10:53:15 PM

I am pleased that the city of Mpls is taking steps to rebuild the police department from the ground up. I would like to see the police providing a backup role in cases where there is a relatively low chance of someone getting hurt. I would like to see them trained in de-escalation tactics. I would like police to get out of their car and walk their beats. I would also like the police to live in the city they serve.

6/30/2020 10:54:05 PM

I lived in Minneapolis until a year ago. I still work for the city and consider it my home. The residents deserve better than the MPD. Divest from the MPD and reinvest in the community by dismantling the corrupted systems and removing the police unions, aka modern day mafia.

6/30/2020 10:54:09 PM

Please do not abolish the police in Minneapolis. I live in St. Paul in Frogtown and we definitely need the police! Yes we have issues with some police officers but please help fix those issues and make our community safe. Yes its hard and painful work but the world will be better in the long run.

6/30/2020 10:54:25 PM

The crime is out of control. We need law and order now!!! We need police on the streets ASAP

6/30/2020 10:54:28 PM

There needs to be change to policing in Minneapolis, but this is not the way to do it that in a way that will protect the community. The community is asking you to DEFUND the police, not abolish them. We need to reduce the scope of what police do-- they are responsible for fixing too many problems already. Not every situation that requires help requires an officer with a gun, but some do. There needs to be more RESEARCH behind any new plan. Please reconsider this charter amendment. Thank you for your time.

6/30/2020 10:54:50 PM

Do not refund the police force in Minneapolis this city needs cops. We need to protect our good cops. The city will not be safe without them . People need to respect our men in blue. Without cops all hell will break out.

Part of being a citizen is to feel protected by your government and cops help with that. Law and order is needed in Minneapolis. We do not support defunding the police force.

6/30/2020 10:55:13 PM

I'm torn about the charter amendment proposal. On one hand, I don't want us to lose the momentum for systemic change and risk not accomplishing meaningful change. I know some people have been working in these directions a long time. I believe the motivations of the City Council are good. I know there are people for whom this is important because their experience with police has been undeservingly negative rather than positive. However on the other hand it also feels like we're being rushed to trust the City Council with a rather blank check. I'm not sure how we're to be confident we'll end up with what we need. I know some of the local black community leaders who I've made a point to tune in to don't support the elimination of police or the charter amendment at this point. I also know this is a very polarized and emotional time. There seem to be a lot of reactions from various quarters based on lack of information and misunderstanding as well as on deep divisions in perspective. This makes me wonder if we're moving too fast.

I wonder if there are ways we can act to ensure we're actively implementing deep, meaningful change without getting ahead of ourselves as a city and community.

- Could we amend the charter to create a well funded and staffed Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention without it being a replacement of the Police Department yet?

Could we (through charter or otherwise) ensure that we do move as many functions of the police department as can be well fulfilled in other ways to those other ways?

- Can we (through charter or otherwise) ensure we do everything we can to eliminate problematic actions and outcomes on the part of the police while we're working through to other structural changes?

- Could we (through the charter or otherwise) keep the possibility of drastically reducing if not completely eliminating the police department truly viable without committing to doing so before options and plans have been worked through to better clarity and wider agreement?

- How does the size of our police force compare to the size dictated by the charter? What options does this imply?

- What actions can we take (by charter or otherwise) to ensure a "Division of Law Enforcement Services" doesn't carry the same problems we're trying to get rid of, just under a different name? Thank you for your work.

6/30/2020 10:55:47 PM

We need the Minneapolis police. We need to get bob kroll out. I will vote against disbanding the police.

6/30/2020 10:56:24 PM

To whom it may concern: I'm not a resident of Minneapolis. I live in a suburb just to the south. My family and I spent a lot of time there, though. Concerts, restaurants, games, ballets.

There is a distinct correlation between the increase in crime and violence and the tearing down of the department. If the plan to defund and dismantle the Minneapolis PD passes, we will no longer step foot in Minneapolis. And you might as well kiss any major event goodbye. While you're at it, you should also say goodbye to Gov. Walz, Mayor Frey and the entire city council. Do you not see the hypocrisy of the members wanting private security yet taking that away from the general public?! It's utterly ridiculous. There isn't a social worker, mental health expert, EMS, etc that will even come near a scene if not first cleared by the PD. How many more innocent lives will have to be lost before you feel like Mr. Floyd's death is avenged? Have you seen your city at 3 in the morning? It's out of control. You've become a laughing stock to the entire nation.

I hope you take the time to consider your options based on logic...not emotion. This plan is not well thought out and will 100% backfire.

6/30/2020 10:56:50 PM

I do not support this city council move to amend the charter and this unsound, knee-jerk reaction to dismantle the Mpls police dept. The idea that a handful of bad apples in Mpls police dept. means the entire bushel is bad is no different than saying all people of color are bad or all white people are bad because a handful of idiots exist in each of these cultures. We need to judge individuals by their behavior & actions but not judge an entire culture on the bad actions of bad individuals within that culture. Reform the Mpls police but do not dismantle. The lens the city council members are looking through is muddy and illuminates a lack of intelligence by not using sound judgment, logic or reason.

The entire city council needs to be dismantled rather than the police, and citizens with better judgment put in their place. Elections are coming.

6/30/2020 10:57:07 PM

I am concerned that there is a big push to rush amending the charter and yet there is no concrete plan. While I agree this is important, what's the hurry? There are greater priorities in the city right now like stopping this wave of violence that is impacting innocent people. People are in fear of their lives so can the city council in conjunction with the police and neighborhood groups...please? No to the amendment of the charter.

6/30/2020 10:58:27 PM

Please ensure that you are engaging the community and local civil rights/criminal justice reform focused people who have been working on these issues for years. We will not come to an appropriate resolution without them.

6/30/2020 10:59:18 PM

I strongly support the City Council position to establish a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. The community should have the ability to express concerns and suggest other options available within the community utilizing local community organizations, private security companies, big brother big sister programs and local business's willing to network and collaborate to keep the community safe and informed. Funding should be redirected back into after school programming, financially stable community center programs and to maintain the safety in our parks and schools through incentive programs working with parents. It's very important that the City Council members look into programs that are not working within the community and create an opportunity for those willing to bring new ideas and solutions that will help the city council achieve their goal.

currently, I spend majority of my time working [REDACTED] within the twin cities to help teens and young mothers under the age of 25 with small children dealing with homelessness, unemployment and education working in the community for more than 15 years and fighting against injustice and for accountability among our elected officials and local community members working in the community.

6/30/2020 10:59:56 PM

I would like to see the city take a step back and do some real research into alternatives rather than force what feels like a very emotional and punitive reaction to a horrific tragedy. Minneapolis is a city I am proud to be apart of. I have always been proud of the progressive, thoughtful way the city conducts itself. Please don't cease being a city to be proud of. Take the time to do the research, seek feedback, and develop a well-planned, well-thought our initiative. This is not that. Ward 4

6/30/2020 11:00:12 PM

Hi, I completely support the defunding of the MPLS police department. I do not live in MPLS, but a surrounding suburb. I have been considering moving since our elected officials have deserted the public from any type of protection or representation. The influx of immigration from those who can afford to move out of the MPLS city limits to the surrounding suburbs (where they can get protection from police)

will surely increase my property value substantially. Thank you for allowing me to capitalize on this potential opportunity.

6/30/2020 11:01:27 PM

If you manage to succeed in this matter, I will not be visiting your city nor will I travel through it. I won't be spending any money in your town-so no support to your businesses that manage to survive. I would also assume that city council members would discontinue using tax payer money to hire personal security, correct? I am embarrassed to say I'm from Minnesota right now.

6/30/2020 11:01:59 PM

Changing the city charter to eliminate the requirement for a police department is a shortsighted, dysfunctional overreaction to the needless and tragic death of George Floyd.

A city is not habitable without a strong, disciplined, well-organized and well-equipped police force of sufficient size to handle its volume of calls for assistance in a timely manner. Postings by residents on NextDoor make it clear that the Minneapolis Police Department is understaffed for its volume of calls, with long response times. If a report in the Star Tribune is correct, the charter requires even a smaller ratio of police to population than we have now.

A larger police force would respond more rapidly to calls and reduce stress on our overworked officers, likely leading to better police behavior.

Eliminating police entirely, as some seem to demand, is an unworkable daydream. When a little girl calls 911 at 3 a.m. to say her father is hitting her mother, are we going to send a social worker? In such situations of rage, only the arrival of blue-shirt police, with the implication of force and legal consequences, is going to stop the assault.

Putting some kind of armed law enforcement officers under a "Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department" does nothing to increase officer availability, shorten response times or assure proper police behavior. It adds a layer of costly bureaucracy to a city government that already is financially stressed and often too cumbersome for rapid decisions and action. Our "weak mayor" system already gives city departments too many bosses, meaning the 13-member city council. I fear the proposed change would lead to a worsening of this problem.

Minneapolis police, most of whom try to do good work and not abuse residents, would benefit from better pre-hiring screening, more human-relations training and more officers, creating more time to work with residents before being dispatched to yet another call.

We can reduce crime by solving more of our social problems through programs with state and federal funding to help people get out of poverty. Removing a charter requirement for a police department does nothing to reduce the poverty that inevitably creates social problems leading to criminal behavior.

I urge the Charter Commission to maintain the requirement that Minneapolis have a police department.

Ward 7

6/30/2020 11:03:34 PM

I think that the "Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Dept." should not automatically include a majority of current MPD officers (e.g. they should be invited to re-apply for the new CSVp dept, not simply be rolled into it should it be created), and should be regulated by a Citizens' Advisory Board

independent of MPD and the City Council (i.e., the board rules on complaints, has input on establishing procedures, etc). Also for god's sake please find a way to get rid of that misbegotten bristly piece of goblin gristle, Bob Kroll.

6/30/2020 11:04:21 PM

Call it whatever you want, but please take decisive action to reorganize policing to erradicate a clearly toxic and antagonistic culture that harms our community. Our neighborhoods are not war zones. Police are not in combat, but even the military has stricter rules for deadly force. Keeping the peace should mean keeping our residents ALIVE.

6/30/2020 11:04:33 PM

Please do this. The police in the third precinct are out of control and have not been helpful. Our community deserves more funding for the root of the problem, instead of funneling money to the prison pipeline. Let's support the community.

6/30/2020 11:04:53 PM

I am a 26 year resident of S and SW Mpls, currently living in Uptown since December 2008. The recent violence in our n'hoods has been destabilizing. The current level of anxiety among residents remains high four weeks after George Floyd's murder.

I am NOT in favor or defunding police OR establishing a Community of Safety and Violence Prevention Dept. I am in favor of significantly reforming police including imposing residency requirement for officers, body cam requirements and changes to arbitration process.

6/30/2020 11:06:04 PM

I think community input is definitely needed before moving forward- more than this comment card. Focus groups and actual listening sessions.

6/30/2020 11:07:30 PM

I invite you to actually connect with the residents most affected by horrible policing. They have voices, listen to them. NOT FOR IT

6/30/2020 11:07:56 PM

This is ridiculous. The problem is NOT the police. Are there some bad apples? Sure. But why punish all officers and the city for a few bad officers? People didn't want all Muslims to be blamed for the 9-11 attacks, so why are we blaming an entire occupation for the wrongdoings of a few. You should instead concentrate more on the communities where there are problems. The gang violence, the robberies and burglaries, the groups of people attacking innocent individuals, the drugs. Maybe if people had a strong family unit and a community they could depend on, there would be less calls for police.

Right now it seems as if the Minneapolis Police are afraid to be proactive in fear of losing their job or even their freedom. And look how that's turned out. How many people have been shot and/or killed in the last couple weeks? Where's the outrage and protests for this violence and blatant disregard for human life?

You just want a scapegoat to blame for societies problems instead of actually looking at where the problems really are.

If you get rid of the police, I'll be watching from the other side of the river as Minneapolis goes down the toilet. Be careful what you wish for. Stop making a knee jerk reaction and think long and hard about what you are proposing. The people of Minneapolis should put a stop to council members and re-elect new members with common sense and logic. Not people that rule on feelings.

6/30/2020 11:09:02 PM

I do not believe at this time this amendment should be passed. The community needs the opportunity to have input in this process. That means conversations that are broadcasted and available for any community members to see and hear. That does not mean private conversations behind closed doors. These actions will affect the whole community and therefore the whole community should have the opportunity to at least hear the conversations that are happening, before an amendment is created or votes are needed.

6/30/2020 11:09:42 PM

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 recommend 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.

6/30/2020 11:10:14 PM

I do not support the proposed amendment. I do support the current Chief, who is an asset to Minneapolis.

I support a thorough examination of all personnel of the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) for racism or racial bias, and the removal of persons who do not meet community standards.

I support intelligent defunding of the MPD so that dollars may be redirected to communities needing more funding for programs known to be successful there.

Most of all, I support transparency that will allow citizens to know the origin, presumptions and impacts of the amendment. The citizens need to be informed about all known models used in other cities to provide respectful and safe policing.

6/30/2020 11:11:07 PM

This amendment does not have sufficient detail for the public to weigh in. Are we disbanding the existing police force or just renaming it? How will this address the police force employees who have murdered people? Will those folk be allowed to continue working? If new social service professionals are enlisted to respond in collaboration with police force employees that have killed people, what will be done to address the inherent tensions? At the least, please consider a review of all officers involved

in custody deaths. At best, suspend all officers from duty pending review of efficacy. This is how malfeasance claims are dealt with in every publicly held company.

6/30/2020 11:11:47 PM

Replacing Mpls Police with a Community Safety group could never work in a city within the U.S. as our cities are extremely violent and dangerous. It could work in A very small town. Or Countries such as Norway or Switzerland where the crime is next to nothing. Not here. Who will answer to 14 year olds shooting each other and gang war fare in the middle of the night. The crime is horrifying,. What I believe would happen without Police is Mpls would be overtaken by criminals of all levels Gangs, Mafias, Cartels, big time criminals as well as small time. Business owners would be Extorted ..People would Never be safe again. This is what has become of Mexico, A place I would visit yearly for 15 years. I can now never go there and I speak the language so I know first hand how the country has been overtaken by criminals. it is owned and extorted by criminals. Mpls could come to this without a Police Depart.

I have traveled the globe lived in Europe for twelve years been in Afghanistan. I am from here and and in the 29 years since returning here I Never feel safe. I have lived in places where I can walk home at 2 a.m alone. Here that could never be.

We have a Black chief of Police totally Supporting change, who himself has even sued the department over racism in the past. Other Black Officers speaking out about the discrimination they experiences within the department ,and taking legal action. Never before have police officers or a Chief, stood up and spoke out when fellow officers are in the wrong. It has always been lies and cover ups. For the First Time Ever! we Now have a huge opportunity to change policing as we have the support of a Black Chief and Government officials. This up until now has been Unheard of! Ten year Probes of Mpls PD and civil action Suits.! Un-heard of!! This is Historic and Something we have Never seen before. It is Huge, a Big step in a New and Right direction. I Am Astounded by the support, Finally!! We must take advantage of the Support and the Time of change which is Now. A wheel has begun to Spin to stop the Police Brutality. However we need police, the crime and violence is just too serious to handle without them. Those who are willing to change must remain on the Mpls PD. It is Impossible to me, to believe that every single police officer is broken un-able to change and that every single one is a brutalizing racist.

With this probe they can weed out the bad, hire new ,restructure the policies ,policing and strictly enforce them and do away with their excessive force and violence. Living on the East side of St Paul for 29 yeas I have had to call Police many many times. Some were horrible, un-helpful. Some were amazing caring individuals, we must look at each and every police officer as an individual not as one is the same as all. Fore,when we do this we have become exactly what we are fighting against, prejudice. By categorizing all cops as bad we are practicing prejudice. Thank you all for all you are doing to make our country and state a more humane place to live.

6/30/2020 11:12:05 PM

I am a white middle class female South Minneapolis resident with two young children and I fully support defunding the MPD. It has proven an ineffective and corrupt agency that needs to be completely gutted and restructured. Chief Rondo has shown amazing leadership during the last two months and I have faith and trust in him to clean house if given the tools and empowered to do so. I am, however, very concerned regarding the complete abolition of the police department as articulated in the language of this charter. I do feel that the defunding of the police is paramount and massive structural changes are

needed. However, I do not think that complete abolition of the police department is going to be an effective way to achieve these goals. First, the language in the charter provides no mandate that there be any law enforcement component either established or minimally funded. This concerns me as a citizen of Minneapolis because 1) I do believe it is naive to think that trained law enforcement officer do not play an integral role in community peace keeping. 2) I believe this charter is too far reaching as written to pass by ballot measure and will result in a missed opportunity for real change to be achieved. 3) I am concerned that this charter's lack of specific delegation of power Regarding other staffing or organizational needs within this newly established peace keeping agency leaves this way too open for a new level of civilian led corruption to take over in place of the police-and does not do anything to address the need for communities to have significant say in the manner and way that peace is kept within their community- I.e. funding community-led restorative justice organizations. I do believe that the MPD is in need of extreme reform and the police union has promoted a culture that does not protect the communities but rather engages often as an agency that considers the community the enemy-particularly as this pertains to people of color. And so, while I am in favor of defunding and restructuring our system into one that has many more components beyond policing to support communities And work to support positive change from within communities themselves this abolition goes too far for me at this time. That's not to say we might not get there eventually, but to take this big step now would be premature. Policing does not need to be funded at such an incredible amount and much of that money should be better invested in community led restorative justice initiatives. However, I feel that abolition is premature, naive, and will result in a missed opportunity on the ballot this November. As written , I do not believe that I would be able to support it. I hope that this conversation continues until a more comprehensive and winnable plan can be proposed.

6/30/2020 11:12:51 PM

#### TL;DR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION SHOULD EITHER BE REMOVED OR SEVERELY LIMITED AND THE CHANGES IN THESE ARTICLES MUST TAKE EFFECT NOW BECAUSE THE PROBLEMS EXIST NOW

The precipitating incident to this moment was one of violence. The ultimate cause, though, is how the criminal "justice" system is weaponized against poor people and people of color to surveil, harass, and in many cases enslave anyone considered undesirable by the establishment. Taking an entire year merely to recreate the exact system that murdered George Floyd, gassed civilians for WEEKS during a respiratory pandemic, and brands as felons thousands of Minnesotans annually - but \*this\* time with a \*social worker\* in charge of police - is unacceptable.

Law enforcement does not prevent crime, but rather documents, exacerbates, or even creates it. A Minneapolis that, tomorrow, suddenly had no law enforcement officers at all? Would be a safer & more prosperous Minneapolis for an overwhelming majority of residents. You cannot pass these charter amendments without placing severe explicit restriction on the population, armament, and authority of the proposed law enforcement division - especially as we head deeper into an economic depression and landlords demand for law enforcement to make people homeless, with no alternative, via eviction. Additionally, every day we maintain the current police force is a day that hundreds of people - especially black and indigenous people - come into contact with barely supervised, uniformed thugs who have a vested interest in citing them for minor "crimes". We, the people of Minneapolis, cannot wait the year that you are asking us to. We want justice and we want it now.

While I agree with the idea of the amendment, I would like to see changes made aligning with this letter from Communities United Against Police Brutality (attached). The careful legal wording and attention to accountability is crucial. Ward 2

### **UNDERSTANDING THE MINNEAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL'S CHARTER AMENDMENT**

On June 26, 2020 the Minneapolis City Council introduced a proposed charter amendment to rebrand the Minneapolis Police Department into a "Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention."

There are many problems with this proposed charter amendment. Some are technical, some relate to process, and some relate to what this amendment will actually do (or, more correctly, won't do).

#### **The Proposed Amendment Won't Change Policing—Just Make it Less Accountable**

The proposed amendment gives the appearance of creating a kinder, gentler version of public safety but really it just shifts power and accountability.

Under the current charter, the Mayor oversees policing, including discipline. The proposed charter amendment would put the police department under another department that reports to a City Council committee and, for any action, to all 13 Council members. The new structure means LESS direct accountability for the police department and is a DISASTER for community oversight of the police.

The City Council would have you believe they will do a better job of holding police accountable but history tells us otherwise. Council members, including the current ones, have never made the slightest effort to rein in the MPD even though they had many opportunities before George Floyd was killed. They never questioned the union contract. They blew the chance to mandate a good body camera policy when they approved the purchase before seeing the policy. And they created the Office of Police Conduct Review (OPCR), which has a dismal rate of upholding complaints against police, and they continually refuse to address its failures. Why would anyone think they would do a better job of holding police accountable under this new scheme?

Their proposed amendment creates no actual reforms in policing. Instead, it promotes the notion that policing and social services somehow belong under the same umbrella, perpetuating many of the problems the community experiences now.

### **The Devil is in The Details**

- The city charter is our constitution. It is essential that any changes be legal and proper.
- The current Charter makes it clear that the mayor is responsible for all police discipline. The proposed amendment doesn't indicate who is responsible for police discipline, a fatal flaw in the wording.
- Their proposed wording of Section 7.3(b) states "The Council MAY maintain a division of law enforcement services, composed of licensed peace officers..." while subd. 1 states "The director...SHALL appoint the director of the division of law enforcement services..." SHALL is a legal word that means something must be done. Why would the director be required to appoint a head of a division that may or may not exist?
- **BUT THERE IS AN EVEN BIGGER PROBLEM:** The word MAY implies that there may not even be a police department. Under state law, only licensed law enforcement officers can take a person into custody, issue citations in lieu of arrest, seek and effectuate warrants, and investigate crimes for possible prosecution. If the City Council decides not to "maintain a division of law enforcement services," will law enforcement services then be left to the Hennepin County Sheriff's Department, which is even less accountable to the community?

### **A Flawed Process Creates Flawed Results**

In its haste to push this charter amendment, the City Council has completely cut out any involvement of the community. The normal process for a charter amendment is for the city council to send the amendment to a committee. That committee refines the wording and holds one or more public hearings for community feedback. This time, however, the City Council suspended its own rules to avoid holding public hearings.

The proposed amendment now goes to the Charter Commission. Hopefully, this commission will do what the City Council has failed to do—address the flaws in the amendment and hold public hearings. The Charter Commission is a deliberative body—they actually take the time to review proposed amendments because they recognize the seriousness of making permanent changes to the charter. They will receive the amendment wording on July 1, 2020 and have 60 days to review it, with the option to extend that by 90 days.

The City Council seems hell bent to get this flawed amendment on the ballot for November 2020 but the deadline for completing the process through the Charter Commission and back to the City Council is August 21, 2020. Since meeting this deadline is very unlikely, the amendment will likely not be on the ballot until November 2021. This begs the question—why the giant rush to push out faulty wording with no input from the public?

Keep in mind that even if a charter amendment proposal gets on the ballot in 2020 or 2021, it still has to be approved by 51% of the city's voters. A poorly written proposal has a lot less chance of success.

### **What Should Be Done?**

There is one part of the proposed charter amendment that would be helpful. The current charter requires the city to fund policing at .0017 x the population. That means we're required to fund a minimum of about 730 cops (we actually have about 880 on the payroll). 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 part of the proposed amendment removes this funding requirement, which would 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 addition, whether or not a charter amendment ends up on the ballot, the City Council and Mayor could move forward NOW with actions to rein in the MPD and hold them accountable. They could 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.

There are many other actions they could take. These are not fast fixes but they are lasting ones. For a complete list, go to cuapb.org for our list of 44 recommendations on ending police violence.



Information provided by **COMMUNITIES UNITED AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY**. We meet every Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at 4200 Cedar Avenue in Minneapolis. For more information or for help with a police brutality incident, call our 24-hour hotline: **612-874-STOP** or see our website at [www.CUAPB.org](http://www.CUAPB.org).

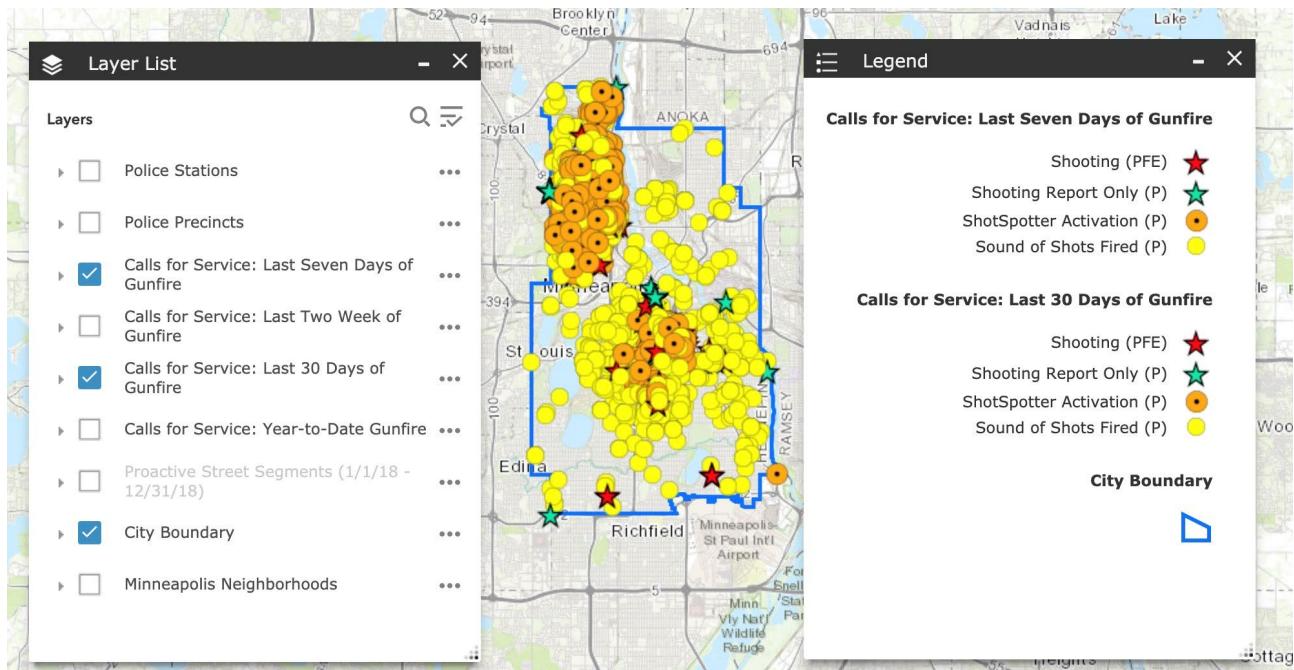
6/30/2020 11:16:49 PM

The heightened, emotional reaction the city council has exemplified that rewards NON-COMMUNITY centric group think versus meaningful COMMUNITY- centric dialog brought to light the fact that the council members are unwilling to properly evaluate what is best for the city.

As you may be aware there have been MORE THAN 1600 SHOOTINGS in the last 30 days including children, YET YOU ARE SILENT on this epidemic. This has brought into question whether I can safely raise my family with two young daughters or if we will have to move because it now feels like we live in a disintegrating society.

In my recent poll in 26 neighborhoods in Minneapolis 31% have indicated they are already or now strongly considering moving away from Minneapolis. I know I'm far from alone in considering leaving a city that has been and could be a beautiful, exciting city to raise a family because it quickly looks like violence and anarchy is not only allowed, but encouraged by the actions this city council has taken.

If the recent number of shootings, violence, and business destroyed do not seem to bother you as it should then this city is marked for its own demise by your design and we will not stand by saying you must uphold REAL and ACTUAL safety measures and not bow at the alter of your political party.



6/30/2020 11:19:36 PM

I am concerned at the speed at which City Council has moved to draft this amendment, and the lack of due diligence put into its creation. While the need for reform is urgent, moving with irresponsible speed will do more harm to Black and brown bodies than is already being done. We have an opportunity to truly set an example for other cities and the country as a whole. We have an opportunity to prevent future death and harm. I would like to see us take that responsibility more seriously and have less grandstanding and more serious work put into this -- including consulting with Minneapolis activists who have been begging to be heard for YEARS and who have put great thought into alternatives and reforms.

6/30/2020 11:21:07 PM

I'm adding my name to say Hell No to amending the City Charter!

6/30/2020 11:21:18 PM

I am concerned about this charter amendment as it is currently written. It suggests that the city council and or the Hennepin sheriff's department would have greater responsibilities over policing in Minneapolis. This is not a satisfactory response to the community's cry for a new way of handling crime and emergency needs in the city. This won't work without input from community leaders and the community at large. As the amendment currently stands, the wording is confusing and the accountability is murky. The amendment needs clearer language. The flaws in the amendment must be addressed and public hearings must be held.

6/30/2020 11:21:27 PM

I am concerned about accountability in involving activists and people working directly in our communities and listening to the needs of our communities. I want this to be based on research and not hastily designed.

I want to see our communities safer by defunding the police and having community based programs for prevention and intervention.

6/30/2020 11:21:38 PM

If defunded/abolished or made into something they can't keep people safe, I will never come to Minneapolis again for dinner, concerts, games, bars, or any entertainment whatsoever. Support our police!!!

6/30/2020 11:22:17 PM

Hello,

As a proud resident of Minneapolis, having attended Central High School and South High School each within blocks of the tragic killing of George Floyd and the destruction of Lake Street that followed in the aftermath, I implore you to seek another solution to our policing problem.

To establish a multi-tiered system of civil protection under the management of a 14 person city council does not instill confidence in our future protection of individuals and neighborhoods. While I appreciate the complexity of our structural issues at play that contribute to the great inequalities in our city, signing on to approve a nebulous web of yet to be created or defined agencies and bureaucratic structures is only inviting less transparency and accountability.

I strongly urge you to focus your energies on giving Chief Rondo the mandate to do a thorough housecleaning of MPD, while the State of MN proceeds with its civil rights investigation of the department.

Again, I love this city. I understand your motives but as a realist and an adult I understand intentions don't always result in effective outcomes, particularly when they are not founded in proper planning and management. Please reconsider your intention to reinvent the wheel. By all means replace the wheels.

6/30/2020 11:22:20 PM

I will not go back to my Mpls job nor ever go to Mpls for games, events, dining etc if police are defunded.

6/30/2020 11:22:25 PM

Hello,

As a proud resident of Minneapolis, having attended Central High School and South High School each within blocks of the tragic killing of George Floyd and the destruction of Lake Street that followed in the aftermath, I implore you to seek another solution to our policing problem.

To establish a multi-tiered system of civil protection under the management of a 14 person city council does not instill confidence in our future protection of individuals and neighborhoods. While I appreciate the complexity of our structural issues at play that contribute to the great inequalities in our city, signing on to approve a nebulous web of yet to be created or defined agencies and bureaucratic structures is only inviting less transparency and accountability.

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Again, I love this city. I understand your motives but as a realist and an adult I understand intentions don't always result in effective outcomes, particularly when they are not founded in proper planning and management. Please reconsider your intention to reinvent the wheel. By all means replace the wheels.

6/30/2020 11:23:47 PM

I do not think you should put this on the ballot to remove the requirement to have a police department in the city charter. The charter is there for a reason--a solid guiding foundation through tumultuous times. I don't think we should defund the police. Fix what we have. Change the culture, the culture of the union and support the good ones. I do not think a good effort has been made to change what we have. If for no other reason than remaking the wheel will be very expensive.

But of course when does the city listen to constituents who pay taxes?

I sent this to the city council and mayor 8 days ago:

Our beloved city is rapidly becoming a cesspool. Crime is out of control. Instead of focusing on bad apples and police union, you've demoralized the police and emboldened criminals.

Shootings car jackings beatings 5 on 1. Just terrible.

We all have a stake in how you too far left liberals screw our city before you move back to where you came from and leave us to pick up pieces.

Get your priorities straight and stop dreaming about a utopia. It's not a light switch that you can flip and those who were living under white privilege will not suddenly say--oh the city cares now, lets lay down our guns and be nice. It's not going to work that way. We still need police to do the tough work of dealing with these criminals, yes perhaps created by the system but letting it all fall apart is not going to create a better city. YOU NEED A PLAN and We NEED POLICE.

6/30/2020 11:23:52 PM

Dismantle OPCR and eliminate the per capita funding requirements.

6/30/2020 11:24:01 PM

[REDACTED] I have been a resident of North Minneapolis since 2001. I've moved my family here from California and currently retired. I have seen so many great things in the North but I am troubled with the current violence before the riots and now. There were 14 rounds shots on Vincent and 16th on Monday. Young teens were seen leaving a house and luckily for the grace of God no bullets hit any kids or anybody in the neighborhood. On that block of 16 and Vincent there are many kids playing outside. On my block of 16 and Thomas have seen crime pick up recently before the riots and after. I am for police reform but I cannot support this amendment at all...does not advocate for the community in any way.

6/30/2020 11:24:42 PM

This seems slapped together without providing detail. I would recommend we study cities who have already made changes to their police staff with success and incorporate their plan as part of ours. A community of safety and violence prevention. What would this look like? We need to stop the harassment, killing, and brutality of the police and hold them accountable by documenting with cameras and with the policies that are enforced. The union leadership needs to go.

6/30/2020 11:24:44 PM

Do not abolish the police!!!!i am against this charter !!

6/30/2020 11:25:37 PM

The fact that theres no public comment during the meeting is a sign of abject failure to listen to the constituency that is and will be most affected by this policy. As a BIPOC organizer, UMN graduate and an employee in this city, I emplore the council to do thier due diligence in policy writing so that there is not further harm inflicted on to our BIPOC communities.

You need to listen to the voices of the Black community in Minneapolis. Not for show but do your damn job right.

I want change for this city but it cant be done blindly with haste. Open the meeting to the public to comment tomorrow and let the residents be part of the process that ultimately will affect them most.

6/30/2020 11:25:57 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I'm grateful For your service to our community. I'm extremely concerned about police violence. After my neighbor, Justine, was murdered by a Minneapolis police officer, Ms, Valerie Castille's words, "They are coming for you, and you and you and you" truly hit home. As a white woman I had a brief glimpse of the fear people of color experience every day of their lives because of our corrupt and violent police force.

I have no trust in the current system of policing and don't believe we can effect change by simply dabbling around the edges. We need an entirely different system. Current laws and the power of the federation, lack of true oversight and accountability make change to the current system impossible.

I implore you to take bold action. We can't have more Justine Damonds, more George Floyds, more Jamar Clarks. Please. No more stolen lives.

I'm begging you and counting on you to find a way to make dramatic changes or allow others to do so.

6/30/2020 11:28:01 PM

I live one block away from North Minneapolis. I am aware by way of conversation and seeing things that your proposal is not the answer. Why would you not go to the communities in which you represent and listen. Ask questions. How much research have you done? Do not rush this through. There are people out there that have ideas, that understand the issues and know firsthand what needs to be done. People are being killed and injured right now. What are you doing right now? How will this charter help with the real issues? This isn't about you looking good and heroic. This is about the people you serve. Don't rush this through.

6/30/2020 11:28:21 PM

I write not as a busybody outsider, but as someone with a vested interest in the city. I attended the University of MN and lived on the West Bank for three years. I have attended weekly church services in South Minneapolis for the last 13 years. I am the rare exception as most of our members are residents of Minneapolis. I frequently bring my family to sporting events downtown. I am also a musician and have spent many nights playing live music downtown and in the surrounding area. There have been instances where I've felt unsafe downtown and elsewhere in Minneapolis. One evening my band played at The Red Sea and we found out upon arrival that there had been a shooting the night before in front of

the bar and a stabbing the night after.

All that is to say that I enjoy spending a lot of time in your city, but to point out that I also do not have to go there since I am not a resident. I disagree with amending the city charter to eliminate the police department. On the surface this appears to be nothing more than a rebranding of the police department with euphemistic words that make it sound friendlier. I have not seen anything made publicly available that even comes close to specifics on how the police department will be replaced. Forgive me for hesitating when you say you'll work out the details later. I have zero confidence that the mayor and city council whom let the city burn would be able to replace the police department and protect the city. I also have zero confidence that the one-party city government which has allowed the problems within the police department to go unchecked for the last 60 years will be able to affect any meaningful change.

While I would miss playing music and can easily stop going downtown for sports, it would be very difficult for me to leave my church and the neighborhood it serves. Nobody can predict the future, but if the present (and the recent spike in crime) is any indicator, less police will likely lead to more of what we're already seeing.

Please do not disband the police. As a nonresident I cannot vote for or against the measure or any elected officials, but I can make a change that you will all understand; my entertainment dollars will go to other cities that have a more realistic understanding of what public safety is. And it won't involve me getting shot or stabbed outside my favorite music venues, having my pockets picked or being assaulted on light rail. Despite its flaws I like your city; don't give me another reason to not visit.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

6/30/2020 11:29:14 PM

I support a version of the charter amendment that does not explicitly specify inclusion of a policing or law enforcement division. Allow for real change by not requiring policing and allowing for our structures to evolve as the city needs, unrestricted.

6/30/2020 11:30:38 PM

I am gravely disappointed in the actions of our city council at this time. I do not see evidence that you have done your due diligence in crafting this charter amendment. Actions that need to be taken include, but are not limited to: researching effective police reform efforts, hypothesizing possible outcomes of said efforts, carefully examining cases in which police brutality has occurred and LISTENING TO COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS. There are brilliant people in our community who have essentially done the work for you, but you need to listen to them. I need you to remember that you work FOR them, for us. Please listen to people who have been holding up the most vulnerable in our city with their work - Nekima Levy-Armstrong, Michelle Gross, Raeisha Williams, Leslie Redmond...I know you know these names and I don't care if you like them or not. LISTEN TO THEM. They are working diligently for our entire city.

I cannot have faith in the efforts of a city council that does not involve the city in such critical work. DO NOT just give this lip service and pretend that that it is good work. I need to see you involving the voices who have done the research and who live closest to the problem.

6/30/2020 11:30:56 PM

I have been a Minneapolis resident for 35 years and have been very active supporting those in need in our community through action and with resources. I have never been more disappointed in my city council. The proposed charter amendment illustrates a short-sighted perspective that is oblivious to the economic realities of today and what is needed to have a sustainable community.

I have been advising successful business owners for over 30 years and through three recessions. If they feel their employees and assets are not safe they will leave the city and take jobs with them. Look back in history and at other cities. It will happen. Property values will plummet. Many residents who are fatigued by high taxes in the city on top of financial stress from a recession will leave. There goes the tax base. Good luck attracting support for non-profit service organizations, educational institutions, cultural institutions, and recreation/events that attract business and people to our community. The momentum needed to fuel the economy and job growth coming out of a recession will be depleted.

Change is needed in our police department and many other institutions and aspects of our community. We all need to be committed to equity. I am and am taking action. However, none of the important steps that need to happen will take place if we don't have the economic and community foundation that lead to jobs so all can provide for their families.

I firmly believe that the vast majority of people are honest and want a better future and are willing to work toward it. But it's totally naive to think that there aren't bad actors who will create chaos and will act selfishly when they don't think there are personal consequences. That has occurred continually over the past few weeks, in Minneapolis and other cities. Your charter amendment will fuel that sentiment and accelerate misbehavior and chaos.

The glamour of social media posts will fade, you will be out of office and we'll all be left wondering what was our city leadership thinking? No one will be better off.

6/30/2020 11:31:42 PM

I have read the proposed charter amendment and, while I whole-heartedly support the intent, I cannot support this particular proposal. First, whatever words are used to describe the city department that is responsible for keeping the peace and enforcing our laws, it must be accountable to the Mayor, who is then accountable to the voters. This proposal seems to put the whole council in charge of the head of this new department. Second, while I agree that policemen are not the best responders to a wide variety of civil issues and that other expertise would be much better in many cases, we do still need a group of dedicated individuals who are charged with addressing violence and crimes against persons and property. This charter does not require there to be such a group. It requires the City Council to establish a department responsible for "public safety services", but makes it optional for the City Council to establish an organ within that department that would be responsible for law enforcement. Finally, this charter amendment does not require that the police be reformed. The City Council -- or some future City Council -- could create a police department just like the one we have (could even keep the one we have) with all of its bad apples and the restrictions on discipline and termination that make it so hard to reform the current thuggish and racist culture. We need a much more specific and detailed charter amendment that makes clear that our police force cannot treat people -- especially minorities -- the way it does now and that the Mayor/Police Chief can discipline and fire those officers who violate a new clear standard of behavior towards the public. Ward 7

6/30/2020 11:32:18 PM

I am a South Minneapolis resident and I want to make sure that community involvement is a major part of creating a safe Minneapolis. It is a mistake to rush this process and to move forward without including the community in the planning phase. I urge you not to rush and create a new system that fails just as poorly as Minneapolis has failed to protect residents in the past.

It is imperative that those currently and previously affiliated with MPD do not influence the development of safety management for our future. The same goes for anyone with a history of allowing police violence against citizens. In order to heal the community, the community must have a voice. Right now, those voices aren't being heard. I feel excluded and silenced by your methods, and many of the residents of this city feel the same way.

We did not elect you so that you could ignore us while dictating our future in increasingly harmful ways. Draw us into the conversation. Show us that we elected the right people. Prove to us that you care about this city and the people most impacted by your previous negligence and unwillingness to stop police terrorism and to protect citizen's constitutional rights.

6/30/2020 11:35:26 PM

I fully support the abolishment of the MPD, followed by allocating the money from their budget to programs that will actually help reduce crime, like drug programs, prison reform, poverty reduction, and proper homeless housing.

6/30/2020 11:36:09 PM

I am hoping due diligence is performed before any changes are made to the charter. There are lots of careers involved and it is only fair to review each and every one of them before making a single change. I feel the council's stance is a power grab undermining the Mayor's authority in order to elevate their own importance. At this point, we don't need actions like these. We need well thought out resolutions to problems that have been around a long, long time. Maybe if we tried to solve some of the grass roots issues we could figure out solutions to these problems and create better living for the community. I'm for change but not at the expense of the police officers who have dedicated their careers to help the citizens of Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 11:38:51 PM

Please delay the proposed charter amendment establishing a new Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention and removing the Police Department as a charter department for a year.

I don't understand the rush to put a vague charter proposal on the ballot BEFORE a public engagement process takes place to clarify what an alternative to the current police dept could or should be. Vague generalities without well-thought-out specifics could create a vacuum that some with bad intentions could take advantage of. This certainly seems to be what we saw embedded in legitimate protests over George Floyd.

And some have argued that it seems like this discussion of a charter amendment seems to have conveniently served as an effective way to "change the subject" from what has gone wrong in the management of the police department and what can the mayor, police chief, and city Council do better in the future.

Any proposal of this magnitude needs more than a few days for proper vetting before it is ready to be put on the ballot. The city of Minneapolis has seen enough chaos over the past few weeks. What we need is a rational discussion and an orderly period of reform strategies to make sure that the police department is willing and able to protect and serve rather than routinely put certain peoples lives in danger. The problems are likely multifaceted which means the solutions must also be comprehensive, thoughtful, and not just catchy one dimensional soundbites.

6/30/2020 11:39:37 PM

I don't want the Police department to be disbanded. The racism and violence against people of color needs to end, but getting rid of police is not the answer.

The city was talking of adding more officers for the increase in violence downtown before the incident with George Floyd happened. There's also too much robbery and assaults near the U of MN that's not being adequately addressed.

There's still gangs, thieves, and other criminals that need to be stopped. Residents want to feel safe. Our neighborhood has been plagued by garage and house robberies and they don't seem to be investigated well either. It may seem like a small or non violent crime, but it makes the area feel unsafe and abandoned.

6/30/2020 11:39:52 PM

I am all for defunding the police and creating a community led safety system. I would like to see more residents of Minneapolis a part of this new initiative, not officers who do not even reside in the city. I hope this amended charter will lead to big changes with this coming election

6/30/2020 11:41:29 PM

Defund MPD and invest in community now! No more fake legislation. Abolish the police now! Community oversight now! Money into the community now! People are dying every day, there is no more time to waste, the blood is on your hands you have a chance to create lasting change. Let Black visions Collective, reclaim the block, and mpd150 lead.

6/30/2020 11:41:33 PM

I do not support defunding the Minneapolis Police Department. I agree there needs to be more training. I think Military training is the best way to go. They need to know how to respond, in the right way, to many different situations. The Officers who have no business being in the police profession should be weeded out!

6/30/2020 11:42:33 PM

Doesn't matter what you call it. But whatever you do, you have to have a public official (mayor, council member/s?) who is capable of running a police department on behalf of the people who need the actual policing. As it is now, the Mayor and the Council members from the wealthier areas are ok with what amounts to more or less benign neglect from an incompetent and racist force because they don't need much police interaction. And the less wealthy areas, which also happen to have more POC, don't have the power to get the kind of police they desperately need. One way to manage this might be to give council members from areas that need policing, much more power to run the department.

Either way, you need to end up with a group of people who can offer a safe, consistent police interaction to people of all colors. To achieve that, you need to fire the bad, incompetent officers. Again, if you don't do this, it doesn't matter what you name it.

6/30/2020 11:43:20 PM

As a Mexican Indigenous woman committed to safe and healthy neighborhoods, I support efforts to defund the police and to establish a new city vision for public safety. I was born and raised in East LA and have lived in the Twin Cities for 11 years. This is my home now. This is where my family lives and will grow. Our city needs a new model, led by Black and Brown folks.

Reform is not enough. It hasn't been enough. We need systemic change and we need it now.

6/30/2020 11:43:24 PM

[REDACTED] I've been in Northside resident since 2001. I've seen so many great things in North but violence the last couple years before the riots and after have picked up. I currently attend Sanctuary Covenant Church in North Minneapolis on Aldrich and Broadway right across from the Cub Foods. We have been serving the community as a distribution site for those in need food security. We have been serving the community since 2003... we have seen so much violence at Merwin's liquor store and gas station on Lyndale & Broadway and all across North Minneapolis with all kind of violence, drug dealing and White and Middle Eastern owners that don't care about the community by over selling liquor to individuals that are too intoxicated and chemical products. If you look at the reports of incidents in North Minneapolis you will see... dismantling the police is not an answer or solution. I have worked in nonprofits for most of career and I've come to the understanding that Direct Services is not always answer. I do not support the charter Amendment.

6/30/2020 11:43:53 PM

I support the amendment to remove MPD and would like community voices to be heard (more than just on one online form) to figure out how to protect our communities. I also would like there to be discussions about how things are worded if they go in the ballot in November

6/30/2020 11:44:26 PM

The Minneapolis City Council has been completely irresponsible in trying to rush through a significant proposed charter amendment without exercising due diligence, conducting research, or consulting the most impacted communities. Many of us have been requesting and demanding an overhaul of our system of policing and we were ignored. In spite of the haste at which the Council is moving to put this charter amendment on the ballot, the Black community is still being ignored. This is not what we are asking for. This proposed change is dangerous, irresponsible, and not well thought out. The Council needs to take a step back and listen to the voices of impacted communities, conduct research, apply evidence-based practices, and conduct experts to develop sound recommendations before seeking to amend the charter. They are cutting corners and putting more lives at risk, which is unacceptable. We want major change, but we want it done right and within a time frame that makes sense for the residents of our city. Nothing this important should not be rushed so quickly. We have the opportunity to set the example for the rest of the nation on how to effect change the right way. That is how we can genuinely honor the memory of George Floyd.

6/30/2020 11:45:21 PM

I think Police officers are overpaid and overprotected, the system is broken and has to change, no more paid four year vacations or being rehired. The Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department sounds like a change in the right direction.

6/30/2020 11:45:32 PM

Done with police.

6/30/2020 11:46:11 PM

We need to be careful how we do this and do this in a thoughtful way! I want a police department that is cleaned up! You need to go through all officers records and fire anyone who has multiple offense of brutality or biases. And make it so they cannot move around so they can get their job back in law enforcement. If the officer is taken to court they need to pay for it themselves or by liability insure like a doctor. The union need to stop protecting this bad behavior! That is what is happening now!

There needs to be protection for officers that speak up when they see something wrong so there can't be retaliation by other officers. There are plenty of good officers that would speak up but are afraid of what will happen if they do.

I do think that some money needs to be diverted to social programs like mental health, abuse, housing assistance. With that money going to other programs and having officers working directly with them it would take some of those things off the officers plate to police and into the hands of the people that are equipped to handle these issues. We expect too much from the officers, give them some help. What we have now is not working as more and more brutality by the hands of the police keeps happening. Let's actually do something thoughtful about it. The community needs to be involved in these decisions. It is almost like we are not thinking this through and just getting this pushed through because the world is watching. Let's get this right! Many of you don't see what is needed because you are not in the community and are the elected official trying to solve a problem you know nothing about. I don't think many of us want the police to go away! We want a better system for the police to work in so everyone is held accountable/ safe when things happen and the only way to do that is to tear it all down and rebuild it better! We need to learn/understand our history before we can change anything!

6/30/2020 11:47:07 PM

I am writing today to express my general support for 'Proposed Charter amendment related to community safety and violence prevention (CH2020-00014)'.

The "funding" section is missing from this amendment, as well as an explicit term. I think these omissions require explanations.

6/30/2020 11:47:14 PM

Police do more harm than good in Minneapolis. They have to go, full stop.

6/30/2020 11:47:28 PM

I am concerned that the process leading to this amendment seems to diverge from the expressed commitment to center the Black and brown activists who have been doing the foundational work for police reform for years. The timing seems rushed, and the wording gives the appearance of less accountability for law enforcement rather than more.

Let's take a bit more of the time between now and November for some diligence and consideration of optimal approach here, rather than rushing to the ballot with a change that people are raising worthy concerns about in the meantime.

6/30/2020 11:47:33 PM

I feel like we need to make sure we bring prominent citizens in the community like Nekima Levy Armstrong into the planning process of any reforms. She has extensive experience not only in the area of law, but as a prominent member of North Minneapolis her expertise is vital to making sure we get this right

I think Bob Kroll, Anna Hedberg, and anyone with a similar demeanor is detrimental to any progress we hope to make if we allow them to continue policing in Minneapolis. There is a rampant element of white supremacy within the ranks of the MPD, and I have heard it first hand while out eating in the city. I am sick, and tired of the lack of diplomacy. It needs to change.

We also need to maintain police within our city. I don't think abolishing them completely is the answer.

I think creating more specialized emergency response teams to handle different issues (many could be unarmed), domestic specialists, addiction specialists, homeless outreach to handle crisis in that community, and teams to handle more serious crimes, and investigations. An overall conscious effort to become diplomatic in their approach is key to making this work. If aggression is the first tool in the belt to be utilized, then we have failed no matter who we have responsible for responding to calls. Officers need to learn de-escalation techniques that do not require submission as the only option.

Finally, civilian review is necessary, and it should have the ability to remove problematic officers without being overreached by a union that errs on the side violence almost exclusively. When Bob Kroll is literally defending the job of a murderer, and in reality murderers, then his role in the problem should be clearly evident.

6/30/2020 11:47:58 PM

I am fully in support of defunding the Minneapolis Police Department. However, I am not sure that the amendment to the City Charter is doing that work or simply renaming the MPD. Are officers going to be fired and re-evaluated and rehired? Or is everything going to stay the same with a different name? Are we going to hold on to racist systems that we have supported and unquestioned since the beginnings of this country? Or are we looking for real change? I want the funding for militaristic offensive aggression on our citizens to be abolished. I want that money to go to social services that work to prevent and elevate people from having to involve themselves in situations deemed as crime to survive. I want money from my taxes that goes to the police department to go to public education and affordable housing. I want a different world that isn't based on fear and protecting property and things, but protecting and elevating people. Ward 8

6/30/2020 11:50:33 PM

I have read the proposed changes and while I know there are still many details to work out, I am excited to see what the city council is able to do in this area. I hope Mayor Frey and Chief Arredondo begin working with them towards this goal. I know this change is scary for many but we are past the point of incremental change and it's time for something new. I have hope for our future knowing that we have city leaders who are doing what they can to end systemic racism in one area of our culture. If we band together in support we have an opportunity to set an example that other cities can follow. Thank you for boldly moving forward with this!

6/30/2020 11:51:11 PM

We need to recommit to the idea of Minnesota Kind. We don't need Minnesota Nice but instead we need to practice radical kindness by destroying the systems that oppress our residents. One great step towards Minnesota Kind would be to remove the Police Department and establish a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. I am fully in support of this and ask that you will be too!

6/30/2020 11:51:49 PM

I'm concerned that the process thus far has been hasty such that public engagement has been completely disregarded. I'm also concerned that the issue of how to address public safety is being conflated with to whom policing (or a new department) is accountable. I think the role of the Mayor and the City Council with regards to public safety/policing is a separate question from whether MPD should be dismantled and replaced with a new department. Lastly, I'm concerned that the effective date for the amendment would be May, as 6 months (Nov to May) doesn't seem like enough time to build a new department from scratch.

I'd potentially like to see an amendment on a future ballot, but I'd like to have the City Council and the Charter Commission take the time to fully engage the community, clarify the issues, refine the language, and plan for implementation. If there isn't time to do this to have this amendment on the 2020 ballot, then I'd like to see this vote delayed.

6/30/2020 11:51:55 PM

I don't fully understand what the City Council is proposing! Please communicate CLEARLY with your constituents! Please hold OPEN discussions. Nekima Levy-Pounds, Racial Justice Network, Jaylani Hussein, CAIR-MN, and many other BIPOC community leaders absolutely MUST be at the table for these discussions. This is a chance to make real and lasting change in police reform and racial justice. Please proceed carefully, thoughtfully, with open ears and minds.

6/30/2020 11:52:01 PM

I am not comfortable with these changes. I feel there has not been enough homework done in this issue.

6/30/2020 11:52:12 PM

The police union has reached a point in which officers can act in a way contrary to the public good and officers get no penalty for acts which should be penalized. While Unions may provide useful protections it appears that the current situation is one which is unbalanced. Disband the current system and create one in which meaningful action can be taken to clean up the bad elements in the Minneapolis Police.

6/30/2020 11:52:18 PM

Absolutely not. Rewrite this fucking charter. The city council continuously walks over the dead lives of black people giving them absolutely no justice. This is pathetic. The city council needs to stop saying they are for working with the community when this charter doesn't even help the community or listen to the community. Rewrite it. Listen to the community. The countless lives that will be lost due to your failure to act will be at your hands. We all saw Minneapolis being burned, but you guys, the city council, are burning every person within these cities with this half ass charter to "establish a community of safety and violence prevention department". Rewrite it. Listen to the community. Create a better system where change actually happens. You specifically used wording as a mask to make us believe you're bringing change to the MPD. It's clout chasing social justice. Doing all of this for PR. What a disgrace. You absolutely know what you guys are doing. If Minneapolis goes through with this charter and it passes in November but the new system in replace of MPD fails, it's the voters fault. If Minneapolis doesn't go through with this charter in November, it's the voters fault. But if Minneapolis votes this charter through and it succeeds, city council gets all the credit. Pathetic. Listen to your people. Remove the MPD entirely and thoroughly, not the half ass shit you guys wrote it the charter. Rewrite it.

6/30/2020 11:52:35 PM

For the safety of residents, a complete restructure of how we "serve and protect" is needed. Liberty and justice are not being achieved. Time and again this police department and union have argued for their own violence against civilians, rather for deescalation or treating needs such as addiction rehabilitation or mental help. We are a strong and adaptive community. We can do better.

6/30/2020 11:52:39 PM

Defund the police. They have never protected me, nor solved any crimes I needed solved. For me, I've just been maced, tear gassed, shot by rubber bullets, and given ticket. That's not what I want to pay for. Listen to your people.

6/30/2020 11:52:50 PM

Any replacement for the Police Department must not include any cops currently on payroll, any sort of arms for that department (lethal or non-lethal), or any aspect of qualified immunity for officers of the replacement department. If the police department is involved in any way in their own defunding or reform, we will be back exactly where we are now.

6/30/2020 11:53:25 PM

I will submit a direct quote from MPD police union leader Bob Kroll as my argument for defunding the MPD: "I've had 54 complaints filed against me over my 31 years, and I'm still here. I'm still Lieutenant. I've been disciplined, but none of it has ever been upheld. I've been sued 11 times," Kroll said.

54 complaints from citizens dismissed with a few instances of being "disciplined," but no actual change or lasting consequences. Bob Kroll is still a Lieutenant, still defending killer cops who murdered an unarmed black man while he pleaded for air and his life. And he acts like it's a badge of honor.

It's not. It's a sign of how deeply broken, corrupt, and untrustworthy the MPD is. How many more complaints does Bob Kroll need to rack up before he's out of a job? How many more slaps on the wrist that he will brag about? How many more George Floyds need to die before real change is enacted? Bob Kroll sums up the MPD's position perfectly, and the fact that he hasn't and CAN'T be held accountable is the best argument you can make for defunding the MPD and instituting a new crime prevention solution that doesn't employ people who treat civil complaints like a badge of honor. WE DON'T TRUST THE MPD. NO ONE SHOULD.

6/30/2020 11:54:38 PM

I sent the following email to all Charter Commission members.

Dear Charter Commission,

As a Ward 11 twenty year homeowner I am writing because of my strong disagreement with the proposed Charter amendments and how the City Council has handled their proclamation to defund/dismantle/abolish the MPD. This is the first time as a Minneapolis resident off and on since 1980 that I have been so disgusted with the City Council that I feel the need to email a Commission such as yours.

The City Council has rushed to force a vote on these Charter amendments without adequate communication to all city residents. The only reason I am aware of your July 1st meeting is because of a Nextdoor post. I have not received any mailings regarding the meeting nor the proposed amendments. My neighbors have no knowledge of these proposed amendments and your Commission. This lack of communication with all constituents is typical of our current City Council. This Council is not inclusive and focuses only on those groups who support their individual agendas. I expect competent management from the city officials my property tax dollars are funding and I am not getting my money's worth with the current City Council. The city's handling of the 2040 Plan was a fiasco and I do not think Minneapolis residents can handle going through that again with Police Department reforms. I have no faith in the current City Council members.

If any proposed Charter amendments go forward it should not be until the November 2021 election. The currently proposed changes to Articles VII and VIII have not been discussed with all constituents. There has been no community engagement on these changes nor input from tax paying residents. The Council is proposing to remove and replace the Police Department with no plan in place. This is not how successful organizations are managed. Would Fortune 500 company stockholders vote to remove/replace one of the company's largest departments without a detailed plan for the future? No. We are the 'stockholders' of Minneapolis and deserve the same degree of planning and details that any large company provides to its stockholders, employees and external stakeholders.

Minneapolis already has a 'weak mayor' system of government. This approach is not serving residents well. I do not want the City Council to be given any more power than it already has. Management by a group of 13 people does not work. No successful organizations are managed by groups. There is one CEO and all departments report to that individual. I believe the Police Department should report to the Mayor. As the Department is restructured in the future I believe it should still report to the Mayor. I believe it should be led by a Police Chief with a law enforcement background, not a vague public health or restorative justice professional. Per the Charter Minneapolis already has a Health Department which is led and staffed by public health professionals.

If the plan is to have year-long community engagement and input in the restructuring of the Police Department there is no reason to propose these (or any) Charter amendments for this November's election. Minneapolis residents deserve full engagement, communication and a detailed restructuring plan before being expected to vote on anything, particularly such a significant change to the City Charter.

Now that I'm aware of this Commission and the proposed Charter amendments I will be following the process closely. If the amendments to Articles VII and VIII are presented as currently proposed I will be voting against them in November, whether 2020 or 2021. I've lived in this city since before these Council members were born and I am invested in my neighborhood. I have never felt so poorly represented by City officials as I have the past several years. I hope that the Charter Commission is a group of thoughtful, experienced professionals who will take their time to ensure that residents are provided with the thorough process they deserve.

6/30/2020 11:55:03 PM

Ward 10 resident here. Please approve this proposed charter amendment, and send it to the voters!

I think there is a huge popular mandate that now is the time to allow us to decide to give our decision makers the freedom to invest in violence \*\*prevention\*\* with a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department.

I fear calling 911 in my city now, and a new department that provides other options besides police/fire/EMS would be wonderful! Our community can't lose another neighbor because we refuse to try something new.

This amendment aligns well with our city's goals to create a more equitable city. From Minneapolis 2040: "Public Safety: Prioritize collaborative, multisector, community-inclusive approaches to ensuring safety for all members of our community." (<https://minneapolis2040.com/policies/public-safety/>)

6/30/2020 11:55:30 PM

police have long abused their power. they scare people more than they help. there is far too much being spent on militarization and guns.

6/30/2020 11:55:46 PM

Defund the MPD. They don't protect and serve.

6/30/2020 11:56:44 PM

In the name of true democracy, this question needs to be on the ballot this November. If it is not, the people of Minneapolis will have been wronged, ignored. For the city council of Minneapolis to acknowledge the voice of the Minneapolis BLM movement and the charter commission not acknowledge it on the ballot equates no acknowledgment at all, and is a dissent, not neutrality. We must uphold democracy and give the city the chance to vote. If not, I worry that the conversation will be taking a dangerous turn.

6/30/2020 11:57:18 PM

There is a lot of unclear language in the proposal. Let's take our time to do this the right way.

6/30/2020 11:58:04 PM

Please, do not abolish the police department. That is the wrong thing to do. I fear for my safety. Defund and reconstruct the police department.

6/30/2020 11:58:07 PM

[Hi Charter Commission Team -- I put a lot of thought into this letter and I sincerely hope you'll review it. However, I know it's long, so if you need a short version for "No" or "Yes" on the amendment, this note is to say NO.]

I have been a Minneapolis resident for thirteen years, and have lived near the intersection of Chicago and Lake for seven of them. My corner of the city was hit very hard by the recent civil unrest, during which the police were nowhere to be seen (at least not in my neighborhood). In the face of violence and arson, the people on my block formed a multi-ethnic, do-it-yourself coalition to protect ourselves, our homes, and each other. It was beautiful. It was inspiring. It was everything that proponents of community-based safety love to see. It was also completely exhausting and made it starkly clear that a Minneapolis without police is not just unfeasible, but also terrifying.

For one thing, sitting on my porch with a baseball bat and a fire extinguisher for several nights made it impossible to concentrate on my actual job -- who can be expected to perform productively at their 9-5 after a full watch shift? While I'm lucky enough to be able to take time off during exceptional circumstances like these, I am unable to consistently monitor for public safety while still being functional at my livelihood. I understand that there would be a paid, professional element to the Community Department, but it seems that under the proposal much of the work would fall to the public in a way that is incompatible with holding down a day job.

I would also like to highlight the criminal element that immediately flooded my part of the city after the fall of the Third Precinct. Not even taking into account the looting of local businesses (which, frankly, we were not willing to put our lives on the line to stop): people were coming to my neighborhood and clashing with the residents with the specific intent to cause mayhem and inflict physical harm. Even now, in the wake of the unrest, violent (and particularly gun-related) crime has skyrocketed, and for the first time in my life I do not feel safe leaving my home after dark. Many people I have talked to recently feel the same way. Considering how quickly the quality of life in this city has fallen with a reduced and demoralized police force, I honestly can't imagine risking life here with no police at all.

If the City of Minneapolis passes this amendment, many of the college-educated, high-earning knowledge workers that make up its tax base are going to end up leaving the city, myself among them. The recent COVID crisis has proven that most of us can work remotely from any location. There is literally no incentive to put our lives on the line by living in a city where the endemic gun violence is compounded by the incompetence and recklessness of our local government. We may be less vocal about it than those agitating to defund the police, but please know that my opinions and concerns are shared by a majority of law-abiding constituents -- many of whom will leave Minneapolis if it becomes any less livable.

6/30/2020 11:58:16 PM

My experience with the police has never been a good one. I'm a white Christian cis gender male and my experience has still be horrible. I've seen acts done to friends of color that I could not wish upon my worst enemies. I've been tear gassed and shot at by the police. They are horrible and power hungry. I have seen no good in the police department my entire life. Lease defund and abolish the police.

6/30/2020 11:59:44 PM

I do not support the proposed charter amendment because it leaves the oversight of the Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department to the city council and mayor. In order to truly address police brutality, oversight of the police department must be done through a civilian board.

6/30/2020 11:59:52 PM

I support the Charter Amendment with the caveat that Chief Rondo be retained. While I believe complete transformational restructuring is needed, I'm hoping it will include measures that don't harm officers who have upheld the oath, who have had good records, etc. I also believe a community advisory component made up of grassroots community members is essential. A clearly detailed transition plan must be implemented prior to, as well.

7/1/2020 12:00:05 AM

Hold police officers accountable for the murders they have committed or abolish the police department altogether. This won't and the people will not stop pushing until justice is served.

7/1/2020 12:01:24 AM

I would love to remove the police department from Minneapolis but I don't trust this amendment to be good enough. The community needs to have more input on the development. More time should be put into this very important and very much needed reform, so we get it right. You're not going to get it right without the communities input.

7/1/2020 12:02:55 AM

keep the department, your social workers are going to do nothing for immediate crime and crime rates will spike because there are no repercussions. Your city is going to be destroyed at the expense of your citizens. Promote a better environment for community and law enforcement rather than getting rid of it all together because guess what, once the criminal actions drive all the tax payers out you're all out of a job.

7/1/2020 12:05:08 AM

Hire police who live in Minneapolis only

7/1/2020 12:06:37 AM

I support unarmed crisis response teams, comprised of people who live in the district they serve.

I support non-punitive, restorative justice approaches to criminal and harmful behaviors.

I support decriminalizing drugs, sex work, poverty, and homelessness.

I support lifting residents up, using a Housing First, Harm Reduction approach and providing it with the resources to do its job well.

I support a Person Centered approach to physical and mental health, respecting each person's sovereignty.

I support a QT/BIPoC & poor people led team to design and implement these programs, with review and oversight from the community.

I support changes in the school system, and human /social services which reflect the aforementioned values.

I support changes in political structures which give citizens greater control over tax money allocations, change laws and systems and processes in service of the aforementioned values.

We have the ability to do this, and indeed we MUST. The whole world is watching us, we are obliged to rise to the challenge.

7/1/2020 12:07:03 AM

I am 100% for the amendment. Thank you, City Council. I look forward to abolishing the Minneapolis Police Department and building new ways to maintain safety Ward 8

7/1/2020 12:08:01 AM

Please do not allow this to go forward into voting in November - this drafting is faulty and does not have the correct language or represents the insight of the community leaders asking for change. Please reject this and ask city council leaders to come back with further input from the communities they serve.

7/1/2020 12:08:05 AM

I've worked downtown Minneapolis for 17 years in the IDS Center. I am NOT in favor of the proposal. If the amendment is passed, I will take my business out of downtown. I will also not take my family, friends or clients downtown for sporting events or other forms of entertainment. In my experience, the police department has made the areas I work and visit to be safe. Ward 7

7/1/2020 12:09:50 AM

See attached images detailing concerns about this.

7/1/2020 12:09:55 AM

I think this whole thing is a knee jerk reaction. We need to hear from people who have studied this issue for years. This is a power grab on the part of the City Council.

7/1/2020 12:10:40 AM

We need public hearings! The community must be given an opportunity to provide feedback and guidance. We need to take the time to get this right.

7/1/2020 12:27:50 AM

I wholeheartedly support the Charter Amendment to remove the Police Department and establish a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department (CSV). In fact, I don't think that the amendment goes far enough to remove the Minneapolis Police Department from the establishment of the CSV.

1) In Section §7.3(b), please include a size limit on the number of peace officers that may be employed under the Division of Law Enforcement Services. This limit could be relative to a percentage of the population or the city's budget. This limit would prevent the Division of Law Enforcement Services from being funded to the same degree that the MPD is currently.

2) Please either completely prohibit or deter any MPD officers from serving in the CSV, especially in leadership roles or in the Division of Law Enforcement Services. The purpose of dissolving the MPD is to imagine a new way to keep our city safe. Insofar as police officers are employed to police the community with state-sanctioned violence, I think this hinders their ability to imagine how to serve the community in a different capacity. At worst, if they were employed by the CSV, they would attempt to continue to police the community. At best, they would be more difficult to train, since they need to unlearn everything they were taught as police officers and learn a new skill to prevent violence or keep the community safe. At the very least, please include explicit language in the Charter Amendment that creates a specific vetting process for applicants with police experience. For example, if an applicant was a police officer, any complaints brought against them must be heavily scrutinized.

Thank you for listening. I look forward to the Charter Commission's recommendations about the amendment.

7/1/2020 12:29:19 AM

This is the worst idea EVER. I have kids. Look at what is happening in Powderhorn Park. Ridiculous. Lawlessness. Keep our police. Those people are really feeling this now.....We need them.

7/1/2020 12:31:42 AM

To whom it may concern,

I sympathize with the position you are tasked with and the weight of the decision you need to make. Progress and change are never an easy and come with great discomfort. It should not be done hastily with lack of structure. I trust those who have the power will do what is right for the greater good, but at what cost.

A big concern with the proposed amendments to the city charter are the lack of clarity and structure. The current charter states the minimum number of police staff required for the city. The MINIMUM. The proposed change doesn't have any content regarding this and the city council made it clear before George Floyd they didn't support adding headcount to the MPD. Maybe if the MPD received the support and funds they needed, they would have been able to properly train, patrol, and work with the community. It must be hard to connect with a community when you already have issues reaching priority calls in a timely matter. The city of Minneapolis is not offered the luxury of having a police offers respond to nuisance calls (fireworks, noise violations) as the suburban cities. I understand that other precincts have to respond to areas they may not be familiar with in order to "cover" the city. How will the changes proposed address this? Do we even know if there are enough community activists, social workers, or crisis intervention specialists to support the proposed changes? Will these individuals feel "safe" enough to work in high crime areas? The city cannot afford to sit in limbo while the leaders figure this out.

Another concern is my love of Minneapolis. I did not grow up in the city but nearby in Columbia Heights. Everything I did as a child was in the city and continue to do so as an adult. I love the music venues, sporting events, and spending time with my mom at the holiday craft bazaars at the local churches. I was looking forward to my girls growing older and being able to take them into the city. So far, we've enjoyed the Children's Theater and Disney on Ice. We were cautious of taking them now due to crime. If these charter amendments pass. I will no longer take part in the city. I will gladly pay extra money and take a vacation to see my favorite sports teams and music artists in another state. I am skeptical things will improve fast enough or for the better.

I know my voice is not as important as those who reside in the city and with those who will have to live with the final decision. I also understand that people should always be valued over money and in no way mean to undermine the work that needs to be done to heal a community. I thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts and wish you the best.

7/1/2020 12:32:13 AM

For the police force that will exist, please enhance psychological assessment to ensure officer fitness for duty. The changes made in 2018 following the death of Justine Damond strayed even further from the research body supporting the use of assessments such as the MMPI-2 to predict officer behavior. Utilizing such testing after an officer has a violent complaint (for example), in addition to at the time of hire, would account for the psychological changes an officer undergoes throughout their career. Further, officers should receive counseling (strongly emphasized and encouraged) to cope with the many traumas experienced in such a job. We cannot expect officers experiencing trauma routinely to remain mentally healthy without offering sufficient mental health support.

7/1/2020 12:32:52 AM

Dear Charter Commission,

As a resident of Minneapolis, I want to vote on the proposed city charter amendment this November. For a question as important and urgent as public safety and police accountability, it is important that the people's voices are heard and that we have the option to vote to remove the Police Department from our city charter. I call on you to allow the charter amendment to move forward so that the people can vote on it.

7/1/2020 12:32:55 AM

Why in the world are you rushing to push these changes with such a stark lack of community input? How are the council members so completely tone deaf to the movement happening, not only in Minneapolis, but all across the nation! You need to listen to US! The 13 of you are not representative of all Minneapolis citizens, you are just a handful of people. The hubris is trying to fly with something so quickly and without public meetings is galling.

7/1/2020 12:33:00 AM

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed charter amendment.

While I agree that our city policing needs reform and am all for developing programs which offer “public safety services prioritizing a holistic, public health-oriented approach”, I think the proposed charter amendment is vague and does not succeed in establishing a basis for these programs. It is clear in our current charter on the type of public service (i.e. law enforcement), hierarchy, and funding. Any amendment regarding the addition of community safety programs should also have these three basic principles.

I also have concerns about the language regarding law enforcement services in the proposed amendment. The amendment states the council “may” maintain a division of law enforcement services, but the language makes it sound like there is no guarantee that the council has to do so. I want community programs which offer a more holistic approach to crime reduction and community safety, but I also know we will always need law enforcement officers. I object to the idea of the council being in charge of establishing and maintaining a law enforcement department. Given the council’s recent remarks about defunding the police department, I worry that a law enforcement department could be at risk of disappearing based on the whim of the council.

Lastly, my biggest concern about the amendment is that the council has completely stripped away any mention of funding for these programs. The current charter states the minimum number of officers our city will maintain per capita and the maximum number of tax payer dollars which can be allotted. My concern lies with that fact that funding could swing drastically from year to year for these programs since no explicit formula or minimum for funding is given. I fear this could result in underfunded programs which won’t get the resources they need to be effective. Ward 4

7/1/2020 12:33:27 AM

I don’t think the city charter should retain any requirement for policing because we know that institution is not life-affirming. We don’t need to keep the police under the same umbrella as public safety. That is not the transformational change we need. We shouldn’t let former police officers be rehired into public safety positions. We should make sure that accountability for public servants is given to the communities, not city council. Instead of a quota for police officers per resident, we should consider similar quotas for mental health, addiction and social service professionals, and others who provide care and safety for our communities.

7/1/2020 12:33:52 AM

Do not rush an amendment that does not include the community's input and their best interests. Listen to the community about what they need, what they want to see.

Earlier this evening I sent our analysis of the City Council's proposed charter amendment on policing. I needed to correct a couple of typographical errors. Please see the attached corrected document. Thank you.

Attachment:

#### **UNDERSTANDING THE MINNEAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL'S CHARTER AMENDMENT**

On June 26, 2020 the Minneapolis City Council introduced a proposed charter amendment to rebrand the Minneapolis Police Department into a "Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention."

There are many problems with this proposed charter amendment. Some are technical, some relate to process, and some relate to what this amendment will actually do (or, more correctly, won't do).

#### **The Proposed Amendment Won't Change Policing—Just Make it Less Accountable**

The proposed amendment gives the appearance of creating a kinder, gentler version of public safety but really it just shifts power and accountability.

Under the current charter, the Mayor oversees policing, including discipline. The proposed charter amendment would put the police department under another department that reports to a City Council committee and, for any action, to all 13 Council members. The new structure means LESS direct accountability for the police department and is a DISASTER for community oversight of the police.

The City Council would have you believe they will do a better job of holding police accountable but history tells us otherwise. Council members, including the current ones, have never made the slightest effort to rein in the MPD even though they had many opportunities before George Floyd was killed. They never questioned the union contract. They blew the chance to mandate a good body camera policy when they approved the purchase before seeing the policy. And they created the Office of Police Conduct Review (OPCR), which has a dismal rate of upholding complaints against police, and they continually refuse to address its failures. Why would anyone think they would do a better job of holding police accountable under this new scheme?

Their proposed amendment creates no actual reforms in policing. Instead, it promotes the notion that policing and social services somehow belong under the same umbrella, perpetuating many of the problems the community experiences now.

#### **The Devil is in The Details**

- The city charter is our constitution. It is essential that any changes be legal and proper.
- The current Charter makes it clear that the mayor is responsible for all police discipline. The proposed amendment doesn't indicate who is responsible for police discipline, a fatal flaw in the wording.
- Their proposed wording of Section 7.3(b) states "The Council MAY maintain a division of law enforcement services, composed of licensed peace officers..." while subd. 1 states "The director...SHALL appoint the director of the division of law enforcement services..." SHALL is a legal word that means something must be done. Why would the director be required to appoint a head of a division that may or may not exist?
- **BUT THERE IS AN EVEN BIGGER PROBLEM:** The word MAY implies that there may not even be a police department. Under state law, only licensed law enforcement officers can take a person into custody, issue citations in lieu of arrest, seek and effectuate warrants, and investigate crimes for possible prosecution. If the City Council decides not to "maintain a division of law enforcement services," will law enforcement services then be left to the Hennepin County Sheriff's Department, which is even less accountable to the community?

### **A Flawed Process Creates Flawed Results**

In its haste to push this charter amendment, the City Council has completely cut out any involvement of the community. The normal process for a charter amendment is for the city council to send the amendment to a committee. That committee refines the wording and holds one or more public hearings for community input. This time, however, the City Council suspended its own rules to avoid holding public hearings.

The proposed amendment now goes to the Charter Commission. Hopefully, this commission will do what the City Council has failed to do—address the flaws in the amendment and hold public hearings. The Charter Commission is a deliberative body—they actually take the time to review proposed amendments because they recognize the seriousness of making permanent changes to the charter. They will receive the amendment wording on July 1, 2020 and have 60 days to review it, with the option to extend that by 90 days.

The City Council seems hell bent to get this flawed amendment on the ballot for November 2020 but the deadline for completing the process through the Charter Commission and back to the City Council is August 21, 2020. Since meeting this deadline is very unlikely, the amendment will probably not be on the ballot until November 2021. This begs the question—why the giant rush to push out faulty wording with no input from the public?

Keep in mind that even if a charter amendment proposal gets on the ballot in 2020 or 2021, it still has to be approved by 51% of the city's voters. A poorly written proposal has a lot less chance of success.

### **What Should Be Done?**

There is one part of the proposed charter amendment that would be helpful. The current charter requires the city to fund policing at .0017 x the population. That means we're required to fund a minimum of about 730 cops (we actually have about 880 on the payroll). 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 part of the proposed amendment removes this funding requirement, which would 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 addition, whether or not a charter amendment ends up on the ballot, the City Council and Mayor could move forward NOW with actions to rein in the MPD and hold them accountable. They could 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.

There are many other actions they could take. These are not fast fixes but they are lasting ones. For a complete list, go to [cuapb.org](http://cuapb.org) for our list of 44 recommendations on ending police violence.

Information provided by **COMMUNITIES UNITED AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY**. We meet every Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at 4200 Cedar Avenue in Minneapolis. For more information or for help with a police brutality incident, call our 24-hour hotline: **612-874-STOP** or see our website at [www.CUAPB.org](http://www.CUAPB.org).

7/1/2020 12:37:06 AM

Hell no. Put Michelle Gross and Nekima Levy Pounds in charge of this process or we know it means nothing

7/1/2020 12:37:15 AM

What will happen if you're house gets broken into @12 in the morning? Especially when gunshots are at an all time high? Are U guys stripping our guns from us next? Then what? Because bad guys will still do bad shit especially with zero police presence smh. The Mayor should have listened in the first place when they MPD asked for more funding for more enforcement instead of working overtime! That gets to peoples mental health! These are all things we need to consider so stop acting so radical you are going to destroy this city. RIP to George Floyd, what happened to him was beyond heinous and he deserves justice!! but what I repeat What WILL you do, to protect the city, so that CRIME doesn't run rampant in the streets that we have seen over the last few weeks?! It will only get worse!

7/1/2020 12:38:05 AM

I support the charter amendment.

7/1/2020 12:41:20 AM

I know you're trying to move things in some type of direction. But you need to be thoughtful and deliberate. This is just something you threw together to say you tried. But it's not trying. You're not listening to the community. If you can't listen to the community, step aside and let folks who will listen do this work.

7/1/2020 12:42:41 AM

I fully support the defunding and debanding of the MPD. I have lived in urban areas my entire life. I am a white middle class man who has a salaried job and have managed a business with 50 + employees in North Minneapolis. For five years I managed Broadway Bar and Restaurant which had been a popular place to grab some food and a drink. When I first arrived it was 95% white people from the suburbs and Twin Cities metro. I felt that to be appalling as there was many people who could work within a ten block radius. I was proved right. Within 6 months we had a staff that was 50% POC. I've seen all too often in the last 20 years the way the Minneapolis police department disrespects, attacks, and alienates the African American and other non-white communities in multiple neighborhoods in Minneapolis. I have stopped them when I could, often with no help from other white neighbors. I also have talked with the officers and they are often from the suburbs and rural areas and are terrified of African Americans and other POC. They are highly prejudiced.

Many of us know this and are attacked for speaking about it. It is not uncommon for officers to ignore calls for help on the Northside and by the time they arrive it's way to late. Uptown does not have this problem. Numerous times I had instances at the business where I dealt with issues that I am not trained in knowing that the police response would be so horrifying, no good could come from calling them.

This is common knowledge in North Minneapolis. Whatever you do, dont call the police. They will just make the situation far worse.

Justice for Jamal, and BLM had all had meetings in the event rooms at Broadway. If the owners had ever found out they would have fired me. Always they were respectful, kind, and responsible.

Keith Ellison often frequented Broadway event rooms and the staff and I were proud to have him campaign there.

Everyday the hosts would tell me of their struggles of being African Americans in Minnesota. These are kids. Girls 16-22. Treated like criminals by a white society that looks at them as inferior. Especially the police.

I am 42. I was born and raised in New York but have lived in Minneapolis on and off for 20 years. I moved here because of the communities I had met. These communities I have been a part of for quite a long time. And never once did we feel the need to call the police. They always made things worse.

On a final note

I traveled to Athens, Greece not long ago. In Athens there is a neighborhood that has no police called Exarcheia. They solve problems within the community by the community and have for a long time. Of course there is crime. Of course people got hurt. But by no means was it any more dangerous than any other neighborhood. Many immigrants lived there as they were protected by the community. It thrives.

We can do better than hiring the typical cop. That is all.

7/1/2020 12:45:27 AM

I support this amendment in spirit. But I urge the Commission to seek input from the community on the wording and scope of this amendment (something the City Council neglected to do). I have heard legitimate concerns from BIPOC leaders and community groups, and think it is absolutely essential to the integrity of this process that their input be heard and incorporated into the wording. In fact, if the government of this city rams this through without a serious effort at community inclusion, then we will have accomplished nothing, and reinforced the valid feelings that this city only works for white people.

My biggest concern is about accountability. The amendment as written by the Council seems to shift disciplinary authority over the police from the Mayor to, what, a committee appointed by the City Council? How is that going to help with swift discipline when officers kill black people?

On the flip side, I am strongly supportive of the language that eliminates the proportional police funding requirement from the charter, as it would free us to reorganize city services away from the police entirely by shifting funding. This feels critical to establishing real transformation of the racist policing we face today.

I appreciate that the City Council acted with urgency (though I question their lack of transparency). It now falls to this commission to make sure we get this right. And that means listening to our Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities who are being victimized and abused and murdered every day by MPD. Please invite them into the process and listen to their ideas.

7/1/2020 12:46:34 AM

You are all completely nuts. I own a business in Minneapolis. I work in Mpls. I own real estate in Mpls. My daughter goes to college in Mpls. We all love Minneapolis dearly but will have no choice but to completely pull out of everything if we don't have a police department. Do you think we will be able to continue to get insurance in places that won't maintain social order? The suburbs are only across the street from Mpls and they have police departments to pull over the drunks, arrest the shoplifters/vandals, investigate the rapists/arsonists, and try to prevent the murders. See <https://communitycrimemap.com> and tell me who is going to respond any faster or better to all of the crime in our city.

7/1/2020 12:48:19 AM

I am ready to vote for a charter amendment that makes absolutely no room for police. The charter amendment should prohibit current or former law enforcement from leading the new department, and it should NOT create a new division for police officers.

7/1/2020 12:48:54 AM

We don't need municipal armed policing, there are other law enforcement agencies that can handle the rare need for armed response. Give the money to the green vests, the paramedics, the social workers, and get some rent control and fix the homelessness problem and you will rarely need any badge with a gun to show up. Minneapolis Police ignore rapes, demean victims, murder people that were trying to return a fake \$20 to the store that gave it to him in his change and then lie to 911 about it... They're all assholes who won't even help stalled motorists push cars out of intersections, just Anoka High School bullies and steroid pumped PTSD army jerks. I've lived in Minneapolis 35 years and have NEVER been helped by the police when I needed it. PLUS they spent a week shooting at all of us on our porches, gassing the whole city and letting their white nationalist friends from the burbs commit terrorist acts all over town while they beat up protestors and arrested media on live CNN. DISMANTLE the police, it is a social experiment that Minneapolis is ready to lead the world in. I'm a small business owner and I will not let the police in my shop, ruining the atmosphere and making everyone feel unsafe. They're just a huge drain, you could house the city on what you spend to protect the landlords.

7/1/2020 12:50:14 AM

Needs to be on the ballot this November. Remove the police department and establish a community of safety & violence prevention Department.

7/1/2020 12:50:46 AM

Why not have a director who has both law enforcement experience and is a person of good character, who can also usher in effective reforms and policy improvements, effective training, and swift accountability for officers who do not follow such improvements. Police have to collaborate with other public health providers who have expertise in diffusing situations, but also mental health expertise and chemical dependency expertise. Both sets of skills (people skills and law enforcement skills and good moral judgement are needed. Thank you.

7/1/2020 12:50:49 AM

All misdemeanors should be ticketed.

All nonsense calls should be issued a warning, then ticketed for any 911 system abuses

Remove all white officers from black communities! The trust is gone.

Remove all black and others from white communities. Whites apparently do not like blacks and others.

Segregate.

Children should not be arrested. Call the Parents or guardian or black or white social worker. Not trustworthy.

Elderly should not be pushed shoved or manhandled. Ever.

Officers should never assault a citizen. Ever.

More than two complaints of abuse, 3 months unpaid suspension. Benefits furloughed, retirement delayed.

Counseling and psychological exams every 3 months reevaluation mandatory. Officers need help as well.

Four year college degree Bachelor of Science. Criminal Justice minor, mandatory.and a requirement before recruiting new officers. Income increase incentive. Vacation incentives.

Mandatory de-escalation classes weekly. Anger management weekly. Community service bi- weekly in their respective communities only.

Stop sending officers to babysit the community. Establish specific groups for specific issues.

Background investigation for any involvement in any hate group. Mandatory. All social media accounts will be monitored. .Mandatory. Any violations from an officer automatic dismissal.New recruits need not apply if ever affiliated with a hate group! White cops stay in white communities keep infiltrators away from the black community.

Remove all Ramsey Correctional officers found to have abused inmates. Automatic dismissal and 1st degree assault charges. Inmates will be processed properly and given medical attention and inspection upon arrival. Inmates do not need to be chained like Hannibal Lecture and beat while tied up by 4-5 white officers while one officer films it. Very Disgraceful. Animalistic behaviors should never be tolerated. Officers uphold certain standards and should never commit crimes against people inmates or anyone at anytime. They need to be held accountable for their terrible actions. Those correctional jailers should be fired and not paid by the tax payers.

It's apparent there is utter disgust for blacks. Therefore these cities and this state must segregate.

7/1/2020 12:53:01 AM

This idea is absolutely ridiculous. There needs to be law enforcement within the city and a police department is the only proper way to provide that. The city is going to lose businesses and residents if this happens. If you are not happy with the current PD, you need to let Hennepin County Sheriffs office take over. This will allow for a completely different command staff and allow the Sheriffs office to retain good department employees and let go bad ones.

7/1/2020 12:55:43 AM

I work in the city of Minneapolis and think it's a bad idea to disband the police department. The police have a hard job and do the right thing way more often then not. If you disband the police you will just be digging your self into a bigger hole.

7/1/2020 12:56:55 AM

I believe that our police system in America is not set up to properly deal with many of the situations people call on it to handle. I believe reform is absolutely necessary. Removing the police department is a step in the right direction. We need to think more about prevention and less about acting once the problem has already arisen.

7/1/2020 12:58:34 AM

Listen to the experts and advocates that have been sending you solutions, proposals, and ideas for YEARS. Don't make a big problem bigger by rushing through and not doing the real work or listening to people who have been doing the real work to make sure the suggestions are viable. Please don't set us up to be taken over by a Republican mayor and/or republican city council because this gets mismanaged.

7/1/2020 12:59:13 AM

You need more research and input from experts, both professional experts and real-world experts on these issues. This moment is too important to waste. Have you engaged meaningfully with the thought leaders who built the movement for transformative public safety in this city? My sense is you have not. Make sure the solution is not just the next chapter of the same problem.

7/1/2020 12:59:47 AM

I am highly concerned with the proposal to end the charter w the Mpls police before there has been a ROBUST community listening and planning process where community leaders and community stakeholders have been heard. I have a number of students, number in the hundreds, who are residents of North Minneapolis and also the Powderhorn Park area. My students and their communities are expressing that there is an increase in violent crime and drug related crime, due to our current circumstances... It seems like this proposal to "abolish" is politicians centering their desire to be viewed as liberal and progressive, more than a genuine anti-racist focus on community consensus building processes and community centered outcomes. It also appears almost as if the city Council is moved to the movement around the abolishment of police and more broadly the carceral state. This is an over 40 year movement, and the core focus of it is community center contextualize process oriented consensusbuilding. The way this entire change making process is being done, does not have emulate the values that exist and the premises upon which the abolish movement stems from. If you want to truly be an example on the national stage, you need to engage in a robust review & proceed with measured caution alongside staunch resolve. To be honest, right now these proposed changes reek of privilege & a lack of knowledge.

7/1/2020 1:02:24 AM

Please work with CUAPB and Nekima Levy Armstrong. Here's a resource; <https://www.cuapb.org/>  
Please also read the attachment. Thank you, We're all in this together. Don't settle for small victories.

Attachment: UNDERSTANDING THE MINNEAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL'S CHARTER AMENDMENT

7/1/2020 1:02:39 AM

I am admantently opposed to City Council's proposed Charter Amendment. I'm a property owner/live in North Minneapolis 40 + yrs.

Charter must ensure adequate protection of it's citizens. Given current horrific escalation in violent crime and utter devastation caused to our city and it's financial resources already--this is a matter of utmost concern and a grave responsibility on your part.

Council has failed completely in duty to perform due diligence to demonstrate any actual validity whatsoever for proposed change. Rash decision to push this through without first completing necessary due diligence is setting an extremely dangerous precedent. Additionally, it appears Council has violated the Open Meeting Act in decision making process.

Obviously, no one condones police brutality and some necessary positive changes have been enacted toward this end and to be on-going.

However, statistics do not bear out support of defunding police dept. The staggering number of recorded shootings and other violent crimes endangering lives of many clearly demonstrates that Minneapolis needs many more police--definitely not less.

Lack of adequate officers for years has caused systemic problems. Current Chief requested addition of 400 (and got zero). As reported, due to lack of appropriate number of personnel/funding-- police were unable to respond to a huge number of priority 911 calls in any sort of timely manner and hundreds of rape kits have never been processed, etc.

In incident yesterday, a man had his baby. He had a gun and threatened that he was ready to die. Social Justice Warriors were saying this is kind of situation needing a counselor/not police. Counselor? What is needed is a seasoned hostage negotiator who is also properly trained to disarm the suspect if the situation goes awry and other people are endangered--in other words... the police. Do the police need more training/funding and special expertise in this area----YES, absolutely they do.

Domestic violence can quickly become violent. On these and many of 911 calls it is necessary first for the police to descale the threat of violence & then counselors can come in. There is no question that better organized counseling and other resources in the aftermath would be a great thing--in addition to, not instead of necessary police work to facilitate a position of safety for all involved.

Please also consider the further financial devastation that will be caused if something is not done immediately to drastically get this epidemic of violent crime under control and keep repetitive violent criminals off the streets--instead of the catch and release program that manifested this situation in the first place.

It is impossible to believe tourists, sports event planners, conventions or corporations, let alone citizens of MN would view mpls as a viable option in these circumstances. Many people are planning to leave the state altogether. It is a completely untenable. situation and this is the last hope we have.

It is also notable it is reflected in various online groups that people have great fear of filling out this form; due to exposure of personal info to bullying Social Justice Warriors who commonly threaten, stalk and harass other citizens with opinions different than their own.

These circumstances pose a serious detriment to true representation of the citizenry. You might think about offering confidentiality of private info to allow citizens to safely participate in what should be a democratic system. Thank you for your service to our city in this very crucial matter.

7/1/2020 1:09:02 AM

I do not feel that this is the right time. I have family that live in Mpls who feel threatened on a regular basis by the gang wars and gun violence that threatens their community. I also do not think that the City Council is diverse enough to represent the full communities feelings on this subject and it is very one-sided.

7/1/2020 1:09:52 AM

The recent wave of violent crime in this city should demonstrate in no uncertain terms the need for greater police presence and capability to respond to threats to the community. I think the City Council is naive to the point of negligence to suppose that any reducing of police capability is the way to address this. You are responding to emotional appeals following an eminently preventable tragedy, but it seems apparent that you are acting in the interest of appeasement rather than sound policy. This will bite you very hard in very short order when this trend of increasing lawlessness is left to run on unabated.

If you want to fix this, INVEST IN POLICE. Train them better, and I mean actually put up the money to make this happen. Train them in deescalation techniques to prevent interactions from getting out of control, and provide them proper physical combat training so they actually know what to do in physical confrontations with suspects so we have fewer injuries. Increase their pay and benefits to make the job one that candidates compete over, so you can throw out the bad apples because there will be a line of better candidates ready to take their place. Because honestly, with the state of things as they are now, who exactly wants to become a cop in Minneapolis? Doesn't sound like a tantalizing prospect to me - derided, held in contempt, and cleaning up violent incident after violent incident. It wouldn't surprise me if half the force was utterly traumatized and not being looked after properly. And your instinct is to abandon them when their job has never been harder? Unbelievable. Don't be surprised if the Blue Flu strikes here as well.

I've only recently moved to Minneapolis but I've been working here for a few years now. In my time here I've seen things go downhill remarkably fast. I have very little interest in living here past the end of current lease, and I'm looking to take my talents elsewhere because I don't want to work around here either. Your city is rapidly becoming less and less worth it. Get better cops in and clean it up, and for God's sake stop pretending that a sincere desire for law and order is somehow racist. Law and order is the foundation of prosperity for everyone, especially the most vulnerable in our society. Your permissiveness in the name of kindness and compassion is going to absolutely sink this city. Set your feelings about police brutality aside for a moment and think about the recent gunshot victims, the robbery victims, the physical and sexual assault victims. Their lives matter, too. Especially consider that most of this is happening in minority communities - they're the most affected. You claim to have compassion for people of color? Demonstrate it by protecting their communities meaningfully with a strong and capable police force.

Stop kowtowing to the activists - the noisiest among them are for the most part a bunch of ideologically-possessed zealots who don't know anything about how to run a city responsibly. So WHY ARE YOU LETTING THEM DICTATE POLICY?

Get your heads on straight, or you'll see a flight of capital and talent out of this place like you wouldn't have imagined possible. If you don't believe me, just look at Detroit.

7/1/2020 1:14:19 AM

NO I am not in support of this charter!!!

7/1/2020 1:15:04 AM

Although I am pleased by the sentiment of the City Council taking quick action I am deeply concerned about some of the wording in the proposed amendment as well as the City Council's understanding of what would truly make our Minneapolis community safer. We need community hearings and due diligence, not a politically expedient and poorly written amendment that may or may not leave Minneapolis safer.

7/1/2020 1:17:15 AM

1. believe that the police should be more based within our own community, being hired from within the neighborhoods they're patrolling.
2. Officers should be held accountable when refusing to give badge numbers, turning off body cams, or doing anything else that prevents them from being held accountable.
3. Fire Bob Kroll
4. Require police to have more training, preferably in law, de-escalation, communications, psychology, and history
5. Require police take annual physical and mental evaluations.
6. Decriminalize drugs and stop criminalizing people for being addicts
7. Stop fining homeless people, they have no money.
8. End the use of K-9 units
9. End the use of random routine traffic stops.
10. Police should be more involved in building up their community and being involved in their community, reiterating #1, community based policing.

7/1/2020 1:19:39 AM

The police department should be completely disbanded and be replaced with a citizens task force, focused on citizens who live in the community and can be given help or mediation instead of being treated violently. Police union should not be allowed to help keep trouble cops on our streets.

7/1/2020 1:20:33 AM

I have lived, worked and paid property tax as a South Minneapolis homeowner for the past 50+ years. I'm retired, live alone and suddenly find myself living in an alternative universe. Does Minneapolis have some bad cops? Has this been the case for decades? Yes it has, but you've known that all along. Did you do anything? Nope. You built bike lanes making it virtually impossible for seniors and the disabled to travel and park easily. Amongst other feel good causes. But never mind all the wasteful things the City has done...get to work. Figure out how to get rid of bad cops, enforce conduct codes and punish violators. Don't defund, underfund or otherwise reduce the police force. Residents be they renters or homeowners deserve that. And they are pleading with you. Not a single sane person believes what happened to George Floyd was deserved. From videos made public, we all clearly saw horrendous police action from their first encounter with Mr.floyd. Punish/discipline bad cops but don't punish the citizens who pay to live in a safe city.

7/1/2020 1:21:50 AM

This amendment is terrible!!!! Listen to the black activists and black leaders of the community! You need to make informed decisions on evidence based practices. Not just brainstorming. Do NOT just jump the gun and forget that every little detail of this amendment has repercussions. You need to hear black people out on this one. And please for the love of God..... Do not go ANY FURTHER without consulting our community leaders !!!

7/1/2020 1:24:09 AM

I am extremely disappointed with the gross mishandling of police accountability by the City Council. The reckless proclamations that the police will be dismantled have frightened the community and caused an uptick in violent crime, sabotaging the effort for productive change. Citizens of Minneapolis have been calling for community control of the police via CPAC for years - why have you opted to bloat and undercut this common-sense recommendation? Why has the City Council failed to make any statement for or against CPAC as it was drafted? Are you working for your constituents, or to uphold and strengthen the power of your positions on City Council? Boo to every last one of you.

7/1/2020 1:25:39 AM

I wish to add to my earlier statement additional critique from Communities United Against Police Brutality.

The proposed amendment gives the appearance of creating a kinder, gentler version of public safety but really it just shifts power and accountability.

Under the current charter, the Mayor oversees policing, including discipline. The proposed charter amendment would put the police department under another department that reports to a City Council committee and, for any action, to all 13 Council members. The new structure means LESS direct accountability for the police department and is a DISASTER for community oversight of the police.

Council members, including the current ones, have never made the slightest effort to rein in the MPD even though they had many opportunities before George Floyd was killed. They never questioned the union contract. They blew the chance to mandate a good body camera policy when they approved the purchase before seeing the policy. And they created the Office of Police Conduct Review (OPCR), which has a dismal rate of upholding complaints against police, and they continually refuse to address its failures. Why would anyone think they would do a better job of holding police accountable under this new scheme?

Their proposed amendment creates no actual reforms in policing. Instead, it promotes the notion that policing and social services somehow belong under the same umbrella, perpetuating many of the problems the community experiences now.

The proposed amendment doesn't indicate who is responsible for police discipline, a fatal flaw in the wording.

Their proposed wording of Section 7.3(b) states "The Council MAY maintain a division of law enforcement services, composed of licensed peace officers..." while subd. 1 states "The director...SHALL appoint the director of the division of law enforcement services..." SHALL is a legal word that means something must be done. Why would the director be required to appoint a head of a division that may or may not exist?

The word MAY implies that there may not even be a police department. Under state law, only licensed law enforcement officers can take a person into custody, issue citations in lieu of arrest, seek and effectuate warrants, and investigate crimes for possible prosecution. If the City Council decides not to "maintain a division of law enforcement services," will law enforcement services then be left to the Hennepin County Sheriff's Department, which is even less accountable to the community?

#### A Flawed Process Creates Flawed Results

In its haste to push this charter amendment, the City Council has completely cut out any involvement of the community. The normal process for a charter amendment is for the city council to send the amendment to a committee. That committee refines the wording and holds one or more public hearings for community input. This time, however, the City Council suspended its own rules to avoid holding public hearings.

There is one part of the proposed charter amendment that would be helpful. The current charter requires the city to fund policing at .0017 x the population. That means we're required to fund a minimum of about 730 cops (we actually have about 880 on the payroll). 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 part of the proposed amendment removes this funding requirement, which would 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 addition, whether or not a charter amendment ends up on the ballot, the City Council and Mayor could move forward NOW with dismantling OPCR and replacing it with true community oversight of the police.

7/1/2020 1:29:32 AM

Dear Minneapolis city council! No police department? ..... yes, get rid of the police department.

By all means! I really need the laughs watching you self serving, race baiting, hypocrites try to clean up after that mess!

7/1/2020 1:31:28 AM

See attached document:

My partner and I visit Minneapolis proper a few times a month to shop, eat and for entertainment.

Since the riots, looting and now further violence has taken place in the Lake St area we no longer frequent our favorite destinations because we cease feeling safe. Because of this movement to dismantle the police we are planning to leave the state of Minnesota in 2021. We have a large income and our tax dollars are going elsewhere. We also love supporting local MN business but because we don't feel safe anymore we are ordering online vs shopping locally. We've already shorted our townhome lease and are seeking new residence.

This is very serious and if the police are dismantled here, have fun killing each other.

We are out.

7/1/2020 1:32:46 AM

I think this idea is incredibly stupid. I do not want to attend university in a city that is without police protection. Do you really suppose that violent crime won't go up in drastic fashion? Do you really want to have the blood on your hands once this all goes to hell? Get your head out of your asses. Thanks.

7/1/2020 1:45:35 AM

My top priorities as a constituent in this matter include protecting residents from police violence/misconduct (especially BIPOC, LGBTQ, and un-housed residents and those with disabilities); making police/public safety departments significantly more accountable to community members; redirecting funding from police to affordable housing, education, and healthcare; significantly reducing police presence in the city; and preventing any new public safety department becoming simply a rebranding of the current police.

The charter should not be changed to put the city council in control of the police or any new public safety office; this change would ultimately make it harder to control the police and discipline or remove officers, and would make the police/public safety department less accountable to Minneapolis residents.

The proposed amendment should include provisions for an independent civilian-only community police review board and should bar any current police officials, as well as current officers, from being in a leadership role in any new public safety organization. It should also impose restrictions to prevent excessive influence from police unions.

I support amending the charter to remove the current minimum funding requirement for the police department as described in section 7.3-c of the current

article VII. Removing this minimum would allow the city to redirect funds to housing, education, and healthcare, and help to mitigate the current inappropriate of police in responding to mental health crises and similar issues.

7/1/2020 2:04:44 AM

I do not feel as though this process was done in anyway that engaged the community to make a plan and have buy in. We have been in the community asking for community involvement, demonstrating the power of collective action, looking out for neighbors, the list goes on and on, and our officials have not done ANY engagement publicly before proposing this idea. We need community experts to come together along with community discussions, because if what we do moving forward is not done in that way and people can really understand- it does not create safety and creates a lot of confusion in the community. I hope that community leaders and neighbors are engaged in this process.

7/1/2020 2:08:41 AM

Me and my household in West Phillips in south Minneapolis support the change to the charter. It is long overdue that our city invest deeply in community safety-- mental health resources, HOUSING FOR ALL, harm reduction, opioid response teams. We must defund MPD and invest that money into community because #WeKeepUsSafe!!! We have tried reform! Minneapolis is a poster child for police reform! and they just keep killing. Police \*react\* to crime, they do not prevent it. What \*does\* prevent crime is making sure that each and every person in Minneapolis has their basic needs met.

#DefundMPD #ChangeTheCharter AND #FIREFREY

7/1/2020 2:11:04 AM

I am very disappointed at how the Mpls. City Council has handled the initiative to 'dismantle the MPD'. I have lived in Mpls. for over 40 years. As constituents of the 8th Ward, my husband & I have been Block Leaders for almost 30 years. This is our city and as residents and property owners we expect to be able to enjoy a real sense of protection and safety from our elected leaders. The Council's attempt to remove the MPD as a Charter Department without thorough and thoughtful community input & discussion and a definitive plan for public safety shows poor leadership and a lack of common sense on their part. They say that the "new" department of public safety would use "a holistic, public-health oriented approach" and that applicants for the new director's position should have non-law enforcement experience in public health. WE ALREADY HAVE A PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT. Also, the Council says it "may" create a law enforcement division. It doesn't say that it will. What?? WE NEED LAW ENFORCEMENT. Even the suggestion that we might not have law enforcement officers or that the current number of officers will be reduced shows a reckless disregard for my family's safety and the safety of all Mpls. residents and visitors. The Mayor and Council need to address the escalating violence in our city. Who is going to respond to the calls of shootings, homicide, burglaries etc.? Certainly not unarmed social workers! We need a good, intelligent, well thought out plan to address all the dangers and issues in a city the size of Mpls. We need police protection. We need officers that are better trained and well qualified. We need To have city-wide community discussion and input BEFORE voting to change the City Charter.

7/1/2020 2:23:37 AM

I approve of this charter amendment, as does my partner. I have lived in major cities most of my life and have witnessed firsthand excessive force over and over again, Minneapolis is no exception. I believe the current system is not serving the officers, the civilians or the city well. I don't believe every city has the foresight, dedication and levelheadedness to see this through. I believe in Minneapolis. I think we can do this and set an example we are proud of for the nation follow.

I also think a lot of detractors don't understand what is being proposed. They are panicking at the idea of removing the police and not listening to what they will be replaced with. I think a significant amount of budget for this overhaul should be in public education so we can put out the fires of misinformation before they become too great.

7/1/2020 2:28:54 AM

We need a complete layout of the Community of safety and violence prevention department.

How many officers will there be policing the streets compared to how many we have currently in the Minneapolis Police Department?

Will this new department commit to responding to 911 calls when something like this happens again? The nights that the fires were happening nobody could get through to 911. That is unacceptable. Firefighters were not putting out fires because there were no police to ensure their safety. That is unacceptable. And there are still regular emergencies that happen in the midst of chaos. Can we count on getting an ambulance if needed when chaos reigns? The MPD bailed on the city and they ran and hid when we needed the most.

Mayor Jacob Frey made things worse in the days following the inhumane killing of George Floyd. How much control will the mayor have over this department? I don't ever want our mayor or anyone in the mayor position to be able to tell these new officers to abandon the city. That can never happen again.

We need massive amounts of information to make this decision. My feelings right now are that I would be in support of defunding the Minneapolis police department, however I need more information before I make that big of a decision.

7/1/2020 2:29:03 AM

I am a white resident of Eagan, who used to work in Minneapolis. I still go there regularly for arts events and meeting friends. I do not support the proposed charter amendment related to community safety and violence prevention.

I support defunding the police and allocating more assets to Black community leaders and Black-led non-profits that are already doing work in the city. I would recommend Nekima Levy Armstrong as a good resource for learning more about who could use more funding on the ground. I support the leadership of the current police chief, Mr. Arradondo. I support the already-researched recommendations for change from the Communities United Against Police Brutality, which I am attaching here. More time is needed to get this right, so don't rush this through. Thank you for considering my comments.

Attachment:

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

May 25, 2020 was both a personal tragedy for the Floyd family and a community tragedy. But it was also a watershed moment locally and nationally in people's understanding of police violence, the racism and classism that underpins it, and the systems that enable it.

Below is a list of specific recommendations for addressing police brutality, misconduct and abuse of authority in the state of Minnesota. Many of these recommendations are not new—our organization has presented them to city, county and state officials for years. Prior failures by leaders at these levels to adopt these evidence-based solutions are what brought us to this place.

In the aftermath of other high-profile police killings, occasional half-measures have been enacted but, generally, public officials simply outlast the storm and go back to business as usual. Even now some public officials labor under the illusion that they can put the genie back into the bottle. That can't happen this time. Every recommendation on this list is readily able to be implemented. All that is required is the will.

*To see the full details of these recommendations, go to cuapb.org/*

**Police Accountability**

- 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.

## **Police Critical Incidents**

- 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.

## **Safer Community Interactions**

- 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.

### **Police Fitness For Duty**

- 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**

As we consider measures to end police violence, we must recognize those measures that will not actually address the problem. We must not waste our resources on non-solutions.

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

### **WHAT ABOUT ABOLISHING OR DEFUNDING THE POLICE?**

There are multiple levels of law enforcement agencies in every community in Minnesota. Abolishing or defunding local police may have some impact but unless we address all levels of policing, people will still be harmed by law enforcement violence. We must push for measures to reduce harm and ensure justice even as there are moves toward other models of public safety.

Information provided by **COMMUNITIES UNITED AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY**. We meet every Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at 4200 Cedar Avenue in Minneapolis. For more information or for help with a police brutality incident, call our 24-hour hotline: **612-874-STOP** or see our website at [www.CUAPB.org](http://www.CUAPB.org).

7/1/2020 2:36:33 AM

I fully support the disbanding of the Police Department and replacing with a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. Please work with local BIPOC leaders throughout the process.

7/1/2020 2:48:45 AM

I don't support the dismantle of the MPD.

7/1/2020 2:49:28 AM

City of Minneapolis should not make decisions based on knee jerk reaction.

I suggest Minneapolis contracts with three law enforcement agencies for one year for a total of 850 law enforcement personal

The three law enforcement agencies are Metro Transit Police, Hennepin County Sheriff's Department and Minnesota State Highway Patrol.

Because there are duplication of departments like Homicide, crime lab, etc, etc the City of Minneapolis would have more officers on the street.

This would give everyone time to develop a plan which serves everyone.

7/1/2020 2:54:26 AM

My thoughts about "defunding the police":

1. The verbiage is overly dramatic and inaccurate. You created hysteria and intense opposition by choosing the word "defund". While drawing attention to the issue, the reaction was counter-intuitive and created division
2. What will replace the MPD? You are wrong for making so much noise in the media without providing actual plans and content of what would replace the existing MPD. You created chaos and made MN appear immature, impulsive and over-reactive. I as well as many Americans question our city government's ability to be taken seriously. I am embarrassed to be from Minneapolis. Not because of the police incidents...but because we are so loudly marching off into this unknown...confidently following officials that are loudly and dramatically REacting instead of being PROactive. I have heard more people claim that they could protect their own better...you have created a warzone where every citizen now thinks they know more, are better equipped, and enjoy recreational disrespect for experts w/lifetimes of first hand experience working these jobs. A land of REactive gun slinging cowboys ...in other blocks, gang war torn destruction.
3. Who would work as the future "peace officers"? You have offended and victimized every honorable officer in the country w/dramatic generalizations and biases placed on men and women who sacrifice their own lives as well as their spouses and children's lives every shift they work... every hour of the shift.

My obvious Q's: Who will respond? -at 3:47am when the child is woken up by mom and dad hurting each other? -when the juvs pistol whipped and car jacked me in the middle of the night? -to rival gangs having a shootout near the elementary school? -when the scene is not safe for medics to enter? -to the suicide by cop next door? -at the school when the teacher finds another bruise on little Jimmys body?-

when the local drug dealer kills 120 people w/a bad batch of heroine? -to the grieving family that lost a child to gun violence...that murders back in retaliation?

I find it an outrage that the city council has made such a mockery of ANY police department, let alone the human beings who sacrifice their personal safety as well as their own spouses and children's safety EVERY HOUR they are on the clock. Meanwhile \$4000 is spent in personal security for council member? Where is the protection for the lives who swore to protect ours??? Where is the fundamental support of the keepers of civilized society in Minneapolis? As leaders of the community, I am beyond disappointed to see the polarization that has been created by city council. How is it not approaching communistic for the government to take away safety of the community without the citizens getting an opinion??? These actions have created tensions through EVERYONE'S personal lives that have turned families, best friends, co workers away from speaking their opinion out loud for fear of political war between the people closest to us?? It is a shame.

Yes, there is DEFINITE need for restructuring of how funds are spent within the government/public safety system. Police officers are not and do not want to play counselor, mediator to civil arguments, and are being taxed beyond what any system could maintain. Attacking the professions of every police officer (which is what you have caused) is the farthest thing from bringing everyone together... Instead of dividing the people and spreading fear and resistance to authority, shouldn't the leaders be bringing the people together? There is no way 2 voices speaking at the same time will both be heard and nothing will change. The wiser of the 2 voices would unite and create one voice ...in harmony at double the volume. Its time to put the egos away and show the rest of the country we are not immaturely reactive, impulsive, and full of unrealistic dreams.

7/1/2020 3:15:30 AM

Not asking to Abolish.

7/1/2020 3:27:20 AM

I think it is a great idea as long as it is implemented well and benefits and prioritizes communities of color. Please take these voices into account when hiring and planning the new department. The new department should represent and reflect our actual city and not the suburbs.

7/1/2020 3:27:44 AM

Hello, I am Missy and was born and raised in MPLS by immigrant parents! Mpls has a beautiful community who has always looked after each other! The MPD have committed TOO MANY mistakes! WE the people want to appoint the people who will be in charge of the community safety and violence prevention program! Please I urge you to not just appoint the folks yourselves that would defeat the purpose. Please let the people who have been disproportionately discriminated and abused by the police be the people who choose the folks in charge. We know better as a community.

7/1/2020 3:27:50 AM

We have the opportunity to go further along the path of abolition than has been tried before. We need to really go for it and actually disband the police, not to be replaced with other different police, but to be replaced with emergency medical and social services. We need to end the carceral system and this can be a first step.

7/1/2020 3:27:58 AM

I am not in support of this charter! Defund the police, not abolish.

7/1/2020 3:33:09 AM

We need the police department. We also need to be able to hold them accountable for bad behavior and yes, for their mistakes. Before I retired if I made a mistake at my job I could have been fired for it depending on the mistake. This should be true of any job. They need to be trained to cope with issues of mental health and homelessness. We need to eliminate the "big tough cop" attitude.

A black male friend of mine came home from picking up his sons from school to find his landlord illegally changing his locks. He called me asking what he should do. I said "call the police". He said "you know I can't do that". I told him it was time he experienced the positive side of policing, so he did. Luckily the officers answering did as they should. They saw to it the landlord gave him keys and all ended well. I shudder to think how it could have been had the officers been like the ones who killed George Floyd.

I think your proposal is all wrong. You need input from the whole community before any change to the City Charter is made.

7/1/2020 3:43:03 AM

Defund the council. Abolish BLM

7/1/2020 3:44:30 AM

I support the complete abolition of the Minneapolis Police Department & the creation of a true public safety system.

The change should be modeled on the work & built with the support of:

BlackVisionsMN.org; ReclaimTheBlock.org; MPD150.com

7/1/2020 3:50:57 AM

I do not want to see the police dept. dismantled or defunded. I think we need more officers and allow them to be more proactive to help with all the crime in the city. I think the city council is clueless of what is going on in the city. I think they are trying to push something through without a clear plan on what would replace it. I would feel unsafe in my city, in my home without police. The city council is ignoring what is going on in North Mpls and in Powderhorn Park. 11 people were shot in Uptown and Lisa Bender was silent. I don't believe anyone on the city council has the knowledge or background in criminology to be making these decisions. I don't believe anyone should judge the police until they spend time doing ride alongs with officers. They need to get out there and see what is happening and talk to the officers. I've learned a lot doing ride alongs in North Mpls. I can't see any social worker going in to help with a domestic. They will want an officer with them. What about EMS and the Fire Dept.? Think they want to go to certain neighborhoods without the police? If someone was breaking into my neighbor's house you think I'm going to risk my life? You think they will listen to me when I ask them to stop? The City Council is fools if they think that would work. We pay taxes so trained police can answer the 911 calls. They signed up to serve and protect. And when the city council wants us to just let them break in to our homes? I will not let someone do that. There are so many other points one could make but Minneapolis City Council is

clueless. Since the City Council wants to dismantle the police department they should not receive any type of protection. They are the biggest hypocrites for allowing this. How can you take away our safety and protection but it's ok for the city council to have protection. REMOVE THEIR PROTECTION DETAIL IMMEDIATELY!!!

7/1/2020 3:53:31 AM

It is so unbelievable that you have taken so little time to think this through. It took you two years for you guys to come up with solution for the plastic bag deal and in two weeks you want to remove the police department.

I think we have put a bunch of fools in power.

I hope the public will wake up and remove every one of you.

You have allow a small group of agitators to rule the day. Shame on you!

7/1/2020 3:54:47 AM

If you defund the police, i will not bring any of my business into the metro ever again. Its time to quit blaming the police and start blaming the monsters that caused this. For every 1 bad cop, there are 1000 good cops.

7/1/2020 3:57:43 AM

Absolute ridiculous thought and moronic right down to the wording. To hold a single system solely responsible is scapegoating. The police department works for the city. Sure there can be other systems developed over time and there are absolutely community needs that aren't being met but how is that the MPD issue? The MPD union is definitely a major problem and should be immediately disassociated with MPD. Your actions to "defund and disband" the MPD in short order is so absurdly irresponsible and dangerous to me and my family that I cannot wait until Nov 2021 to do everything I can to see most of you stupid children voted out of office.

7/1/2020 4:06:58 AM

Due to the excessive violence the MPD has shown during this past month after the murder of George Floyd I am in full support to remove the police department and create a public led community safety and violence prevention department.

I am in full support of this charter amendment to ensure the safety of our community.

7/1/2020 4:19:16 AM

I used to love going to Mpls, but there is no way I am going now. It is sad to see what you are doing to the city. If you defund the police, I will do everything in my power to not even drive through the city. Huge mistake.

7/1/2020 4:22:42 AM

Let me reiterate...I am for the abolishment of the police. I am not in support of an amendment that gives a different title to the officers responsible for the violence that has been put upon peaceful protesters within the last month. And violence that has been going on towards minority communities for centuries.

The MPD has lost the trust of the community when we were met with violence. We have shown that community led public safety is possible. (This being led by community members and residents, not police).

We need to enact real change and not rush with any amendments that keep the same officers employed under a new title.

7/1/2020 4:23:33 AM

Please reconsider this amendment. It was created too hastily and without sufficient community input. You will do a disservice to the community by not taking more time and being more thoughtful about this complicated and important matter.

7/1/2020 4:27:07 AM

Time and time again, Minneapolis Police have failed to protect the citizens that it claims to serve and protect. As a city, we must do more to protect our community and stand in solidarity on the right side of history. No justice, no peace. The police must be disbanded and officers must be held responsible.

7/1/2020 4:46:42 AM

This is crazy. Have you council members lost your minds. This will be the end of Minneapolis. Crime ridden. Business empty ghost town. Watch our tax base disappear. To you council members that means the money you waste on private security won't be there. You in over your heads resign council members all of you Ward 5

7/1/2020 4:58:01 AM

I believe we need to defund, demilitarize and abolish Minneapolis Police Dept. I've lived in Minneapolis for 21 years of my life and I have never seen such cruelty, such complete lack of empathy from people who we meant to protect us. I believe the proposed charter amendment is one step in the right direction but if we want real change we must be willing to do more than just a change in a title.

7/1/2020 5:08:54 AM

Will this CSVPD be provided a considerable amount of training for dealing with individuals with mental illness, Autism, serious drug issues, and language barriers?

7/1/2020 5:22:04 AM

I dont think thay the police department should be removed altogether, I do believe that the city should take more time and resources to retrain the now current police in the right way , to make sure that they are completely following all the right protocols and also doing more throughout background checks, say that if that police officer has a more current offence thwn not to hire and if that police officer that is on the force gets there warnings they should be let go. Like three strikes and your done kind of thing. But if you totally dissemeble the police department, that is going to mean more crime and less action. So no I dont agree..

7/1/2020 5:33:33 AM

Ahhhhh NO. You people are all crazy.

7/1/2020 5:44:08 AM

The proposed charter amendment seems hastily written. I have concerns that City Council suspended rules in this process and didn't hold any public hearings about the proposed charter amendment.

If the City Council's intent is to reform policing, in light of George Floyd's death, other deaths, and the countless abuses at the hands of the MPD, there are actions they can take now that don't require a charter amendment change.

I am supportive of removing the minimum number of police officers that the current charter requires the city to fund.

7/1/2020 5:46:12 AM

The "fast tracking" of a Charter amendment is inconsistent with the its purpose of being the watch dog over significant changes in City governance. It is your job purposefully consider major changes in the direction the City takes. Fast tracking does not allow time for purposeful consideration. In fact, no public debate has commenced relating to long term ramifications and unintended continuances. That a current, but likely temporary, City leadership should be making long term, monumental, changes in City life on a whim is contrary to whole purpose of the Charter Commission and an antithesis to the concept of good government.

The current public hysteria is not a time to "reimagine" City government. Any charter changes should be made away from the current chaos in a sober process. The "fast track" process is not a sober, methodical, process.

I've attached two pertinent articles. One relates Wall Street Journal editorials. I'm sorry I don't have the whole text as I am not a subscriber but you can find them I'm sure. Attached is a PowerLine.com summary. The other is a response to a remark by Congressman Dean Philips by his opponent. I do not know the opponent but he is a black military officer and businessman. A fine rebuttal to the hysteria of the left. My purpose in conveying it is to highlight the necessity for a debate that is not limited by "fast tracking".

I would urge you to exercise your responsibility as gatekeepers to hysterical actions.

Attachments:

<https://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2020/06/dan-henningers-grand-slam.php>  
<https://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2020/06/a-voice-of-sanity-and-truth.php>

7/1/2020 5:48:40 AM

This is brave and essential work. Please do not be deterred by the loud, unimaginative voices who can't see a better future for our city.

7/1/2020 5:49:10 AM

This move is entirely unprecedented, and it does not seem wise to move forward on a charter like this without extremely specific and detailed provisions outlined for the public to review.

I would remind you that the same policy makers who allowed the Minneapolis Police Department to fester would be designing this program going forward; they have not thus far demonstrated any exceptional competence that would be needed to create a program of this magnitude. In fact, the members proposing this solution have been alarmingly vague.

About 10% of 911 calls in Minneapolis between the period of July 2017 to July 2019 were for mental health issues or interventions. The majority of calls were for things like domestic disputes, violent altercations, alarms, property crimes, and gunshots. The second largest majority were for things like suspicious persons and vehicles, accidental property damage, threats, missing persons, and auto theft.

In the above, how would a team of mostly mental health professionals help more than well-trained police officers? The vast majority of 911 calls in Minneapolis are for things that are only suitable for police officers to solve or investigate.

I think there should be a supplementary department of mental health professionals that can assist police in special, vulnerable situations, but, as far as the police department goes, they need better training, more transparency, and more accountability. That last one, accountability, is only going to happen if we have a system designed to investigate officers that isn't "internal." There should be an objective, independent third-party which takes on investigations of complaints against police.

I will remind those reading this that more than a thousand 911 calls were languishing in the system unanswered for Priority 1 calls (things like rape, which Minneapolis ranks as the number 4 city in the U.S. for rapes). Again, priority 1 calls are NOT calls that you would send mental health professionals to. I don't see how shrinking the enforcement aspect of the police department would solve anything.

7/1/2020 5:53:19 AM

I agree with this 100%. Removing the Police department and establishing a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention will as the name states. This will allow for communities to keep their members safe and prevent violence from police and others who seek to harm community members.

7/1/2020 5:56:31 AM

Yall are Some fuckin retard

7/1/2020 6:02:20 AM

I strongly support the proposed charter amendment. I appreciate that it focuses on community safety and violence prevention. I appreciate that it puts forward a non-law enforcement officer as the lead staff (director). I appreciate that it allows for a division of law enforcement services should decision makers, in consultation with the community, deem that desired. I appreciate that it does not require a particular share of the city budget to be allocated to this work as part of the city charter.

7/1/2020 6:05:43 AM

This shouldn't even be considered. Let the police do their job. They don't need defunding or removal, restructure maybe. I think having social workers and other special workers would be a good idea but add them to the departments. Since this has come up look at how much the crime rate has gone up. Multiple shootings every night. This is turning into a mini Chicago. It's because a few people think this is a good idea.

7/1/2020 6:06:41 AM

I am a resident of another state and I've traveled to Minneapolis for business & pleasure. I will not be returning due to my concerns of safety. No police...no tourist...no business.

7/1/2020 6:18:23 AM

It is well within your rights as a city to govern as you see fit. However do not think that people outside of the metro will help you rebuild your community again and again as these policies fail just like they have everywhere else in the world. Laws and law enforcement are not needed with a completely moral populace. The riots and looting are evidence that you are not dealing with a moral population. Good luck but don't look to those outside the metro to bail you out. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 6:18:44 AM

This is the dumbest idea ever. Look at all these crimes that are popping up everywhere now... And you want this to be the new norm? Without police is just going to spike up everything.

7/1/2020 6:19:26 AM

I have lived in Minnesota my whole life and while I don't live in Minneapolis I live close enough for this to effect my friends and family. We NEED our police. It is ludacris to think it would work otherwise. Police are not the problem. Sin is the problem. We all need Jesus!

7/1/2020 6:19:33 AM

Although not a Mpls citizen I enjoy about 20 Timberwolves games a season and have always been proud to bring out of State friends to "My City". My wife and I also enjoy stroll Lake St and the parks/lakes. WE WILL NO LONGER BE COMING TO THE CITY AND SPENDING MONEY WITHOUT THE POLICE! I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 6:21:15 AM

Removing the Police Department from Minneapolis will be a mistake. Today, going downtown after 8 pm isn't safe today and removal of the police department will only make things worse. Today, the crime around downtown is bad and the "community" approach will fail as those who want to commit crimes will know there are less enforcement/consequences. With the police under scrutiny now, the crime rates have risen and it's only getting worse.

The better way is reform the policies of the PD and enforce them.....not remove them. The city is on a path that many people are going to avoid spending their money there for fear of their safety.

7/1/2020 6:28:39 AM

Change is needed but I do not agree with defunding the police, its a bad idea as most police are good and much needed

7/1/2020 6:30:44 AM

Please do not de-fund the police. This City needs police. Most police are good people trying to protect our community. Defunding the police is like sacrificing our neighbors lives. The uptick in crime is because of this mantra. City council members should not be disrespecting the police, they are making it worse. Very disappointing and poor judgement of the city council. Remember Murderapolis? Those were rough times and when they beefed up the police, the crime dropped steeply. Please put the citizens lives before making some kind of uniformed political display.

7/1/2020 6:32:07 AM

This charter amendment does not do nearly enough to abolish and reform a version of the MPD that is accountable to the community and protects all Minneapolis residents. The development of this amendment with no community involvement is shocking and unacceptable. The city council is accountable to the residents of Minneapolis and must not sidestep them to pass a performative amendment lacking the substance needed for true justice and community safety. This charter must be rejected by the committee.

7/1/2020 6:32:45 AM

As a resident living in north Minneapolis, I fully support this change. While I do believe that sometimes armed officers are necessary, there are many actions that could be taken by properly supported citizens or other designated groups; other cities that have removed their police forces or shifted calls to people that handle mental health crises have done so incredibly successfully. Since the amendment still allows for a police force, those issues that do present a real danger can be handled by the appropriate officers, while the other issues could be handled by those that have the training and compassion for it.

7/1/2020 6:34:15 AM

I agree with the change, but would like the language added that there will be a link with the BIPOC leaders to participate in the forming and maintaining of this department. I firmly believe we need the community to be involved in this change, it cannot be a mayor-led, city council-led project alone.

I also believe there should be a large number of mental health professionals employed by this department with a good deal of de-escalation training.

I also do not think that the Star Tribune should be the only place for the charter to be advertised. It is a pay-only news source and is not accessible to many people in the community. Please advertise elsewhere in addition to the Star Tribune.

7/1/2020 6:34:52 AM

The Minneapolis Police Department has proven itself unreformable, over and over again. Minneapolis citizens who are people of color do NOT feel safe with them around -- indeed, they often feel terrified and terrorized by police actions created by decades the MPD's unchangeable racist culture. We must start all over again to imagine what it would REALLY take to create true community safety. Changing the Minneapolis Charter is the only way to insure Minneapolis can give itself structures for safety that truly match the values of its citizens. LISTEN to the citizens who have been brutalized for far too long -- THE CHARTER MUST BE CHANGED!

7/1/2020 6:34:56 AM

It's good that the proposed charter amendment removes the requirement to fund a certain number of police officers—without that requirement, we'd be able to reduce the size of the police force and shift funds toward social services and mental health crisis responders who are better able to respond to a number of social issues.

However, the rest of the proposed amendment has sloppy language and feels hastily done. For example, the amendment does not mention who would be directly responsible for police discipline—a fatal oversight that could make police discipline even more impossible in the future. The amendment gives power to the city council, but there is no historical evidence that the council will hold the police accountable—it's never done so in the past. And what does it mean that the council “may maintain” a

law enforcement body—if the council doesn’t, does that mean law enforcement services are left to the sheriff’s department, which is even less accountable to the public? Finally, the council did not hold any public hearings to get community feedback on the amendment wording—overall, the council has avoided every opportunity to enable greater community control of the police.

I fear this amendment will not result in any meaningful changes to policing and public safety in Minneapolis, and that it will instead make police accountability an even more confusing and impossible process. I urge the Charter Commission to take its time in refining the language of this amendment and to seek community engagement in the incredibly important conversation on the future of public safety in our city. Thank you.

7/1/2020 6:36:45 AM

Continuing to push this amendment without due process of sending through committee and more particularly not including Ample time for community input, is irresponsible and reeks of optic politics rather making actual change.

Note I am not a resident, but I work within a non-profit serving young people on probation in Minneapolis.

7/1/2020 6:39:12 AM

I grew up in Minneapolis in the 80's. I did so as a troubled child hood. At one point I was number 1 on the Minneapolis Police Departments Repeat Offender Program, or ROPE. I wont get into the reasons for why I became a criminal. But I will tell you; and this is from one of the top felons to ever exist in Minneapolis, you are making a grave mistake in signaling, posturing, and in action. Between the age of 10 - 24 I grew up on the streets of Hennepin Ave. Which means I grew up in the most desegregated part of the city. I wouldn't trade my life experiences for anything. I have not a racist bone in my body, but I do have some insight spending my entire childhood, teens, and early adult life locked up in Hennepin County, I've been in St. Joes, Home Away, Hennepin County Boys School, Red Wing, Hennepin Workhouse, Hennepin Jail - 34 arrests and 72 felony convictions, Then did two 36 month stints in MCF-St. Cloud. I have been beaten at least 5 times by the MPD, including the knee on the neck. I never resisted. 1 out of 3 times I was "roughed" up by the cops. The issue at hand is Police Brutality. I don't hate cops, I find them very needed for civil order. But criminals, no matter the skin color, are not victims... I was not a victim. I victimized. I think it will be a tragic mistake to de-fund the Minneapolis PD. Dismantle and rebuild? That I could see. But you have to do it in a better way. Quit being soft on criminals. George Floyd was very unfortunate, but he was committing a crime. Yes, the cop should stand trial, yes, it was disgusting but it wouldn't have mattered if a white guy was under his knee... he would have still been there. You folks on the council are making a very, very, very, bad decision which will affect the black community the most. Everyone will be affected, but black folks will die. Because criminals that are willing shoot folks, don't care about your ideology.

7/1/2020 6:39:45 AM

How can you enforce the laws to keep people safe? We have enought violence in this city and other issues such as drug dealing in broad daylight. Someone and it should be the police should have the authority and proper training to enforce the laws and arrest the law breakers.

7/1/2020 6:39:56 AM

I am sorry to see the great city of Minneapolis defer to the politically correct movement lead by mob rule. The politically correct movement has lead our country from proud Americans to a divided, demoralized nation. The attempt to remove God from school, the massive number of abortions, the increased number of divorces, the lack of respect for elders, choosing debt over earning ones own way, these things are the result of good people not standing up for their beliefs.

It appears that "mob rule" has been effective in your city. This is very sad to see the leaders of your city kowtow to this mob. Stand up for what is right. The vast majority of your police officers are good people, I have protected the people of Minneapolis for a long time. Why are you siding with the mob? Respectfully looking in from the outside

7/1/2020 6:42:38 AM

I live in South Minneapolis. Since the riots there has been an increase in violent crime and we have a shortage of police to handle the load. Probably a problem before the riots actually. This city is a long way from being able to have less armed and highly trained police officers. It is an excellent vision but we are far from the reality.

If we are such a safe community ready to move to a gentler practice of Law Enforcement, why does the entire City Council have paid security? Because there is a need. And you should not be singled out as privileged to receive such protection when my tax paying dollars affords me no protection. Hypocrites.

Shame on you for neglecting the thousands of people who live in fear of being mugged by bands of thugs. Who live in fear of bullets flying into our homes and killing our children. Who can't sleep at night because of all the shooting, yelling, and sirens.

It would be best for the community if you gave up your uninformed vision of city that clearly only exists in imagination. It would be best if you all resigned and allowed people with an interest in protecting the citizens of Minneapolis be elected and serve on the Council.

I am trying to raise children in this city. My family has been in Minneapolis for 5 generations. My spouse has to work near 38th and Chicago, which is near our house, and goes there alert and concerned for his safety. You don't think about that because you have private security. Privileged and corrupt is what this Council has become. I can no longer take my children to Powderhorn Park because of the criminals, sexual predators, and addicts living on public grounds. You don't know because you haven't lost any thing in any of the decisions you have made for this city.

Hire more police, train them on responding to mental health calls, and support them when they have to make tough calls that don't always turn out great. Stop blaming them for the criminal's activity. Thank them for putting their lives on the line, taking risks you wouldn't even dream of, and for bearing the emotional and psychological scars of dealing with the criminals on every call.

Stop this madness and the move to even consider this amendment to our charter.

7/1/2020 6:42:41 AM

I deeply oppose amending the MPLS City Charter to dismantle/defund the police department.

This knee jerk move, with no real plan by the City Council would serve only to signal their own virtue and add another layer of government-which in turn would only further diffuse any accountability.

It would distract from addressing societal racism and true transformation in our communities.

7/1/2020 6:43:13 AM

I am not a resident of Mpls but do work there. Since the discussion for defunding the police has begun I am uncomfortable coming downtown or frankly anywhere in Mpls. If you do decide you don't need police, I won't return. I can do almost anything without going into Mpls proper and will just adjust my routes to avoid the city.

7/1/2020 6:44:14 AM

I do not agree with this proposed amendment. I support reform of the police department and believe it is necessary. However, I emphatically will not support living in a city with no police presence. I have been a resident of Minneapolis most of my life and have always been proud to be here. I have felt proud to raise my young children in the city. But in light of failed leadership, increasing crime in recent weeks and now this proposed amendment, my husband and I are highly considering leaving Minneapolis.

Our hardworking tax dollars are paying for private security for city council members, while they want to abolish our police force. The hypocrisy is pretty unbelievable.

This proposed amendment has no action steps in place, and without knowing what the council's plan would actually be, I cannot get behind this amendment.

7/1/2020 6:49:52 AM

I live in Roseville and I own my home there. Being adjacent to Minneapolis I am very concerned about my safety and the safety of my family if lawlessness is allowed to thrive in Minneapolis. I agree that fundamental changes need to be made in the police department but getting rid of it entirely is utter foolishness. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 6:50:37 AM

I am angered by this ridiculous idea. So angry that I want to move and get out of this liberal city that has now turned its back on what's important...our right to feel safe. Who is going to protect us in our time of urgent need. You? My neighbor?

What is going on is reverse discrimination. We white people have no rights. We are trying our best to live peacefully. We can't even call someone for disturbing constant fireworks going on all hours of the early morning. There aren't enough cops. Why? They're all leaving for lack of support from you!

Walz should go along with our ridiculous baby mayor. You all have caved to the current violent conditions because all you care about is re-election.

I hate this city! And don't even get me started about the taxes that do nothing but go up!

Get some balls and run the city like adults.

7/1/2020 6:55:17 AM

This is a ridiculous proposition that is a knee-jerk reaction to a clear issue. I fully support a reform and rebuild of the PD; including the removal of the union. My support ends there! That has NOTHING to do with coming from a place of privilege, it comes from employing COMMON SENSE and logic, something this current city council has displayed very little of. You are ruining this city, one idealistic thought at a time. Ward 11

7/1/2020 6:55:51 AM

We need to phase out the police altogether, and replace them with emergency first responders whose priority is to protect people rather than just enforce the law. These first responders need to be especially trained in de-escalation, and CANNOT be former police officers. We can't have the toxic work culture of the police infecting this new first responder organization, otherwise they just become police with a different label.

7/1/2020 6:57:42 AM

I am 100% opposed to this amendment, I have never seen a bigger crime problem. The issue is the City Council not the police.

7/1/2020 6:58:41 AM

As a Former Police Officer, now Retired, I cant believe this would even be an option to eliminate the FEW Bad Cops. Really, this is your solution??? Good Luck Calling 911 when Someone has Broken into your residence, while your Cowering in a closet or under your bed. Hopefully the Fire Dept will respond, Apprehending the Suspect's, wrap them up with their Hoses...This City can't be serious...can they?? Good luck Twin City's!!

7/1/2020 7:00:14 AM

As a family that travels to Minneapolis frequently for youth hockey. I really don't think I will any longer without a police department. Absolutely ridiculous and unsafe!

7/1/2020 7:01:17 AM

No! Do not bring this charter! You have not listened to the voices of the community. What guarantees will you have to not replace it with the same white's supremacists that are currently employed by the MPD? Hell no!

7/1/2020 7:05:28 AM

The MPD has evolved into a para-military unit of mainly suburbanites ill equipped to respond to the vast majority of urban police calls.

Numerous attempts at reforming the department have proven to be futile for various reasons, including their Unions ability to undermine efforts to hold Minneapolis Police Officers accountable for misdeeds.

The only path forward at this point is to eliminate the MPD in its current form and proceed with other ideas aimed at restoring public confidence.

7/1/2020 7:06:24 AM

While I support the thought and spirit behind the move, you absolutely need to develop and share a very detailed strategy of what this system will look like and how it will work. Businesses and community members need to feel safe and secure that they can live, work, and thrive in Minneapolis.

I believe a new system can be established to address the systemic issues but need to clearly understand what it will look like before I could vote in favor of it. I believe a lot of people likely feel this way, so if you are light on concrete details you will have an uphill battle with voters and nothing will change. I'm urging you to take this responsibility very seriously. The country is watching.

7/1/2020 7:08:10 AM

I have lived in Minneapolis for 35+ years. As it now stands, I am concerned about the current rate of crime in our neighborhoods. In my opinion, the police force needs to be strengthened, not disbanded. As a retired teacher, I know that human nature requires rules to be enforced with authority.

Our policing system has a terrible history of discrimination and violence against people of color. I would like to see a disbanding of the union that supports "bad cops" and changes that guarantee the unwarranted use of force. Extreme reform of the police department is indeed required. But not elimination of it.

7/1/2020 7:11:31 AM

I do not agree with this in any way shape or form. You are just doing something out of reaction not processing it through. I will not re-elect people that make rash decisions.

7/1/2020 7:11:35 AM

This proposal is a HUGE change, and is proposed without any background of how or why I should support it, what the process would be to move away from what we have now, and most importantly, what are our other options?! We're all about change, but it is not clear what is being proposed here, who will make the decisions about alternatives to policing, etc.

7/1/2020 7:14:14 AM

Closed my business due to COVID-19. Sold my house due to lack of leadership from the mayor, city council and school board in this third-world country type city. Shame I have given up everything because the once beautiful and vibrant city has crumbled. By only supporting a few groups of people, you are alienating everyone else. Goodbye Mpls. I am one of many. Ward 5

7/1/2020 7:14:18 AM

I am in full support of disbanding the Police Department in favor of a Community of Safety and Violence Prevention Department. Too often, the police are brought into situations that should be handled by specialists in other fields (for example, mental health crises should not be handled by armed individuals who do not have years of de-escalation training under their belts). Disbanding the police in favor of building a more well-rounded community support structure would not only bring an end to rampant police violence (including the over-policing of minority populations and poor communities), but would better serve all community members by providing them with specialized care, rather than a 'one size fits all' response that happens to carry a gun.

7/1/2020 7:16:37 AM

MPD has been terrorizing the black community for my whole life. I don't personally know anyone that feels safe calling them for help. I fully support disbanding the MPD and starting from scratch. We have an opportunity to fight systematic racism from the ground up. I believe it's very important that you work with black community leaders when reforming what we consider public safety. Thank you for your time.  
Ward 9

7/1/2020 7:18:20 AM

If I as a public taxpayer can have the same private security as the 3 "hypocritical" Council Members, then great! If not, then I want more Police to secure my safety!

7/1/2020 7:19:23 AM

Hello, I support the language in the amendment to get rid of the funding requirements for the ratio that is needed to for police officers in Mpls so that we can reduce the police force. I do not support shifting policing accountability to the city council instead of the mayor and don't think this would be effective. I'm concerned this new amendment will unintentionally cause further problems with police oversight and believe that there are many other ways to fix MPD from within and with appropriate changes, many of which Communities United Against Police Brutality have discussed...a disciplinary reset, requiring officers to carry their own liability insurance, banning warrier based trainings and really screening which trainings officers can attend, and re-establishing the OPCR.

7/1/2020 7:19:56 AM

For decades mayors, chiefs, accountability commissions, have tried to reform Minneapolis Police department. There has been literally dozens of internal programs to try to improve relations: navigators, community liaisons, and on and on.

Living in North Minneapolis at 26th and Penn for 7 years and 35th and Fremont for the past 14 years, I have encountered dozens of officers. The theme I see over and over is them treating people here like they are NOT theirs to protect to serve. The theme I see over and and over is MPD treating my neighborhood NOT like their own. The theme I see over and over is that their own protection and safety is most important.

Over the last 20 years I can't recall any officer, while out doing their day to day job, treating people and our neighborhood as their own to protect and serve. Sure they have been cordial at a community meetings, their BBQs, etc----- but that all feels a lot like PR. I can't recall a single incident where they got out of their vehicle. What I can recall is dozens of incidents where I was made to feel like a criminal, where people were mistreated, where while we doing community service projects with youth the police made us feel like criminals! I choke up when I think of it!

I've had officers tell me "Nate I wouldn't live where you live if someone gave me a house for free".

I've had officers say to me "We treat your neighborhood like a war zone because it is".

I've had officers say to me "Nate based on where you live, if you aren't doing something illegal, you must be benefiting from it in some way".

I've had officers say "Well I'm treating these teens like they've committed a crime because they all carry guns and cause trouble".

Unfortunately, I can't see any chance for reform. In fact, I believe, based on my dozens of interactions with these officers, that Bob Kroll represents his officers well. He says what the vast majority of them believe.

I beg you --- please stay the course. Its time to clean house. It requires great bravery to do so, as many (including many in my neighborhood) fear any idea without the police. Please continue to push for sweeping changes! Ward 4

7/1/2020 7:20:35 AM

While the proposed amendment is in good faith, there are several changes that need to be made in order for this to be effective. Do this right or don't do it at all. Ask the people who experience systemic racism daily for their input.

1. What will be the training requirements of the professionals involved in the "Safety and Violence Prevention Department" how will the city ensure that they are properly trained and maintain that training over time?
2. Someone MUST be held responsible for police discipline and oversight. Is this the community? Someone who is voted to do this by the community? The people must be involved on some level since history has shown that politicians cannot be trusted to bring appropriate justice to fruition on their own.
3. It must be stated that the money coming from reduced spending on the police department will be allocated to other areas such as community resources, social workers, mental health therapy, etc. it should be determined what the new budget will be for community services so the city is required to fund these services after the movement is settled down. Be better, do better. Keep everyone accountable.

7/1/2020 7:20:39 AM

I fully support a new (and fully improved) plan to defund Minneapolis police with a different alternative that would improve our city. I am a social worker who works in mental health in the healthcare setting in south Minneapolis. I constantly am hearing from my patients their stories with Minneapolis police. I believe police have been given responsibility of many duties they aren't trained to do, which has made the community suffer and the police overworked. It has become a cycle where community members are not improving mentally, then are punished criminally when all they truly needed was mental health help for example. Many of the nonprofits and mental health resources in Minneapolis are underfunded and have long waiting lists to get help into their communities. I think of how amazing it would be to reform the Minneapolis police to a new alternative. Having the possibilities of a social worker, therapist, etc to answer the mental health calls, non violent crimes, etc would do wonders to the community. We are trained in this! Putting the money into the preventive programs throughout Minneapolis is a way to truly help our neighbors. I previously worked as a social worker in an inpatient psych unit. Hospitals have "code greens" and teach deescalating to all employees. While working there for 2.5 years, I rarely saw hands being placed on a patient to restrain them. Yes, I have had patients yelling, throwing things BUT through proper training you can deescalate them.

7/1/2020 7:21:59 AM

As a Minneapolis resident, I fully support the amendment. Creating alternatives for responding to "non-police" matters is something that is overdue.

7/1/2020 7:22:34 AM

I live in the suburbs but have worked In Minneapolis for almost 11 years. I have felt increasingly unsafe in several areas of the city, in particular in Dinkytown and Marcy Holmes. In December, after a string of robberies I called the police to register my concerns. I am all for defunding parts of the police in favor of special teams (like mental health teams for instance) but the city must ensure that the public who works and visits there (as well as the residents obviously) is safe. I refuse to go to the city right now and will not be spending any of my time or money there until the city stops the continuing violent and property crime streak that has continued in the past several months. You need the support of your metro area. Minneapolis is not an island. Stop acting like one.

7/1/2020 7:23:15 AM

To the Minneapolis Charter Commission:

I am 70 years old and have lived at [REDACTED] for 45 years. As an older Minneapolis resident, it is important to me that I feel safe where I live. I agree strongly that changes need to be made to policing practices in Minneapolis. However, I am very concerned that abolishing the MPD will result in less safe neighborhoods. Having no Police force will affect the value of our home and generally decrease the livability of our city.

We have planned to "age in place" in our Minneapolis home. However, how this issue is handled by City leaders, including the Charter Commission, may force us to change our plans. We would prefer to continue to live, work, and volunteer in Minneapolis. Please take into account the needs of all citizens when decisions are being made about law enforcement in Minneapolis. Take time to engage community members and create a solid plan before moving ahead with any action.

My preference would be to not give the City Council any additional power in our city government. In my opinion, they seem to move ahead unilaterally without transparency or citizen (e.g. raising their own salaries by taking money out of other City departments). I like the checks and balances in city government created by the existence of the Charter Commission and the Mayor. Please pay less attention to the crowd and more attention to the general populace.

7/1/2020 7:23:29 AM

The City Council has not engaged the public for a year as promised on this issue. Public opinion is not reflected in the charter amendment and it is reckless and irresponsible to move this forward in an expedited process. The charter commission must be a check on the power of the city council and not allow a change of this magnitude to move forward in an expedited process. The amendment is to put it bluntly, half baked. The citizens of Minneapolis deserve to know exactly what the city council will and will not provide for public safety and the vagueness of the amendment does not provide that. There must be more than 1 public meeting and the charter commission must insist that the city council follow the standard process for amending the charter. Ward 8

7/1/2020 7:25:13 AM

I am the [REDACTED] of a nonprofit that has served children and youth in S. Minneapolis for more than 25 years. I do not agree with this charter amendment. Abolishing the police department is NOT the right decision for the city of Minneapolis and the families that we serve! I agree that the entire department needs to be overhauled and defunded, but not abolished.

7/1/2020 7:25:32 AM

I am a long time resident of Minneapolis but currently live in Brooklyn Park but still believe my voice for this needs to be heard as my family is still living in Minneapolis! Defund the police does not mean abolish them. You can not put the safety of Minneapolis Residents into the hands of another white city run program. We must Reconstruct, Retrain and change the MPD system. Our current Chief of police is the first black chief and he responded correctly to the negative actions of the officers and heard the community! Here and now we say this Charter is not the solution! You have and are leaving out Most of the communities voice out of the decision making and building process! Do not put this on the Ballot. Defund, Retrain and change the MOD system!

7/1/2020 7:26:44 AM

This is a terrible, terrible proposal, on so many levels:

1. Talk of defunding and reducing law enforcement is just plain wrong and naive. Violence is surging. Our city was recently engulfed in flames, a whole police precinct abandoned by a feckless Mayor who is in over his head. Citizens in hard-hit crime areas are very vocal that the police are needed. Now, someone may argue that more non-police resources are needed. That's fine - let's have that debate. Maybe even I would agree it's worth paying more taxes to fund it. But the idea that we can afford to reduce police resources is patently ridiculous. Some may, in some warped way, think that calling for the police is "privileged" - however people since the dawn of civilized society have seen public safety as the core, principle function of government.
2. It will backfire. I can think of no better way to help Donald Trump's re-election chances than to pursue a "defund" argument. The TV ads write themselves... blocks burning, criminals rioting and looting, while Democratic politicians of the affected cities put on their hair shirts and call to disband the police despite the wishes of a frightened populace.
3. It will also backfire because it will \*reduce\* diversity of police officers. If the budget gets cut, what happens? Police costs are all people costs. So they will cut officers. Who gets cut? The newest officers. Who are the newest officers? They are the diverse cadre we have spent so long trying to recruit! Our remaining police force will be much \*less\* diverse if this is done. Madness.
4. It will be the final nail in the coffin after years of City Council madness: ever-increasing property taxes, \$15 minimum wages, sick leave, 2040 plan, endless unused bike lanes, and on and on. This was already a burden likely too much to bear, especially given COVID. If we also become known as the imbeciles who voted to de-fund the police, the steady trickle of businesses and people decamping to the suburbs will become a giant flood.

Thank goodness the police requirement is actually in the Charter, and so requires a vote. As a well written article in the Strib recently pointed out, it is ridiculous that CM Bender, recipient of a grand total of 4,883 votes, gets to set policy for the city. I hope the idea is resoundingly defeated. And if it is not, at least I will know it is finally time to move out of this city, as it falls into decades of decline similar to Detroit after 1968. The least City Council could do is have the courage of their convictions, and in addition to asking about removing the police requirement, offer an alternate choice to INCREASE the minimum number of police required. Or are they worried that most citizens may actually want that instead? Ward 13

7/1/2020 7:28:31 AM

I fully support significant changes to the MPD. I have been a resident of Minneapolis for over 20 years and have lived in north Minneapolis for 17 years. The police have rarely responded to my calls and when I was burgled they questioned why I lived in this neighborhood. I fully support significant changes but I do NOT support the changes as proposed. We have an already over powered city council that does not listen to their constituents looking to get more powerful and weaken the mayor's office even more. I will not support this current plan and in fact do not plan to vote for my current council member in future elections. I fully support an office of violence and prevention but not support the vague language regarding a police department. We have significant upticks in crime and overall lawlessness in my neighborhood and the council has not clearly articulated how the current situation would be supported under the new proposal. I want real examples for everyday occurrences like gun shots, theft, etc. I also want to understand how they plan to address traffic safety. This is another issue that is significantly affecting the lives of Minneapolis residents yet it is unclear how this new prevention department will address traffic related issues. There are simply too many questions a too little answers. There is such potential for positive and significant change but I do not feel the current proposal is the best way to go about this change. I do not support our city council obtaining more power through this reform.

7/1/2020 7:28:56 AM

Abolish police. Allocate money to areas such as mental health support, housing, education, etc. White folks working in any of these areas MUST be required to take numerous/continued anti-discrimination and anti-racism courses. Time for community aide rather than abusive power from police.

7/1/2020 7:31:15 AM

We must defund the police and replace it with community-led public safety! Policing is outdated slave patrols, and in 2020 it's time to do better. We should abolish the police all together and fund our communities instead.

7/1/2020 7:32:23 AM

I do not agree. Bad idea. Putting law abiding, tax paying residents at risk.

7/1/2020 7:36:39 AM

I support changing the charter, replacing the MPD with a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Ward 2

7/1/2020 7:38:51 AM

You people are all idiots to ruin our city the way you are! You are letting the few rule the many. You will pay for your actions when elections come around! Also what happened to the overpaid tax money the state had and the 2.1 billion dollar rainy day fund? Raise taxes on the people and again you crooked politicians will pay in the elections!

7/1/2020 7:40:03 AM

We should NOT abolish the Mpls police department. The citizens of Mpls desire and deserve a fully functioning police department that can protect and serve ALL residents. We do not want to be part of an "experiment" that is not grounded in research, expertise or proven results. Instead we should partner with other police jurisdictions that have seen positive change and learn from the methods that are proven to work. Solutions to be explored should include escalation/de-escalation training, review of policies around use of force to ensure dangerous misuse of force is no longer allowed, ongoing psych evals and needed psychological support to ensure officers have the support they need to do their job and deal with the traumatic experiences they endure. We need an independent body to investigate the police and ensure policies are followed. We need to hold police accountable when they do not follow procedures and punish them accordingly. We need to give a voice to all of the upstanding and committed men and women who officers who put their lives on the line for us daily to provide input and action on how to evolve the department. We need to remove the union board and start over with those who are committed to justice and accountability to those they serve...the people of Minneapolis. I love our city but I will not think twice about moving if the city council moves forward with the current plan. They do not have the knowledge, expertise or support of the public to make this dramatic change.

7/1/2020 7:40:51 AM

The charter needs the opportunity to hear from the community members instead of behind closed doors. In order for the community to trust the process and trust the council, we need to have a valid say. That starts with direct action, NOT just changing the name of Minneapolis Police Department. And Mayor Frey cannot be the one holding officers accountable. He has stated before he does not want to defund the police.

7/1/2020 7:44:23 AM

The city council's actions over the past few decades has proven to be very destructive toward the business community. Now that no one can afford to remain in the city; you have come up with the brilliant idea to not protect the remaining few businesses. Where will people shop, get entertained and work? Ward 4

7/1/2020 7:45:20 AM

If you defund the police department then you should defund the welfare checks. Why do they deserve anything for free. Work like the rest of us. White peoples are the slaves now we work to pay taxes for all the others that get free stuff.

7/1/2020 7:47:42 AM

I do not support the City Council Charter Amendment in its current state. I do not think any decisions about changing the charter and policing should be made without the involvement of community leaders and organizers, and I believe the City Council needs to be much more transparent and thoughtful about their approach. Given the timeline and oversight a charter amendment requires, I am scared of the consequences of such a hastily compiled amendment. Please do your duty to the citizens of Minneapolis, myself included, and put the appropriate time, effort, and voices into this amendment - make sure it is right, not fast. The fact that the amendment is not supported by the community is a giant red flag. I do not want to become a city that has no police accountability because we reacted too quickly.

I will support the council if you withdraw this amendment to spend the next few months drawing up a better amendment for the ballot in 2021. In the meantime, you can make changes within the current system that are already recommended by community organizers.

7/1/2020 7:49:47 AM

I am strongly in favor of amending the city charter to remove the requirement that we have a police department. Ward 1

7/1/2020 7:50:14 AM

This is a step in the right direction, but I would like to see a larger step. Please find more dynamic language that will allow for growth to the charter as we learn more about what communities, and especially black and brown communities, need regarding this matter.

7/1/2020 7:50:40 AM

While this is what we have essentially been asking for, it is horrifying to me that even after committing to put Black voices front and center in this discussion, I am currently filling out a form as the only means of comment on this proposed amendment. It is not your job as the city council in moments like this to rush into decisions because the world is watching. It is your job to LISTEN to the voices in the community that have background, knowledge, and lived experience on this matter. Slow down, we're not asking for this to be pushed through so rushed. We want a discussion, we want to talk about multiple options. Listen to the true black leaders in our community like Nekima Levy Armstrong, she been working to achieve something like this for years and years and you're just ignoring her. You're doing this for political pull in the elections coming up, but trust me, you're not fooling anyone, and you definitely won't have my vote if you don't start listening to black voices.

7/1/2020 7:51:33 AM

I support this amendment. I'd like to see more community education and conversation about what a "Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department" looks like. I'D like to see more specific development on this with community input before the vote happens. I'd take part in that communication effort.

7/1/2020 7:51:38 AM

From what I am reading, this process is moving too quickly, and some of the wording is problematic in the charter amendment that has been put forward. I'm worried if this process is not done right, all efforts at defunding and eventually abolishing police will be sabotaged and nothing will change. The process needs to be done right, with adequate time for public comment and review. The city should go forward with making immediate changes to the police that can be done, and slow down on major changes. CUAPB has some really solid recommendations that the City Council needs to take into account!

7/1/2020 7:51:51 AM

I think ALL Minneapolis police officers should be required to live in Minneapolis.

7/1/2020 7:52:36 AM

Please reallocate funds from the police department to create more suitable organizations to assist in situations that historically police have been called for, but not trained to deal with.

7/1/2020 7:52:45 AM

I firmly believe it is time to move away from the Police Department as we now know it. The lack of support for our communities, in housing, mental health services, education, neighborhood development etc, has led to a disproportionate dependence on police to manage the conflict and community concerns. We need to redistribute our city funds in such a way that ALL of our citizens have their needs fulfilled. BIPOC citizens Too frequently find their communities taking the financial hit when the money is tight. Redistribute the money and respectfully include every human in our city.

The young people will lead the way. BIPOC people will lead the way. Listen to them. Hear their words. Be comfortable with the fact that we have made many mistakes. Let us be wise enough to bring our previous experiences to the table in such a way as not to dismiss new ideas.

Let's truly BE the city we think we are! Resident and Business Owner

7/1/2020 7:55:29 AM

I encourage the Charter Commission to put the proposed public safety amendment on the ballot. However, I encourage you to first change the language so that the amendment makes no room for police to be a part of the new system as we reimagine public safety in Minneapolis. Ward 10

7/1/2020 7:55:44 AM

I am concerned that in our urgent need for change to our police department funding we are rushing through an amendment that is poorly thought out and worded. We need community input and listening sessions to ensure meaningful change. Please make that recommendation to the city council.

7/1/2020 7:55:54 AM

I've been a resident of Minneapolis for 30 years and I support police reform. However, the current proposed amendment is unclear and not backed by a thoughtful study and planning to ensure success. Additionally, 13 people cannot be properly accountable for one of the most important functions of city government. Let's take the time, do this right, and make our city a progressive, stable, safe, and diverse community. Ward 7

7/1/2020 7:56:10 AM

I think MPLS should adapt the requirements of the CRPD in coon rapids. There should be descalation training and rely on other ways such as tasers rather than a gun. The gun should be the last resort. Officers who do not speak up while their fellow officers take unjust actions should be punished just as severely because if you are going to tell the public see something say something you better practice what you preach. Allow this opportunity to never have us in the news for something like this again , BE THE CHANGE!

Here is a link from CRPD chief on their requirements , you have to scroll a little has this was included in a statement regarding what happened to Floyd

<https://www.coonrapidsmn.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2321>

7/1/2020 7:56:55 AM

It seems wise to build a system that uses the right tools for the right job, rather than sending poorly trained armed paramilitary units to do everything even remotely related to public safety. Ward 3

7/1/2020 7:57:44 AM

I agree with this fully. We do not need cops 99% of the time. The community is more than capable of doing the work.

7/1/2020 7:57:47 AM

Are you all deaf or blind? Do you realize what you're doing? Have you no idea of what this will bring upon this city? Are you trying to become another Chicago? Do you want the citizens who contribute most to your nonsense to move out of the city and lower the socioeconomic status throughout the entire city? Are you trying to become a large commune? Are you communists?

That doesn't work folks, believe me, I've lived in it and it's not a winning solution.

You need to stop with this joke now before people actually start getting serious about these idiocies you're toying with, and actually leave the city.

7/1/2020 7:59:38 AM

I want more details. And I want a right to vote on those details that go beyond what can be reasonably acceptable standards and policy changes (I.E. - Dis-arming the police, moving money from policing to social programs like housing, social services, or dismissal of officers that do not have a history of police brutality.)

The crime rate in this city has spiked. My liquor store was looted, my gas station was burned to the ground, my corner shop looted, and drive-by shootings are a common event in North Minneapolis right now. I want to see the plan details that the city council has to offer and see if those details will align with reducing crime in the city, WHILE STILL addressing the obvious issue of too much power that the Minneapolis Police have.

7/1/2020 8:00:32 AM

Dear Charter Commission - I write to ask that you vote to allow the proposed amendment to the City Charter - to create a new Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department - to be referred to voters in November.

There are two primary reasons I ask you to send this to the voters this November:

First, a decision of this much importance and impact needs to be decided by all citizens of our city, rather than being decided by elected council members or policy makers. You are not deciding the future of policing in our city - you are allowing all of us to do that.

Second, it should happen now. I've read that the commission chaired would like more time for decisions of this magnitude, and that is understandable. But lives are at stake. Community safety and trust are at stake. It should not wait until next November or any election cycle thereafter. There will be time between your August decision and the November election for debate and discussion, so that voters can be informed before casting a ballot. To wait is to ignore the potential will of the people and urgency of the moment, and to further perpetuate systems of oppression and supremacy.

I urge you to vote to put this question on our ballot this November.

7/1/2020 8:01:11 AM

Strongly opposed to removing the police department. Our neighborhood has seen a sharp uptick in violence and crime since protests. I am a trauma surgeon and do not have the time to police my own neighborhood [which is what many of our neighbors have been doing]. I pay taxes here to be safe. There is a need for a public health and safety service that could run parallel to the police department, for example to deal with the two heroin users I had to remove from my property whilst my 2 year old played in our back yard. I was told when I called 911 they're "experiencing increased response time" so I took care of it myself. These gentlemen don't need an armed response and jail but treatment. There is absolutely still a need for a police force in Minneapolis. Absent it, I will move my family out.

7/1/2020 8:01:55 AM

I am in complete and total support of the Charter Amendment. Ward 1

7/1/2020 8:02:43 AM

The board that evaluates police conduct definitely are not doing a very good job. Also the union protects the police and therefore continues to allow poor behavior.

I believe these behaviors/complaints should be made public and public citizens should help with evaluating these situations. As a nurse I would be fired after 1-2 complaints. I believe we should hold police officers accountable for their actions and fire them after 1,2 or 3 maximum complaints. 3 strikes you're OUT!

With the charter, communities can come together support one another and make sure police brutality is no longer hidden from public or acceptable.

7/1/2020 8:04:10 AM

Hello I am in support of police reform and defunding the police, and would like additional detail on what exactly the city council has in mind. I believe that defunding the police is a spectrum, and would like to know what aspects of police work the city is proposing to divert and how it will be accomplished; while I am in support, I think there needs to be a well thought out plan for this to work, and what exactly that plan looks like is I would like to see.

7/1/2020 8:05:21 AM

I support the proposed amendment. Ward 1

7/1/2020 8:05:43 AM

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.

Our city's current structure of safety and policing have long-failed to protect all of our city's residents. We need to rewrite the handbook on how cities protect, invest in, and heal communities and individuals most in need. This amendment enables our city to begin that process--to re-imagine how we responded to crises in our neighborhoods--and to focus on more holistic solutions that get at the root of the

challenges our neighbors face rather than punishing the outcomes. When taken in conjunction with the dutiful action of Minneapolis City Council, guided by informed community conversations, creating a new future of community health, safety, and well-being is achievable. Ward 1

7/1/2020 8:06:33 AM

This amendment changes the name and mission statement of the police department, and maintains all the power in the hands of the council and mayor. This is not the change people have been calling for. Please vote no. Please refer to Twin Cities Coalition for Justice 4 Jamar for an outline of community demands.

7/1/2020 8:06:46 AM

Bring back the Police.

7/1/2020 8:11:41 AM

To whom it may concern,

I live in Northeast Minneapolis. Last week, in my front lawn, a member of our community (who I did not know) experienced an overdose or adverse reaction to drugs he had taken. My gut reaction was to call 911 immediately, but I had to pause. In light of George Floyd's murder at the hands of the MPD, as well as our city's history of police violence, I was forced to weigh whether or not the police would actually be the most helpful in the situation before me. What I really wanted was a resource I could call that could provide not only medical help to this man, but also mental health resources and therapy. I knew that if the MPD were called, they would probably provide the man with medical assistance, but this man would also probably receive a fine and be put back on the street, only causing the cycle to start all over again. Being that there is no resource like this in our city, I was forced to call 911 and the MPD addressed the situation.

This situation highlights only one of SEVERAL similar situations that happen daily in our city. A change must be made to provide our community with the support and safety it is asking for - whether loudly through demonstrations or riots, or quietly through drug overdoses, homelessness, poverty or hunger.

Therefore, I would like to express my support for the removal of the Minneapolis Police Department and we know it today and establish a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department.

7/1/2020 8:12:03 AM

Please do not pass the current resolution. It lacks the formidable oversight measures needed to effectively address police misconduct. The defunding measure is acceptable.

7/1/2020 8:12:11 AM

Please do not pass the current resolution. It lacks the formidable oversight measures needed to effectively address police misconduct. The defunding measure is acceptable.

7/1/2020 8:12:14 AM

I'm outside the Minneapolis border by about seven blocks, but this still affects me. Radical changes are needed, and I support the amendment. It's well past time to take a new approach to policing, to the benefit of both the community and the officers.

7/1/2020 8:12:45 AM

The MPD is the most dangerous thing in our city. I want full police disinvestment. Defund them. Put the money into non-punitive, unarmed community based solutions, education, housing, addiction management, and other social services. Police reform is not an option anymore. Ward 11

7/1/2020 8:12:56 AM

I support the removal of the Police Department from the Minneapolis City Charter and the establishment of a new, visionary alternative in the Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department.

We do not need the police as part of our city charter. We can come up with new ways of keeping ALL community members safe. It makes me absolutely sick that 36% of our city budget goes directly to the police department that terrorizes black, indigenous and people of color in our city and has been for decades.

The move to strike MPD from the charter is part of an extensive process to replace the dysfunctional and unaccountable department. It is time for sweeping, large scale change, and I support the city council in moving this forward to the voters.

7/1/2020 8:13:24 AM

This proposed amendment seems very vague and I'm not in favor of less accountability of the police department that results from reporting to the city council rather than to the mayor. We need the voices of the community that has been pushing for police reform for years. Please do not rush this process, we need to get it right.

7/1/2020 8:13:52 AM

I feel you should audit All police calls for the past 3-5 years and determine how many calls needed police response, how many just needed medical, and how many could have been responded to by those other than police. Then you should develop a department that employs a proportional amount if the appropriate parties to handle those calls.

Police in the department should have thorough training, and perhaps we should start holding them to a higher academic standard just as we do medical responders and social workers. Training for anyone in the department should include trauma-informed care, cultural competency, basic anatomy, and better training on what is acceptable use of force for starters.

Benefits for mental health should be included for all, and strongly consider monthly mental wellness check-ins for all staff.

I do not care what this costs, as it will not cost more than the loss of life and trust that the current police department has currently cost us.

7/1/2020 8:15:26 AM

This is not what people want. The city council needs to work on changes with the activists who have been doing this work for years.

7/1/2020 8:16:15 AM

I want to express my full support for whatever the council finds it necessary to do to end white-supremacist violence from our police.

I imagine this form is being flooded by cowards who are terrified that their "thin blue line" holding back the black horde might be threatened. They want "police" at any cost. Even black lives.

But if police murder, they are no longer police. We are ALREADY operating with no police force. We have a violent protection racket in place of it.

Fire the lot of them. Fire Kroll. Let a new non-police agency rehire the "good" ones, if any can be identified, to do the tiny sliver of work that really does need an armed officer.

Whatever it takes. I am not willing to sacrifice my fellow citizens' lives on the altar of police worship.

Ward 1

7/1/2020 8:17:24 AM

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.

Our city's current structure of safety and policing have consistently failed to protect all of our city's residents. While I do not believe that this amendment is perfect, I do believe it is an excellent step in the right direction, and, if taken in conjunction with continued meaningful action led by Black Minneapolis citizens who have been working on solutions to our police problems for years, can guide us to a future for our city that is equitable and just. Ward 1

7/1/2020 8:19:19 AM

Police provide safety to the community, one bad apple does not mean you should disband the entire department! You will put several fine men and women out of work all because one person did an extremely wrong offense. We visit Minneapolis often, but without police we don't feel safe to visit. I'm sure there are many other people in the same boat which will negatively affect your economy. Keep the police.

7/1/2020 8:20:16 AM

As a resident of the city of Minneapolis for the past two decades and a very proud member of the Powderhorn community for 15 of those years, I strongly support the proposed charter amendment. The history of policing in this country is directly grounded in our history of racism and it is and has been one of the driving forces of terrorist acts propagated against black Minnesotans. Removing the Police Department and establishing a community of Safety and Violence would be just one step in directly addressing and moving towards repairing our shared history of violence and oppression. The people of Minneapolis should be able to have a direct voice in how our communities are held, cared for, and shaped for the future. We should be able to vote on whether we want that history shaped by police violence or informed by reparative justice that erases fear and creates a new shared understanding of our social contracts with one another. I thank council members Cano, Gordon, Fletcher and Bender for bringing forward this amendment. The Charter Commission should stand on the right side of history and move this proposed amendment to the voters.

7/1/2020 8:20:40 AM

I do NOT think we should defund the police. If you do so, I will no longer work downtown or participate in events downtown due to safety issues.

7/1/2020 8:21:41 AM

While the aims of the charter revision are admirable, they were made without consulting with the affected communities. Please scrap this amendment and consult with activists and affected populations to create meaningful change. Ward 10

7/1/2020 8:21:48 AM

This is the single most significant issue of our day, getting world-wide attention. It has to be done thoroughly, and with community input. This is being rushed through when it shouldn't.

The proposed amendment is not the change in policing we demand, it only makes them less accountable. It also contains problematic and conflicting legal language. PLEASE let this be the most detailed and thorough proposal that INCLUDES COMMUNITY INPUT. This is not the one. Don't rush this just to get it on the ballot, do it right. Partner with the community you SERVE.

7/1/2020 8:24:07 AM

We need training and certification for officers. I recommend a recertification every 3 years just like the medical field, classes and education, psyche evaluations. Refunding is putting our great city at risk now and it will just get worse. Ward 2

7/1/2020 8:24:26 AM

After reading the amendment I've come to the conclusion that it doesn't actually substantially change anything. As far as I can tell, all it does is change accountability from coming from the Mayor to coming from a new department that reports to the city council. It's actually pretty unclear about who's responsible for discipline. Some new director of law enforcement services that the council appoints or something? I'm tentative to trust the council for this job given that they've never questioned the union contract, they approved a bad body camera policy that allows officers to turn them off, and they created OPCR which hasn't done a good job of reigning in the cops.

I'd suggest that policing and social services are entirely separate issues, and that our new system needs to reflect that. We can't just have a new name for the same thing, we need to be smarter about this. You need to hold public hearings with the charter commission to get the wording better. If you want to get this amendment on the ballot for 2021 then you need to do this as soon as possible.

I like the removal of the current (0.0017\*the population) funding requirement removal. If we can reduce funding to the police we can increase it to necessary social services, so I urge you to keep that part in there.

Other than that you need to do more than just have an amendment on the charter. The council and the Mayor need to do what needs to be done now, not later. This means dismantling the OPCR and replacing it with a real community oversight, removing the police union and firing Bob Kroll, requiring body cams to always be on, requiring that police officers live in the community they serve, etc... I recommend working with leaders of the various groups in the BLM movement on this.

7/1/2020 8:25:01 AM

I would like to see the Minneapolis Police disbanded. Given what I have seen in the past year, I do not believe the police make citizens safer, and the massive amount of resources poured into the police force could be better spent on community and preventative services. I live in the suburbs and hope my city can follow a good example led by Minneapolis.

7/1/2020 8:25:24 AM

I support updating the charter to remove a requirement for a police department. The MPD is deeply corrupt and racist, and a group of people who elected Bob Kroll to a representative position cannot be trusted to be armed and roaming our streets.

In the last month police officers have gone on television to say they are afraid of grocery shopping in our city, they have barricades themselves behind piles of razor wire and one of the officers that murdered George Floyd was four days into what he thought might be a chance to make the MPD less dangerous.

This cannot be reformed. The culture is rotten and dangerous. We can never be safe with the MPD in power. Ward 5

7/1/2020 8:26:10 AM

I support defunding and disbanding the police. I support put that money back into our communities by supporting more social workers and mental health professionals.

7/1/2020 8:26:45 AM

The Minneapolis police Department is a deeply, inherently racist system that is not able to change from within. It's time to disband the Minneapolis police department and continue to find creative community resources for public safety. There are many aspects that the police manage, that would be better managed by Social Worker's, substance-abuse counselors, Domestic Abuse support, and other community-based resources. Thank The Minneapolis Police Department is a deeply, inherently racist system that is not able to change from within. It's time to disband the Minneapolis police department and continue to find creative community resources for public safety. There are many aspects that the police manage, that would be better managed by social workers, substance-abuse counselors, domestic abuse support, and other community-based resources. thank you

7/1/2020 8:26:48 AM

Please do not defund the police. I have to live here and I have a daughter. Who will protect us? We experienced 2 days without police thanks to the stand down orders given by Mayor Frey and our city was destroyed. It is time for more effective leadership in Minneapolis.

7/1/2020 8:27:20 AM

I strongly support the amendment. The Minneapolis police department cannot escape from Bob Kroll's crooked tactics, and the history of belligerence is too deep and entrenched to save. Starting from scratch is the only answer now. We can't let power abusers hold on to their authority. All we can do now is tear down the condemned structure and build a new foundation.

7/1/2020 8:27:56 AM

I am 100% behind this plan. I hope the future of Safety and Violence Prevention leans heavily on social worker skills for "officers". Less money for violent equipment and more money for employee education and salary to attract "officers" with the skills and empathy to be community healers and guardians.

Also, the union has to go. It's tactics hinder systemic improvement at every step, and weaken the people's power to manage it's public servants.

7/1/2020 8:28:00 AM

Abolish the police and hire folks living within Minneapolis for the new department. The new department needs to represent folks living within the community meaning hiring a group of diverse people from all income backgrounds.

7/1/2020 8:28:37 AM

I support the proposed amendment. Thank you for taking on this historic work. Ward 4

7/1/2020 8:30:21 AM

Removing the Police Department is an absolutely ridiculous idea. Of course serious changes need to be made to ensure that Police act without bias towards anyone regardless of race, and I believe most of them do. Its just a handful of officers that have caused the problems over the years, and have then been protected by the Police Officers Union, which seems to foster an attitude of discrimination. If you want to make a first major step in improving the situation, cut all ties with this Union, and then establish a new structure to monitor Police behavior.

I strongly support our current Chief Of Police and the Mayor, and suggest their ideas and guidance be followed to come up an acceptable solution for all our citizens. They are best suited to work with representatives from the Black community, in developing a plan that will guarantee significant change for them.

I feel those Council members calling for elimination of the Police, need to start doing something productive and get behind our Police Chief and Mayor and work with them, instead of just pandering to those calling for elimination of Officers for political reasons.

The citizens of Minneapolis expect you to do your jobs by offering sensible solutions and working together to fix the existing situation.

7/1/2020 8:30:44 AM

I do not think we need to abolish the police. We need to defund the police and the community members need to a part of how the defunding happens. We need to have the community involved. Medaria Arradondo needs to keep his job so he can do the job he's been wanting to do.

7/1/2020 8:31:04 AM

To the members of the Minneapolis Charter Commission:

I oppose placing the City Council's proposed charter amendment removing the Minneapolis Police Department and establishing a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department.

The City Council has not articulated a specific plan to consistently assure public safety resulting from the adoption of the proposed charter amendment. Crime prevention and investigation is a core role of city government, and effective community policing in support of that goal is key to maintaining a peaceful and safe city.

While the debate centered around police behavior and policy reform is valid, until the City Council presents exact details that will assure a safe and violence free city for all sets of circumstances (weapons use, mental health, drug use, domestic assault, theft, burglary, murder, etc.) the proposed charter amendment is meaningless.

I urge you to reject the amendment on the basis that if it is adopted the goals of improved safety and violence reduction will not be advanced.

7/1/2020 8:31:17 AM

Defunding the police department is a stupid idea. There are a lot of arrogant police men that need to be trained on how to deal with the public and especially the profiling of black americans. Also education of the public to show respect to authorities and authorities showing respect to the public. The police force is needed to keep law and order. City officials need to step up to prevent rioting protesters and support the police department.

7/1/2020 8:32:15 AM

Our policing system as a nation is not only damaging and the antithesis of “law and order”, it was designed from the beginning to be damaging for people of color and to protect the lives and, possibly even more importantly, the property of white people. There is no question that it should be entirely dismantled and a new system, which may include some form of law enforcement for situations that require it, needs to be built from the ground up. Every single current police officer should have to either get on board with that mission or they should find another profession, every single police officer’s contract should be termed and only those who are passionate about a new system should reapply and be interviewed, trained, and undergo examination, to see if they are an appropriate fit for a new order where aiding and helping all of our community members is the goal of every interaction, they reside in the communities they serve, carry insurance which is lost with violations, and they are licensed like social workers and drivers and lawyers, and will lose their licenses without insurance and thus have personal stake in serving their community and treating BiPoC and all community members as humans, as \*equals\*, and not as animals they must over power and control.

The future of our system should have a vastly downgraded role and status for law enforcement officers and the power hungry and violent should find no comfort or appeal in returning to those positions once our current system is dismantled.

Reform is not enough, you cannot reform something that was built with bad intentions, we must start from scratch.

7/1/2020 8:33:48 AM

As a commercial property owner in Minneapolis, the thought of abolishing the police department, is disconcerting to say the least and frightening at the most. I am aware that already the “policy” of the council handed down to the police department is to essentially do nothing if a crime is being committed. We have video depicting that very thing. By policy I mean if they see a major drug deal, they cannot chase the perpetrators, nor have the cars towed that are left abandoned. The “policy is if they see

someone putting a needle in their arm or smoking a joint, not only are they to ignore the illegal activity, they are to give them clean needles. And you wonder why there is crime in Minneapolis. I was assured at that time by the officer I called that you do still consider murder a crime to be arrested for. I am wondering if a woman is raped, are you going to recommend meditation and yoga so that she finds peace and forgiveness, and maybe if the rapist turns himself in the taxpayer will pay for his mental health courses? Perhaps the woman can meet with the other women who have been raped and they can form a support group and have the opportunity to make new friends who have a shared experience. Cool. Perhaps roving groups of young men will be the answer, oh wait we already have that, I call them gangs. I am sure that with the decimation of the police force all the gangsters from Chicago, Detroit, Gary, and yes Houston, will all go home to their own cities because it just won't be any fun if you can't duke it out with the cops. This nonsense is what happens when you have a Democrat one party system. Makes you wonder what the true goal is in Minneapolis where your concern is more for the criminals in our midst rather than the law abiding citizen. How about property taxes? Will they be drastically cut now those tax dollars are no longer paying for a police department? Ladies and gentlemen of the City Council your proposal is a terrible idea, please don't let Political Correctness take the place of common sense.

7/1/2020 8:34:57 AM

I do not approve of the proposed change in the charter. We need police to be operated by people that understand the challenges and unique circumstances they face. You have a good police chief, let him run the department and implement changes. Having the police chief controlled by the Mayor is ridiculous. Use of force is a necessary evil of law enforcement. Making these officers work with one hand tied behind their back is dangerous to the officer. Take a look at what just happened in Tulsa.

You will loss many officers Crime is increasing in the city. I was born and raised in Minneapolis. I feel disheartened that my house will soon be on the market.

Get rid of this knee jerk reaction city Council. Ward 5

7/1/2020 8:36:24 AM

As a resident of Minneapolis, I support the proposed amendment to remove the Police Department and establish a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. I would like our city to have a range of first responder services available that better matches the needs of our citizens. For example, I would like people having mental health crisis to be supported by mental health experts. I would like people experiencing hunger or homelessness to be directed towards appropriate resources. I would like to see a future where we do not have officers with guns roaming the city looking for trouble. If we do have safety services specifically related to crime, they should be staffed by well trained, non-violent community members (people who live within city limits). Thank you!

7/1/2020 8:36:56 AM

As a resident of Minneapolis, I support the proposed amendment to remove the Police Department and establish a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. I would like our city to have a range of first responder services available that better matches the needs of our citizens. For example, I would like people having mental health crisis to be supported by mental health experts. I would like people experiencing hunger or homelessness to be directed towards appropriate resources. I would like

to see a future where we do not have officers with guns roaming the city looking for trouble. If we do have safety services specifically related to crime, they should be staffed by well trained, non-violent community members (people who live within city limits). Thank you!

7/1/2020 8:37:26 AM

I oppose the Minneapolis City Council's proposed charter amendment to rebrand the Minneapolis Police Department into a "Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention." There are many problems with this proposed charter amendment. Some are technical, some relate to process, and some relate to what this amendment will actually do (or, more correctly, won't do).

The proposed amendment gives the appearance of creating a kinder, gentler version of public safety, but really it just shifts power and accountability. Under the current charter, the Mayor oversees policing, including discipline. The proposed charter amendment would put the police department under another department that reports to a City Council committee and, for any action, to all 13 Council members. The new structure means LESS direct accountability for the police department and is a DISASTER for community oversight of the police.

History shows Council members, including the current ones, cannot be trusted to rein in and hold MPD accountable. They never questioned the union contract. They blew the chance to mandate a good body camera policy when they approved the purchase before seeing the policy. And they created the Office of Police Conduct Review (OPCR), which has a dismal rate of upholding complaints against police, and they continually refuse to address its failures.

Furthermore, their proposed amendment creates no actual reforms in policing. Instead, it promotes the notion that policing and social services somehow belong under the same umbrella, perpetuating many of the problems the community experiences now.

The city charter is our constitution. It is essential that any changes be legal, proper, and clear. The proposed amendment doesn't indicate who is responsible for police discipline, a fatal flaw in the wording. Their proposed wording of Section 7.3(b) states "The Council MAY maintain a division of law enforcement services, composed of licensed peace officers..." while subd. 1 states "The director...SHALL appoint the director of the division of law enforcement services..." SHALL is a legal word that means something must be done. Why would the director be required to appoint a head of a division that may or may not exist?

Even more concerning, the word MAY implies that there may not even be a police department. Under state law, only licensed law enforcement officers can take a person into custody, issue citations in lieu of arrest, seek and effectuate warrants, and investigate crimes for possible prosecution. If the City Council decides not to "maintain a division of law enforcement services," will law enforcement services then be left to the Hennepin County Sheriff's Department, which is even less accountable to the community?

In its haste to push this charter amendment, the City Council has completely cut out any involvement of the community. The normal process for a charter amendment is for the city council to send the amendment to a committee. That committee refines the wording and holds one or more public hearings for community input. This time, however, the City Council suspended its own rules to avoid holding public hearings.

There is one part of the proposed charter amendment that would be helpful. The current charter requires the city to fund policing at .0017 x the population. That means we're required to fund a minimum of about 730 cops (we actually have about 880 on the payroll). 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 part of the proposed amendment removes this funding requirement, which would 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.

7/1/2020 8:38:47 AM

Do not close the police department!!!! If you are unable to fix the problems with the police department then you will not be successful in reinventing it. Social workers are as hardened as some of the police, one murdered my brother. You need to test the police on a regular basic to make sure they are still mentally healthy to do that job. Social workers will not be able to do a better job you will have the same problems no matter who you gather to replace the police. Like soldiers get PTST in war any one serving in the police position is subject to the same illness. Disbanding the police will ensure that citizens have no decent protection for the same reason we have trouble with some police, plus they will not have as much experience.

7/1/2020 8:38:50 AM

I support placing the question on the ballot. I am in full support of amending the charter to remove the Police and create Community Safety and Violence prevention department.

7/1/2020 8:39:45 AM

I do NOT support the proposed charter amendment, and I have been very disappointed with the city council's initial lack of reaction and subsequent knee-jerk buckling to the demands of a small but vocal group of activists in the wake of George Floyd's murder.

Derek Chauvin's actions revealed serious problems in the way some Minneapolis police officers perform their duties and work with the public, but his actions don't represent those of every officer or the department as a whole, especially those of Lane and Keung. George Floyd did not deserve to die or to be physically restrained with the force and disregard for safety that Chauvin demonstrated, but Floyd resisted getting into the squad car, was a physically powerful man, and posed a real danger to the public at the time of his arrest because he got behind the wheel of a vehicle while under the influence of illegal drugs. Police are charged with protecting the public in exactly those circumstances: DUI, which has killed many innocent people. During Floyd's arrest, and in many instances that police officers face every day, suspects resist arrest or initiate physical altercations. In those instances, officers have to engage to keep themselves and the public safe. When agitators with ill intent perverted peaceful protests in the wake of Floyd's death, officers' and citizens' safety were threatened by the agitators' violence. While I expect police officers to show far more restraint than the average citizen, when they and/or the public are threatened with violence they haven't initiated, officers need to be able to use the minimum amount of force necessary to protect themselves and the public. Again, I acknowledge minimum force was not used in George Floyd's arrest, and that is not what I'm advocating, but in some cases, physical force is necessary, and officers can't be subject to firing or criminal charges every time they use force in their work.

The mayors, governor, and city councils did not provide the police or public with clear direction, leadership, decision-making, or communication in the immediate aftermath of Floyd's murder or during the rioting that followed. The mayors and governor waited far too long to alert and then deploy the National Guard. The agitation and violence that followed the initially peaceful protests was easily predictable based on past incidents that have occurred across the country. Leaders should have immediately put all relevant personnel on standby George Floyd's killing was revealed. Those leaders bear the responsibility for damage Minneapolis and St. Paul incurred, not the police.

Before and since Floyd's murder, Minneapolis and St. Paul have experienced a spike in violent crime perpetuated by juveniles, especially in and around the Central Corridor light rail area. Police can't do much to respond to this crime because legislation has tied their hands. Police chiefs in both cities have asked to add officers to their existing force to respond to increased violence--not all of it perpetuated by juveniles--and their requests were denied with almost no discussion and no input from citizens. The violence, especially gun violence and random shots fired, have escalated since those denials. Police need MORE support, not less. Adding social workers and mental health workers to support what police do would be a vast improvement, but not if it comes at the expense of hiring officers and giving them what they need to be effective. Attacking, disparaging, and defunding the police only exacerbates division and lowers quality of life in the Twin Cities; it does not help.

Instead of the proposed charter amendment, I support adding a network of social workers and mental health workers who work closely with MORE police officers so law enforcement provides communities with "wrap-around" service for public safety.

7/1/2020 8:41:12 AM

Police have a historical reputation of systemic racism and authoritarian abuse. Lipstick on a pig isn't going to solve the underlying problems of crime. Given many symptoms of crime revolve around poverty and mental health, we need a new approach of compassion rather than fear and intimidation. Police are beyond repair as far as having public trust. I support this amendment.

7/1/2020 8:41:19 AM

A terrible, ill not even thought out idea, having repercussions that will plague Mpls forever.

7/1/2020 8:42:58 AM

I worked at a bar and restaurant in Northeast Minneapolis. Especially in summer months when patrons were outside on the patio, we were confronted on a weekly basis by the Minneapolis police. They would pull up in their car, ask to speak to the manager, then say things like "it's looking pretty dark out here" or "it's looking pretty north side out here" it would always end with "you wouldn't have so many problems if you'd hire some off duty cops to be your security".

They were intimidating. Is this not some sort of extortion or racketeering?

I support nothing short of a full abolition of the police department and the formation of a public safety organization. It's time for a hard reboot.

7/1/2020 8:43:27 AM

Please reconsider this proposal. I believe this is a knee jerk reaction that is going to result in very dangerous situations. I am a social worker, and though I think a partnership with MPD would be helpful, I do not believe mental health professionals should respond to 911 calls on their own. Nor should any volunteer citizen. You cannot predict when something will escalate, if someone is armed or intoxicated. Reforms are necessary but disbanding the department is not. I have lived in Minneapolis most of my life, but if this proposal goes through, we will consider moving outside of the city.

7/1/2020 8:43:48 AM

I oppose the Minneapolis City Council's proposed charter amendment to rebrand the Minneapolis Police Department into a "Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention." There are many problems with this proposed charter amendment. Some are technical, some relate to process, and some relate to what this amendment will actually do (or, more correctly, won't do).

The proposed amendment gives the appearance of creating a kinder, gentler version of public safety, but really it just shifts power and accountability. Under the current charter, the Mayor oversees policing, including discipline. The proposed charter amendment would put the police department under another department that reports to a City Council committee and, for any action, to all 13 Council members. The new structure means LESS direct accountability for the police department and is a DISASTER for community oversight of the police.

History shows Council members, including the current ones, cannot be trusted to rein in and hold MPD accountable. They never questioned the union contract. They blew the chance to mandate a good body camera policy when they approved the purchase before seeing the policy. And they created the Office of Police Conduct Review (OPCR), which has a dismal rate of upholding complaints against police, and they continually refuse to address its failures.

Furthermore, their proposed amendment creates no actual reforms in policing. Instead, it promotes the notion that policing and social services somehow belong under the same umbrella, perpetuating many of the problems the community experiences now.

The city charter is our constitution. It is essential that any changes be legal, proper, and clear. The proposed amendment doesn't indicate who is responsible for police discipline, a fatal flaw in the wording. Their proposed wording of Section 7.3(b) states "The Council MAY maintain a division of law enforcement services, composed of licensed peace officers..." while subd. 1 states "The director...SHALL appoint the director of the division of law enforcement services..." SHALL is a legal word that means something must be done. Why would the director be required to appoint a head of a division that may or may not exist?

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In its haste to push this charter amendment, the City Council has completely cut out any involvement of the community. The normal process for a charter amendment is for the city council to send the amendment to a committee. That committee refines the wording and holds one or more public hearings for community input. This time, however, the City Council suspended its own rules to avoid holding public hearings.

There is one part of the proposed charter amendment that would be helpful. The current charter requires the city to fund policing at .0017 x the population. That means we're required to fund a minimum of about 730 cops (we actually have about 880 on the payroll). 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 part of the proposed amendment removes this funding requirement, which would 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.

7/1/2020 8:45:29 AM

I strongly support this charter. I believe that the Police Department only causes more violence in our communities. Police are a force created solely for Violence against Black, Indigenous, and Brown folks.

7/1/2020 8:46:06 AM

Thank you for considering this common sense approach to law enforcement. It makes perfect sense to disband our current force, as they are 100% problematic, and ineffective. I have so many experiences of them refusing to help when I needed them, and of them abusing their power to leave bruises on me, and to harass the neighborhoods they are suppose to protect.

Please also consider hiring enforcers that are all residents of the areas they cover.

Do not loose sight of the goal of policing, which is to help our neighborhoods, not to occupy them as if it was a war zone.

7/1/2020 8:46:11 AM

This charter amendment is a necessary first step in reforming the Minneapolis police. They have been totally out of the community's control over the past several decades. Reform minded chiefs and mayors have not been able to get anything done because of the police union and bad cops like Bob Kroll. It's way past time for that to change. Get this charter amendment on the ballot.

7/1/2020 8:46:37 AM

I have reservations about the upcoming charter amendment to create a new department and alter the current relationship with the Police Chief. We do need to alter the current approach - however - having the Department of Safety and Security report to the City Council would be a mistake. Policing is not political - the City Council is by its very nature. Policing needs to change - it needs to be augmented with non-punitive approaches funded by the County Services. The Police Department needs to be held accountable, officers hired fired and assessed on performance. But so too the criminals, so too the drug addicts, so to the homeless, and so too the gangs - those are minority numbers in our population causing the bulk of the crime, violence, and fear for us / to us the taxpayers and majority of citizens

7/1/2020 8:48:01 AM

Listen to and implement recommendations of Communities United Against Police Brutality (CUAPB). The length of time CUAPB has been working on the issue of police brutality with no improvement should be a big red flag. I know government officials seem to think they know better than the people directly impacted by any issue, but that is a misguided attitude and needs to change. I know CUAPB has been a thorn in the side of Minneapolis city government, but repeated poking seems to be needed to get your attention.

7/1/2020 8:49:22 AM

Charter Commission,

It is imperative at this point for the City of Minneapolis to establish a Division of Community Safety and Violence Prevention as an alternative to the Police Department. As a resident of Minneapolis, I urge you to put this on the ballot in November and to continue to work towards defunding and dismantling the Police Department as we currently understand it.

As a public health professional, it is outrageous that so much violence and death comes from a non-vector-born agent (disease) but at the hands of socially constructed situations like racism and police brutality. The city of Minneapolis deserves to feel safe and cared for, and we want to put our money into a new way of maintaining safety.

7/1/2020 8:51:12 AM

I am supportive of broad reforms of policing, including taking a more public health/social services approach to community safety. However I am concerned that we need to take our time to get this right. I would suggest the city council provide detailed guidelines for how this will look in the coming months and years and how exactly a transition to a new form of community safety/policing will work. Then city council should allow ample time for comment from citizens. The path forward seems poorly thought out to me at this time, and I've been following the news pretty closely. I would like much more specific information and a step-by-step proposal of what this will look like before I vote on anything. At best, the speed at which this is happening could look forward-thinking. At worst, a poorly planned approach to community safety could end up harming our most vulnerable people even more. I urge the city council to be specific when proposing such broad changes.

7/1/2020 8:51:37 AM

This action is ill thought out and ill prepared. We need time and community discussions to create a solution that will work for the residents on Minneapolis.

7/1/2020 8:52:28 AM

I worry that this amendment wasn't created with transparency and appropriate involvement of the residents and activists whom it will impact the most. I support Police Chief Rondo and want to see any action taken by the City council to be thoughtful. Remember: a sense of urgency is a characteristic of white supremacy.

An excerpt from a recent article by Liz Kleinrock, which I believe is also applicable to this process. Please think of this deeply:

"While there is urgency in ABAR work, urgency cannot be prioritized over relationships or centering the voices and opinions of marginalized community members. Without careful thought and planning, schools risk alienating Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) stakeholders, reinforcing white saviorism and derailing the possibility of future efforts. Standards and skills can always be retaught, but school culture is too important to get wrong. Your north star is always centering your most marginalized and under resourced students."

<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/antiracist-work-in-schools-are-you-in-it-for-the-long-haul?>

7/1/2020 8:52:34 AM

I agree with the resolution to establish a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. The "Police Department" as we have known them have operated under a toxic culture of racism, misogyny, and violence for too long. It has cost many lives not to mention the taxpayer dollars spent on settlements for violent, inhumane behavior.

Even as a white woman living in the Seward/Longfellow neighborhoods of MPLS for the past 12 years, I have personally witnessed at best arrogant behavior and nonchalant reactions to crime and at worse, blatant misuse of power and cruelty toward my neighbors of color. These problems are so deeply embedded in the culture of the MPD, led by union president Bob Kroll, that anything short of abolition will not suffice. They have irreparably lost public trust after decades of white supremacy and publicly funded murder.

With all of this said, I understand that the fundamental intention of a police department is to provide community service - to build relationships with families, civic leaders, and organizations in their jurisdictions. This way, they can respond to disturbances on a foundation of trust.

However, as many have reported, the police are stretched far too thin to respond to every type of disturbance that can occur. We need specially trained resources to respond to specific situations - drug related issues, mentally health crises, etc. Along with these specialists, we will need sophisticated dispatch procedures that identify the root issue of an incident and route a professional with the appropriate skills to the scene. These individuals will need robust and specific training. None of these individuals should be trained to respond with military-style aggression, though there should continue to be specialists trained to respond to armed situations to de-escalate, bomb squads, homicide investigators, etc.

Though recent events have (fortunately) rallied many into action and shed light on the incompetence of our current police force, we must not rush to build a new system or we risk repeating mistakes of the past and continuing to put public safety at risk. The plan must be well researched, piloted, and proven before unrolling en masse across the city.

My two cents! Thanks for the opportunity to share my perspective.

7/1/2020 8:54:21 AM

Although I support changing the city charter to remove the requirement for a minimum police force, I disapprove of this proposed amendment. The amendment needs to explicitly turn police reform and accountability over to a civilian council of community members (which should be primarily made up of BIPOC Minneapolis residents). I do not trust the Minneapolis Foundation, which is lead by former Mayor R.T. Rybak. Rybak did nothing to hold police accountable during his time in office and I have no faith that the Minneapolis Foundation will do enough for the community.

I also think that in order for true police abolition to happen, the charter should explicitly state that NO police officers will be employed by the Community Safety department. Anyone who is currently or has in the past been employed as a police officer in any jurisdiction should be required to go through rehabilitation including empathy training and psychological assessments before being allowed to serve in the safety department.

Additionally, BIPOC community members should be consulted, given more opportunity to publicly comment, and generally be involved in the process of abolishing the police. City officials need to listen and respond to the wishes of BIPOC communities.

7/1/2020 8:54:41 AM

End it. Defund it. They terrorize and murder POC with impunity. We need something different with people that live in the community, mental health and de-escalation specialists; unarmed. Not fascist white men.

Also defund the military. Can't have it one way and not the other.

7/1/2020 8:55:07 AM

After reading the revised charter amendment, it is far too rushed. The time needs to be taken to make sure that this charter amendment does the things the community has asked for, especially accountability and the ability to operate without a law enforcement arm. I agree with the critique and recommendations put forward by CUAPB that this be delayed and refined until the November 2021 vote. While I am strongly pro-abolishing the police, I want us to do it right and make sure that it actually has the intended outcome, rather than pushing something through that we will then be stuck with.

7/1/2020 8:55:37 AM

Police Department needs big cultural change. It does NOT need attempting to answer to the whims of 13 members of the city council. Do not change the charter.

7/1/2020 8:57:32 AM

I agree with the idea of removing the police department and having them replaced.

7/1/2020 8:57:38 AM

I am hearing that there is little community input on this change. Also, why will the Council be in charge of police discipline when the Council has done nothing in the past. I think it can be said that there is little trust that the Council will have any teeth to enforce better policing, based on past behavior.

There need to be public input meetings on something this big. It cannot be put together without the community which is demanding it.

I grew up in Mpls and am deeply saddened that the Council has not created a forum where people feel included and represented.

7/1/2020 8:57:52 AM

Thank you for your work and time. I think the city should talk to the professionals who work for and run the detox center at 1800 Chicago. Maybe they would be willing to collaborate and work with the new system that will replace the MPD. They are highly trained and exposed to dangerous situations involving substance abuse, and I bet some of the people there, or the organization itself, might be excited to contribute. Thanks again.

7/1/2020 8:58:34 AM

I fully support removing the Police Department and moving towards a new model that supports and serves the community. What we currently do has failed for far too many years. The lives lost and destroyed cannot be restored but we can move forward with courage and vision. Please stand strong. This is an historic move towards a better future that will take political courage but if we succeed the cycle of violent, dysfunctional policing can end. Minneapolis could be a model for other cities. This must be done!

7/1/2020 8:59:37 AM

Dear Charter Commission,

I am a Minneapolis resident living in St. Anthony West (55413).

I stand in strong solidarity with the calls to disband the Minneapolis Police Department and have in its place a community-created public health and safety initiative with transparent accountability-keeping measures. This is my call, too. From learning of the origins and history--both recent and less so--of this toxic organization, I understand that it has traumatized Minneapolis' Native, Black, and minority communities for far too long.

I understand that this department has rendered itself ineffective by brutalizing communities and destroying their trust. I understand that by failing to undertake earnest investigative measures, like the testing of rape kits, the MPD has stood in opposition to justice. The Minneapolis Police Department not only fails to protect us here in Minneapolis, the MPD has also proved itself an agent of harm to the very people it is meant to serve.

HOWEVER, I am concerned that this amendment is NOT the robust, fail-proof, community-created change to our city's constitution that we need. At least not yet.

Below are some recommended steps I feel would be helpful in this moment:

1. Please invite representatives from MPPD\_150, CUAPB, the Twin Cities Coalition for Justice 4 Jamar, Reclaim the Block, and Black Visions Collective to this discussion. These organizations, along with the protesters in the street and the late George Floyd (RIP), are the very reason we are able to have this important and hopeful conversation. Engage with them and let them teach and lead you!!!
2. Make clear what type of "officers" will be employed and WHO will be responsible for overseeing them.
3. Make explicit that MPD Officers will NOT be considered to fill these roles.
4. Outline the accountability processes for "officers" who the community feels are dangerous to their safety--make it LAW!!

Thank you for removing the funding/population requirement--I believe that must go to allow for meaningful change.

Can you imagine the possibilities? What if we created the most transparent, accountable, competent and SAFE peace-keeping organization this nation has ever seen? What if these peace-keepers were well-trained and unarmed and nonviolent? What if they were representative of the communities they served? What if they were specialized in the kind of crisis to which they were responding? What if we coupled this with a city or state-led "buy-back" program to help reduce firearms in Minnesota? (People need money, now.) What if we prioritized legitimate investigative initiatives, like the timely processing of rape kits? What if we created the Floyd Flock of PeaceKeepers and consequently changed how this city, state, and country keeps people safe? What if we did this with COMMUNITY input and buy-in? What if we did all of this--and MORE--in his name? In THEIR names? George Floyd, Travis Jordan, Thurman Blevins, Justine Ruszczyk Damond, Jamar Clark, Terrance Franklin, David Smith, & so many more. Please let them rest in peace, knowing that another MPD will not ever again wreak havoc and terror in our city and in our families and in our hearts.

Thank you for taking this comment seriously. Thank you, too, for taking swift and united action on this, but PLEASE engage more thoroughly with the community. This call to action emerged from the community and should be shaped by the community. This is a profound and powerful moment--we MUST rise to the occasion.

7/1/2020 8:59:48 AM

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

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

We as a City cannot tolerate the police brutality and mistreatment of the public from our Police Department. While the chilling murder of George Floyd was the loudest wake-up call, I know there are many other instances of violence and abuse, especially towards Black and Native American members of our communities. Rampant and even indiscriminate tear-gassing and firing on the public, 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 9:01:39 AM

Please do not abolish the police! Reform, defund yes!!! I have lived in this city my whole life. Went to public school, work a job where I see the inequities and biases. The way to create a more equal place for everyone is not abolish the mpd but make them accountable. Accountable for their actions, require more training, require them to be in the communities they serve. To know the people helps to bridge respect. The city has become increasingly scary and for the 1st time in my life I am not proud to be from here.

7/1/2020 9:01:51 AM

DEFUND DONT ABOLISH!!!

7/1/2020 9:02:17 AM

I definitely agree with Mayor Frey that the police department needs major reforms and that police officers need to be held accountable for their use of inappropriate use of force or other transgressions against citizens. What we saw with George Floyd was just the tip of the ice burg. Derrick Chauvin was a senior officer training in new officers. Why did he feel empowered and able to treat a citizen this way? Why was he essentially showing other officers that this is how you treat people? Clearly, things needs to change at MPD and with policing nationwide.

The Minnesota Law Enforcement Code of Conduct States: "As a Minnesota Law Enforcement Officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice." Source:  
[http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/police/policy/mpdpolicy\\_5-100\\_5-100#:~:text=MINNESOTA%20LAW%20ENFORCEMENT%20CODE%20OF%20ETHICS%3A&text=I%20will%20keep%20my%20private,of%20the%20welfare%20of%20others.](http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/police/policy/mpdpolicy_5-100_5-100#:~:text=MINNESOTA%20LAW%20ENFORCEMENT%20CODE%20OF%20ETHICS%3A&text=I%20will%20keep%20my%20private,of%20the%20welfare%20of%20others.)

This was clearly not the case in the George Floyd incident and in so many repeated incidents that we have seen in the United States. There was no safeguarding lives and there was no protecting the oppressed against intimidation.

I do believe that our city needs to boost funding for appropriate resources for community services such as medical care, mental health care services, education, violence prevention programs and addiction services and more in Minneapolis. When cities invest in community services, they reduce the need to call police in instances when police officers' specific skill set isn't required. But in my opinion, a police officers skill set is still needed in situations and I do believe we still need a reformed and re-trained police department in Minneapolis.

Even Dallas Police Chief David Brown said in 2016, "Every societal failure, we put it off on the cops to solve. Not enough mental health funding, let the cops handle it... Here in Dallas we got a loose dog problem; let's have the cops chase loose dogs. Schools fail, let's give it to the cops... That's too much to ask. Policing was never meant to solve all those problems."

I fully agree with this. I also agree that we need to increase funding for community services and that policing in Minneapolis needs reforms. We do not need people dying at the hands of police. Black lives matter and this behavior has to end. We do need an appropriately reformed and re-trained police department in the city.

Also, I am confused why City Council members think that it's okay to hire private security because they are worried their lives are in danger and they are concerned for their safety, using tax payer dollars, but they also believe city and its residents shouldn't have police officers for dangerous situations? Please address this in the City Council meeting <https://www.startribune.com/mpls-has-paid-63k-to-protect-for-three-council-members/571555642/?refresh=true>

7/1/2020 9:02:58 AM

I do not support the charter amendment

7/1/2020 9:03:53 AM

Strongly oppose dismantling the Mpls Police Department. Such action will clearly cause crime to continue to skyrocket downtown, as well as in the lower income minority sections of Mpls. Even before the pandemic, businesses were closing downtown. Now additional businesses are choosing to close/leave downtown due to unsafe higher crime environment. Employment opportunities are taking a "dive" due to these lost businesses. Many people from outside the city no longer want to go downtown due to lack of shopping/eating establishments and due to the increasing crime. Police budget needs to be increased. Mayor needs to work even closer with police union to resolve issues.

With all due respect, the existing City Council's far left anti-business ideology is destroying what once was a great city. Recommend looking at reforming the City Council into a governing body that represents a wider political spectrum of the residents, to include, of course, all minorities. Ward 3

7/1/2020 9:04:07 AM

I am writing to show support for the amendment to Article VII of the City Charter. As an EMS provider I heard so often about calls to lonely people, homeless people, people with mental health issues, and drug addicts that did not require the ambulance and paramedic that was called for them. I know that this happens to our police department too. I believe that to support our law enforcement officers we should staff emergency response teams with social service workers to work alongside them. These civil servants would be better suited to handle many emergency scenarios regarding our city's most at-risk populations that do not require law enforcement intervention. Guns do not need to be present at every emergency call.

7/1/2020 9:04:20 AM

I am unclear on the process for advancing this charter amendment, but I offer the following comments -

1. I am supportive of the spirit of the amendment as I read the language, specifically having the overarching entity be a department of "community safety" and "violence prevention." I appreciate the spirit that implies.
2. However, I do believe a law enforcement division will be required. The language in 7.3.b should be changed from "may" to "shall" -- meaning The Council "shall" maintain a Division of Law Enforcement services. I believe this function is needed, but needs to be reshaped and it makes sense to put it under a broader Department.

3. I believe language needs to be added that discusses a budget. The prior police dept language and the remaining fire department language include information about either a budget formula or a requirement to "fund" "adequate staffing." I think budget needs to be acknowledged.

4. I am concerned about the implementation timeline. May 2021 seems very quick. I agree that this action needs to happen quickly to address current & historical concerns, but 6 months from the vote to the effective date to create a new agency seems very aggressive. It is important that this work is done correctly. I encourage that date be reconsidered.

Thank you for your work on this very important issue. Please feel free to contact me regarding my comments. I can be reached via email at [REDACTED]

7/1/2020 9:05:50 AM

This amendment is necessary if the city would like its citizens to trust in our leadership. The demands have been made by me and my neighbors and our entire community. If action is not taken, we will continue to lose faith in our elected leaders and our government in general. This is so much more important than some of you might recognize. We are beat and exhausted by the continuous need for protesting, when we hired YOU ALL to listen to us and make changes that we ask for. So I beg the city, please do what we hired you to do. If you don't, I will lose all confidence in my city leaders. Thank you.

7/1/2020 9:06:45 AM

I agree with the desire to eliminate racism in the police force, as every public service should be blind to the color of someone's skin, but in changing the administrative structure and mission of the group responsible for safety and law enforcement will not necessarily do that. Personally, I would feel much less safe going into Minneapolis myself and with my family if the law enforcement component of said organization were reduced. I do often perform work within the city of Minneapolis, and would be much less inclined to do so with the changes proposed. If anything, to have a cleaner, safer, less-racist, more vibrant city there needs to be more law enforcement capability, as without law enforcement, laws are just words.

7/1/2020 9:07:08 AM

I support the charter amendment to replace the Police Department. It's particularly important (as stated by Black Visions and Reclaim the Block) that the new department not simply be a rebranding of the police--current and former Police officers must not be allowed to guide the direction of the new department. We can look to and fund the many local groups who are already doing community safety work in addiction-related harm reduction, the powderhorn sanctuary, food justice, etc. We must take a firmly demilitarized anti-carceral stance to ensure real, lasting, community safety.

7/1/2020 9:08:08 AM

I 100% support the abolition of the MPD and the creation of the Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. I fear that not many folks have also come to this same conclusion, and that radical change will not actually be seen through, but something radical MUST be done. MPD ALREADY went through "reforms" yet two of the police officers that murdered George Floyd were fresh out of the academy. Reforms do not work. I know there are good people that are officers (one of my best friends is

a new officer for the MPD), but good cops cannot \*actually\* exist and change the department when the system is founded and rooted in deep systemic racism. I have already seen negative changes in my friend who is now an MPD officer (and she has a degree in psych and background in social work).

7/1/2020 9:10:05 AM

I do not support this amendment. There needs to be more accountability and less funding towards the police. DO NOT pass this amendment.

7/1/2020 9:10:27 AM

You are leaving no choice in this vote, for there is no clear delineation of what your alternative is. Develop a working model on a small scale first and give it time.

Proposed police reform hasn't been implemented yet. Do that first.

Stop allowing a police quota system where police advance by arrest or ticket numbers.

Racism hasn't been proven as the norm using the facts - at all. Provide evidence it is truly systemic - system by design vs system wide. Then again, you can't because it's not.

7/1/2020 9:11:08 AM

I do not support this amendment. There needs to be more accountability and less funding towards the police. DO NOT pass this amendment.

7/1/2020 9:12:53 AM

I support the proposed charter amendment. It's time to make some serious changes to the way the city handles public safety and this amendment enables the city to begin working towards that goal. Every other city department works well under the direction of the city council and this new department should be no different.

7/1/2020 9:13:17 AM

While the need to address the issue of police brutality and public safety is urgent and long overdue this proposed amendment is rushed and lacks much needed community insight. While I realize the deadline for getting this proposal on the Nov ballot is looming, a change this large needs to be crafted with a lot of care, lest it cause more harm in the long run.

One major concern is the shifting of oversight accountability and discipline, if there is ANY accountability for any newly formed law enforcement service, from the mayor to a department overseen by city council. This creates a less direct path for discipline. Any formation of law enforcement services/police unit should be coupled with a strong community oversight committee.

The current Office of Police Conduct Review is sadly ineffective, with a low rate of actually upholding complaints against police. In the interim while this vchartre ammdment is under consideration, much stronger oversight needs to be enforced.

What is helpful in the proposed amendment is the removal of the funding requirement. Police are currently utilized for several public safety concerns that should be necessarily viewed through a law enforcement lens...including homelessness, substance abuse, mental health crisis, and school discipline. Removing the funding requirement will allow for resources to be spent at a community level to address this societal issues that often lead to higher crime.

Please slow the process of the charter amendment. Allow for more community engagement and input.

7/1/2020 9:15:05 AM

Hello City Council or whoever screens public comments I hope you are doing well and staying safe and healthy.

I am writing today to show my support for removing the police department as it stands and replacing it with a Department of Safety & Violence Prevention.

Clearly the Police in our city have gone unchecked for too long and have been able to terrorize this cities minority populations. After doing more self education and learning more and more about how the law enforcement in our city has used their unbalanced and unchecked power to cause harm and trauma to the citizens of our city I have become disgusted and upset with my part in believing the police are here to help and protect our communities when they are clearly not.

After watching how the Police interacted with demonstrators and used chemical irritants and crowd dispersal methods without prejudice and in many cases against guidelines or common sense I became fearful for my own safety. I have asthma and could be hospitalized if a Minneapolis Police Officer decided to use tear gas or mace on me for simply exercising my right to assemble peacefully. In fact many videos I saw showed that as a citizen of Minneapolis I could be subjected to chemical irritants for simply existing on my own property.

What we have allowed to grow and operate in our city is not a police force whose motto is "To Protect with Courage, To Serve with Compassion" but rather a poorly trained and violent militia that has only proven they only understand power and the desecration of our rights as residents of this state and country. I am saddened and frustrated that they have been given such a long leash they are able to flagrantly violate people rights and even the Geneva convention without a second thought or any punishment.

Obviously this would be no easy task or decision, however we all know it is what is right and what is necessary to protect our city from the oppression felt by those who would harm our communities under the guise of understanding what compassion and courage are.

As a citizen who has now committed time every day to learning how I can be a better ally and helper in my community I believe my city can be better too. We can pave the way for a system restorative and trans-formative justice, a system of compassion and courage, and a system of equity for all in our city.

WE can prove that things can be different and things can be better.

7/1/2020 9:15:11 AM

Overall I found the charter raised more questions and felt more symbolic than practical. While the ultimate mission of council resonates with me, elements of the structure and approach here do not. Perhaps an explanation from the council on the objectives of the charter (e.g. moving around the police union) would help our interpretation?

It's fully feasible I misunderstood the charter but why would the council oversee the new department and not the Mayor? The council operating the department means decisions are made by a committee, resulting in debate and no action in critical moments. While I respect the councils experience and advocacy, there are not as qualified to run a department as the mayor in my view.

I would challenge our City Council to do better, this is an absolutely critical time for Minneapolis and a chance for the city to create a modern model for public safety in the US. Back up your words with actions and plans that solve our injustices while not losing sight of democracy.

7/1/2020 9:15:38 AM

This proposal is a step in the right direction. Our communities need social services, not more police brutality. We need schools with supplies and decent class sizes, counselors, permanent affordable housing, access to mental health and addiction care, access to affordable healthcare. We don't need more tanks. Ward 5

7/1/2020 9:17:35 AM

This amendment seems like performative allyship. As if you are all hearing the calls for change and coming up with the thinnest way possible to do it quickly to hopefully get people to move on. That's not how this should be done. This change is not what the community wants, you would know this if you bothered to hold a hearing and actually run this change THROUGH THE COMMUNITY. Moving fast does not equal quality work. While I appreciate the desire to change something and show movement, being sloppy doesn't help us it only hurts us. This work is sloppy and lazy. Police should be used to their strengths, which is NOT mental health or social services. Let the trained professionals do their jobs in these spaces, not cops with guns.

7/1/2020 9:18:16 AM

There needs to be immensely more clarity in this amendment. It needs to be specified that the police will not exist in any form and that no current police officers will be eligible to apply for any public safety jobs. It also needs to be specified that no authority for policing will be transferred to the Sheriff or to the State after the police are abolished. We do not need a shift in policing we need an end of policing. There is also no clarity in who will be directing the new community safety unit—it should be clarified that city residents need say over who can direct this unit and again that the director can not be related to the police department in any way. Finally, it should specify that BIPOC communities will have majority say in the process of how this unit is crafted.

7/1/2020 9:18:42 AM

I've worked downtown Minneapolis for the past 10 years. Over the past few years, I have seen a noticeable decline in safety, cleanliness and presence of police officers downtown. It is as if the city has given up trying to combat crime. I no longer feel safe on the streets, especially after dark. I have witnessed a fist fight at Hennepin and 5th St near the light rail at 8:00 a.m. I intervened while black men harassed two Amish couples near the bus depot. My daughter works at a popular bar downtown near the light rail and she has told me about the violence that has occurred outside her establishment. Shootings. Stabbings. Her boyfriend was assaulted. She had blood on her bike after a nearby fight. People run through her bar to avoid capture. It is like the Wild West out there. Pre-COVID, there were weekly reports of shootings, stabbings, muggings and robbery downtown. If anything, downtown Minneapolis needs more police or some sort of security presence if they want to make businesses and visitors feel safe. Our office will likely move from downtown when our lease is up. Many friends have told me that they will no longer go downtown. You are losing the revenue and good reputation that the city needs to thrive. We are seriously considering moving from the Twin Cities area as it no longer feels like a safe, welcoming place. Without a strong police force, admittedly one that needs to change its culture and procedures, otherwise things will continue to go downhill. I ask that you continue to work with the MPD to work through the problems and create a strong yet more compassionate and racially sensitive force. Thank you.

7/1/2020 9:19:30 AM

I submitted some comments to you last night against the Charter Amendment. I ended those comments with "Stop insulting us."

Since then it's been brought to my attention that y'all are volunteers who take this role seriously and I wanted to send a follow up note to say THANK YOU for volunteering - from the bottom of my heart, truly. Also, I hope you will forgive any offense I might have caused you (I realize this is a sort of non-apology line but I mean it in that, I literally don't know if I DID offend you). I am angry that the City Council seems to think its constituents are unintelligent. My comments reflected that.

I'm not trying to have "more than one say" here but, to reiterate, I hope you will vote "no" on this proposed amendment that is so poorly-written and ill-thought-out that I can only conclude this was not a good faith effort at bringing about the changes Minneapolis actually DOES need.

By voting NO on this amendment, you are providing space for us to continue to truly work TOGETHER as citizens --- and not just a rushed few city council members pulling publicity stunts -- to craft a plan that actually works for all of us, and doesn't make more vulnerable communities which are already marginalized and treated the worst under our current system.

THANKS AGAIN for your efforts -- if I knew who you were I would send some kind of token of appreciation.

7/1/2020 9:19:34 AM

First, I am confused by the wording "remove the Police Department and establish a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department." I am under the impression (from news I've read) that the police department will be renamed to the Community of Safety & Violence Prevention, is that correct? If that is the case, the way the text is written above seems misleading. With that out of the way, I think the first step would be to require those who are going to protect Minneapolis to LIVE in Minneapolis. To have outsiders coming into what they call "Murderapolis" and interacting with the people here just

seems disingenuous to the residents of Minneapolis. On top of them living here, they need to create relationships with people in each community. Get out there to talk to them, see what needs they have and do so WITHOUT looking to arrest, give tickets or jam anyone up (regarding non-violent crime anyway). That is all I have for now. Thank you for listening.

7/1/2020 9:19:59 AM

This City Charter amendment is essential in moving toward a community safety model that protects and serves all of Minneapolis, including our neighbors who have historically been harassed and brutalized by the MPD. Residents of Minneapolis would like to see a true public health-based approach to safety in our city, especially when it comes to issues of mental health crises, drug use and homelessness, which too often result in the traumatization, injury or death of vulnerable community members, and disproportionately of BIPOC community members, at the hands of the MPD.

The City Charter amendment is a first step, and freeing our public safety from the hands of Bob Kroll and a toxic police union makes for a great start in the journey toward a safer city for all. But I also urge you to not just rebrand the MPD and give the "division of law enforcement services" a new boss and board to report to. Please adopt this charter amendment that promises to consistently engage with the public, and then do consistently engage with and listen to the communities who have already been coming together to demand the holistic public safety approach they want to see in their neighborhoods.

Minneapolis has been a leader in so many business innovations, while harboring a shameful secret about longstanding and growing inequality in our communities thanks in large part to police violence. Adopting this charter amendment is an important first step in becoming a national leader in the innovation of community safety and equity, which is a much more valuable export for our country and world.

7/1/2020 9:20:16 AM

I am steadfastly opposed to ANY proposed amendments to the Minneapolis City Charter that do not spell out in VERY SPECIFIC TERMS what exactly is being proposed. This proposal gives the residents of Minneapolis ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA what changes would result in the way policing services are provided to them.

This amendment deals with law and order within our community and the safety and welfare of ALL residents. As such, changes need to be addressed thoughtfully and carefully and ALL stakeholders should have the opportunity to participate in that process. The discussion and process needs to be VERY transparent. The process will be difficult for the City Council but it should be. The City Council and Mayor have allowed the city to get to this point by ignoring a good many issues and now they want carte blanche to "fix" things as they see fit. The residents of this city deserve to know EXACTLY what is being proposed!!

7/1/2020 9:21:37 AM

Do not defund

7/1/2020 9:22:18 AM

The MPLS Police Dept is the MPLS Police Dept and should be kept to do policing. It definitely needs reform in many ways but it can be saved. Do we need help/reform with social, mental and non-violent areas, yes. But, we will continue to need police. I'm sure the protection service provided to 3 council members are armed and operating like a police office. To create a whole new department is a boondoggle, just allowing the currently all to powerful city council, to load it up with their own titles and cronies and expense. Keep the police dept and make substantive changes and reforms and we will see a better operating police dept and hopefully cost savings that will allow for other social aids, support and personnel.

7/1/2020 9:22:35 AM

I am not in favor of this amendment. It seems highly reactionary with very little planning or thought behind it. Eliminating things without a plan to proceed forward never works out well. If anything, adding beyond the minimums of the MPD as a means of change seems like the way to go. Chief Arradondo had requested more officers, so how is not adding officers and eliminating the department supporting needed change? Seems like the council did NOT support change, other than is rhetoric. So I don't trust the council to effect 'change' in being granted the ability to just tear down the MPD with no plan. Change is large organizations take time, I've worked in multiple large. long time union organizations and you have to support the leaders working change. I guarantee the Council's irresponsible rhetoric is make Chief Arradondo's task supremely more challenging. Ward 13

7/1/2020 9:23:01 AM

We need a stronger law enforcement agency than we have now. More money needs to be sent to police officers not less.

I am not in favor of giving the council the authority over this agency as your words do not impart confidence. The council head said calling the police when in danger is "white privilege", yet the city is providing private security to you. I am not privileged enough to have that and must rely on the city police department.

If you defund and remove all defenses that police officers have you wont be able to hire any good ones. Your tax paying constituents and businesses will flee the city.

I am for an examination of the force as it is. Officers with multi complaints should be removed. All officers should be retrained to de-escalate situations. You should increase good officers pay to draw the best to our city. Perhaps add social/psych services to coordinate with the force. I do not think the city council should have authority over this force. Your comments stating that calling the police is white privilege while having private security does not give me confidence that you will act in my best interest.

7/1/2020 9:23:14 AM

I believe this is a knee jerk reaction. I do agree there needs to be change but it comes through good analysis's that is unbiased either way and community buy in and involvement in that process. We need to have protection for liberty and Justice for all. The destruction and disorder during the riots and the murders in Minneapolis in the last 3 weeks are not the way we should be living in Minnesota.

It would be a terrible wrong to all of us in Hennepin County who will be affected by this to destroy something without analyzing and having a coherent plan that the community buys into.

7/1/2020 9:26:24 AM

I am a North Minneapolis resident, and I infatically say No! No! No! To this absurd proposal of abolishing the MPD! I Stand Firm Against this stupid idea and the person who brought it to the table!!!!

7/1/2020 9:26:32 AM

Please include this amendment on the ballot.

7/1/2020 9:26:42 AM

I am a North Minneapolis resident, and I infatically say No! No! No! To this absurd proposal of abolishing the MPD! I Stand Firm Against this stupid idea and the person who brought it to the table!!!!

7/1/2020 9:27:09 AM

WHAT gene are you all missing in your brains??? You all are making this so much easier to get the F out of this HORRIBLE State. All you left wing cronies need to knock it off. Are you taking orders from Pelosi? I am sure you are. ALL of you WILL be voted out along with our tyrant GOV, AG and Mayor.

I feel bad for the citizens of Mpls.

This State WILL turn RED! TRUMP2020~~

7/1/2020 9:28:05 AM

I support the goal of reducing the police budget and redistributing funding to community-based mental health, addiction, and affordable housing resources and restorative justice efforts for nonviolent unlawful behavior. I also support a restructuring of policing aimed at dismantling white supremacy. However, I think ALL significant changes to policing in Minneapolis - including consideration of this charter amendment - should be subject to a real community engagement process. Your proposed plan will not work if you do not invest now in gathering broad community input in a meaningful way. In particular, it is critical to include - as leaders - people who are survivors of violence. I hope you will prioritize inclusion of BIPOC women and transgender people who have survived domestic and sexual violence - human rights violations that both the MPD and our broader community fail to address on a daily basis. We as a city need to know what people want and need for safety before you make drastic changes. I understand the city council's urgency, considering how long the city has failed to address both white supremacist policing and non-state violence; but that does not excuse a non-inclusive process. Engage with BIPOC communities who are already organizing among their neighbors or in issue areas - there is already so much organizing being done - and engage in a real community engagement process before moving forward.

7/1/2020 9:29:44 AM

we use children's hospitals in Minneapolis and without a police presence we will need to go elsewhere

7/1/2020 9:29:58 AM

As a homeowner and resident of Minneapolis it horrifies me to hear that such a ludicrous proposal is on the table. Yes, the police department needs reform and an overhaul. Let's do that! Let's not instead allow the city to descend into chaos and anarchy. This is exactly what will happen without law enforcement. I and many others like me will leave if you tear this city even further apart. Please focus your energies Instead on fixing what is obviously broken within the current institutions of our great city.

7/1/2020 9:31:31 AM

I am TOTALLY not in favor of defending or dismantling police. I think that changes need to be made to get rid of officers that are bad but there are many good loving police officers and when crime occurs you need police to prevent lawlessness and crime. Without police you will have chaos and increase in crime due to no accountability. When some one steals or breaks in your house you need police to come quickly not hours later because there aren't any police to respond. I grew up in Brooklyn Center and used to be proud of my city of Minneapolis but not anymore. If they defend police I will move out of Minnesota and never visit Minneapolis due to insanity of this. Its just crazy to even consider it!!

7/1/2020 9:32:55 AM

The city could not bring itself to have a referendum vote on the 2020 plan though it affected every citizen resident of Minneapolis, but now without a clear defined plan in mind, it is asking residents to vote on whether we should disband the police? This can never result in change for good. We are not being offered a clear set of options. If the question is do we want police violence against our citizens to end, my clear answer is yes. Will disband the police get us to end systemic racism? Define how that will happen. Our police force is clearly broken. The union wages war on the public in shameful ways. The ability to enforce rules of conduct for better police/ citizen interactions is non-existent. Body cameras have not brought less violence on the part of the police. Most of the people I know are more afraid to call police than to simply try to deal with issues on their own...or in neighborhood groups. That is because they both fear the police may hurt them or their loved ones or pets or worse, they may harm or kill someone for an infraction of the law that should not result in death. If the city council wants a change, create a plan and ask the citizens to vote on that. In the meantime, cut the budget for police officers and use the money cut to put in place the social and mental health services so people can call upon those needs which are clearly great.

7/1/2020 9:33:18 AM

I want to see actual reform. The charter moves responsibilities around but says nothing about how we can hold our police department accountable. Nothing on civilian oversight. Please take action instead of what amounts to more of the same.

7/1/2020 9:33:28 AM

After decades of systemic and horrific police violence against Minneapolis communities of color, voters deserve the chance to decide on the charter amendment this fall. The matter is urgent. Please move the proposed charter amendment such that it can be decided by the citizens of Minneapolis in November 2020.

7/1/2020 9:35:03 AM

You are very wrong in what your proposing too do.

Letting the Nuts run the Nut House.

I will never come back into the city of Minneapolis, Mn and spend one dime. I will also start a Boy Cott againts the city and urge all people of any race to stay out of Minneapolis, Mn. Where are my rites and all that others that feel the same as I do.

Black Lives Matter is a Racist organization against white people. What would happen if I started: White Miss America, White Men Engineering Assocition, White Entertainment Net work. They would burn down the city and you would let them.

You are all wrong.

I am not a racist oh by the way as I dated a very nice women fro the [REDACTED] block of Sheridan Ave N. But, her parents..well that is another story. I also have blacks in my family.

7/1/2020 9:35:25 AM

The proposed changes to the city charter do not go nearly far enough to improve policing in Minneapolis. I think the idea to remove the minimum number of police is a good one. However, the other proposed changes will make oversight even more difficult. They undermine rather than address the concerns of our community. I believe this draft was well intentioned, but it needs more community input, stronger language, more details about required alternatives to policing, and better police oversight ideas.

7/1/2020 9:35:30 AM

I'm in full support of defunding the current police structure and using those funds to create a series of tools to better meet the needs of Minneapolis. Ward 1

7/1/2020 9:36:05 AM

Defunding/abolishing the police is going to leave so many in harms way. If something happens to me (ie. rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, car crash, mental health crisis, etc) I would expect a police officer to assist with the situation as they should. People are not going to feel protected in the community & it will give people the mindset that they are able to do whatever they want because there will be no police to maintain order. Sure, having the other entities involved such as social workers would be a good idea, but getting rid of the entire police force is not reasonable.

7/1/2020 9:36:31 AM

I attended a neighborhood meeting last night with councilman Ellison. Several things were clear from the meeting:

-There is a massive increase in the past month in gunshots, victims of gunshots, crime, fireworks and general lawlessness that the community feels an urgent need to address.

-The majority of the community does not believe that the additional services available under the charter amendment would be effective to reduce or prevent this violence, instead it is addressing citizen care post-crime. Taking resources away from an already under resourced precinct to fund these programs is poor policy during these times.

-The mature leadership in the black community of the northside (Mad Dads, A mother's Love, etc) want to work with the police- not social services to reduce the violence and change the violent gun and crime culture of our youth.

-Because the nature of our problems in the Northside is so rooted in violence, the community respects and needs a strong police presence- especially in the short term.

I am in agreement with my diverse neighbors and ask that changes to a charter better reflect the demands of this community.

7/1/2020 9:36:43 AM

Having been born and raised in Minneapolis, I support restructuring of the Mpls Police Dept. However, the City Council hasn't done a good job of clarifying what it is they are trying to accomplish. Instead their actions has lead to more fear among the residents of Minneapolis. You can not experience the level of gun violence Minneapolis is experiencing and make hasty moves creating uncertainty around the safety our city and the residents who live here.

7/1/2020 9:36:55 AM

I urge you to place this proposed charter amendment in the ballot for November 2020. Minneapolis residents should have the opportunity to vote on this amendment and we cannot wait. The MPD does not keep us safe and we need better systems in place for violence prevention and public safety.

7/1/2020 9:37:00 AM

I am in favor of removing the MPD and establishing a community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. I think the police brutality and systemic racism within the criminal justice system, which begins at the point of police contact is disgusting and not something we as a community can ignore or allow to perpetuate. This change will right the wrong of slave patrols and introduce a new, safer system that respects all members of the community. I do not live in Minneapolis, I live in Saint Paul; but we need Minneapolis to be at the forefront of this movement so that surrounding cities (like Saint Paul) can take note and make changes within their communities. Just think if we spent hundreds of millions of dollars on community invested programs instead of policing (by people who don't even live in the community). By the dictionary definition, "policing" says nothing about humanity and community and only speaks to "law and order" BY WAY OF FORCE. Let's be done with that law & order bandaid so we can all finally heal.

7/1/2020 9:37:26 AM

I live in Hennepin County [REDACTED]

Do not eliminate the Minneapolis Police Department! Put \$ towards them for training and hiring many more qualified Officers.

And then do the obvious and recall Jacob Frye.

He has failed to lead his city so now his mistakes affect mine. When you have no police, ours will be stretched to protect you.

If your motives are political, then shame on you.

7/1/2020 9:38:43 AM

I am so deeply relieved the city council is addressing the criminal cruelty of the MPD by abolishing it. Public safety and health are huge concerns, as threats to both of these are generated by our unequal society. I'm greatly in favor of this amendment with the following provision, though:

I want all current and former members of the MPD explicitly prevented from being any part of the new department, without exception. I would be very happy to see public work done, some money spent to find meaningful, non-violent employment for those (without any complaints against them or records of misconduct) affected, but that they should be in any way connected to my safety, the safety of everyone here, armed and motivated to further their unaccountable preying on us, is absolutely and completely out of the question. Ward 7

7/1/2020 9:38:45 AM

Please do not put forth a vote on amending the City charter until there is a full plan on what the changes to the City will be. There should be cost studies for removing the police dept. as well as what it will cost to create the new programs. There should be job descriptions for new positions and research on how some of the new positions will work. There should be research to see if you can hire enough mental health/social worker/other staff who will respond to calls at all hours without police assistance. Maybe it's cheaper to hire these workers and implement them more with our current police. The 911 dispatchers will need more time to assess calls to decide who they should send to calls for help- they will need more training and more staff to deal with this. There are so many details to look at and figure out that this should not be rushed through. With either Our current police or the new public safety police, you will have the same staff discipline issues- that change must come from the State arbitration process so all of this can be for nothing if the State process doesn't change allowing a Chief to fire those who abuse power. Putting some random person in charge of the new police sounds ridiculous-who does that? In the medical and business world the people that manage departments come from those areas as they know the job. Would you put a cop in charge of a doctor office? No, you have a doctor be in charge. As a resident of the City I already feel totally abandoned by the mayor and city council- they did nothing to stop the destruction of the City and left all residents in a situation where we could not expect 911 response for about a week. I am a planner and organizer type person and the important details are so lacking that it is crazy and a change this significant needs realistic details and cost studies. Without a doubt we need significant changes in MPD but rushing this charter through without a detailed plan and ability to pay for it all seems reckless. You can plan a picnic and work out the details later, not removing a police dept and creating some totally new, never tried in a city this large public safety program. From what I understand the program in Camden,NJ is not a success in any way so that does not help when people use it as an example. Thanks for your time, [REDACTED] Ward 11

7/1/2020 9:40:09 AM

Great idea! We expect far too much from a single police role - we put both them and the community in impossible situations that enables the murder of our BIPOC neighbors. Lets have roles built for servicing the actual issues. Mental health emergencies - people with years of training. Small theft - Support from wrap around social services. Etc.

We can creatively imagine a new future where our community safety structure are woven into a community providing compassionate support and boundaries. What we don't want anymore is an adversarial militarized police force that perpetuates violence and trauma.

7/1/2020 9:40:21 AM

Please act with all haste to get this charter amendment on the ballot this November. Voters deserve to have a say in this, and pushing it off for over a year does a disservice to the residents who clearly want change in the way Minneapolis approaches public safety. The Charter specifies some very specific ways in which the city must fund police, and changing this is the first step to giving the council the tools they need to reimagine public safety.

7/1/2020 9:40:34 AM

I definitely think the police should be defunded and the money should go toward mental health and community resources. I still believe that there should be a crimes unit of some sort. I would continue deescalation training. I would also like police to be from the communities they serve. No one should have to go through what George Floyd and countless others went through.

7/1/2020 9:40:41 AM

Let's abolish MPD and establish a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. Let's show the rest of the U.S. a way forward, create a non-BLUE-print pathway for true reform. Our Black community deserves to walk, drive, gather, meet, and go about their daily lives as first class citizens without the overwhelming, damaging fear of racial profiling or police brutality. This includes the Black children of our community. Further, our city should not allow cops to be protected citizens—our system has become so out of balance that Police Officers are not just above the law, but their status as being above the law is held up by the entire system. I think we should reallocate Minneapolis Police Officer pensions as reparations to our Black citizens and take a serious second look at the 2040 plan to make sure there are avenues of direct action through financial loans and benefits for our Black community (and not just lip service to an idealized utopian Minneapolis). (As a former planning board member on the Near Southside of Chicago, you'll understand that I am always suspicious of any plan that puts power in the hands of "Developers"!) "Black Power is giving power to people who have not had power to determine their destiny." – Dr. Huey P. Newton

7/1/2020 9:41:35 AM

While I appreciate the speed of the council's efforts to reform the MPD I'm concerned that the current amendment draft has been too hastily crafted and will hinder true reform. Please take time to work with the local community, especially organizations like Communities United Against Police Brutality who have spent years researching and developing detailed policy recommendations (<https://www.cuapb.org/>).

Specifically I'm concerned about the transfer of accountability from a single elected official, ie. the mayor, to the council at large with no specific person tasked with enforcing the reform and responsible to the public.

Additionally, the current language surrounding the set-up, rules, and requirements of the new department are even more vague than the current police department language in the charter.

Either reject the current draft or require organizations like Communities United Against Police Brutality to be included in further refinement of the policy.

7/1/2020 9:42:04 AM

This policy will not actually change how policing in Minneapolis works. It's just a rename of the police department, with no actual power in the hands of the community. For real change, we need a community-controlled review board that has the authority to remove police, enforce policy change, and does not answer to other elected officials (community appointed). The plan right now will keep killing people in Minneapolis, and that is unacceptable

7/1/2020 9:43:24 AM

I fully support this being put on ballot. We need something new in Minneapolis that first addresses the causes of crime and violence: poverty, inequity, unaddressed health issues, lack of community support, structural racism and historical racist practices. There will be very little crime if we prioritize equity, housing first, universal health care, and economic justice.

7/1/2020 9:44:56 AM

I do not live in Minneapolis, but I travel there often for business. I usually spend about two nights in Minneapolis on average each month ....usually at the Embassy Suites downtown. If the police are defunded, I would not feel safe and I would refuse to stay downtown. I would also hold as many meetings as possible in another Metro town, such as Bloomington or St. Paul. I am very serious about this.

Further, organize large symposia once or twice a year for my company which normally has up to 100 attendees. I would not subject them to an anarchist city. Those meetings would also be moved to another location.

7/1/2020 9:45:16 AM

Because of long-standing violence imposed from police from our communities, we need to find other community-driven solutions for policing. Few situations require intervention, and much of this can also be done by neighbors.

7/1/2020 9:45:40 AM

In the world of colossally bad ideas this one is arguably at the top.

Good and bad are not binary and neither is monopolized by any segment of the population, regardless of the agenda or how you want to divide it, including the police. No matter the race, age, creed, color, ethnicity, religion, marital status, sexual identity, etc. whenever you have the human element to contemplate, you are going to have inefficiencies, unpredictable, irresponsible and inexplicable behavior and risk.

Do the work...

Bad acts, actors and organizations should be dealt with as appropriate. Process and procedure should be changed to ensure everyone's safety. The issue of racism needs to be confronted head on and dealt with in a practical, meaningful way...These are the issues and they are serious and they deserve serious attention...but defunding the police is not the answer.

7/1/2020 9:48:34 AM

I urge you to deny placing the City Council's issue regarding the MPD on the ballot. I am very concerned that the council voted on this measure so quickly and with little consideration to ALL their constituents. There is no solid plan for disbanding the police and forming something new. It sounds like chaos and is unfair to Minneapolis voters to make a decision on vague ideas. I am also worried about the City Council moving to increase their power. The mayor is elected by all the citizens of Minneapolis, but the Council members represent far fewer voters. Please do not let emotions carry this measure to placement on the ballot. We citizens need to fully understand what we are voting for. Ward 12

/1/2020 9:49:30 AM

I live [REDACTED] in Minneapolis. I do not drive. I walk to do my daily errands & for exercise. I have done so very trepidatiously the last 6.5 years of residency in this neighborhood. I have had to daily walk through up to 20 drug dealers/ users at a time on the 2900 block of Bloomington Avenue South, also at 27th & East Lake Street. In the same block of time I have also called 911 many times for individuals passed out & lying in the sidewalk as they are incapacitated due to a drug overdose. I always wait until the ambulance arrives to make sure that the person actually goes to the hospital to get help. I am honked at & asked if I "would like a ride" at least several times a week by men -- even though I am 64 years old. One thing that gives me the courage to set foot out of my door is the frequent presence of police cars patrolling the streets. I have also been recently traumatized by the BURNING DOWN OF MY NEIGHBORHOOD-- while the MAYOR INSTRUCTED THE FIRE & POLICE TO STAND DOWN!! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO WATCH IN REAL TIME AS THOUSANDS OF ANGRY PROTESTORS MARCHED TOWARDS MY HOME??? TWO BLOCKS AWAY?? KNOWING THERE WAS NO HELP COMING??? That in itself is UNFORGIVEABLE

.And now this???? With no consulting of experts?? With no input from Community??? For what?? To make a name for yourselves on the National scene?? Black leaders "in the know" in North Minneapolis are not on board with this-- Lisa Clemons, Al Flower, Nekima Levy Armstrong? What in the name of God are you thinking??? Generate opportunities for young Black men in Minneapolis

Declare a public health emergency & seize the guns. Help out the single moms-- I am all for a "holistic" approach -- amend police REFORM -- but not this craziness-- we need every patrol car out there possible. AND a heartfelt financial investment in opportunities for the black & inner city economically disadvantaged communities-- get the faith communities & the private business sector involved. LONG TERM COMMITMENT!!! You are going to see the crime rates go through the roof-- you really think that the criminal element is not going to take FULL ADVANTAGE of a greatly diminished police presence?? They already ARE!! But you won't have to suffer any consequences because you all have PRIVATE SECURITY DETAILS!!!,

7/1/2020 9:50:00 AM

I would love to see this happen. Taking some situations off of the Police and moving them to various other professionals better equipped to deal with them only makes good sense. This would allow the police to handle the issues they are trained to handle.

7/1/2020 9:50:15 AM

Please don't defund the police. My family comes to Minneapolis-St Paul several times a year. However, if the police are defunded we will find safer alternatives. Look at what the situation at Powderhorn Park has already turned into with residents living in fear.

7/1/2020 9:50:46 AM

I do not support defunding the Minneapolis Police Dept. As a resident of the city, I don't feel safe in my neighborhood as it is. I believe the call to defunding MPD was made by city council members without research and truly considering the lasting effects. I believe we need to support change in the MPD, but we need to address that change in a strategic manner.

7/1/2020 9:51:29 AM

The vast majority of police officers in Minneapolis are selfless community members, ready at a moments notice, to protect the public.

The idea that systemic racism lives within the halls of the MPD is ridiculous!

There are some bad apples that need to be rooted out, but by no means can all officers be lumped into a single category.

The murder of George Floyd is tragic and should have never occurred. The officers involved should be held accountable for their actions!

In order to quell the vast instances of shootings in Minneapolis, there needs to be a strong, forceful, yet empathetic group of experienced police officers patrolling the streets; and not some mamby, pamby group of individuals tasked with a 'softy' approach to this devastating problem!

7/1/2020 9:52:29 AM

I am writing to support the city council's proposed charter amendment. It is an important step in increasing safety, equity, and justice in our city.

7/1/2020 9:53:07 AM

I applaud the City Council for taking this historic first step to remove the MPD so that we as a community can determine the best path forward toward a future free(r) of systemic white supremacy. What is birthed next must be led by Black, Brown, and Indigenous residents, who have created, and implemented, community safety strategies based upon mutual aid, within, despite, and as a consequence of a racist policing system whose roots extend to U.S. slavery. Please, allow us this opportunity to shape a more just and healthy future for everyone who calls Minneapolis home.

7/1/2020 9:53:16 AM

I am writing in support of the proposed charter amendment to disband and replace the Minneapolis Police Department. The last month has seen the MPD respond to protests against police brutality with additional brutality. Our Black neighbors have known for centuries that the foundation of this country's policing system is flawed and irredeemable, and as a society, we have not listened to them when we should have. We have the chance to listen now. We have video and seemingly endless personal testament to what others have always known—that police are not here to help. They are more likely to

make a situation violent than to help it resolve peacefully. I fully support the abolition of the department and the re-imagining of safety as something led by community. I hope to see that ideal held in mind as we move forward into the specifics of what that will look like (as opposed to a simple "rebrand" of the MPD that will leave us with the same, deeply dangerous problems). I hope to see this discussion include the dissolution of the police union, which has taken its charge to protect workers' rights to a place of instead blindly advocating for the jobs of murderers. Most of all, I hope to see this process value the voices of those who have carried the weight of our inaction thus far—the Black community. We have watched the loudest and richest voices dominate our local political sphere for a long time, but I hold the input of a Powderhorn encampment resident in much higher esteem than I do the many loud suburb-dwellers who think they should have a say in what happens in our downtown, our neighborhoods, our city. I believe in the capacity of the Minneapolis City Council to hold in mind all of the truths of this place and its history as it moves forward with this admirable and immeasurably crucial charter amendment.

7/1/2020 9:53:59 AM

'I fully support the charter amendment and want our city government to have all the tools available to them as they transform policing. It is long overdue. The current structure does not distribute oversight and responsibility in a way most accountable and transparent to the people. The mayor and council are currently constrained from meaningful action by our restrictive charter language and it needs to change if we ever hope to reign in the abuses of MPD.' It is long overdue. Ward 3

7/1/2020 9:55:09 AM

I write in deep admiration and gratitude to city council for taking the steps to allow the City of Minneapolis to imagine new and more just ways of ensuring our public safety, and to request that the Charter Commission allow this amendment to the City's charter to be placed on the ballot for voters to consider in November. Minneapolis has an unprecedented opportunity to fundamentally re-imagine, and design from the ground up, a system that ensures community safety and prioritizes well-being and justice. Please allow this process to move forward.

The day after Mr. Floyd was killed, my four year old wondered, "will the police kill all of us?". No, I explained, we are fairly safe because we have white skin. But what kind of conversation is that to have with a four year old?! Explaining that the police see Black people as more threatening and less deserving of respect just based on the color of their skin, and that is deeply, fundamentally wrong. And to imagine the conversations that are had by families of color, who cannot promise their children that they will be safe from the police. The disease of racism has rotted our system of policing to the core, and no amount of band-aid reforms can heal it. But, I explained, we have the opportunity to change things! I hope we can show our children that these unjust systems can be transformed, when we all come together.

7/1/2020 9:55:14 AM

I live [REDACTED] in Minneapolis. I do not drive. I walk to do my daily errands & for exercise. I have done so very trepidatiously the last 6.5 years of residency in this neighborhood. I have had to daily walk through up to 20 drug dealers/ users at a time on the 2900 block of Bloomington Avenue South, also at 27th & East Lake Street. In the same block of time I have also called 911 many times for individuals passed out & lying in the sidewalk as they are incapacitated due to a drug overdose. I always wait until the ambulance arrives to make sure that the person actually goes to the hospital to get help. I am honked at & asked if I "would like a ride" at least several times a week by men -- even though I am 64 years old. One thing that gives me the courage to set foot out of my door is the

frequent presence of police cars patrolling the streets. I have aldo been recently traumatized by the BURNING DOWN OF MY NEIGHBORHOOD--' while the MAYOR INSTRUCTED THE FIRE & POLICE TO STAND DOWN!! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO WATCH IN REAL TIME AS THOUSANDS ODF ANGRY PROTESTORS MARCHED TOWARDS MY HOME??? TWO BLOC KS AWAY?? KNOWING THERE WAS NO HELP COMING??? That in itself is UNFORGIVEABLE

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7/1/2020 9:55:36 AM

Thank you for making the hard decision to do the right thing. I know there will be plenty of misunderstanding, willful and real, and fear over what the impact of attempting to disband the MPD might be, but it's the best path forward. With past issues once again coming to the fore, it's apparent to me that the organization as it exists neither serves nor protects the people of Minneapolis. My primary concern with this decision is not that the MPD will be disbanded and replaced, but that the funds freed by this decision will eventually go elsewhere. I urge the Council to create and codify if possible long term plans for any funds redirected into social services and education to prevent them from being cut or moved back into policing in the future. This experiment is a worthy one, but will require long term commitment to produce results.

7/1/2020 9:56:14 AM

I strongly disagree with (b) Division of Law Enforcement Services in the amendment to 7.3 (formerly Police now Community Safety and Violence Prevention). I strongly feel the words 'may maintain' should be turned to 'will maintain'. While I agree with a stronger shift to community safety and public health, my husband and I strongly believe we still need a division of law enforcement officers and we should commit to a police force still in the amendment. We cannot go from a precise number of a police force of .0017 per resident to 'may' have a police force. This leaves too much gray. I would prefer if we got more precise with an exact percentage per resident and then were clear where the rest of the funds would go to - i.e., X percent to what other divisions under the Director of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. More detailed plans on what other divisions and people resources in those divisions would be preferred before we were expected to vote on an amendment. Ward 13

7/1/2020 9:56:28 AM

MPD should be dismantled and a new safety department created based on community input. We need a community controlled process and a community controlled new department. I support the charter amendment and a ballot question in November 2020.

7/1/2020 9:56:37 AM

I think this is a solid first step, but I would like to see the charter amended to provide for more civilian oversight of the Division of Law Enforcement Services. In addition to the supervision of the Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention, I would like to see a civilian panel with the power to fire and discipline peace officers without the review or intervention of individuals internal to the Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Ward 11

7/1/2020 9:56:50 AM

I am in STRONG support of the charter amendment. Please do everything you can to transform public safety and defund the police. Ward 3

7/1/2020 9:57:23 AM

Listen to your constituents and what they really want. Giving the police a new name but less accountability is not the answer. Please do the right thing for all the people of Minneapolis.

7/1/2020 9:57:27 AM

I believe the removal of the police department, even the thought of it, is not the answer. What type of message is this sending to our younger generation. Disrespect authority? That really works. There are much, much better ways to face the issues we are currently in the midst of.

Removal of the police department is not it.

7/1/2020 9:57:30 AM

I'm a landlord in Minneapolis and I support a change to current policing structure by defunding and rebuilding a better system.

7/1/2020 9:57:47 AM

I do NOT support an amendment that allows the mayor and city council to elect the head of the police department (or whatever organization takes its place.) Leaders of public safety should be elected by civilians in their city.

7/1/2020 9:58:10 AM

Getting rid of the police department is like getting rid of the principal at school. I have taught for 25 years and a school without an authority figure is chaos. People seek leadership and boundaries..without them, we go awry. You will destroy your great city and struggle to gain control once you realize it is too late..just like a school with weak leadership.

7/1/2020 9:58:31 AM

I disagree on the proposed amendment. I believe each council member should spend a weekend riding along with a cop to truly understand what being a police officer in Minneapolis entails. Ward 2

7/1/2020 9:59:05 AM

I live in St. Paul, MN. I want you to take a minute to think about what you're doing. Will abolishing a police department, who's purpose to protect and serve the community, a wise decision? It's appalling what happened that sparked the national outcry. But is agreeing with cancel culture the way to amend things? I mean think! Instead of just getting rid of the police (which you will see a rise in crime and you know it), why not give officers better training to handle these situations. Hold officers more accountable and give more guidelines. Perhaps create new resources to handle certain disputes. If you abolish the police more communities will want to follow, and we can agree that is a terrible idea. Take ownership for what happened, and fix it. Not cancel.

7/1/2020 9:59:25 AM

#### Police Accountability

- ☒ 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.

#### Police Critical Incidents

- ☒ 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 tracks for sexual assault investigators, homicide investigators.

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

##### Safer Community Interactions

- ☒ 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.

##### Police Fitness For Duty

- ☒ 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 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.

7/1/2020 9:59:30 AM

We need the cops to keep the streets safe, there's no real alternative. Ward 2

7/1/2020 10:00:04 AM

What a bunch of morons. Wake up and quit setting our country back 100 years.

7/1/2020 10:00:17 AM

I do not support removal of police language from the city charter. A clear path that identifies how we will deal with violent crime, criminal gang behavior, domestic abuse, rape and many other criminal activities that require the possibility of necessity for armed intervention must be presented before a reasoned decision can be made.

7/1/2020 10:01:05 AM

I have lived in South Mpls since 2002 and recently moved to Richfield. I feel compelled to express my support for the City Council proposal to replace the police department. I think the current department is set up to protect us from black men and black men are seen as the enemy. This has created fear of the police. This must end. We must allocate the money to proper social programs, therapists, individuals with degrees/training in conflict resolution in high risk situations. We must have a small devision of law enforcement that is highly trained in life threatening situations so they can maintain a focused and clear head in those situations and not react out of fear. Please support this amendment.

7/1/2020 10:01:08 AM

I would like to voice my support for abolishing the police department and replacing it with an unarmed community safety and violence prevention department. It is time for every member of our community to live in safety from the department that is supposed to protect and serve them.

7/1/2020 10:01:28 AM

Although the idea is in the right direction, the details of the charter amendment are NOT in the best interests of the communities who suffer the most from police violence. There needs to be community involvement, input, and oversight. This seems like a rush to get something out to appease the public, but the details are poorly formed and is less likely to get passed. The police needs COMMUNITY oversight and they are NOT effective stand-ins for mental health, welfare, or social services, which residents so desperately need to SOLVE their problems long-term, not put a band-aid on it.

I am not currently a resident of Minneapolis, I moved to Minnetonka last year, but was a resident of Minneapolis from 2007 to 2019 (and plan to move back), Minneapolis is my home at heart. Minneapolis also leads the way for suburbs to follow, and so a push to defund the police department in Minneapolis means places like Minnetonka will hopefully follow suit.

7/1/2020 10:01:35 AM

CHOP should be all you need as a reason why dedunding the police is bad. You are putting WAY too much faith in humanity.

7/1/2020 10:01:40 AM

You either know how dumb this is or you don't care because you are doing it for political motivations. Frey was the only one with a backbone when he stood up to the mob.

7/1/2020 10:01:56 AM

Members of the Charter Commission, I am writing today to voice my concern regarding the recent proposal by the Minneapolis City Council to amend the city charter. As a resident of North Minneapolis, I cannot condone the plan the commission has put forth. The reason I cannot condone such action is that there seems to be no plan at all. I hear buzzwords like "holistic" and "health & safety", which may sound great in political ads, but they do little to address the true concerns of the community. Our citizens deserve more; we need to see the what, the where, the why and the how of their plan. What's next? This is not something that can be addressed on the fly. Unintended negative consequences are inevitable with such an approach. In fact, ever since the council announced their intentions, we are seeing a drastic uptick in violent crime and property damage in our neighborhoods (especially the Northside). One can easily assume the perpetrators are feeling emboldened by the weak messages from leadership. Take a look at the weekly crime maps published by the city, and you will see what we are experiencing. I am all for reforms that benefit the community, but when we fail to plan, we plan to fail.

7/1/2020 10:02:14 AM

While I feel the MPD needs a serious over haul, I disagree with disbanding the MPD. I do agree that when dealing with a mental health issue that someone else try intervening but they still need police as back up. For simple things like parking violations, we don't need the police. What we do need is better police training and screening and other ways of restraining someone who is arrested.

I've lived in this city all my life and in this home I've 35 years, I'm a senior now and refuse to spend the rest of my time afraid in my own home or neighborhood.

We need the police, but we also need more neighborhood watch groups. I'm not ok with the neighborhood having to protect themselves with no police help, I already went through that for over a week during the riots and burnings 3 blocks from my home in June. I also refuse to move.

7/1/2020 10:02:23 AM

I do not support abolishing or defunding the police department. I support major accountability reforms of the police department. I would support a reduction in funding of the police department as they now receive over one third of the city budget. At this point, I have no idea what the public safety and violence prevention division would be responsible for or how public safety would be addressed. It appears to be just another bureaucratic approach without legs. There is no plan or written proposal. A better use of city funds would be to improve city infrastructure including housing, streets, water system and sewer system, etc. It is premature to even consider a charter change at this point and is likely to fail.

7/1/2020 10:02:35 AM

Are you fucking stupid, you all will be the dumbest city in America ever! If you get rid of police who answers the 911 calls crackheads!!!! Good luck you all are going to be fucked in that city!!!!

7/1/2020 10:02:54 AM

Good Morning!

I vote NO!! The great state of Minnesota needs Peace and Lawfulness!!! I come from 3 generations here and I worked on 27th and Lake, lived on 35th and Lake and was so saddened by what I saw happen! It is time to get this MOB out and get NEW people like Gov and Mayor to be on top of whats happening! I can't believe they allowed the 3rd to burn down!!!! WRONG!! Please, we need our great Police!!!



7/1/2020 10:04:00 AM

This is so wrong, asinine, crazy, stupid, idiotic, etc.

Why not have an open discussion and share ideas? Why do the few irrational people always get what they want? Minneapolis and Minnesota have become an embarrassment!! I have lived here my entire life and am now ashamed to say I live here!

Won't be going downtown Minneapolis for anything anymore! You people are off your rocker!!

Sure, there are some bad police...just like there are some bad teachers, Doctors, lawyers, etc. Do you plan to defund teachers, Doctors....

There are also wonderful police, Doctors, teachers, lawyers, etc. I support and appreciate the police department. This is so wrong!!

7/1/2020 10:04:08 AM

The city council is pushing to make changes regarding policing in Minneapolis. This includes bypassing community involvement. I think the council is moving too fast without actually listening to what the community wants. I'm concerned that the result will be another flawed attempt at reform. I especially do not agree with the council's proposed role in accountability. When the council announced at Powderhorn Park the abolish police/Defund the Police it was unclear and confusing what that means. Anything I've seen from the council since then has been vague. When direct questions have been asked, the response is also full of buzz words with no clear path. Rushing this process is not the way to go. Changing our system of policing definitely needs to change. Let's do this right. I'm not sure your plan is the way to go.

7/1/2020 10:04:23 AM

the world must have law and order otherwise you have utter kaos. the criminals will take over you will no longer be in charge. seattle learned that lesson after allowing a precinct to be taken over and turned into an autonomous zone. AND NOW THE MAYOR WHO ALLOWED IT FINDS HER OWN MANSION SURROUNDED. AND SHE HAS HAD A CHANGE OF HEART AND SUPPORTS THE POLICE ARRESTING THE CRIMINALS. DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE THEY MADE. YOU SEE THE DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY LAWLESSNESS ALREADY IN YOUR CITY. IF YOU ABANDONED THE POLICE YOU ABANDON THE PEOPLE. ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO AWAY WITH ALL YOUR LAW ENFORCEMENT ON ALL LEVELS ? LOCAL POLICE , STATE POLICE , STATE FBI OFFICE ?

7/1/2020 10:04:33 AM

Are all of you out of your mind, you can change policy that the officers operate under, but you don not defund the police, so many people I know are leaving the city, which leaves the businesses to start to leave and you have nothing left, tax revenues that allow the city to run are gone, this was one of the nations best cities, you have managed in a short period of time to ruin this city, and you all will be held accountable in the end, nice legacy you will all have, no common sense will ever be brought into the process, I cannot not support any of your recommendations, you need to add funding so we have more officers protecting us, unfortunately you are all set in your ways and have an agenda that will backfire on you, what a terrible waste! I have also decided to move out of the city!

7/1/2020 10:07:19 AM

DO NOT REMOVE THE MINNEAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT. WE MUST MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER, OR OUR FREEDOMS WILL BE TAKEN FROM US ONE BY ONE.

7/1/2020 10:08:10 AM

It seems the language in the amendment does not actually require that anything be done, which I think is a major oversight at best. The community has been clear about its demands, wanting accountability to the public to be MANDATORY, through an oversight committee or similar means NOT through the city council. Decreased funding for the MPD is another demand, as they are very clearly over-funded and outfitted for war, not community engagement. Stop sending armed officers to basic public disturbances with little to no reasonable expectation of armed confrontation; they've proven that they cannot safely interact with people in mental health crises or perceived in any way as a threat, regardless of how

compliant they are to directions. There are many more very clear demands available very publicly, if you REALLY want to help maybe look at those before writing your amendment.

7/1/2020 10:08:54 AM

I'm a resident of Eden Prairie but was born and raised in Minneapolis. My first job was on Hennepin and Lake at the Uptown theater and the 'Piece Officers' I remember were beat cops on foot keeping 'Us Safe.' They were kind and caring. Change to the new model was as far back as the '70s. The violence level has been increasing, in my opinion, since that time.

7/1/2020 10:09:28 AM

Good morning,

I've learned new information since I sent in a comment last week, and I wanted to update my stance. I now understand that the wording of the charter amendment is not precise enough to ensure true oversight of the MPD. It also has not undergone a public hearing, so the voices of Black community organizers have not been incorporated into the charter.

I do support the measures the charter includes that would remove police from responding to situations they should not be covering, like mental health situations.

In my own haste for action, I didn't do my homework thoroughly enough. Better to have a vote in November 2021 than rush an incomplete charter amendment that cannot truly hold the MPD accountable to vote in 2020.

Please support public hearings on the language so the voices of Black community organizers can be heard. They have been living and studying policing issues for decades and know best what measures will actually support Black, Native, and other communities of color in our city. Thank you for your time!

7/1/2020 10:09:49 AM

Dear Charter Commission members,

I am deeply in favor of the proposed charter amendment that would remove the police department and instead establish a Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department.

As an 8 year (white) resident of Minneapolis, I know that the Minneapolis Police Department has failed to keep my Black, Indigenous, and neighbors of color safe.

As an analyst for Hennepin County government with a Master of Public Policy degree from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, I have studied the damaging effects of police practices in our community.

Reforming MPD has not worked. De-escalation training, banning Warrior training, body cameras, and civilian oversight have done nothing to dismantle the institutionalized racism in the department. Even after these changes, Minneapolis police still use force against Black residents 7 times more frequently than they use force against white residents.

Minneapolis police cost the taxpayers millions of dollars in civil suits for misconduct. MPD's budget continues to grow each year, taking away much needed funds for programs that ACTUALLY keep our neighbors safe and healthy: public health programs,

mental health resources, economic assistance, and affordable housing.

MPD's organizational culture is toxic and dangerous, violent, destructive, and expensive. Minneapolis residents will never be able to trust MPD to keep them safe. We cannot afford to allow MPD to continue their racist reign of terror in our city.

It is well past time that our City Charter reflects what our BIPOC neighbors have been calling for for years - a community-led reimagining of community safety, a reallocation of resources so that we can correct hundreds of years of racist polices that have prevented BIPOC residents from accessing education, jobs, and housing, and a restoration of Minneapolis residents' trust in each other to keep our communities safe.

It's time to change the charter. Let the residents of Minneapolis have their voices heard in November.

In community

7/1/2020 10:10:14 AM

This is a bad idea that will have negative consequences on everyone living in Minneapolis and beyond. You must rethink this position if you care about the safety of those in your community.

7/1/2020 10:10:31 AM

I appreciate the move towards a reduction of police force and towards civilian oversight. I can't say I'm the best educated in the matter but we shouldn't be having a department that has employees that can terrorize our citizens without fear of consequences. Ward 10

7/1/2020 10:11:20 AM

Without police protection on the streets of Minneapolis, I will not shop, do business or spend recreation time in Minneapolis.

Nor will any of my family.

Without them, Mpls. is too dangerous.

And, because my community is not too far away, you increase our danger, too.

Do not defund, dismantle the Mpls. Police Dept.

7/1/2020 10:11:37 AM

I completely support replacing the police department with a new community safety and violence prevention department. I am excited for this city to forge a new, visionary and antiracist path toward community well-being for all. It has been broken for SO LONG. We can't wait anymore.

7/1/2020 10:12:26 AM

I will move my business out of Minneapolis if this amendment passes. Other business owners in my circle will do the same. Ward 8

7/1/2020 10:12:33 AM

I'm am a Hennepin County life time resident and have lived in the area all my life and USED TO GO DOWNTOWN.. ARE YOU PEOPLE THAT STUPID...we need safety and law and order..we need way more cops and more jails to get the crap off the streets so me and my children can go to dinner,a twins game ect without feeling we are in danger from street thugs...gee can I replace my tax dollars with cucumbers I grow in my garden...hope everyone votes no and all you idiots out of office

7/1/2020 10:13:18 AM

Please bring this to ballot so the people of Minneapolis can decide how public safety best serves our whole community, especially people of color, indigenous, and people most vulnerable to violence and misconduct by police. Reform has not been effective. People of Minneapolis can come, bring all their concerns into the process of reimagining public safety.

7/1/2020 10:13:23 AM

I am greatly concerned about your proposed charter amendment. I am not comfortable living in city without a police force and know I am not alone. I would support significant police reform such as removing the union and requiring all officers to live in Minneapolis. Crime and shootings are on the rise and your charter amendment is unclear if "peace officers" will have the ability or desire to provide a safe community. The city is paying thousands of dollars for private security for you so you are safe. Do you expect Minneapolis residents to hire private security for their safety as well? This leads to hurting low income residents the most.

7/1/2020 10:14:00 AM

I work in Minneapolis. Have lived some of my life in Minneapolis even though I own a home in Saint Paul. Can all the necessary changes that are needed at MPD be accomplished without abolishing the department? It's way more than one bad apple. So much change is needed. Defund and Reconstruct should be researched and investigated as well. Doesn't our Black Chief of Police Arredondo deserve that opportunity?

7/1/2020 10:14:24 AM

As a Minneapolis resident, I'm asking the charter commission to expedite the process so that the proposed amendment can be submitted as a ballot question in time for the public to vote on it this November. The state of public safety in the city is at a crisis point which requires swift, decisive action to move away from the racist, militarized, and unresponsive MPD to a transformative public health based public safety approached as would be supported by the proposed amendment. For too long policing in Minneapolis has been able to resist meaningful change in order to make it responsive to the people.

Please support the expedited submission of the ballot question so that we have the opportunity to make real and systemic change. Ward 10

7/1/2020 10:14:32 AM

I support the amendment of the city charter to abolish the department of police and establish a health-centered and restorative justice centered approach to neighborhood safety. I would hope that means that they would be licensed, unarmed health professionals. It was not clear in your amendment whether they would be armed with tanks, guns, tear gas, etc etc. Ward 8

7/1/2020 10:14:45 AM

Better police training and a select team to work intimately with the communities experiencing not only racial prejudice but also gang violence. encourage and develop relationship with a strong leadership program from the minority community.

Defund the police for the greater community and you won't get the votes. Nobody wants defunding except those that get coverage from the media

Drastic Reaction change Will never work and you are forgetting everyone else

7/1/2020 10:15:05 AM

The idea that dismantling the police will make the city safer and a better place to live is absurd. This pandering to anarchists who wish to dismantle authority in the city. The City counsel and Mayor have failed us. They have fail to protect the businesses and citizen in the city. And the proof being the extreme rise in violent crime since the George Floyd crime. The number of shooting and murders at record numbers. The problem being the union not allowing holding bad cops accountable to their actions. Lets reform the union agreement, which was the responsibility of the counsel and mayor another point where they have failed us.

7/1/2020 10:15:14 AM

Minneapolis Charter Commission,

Huge appreciation for your work as a Commission! I am writing to strong support putting the City Council proposed Charter Amendment on our ballot in November. I hope you approve this as a result of your review process.

The Minneapolis Police Department as an institution has perpetuated violence and mass incarceration against Black people in our City. This has been true for decades and the public murder of George Floyd and subsequent uprising has underlined this point. We the people of Minneapolis deserve a chance to vote on this proposal to begin the process of building a better anti-racist system of public safety and violence prevention in our City. The current Charter language would impede our ability to do so through our elected officials on the City Council. The current language in the City Charter (especially the minimum force resident to police ratio) constrains our ability to utilize democratic action to change the regime of public safety in our city. Since the impact of that has fallen most harshly on Black people – we deserve a chance to vote that language out of the charter. Thanks for your time and consideration of Ward 13

7/1/2020 10:16:00 AM

Thank you for your service to the City of Minneapolis.

I am writing to let you know that I support the City Charter Amendment proposed unanimously by the City Council. The time is now; the deaths of George Floyd and so any others must not be in vain and no more lives must be lost to police brutality, structural racism, and the Police Federation's hold on necessary deep change. To date, reform has not worked. Enough is enough. Defund our police and help to bring peace, prosperity, and safety to our communities.

While I have faith in Chief Rondo, I am even more determined that we end policing in Minneapolis, as it has existed and boldly envision a new Dept. of Community Safety. Our police have only served to cause trauma, fear, and hurt for many of your constituents. The World is watching Minneapolis, the center of the movement. Lives are at stake. Ward 8

7/1/2020 10:16:47 AM

To help dismantle the systematic racism that this country was founded on, we need to defund the police and actively work toward funding a coalition of social services that can step in where police have misguidedly been called. There might be a place for certain calls to action regarding a newly trained and educated group of police, but it needs to be much smaller than what the organization currently is.

7/1/2020 10:17:35 AM

It is important to consider the whole of Minneapolis as you consider these proposed changes. The proposed charter amendment serves a political agenda but fails to enhance the lives or experience of Minneapolis residents, businesses and visitors. It is reckless and born of an activists' perspective and fails to consider a broader view of the city.

Minneapolis has thrived in the past, growing into one of America's great cities. A beautiful setting, safe, and full of retail, business, dining, art and entertainment offerings. But it has declined aggressively in the past decade, most notably in the past 3-5 years. The proposed charter amendment sets the city up for an even more aggressive decline, allowing it to become a large scale social experiment under the direction of community organizers and activists, and painfully lacking in oversight by experienced, qualified leaders. The proposal further distances the leadership from voters.

Rest assured that if Minneapolis shifts additional power to the City Council as proposed, their leadership by committee will create a Minneapolis which is not appealing to business, meaning a loss of jobs, tax revenue, and local spending. It will drive away baseball, basketball and football fans, their local spending, and all associated tax revenue. Diners will not visit the city. More lost jobs, lost taxes and rampant restaurant closures. Shoppers will not venture into the city. Reduced spending, taxes and jobs. Store closures. Music, plays, other entertainment will follow that same track.

Ultimately, you will reduce the quality of life for Minneapolis residents, drive away visitors and businesses and create a poverty-forward city in desperate need of a renaissance, but little hope of that renaissance within the next few deacades.

7/1/2020 10:17:46 AM

Minneapolis is a shitty shit hole and its leaders are shit heads. Ward 9

7/1/2020 10:18:11 AM

Why are you even thinking of doing this. There are thugs and gangs that will rule and things will only get worse. The killing of black people is not the problem the problem is that these people when confronted by police do not cooperate. They do not deserve to die but most of them have a shaded past which no one seems to want to disclose. This personally makes me sick. I enjoy going to Twins games and occasionally dine in downtown Minneapolis but if this is how you want to run the city good luck. There will be a lot of people who won't go downtown. Please wake up!

7/1/2020 10:20:35 AM

What happened to George Floyd is an atrocity that should not be tolerated. What assurances do law abiding and tax paying citizens and businesses have that they will be safe and violent crime will be curbed? The rate of violent crime has dramatically increased, fellow residents that I know no longer feel safe to walk the streets in Downtown Minneapolis because violent crime, street gangs, and vigilante law has dominated the streets. No day goes by without hearing news reports of car jackings, assaults, aggravated robberies, burglaries of occupied dwellings, drive by shootings. Yesterday, for example, a seven year old boy was shot while walking to a grocery store with his father. Growing up inner city neighborhoods is hard enough. It is an atrocity when people no longer feel safe to a grocery store. I check the jail reports everyday and most of the arrests are for non-violent drug possession charges and DWI's. People are being shot in uptown going out to eat, businesses no longer feel safe to operate or have any confidence that law enforcement will protect patrons of bars and restaurants. In Stillwater a few days ago, a Muslim family was accosted by hate groups intimidating them. This is not the America that I once knew, where differences are celebrated, community comes together to solve challenging problems, and people feel safe and secure in their homes. People are resilient and can handle a pandemic. When people no longer feel safe in their homes, is when people will leave Minneapolis for states that have lower taxes and can adequately protect their citizens. If history has provided any examples, look at Detroit, where the once populated downtown areas have become ridden with crime and long forgotten. Your proposed solutions, including the states lack of responsibility for damaged buildings during the civil unrest will result in tax hikes on corporate and state income taxes.

Predominantly African American and historically disenfranchised communities have been set back by the destruction of libraries and non-profit buildings that have done nothing, but helped these communities. Businesses will not reopen unless they feel law enforcement will protect them. The well to do will have options, including the ability to move to safer cities, suburbs, and surrounding areas. Those that are economically disadvantaged will be left to their own devices unless the City Council steps up and says that a failing system can be overhauled while adequately providing safeguards for the safety of all citizens. Whether one is rich, poor, African American, White, Native American, Jewish, Christian, Muslim, or of any other race, creed, lifestyle, or religion should feel safe in their homes and communities. Those who choose to commit violent crimes, those who seek to destroy what others have built, and exercise a wanton disregard for human life and property should be brought to justice and not allowed to instill fear in communities. I understand that there is public pressure, but decisions should not be made with haste, and proper thought should be given to ensure that public safety is maintained, that those who wish to speak should be able to do so freely and without fear, and communities should come together to embrace differences and work towards a shared common goal. What is the City Council doing to bring Minneapolis back to a safe, stable, Midwest city where people will want to live, work, play, and raise a family? Ward 7

7/1/2020 10:21:23 AM

It is ridiculous to vote to disband the police department without something solid to put in its place. You've got the cart before the horse & need to do your homework first. Talk to the black leadership within the community & listen to their voices. Involve them in decisions. Don't allow yourselves to be pressured by special interest groups. My daughter lives in Mpls & I am in the first ring suburb of Richfield. We are all affected by what happens in Mpls!

7/1/2020 10:22:19 AM

I want to first thank the City Council for their work to change the Minneapolis City Charter in a way that makes steps to dismantle the Minneapolis Police Department and replace it with a community-focused public safety model. I continue to urge the City Council (and this Commission) to push for the bold vision of MPD abolition, and while I would have liked to see bigger steps taken in the language used that disallowed involvement from the current MPD structure in the creation of the new department, I am proud to be a resident of a city that is pushing forward with major change to community safety.

While this may be outside of the charter commission, I would also recommend that the City Council look at measure to provide guaranteed income for Minneapolis residents. This type of radical support may act as another measure to provide residents with the tools they need to find safe housing for themselves. Ward 9

7/1/2020 10:23:44 AM

I believe that opting to remove the police department is reactionary, short sighted and unwise. I fully support a revamp and complete update to the department, as I believe greater accountability internally, and expanded community engagement, is long needed. I believe greater evaluative metrics (annual psych evaluations, outreach/engagement goals, job performance evaluations, etc.) are needed within the department in order to maintain high standards and improved safety and wellbeing, not only to the officers but the community, especially Black/indigenous/POC members. Given the uptick in rash crime, excessive shootings, and increased violence, I do not think a full dismantlement is wise. Counseling services to gun violence is not only unsafe but impractical, would result in high turn over, and would likely not sway crime. Peace is needed, but will not be obtainable in a system that lacks safety and accountability.

7/1/2020 10:23:50 AM

This amendment is not perfect, but it is definitely a step in the right direction that I heartily support.

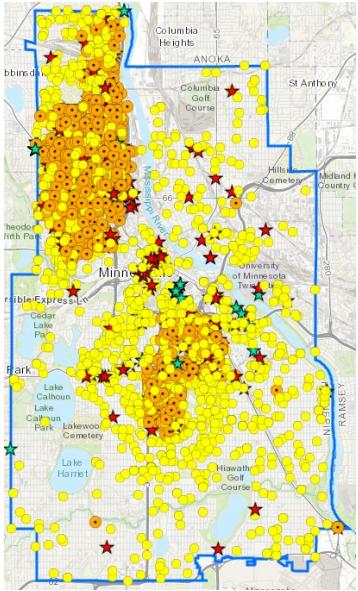
However, input from civic organizations like CUAPB, Reclaim the Block, Black Visions, and BLM MUST be solicited and used to direct government action here. Ward 3

7/1/2020 10:23:57 AM

I submit my objection as a resident of the state of Minnesota to the proposal to create a new Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police Department from the Charter. I strongly condemn the acts of the MPLS police officers involved with the George Floyd incident, although voice strong objection to removing the Police Department from Minneapolis due to a vacuum which would be created, allowing for lawlessness and chaos to ensue without limit. Of the millions of residents in the Metro area, this is very concerning and what is needed now is leadership and security for all affected Minnesotans as we navigate this change in social justice reform. Regards. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 10:24:26 AM

There have been thousands of gun violence victims in Minneapolis just in the first 6 months of 2020. There have been tens of thousands of shells fired in the city this year. The MPD needs to keep funding at its current level. Any other option puts our communities at risk. ESPECIALLY communities of color. Please see shot spotter clip attachment. This displays shots fired in Minneapolis 1/1/2020 - 6/30/2020. This is EXTREMELY alarming.



7/1/2020 10:24:36 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of the city of Minneapolis, I completely oppose the abolition of our police department. The police serve and protect and keep the law abiding citizens safe from criminals who seek to harm others and do violence. If you want utter lawlessness and anarchy, then do away with the police. The innocent and lawful will suffer. If you prefer peace and order, because there really are people out there who seek to do evil, then keep the police. It is absolute madness and irrationality to do away with the people who protect our community, and who have served us faithfully and at the peril of their own lives.

7/1/2020 10:25:18 AM

I am strongly in favor of the amendment and will be devoting time, money, and my vote to ensure that WHEN this amendment passes that Mayor Frey doesn't neuter the grassroots efforts and elected officials working to replace our police with humane alternatives.

7/1/2020 10:25:35 AM

I would like to see a lot of money allocated to community experts dealing with the specific issues as they come up. Perhaps even using 911 but having dispatchers trained to direct calls to the proper channels. I'd love to see a domestic violence center, who dispatch individuals trained in that specific type of de-escalation brought in to domestic violence reports, and then families connected to the resources to heal that problem instead of what we have now, a report filed and then everyone just goes back to bed and the dynamic starts up again the next day...

I'd like to see a wet house and a dry house (or several houses) set up for individuals struggling with homelessness. I'd rather pay higher taxes and know that there are experts in this field working with the individuals who struggle, and that they're not just constantly being shooed away from street to street, city to city. It's a big problem but ignoring it and pushing it to the side clearly is an inhumane response.

I'd like to see a smaller peace officer group who are trained only in deescalation, negotiations, the history of the neighborhoods they work with, and advocacy. I'd want those to be the people who respond to noise complaints, curfew violations, traffic stops, intoxication, etc. The little everyday infractions that do not even remotely warrant a violent response. These individuals need to know where to send the people they stop- jail should only be a holding place until they're turned over to the assistance they need to straighten themselves out.

We need to do a deep dive into the causes of poverty in our city, and do some deep work on alleviating those issues. Most of the crime we currently police stems from the desperation of living in poverty.

We need to take a deep look into why there are such insane wealth disparities in our city. Why do we have opulent wealth on lake Harriet, and crushing poverty in Phillips? Why are they so strongly correlated with race? I'd love to see a task force that works with the heads of all the smaller components of the reformed PD with additional members who have expertise in policy and coalition building and finance and business to help us create a more equitable city.

It matters that there are slum lords renting out dilapidated housing near the u of m to students, and to people living in poor neighborhoods. I'd love to see more money put into the requirements for being able to rent out space to others. That is a position of power that is not fully recognized for what it is.

I think it is important that the schools be funded equitably, and the tax money collected be distributed across all schools, not just specifically that the students in wealthy neighborhoods get better funded schools because the tax base.

I hope this issue is taken slowly, and the police force dismantled slowly, and then adequate time is given to strengthen the additional resources and organization that is required to the departments that are taking the place of police. I think we need to be carful to ensure our messaging isn't that this is a free for all, no police so lawless behavior is now tolerated because unfortunately there are plenty who'd like to interpret it that way. I think people need this to be slowly unveiled so that each new component is clearly understood and how it functions is transparent to the community it serves.

Another note, I'd really like to see a mandate that officers live in the communities they police. They may not live 25 miles away. Officers need to be rooted in the communities they serve, so that the success of each member of that community is a reflection of themselves. Let's make it so that serving the community is in the best interest of the officers of the law - not catching the highest number of criminals. That mindset just leads to officers looking for criminals instead of looking for ways to improve their communities and ways to help individuals succeed. Thanks for reading my unedited thoughts on this.

7/1/2020 10:25:45 AM

I am writing to inform you of that at this time I oppose the proposed charter amendment to remove the Police Department fromthe charter. I do not think the question needs to be on the ballot this November. My wife and I have been homeowners in Minneapolis for 34 years and lived here for almost 37 years. The Council's proposal is rash, without thorough and thoughtful community input or discussion. Their approach shows a lack of leadership or common sense as they attempt to make a major change without a plan for public safety. What does it mean to say that the "new" departmen of public safety would use a "holistice, public-health oriented approach"? Or that applicants for the new director's position should have non-law enforcement experience in public health? Also, the Council says

it "may" create a law enforcement division. It does not say that it will. Foolishness! Of course we need law enforcement! To even suggest that we might not have law enforcement officers shows a reckless disregard for my family's safety and the safety of all Minneapolis residents and visitors. What convention, what new business would want to come to Minneapolis?

The Council and Mayor need to address the escalating violence in our city. Who is going to respond to calls of shootings, homicide, burglaries, etc.? Not unarmed social workers. We need changes, but we need a plan for how we change. Ward 8

7/1/2020 10:28:15 AM

no policeman?? I'll never bring my family to another twins, timberwolves or Vikings game ever again. Or home and garden show sportsman show or anything else I've attended in Minneapolis . I'll stay out here with the rocks and cows as comrade Walz claims is all outer Minnesota is. Also give up your armed protection Go it alone. I'm praying for our police nationwide. South Dakota here I come!!

7/1/2020 10:30:26 AM

I believe that the police system is necessary for the Minneapolis community. I realize there has been some dispute on the morality and ethics on the actions of individual police officers, but I do not think this is even close to justifying the disbanding of the entire police department. I hope the city council will use common sense to see that this is necessary, so that America can remain a safe free country, and not become anarchist or communist (since these only lead to terrible things). Thank you!

7/1/2020 10:30:39 AM

The MPD has proven again and again it is more interested in being a punitive invasive force than a resource for our city. True there are some good apples left but the barrel has turned sour. The charter needs to be re-arranges such as the chief of police, mayor and city council have control of the police, not their privately chosen union leader.

The fact that Chauvin could boldly execute George Floyd in broad daylight is an excellent metaphor for what the MPD thinks of our community.

7/1/2020 10:31:25 AM

It is concerning to me there is nothing in this charter regulating the size of the division of law enforcement. If the division of law enforcement is significantly larger than other components of the division of community safety... don't we still have a police force.

7/1/2020 10:31:51 AM

I fully support :

Changing 7.2 (11) a - REPLACE a police department WITH a department of community safety and violence prevention (section 7.3);

Changing 7.3 as proposed to remove full control of Mayor over Community Safety and Violence Prevention (formerly Police) Ward 7

7/1/2020 10:31:56 AM

I disagree with the need to fully defund and remove the police department. This is not to say that transformation isn't needed. It needs to transform to officers to the idea of caring first the community and protecting and the use of force is a last resort. I understand this will not be a quick fix but a plan to move to it is imperative. People in our communities need to understand the police are not the people to handle their squabbles and petty annoyances. The whole notion of defunding and abolishing the police is political pandering and it is ABSOLUTELY wrong. This is an informed opinion that is vetted and supported by key black Minneapolis and St. Paul leaders. LISTEN to them.

7/1/2020 10:31:59 AM

I have lived in South Minneapolis for 30 years. My house is a block and a half off of Lake Street, and my business is 3 blocks from where police brutally killed George Floyd. We lost faith in the police system decades ago. The police are currently engaging in petty bullying tactics of not responding to calls and refusing to do the jobs to serve and protect. We absolutely need to put this before voters I. November.

7/1/2020 10:32:42 AM

Hello, I propose that the word "may" be removed in the sentence, "may maintain a division of law enforcement services."

While I agree that there needs to be massive reform in MPD, I worry that including this word gives the City Council the option to dismantle the police department in its entirety. Massive reform needs to occur in the MPD, as well as a reallocating of funds to community groups working in their neighborhoods to prevent crime and address the underlying causes of it, but if the City Council elected to get rid of the MPD where would that policing burden fall? If we as a city were able to get to a place where we didn't need any policing, then this could be revisited, but we currently don't have the support or structure to support the full dismantling of the police, and having the small word, "may," gives the City Council that power.

Also, I like the idea of creating a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention, but it does not belong in the same department as the police. The police are asked to do too much involving situations with mental health crisis calls, homelessness, substance abuse, and school discipline, and by putting the Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention and Policing together under the same umbrella, it perpetuates many of the problems we currently have. It also further removes the police from direct accountability to the Mayor and City Council, which would be terrible for community oversight of the police. The proposed amendment does not address who would be in charge of police discipline.

7/1/2020 10:33:49 AM

The whole concept of "defunding" or "dismantling" the Minneapolis Police Department is without merit and simply an over-sized case of virtue signaling and pandering to the criminals and "BLM Movement". Letting criminals run free with no repercussions will only serve the criminals and make Minneapolis much less safe.

Just look at the debacle now ongoing in Powderhorn Park where drug abusers, prostitutes and sexual predators are allowed complete freedom and the citizens now cower in fear behind their locked doors.

Try to picture what "reimagining" the police will do to the business community, especially small and mostly family run restaurants and taverns. These businesses are now in the process of fleeing Uptown and Lake Street. Soon, they will flee Downtown and Warehouse District as well, especially if the City Council moves forward with their idiocy.

If this charter amendment is approved and the police are "defunded" I will avoid ever again spending my money or time in the City of Minneapolis. No more concerts, dinners, ballgames, theater or night clubs. And I am far from alone in my thinking.

7/1/2020 10:36:00 AM

Please add the City Council's proposal to the November ballot and let the voices of the community be heard. I support re-envisioning what community safety could be for our future. We do not need the Police to respond to ALL types of calls (domestic abuse, mental health, etc). We need to protect our community from unnecessary deaths and violence that target POC. This is the first step in a true change for our future. Thank you.

7/1/2020 10:36:35 AM

Racial bias in our people and systems is the work of all of us. Community needs to be brought in and need to create the solutions. Surveys don't get at generations of undealt with racial tension. We cannot survey our way to a solution. Organize the people to bring about our own solutions. Create the space for us to determine our needs. Prioritize the voice of Black and Indigenous folks and resource with all that we have.

Imagine if we spent our budget proactive rather than reactive. I believe we can imagine a multi tiered service where well-trained call service providers can determine the services that are needed for each particular event that happens within our city. We need proactive trauma informed mental health, chemical dependency, domestic abuse, and homelessness supports for our community. Obviously violent crimes occur and a group trained in descalation with a tendency for compassion rather than violence is needed.

It is not enough to post a survey on a websire, send a link with a survey, and say you got the feedback of your constituents. The ones who you need to be surveying are least likely to have internet or situations stable enough to provide feedback via a survey. Do ride alongs. Ask questions. Visit and build relationships with people experiencing homelessness. Invite questions. Ride the light rail all night. Sleep there. Visit food banks. Doorknock with the intention of understanding and not the extraction of votes. I believe many of you do and have. We have a renewed commitment to invite those who don't get to experience those things to do them. Ask your constituents to join you. If the response of your ward was to give and read or watch to understand rather than advocate for change than there is lots of work to push your constituents to build relationships with those who were. Do that work. Lead that path.

7/1/2020 10:37:14 AM

I am deeply concerned about the language of the charter amendment. From what I have heard and read about it, it does not change much in terms of leadership and who will have power over public safety decisions. The amendment needs to include accountability to the community. The people need to be listened to and heard.

I am so glad the City Council has moved forward on abolishing the police and is working to create a new model for safety, but let's do it right. Let's make real change. Listen to leaders from the Black community and orgs that have been working on these issues for decades.

7/1/2020 10:37:26 AM

I appreciate the Council's desire to bring transformation to Mpls Law Enforcement, but I completely DISAGREE and DO NOT SUPPORT the abolish the police initiative. Sadly, the Council has failed in its role to bring thoughtful leadership to vital issues and has instead taken the path of political expediency. While I expect this type of action from Trump, I certainly expect more thoughtful and intelligent leadership from our City Council.

Key Black community and faith leaders were not consulted when developing this plan, and that is simply unacceptable. Furthermore, the Council has itself played into the problem by not supporting the Chief and his tireless efforts at police transformation. Is the Council completely unwilling to take-on and replace the current policy union/federation? To me, they are the heart of the issue. I fully realize that the DFL is beholden to union support. But, even the national union leadership is no longer supporting the Mpls Police Federation. So, it's time to remove them and support the chief.

In addition, law enforcement needs accountability. In current structure, accountability lies with the chief and then the mayor. We cannot replace these clear lines of accountability with "mgmt by committee".

In summary:

- \* it's time for leadership courage: end the "abolish the police" experiment
- \* empower the chief and his transformation efforts
- \* recognize that many in the black community need the police even if the force is not loved
- \* develop a plan that recognizes the real dangers of organized crime, drugs, gang warfare and bring transformation to a police dept that can provide community policing
- \* ensure clear and strong lines of accountability

it's time to LEAD and develop a real plan to develop transformed, effective and community-focused law enforcement & service.

Mpls I do support the effort to better address mental health and its impact on law enforcement.

7/1/2020 10:37:54 AM

Dear Charter Commission members,

I am deeply in favor of the proposed charter amendment that would remove the police department and instead establish a Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department.

As an 8 year (white) resident of Minneapolis, I know that the Minneapolis Police Department has failed to keep my Black, Indigenous, and neighbors of color safe.

As an analyst for Hennepin County government with a Master of Public Policy degree from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, I have studied the damaging effects of police practices in our community.

Reforming MPD has not worked. De-escalation training, banning Warrior training, body cameras, and civilian oversight have done nothing to dismantle the institutionalized racism in the department. Even after these changes, Minneapolis police still use force against Black residents 7 times more frequently than they use force against white residents.

Minneapolis police cost the taxpayers millions of dollars in civil suits for misconduct. MPD's budget continues to grow each year, taking away much needed funds for programs that ACTUALLY keep our neighbors safe and healthy: public health programs, mental health resources, economic assistance, and affordable housing.

MPD's organizational culture is toxic and dangerous, violent, destructive, and expensive. Minneapolis residents will never be able to trust MPD to keep them safe. We cannot afford to allow MPD to continue their racist reign of terror in our city.

It is well past time that our City Charter reflects what our BIPOC neighbors have been calling for for years - a community-led reimagining of community safety, a reallocation of resources so that we can correct hundreds of years of racist polices that have prevented BIPOC residents from accessing education, jobs, and housing, and a restoration of Minneapolis residents' trust in each other to keep our communities safe.

It's time to change the charter. Let the residents of Minneapolis have their voices heard in November.

In community, Ward 8

7/1/2020 10:38:03 AM

Please don't throw the baby out with the bath water! Don't dissolve the police department. Figure out how to better discipline the officers who mistreat residents.

Public safety is too important for residents and the business community for it become a political football. Ward 13

7/1/2020 10:38:57 AM

City Council Members,

I have deep concerns about the charter amendment with regards to police accountability, which is one of the primary concerns of Minneapolis residents on this issue. The amendment being proposed doesn't designate a party responsible for police discipline, which appears essential for this to move forward in an organized, constructive fashion.

Based on the wording, some law enforcement will be retained, and I believe we need a clear understanding of how they'll be held accountable and who they'll be accountable to.

It's clear that we've reached a point where we need lasting changes that serve the needs of our community. To do that effectively, I believe that this amendment must be pushed to committee and receive a public hearing.

7/1/2020 10:40:43 AM

I am in support of this amendment! It's time we develop a modern approach to public safety.

7/1/2020 10:41:38 AM

Customers were starting to return to my Downtown Minneapolis skyway office, almost to 70% of normal. Now with the more intense talk of defunding the police department it's back to about half. People who have come to see me regularly for years, through COVID and the Protests, have not rescheduled going forward, stating a combination of their concerns for security and disgust with the city of Minneapolis for considering this.

Everyone understands the word "change" but that's not how this is being presented and it has people scared. It doesn't matter if their concerns are silly or not as the end result is the same, people not coming to downtown Minneapolis. As you know we already have enough problems, this is compounding it.

I've done business downtown for about 17 years and it looks like this could be the end of that road for me, not because I want to leave but because financially it doesn't look possible. Losing me is no big deal, I'm a small fish, but this is far bigger than me and my business. Each one of us that leaves makes the skyways that much emptier and that much less appealing to somebody else. The fewer people the more people fear for their safety. (Customers who come in on Saturday mornings often mention how eerie/scary it feels because it's so empty, now every day is like that) Add to that taking away police officers, or even talking about it, and people who were happy at the idea of returning to their downtown office are now more content with the idea of staying home for work and doing their business in their home community.

And the cycle continues, fewer people means fewer customers, meaning fewer businesses, meaning fewer customers. In my building the tally stands at 5 of 13 businesses are closed for good. I don't want to be #6 but this decision will not make it easy to remain here, and again not because I want to leave but because my customers don't want to come downtown.

7/1/2020 10:42:51 AM

I am strongly in support of deep revision to our policing, and agree that this should be the decision of voters. Thanks to the city council for its fine work these past weeks.

7/1/2020 10:43:16 AM

Please put the proposed charter on the ballot now. The only hope we have of enacting large-scale reform involves changing our charter. Giving the citizens the opportunity to amend the charter now is critical. We can't wait any longer for the opportunity to reform our police department. The current police department has failed us, and we need to create a new system that reduces the amount of conflict, injury, and death that is currently inflicted upon us by our police. Ward 6

7/1/2020 10:43:36 AM

I grew up in Northeast Minneapolis and went to high school in South Minneapolis. I have always seen homeless encampments and I have seen them grow. As I'm sure you know, many of the people living in these groups are families that have lost their housing for some reason or another.

It is extremely disheartening that the city thinks the solution to the encampments is to limit how many tents can be in parks, and to limit the number of parks that will allow tents. This suggests that the real concern of the city is removing the homeless population, not helping them. Any proposal made to address these encampments should be led by a solution to help them find housing, or relocate to a safe

area that does not remove them from their neighborhood. I have had friends live in encampments, even as children and teenagers. They need their community. The encampments act as a safe community in many cases.

Any plan that is made needs to reflect the different populations living within the encampments. There are people that have ended up there for various reasons and the city should be finding out how they got there to correct the problem. Not hiding them from the public eye.

Ruling to only allow 10 tents per park, and only allow certain parks to house the community is disgusting. These are people. The proposition of this plan tells me that the city does not care about these people, and my concern is that it will lead others to treat them worse than they're treated now. I want answers to my next questions: what happens to everyone else that isn't one of those ten tents? If they are in a park will they be arrested? Will they be told to leave and find a different park? Will they be harassed and have their possessions thrown away?

What are the current plans to provide a safe living space for these people?

7/1/2020 10:45:28 AM

38 year Minneapolis resident, [REDACTED]

I am 100% behind a TRANSFORMATION of the police department. It is deeply needed.

However, I am opposed to abolishing, defunding or any other type of social experiment to be placed upon the backs of our neighborhoods. Shootings are on the uptick here in our city, and my neighborhood, and my neighbors are scared of what a lawless city would look like.

In short, I am opposed to the City Charter amendment done without a plan in place, lack of community input/dialogue, or significant studies to not just be a reactionary, symbolic approach to a very complicated matter. PLEASE DO NOT put this charter on the ballot this year! Minneapolis, MN

7/1/2020 10:46:32 AM

I would like to see the policing organization be community health and safety oriented. I would like the 'police' to be recruited from non-traditional careers. maybe social workers, healthcare, teaching. People who have shown a commitment to caring for and about their neighbors.

7/1/2020 10:48:04 AM

I strongly approve of this amendment, and will happily vote for it this November - assuming that there is a process in place to ensure that the Safety & Violence Prevention Department does not simply replicate the behavior of, and rehire officers from, the current Police Department. We need a clean break, and we need assurances that things are going to be handled better.

7/1/2020 10:48:32 AM

I would like more information on who will be involved in the community of safety and violence prevention program. What funding they will receive? What is the plan on how to keep the community safe and prevent violence? I also would like to understand why is it so hard to defund the police and reconstruct the system. Clean up house and hire candidates who pass background checks, drug screenings, and who have compassion to care for protect and serve the North Minneapolis community. I feel like it's a slap in the face to abolish police as if they are saying, if we can't handle the people the way

we've been handling them (brutally, discriminatory, Injusticely) then we don't want to be police no more. As a advocate for children who live in North Minneapolis who have to grow up in poverty and disparities. They have to grow up with parents who need mental health care and basic training and resources to live. The odds are against them from day one from their skin color to poverty. How is the system going to make life easier on them?

7/1/2020 10:49:19 AM

Beyond the fact that this is an absurd proposal, this amendment is putting considerable power into the hands of 13 folks in which no one is particularly accountable. Managing by committee is fantastic when no one wants to be accountable.

The current set of councilors received an average of 4,688 votes from their wards. Having those folks make the decision for a city of 425,000 with no experience or accountability is egregious.

I would propose a different charter. How about we move away from a weak mayor model to a strong mayor. This will give your constituents a clear understanding of who is accountable. The counclors should be limited to activities specific to their wards. Ward 7

7/1/2020 10:49:45 AM

I am in favor of this charter amendment and want to see it on the 2020 ballot. We need to move forward toward a new model of citizen safety in Minneapolis and a commitment to dismantling white supremacy in our city, state and country. We need to move swiftly to ensure that not another civilian is killed by police brutality.

7/1/2020 10:50:12 AM

Change the charter! Replace the MPD with a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Ward 3

7/1/2020 10:50:17 AM

Hello- as a family that lives in the suburbs, we are very concerned with the chaos and unrest in the wonderful city of Minneapolis. We will not be frequenting the area for sporting events, theatre, art or dining in the future if the police force does not have a strong presence. It just doesn't feel safe for our family. I understand the theory behind the community groups wanting to take charge and make change - but I don't believe they will have what it takes to deal with the gangs and other intense crime. I hope the police force stays, regains control and hopefully we can again enjoy Minneapolis.

7/1/2020 10:50:31 AM

Melrose Park

7/1/2020 10:50:34 AM

Questions: What are "licensed peace officers"? Who will hold these positions and how are they trained? Where else in the United States is this new method of Safety being practiced? What are the stats on the crime rates and economic impact in these cities pre/post the application of these practices? How will instances of violence, such as the shooting that occurred in Uptown, be prevented and managed? who will be at the scene, the licensed peace officers? Will they be able to use force as needed? Are they unarmed?

Comments: I am a homeowner in the East Isles neighborhood near Lake of the Isles, and I love this community and city very much. While I do believe there needs to be reform in our law enforcement practices, I do not believe it is wise to replace the police department with something else that has yet to be defined. Unfortunately, we do not live in a world where all people have positive intent, and people have easy access to weapons in this country. We've already been experiencing increased levels of unrest, and violent crimes taking place in our city. If we were to have less security in our city or even signal that we will, I worry about the even higher levels of unrest and crime in our city. I am an immigrant and now US citizen, and I have to say that while people don't realize it, our safety here in the USA and MN is very strong. The type of unrest that I've experienced outside the USA in Latin America is not something that you can imagine nor want to see happen here. And trust me, things can go south very quickly once rules and law enforcement are relaxed. This is not a time to experiment with our community's safety, as our city continues to grow and attract people from other cities knowing that things will be more "relaxed" in Minneapolis. In addition, please do not forget about all of the companies that are represented in this city which currently sell to Target headquarters. I work for one of them, and I'll tell you that if we don't have traditional police around, there's a high chance these satellite offices will consider relocating to other parts of MN or other states. This will result in less business in the city of Minneapolis which attracts a lot of professionals to our city which in turn helps our economy. We cannot take such drastic measures in our policing based on a few instances that were not handled well. That's where reform to certain practices helps to prevent these instances from reoccurring. These decisions do not only impact the police department, it impacts our safety as we know it today, quality of life in Minneapolis, property values, and overall economy...let's not create a Detroit #2 in our own backyard. Finally, the only thing we can truly control are laws and the consequences for breaking them. Just because we dismantle our police department, doesn't mean that acts of violence or racism will not reoccur. It's up to the individual, and it can happen anywhere (a teacher, a bus driver or an executive). If we have stricter laws and consequences, we can do much more. Thank you for taking the time to evaluate a different perspective, and for considering all the potential consequences.

7/1/2020 10:51:05 AM

For way too long, we've been using police to address problems that arise from poverty and inadequate public services. The Minneapolis Police Department is an unaccountable institution that has a record of terrorizing people of color in Minneapolis. It is not reform-able. It must be abolished and replaced with programs and policies that address the root causes of crime and other social problems.

For these reasons, I support allowing the citizens of Minneapolis to vote on this amendment to the city charter in November. Ward 3

7/1/2020 10:54:15 AM

Until we take the responsibility of rigorously listening to experts in the field in of community safety and violence prevention, namely women who are black, or indigenous, we will be recycling the toxic ethos of the same system of policing that has brutalized our city, and left the Minneapolis Police Union unaccountable for its heinous violation of human life. Time after time, the city council and the Mayor continue to do nothing to hold people accountable, and give empty solutions that don't reflect the communities That need the most justice in our community. You need to recall Mike Freeman, by any means necessary, and appoint a leader from our BIPOC community in Minneapolis.

7/1/2020 10:54:31 AM

As someone who grew up in South Minneapolis with strong ties to the businesses and community, the thought of no longer having a Police Department is absurd.

What happened to George Floyd was unacceptable that we can all agree on. But it was due to the actions of 1 man. One person should not take down an entire Public Safety department. The citizens of Minneapolis need law and order. They need to feel safe going to the store, going to walk their dog or in their own home. Since the incident happened, alot of residents no longer feel safe. The police will protect but they have to be cautious. Crime is up. By removing the police department, you are putting the community at risk. Keep the police department and reform it. Weed out the bad characters. Provide education to parents, product education to youth on what is right and what is wrong. Offer better mental health support for those that are troubled.

The 3 city Council members having private security is unfair to taxpayers. Let them see what it's like to live in fear every day since May 25 to live in Minneapolis. Let them see what it's like to worry about your parent on a daily basis just because they live in the city.

I have so much to say but I can't find the words. I am scared for Minneapolis and scared to what our state has become. Please, come up with other solutions but do not defund the police. They do so much for so little.

7/1/2020 10:54:49 AM

The cops are more danger than help. We need more social programs instead.

7/1/2020 10:54:52 AM

Commissioners: I support referring the proposed charter amendment to the voters in November. Please let the people of Minneapolis decide, and do not delay on this urgent issue. Powderhorn Park Ward 9

7/1/2020 10:55:07 AM

My life plan for the last 4 years or so has been to move from Western Wisconsin to Minneapolis in 2025 or so. 3 block walk to the light rail and 3 block walk to a craft brewery was/is my goal. The more I learn about the weak mayor system and the changes proposed to the Minneapolis charter, the more I think I may just stay put in WI. Safety was a slight concern before- using the light rail and dealing with homeless people with mental health issues and never seeing a police officer around to help was already bad, Your plan to eliminate the police force goes to far. De-militarize them, re-train them, get rid of the union so you can get rid of the cops that don't belong on the force, spend some of that money on mental health professionals out on the street- but you can't just not have cops. They serve a purpose and maybe it is a false, but they provide a sense of security. A better plan would be to make the mayor have the power- that way change can be made relatively quickly as opposed to having to change the entire council over.  
Ward 3

7/1/2020 10:55:41 AM

I've been doing a lot of reflection on the proposed change in the city charter to disband the police and replace them with a community safety department.

I'll admit, when I first saw that they voted to disband police, I thought we got a win. I wanted to believe we got a win. I thought maybe, just maybe this would give us the foundation to build a community safety model that works for the most marginalized among us.

But, like so many of my comrades in this fight for racial justice, I am skeptical. This isn't abolition. And I fear we will just replicate the oppressive systems already in place with a new name. Especially given that the proposed amendment calls for licensed peace officers. New lipstick; same pigs.

Community-led community safety is the only way forward. I believe we can do it. We've already been doing it since the Drake fire and since COVID-19 put so many in our community in harms way. Ward 8

7/1/2020 10:55:49 AM

I am in favor of an amendment that removes the police department, but I am not in favor the current language that allows for the potential of police officers being involved in the new Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. The whole conversation during the past few weeks has been centered on the facts that police officers and law enforcement perpetuate violence in our communities and do not keep people safe. It does not make any sense to allow the involvement of these individuals in the new Violence Prevention Department.

We need a radical new form of community safety and violence prevention. We do not need a new police department that simply goes by a different name. Radical change calls for radical action. Do not allow include language in the proposed amendment that allows for the involvement of police officers.

7/1/2020 10:55:54 AM

We need a fully funded and functioning police department to enforce laws already voted on and established in our state.

The best way to prevent crime is to strengthen families. If you want to encourage strong nuclear families that is also fine but that does not remove the need for a fully functioning police department. Ward 2

7/1/2020 10:56:12 AM

Access to safety when receiving care at the Children's Hospital is crucial. How is a parent suppose to balance the safety of their children and the care that child needs. This is a ridiculous proposal that endangers the health and safety of all visitors of Minneapolis. I think I can speak for most of Greater MN when I say that we enjoy our visits to your beautiful city even when it is caused by a tragedy and one of your hospitals need to be utilized. You may right now think you are being progressive but all cities require tourist transactions to survive. The big corporations will survive, the only damage you are doing is to your small business. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 10:56:24 AM

I lived in Minnesota for the first 29 years of my life and lived in Minneapolis for roughly 5 of those years. Some of my family live in and very near to Minneapolis. I'm fearful for their safety if there are no police officers to help maintain order in the city. The fear I feel is directly related to what you've proposed as a replacement for the police department. I believe a more useful, sustainable and even-handed solution would be to change the police department in similar ways to what Camden, NJ as done. Some of the changes Camden made may not work for Minneapolis, but most seem universal in their implementation and application. Please read more about these changes in the following article. Thank you for your consideration. <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2020/06/12/camden-policing-reforms-313750>

7/1/2020 10:57:17 AM

We find it incomprehensible that the City Council of Minneapolis would even consider disbanding their Police Department. There are a very small percentage of bad eggs in every organization. Punish them not the people of this state. We will feel unsafe to come to Minneapolis and St Paul, as we often have done in the past if you follow this ill advised path. What will you have accomplished, you will have made every citizen in outlying area's fear full to come to the cities. Punish the rioters as well.

7/1/2020 10:58:06 AM

Dear Charter Commission,

I am a Minneapolis resident living in Cedar Riverside (55454).

I stand in strong solidarity with the calls to disband the Minneapolis Police Department and have in its place a community-created public health and safety initiative with transparent accountability-keeping measures. This is my call, too. From learning of the origins and history--both recent and less so--of this toxic organization, I understand that it has traumatized Minneapolis' Native, Black, and minority communities for far too long.

I understand that this department has rendered itself ineffective by brutalizing communities and destroying their trust. I understand that by failing to undertake earnest investigative measures, like the testing of rape kits, the MPD has stood in opposition to justice. The Minneapolis Police Department not only fails to protect us here in Minneapolis, the MPD has also proved itself an agent of harm to the very people it is meant to serve.

HOWEVER, I am concerned that this amendment is NOT the robust, fail-proof, community-created change to our city's constitution that we need. At least not yet.

Below are some recommended steps I feel would be helpful in this moment:

1. Please invite representatives from MPD\_150, CUAPB, the Twin Cities Coalition for Justice 4 Jamar, Reclaim the Block, and Black Visions Collective to this discussion. These organizations, along with the protesters in the street and the late George Floyd (RIP), are the very reason we are able to have this important and hopeful conversation. Engage with them and let them teach and lead you!!!
2. Make clear what type of "officers" will be employed and WHO will be responsible for overseeing them.
3. Make explicit that MPD Officers will NOT be considered to fill these roles.
4. Outline the accountability processes for "officers" who the community feels are dangerous to their safety--make it LAW!!

Thank you for removing the funding/population requirement--I believe that must go to allow for meaningful change.

Can you imagine the possibilities? What if we created the most transparent, accountable, competent and SAFE peace-keeping organization this nation has ever seen? What if these peace-keepers were well-trained and unarmed and nonviolent? What if they were representative of the communities they served? What if they were specialized in the kind of crisis to which they were responding? What if we coupled this with a city or state-led "buy-back" program to help reduce firearms in Minnesota? (People need money, now.) What if we prioritized legitimate investigative initiatives, like the timely processing of rape kits? What if we created the Floyd Flock of PeaceKeepers and consequently changed how this

city, state, and country keeps people safe? What if we did this with COMMUNITY input and buy-in? What if we did all of this--and MORE--in his name? In THEIR names? George Floyd, Travis Jordan, Thurman Blevins, Justine Ruszczyk Damond, Jamar Clark, Terrance Franklin, David Smith, & so many more. Please let them rest in peace, knowing that another MPD will not ever again wreak havoc and terror in our city and in our families and in our hearts.

Thank you for taking this comment seriously. Thank you, too, for taking swift and united action on this, but PLEASE engage more thoroughly with the community. This call to action emerged from the community and should be shaped by the community. This is a profound and powerful moment--we must rise to the occasion.

7/1/2020 10:59:10 AM

At the same time City Council Members are proposing defunding and reducing police protection from the citizens of Minneapolis, you are hiring private security for your personal protection and billing that protection to the citizens of your city!

Interesting sense of justice you have for being "public servants". I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 10:59:27 AM

I am in support of this charter amendment. I, however, am not in support of the potential for police officers to have a say in how the department is transformed and dismantled. We need stronger language to exclude current and former law enforcement officers from leading the new department. Additionally, we cannot allow for the ability to create the Division of Protective Law Enforcement Services, which would mean that the new Department of Community Safety would have the option to maintain a much smaller police force under the control of the new Director of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Police will fight hard to hijack and regain control in this process, and if we are to truly dismantle the MPD, the process and subsequent solutions must be completely police-free.

7/1/2020 10:59:47 AM

I am opposed to the complete destruction of the police department and believe we would be better served by removing problem officers and the police union VS completely dismantling the entire thing. Yes, change the way policing happens. But do not get rid of them completely. No matter what system you put in place, it will be controlled by fallible humans, capable of corruption. Make it harder to get away with corrupt actions and easier to be held accountable by the citizens of Minneapolis. It doesn't have to be all or nothing.

7/1/2020 10:59:59 AM

I think that if you pay an organization \$190M they should demonstrate they have a high level of effectiveness.

This has not happened.

Firstly, the MPD has had numerous failures where they have murdered people who did not commit crimes.

Secondly, when the city burned they were completely ineffective.

Thirdly, since the city burned they've not been able to stop violent crimes happening right IN FRONT of them; the uptown shooting stands out.

Fourthly, for decades they have demonstrated that they are unwilling to take actions that would allow them to reform their awful behavior, continually justifying murdering innocent people with an attitude that their lives matter more than the rest of us.

I am of the belief that in addition to being completely ineffective, they are also being drawn into too many areas of life where they do not have expertise.

1. We need to have counselors available for dealing with people who are experiencing mental health issues. People not only trained in de-escalation, but also trained in non-violent responses to people suffering a mental health issue.
2. For non-violent drug offenders, we need to again have counselors that can offer support, rather than immediately having armed people deal with the situation.
3. For homeless people again we need specialized counseling teams that can assist them, and perhaps better budgeting for dealing with that situation.
4. Cats in trees? There is absolutely not need for police to participate in this situation.
5. Domestic disputes, pending on what is actually happening we might need intervention from people trained to deal with violence...but also it's important to have counselors available for both violent and non-violent situations to provide the victims with assistance.
6. Rape and sexual assault. Unless the rape or sexual assault is actively happening a victim needs a counselor to help them with what just happened; not a police officer. Police officers in this city and others have a long history of being more harmful than helpful in these situations.
7. Active violent crimes. This is one area where people trained to respond to violence should be present. However our MPD recently have displayed to us that they are ineffective at this. Did any of us feel safer as the city burned down? Which was in response to actions they took in the first place.
8. Community building and trust. Obviously during recent events, it is really clear that the MPD on the whole are pathetic at this task. Shooting tear gas and rubber bullets at your community does not result in trust.

In addition the city is constantly having to pay for their mistakes with lawsuits due to their ridiculous behavior on the job.

Perhaps we could take that \$190M and figure out a budget that prioritizes all the issues that the MPD deals with ineffectively and includes a significantly smaller budget for effective response to violent crimes that will not accrue a very large number of lawsuits against them, or keep murdering innocent people.

7/1/2020 11:00:23 AM

I have lived in Minneapolis for 35 years and have always felt safe and protected. This idea of "defunding" the police and totally revamping what the system looks like that provides protection for our community is incredibly scary. Scary because I haven't seen any realistic ideas or plans, it all appears to be a thin facade of lip service. Please cease the lip service until a solid plan has been created with all of the community partners/agencies/officials. The result of this "defunding" propaganda is going to be

more chaos for the city when it results in people moving out of the city, businesses leaving/closing (this has already started to happen). We don't need a fast plan, we need a good solid plan. This is something I will own, I have not been very vigilant when electing city council members but I will definitely make sure I do my due diligence in the future. The current council seems to be full of people that aren't grounded in reality.

7/1/2020 11:01:55 AM

I support this fully and I am excited for a safer future for all of us. Thank you, city council! Ward 10

7/1/2020 11:02:28 AM

This proposal does not call for clearly defined accountability for any police officers. How does that make it different? It will be putting more stress on people who are already overworked, stressed and scared, and create further divide in our community.

PLEASE reformat this charter before you make things WORSE.

7/1/2020 11:05:39 AM

Please give the community more time and involvement in this process. As it will affect community members wholly, there is language in your writing that is vague and less extreme than the community wants. Make more concrete room for alternatives to policing!

7/1/2020 11:05:43 AM

Please use common sense. Do not defund the police!!! You are taking this too far!

7/1/2020 11:06:41 AM

I want to ensure that the new department would not be run by the same leadership as the current police department. I want to ensure that peace officers live in the community where they work. I ask that you make sure BIPOC are included in the development of a new department and also younger people.

7/1/2020 11:06:57 AM

I support the proposed amendment to remove the Police Department and establish a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. Please defund the Minneapolis Police Department and fund community and social services. I worked to keep my neighborhood safe after George Floyd was murdered. The police were not helpful or supportive. Fund the community, not a band of disconnected militants from the suburbs who do not respect us or care about the residents of Minneapolis.

7/1/2020 11:09:15 AM

Any changes to the charter need to make police accountability clear and allow for community input from the communities affected by the change. We need to get this right for our Minneapolis. Please do not push forward an unclear amendment. Take the time to get it right to make our city safer. Steps outside of the charter can be taken NOW to make things better. Please keep the communities who need these changes at the center of your decisions and get them involved. Give them time to be fully informed and share what their communities need for a safe future.

7/1/2020 11:09:45 AM

The Minneapolis police department, like all large metropolitan police departments nationwide, has become bloated with an excessive payroll of officers being asked to address problems they are not trained or equipped to handle, and with methods that are increasingly indistinguishable from an occupation force. Today, we spend more than twice as much money on so-called law enforcement than on all forms of public assistance (Source: Saez and Zucman, "The Triumph of Injustice"). The 1033 program has benefited the MPD, which is to say it has harmed state residents, for decades, by providing military equipment to officers with no real use for them but state-terror. With things like Federal Byrne grants (increased twelvefold under the Obama-bailout), we have similarly escalated a war on blacks and hispanics that masquerades as a war on drugs (Source: Michelle Alexander, The New Jim Crow). Today, SWAT teams conduct more than 40,000 no-knock raids a year, killing hundreds of Americans for victimless crimes (Source: "Rise of the Warrior Cop", Radley Balko). At the same time as we have escalated the use of force, we have removed even the pretense of accountability for officers by way of qualified immunity, sweet-deal police union contracts, and similar tactics.

Police suspicion is no excuse for extra-judicial murder.

I am firmly of the belief that there are many things we as a society can afford to have that we are told we are unable to afford (worker's rights, a humane immigration system, universal healthcare, an actual social safety net, retirement with dignity, etc) yet in the case of the police the cost to society is so tangibly greater than the benefit that I am unconvinced we can have (let alone should have) anything like the police in its modern form. It will never be clear to me how saying that Black Lives Matter constitutes a political statement, rather than merely expressing a human right. I urge you to liquidate the MPD and allow nothing like its current character to reemerge. We must end mass-incarceration, end the war on drugs, treat drug addiction as a mental health issue (as the international community has been pleading for years) and provide jobs and housing to those we have victimized for the last 401 years. To do that, we must have the intellectual honesty to admit that black lives have not historically mattered, and the courage and resolve to ensure that they will, now and for all time. Abolishing the police is the first of many necessary steps towards that end.

This is the noble message that myself and hundreds of thousands of others have been willing to be repeatedly beaten, maced, tear-gassed, and arrested to say.

7/1/2020 11:10:20 AM

I will not be coming to Minneapolis anymore with the chaos in your city. Both Minneapolis and St Paul has gone crazy! Your agenda will fail!

7/1/2020 11:11:14 AM

This is beyond what anyone needs STOP and fix real problems Arrest the people who created all the damages to my property Ward 7

7/1/2020 11:11:47 AM

I am in favor of the proposed amendment to the City Charter to defund the Minneapolis Police Department and envision a future where everyone in our community feels safe and protected. Ward 1

7/1/2020 11:13:06 AM

Please move ahead with the reorganizing and replacing the MPD with a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Too long safety has been in jeopardy. It is time for thoughtful action! Ward 4

7/1/2020 11:13:40 AM

As an Apple Valley, MN resident, I think that it is a horrible idea to dismantle the Minneapolis police department. Reform may be necessary, but removal is not. Without a police department, people will be fearful of coming into the city from the suburbs for sporting events, concerts, or even a night on the town. I cannot imagine anyone wanting to live in an area without police either. Please reconsider.

7/1/2020 11:14:22 AM

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 11:14:26 AM

I am against a charter amendment to defund the police in Minneapolis.

The council is too powerful as it is and does not listen to the majority of its constituents - they are pandering to the crowd - a crowd which intimidates opposing opinions, often with violence. We need the police for protection and think the police chief should be given an opportunity to change from within.

The council does not have a plan in place and giving them any more power than they have now (for example overseeing the police) would be sheer recklessness. We need to be safe in Minneapolis and giving the council power to do away with the police force would be counterproductive.

7/1/2020 11:14:30 AM

I'm against the Charter amendment as it stands. If the proposed amendment included language stating that the Council SHALL fund a REFORMED police department, many more of us in North Minneapolis, which has been undergoing an almost unprecedented increase in violence this spring and summer, would probably vote for the change.

I'm also against the appointment of a leader of any law enforcement office having to report to the entire City Council. 13 bosses is 12 too many. The Council already has too much power and uses not enough input from the communities it represents.

7/1/2020 11:14:33 AM

I work in Minneapolis as a registered hospice nurse in these effected neighborhoods. My family and friends live here. I also live right on the border of Minneapolis and Saint Paul. I have been working with the non profit organization called A Mother's Love and have seen the uptick of gun violence on the community. My concern is who is going to answer to the shootings and gang related activity if we totally dismantle the police department? Will the public safety department be equipped to deal with this? I have faith in Chief Arradondo and believe he can make real change. If it is dismantled, I still would like to see him as a lead. I don't want to completely get rid of the police but I do think there needs to be a complete overhaul, with new officers, trainings and increased education to 4 year degrees.

7/1/2020 11:14:35 AM

We are serious and we expect quick action. Even outside of Minneapolis. This city is near and dear to my heart and change is expected! don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 11:15:22 AM

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

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

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

7/1/2020 11:15:35 AM

I fully support the charter amendment and want our city government to have all the tools available to them as they transform policing. The current structure does not distribute oversight and responsibility in a way most accountable and transparent to the people. The mayor and council are currently constrained from meaningful action by our restrictive charter language and it needs to change if we ever hope to reign in the abuses of MPD. Ward 1

7/1/2020 11:16:12 AM

This seems like something that should be well thought out and an actual plan in place. Instead we are rushing to pass something without any plan or idea how it will work. Three of the city council members are getting extra security while they are trying to take security from the people of Minneapolis, it doesn't make sense. The city council should be working with a clear head instead of a knee jerk reaction, which could harm the citizens of Minneapolis.

7/1/2020 11:16:25 AM

The proposed charter amendment is flawed in that it:

1. does not indicate clearly who is responsible for police discipline,
2. includes ineffective language (i.e. proposed wording of Section 7.3(b) states "The Council MAY maintain a division of law enforcement services, composed of licensed peace officers..." while subd. 1 states "The director...SHALL appoint the director of the division of law enforcement services..." )

3. and most importantly the City Council has not allowed for nearly enough public input.

Two days is not enough time to receive public comments, and the public should be allowed to attend hearings.

I urge the Charter Commission to engage with the public to create an effective amendment, and in the meantime the City Council and Mayor should move forward NOW with actions to rein in the MPD and hold them accountable. They should start by dismantling the ineffective Office of Police Conduct Review 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 11:17:00 AM

I support the removal of Police Department and establishment of a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department BUT I believe the wording of the Charter Amendment will intentionally sway most voters to vote NO, by including the phrase "...removal of the Police Department." This implies that there will be no more protective services. I would like to see the Charter Amendment re-worded with more accurate and productive language such as, "replace", "evolve", or "re-imagine". Thank you.

7/1/2020 11:17:05 AM

I strongly request that the Charter Commission reject the City Council's proposed charter amendment.

Instead, the Commission should recommend that the Council work with the mayor to improve oversight of the police department and confront the tyranny of the police union.

Witness the MASSIVE increased in violence and misbehavior since the City Council foolishly stated that they would abolish the police department. Minneapolis has become a more dangerous place to live and work. We need to support the 99% of good police officers in the city, or the city will become a ghost town.

Just to provide one example of the effect of the City Council's proposal. My office mates and I have decided to leave our office In the North Loop BEFORE our lease expires. The increase in violence and potential disruptions in the City of Minneapolis are the drivers of our decision. There are many options for our office in neighboring cities that have fully funded and supported police departments.

The City Council's politically motivated, knee-jerk reaction to Recent events should not be supported by the Charter Commission.

7/1/2020 11:18:03 AM

I will be moving to Minneapolis before the end of the month and am excited to once again be a part of this wonderful city. I am hopeful that a community focused solution will be better than what is currently available. But I have some concerns about the language that is used. I want to make sure that this isn't something that can be worked around and truly makes the community a safer place.

7/1/2020 11:18:40 AM

The amendment should not be placed in front of the voters until a plan is in place. This plan should be made in partnership with the community and community leadership.

7/1/2020 11:18:51 AM

I oppose any defunding of the polo without a written plan that includes law enforcement to provide safety. The assumption that violent crime goes away with more social workers is erroneous. Serial killers, drug dealers, rapists, and pedophiles are not going to stop. We don't live in a vacuum either. Hypocritical that you are willing to gamble our safety while you hire private security at our expense

7/1/2020 11:19:31 AM

We need police protection and not devolve to lawlessness and vigilantism. Well the culture of the police needs to be modified so as not to allow inhumane treatment of offenders by a few bad actors you don't want to create an environment wherein criminals are free to act unchecked against society. I agree with the Mayor Jacob Frey. I don't believe we can reasonably support changing the charter without a specific and well written plan. The attempt to push though a plan just to meet a deadline with no structure or clarity doesn't make any sense. Getting rid of this amendment gives complete power to the council to do whatever changes they want. They want us to trust them, I certainly don't.

Reform, retrain and re-educate but do not abolish the police.

7/1/2020 11:20:31 AM

I am supporting of defunding the MPD, to be replaced with a community safety & violence prevention department. I want to stress the need for additional language to prohibit current or former law enforcement officers from holding leadership positions within this new department.

I am willing to vote for the charter should it materially guarantee a NEW department of community safety; the city will not support transferring all current officers into this new department, essentially renaming the MPD. The change must start with the people & practices, not start & end with the name of the department.

7/1/2020 11:23:51 AM

Your hasty push for amendments aimed at removing MPD without a replacement plan or staff in place is reckless and dangerous. This last month, we have already seen the results of a reduced police presence – skyrocketing murder, shootings and car-jackings to name a few. Our beautiful and diverse city is becoming unlivable.

This process should be additive; develop a well-trained and unarmed community safety force to work alongside the existing MPD first. This effort can be expanded based on results. Anything less than this jeopardizes the viability of the City.

We all want an improved Police Department – burning it to the ground in time for a November ballot during these challenging times is pure hubris. I do not support this amendment nor the precedent that is sets for the future. Ward 3

7/1/2020 11:24:14 AM

I support the charter amendment.

Let us discuss as a community and vote.

7/1/2020 11:24:40 AM

I work in Minneapolis. I have reviewed the changes and I believe the establishment of the office of community safety and violence prevention is to the benefit of residents and visitors. I support this change. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 11:25:12 AM

I believe that a police reform would be of great value to the city of Minneapolis and the rest of America, i believe that is is the first step towards a racially just America

7/1/2020 11:25:19 AM

If you think removing the police department will actually stop crime and make people safer, you are insane. People won't feel safe in Minneapolis and won't come into the city to do anything. If the police department is removed, I will move out of the city.

7/1/2020 11:25:28 AM

The proposed charter amendment is irresponsible and too hastily prepared. We are not dumb. It was clearly not written with NECESSARY INPUT AND APPROVAL from Black Visions Collective, MPD 150, Reclaim the Block, etc. City council needs to meet with the black community and listen to what THE PEOPLE need, not what council thinks will help them get re-elected. How can the council make any proposal without first knowing what the community wants and needs? This is reckless and lazy and the taxpayers deserve better. How many more black people have to be murdered? The time and OPPORTUNITY for real comprehensive change is NOW and if council is not up to the immense responsibility, they must resign.

7/1/2020 11:26:15 AM

I do not want this on the ballot. This needs to be thought through and not rushed. We need more we'll trained police and the community needs to decide and be consulted, not just the council.

7/1/2020 11:27:49 AM

Myself and my neighbors have been having conversations about community safety that doesn't involve the police. We ask you to do the same and freeze the hands that reach for guns that kill community by defunding and dismantling the police.

7/1/2020 11:28:00 AM

Attachment:

This is how I, a 45-year-old white woman and mother of 6, currently at her peak Karen power, went from assuming police work was a necessary part of functional communities, to becoming a passionate advocate for #abolishthepolice #defundthepolice, over the course of one week.

"I suppose it is tempting, if the only tool you have is a hammer, to treat everything as if it were a nail." Do you know that saying? Apply it to police. If you're always prepared to easily inflict violence, then the chances of inflicting unwarranted violence go way up.

Cat in a tree? Got locked out of your car? Kids prank called 911? Found a brutally murdered body? When called, police will arrive at all four of these scenes equally armed to the teeth. Why would we ever

To be clear, I've never had my life threatened during a traffic stop, I've never been asked to get out of the car, I've never had to seriously worry the cops would kill me or my teens or my husband. So really, if we're comparing, my traffic stops have been totally breezy.

And until the other day, if you had asked me if I'd ever had a bad encounter with the police, I would have said no and considered myself lucky.

Have you ever been to a gymnastics hall? You walk in and the whole environment is set up so that it's really easy to jump, tumble, flip, handstand, and cartwheel. It's like you walk in, and can't help yourself. You start doing gymnastics immediately.

Have you ever seen a cop's uniform? The whole thing, including every accessory, zipper, and badge, is designed to intimidate and easily inflict violence. It's like they can't help themselves. They

I have no idea why I've been pulled over. I'm a boring law-abiding citizen yet I'm still terrified. I can see his hand on his gun. He's twice my size. I feel like a criminal; he starts with the assumption that I'm a criminal. It feels shameful and embarrassing.

I hate getting pulled over. It hasn't happened that often — maybe 10 times in my 30 years of driving. But it is traumatizing every time. I know I'm not alone. These stops are universally traumatizing — even when no ticket is

 **Gabrielle Blair** @designmom · 18h  
Think about that for a minute. If I believe my police encounters haven't been bad, that means I think having an unpredictable, shame-inducing, traumatic encounter — that can happen at any time, is out of my control, and at the hands of someone with a gun — is NORMAL.

12/x  
 3  280  2,625 

 **Gabrielle Blair** @designmom · 18h  
And everyone who believes that is normal has accepted this traumatic and fear inducing experience is just the way it is.

That is NUTS. Why is this the system we've all decided is normal? Why is it EVER okay for someone with a gun to pull you over anytime they want?

13/x  
 5  123  2,015 

 **Gabrielle Blair** @designmom · 18h  
You know what else is nuts? WE PAY FOR THIS SYSTEM. Police are public servants, paid by taxes. We choose to pay for these traumatizing experiences. We choose to pay for this system instead of housing the homeless; instead of feeding the hungry; instead of funding schools.

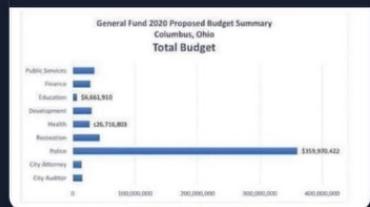
14/x  
 4  313  2,673 

 **Gabrielle Blair** @designmom · 18h  
I had no idea until last week how over-funded police departments are. I had never seen it talked about. Did you know about this? Medical workers run out of PPE, but cops never run out of rubber bullets, tasers, tear gas, and guns.

15/x

[twitter.com/osu\\_kailash/st...](https://twitter.com/osu_kailash/status/1294411103100000000)

 **Kailash Srinivasan** @osu\_k... · 2d  
Cities are just police departments with some underfunded services on the side



 16  657  2,988 



**Gabrielle Blair** @designmom · 18h  
Keep in mind, money invested in things like housing, social services, medical care, and emotional intelligence training, lead to outcomes that mean less need for policing in the first place.

16/x



Op-Ed: Community investment, not punishment, is key to reducing violence... latimes.com

3 299 2,304



**Gabrielle Blair** @designmom · 18h  
Crime is a response to unmet needs in the community. If we're not funding police departments, we'll have plenty of money to meet those needs! We don't actually have to criminalize homelessness, drug addiction, and being poor!

17/x

11 540 3,106



**Gabrielle Blair** @designmom · 18h  
We need someone that you call for help, who doesn't show up with a gun.

No but really. What if there was a helpful person, or team of persons you could call, who didn't show up with guns?

18/x

7 178 1,895



**Gabrielle Blair** @designmom · 18h  
A mentally ill man has taken off his pants and is walking by a school. What's the real problem that needs to be solved? Does he need medical care? Housing? A shower? A social worker? Do we really think sending someone trained to easily inflict violence is the best solution?

19/x

7 119 1,973



**Gabrielle Blair** @designmom · 18h  
Someone is robbing a bank. Okay. What's the real problem? Why are they robbing the bank? Are they hungry? Is this Ocean's 18? Is this an addiction issue? Can we help them? Do we really think sending someone trained to easily inflict violence is the best solution?

20/x

17 76 1,419

Gabrielle Blair @designmom · 18h  
Restraining someone and de-escalation doesn't require weapons or police training. Nurses, therapists and social workers have to do this all the time. We expect police to do the work of social workers, but they didn't sign up for that. They don't \*want\* to be social workers.

21/x

Gabrielle Blair @designmom · 18h  
What about rape? It turns out the police are actually quite crappy at preventing and prosecuting rape. A tiny percentage of rapists are arrested and convicted. Do you know what happens when a woman reports a rape? Know about the untested rape kits?

22/x

[twitter.com/ilana\\_\\_\\_\\_/sta...](https://twitter.com/ilana____/status/127911111111111111)

Ilana \_\_\_\_ @ilana\_\_\_\_ · 5d  
Bootlickers are like, "Oh yeah?? Who you gonna call when someone rapes you???" Like buddy I called the cops when I got assaulted and they said there was no evidence and they ha...  
[Show this thread](#)

12 235 2,118

7/1/2020 11:28:04 AM

Although I am sympathetic to the reasons for the charter amendment, I think it needs to be thought through before it is implemented. What will replace the police force? Who will be in charge? What is the role of the public and the police union? Also, my understanding is that there will be as many as 14 people in charge of the new public safety force. That's too many! It makes it too easy to evade responsibility when things go wrong.

I would live to see our city re-think policing and public safety. However, to move ahead without a basic understanding of what is to be done is to promote a political slogan, not real change.

7/1/2020 11:28:08 AM

Please get the amendment to change the city charter on the ballot in the fall! Give us Minneapolitans a chance to vote on it. This gives us all time to learn more about what abolishing the police would look like, but doesn't close doors on the process. Thanks!

7/1/2020 11:29:14 AM

Dear members of the Charter Commission Board,

I am writing to voice my agreement with the city council's vote to amend the city charter. I am frustrated by the continued violence perpetrated by police towards poor people, Black, Indigenous, and Latinos in the city of Minneapolis. I'm disheartened by what I see as a system of public safety that does not serve the majority of our constituents. We have time and again looked at police reforms to help reduce police violence (e.g. choke holds and unlawful deaths) and to hold officers more accountable.

These reforms do not work. Hiring more officers or giving law enforcement more money does not work and does not correlate with less crime.

As a person of color, I and other family members have experienced harassment by officers during routine traffic stops--many of which felt targeted. I personally do not feel safe calling on police if I or neighbors were to need help. I would like to be a part of re envisioning what public safety could look like for Minneapolis that works for everyone; especially those who feel have been most victimized by the current law enforcement system.

There are several examples we can look to, that show that there are different ways of keeping the peace than the current broken system that we have currently. For example, in Eugene, Oregon their are mental support specialists that take calls in which there are behavioral reports made. In Camden, New Jersey citizens of that city helped see the police disbanded and recreated in a new way.

I like many residents of Minneapolis would like the opportunity to weigh in on this decision on the November ballot. The time to examine the way we do public safety cannot continue to pushed back. There are lives and livelihoods that literally hang in the balance with this decision. Thank you.

7/1/2020 11:29:53 AM

While huge revisioning and remaking of the MPD is crucial, I do not believe that rewriting the city charter is the way to proceed. Unless the proposed amendment is rewritten to guarantee the continuation of the MPD in some form within this proposed new city department, then I believe the proposal should be rejected. The newly rebuilt MPD must be a part of the city of Minneapolis' responsibility. The police must be the ones who handle serious crime, violent crime and the maintenance of our system of law and order, which necessarily works with our legal system and courts. Criminals must still be deterred from committing crimes. Without a fully functioning police department, our city runs the risk of creating chaos and lawlessness, since there are evil people in the city would love to take advantage of a relaxation of law enforcement. We can't afford a charter amendment that eliminates the police. If this proposal, as written, is put on the November ballot, it is certain to be defeated, and justly so.

7/1/2020 11:29:57 AM

There needs to be more outreach to the Black community on this charter amendment on best approaches for dealing with police brutality in our community. We need extensive research about what actually creates community safety. Generally, there needs to be public hearings about this.

The amendment also needs to clearly designate who is responsible for police discipline.

Chief Arradondo should be eligible to head the new Dept of Community Safety.

Who will be in charge of law enforcement if the City is not required to maintain some kind of division of law enforcement services? While I am in favor of greatly reducing the role of and funding to MPD, we would have zero oversight of police conduct if law enforcement is left exclusively to, say, Hennepin County Sheriffs Dept.

I do support removing the police funding requirement.

7/1/2020 11:30:04 AM

I have concerns that the city council is rushing this through for political purposes, and a deep concern for my safety- which I do not think is the city councils concern at all.

The city council should step back and not rush this through or manipulate that after the amendment is passed, discussion take place. Of something if this magnitude, RESIDENTS should be involved in discussion THEN an amendment be proposed.

The city council has ignited residents unless it fits their agenda. Please do not allow the city council to rush this through in this manner— bamboozling you and residents- for their political agenda. Ward 6

7/1/2020 11:30:07 AM

What a STUPID idea

7/1/2020 11:32:57 AM

By virtually every measure the Minneapolis Police Department and by extension the Police Federation headed by Bob Kroll needs to be judged for what it is- a complete failure. Recent events, notably the on-camera murder of George Floyd, have shown the world the depths of corrupt, violent racism that have pervaded every aspect of the police department in Minneapolis. The truly sad fact is that this is not a new issue nor only a recent one and to see the stunning ineptitude of the Mayor and the chief of police to be able to exert any control over the police only underscores just how badly they all need to go.

It has long been known in South Minneapolis that if you have an issue/problem, the last thing you want to do is call the Minneapolis Police. Minneapolis Police are not a part of the community that they are paid to police. Please do the right thing and provide us with a better, safer future going forward.

7/1/2020 11:33:17 AM

This is a good step forward. I suggest the new Department be based on a foundation much like, firefighters, EMTs, health care workers, etc. that are dedicated to preserving life. Everything should emanate from this vision. The choice of which services used respond to problems or crises answers this question first and foremost, "which response will be most conducive to preserving life for all involved."

7/1/2020 11:33:55 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing to urge you to reach out and LISTEN to the Black communities of Minneapolis, specifically North Minneapolis, before making a decision about this charter amendment to abolish the MPD. The Black communities have been the ones most negatively affected by racist and unjust treatment of the police, yet they do not support abolishing the police department. They want the current Police Chief to stay and lead. They want to eliminate all the "bad apples" in the police department. They want proactive community engagement from the police AND the City Council, which right now is very disconnected and dismissive of their constituents. Ward 12

7/1/2020 11:34:36 AM

I strongly support this proposal.

7/1/2020 11:35:01 AM

I do not want to study this for a year and then take action. I think we can take meaningful action now without this step. We need:

- Better Training
- New hiring and community mentoring guidelines (mentoring to encourage neighborhood youth to consider policing as a career)
- New policies related to use of force
- Shifting of some funds to add mental health providers for community response
- Periodic surveys of community members on police effectiveness and response
- Transparency on officer complaints and resolution

We do not need a larger, inefficient group to run the police department.

7/1/2020 11:35:22 AM

I sincerely hope that by making a comment here that I will not be doxxed or denied emergency services if needed.

The Minneapolis Police Department is long overdue for reform. There is a toxic element, that even as a white woman, I can feel and it's palpable, unsettling, and scary. I do not feel safer for the presence of the MPD and I fear for my BIPOC neighbors. I would like to see the city of Minneapolis clear house. If officers want to work for MPD, they need to reapply and be rehired, they must fit the criteria of not being under the thumb of Bob Kroll and his white supremacist agenda and have undergone training to learn to be effective PEACE keepers. Officers with multiple complaints against them should not be rehired.

Money should be diverted BACK to education. Minneapolis could have a powerhouse education system, instead, we have one of the worst in the ENTIRE country. BACK to community support, mental health, healthcare, support for homeless and highly mobile. We do not need our police department armed like want to be military forces. There is no need for that in a civilized society.

7/1/2020 11:36:01 AM

I do not support the abolishment of police and putting civilians in charge of community order. The audacity to ignore the demographic makeup of the city while expecting whites to protect let alone engage or care about non-whites in the city is asinine. Your racism is showing but we aren't falling for the slight of hand. Defund the police. Do not abolish the police. Spoken as a former resident of Minneapolis for nine years.

7/1/2020 11:36:16 AM

The Minneapolis City Council has unanimously voted to disband the Police, which negates any reason for having enforcement of any kind. By implementing a safety department, you contradict yourselves, which is it?

The way I see it, you have 2 choices here. One, continue with the disbanding of Police and do not implement a Safety Department as initialized by the city council, or two, rescind the decision to disband the Police Department discuss with Police and Union what can be done to make modifications.

Y'all have cut off your noses to spite your faces without first considering the ramifications. You've lost visage and your actions are tyrannical. I call for the resignations of all Minneapolis Council members, since the vote to disband the Police was unanimous. Each of you is a piss poor representation of the State of Minnesota.

7/1/2020 11:36:21 AM

We Very Much NEED the police. We absolutely DON'T want to remove the police!!! If the police is removed a lot of people, particularly the most vulnerable would be on their own in a lot of places and it would have grave consequences!!! We don't want that!!!

7/1/2020 11:36:52 AM

Very bad idea to get rid of MPD. I believe BLM. How many black lives have been lost in Minneapolis since Mr Floyd's Death. You have a war zone going in Minneapolis. You defund the MPD and you will have even more deaths. Everyone on Minneapolis City Counsel should be required to ride along with MPD for one week to see what officers have to deal with every day.

7/1/2020 11:37:03 AM

I do not support any amendment that intends to "defund" the police department. I believe the talk/actions being proposed just emboldens criminal behavior in our city and neighborhoods, seriously effecting citizen's quality of life. We have recent proof of this theory. Once the mayor allowed the third precinct to be abandoned, riots/property destruction became so out of control, the national guard had to be brought in to end the criminal activity. There has been a huge uptick in shootings in recent weeks.

Just this morning, a seven-year-old child was struck by gunfire on the city's Northside. An all too common occurrence.

The number one job of the city council and mayor is to ensure citizens safety. If anything, this amendment proposal will have the opposite effect on public safety. It's sadly laughable, and extremely hypocritical that the city council so boldly supports this initiative, and then some council members feel entitled to have their own private security for their protection. Why is it a "privilege" for average citizens to be able to call the police, but council members have a right to personal security guards? All citizens deserve equal protection from a fully staffed police department. Ward 4

7/1/2020 11:37:12 AM

Changing the Charter is the right thing to do. We can create a new model of public safety that keeps us all safe and eliminates the Police Department, which harasses and hurts people of color and has proven unable to reform. This is a brave and just thing to do. Ward 3

7/1/2020 11:37:23 AM

For too long, there have been only a few careers that the general public seem to be aware of that focus on protecting and serving our community. The police department has become the default and main force of this civic duty. Before the police department is restructured...new positions need to be created and made aware to the public...then a hiring process needs to be instilled that thoroughly trains and determines if a person is fully capable and qualified to perform the required tasks. Otherwise, corruption and mismanagement will be traits of the new system.

These ideas need to be fully developed before you "jump ship" and transition to a new system of assistance and protection. To move forward without a plan, is to set yourself up for failure from the start. I want a better tomorrow, but it won't be built on hope and wishful thinking...it will be based on effort, transparency, accountability and love. Also, public serves jobs don't traditionally pay enough to lure in the kind of people we want serving and protecting our community. New budget reform for education and public safety is necessary if we wish to over-come the centuries of programming that the old system instilled in each one of us, contentiously and sub-contentiously. I love you all and I want everyone to feel safe, respected and heard. I also want to eradicate violence in our neighborhoods because the community members of North Minneapolis deserve the peace that is experienced in the western-suburbs...We need new systems that propel our citizens away from self harm and violence towards others.

7/1/2020 11:39:37 AM

We need to keep our police force. The danger to the public is too high without them. Watching what happened when our police were told to stand down . Our precinct was burned to the ground and chaos ensued. We had police officers in that building and the mayor and city council members didn't inform them to leave the building. We don't want our city to become like Seattle (CHOP) 4 people have died and violence is rampant. PLEASE KEEP THE POLICE IN MINNEAPOLIS! Clean out the bad and make changes for the better but we need them on our side. Ward 3

7/1/2020 11:39:52 AM

As a resident of Minneapolis for 56 years, this city council has ignored residents more than any I've experienced. They have not thought many things through and just passed Minneapolis law without much real input or thought, bypassing anyone who doesn't agree with them—and mostly those that work and are not activists. I would say this council has ignored the more moderate stable citizens who actually support the city—and now it is gambling with their safety—which is a real concern. Crime rate has absolutely gone through the roof and is a real concern, and Minneapolis will not be liveable. As it is, it is becoming a fear based dangerous city. Passing this charter would be a foolish thing to do for the future of Minneapolis—in many ways—but first and foremost for bypassing resident input before the amendment is proposed. Ward 6

7/1/2020 11:40:22 AM

Please put the amendment to take the police department out of the city charter on the ballot this November so we can continue with timely progress on developing and finding alternate community responses. Thank you!

7/1/2020 11:41:07 AM

I believe that it is so important to address the entire issue rather than putting a bandaid on it (once again.) The police in this city do not have the adequate training to do all of the work that they are asked to do.

In the best case scenario, we would remove the police entirely and replace them with social workers, mental health practitioners, fire fighters, medical professionals, and social advocacy organizations. We would need to restructure how we handle emergency issues and understand that we are the leaders in this new and innovative movement, even when it is challenging.

At worst, we can keep the police in place but reevaluate their responsibilities and put people in charge of the parts of their job that they are not properly trained to do. We ask too much of them.

They need to be required to have a 4 year degree and significantly more training including diversity training and de escalation without weapons. But even then, we still need to be working with mental health practitioners and healthcare services on how they can be better utilized to provide support during issues dealing with: domestic abuse response, homelessness, drug addiction support, suicide support, and more. We have the ability to provide the help that our citizens need in a manner that would actually get to the root of the issue rather than just temporarily healing it with violence and brute force. Minneapolis has an amazing opportunity to be a leader in this movement and we should seize this opportunity to change the world.

7/1/2020 11:42:03 AM

I am in full support of replacing police departments with violence prevention centers. The brutality inherent in police culture is an epidemic that needs to be entirely replaced. I also believe that civil servants who focus on non-violence and deescalation should not be armed with lethal weapons.

7/1/2020 11:42:59 AM

Charter Commissioners -

"It's just a few bad apples." First, a few bad apples will, eventually, spoil the entire bushel. Second, the Minneapolis Police Department is beyond a few bad apples. I've lived in Minneapolis for nearly 42 years. The murder of George Floyd is just the most recent of a litany of crimes against people of color. You know the names. If you don't, research the City's legal settlements. Research the Star Tribune's archives. And, before that, the Star and the Tribune. You know the statistics. They tell the story of an irredeemable department Incapable of meaningful reform, controlled not by the Mayor, the City Council, or even the Chief but by their rogue union leadership. And I say this as a unionist.

A few examples. Sgt. Hedberg's remarks on the CBS morning program in which she was appalled at the very idea of having to live in Minneapolis with her two beautiful daughters. Imagine that! Little girls living in Minneapolis! Ten or fifteen years ago, while filing a report at the 3rd Precinct, the two desk officers, while I waited, saying they wished they could "f\*\*\* a perp with their batons." In my presence! Third, from a friend, reporting a burglary and being told by the responding officer: "What do you expect? You live in Minneapolis."

The MPD has become an occupation force of outsiders who neither protect nor serve. I don't care that the City Council doesn't have a detailed plan or a common vision. They are, however, unanimous in their conviction that this cannot continue. I agree. Put it on the ballot. Let the people decide.

7/1/2020 11:43:09 AM

Get a plan before changing charter. Stop condemning the police. Council members should grow up.

7/1/2020 11:43:57 AM

Do not dismantle the police department. We need police to provide safety. Keep Arradondo as police chief and defund the department to share with community resources to support community health and safety.

7/1/2020 11:44:49 AM

Yes to defunding the MPD.

Yes to giving Chief Arradondo the means and ability to restructure and rebuild.

But No to abolishing the MPD - citizens in every MPLS community deserve the protection of well-trained and professional officers, not citizens with little idea of what they're doing or the ramifications of their actions.

7/1/2020 11:45:19 AM

Please listen to the black activists and the people who are working to increase accountability. I am listening. This is not the method to fix the problem.

7/1/2020 11:45:23 AM

Please work with community leaders to arrive at a proposal that will feasibly work. Do not rush this, do it right.

Less funding for police officers is a great start, but you need to be clearer about accountability and clearer about where money will be reallocated and who is responsible for overseeing this. Law enforcement and public safety MUST be held accountable.

7/1/2020 11:45:43 AM

Hello City Council,

As members of the elected class of representatives of the community of Minneapolis, it is extremely disappointing to read this proposed charter amendment.

It seems as though you are only doing what is barely necessary to placate fair weather activists and those who are only minimally aware of what's really happening.

I see no foundational, structural change as to how this city's department of violence prevention will operate. You just changed the name. There doesn't seem to be a seat at the table for the community in keeping individual officers accountable for their actions against indigenous and black communities. This is unacceptable. Please, I implore you to enact real change in this city so the community can keep itself safe from those who seek to do nothing but disrupt, displace, and demonize those most vulnerable.

As I said, you are an elected class and we are counting on you, if you let us down again, we the people will hold you accountable for your inaction and vote in a new city council and mayor who will do the job we are asking our officials to do. Resident of Ward 10

7/1/2020 11:45:56 AM

I urge the Commission to allow the City Council proposed Public Safety Transformation Charter Amendment to move forward. The public has seen in the cost of blood and violence over many, many years that the current system does not work for a large proportion of city residents/situations. It shocks the conscience of my family and I believe those of a vast majority of Minneapolis citizens.

I hope the Commission will meet this moment and allow the voters their say. Ward 12

7/1/2020 11:46:05 AM

This safety charter amendment needs to go before the voters this Nov. Ward 6

7/1/2020 11:47:01 AM

entirely support the idea of defunding MPD and reallocating funds to several other community groups.

7/1/2020 11:47:34 AM

We marched for abolition because we don't want any cops any more, and because the MPD is a terrorist organization that inflicts more violence on our communities than it prevents. Even when it is engaged in the few socially necessary roles that some other organization will have to fill. To that end, it is critical that no one from the MPD be retained, rehired, or brought on as a consultant in the proposed replacement organization. Those people need therapy and lots of other support to be reintegrated into society. The last thing any of us want is the same bullies and terrorists patrolling our blocks with some new uniforms. The amendment should include a lifetime ban on rehiring any former MPD staff in the proposed "Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention."

If the amendment is to merely make it possible for the city council to pass a bill defunding and abolishing the MPD, then it should merely remove the required police officers hired as a percentage of our population. If the amendment is meant to effectuate the defunding and replacement of the MPD, then it must do that! As it stands, this amendment is our worst nightmare, a mere re-branding of the MPD, in a transparent effort to get poor people and people of color to shut up. The first time a law enforcement officer in the new Department of Community Safety executes a black man on video, you'll probably people out in the streets again burning down their "safety checkpoints" or whatever you choose to call them.

Attachment: UNDERSTANDING THE MINNEAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL'S CHARTER AMENDMENT  
(<https://www.cuapb.org/>)

7/1/2020 11:48:41 AM

I support this amendment.

I live one block outside Minneapolis. I am constantly in Minneapolis and am looking for a home for my family to spend our future in Minneapolis.

I have been following cases where it sounds like by story and video that violence is used before knowing details & facts - which puts people in harm. We do not have capital punishment here in Minnesota for petty crimes and it is appalling that people are dying for small crimes. Yes, they should make good choices, but so should the people keeping the community safe.

Right now Minneapolis police force appears racist, power hungry, and dominating with violence. That's not the city I want to call home.

7/1/2020 11:50:10 AM

1. If you want to rename police department, it should be done all over the country, not just in Minnesota.
2. Make it clear to the public, that law enforcement is there to serve and protect law abiding citizens, not criminals; some people don't seem to understand it.
3. With all these perturbations, we, common citizens don't feel safe anymore, and some of us may seriously think how to protect ourselves. That means, people will buy more guns, which means crime rate will skyrocket.

7/1/2020 11:50:44 AM

I do believe police reform is needed and necessary. However to dismantle the police would be complete mayhem. Right now., people are walking into stores, grabbing things off the shelves and walking out ... with no recourse. This is going to give every criminal and opportunist a free pass to do whatever they want. Lisa Bender on CNN quoted saying that it is white privilege if someone breaks into your house. WTF? So just take anything you want, because I'm white? And now, there are at least 3 city council members that have bodyguards? But that's okay? Are the bodyguards armed? Practice what you preach! Or is it the mentality of "do as I say, not as I do"? Are the citizens and payers of extremely high property taxes supposed to arm themselves? This is nuts! We are not Iceland or Italy ..... where they have stringent gun laws. Every city council member should be required to ride along with the police for at least a week in North Mpls to see what reality really is. Then make the determination.

7/1/2020 11:51:36 AM

We need to keep our citizens safe from the violence we need our police officers. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 11:52:16 AM

I misspoke on my previous comment because I've just gathered new information as to what exactly this charter entails. I do NOT support the complete abolishing of the MPD. I support the defunding of MPD where it is smaller with better trained officers and then funneling more of that \$190 million dollar police budget back into community services. I'm also very upset that the conversations surrounding this charter was not public nor did it garner input of the ACTUAL community. I also think that that system needs reform as well. How can you expect citizens to make informed decisions when you are holding up your end of the responsibility to provide the information and education needed for the voters to vote??? I live in Saint Paul, but I would like Minneapolis to set the example for us so we can also follow suit.

7/1/2020 11:52:21 AM

I absolutely support this question on the ballot. The police have done too many harmful things for too long. I live in the 4th precinct now, but I grew up in the 3rd precinct. I was harassed by cops from a young age as I lived in poverty. Our house was raided on an \*anonymous\* tip and so many things were destroyed. One day, when I was walking home, 3 blocks from the precinct, 2 cops catcalled me and a

friend, I was 15 and she was 14. What world are we living in when teen girls are catcalled by the officials supposedly meant to protect them?

7/1/2020 11:53:40 AM

I do not support the Minneapolis Charter Commission amendment.

7/1/2020 11:55:17 AM

No! We do not want the police to be abolished! We are asking for them to be defunded and for the money to go to other supporting entities.

7/1/2020 11:57:47 AM

Please replace the police with a Community of Safety and Violence Prevention department!

7/1/2020 11:59:13 AM

What the fuck are you thinking putting this on the ballot in November? Stop and do better. Hold public meetings with the people who have been doing this work and research about plans that WORK. Don't you dare let uninformed voters see this as the only option several months from now. How much damage are you doing to this entire effort by doing something so absurd as putting abolish the police on the table. Do you realize how hard it is to get people to understand that defund DOES NOT EQUAL abolish and here you are putting everyone at risk. This entire council is under the scrutiny of the entire damn world right now and you're really going to pull this? Focus on such an ill-informed strategy from now until November completely eliminating the opportunity for momentum to achieve REAL positive change?

7/1/2020 11:59:39 AM

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

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

May 25, 2020: George Floyd was killed by an MPD police officer.

June 12, 2020: At a City Council meeting, a notice of intent was given to introduce, at the next meeting of the City Council, a Charter amendment that would, in part, transfer some power over the Minneapolis Police Department/Division of Law Enforcement Services from the Mayor to the City Council.

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

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

7/1/2020 12:00:17 PM

We need an entirely new system of policing in Minneapolis and an end to systemic racism in our city.

Start by removing the existing police force entirely and changing to a system that reacts with care and compassion to issues in our city. Mental health workers, social workers, and community liaisons should be a large part of this work.

It may take time, but we need to put a lot of thought and research into this system. We are Minneapolis and we can do it.

7/1/2020 12:00:53 PM

I am for defending the MPD and establishing a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department

7/1/2020 12:01:36 PM

A resounding NO to this charter amendment!

Abolishing the Police Department and replacing it with a Community of Safety and Violence Prevention Department is NOT a solution for addressing white supremacy and racism in policing. If anything, "civilian policing" only increases danger to BIPOC lives.

I absolutely support defunding, reforming, and reconstructing the Minneapolis Police Department, BUT this is process that needs time, wisdom, research, and support of BIPOC community leaders.

I beg the City Council to schedule PUBLIC community dialogue, especially with BIPOC leaders, to conduct and FUND extensive research on how defunding and demilitarizing the police can be done safely and effectively, and to protect and support people within the MPD who are doing good work on reforming policing and building community support (Medaria Arradondo).

7/1/2020 12:02:47 PM

I think disbanding MPD is necessary to move forward and create a community where everyone in the diverse Minneapolis area can feel safe and accounted for.

Police departments are not there to keep us safe. I've never once been glad to call the cops and would sooner look to call community-led alternatives before 911 ever again. The money MPD receives can be redistributed to these already existing alternatives.

A few other notes -

Representation MATTERS. We need LBGTQIA+ and BIPOC individuals. If there aren't any, we need SEND willing individuals to training. Outsourcing to other communities shouldn't be an option.

The current MPD leadership should NOT have a place in creating the new safety department. They have failed this community and their involvement would lead to distrust.

Please seek out the VOLUNTEER lead alternatives that have been created to prevent police involvement and work with those individuals. Currently, they're relying on donations and volunteering time for their community. Funding for these individuals would be a game changer.

Thank you to the Council for their bold move in creating a better future for our city.

7/1/2020 12:04:01 PM

The city of Minneapolis needs a functioning, well-trained police department.

Do not abolish the police department.

Do not fast track this hare brained idea of striking the city charter's police requirement. Good chess players sit on their hands while assessing their next move. Has the city even surveyed businesses, insurance companies, banks – all of which form the foundation of a city – to get their take on abolishing the police department?

The city council's proposed deletion of the current charter's police requirement is evidence of a city council that has no regard or concept of law and order and the need for a functioning, well-trained police department. The proposed amendment wording is evidence of a city council's hugely mistaken belief that we're living in a utopia where everybody is good. The proposed amendment wording provides no clue on how the Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention will function.

Proposed amendment, section (a), which states that public safety services will focus on "a holistic, public health oriented approach." The individuals who will love this mealy mouthed section are ones who commit murders, rapes, burglaries, robberies, assaults, car jackings, home break-ins, arson, or who are gang members. Without a functioning, well-trained police department, individuals and families will flee the city, businesses that would like to operate in the city will leave for the suburbs, insurance companies will not insure property, and banks will be hesitant to loan money.

Proposed amendment, section (b), which states the City Council "may maintain a division of law enforcement services." Apparently, this means that a greatly reduced police force may or may not exist, subject to the whims of the City Council. And the whims of the City Council are made up of utopic fantasy, judging by the proposed wording of Section (a). Outrageous.

The city of Minneapolis needs a functioning, well-trained police department. Ward 9

7/1/2020 12:04:11 PM

My family used to bike into Minneapolis, around the lakes, down to Minnehaha... almost all of that is gone unless I'm carrying. Unfortunately in the past 5ish years it's all gotten worse, we rarely see the police and from what I see in statistics it's because they're way understaffed and actually told to ignore certain lawlessness.

I'd like my city back without people shooting at each other. Our youth, gangs, etc shooting at each other has nothing to do with a very small group bad police within a large group of caring police. Criminals need consequences along with assistance, if there is no consequence and only free stuff why would they stop? We need law and order back in Mpls. Who do the good guys have to call when a person is burglarized, raped, or murdered? A counselor?

I believe we need a new charter putting an elected person like the Mayor accountable who pulls in 100k votes to get elected. Our current system has folks like Lisa Bender who were elected with not even 5k votes running a large part of the show. Unacceptable in my opinion.

Pro police. Pro elected individual leadership.

7/1/2020 12:05:01 PM

As a current resident and property owner is Ward 3 (Downtown East), I find it unacceptable given the current level of violent crime in the city that the city council is entertaining the idea of having less police officers. If anything, the budget needs to be doubled, and city council can run their social experiment without putting the risks of Minneapolis citizens and taxpayers at risk. There are currently not enough officers to respond to all 911 calls as is. Horrible to even think we are taking about cutting at a time like this. Ward 3

7/1/2020 12:06:22 PM

Please keep the police chief! He is a trusted Black man leading the way to change. I believe we need a police force present, but a different police force. Defund them and give more funds to other areas, mental health, etc. Perhaps fire all the officers and have a new process in place getting rid of all those who have used undue force and whatever criteria is appropriate so we no longer have brutal officers. This is complex and I don't believe just shutting one down without another in place, run by citizens (who could be white supremacists) is the answer. I also believe it is necessary to get input from the Black community organizers who have been doing this work for awhile.

7/1/2020 12:06:47 PM

The police need RIGOROUS reform , up lift the stellar officers who do the work! We in Mpls do not want to abolish the police we want the police to protect and serve with dignity! We want the city to be transparent with police budget s! Please listen to the needs of the comm unit y!

7/1/2020 12:07:25 PM

Dear Charter Commissioners:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Same letter attached.

7/1/ 2020 12:07:34 PM

Perhaps the most significant Charter change in the proposal of the Minneapolis City Council is the elimination of the requirement that "the City Council must fund a police force of at least 0.0017 employees per resident" [Charter, section 7.3(c)]. Before deleting this provision, it might be prudent to know:

1. How did such a requirement come to be included in the Charter?
2. Do other cities of a similar size to Minneapolis have requirements for a minimum number of police force employees? If so, are those requirements included in documents equivalent to our Charter, or are they included in ordinances, rules, union contracts, or other documents?
3. If there are such requirements in cities similar to Minneapolis, how do those numbers compare with Minneapolis's requirement?
4. At the time this provision became a part of the Charter, what were the expected duties of police force employees? How do those duties compare with what we now expect police officers to do?
5. How will the recommended staffing of a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention affect the number of law enforcement officers Minneapolis will need?
6. At the time this provision became a part of the Charter, what other police forces existed in Minneapolis, e.g., Park Police, Metro Transit Police, University of Minnesota Police, etc., and what were the number of officers in those departments?
7. How did implementing a 9-1-1 system affect the work of police officers in Minneapolis? Have the types of 9-1-1 call requests changed over the years? If so, how?

No doubt, other questions will come to you that are relevant to this minimum requirement for police force employees. I am sure the Council has collected data that would answer most of these questions. You could probably get answers simply by asking the Council to supply you with those documents it has collected in support of its recommendation.

Good luck in your consideration of this Charter provision.

Keep safe; stay healthy.

7/1/2020 12:08:33 PM

To completely abolish the Police Dept is insane!!!! DEFUND!! They do NOT need a \$193 million budget! Fine police officers for complaints. Fine departments for complaints. Use the money to build community outreach. Hold these people accountable. How can our enforcers of the law be above the law???? And how can this monumental decision be made WITHOUT TALKING TO THE PEOPLE OF THE COMMUNITY??

7/1/2020 12:10:07 PM

Please Pass the proposed amendment to the Charter to establish a department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We must abolish the police, the policing mentality and the funding of ineffective responses to violence, income inequality, hate, poverty, and mental health.

Reform is not acceptable. WE MUST ABOLISH the concept of Policing.

We must completely change ideas of deviance and criminality from our culture.

We must remove punitive and and incarceratory policies in response to violence and safety.

We must decriminalize many aspects of our justice system and law enforcement.

We must take out policing and enforcement within our communities, our transportation systems, schools and responses to public crises and protest.

We must demand alternatives that are people centered. BIG data and surveillance are unacceptable alternatives to policing.

I repeat BIG data and surveillance ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE alternatives to person to person interaction, systemic change, law enforcement, and violence prevention.

7/1/2020 12:10:13 PM

I oppose this charter as it stands because it was written without consultation with the BIPOC community members and leaders that will be most heavily impacted by this change. I will only support charters that are drafted by Black, Indigenous, People of Color who live in Minneapolis and lead organizations that have been on the frontlines of racial justice work for years. I am strongly against the MPD as it stands now, but true change needs to come from the Communities who are most harmed by the current MPD.

7/1/2020 12:11:49 PM

I am confused as to the lack of community involvement in this conversation. Not only allowing community comment for only two days but not actively seeking it out seems like a pretty large oversight. The entier point of this charter claims to be for community safety so why was community not give more of an opportunity to have a hand in creating this? Also very unclear as to what this department would actually do and how it would avoid falling into the same racist, classist, and queerphobic pitfalls that the current police department does. I think y'all need some more time and A LOT more community outreach to go into developing this idea.

7/1/2020 12:12:10 PM

Dear Charter Commissioners:

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

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

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

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

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

We need to spend time this year studying the proposals and then placing a reform package on the ballot if is needed. Longfellow, Ward 12

7/1/ 2020 12:12:21 PM

I support the charter amendment to establish a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Though people might think otherwise, police don't have a monopoly on the services of public safety and wellbeing. They provide a number of those services (eg mental health response) in conjunction with citizens, citizen groups, and community-based organizations (Sharkey et al., 2017). So what matters most for the production of that public safety and wellbeing is the trust between police and their communities (Ostrom, 2010), not just more funding or making current police departments larger.

That means we don't necessarily have to have police to have public safety and wellbeing. Please focus on the connections between community and whatever replaces or reforms our current formation of the police department . Please also focus on what services are most important to communities in MPLS.

Sources:

Ostrom, E. (2010). A long polycentric journey. Annual review of political science, 13 .

Sharkey, P., Tarrats-Espinosa, G., & Takyar, D. (2017 ). Comm unit y and the crime decline: The causal effect of local nonprofits on violent crime. American Sociological Review, 82(6 ), 1214-1240.

7/1/ 2020 12:12:30 PM

The death of George Floyd is on the police hands, but the blood and bodies of victims by defunding/ disbanding the police are on the City Council hands! You are the City Council ! ! You should NOT be taken sides in this issue the way that you are! You should be the one with the objective minds to look at both sides and figure out a solution that can make both sides happy. Or at least as happy as one can be by not getting everything they wanted. I know you think that's what you're doing but you're not !! You are going to get a lot of people hurt and or killed!! This will be a huge NO vote for me !

7/1/2020 12:12:46 PM

I have always been a big fan of Minneapolis and enjoyed very much multiple visits to the downtown area each year. We go to Twins games and Vikings games and other events and attractions. We spent thousands of dollars every year in downtown Minneapolis. That is all going to end if you defund the police. It is already a little bit unsafe at times but with no police force I will not be willing to take my family and friends to what will undoubtedly be a very unsafe environment. Reducing the police budget all is a very bad idea.

7/1/2020 12:13:42 PM

Please don't abolish the police. Minneapolis has become a disgrace . While tax payers are paying for you private security, you're trying to take away ours. Support police chief Arredondo! We trust him! We need police but we need good police. Break with the union police federation. Make cops get their own insurance.

7/1/2020 12:14:09 PM

The proposed charter amendment needs more detail, it is far too open to interpretation. Do not rush this process. The proposed charter amendment as it is worded now simply shifts accountability and power. For example, who will be responsible for police discipline under this proposed charter amendment?

One thing that should absolutely be kept as is in this proposed charter amendment is the removal of the requirement of the city to fund policing at .0017 x the population. This move to shift funds to mental health crisis responders and social service agencies is vital in our work to have more equitable and safe communities.

7/1/2020 12:14:19 PM

I do not agree with getting rid of the police department. The police are trained to do their job just like any other profession. Do they need more diversity training...yes. Do they need to learn more about the needs of the community ... yes. Trying to incorporate some community of safety and violence prevention department would take too much time and with the current increase of violence the citizens of the city do not have time to wait. Could we have this in addition to the police department to help with the more non-violent offenses? Mental health situations, fireworks, car accidents etc...

7/1/2020 12:16:58 PM

I am nervous and scared to abolish the police department. It needs to be reformed. Bob Kroll needs to be fired. I support the recommendations of the CUAPB.

Attachment: WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO END POLICE VIOLENCE? (CUAPB.org)

7/1/2020 12:17:21 PM

Without knowing exactly what differences are being proposed be made besides the name change, I think this sounds like it could be the start to some positive real change. The word police has become synonymously linked to distrust and corruption. There have been many examples of horrible acts I have witnessed police get away over my lifetime. This was always very disturbing to me because I was raised as an American believing no one is above the law. While these overly aggressive acts comited by those

with such power is frightening, there is also the other end of the spectrum with the terrifying crime rate and police who do not care enough to do anything at all. I use to live in Minneapolis downtown for years and have been in the target of some equally terrifying crimes. The one I recall the most and has caused me PTSD is from a night a got assaulted. There were cops all over in front of the bar off Hennepin when the first criminal stole my phone. I went after my phone trying to get it back when I got assaulted by two others from behind knocking my front teeth out. Not only was I drunk and alone, but now I was in crying hysterics caught off guard and in pain. It was then I realized that I didn't have to walk far to the police, I was right in front of the station when I got assaulted. I was a victim who had no protection from anyone despite the many cops in the street and the cops right inside a precinct none of them did anything or even showed concern for my situation as I walked in knowing they saw what they did. I also want to feel safe and know that a cop will want to step in on dangerous situations in order to protect innocent citizens.

7/1/2020 12:17:50 PM

We the citizens of Minneapolis want changes in our Police Department because of how they treat and kill BLACK PEOPLE first and foremost. It seems from the Black community voices I follow the this city council has not included them in these plans. It feels rushed and it needs to be meticulously vetted and presented to the community to insure it is what we are asking for BEFORE you try to ram it onto a ballot. Please include our Black leaders in every part of this. Many council members have been in their position for years and have done nothing to address police brutality. They have proven that they NEED the Black community leaders to guide them. They've already done most of the work. I'm sure you have seen this: <https://www.minnpost.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/WHAT-WILL-IT-TAKE-TO-END-POLICE-VIOLENCE.pdf>

Use this information, Please! This is SO important, we can't allow this opportunity to be squandered. I want to believe in the city council, but this rush to just do something, does not seem right.

7/1/2020 12:18:52 PM

Without knowing exactly what differences are being proposed be made besides the name change, I think this sounds like it could be the start to some positive real change. The word police has become synomously linked to distrust and corruption. There have been many examples of horrible acts I have witnessed police get away over my lifetime. This was always very disturbing to me because I was raised as an American believing no one is above the law. While these overly aggressive acts comited by those with such power is frightening, there is also the other end of the spectrum with the terrifying crime rate and police who do not care enough to do anything at all. I use to live in Minneapolis downtown for years and have been in the target of some equally terrifying crimes. The one I recall the most and has caused me PTSD is from a night a got assaulted. There were cops all over in front of the bar off Hennepin when the first criminal stole my phone. I went after my phone trying to get it back when I got assaulted by two others from behind knocking my front teeth out. Not only was I drunk and alone, but now I was in crying hysterics caught off guard and in pain. It was then I realized that I didn't have to walk far to the police, I was right in front of the station when I got assaulted. I was a victim who had no protection from anyone despite the many cops in the street and the cops right inside a precinct none of them did anything or even showed concern for my situation as I walked in knowing they saw what they did. I also want to feel safe and know that a cop will want to step in on dangerous situations in order to protect innocent citizens.

7/1/2020 12:19:33 PM

I do not support the current proposal to defund the Minneapolis Police department.

The department needs major reform. There is no room in the Police force for the brutal inhumanity witnessed in the video of George Floyds death.

I do not trust the City Council's amendment as it is currently written. I need to see details, very specific details founded in an accurate assessment of community needs, collaboration with community partnerships, and budget and funding sources.

The Council has done nothing that I have seen to address the increase in gun violence in my neighborhood. They are silent as neighbors have bullets through their windows, and people are killed or wounded in the streets daily. The Council has done nothing to address the needs of the homeless at Powder Horn Park. The Council has security detail to protect them, but they want to defund police and "may" include a police type presence in their proposed safety plan. "May" is not "Shall". If the council thinks the riots, looting and arson that devastated my neighbor hood would have stopped without the National Guard and level of Security that were deployed, they are naive at best. Drug traffic, guns on the street, gang violence, are not going away just because the Police are defunded. We must have a developed plan.

I trust that Chief Arradondo can lead reform in the police department much more than I trust the City Council. I hope they are open to listening to views other than their own.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my concerns.

7/1/2020 12:20:10 PM

I have been a Minneapolis resident for over 33+ years. While I agree that the Minneapolis Police Department needs to change I DO NOT believe that the Police Department should be removed from the city charter. Before anything like this happens there needs to be a PLAN for what would happen. The rise in violence over the past month in this city is alarming. We live less than two miles from the 3rd Precinct so we are well aware of what has happened to our neighborhood. I have not heard one solid plan from the city council. So until we know what the plan is how can we remove the Police Department from the city charter. Please do not rush to make a decision like this that impacts our community until a better solution has been discussed and identified. Please vote NO on this proposed charter amendment.

7/1/2020 12:20:25 PM

It is completely unacceptable that our tax dollars are being wasted on this current police department. They do not protect and serve people of color in this community. In fact they ENDANGER that community more than they assist. The city has been advised time and time again by activists what exact changes need to be made but they have been ignored. We need to change the union contract. The OPCR has no teeth and a huge reason is that the current union contract is a horrific scam against the residents of Minneapolis. Instead of the OPCR who are historically useless in getting real accountability and change, we need a CPAC (civilian police accountability council), All-elected, all-civilian council with power over the Police Department to hire, fire, and prosecute cops. We have tried reform, we have tried allowing the over policing, we have tried allowing these union contracts and all we have to show for it is dead black men and a city on fire. Enough is enough we cannot trust police to hold each other accountable they must be removed from the process. Amend the charter to fund CPAC and not racists and murders.

7/1/2020 12:20:28 PM

I am supportive of an amendment that defunds the police and supports the communities most affected by police brutality (black, Native, people of color). But, I must also hear strong buy in from those communities. I do not hear support for this amendment and so I do not support it. Moreover, I have asked my council member for two things: the city council to take accountability for the failings of our local government up to this point. And to raise up the voices of the most affected. I don't see that either are happening. I will actively work to replace the council members if this doesn't happen.

7/1/2020 12:20:38 PM

I believe we have reached a point where systemic racism in the MPD can no longer be managed without dismantling the entire system and starting over. It feels unethical that 90% or more of MPD officers don't even reside in the city they are to "serve and protect". Enough research shows that if police reside in the city they serve, they are less inclined to use physical force, especially lethal force. But the city of Minneapolis doesn't mandate this. Bob Kroll, the head of the police union, encourages racism and lethal force and has admitted he feels no remorse for killing people. A person like that should not be in a position of power. Residents of a city need to feel respected and safe. They need to feel like when they call the police for help, it's not going to result in violence at the hands of police or death, and Minneapolis residents simply do not trust the MPD anymore. The distrust has been building for years, decades, but the murder of George Floyd on video for the world to watch, shows how callous the MPD is, and how can anyone trust an organization after witnessing 4 officers allow a man to be slowly murdered for almost 9 minutes of agony? The MPD will not change on their own. They've tried to implement racism training and non-lethal tactics, but clearly none of that matters when 4 cops murder a man on the street for a fake \$20 bill. When did that become a death sentence? When did we start allowing the police to issue death sentences? We don't trust the system and therefore, we need a replacement. We at least demand the opportunity to vote and have our voices heard on what our citizens want when it comes to public safety.

7/1/2020 12:22:05 PM

There has not been nearly enough time and notice for ALL citizens of Minneapolis to read and understand the changes and implications from the these changes. We need a proper and considerate process to deal with these very large changes to the Minneapolis city charter. So what's the rush?

7/1/2020 12:23:56 PM

This is a necessary change for our city and our country.

7/1/2020 12:23:59 PM

I think anyone in law enforcement should have to pass a background check and psych eval. Their complaint log should be part of a national database, and they should live in the neighborhood they work in.

7/1/2020 12:24:54 PM

A proposal to end police protection in the city will effectively stop business and new residence from coming to the city and also force them to leave. You need to have comments and recommendations from people with knowledge and experience in this matter because between the 13 of you nobody knows what they are doing and will not be held accountable for what happens after. Ward 4

7/1/2020 12:27:36 PM

I am not a resident of Minneapolis but I am here to lift the voices of the BIPOC community in the city. The biggest concern I am hearing about the proposed charter is that there has been undue haste in the process and the voices of the community are not being heard. These voices are not saying abolish the police; they're saying reform and defund the police. So I ask you: What efforts have been made to have a dialogue with the community about these proposed changes? What efforts have been made to research examples of police departments that have been successfully reformed, such as in Camden, NJ? What efforts have been made to fully analyze the effects these proposed changes would have on the community? While I understand in times of crisis we want swift action, taking swift, uniformed action is dangerous and could make a bad situation even worse. Please take a step back, listen to your community and constituents, and go back to the drawing table.

7/1/2020 12:31:57 PM

What's the plan? This council is great at jumping on the bandwagon, but has no plan or idea on how citizens will be protected and safe. Try thinking before you act. I encourage all citizens to educate yourselves, read up on what this council is doing to our city, and then find reasonable candidates who are interested in helping citizens and businesses thrive. This group is not doing it! Ward 3

7/1/2020 12:32:13 PM

I am opposed to the proposed charter amendment as drafted. It is vague and does not appear to have been fully thought through, which is likely the result of the rushed process leading to its creation.

I express this opposition as someone who strongly supports the movement to defund the police and more broadly reforming police departments and public safety so that the role of police specifically is more limited and other roles are created to address issues the police currently respond to (i.e. mental health calls). However, this is not the way to do it, and could ultimately result in the movement taking steps backward because of this amendment failing at the polls.

I will admit that I am not steeped in the logistics of what exactly a reformed police/public safety department would or should look like, and I suspect that I am not alone in this. Indeed, from the proposed amendment it appears the City Council's level of understanding of this is not much greater than mine. But there are people who are, and the Council should consult with those individuals, which may include national organizations and experts as well as local activists and community leaders. Additionally, the Council must do more to obtain feedback from the Minneapolis residents than this short public comment period - it is inexcusable that this proposed amendment was rushed through without a single public hearing. Something as critical and potentially transformative to our city as rebuilding our policing, public safety, and public health structure from the ground up requires significant expert and public input at every step.

I understand that this is only a first step, but this whole process from start to finish must be done thoughtfully and deliberately, and the proposed charter amendment threatens to derail the process at the outset.

7/1/2020 12:32:36 PM

I have done a lot of investigation and soul searching regarding this charter amendment, and I believe I now must speak against it and for reform of the current police force - as long as that reform can be drastic (firing all officers and rehiring based on residency, positive performance, and commitment to change), abolishing or dissolving the relationship with the current police federation, and redistributing the (lowered) budget to include adding separate agencies that will work with the police as first responders for calls regarding health (including mental health), wellness, minor disputes and mediation. I believe in Police Chief Arrandondo, and whatever the decision of the Council and the citizens of this city, I want him to be part of the continuing process to evolve our police force.

7/1/2020 12:34:40 PM

I am strongly in favor of the proposed amendment. The police department has proven time and again that its goal is not to protect and serve the least fortunate in our communities, but instead to harass, terrorize and incarcerate mostly people of color. I cannot think of a single problem that the police are allegedly supposed to solve that would not be better solved by a different kind of department that is focused on education, prevention, and actually helping our communities. Instead of a militarized gang of thugs, we need community outreach programs that aim at improving people's lives. Please abolish the police department, for the safety of the citizens of Minneapolis.

7/1/2020 12:34:55 PM

As a citizen of the metro area I beg you please do not abolish the MPD. While I agree that there needs to be an overhaul of the department we still need cops. There has been close to 100 people shot since Memorial Day. Only the police can handle this sort of stuff. I would also like to remind the counsel that it is the laws that YOUR body has passed that has lead to some of the issues. I recommend doing an audit of all the laws on the books and asking yourselves which ones are worth keeping.

7/1/2020 12:36:36 PM

No Charter Amendment! I have come to believe that the Charter Amendment is a bad idea for Minneapolis. Many Black leaders especially from North Minneapolis are against this amendment because it leaves the most vulnerable communities without protection. They gave confidence in our police chief. Deeply clean out the police department. Remove the connections with the police union. Fire all the police and make them reapply. Make them live in Minneapolis. But don't abolish the police department.

7/1/2020 12:38:18 PM

I support restructuring and rebooting our police force as we know it, provided that the city council can quickly and clearly articulate what this Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention will look like. At what points will social workers, mental and chemical health workers step in, and at what point will regular police officers step in? Violent crime is still a serious issue (especially here on the

northern part of the city, and won't go away overnight. I want assurances that while we work to reform our city's public safety apparatus to be more just, equal, and nuanced in its approach, we don't compromise on community safety

7/1/2020 12:39:08 PM

Could the Commission work with Homeboy Industries? They have been working with youth and gangs for 30 years. This has to be a long-term solution, involving consistent policies. It would be best to lean on folks with street-smarts. <https://homeboyindustries.org/>

7/1/2020 12:40:28 PM

Thank you for this opportunity.

I support the following:

- Do not take any funding away from MPD.
- Increase MPD funding so that they can hire 30 more officers than they are currently allocated.
- Embrace a dramatic increase in enforcement at all levels of crime. From traffic offenses on up. This will push the criminal activity out of Mpls.
- Leave social workers/domestic workers where they are. The police are by far better at dealing with people in crisis.

It should've noted I am a Native American male and I've only had positive contacts with MPD Officers.

7/1/2020 12:40:32 PM

Lets examine the facts on police shootings in the U.S. In the U.S. police shoot and kill approximately a thousand people every year. On average 250 of those shot and killed by police are African Americans. In 2019 of the 250 African Americans killed by police 10 were unarmed. Of these 10 six were attacking police officers. This does not constitute a crisis. In 2015 African Americans were murdered by other African Americans 2,380 times. This is a crisis which is ignored by the media. The MPD could use some reform. The answer is to weaken the union, so the Police Chief can implement those reforms. Ward 11

7/1/2020 12:41:20 PM

I fully support the charter amendment and want our city government to have all the tools available to them as they transform policing. The current structure does not distribute oversight and responsibility in a way most accountable and transparent to the people. The mayor and council are currently constrained from meaningful action by our restrictive charter language and it needs to change if we ever hope to reign in the abuses of MPD.

7/1/2020 12:41:55 PM

I will not feel safe going to Minneapolis if they take the police away!! We need new people leading Minnesota!

7/1/2020 12:42:02 PM

I will vote to remove the Police Department and establish a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department.

This is a step in the right direction for all of Minneapolis, not just white Minneapolis. Our city is a beautiful, prosperous, and loving place for those who have that white privilege, and not so much for anyone who is black, brown, and indigenous. I have known this since I moved here as a college student in 2007. My experience living here is better and safer simply because I am white, and my friends, neighbors, classmates, colleagues, and family who are not face death at the hands of MPD simply because they are \*not\* white. They can be murdered without impunity. That is fascism. We cannot aid and abet the murder of citizens by this systemically and explicitly racist force any longer. We all know there is a double standard with policing, and that police are immune to punishment, do not self-regulate, and can kill without even losing their jobs. People who comment that they don't simply don't want to open their eyes, or to say it out loud. These deaths are on all of us. That blood is on our hands and forever stains the land we all live on.

I dream of a day that police officers, armed and not subject to the same laws as regular citizens, do not show up to all emergencies. Cops were called when I had a panic attack and suicidal thoughts in my therapist's office. Not medics. Not a doctor. Armed police. And because I was white I had no fear of being shot. But any other soul in my position would have been in mortal danger. It's wrong, and it's a waste of time, money, and resources. Qualified crisis response and mental health professionals should be called to that scene. The current county-run mental health response COPE is hardly capable of handling these situations. We need more funding for the community, not for a historically racist enforcement agency designed to protect the rich and their property at the cost of brown and black lives.

Please don't be swayed by the internalized and sometimes outspoken white supremacy of some Minnesota residents. Please don't be swayed by the masked white supremacy of people like Bob Kroll, and those who support him. Please don't be swayed by people looking down on our city and calling it lawless because black and brown people are asking for their rights with protest. Please don't bend to the loud voices of the few, who are screaming so loudly to keep the bloody and racist status quo that solely benefits them. They are the true threat to the peace and prosperity of Minneapolis and Minnesota. Whether consciously or not, they stand with a history of hate and bloodshed and wish to see it perpetuated without change.

I hope the people of Minneapolis stand instead with a future of equity, peace, humanitarianism, and empathy by voting to defund, dismantle, and abolish police as we know it. Because police as we know them only serve and protect wealthy whites, and all Minnesotans know that, whether they acknowledge it or not. Black lives matter. George Floyd still matters, and all those murdered by police still matter.

7/1/2020 12:42:07 PM

I work in Ward 2 and live on the border. While steps need to be taken to ensure that policing is safe and effective for everyone, the worst thing that could happen is to give the city council more power in overseeing the administration of the department. The last month has proven that most of the Minneapolis city council members care more about power than they do the residents and business owners of Minneapolis. The mayor and council should have equal powers. I also suggest a voluntary citizen board be consulted. The city council does not recognize how much they already ask of the LEOs in Minneapolis. All they have done is instill fear and hatred toward law enforcement. You can support them while seeking change. Ward 2

7/1/2020 12:43:37 PM

I do not support this charter amendment!

Look to Nekima, look to Raeisha, look to the Black community - they don't want the police to be abolished and replaced with some nebulous civilian non law enforcement folks. It's a substitute of one white supremacist structure with another, with the added effect of creating chaos and providing no clarity for social order. Listen to these women - they want less money to go to the police, more to other social public health oriented services, making officers reapply for their jobs, REAL reform - this amendment appears thoughtlessly drafted and without input from the communities that will be impacted by it the most. Please pull this and get some input and resubmit it - don't blow your chance at real reform by putting something in front of voters that is not well thought out.

7/1/2020 12:43:44 PM

Please put the amendment on the ballot in November for voters to vote on. The flexible language is what we need in order to develop and adapt the department in ongoing conversation with our community.

7/1/2020 12:44:55 PM

I support defunding the police. They have way too much money that really doesn't stop important crimes. That money should be used towards affordable housing/homelessness and schools. I support the new law enforcement to be hiring only within their communities/cities.

7/1/2020 12:45:03 PM

I support the charter amendment and efforts to reimagine public safety in Minneapolis. I hope the Council will continue to be guided by local activists in groups like Reclaim the Block and Black Visions Collective to be sure we are centering the communities in Minneapolis that have been most impacted by police violence. Ward 5

7/1/2020 12:46:03 PM

Why would I want to ever visit your city again. I have lived in MN 57 years but now it's embarrassing. There are so many things wrong with this picture. You let people burn down your police station. How dare you. You and the Governor should be ashamed of yourself. This is the USA. You live here and you respect our country.

Are you a parent are you a grandparent? Think about it. What are you teaching your children. It starts in the home. If you disobey the law you will suffer the consequences. You respect your parents, grandparents, teachers, and law enforcement and the rule of law. You run a light or speed you might get pulled over. You vandalize something you should get in trouble. You steal you should be punished. You burglarize you should be punished. If you rape someone you should be punished. If you murder someone you should be punished. Yes what happened to George Floyd was terrible and the cops will be punished. We have a law and a court for due process.

I do believe there are bad people in every profession. Bad Mayors, bad government at every level, bad doctors, bad teachers. However, you do NOT abolish the institution. We still need our professions. So you want to terminate the police and only have a certain way of thinking? Do you want a robot? You want to get rid of police but the elite feel they are titled to personal security? WRONG. what about the

people living in there homes? When they call 911 who will help them from a rape or burglary? You just had a small child killed on your streets the other night during a drive by shooting. SERIOUSLY get your city together and hire more cops. Do different training if needed. I stand for the cops and first responders. Look at Seattle it's a disaster zone. You actually want to live like that.

All lives matter. BLM is not for real it's just ANTIFA. Black people are laughing at us for believing in this. Black people get jobs just like anyone else. People need to grow up.

This is the USA we are not any other country. You come legally and work and live an honest life.

You don't tear down statues and erase history. We are history whether it's good or bad. You learn and do better. Statues are being torn down of people that did good. Read your history people.

God will prevail in all this evil.

I have a daughter living in Coon Rapids and now wish she would move.

I have a daughter wanting to move back and I hope she doesn't.

This is not worthy of a ballot question ever.

7/1/2020 12:47:25 PM

I've never seen a plan so poorly thought out as this amendment to the charter. You didn't even meet with constituents to gain their perspective. This amendment is dangerous and will absolutely do the opposite of your intentions. I don't live in Minneapolis, but I have family and friends there who fear for their safety if this amendment goes through, and I fear for them. Y'all are taking this "abolish the police" thing way too literally. Defund them. Fire them all and make them reapply with investigations and background checks for each applicant. Require they carry their own liability insurance. RECONSTRUCT the department - see Camden, NJ. You're haste in this decision is going to have every single one of your seats open for replacement and you'll have blood on your hands WHEN the affects of this amendment imminently hit the fan. LISTEN to your community at what they are asking for. IT'S NOT THIS. Do better. We're all watching.

7/1/2020 12:48:17 PM

The way this has been handled by our council feels dirty and sneaky. While they have received private security paid for by tax payers and kept it secrete while forcing tax payers to jump quickly to prevent them from doing away with MPD! I will never believe the council (or anyone) should have to live with threats, I do feel keeping their private detail secret at this time is dirty politics!

7/1/2020 12:49:00 PM

Hello,

We need to amend the charter on this year's ballot because we are hundreds of years overdue for a check on the rampant violence endured at the hands of police.

I too want a clear plan and a financial analysis for how we will create, staff, structure, supervise, and support a Department of Community Safety. I believe that plan will come.

But we are well past the point of police reform. It's time to tear it down and start with a community first model. Then we have to examine each aspect of our city and create the kind of place we want to live to live where every person has a home, health care, food access, work, and security.

7/1/2020 12:50:22 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 7

7/1/2020 12:51:51 PM

As a former Minneapolis resident, I greatly support this move by the city council. I ask that whatever new force is put in place does not get riot gear, military grade anything, lethal weapons, or anything else that police should not have had in the first place. In addition, body cameras should be required at all times, police training should be an absolute minimum of two years, and the police "union" needs to be abolished. If they want to create a real union I'm all for that, but what they have right now is a sham.

7/1/2020 12:52:50 PM

The amendment(s) in its current form does not match demands for community control of the police or abolish police department control in Minneapolis; it therefore falls short of the promises and intentions you yourselves signed into law just recently.

I was happy to see that concerns voiced by Black Visions and others re: appointing law enforcement officers or administration as a Director for the proposed new department were addressed in this draft by stipulating that individuals eligible to be appointed as director will have non-law enforcement experience in community safety services, including but not limited to public health and/or restorative justice approaches.

However, the proposed CPAC legislation you recently received details a community board made up of representatives in proportion to current Minneapolis districts: THIS is community control, not one director and their staff -even under general direction from city council. A multiplicity of commonly disenfranchised voices is needed in order to provide holistic community safety and represent a broad range of needs in our communities: those leaders should be collectively empowered to oversee public safety and accountability, not one director these same leaders must supplicate for deference. If a manager or managers are needed to execute the decisions of that collective body, then they should be either appointed by that board or subject to local elections; nonetheless, their role should be much like that of a city manager who is able to provide feedback and possible solutions but whose role is ultimately to enact policies created through collective community authority. Simply having one person answerable to the city council for this -even with a team reporting to them- is grossly inadequate to holistically address public health and safety. Though I understand some minor language may need to be adjusted in order to streamline its integration into the city charter -including eliminating policing altogether- the proposed CPAC legislation you received copies of should be used as the basis for legislative change. Link to digital copy of CPAC as follows:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yfy2\\_b0JEK8muJZAm4TyAB03gZ8P9mNb/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yfy2_b0JEK8muJZAm4TyAB03gZ8P9mNb/view?usp=sharing)

Additionally, I am seeing that even though your revision of the current statutes/city charter includes striking the MPD as an institution, it does not eliminate 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 proviso for a police force and its associated director effectively mimic current policing in a way that violates community expectations for elimination of armed, offensive thugs operating in our neighborhoods under municipal authority. ANY degree to which an armed or less-lethally empowered offensive or defensive force of those with legal authority may respond to acute, aggressively life-threatening crises in Minneapolis must be laid out in explicit, exhaustive detail in order to provide no room for currently ubiquitous misuse of power and force -instead of being generally allowed per city charter in a vague and short paragraph as the city council has proposed.

Also, a minor edit: Article VII, Section 8.4(b) subsection 4...may need to be amended to include a limit of 30 days on empty CPAC board seats (or a directorship, per your wording, which should be updated to include the proposed CPAC council/board) in order to prevent a lack of representation from the community, misrepresentation of community concerns and needs, or vacuums of power.

Additionally, I believe a goal quota of 100% affirmative action in favor of historically disenfranchised and oppressed demographic populations -generally, and in our city - is warranted for any appointments and all hiring within the proposed department and should be explicitly included in this charter and associated policy. Those populations include but are not limited to: a br

7/1/2020 12:53:47 PM

Say no to the charter. Let's defund the police but not get rid of them entirely. Let Arredondo clean house.

7/1/2020 12:55:28 PM

Here is a short summary of my thoughts related to the proposed charter amendments:

- 1.) This seems hasty, rushed, and entirely political in nature. Please do not become part of the machine that rushes to push this through without appropriate analysis and opportunities for feedback from our citizens.
- 2.) As a resident of north Minneapolis for the past 20+ years, my neighbors and I deserve more than this last minute amendment. We deserve to have deep, qualified and RESPONSIVE discussion with experts about this matter.
- 3.) This reads entirely as though it is more about consolidating power under the City Council and removing power from the Office of the Mayor. The rest is just distraction and deflection from the real issues.
- 4.) I feel as though that matter has ALREADY been dealt with by the Charter Commission just 2 years ago. The power-grab was without merit then. They have done NOTHING to establish that it has any merit now. Please consider precedent and motive and reject this blatant political move again.
- 5.) In that light, I find it appalling and disgusting that my neighbors who are people of color are being used as pawns to justify something that is all about political power and nothing about actually listening to or empowering their perspective on the matter of safety. Please do not be complicit in their exploitation.
- 6.) As the City Council members have claimed that they plan to do a "robust engagement" over the next year about what the "future of policing" looks like, I feel that this charter amendment should be looked at during that same window. If it is true that "nothing is going to change" in the next year anyway, then there is no harm in waiting until we are all better informed on the matter. And whatever amendment comes out of that process (if any) should be on the ballot in 2021, NOT 2020. The authors of this amendment need to own it. It seems appropriate that it be on the ballot at the same time that they are. A political move needs to be made in context of the political arena it is being played in.
- 7.) I think it should be apparent to all that there is great harm in making rash statements or actions related to this highly charged issue. This past month alone we have seen an uptick in shootings in our city, particularly in my area - north Minneapolis - like we've never seen before....and it can all be traced back to irresponsible statements made by this City Council. This is related to the use of charged language (abolish, defund, dismantle) with no clarifying explanation or substance behind them. This has demonstrated that current leadership in the City Council is unable to wield the power they have. Why would we give them more?
- 8.) Lastly - this distracts and detracts from the real issues our city is facing. We have a real, serious problem with policing. This council has not done anything within the authority it HAS to deal with that. For example: no analysis and expansion of the existing CoResponder COPE program (whose description is exactly what council is describing as the replacement to policing...) has occurred. City Council had the power to implement that city wide years ago (if it really was the success they claim it was) ... but they didn't. If they didn't exercise their power then, why should we entrust them with more, now? We need accountability.

No doubt this is just one of hundreds and hundreds of messages you are receiving .... I implore you to PLEASE give deep weight and consideration to the people who LIVE in areas like north Minneapolis on this matter. So many neighbors consistently have their voices ignored .... but if something is being done in their name, and supposedly for their benefit, it seems it should be THEIR voices that should have the most weight.

7/1/2020 12:56:33 PM

You concil members are very Anti American and the only thing you are doing is guaranteeing a Donald Trump victory in November. I hope all of you crazies are voted out soon. You are endangering the lives of the people in Minneapolis with your anarchy ideas.

7/1/2020 12:57:57 PM

The importance of this charter amendment cannot be overstated. The MPD has failed to protect and serve our communities - instead they have terrorized our most marginalized neighbors through excessive force and over policing. Their actions do not protect us and instead create more danger. It is time to try something new, and without the alteration to the charter there is no way forward.

7/1/2020 12:59:47 PM

Hello! I understand from this Charter Commission that the mayor would nominate and city council would appoint a director for both the Community Safety and Violence Protection Department and the potential Law Enforcement Services Division.

1. Would the Community Safety and Violence Protection Department and the director ultimately answer to the mayor/city council? One major issue with the Police, as it stands, is that they don't answer to anyone. (Which could relate to immunity, the union, the police chief, etc...)
2. Would the Law Enforcement Services Division be connected to the CSVDPD and work alongside them, or would their responsibilities differ completely? Is it a division of the CSVDPD? Or is there another reason for the differing titles of "department" and "division"? Thank you for opening this movement up to public comments!

7/1/2020 12:59:51 PM

Hello. I am writing you today as a very concerned citizen that doesn't wish to see the promised dismantling of police be rolled back to some tiny reforms, thus allowing the brutality they exercise in and on our communities to continue unabated.

I strongly urge you to let residents of Minneapolis have the opportunity to VOTE on the future of our public safety system. only then will you know how we feel about this issue - by directly hearing our voices.

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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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. Thank you. Ward 2

7/1/2020 1:00:05 PM

There are so many problems with this and I do not support it. We are wasting ANOTHER opportunity to do something meaningful. Instead:

- Black leaders were brought into the conversation after the proposal was written
- Myth of reforms being tried and failed in the past; how can they say reform doesn't work if they never have tried or made it a priority? What exactly has the Minneapolis City Council done? They cannot name one meaningful measure.
- They had an opportunity when the Ketamine scandal happened last year and MPS was instructing EMS to illegally use Ketamine. The city council refused to have an independent investigation and to hold any officers accountable.
- After Thurmond Blevins was murdered, the community demanded a thorough review of the policy and procedures that lead to his death. Nothing happened.
- Case settlement by City Council; Justine Diamond was awarded 20 million unanimously (and the Minneapolis Foundation got two million) Jamar Clark was given 200K. Terrance Franklin (whose head was practically blown off) his family got 700K. These black men were killed under just egregious conditions and got less than half of what the Minneapolis Foundation received!

Problem: The thirteen people who have done nothing to date, who have no experience in this area, or have done their due diligence around policing will share the power to determine and make decisions.

- They have not reached out to Black leaders on this proposal
- They did not reach out after George Floyd
- None of the background in addressing police issues or have they done any due diligence regarding the significant ramifications of these changes

- Violence has continued and increased and there has been nothing done to address this or the impact of their words (but three city council members have private security)

- How can law enforcement answer to civilians without law enforcement backgrounds? The Mayor is the highest elected person - changing this is a recipe for disaster - no one will be in charge.

This proposal is ill-thought of, quickly put together, without due diligence, without consulting leaders in the community, without thoroughly thinking through the consequences of this and put citizens at risk IS WRONG. There are several City Council members are NOT qualified to lead this effort.

7/1/2020 1:00:19 PM

I believe removing the police department is a great idea mostly because the police who work in this neighborhood don't live here and do respect the people are paid to serve

7/1/2020 1:01:57 PM

Shootings are up 47%.

People are stabbed consistently all over the city.

Carjackings relentlessly. Every night.

And you guys want to REMOVE the police entirely? Things need to change after George Floyd. The police force is routed in racism. However, abolishing them completely isn't the way to go. Businesses in Uptown CLOSED due to lack of public safety. This level of incompetence is astonishing, and not in a good way. Ward 1

7/1/2020 1:02:46 PM

While I do feel significant police reform is necessary, this charter amendment feels rushed and haphazard. A change of this magnitude requires a much longer and more intensive period of public input, not something to be rushed to put into a ballot in a few months' time.

That we would consider appointing someone without any law enforcement experience to be leader of a new crime prevention/safety division doesn't make any sense.

I definitely would like to see changes, where trained addictions specialists/medical specialists would respond to overdoses. Where social workers would respond to calls about homeless people loitering. Where unarmed, non-uniformed behavioral health or medical experts would go on wellness checks. Bringing experts in to respond to situations as a first resort, with the option to call for armed police backup as needed.

The proposed amendment feels hasty, hasn't allowed for sufficient public input, and feels like a far-left knee-jerk reaction to the problem of police brutality. (And I am a liberal Democrat!)

Please don't try to rush this through. We don't need to go from one mess to another, less-formalized mess. Also, I would like to see Chief Arrondondo maintain his position and lead whatever new iteration of a force of peace officers we have.

I would like to see our peace officers live in the community they serve. (Current officers could be permitted a certain amount of time to move to minneapolis.). I would like to ramp up mental health and social service responses whenever possible. We don't need armed officers in every situation, but there

are occasions in which we DO need armed law enforcement officers.

Please, please slow down, and don't rush this! Don't just listen to the loudest, shouting voices. Quiet, contemplative citizens live here too, and deserve to have their voices heard.

Have you done surveys among current police officers? Have you asked THEM what needs to change? Are you engaging with community leaders? Are there case studies to support this vision you're putting forth? Where are they? Have you surveyed RESIDENTS to see what changes they want to see?

Not everyone is internet-savvy.

PLEASE DO NOT RUSH THIS! You will not earn the trust of the community if it feels like you're moving too quickly, in the midst of a pandemic, when people are just trying to survive and might not be able to take extra steps to attend community meetings.

SLOW DOWN! PLEASE!!!!

7/1/2020 1:04:17 PM

The council must take very seriously the need to listen to and let the citizens of North Minneapolis and other areas most affected by the racial implications of policing as well as outcomes of defunding and abolition of police that are actively engaged in the solutions to this. How have they been engaged in this process so far? We may need some armed police. I support our current police chief. How is he engaged? Racism and the impact is so much broader than the police. The city, the school board, the counties all have to look at the systemic issues and these things are intersecting- how will that be accounted for?

7/1/2020 1:04:30 PM

I live in St. Paul.

Abolishing the police department is not the right thing to do at this moment. Yes, remove the police union and Bob Kroll - but don't throw the baby out with the bath water. Police Chief Arredondo needs to be given the opportunity to lead his department so that they can make positive changes.

Your rash actions, rushed decision making, and rhetoric are scaring people. I 100% support restructuring the police department by adding more social workers to respond to mental health and other appropriate calls. I 100% support more training (de-escalation, disability, cultural, etc). I 100% support removing Bob Kroll. BUT - I don't support abolishing the police department so quickly during a pandemic!

Take your time, do research, and get buy-in from the police department and the community before making rash decisions that can hurt your city. Please do NOT make a bad situation worse.

7/1/2020 1:06:29 PM

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

Did you know that recently, 14 officers of the MPD signed an open letter condemning Chauvin's behavior? Remember how that behavior was literal murder? Remember how the MPD has about 850 officers right now? 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 are hacks and 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.

7/1/2020 1:06:33 PM

To the Charter Commission:

The events of the last month have exposed the systemic racial inequities that permeate the entire Minneapolis Police Department. The Star Tribune has reported on a decades-long toxic culture within the 3rd Precinct, and the President of the Police Federation has made clear through his own statements that he has no regard for the wishes of the people who actually live in this city. This is a systemic moral failure, as activists throughout the city and the state have shown.

Beyond this moral issue, however, putting the question of eliminating MPD to the city's voters would serve a more practical purpose. MPD's violent relationship with this city's residents has shown how ineffective law enforcement can erode public perception of the law's legitimacy itself. As The New York Times noted in a story last week, many residents are opting not to call the police \*even after they are the victims of violent crimes\* because of fears about how MPD will respond to their call. This is not surprising. Even before George Floyd's murder, one could walk around Minneapolis and encounter households that had a de facto "don't call 911" policy.

This has certainly been the case in my own home ever since I moved to Minneapolis two years ago. I have lived in many places ranging from major cities to suburbs and small towns, and I have never encountered a police department with as little community trust as MPD. On the one occasion in which I did opt to call MPD, I believed I had witnessed a domestic incident. I weighed whether bringing MPD into the situation would escalate matters, but ultimately decided to call the non-emergency line 15 minutes later. I suspect many other residents would share similar stories about delaying their response to an emergency because of concerns over MPD's response.

No citizen should feel that law enforcement will not effectively enforce the law. Yet in Minneapolis, thousands of us know that is the case. MPD has a broken culture, and the Police Federation has ensured the preservation of that culture despite their own failures to express solidarity with working people in other trades. I believe it is possible to support organized labor but also recognized how the Police Federation has corrupted the labor movement's principles to inflict harm on working class people.

Placing this item on the ballot will not solve all of our problems with systemic racial injustice. We need substantive reforms to federal and state criminal law that make clear drug crimes are a secondary concern to violent crimes, and we need improved social services at all levels of government for the communities that most frequently see police brutality. I stand with other commenters calling for the City to seek substantive input from groups such as MPD\_150, CUAPB, Black Visions Collective, Reclaim the Block, and the Twin Cities Coalition for Justice 4 Jamar. I also believe the amendment proposal should more clearly outline accountability measures for public safety officers, and ensure that more robust oversight processes are in place both for the department's daily operations and its hiring practices. Along with nearly every other city in the country, we also need an overhaul of public safety procurement priorities in order to de-militarize local policing.

A referendum would ensure that all of Minneapolis can say with one voice that we do not tolerate MPD's treatment of our neighbors, and that we cannot continue to allow them to destroy public confidence in our government and our laws. I urge you to allow the city to continue this crucial conversation into November. Marcy-Holmes

7/1/2020 1:06:44 PM

This in my very humble opinion is absolutely ludicrous. Law and order is not something That can be re-imagined or re-invented. We are fortunate in this state that we have a level of education and training that is required of our peace officers And the fact that here and there there is an Individual inline force ment that should not be there Is something that should be dealt with on a person by person basis and we in no way whatsoever should paint every Law enforcement officer with the same brush as The person that should not be in this profession... That is disingenuous to every other good peace officer in this country.

People that want to redefine or imagine something different need to address the problems of crime on all levels and the best do that on their own little island somewhere far away from the rest of us because our city and our state as well as our country is not the test grounds for radicals to try new philosophies especially those that are solidly in the direction of socialism. Ward 7

7/1/2020 1:06:49 PM

This is the reality for everyday Minnesotans. Stabbing a. Carjackings. Shootings. Nothing and no one will stop it. Call 911?

Incompetency in its highest form. Ward 2

My son and I were just carjacked at 6pm at the intersection of University Ave SE and Arthur Ave SE. Two men who claimed to have a gun approached me as I exited my car, shoved me, and grabbed my car keys. I screamed that my son was in the car and thankfully my son was able to get out before they took off.

This happened in broad daylight while people walking by witnessed it. When I tried calling 911 in just rang, and rang, and rang. Thankfully a witness was able to get them on the phone. But the odds aren't great that we'll ever see our car again.

The crime in our area is rampant lately. The police said this has been happening daily and they're stealing cars to go commit a string of other crimes.

I NO LONGER FEEL SAFE IN MY CITY IN BROAD DAYLIGHT. Nor does my 12-year-old.

7/1/2020 1:06:58 PM

I disagree with the amendments to the chart involving the Minneapolis police department as they currently stand. I believe that the current plan worsens the issue of accountability for the police force-making them accountable to the 13 people on the city council as opposed to one person. I also do not believe that the language of the new charter has been discussed or worked on enough or taken to public forum. I am in favor of major changes to the police department, but we need to LISTEN to those most affected by police misuse of power in order to make changes that will actually lead to increased equity. This change is hasty and not well thought through. It took hundreds of years to establish the power and systems of the police department. We will not do well by our community by trying to dismantle it in a few months. I would not vote to approve this charter amendment no matter the wording because I believe the process was far to hasty and not inclusive of community voice.

7/1/2020 1:07:10 PM

As a Minneapolis resident, I am against abolishing the Minneapolis Police department. We need to keep this important department in place but work to reform and improve procedures.

7/1/2020 1:07:25 PM

The City Council has not done its due diligence, including communities of color who have been at the forefront of this work, nor shown any competency at addressing these issues. The exact opposite in fact. I do not support this. Go back to the drawing board and do the work that is needed, not most expedient.

7/1/2020 1:08:12 PM

Opinion: I'm in favor of BOTH a reduced number law enforcement police based on population for violent crimes AND a collaboratively formed community arm focused on non-violent crimes. This would absolutely include a mental health pathway (substance use disorders, domestic violence, etc.). As a psychotherapist many of my clients are not referred or mandated for services until their P.O. requires it and they've entered the criminal system. In addition

7/1/2020 1:08:16 PM

Do not remove the police just defund the police and use the money in black areas. Ask the people that are getting bad treatment from the police. I just want a police department that treat me like a human and do what humans do. Defund police not abolish police.

7/1/2020 1:08:40 PM

The fireworks terrorism needs to stop.

Little old ladies constantly on edge with their dogs freaking out.

I am too. So is my dog. I am no little old lady.

Never know if its gun fire or fireworks... or both.

How dare you.

How dare you accuse a community that watched and enabled someone like Ilhan Omar, or our entire city council and its strong presence of normally excluded people get freely elected, and then accuse us of racism and hate.

This hatred of the institutions of government and everything that built it has to stop.

These are the things that gave you the very power you now wield.

Look around the world, how often do you think people like you get to be in positions like you are?

I am so scared of what you on the council are talking about. Defunding the police.

America is the greatest country in the world. Minneapolis is a gem plopped right down in the middle of heaven. There is no where designed to give the people more power, and there is no where more freely accessible to travel and see the wonders of nature.

Slow your Role. The Police are trying to do a good job.

Sincerely,

Someone with 2 trans kids that I care about very much regardless of our current connection, also a felon, someone that should probably fear the police as much as you, but doesn't.

I hope I am learning as I grow older.

I see a lot of people around, trying to be 'better people' and I think that is great.

But, I have been and seen these people around for quite some time now.

I hope the police come if I call.

Why wouldn't the system you are profering actually create a much smaller, more elite police unit?

I am very worried that would very quickly become an elite death squad. Am I being overly dramatic? No. This is a real existential consequence of what you are proposing.

The tension in this city is untenable.

Please stop with all the radical talk.

America IS the OG Radical nation in the first place, because it gives you , and everyone a voice. You want to tear all that down in disgrace? Doesn't make any sense to me.

Maybe we should read up on logical fallacies. I can see the new speak. the protected class, the socialist movement. Maybe we need to reread some Orwell too.

I am scared to hit the 'submit' button....here goes...

7/1/2020 1:08:58 PM

The City Council has not done its due diligence, including communities of color who have been at the forefront of this work, nor shown any competency at addressing these issues. The exact opposite in fact. I do not support this. Go back to the drawing board and do the work that is needed, not most expedient. This is grossly irresponsible and ill-thought out.

7/1/2020 1:09:08 PM

I want to ensure that the Community of Safety and Violence Prevention Department is equipped to include voices and skills from community members, and that there is continued accountability and transparency in all of the actions and policies that this new department undertakes. We are in a crucial moment where we can determine a future beyond policing WITHOUT police and without the structures that have oppressed our BIPOC communities and individuals. The new department should definitely include a group of armed and highly trained folks who are equipped to respond to violence with empathy and the priority on de-escalation. We cannot tolerate the "shoot first, ask questions later" mindset that has pervaded our policing. We need these folks to be truly accountable to the public in every possible way. We also need to compensate our social workers adequately in this new model, and we need to ensure that we move away from systems of social control and punishment towards restorative and transformative justice. I'm SO PROUD to live in Minneapolis and in particular I'm proud of the work of this City Council. Thank you!

7/1/2020 1:10:39 PM

I urge council members to vote in favor of the Amendment to remove the Police Department and establish a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. The city has historically put too much responsibility in the hands of the police force, who do not have the extensive training and necessary oversight to perform these public service tasks. Personally, I believe that criminalizing mental health complaints, homelessness complaints, drug abuse complaints etc. is the wrong way to handle these issues. Giving such cases to a community department would help better serve our Minneapolis neighbors. Thank you for your service to the Minneapolis community and your affirmative consideration of this revolutionary and much-needed amendment.

7/1/2020 1:10:44 PM

Absolutely terrible idea. If anything should be removed it's the city council and mayor. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 1:12:40 PM

Replace the police department with social workers.

7/1/2020 1:12:55 PM

Only 14 officers signed the letter consuming Chauvin. 98% are either cowards or agree that murdering civilians is ok. 98% need to be fired. Renaming the police isn't good enough. We need a law that cops have to reside in the town or city they patrol. Period.

7/1/2020 1:13:59 PM

After hearing more truths and information surrounding this charter amendment , is clear to me that this amendment is not being put through the appropriate due process and vetting that are necessary to make a healthy change to our system. I made an earlier comment supporting the removal of the MPD due to its continued systematic racism towards PoC. I still believe this is a serious issue that needs to be addressed immediately. But it clear now that this charter amendment is not being treated as such and not being given the appropriate community input and vetting required for this change to make a meaningful positive impact on the lives of BIPOC in Minneapolis. I cannot support this charter

amendment because black community leaders do not support it. We must take the appropriate steps and processes so that we ACTUALLY improve the lives of people who will be directly affected by these changes.

7/1/2020 1:14:20 PM

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

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

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

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

We want to be on the record as saying the current city leadership cannot be trusted to develop a comprehensive plan as required. The skills needed to repair the damages done are not present in today's mayor's office or the City Council boardroom. We plan to become more involved in finding new leadership for our city and to involve our tax paying neighbors in these efforts. We deserve the service of people like us who know and appreciate the function of our local government. Ward 6

7/1/2020 1:14:50 PM

We need more police not less. The city council should be put on trial for woeful incompetence. I cannot think of a more idiotic proposal than to defund the police. Ward 5

7/1/2020 1:15:11 PM

YES Please reorganize public safety! Thank you for considering this, it is urgent to provide the best for the city of Minneapolis. We can do this! We can be leaders and a model for the nation. Ward 12

7/1/2020 1:16:08 PM

It has become increasingly apparent over the course of the past several years that the Minneapolis Police Department is fundamentally flawed. Mishandling of several high-profile events over the course of this time has led us to no other option than a complete reform of the law enforcement agency tasked with serving its community.

From multiple high profile shootings and killings of unarmed citizens, to a racist Christmas tree decoration mocking the neighborhood they serve with cliched and hurtful stereotypes, has demonstrated a level of judgement so poor, that our only recourse is to rebuild this organization from the ground up.

Currently, preventing this from occurring is the city charter. This charter has stood as a barrier to much-needed reform of what is continuing to become an increasingly antiquated department.

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

7/1/2020 1:17:24 PM

I am in full agreement with the city council that the MPD needs to be defunded and completely reimaged but I have some concerns on how it is being done. This charter amendment seems to only be renaming the police department and handing more power over hiring decisions to the city council. So far the charter amendment does not mention any sort of community involvement in choosing police leaders or holding police accountable.

7/1/2020 1:17:51 PM

The thought of defunding the police is the most ridiculous thing you have come up with. What we need is common sense and not council members pandering for votes. Try putting some effort into a constructive solution to the problem, like advanced training and better hiring processes for the police. If you defund all you will do is allow the city to become a free for all and safe haven for criminals and hoodlums, and will drive out legitimate residents and business (who, by the way, are paying the outrageous taxes to keep the city running). You lose the non criminal residents and businesses (including all the sports teams and theaters) you will have no reason for anyone to come to Minneapolis.

You need to start doing the job you were hired for and come up with solutions, not ridiculous theatrics!

7/1/2020 1:17:57 PM

I think this is a good first step toward reforming the police and making our community safer for all of our residents.

7/1/2020 1:18:12 PM

This is possibly the most short sighted proposal to come out of the city on Minneapolis. This amendment should be defeated

7/1/2020 1:20:25 PM

Hello, I'm a concerned citizen of Minneapolis. I've lived here my whole life and have witnessed the violent pattern existing within the MPD the entire time. I am urging to please let citizens vote on the amendment to DISBAND THE MPD. We deserve better. Ward 1

7/1/2020 1:21:52 PM

I'm sorry but the idea to get rid of the Police department is ridiculous. With all the shootings and crime increases who do you think will respond to them. Sure reform is needed but the talk of no police is just unreal. The reactions of the city council have been knee-jerk and not thought out at all. Surely Minneapolis can come up with better policies and reforms and give all the good police officers the credit they are due..and get rid of the bad apples starting with the head of the police union.

7/1/2020 1:22:28 PM

I think this is the dumbest thing I ever heard if it passes I will be looking to sell my house in Mpls even though I have lived in Mpls all my life .I believe we have a very good police force I believe the City council is acting in a prejudice manner against the police. Because of a few officers you want to punish all. I don' believe a safety commission is going to stop a bullet or stand out front being shot at. These Men and Women put there lives on the line every day.

7/1/2020 1:22:47 PM

Hello,

I would be truly grateful for the opportunity to vote upon the transformation of public safety in my home city of Saint Paul. I would also be grateful for the opportunity to reimagine what actual public safety looks and feels like. If you are feeling mentally stuck while thinking about what public safety looks like sans police, reach out to me via phone: [REDACTED] I am not an expert but I am a caring resident of Saint Paul with some ideas. Ward 12

7/1/2020 1:23:08 PM

I need the City Council to be so so SO clear on who the supposed "peace officers" are going to be as part of this new amendment. Reclaim the Block and Black Visions Collective -- the same voices that have long put forward much of the now widely supported rhetoric and actionable solutions that this amendment supports -- have voiced a very real concern over the presence of former or current police officers having any say in what a new solution looks like. Please consider Audre Lorde's words: "For the master's tools will never dismantle the master's house. They may allow us temporarily to beat him at his own game, but they will never enable us to bring about genuine change." Keeping options open on this point does not read as a "lack of clarity" or even as a space where community input will be enough; it invites the racist normalcy to resume. I trust my South Minneapolis neighbors and absolutely trust my community to care for itself. We have been doing it in the absence of police presence, in the face of increased national guard presence and under the threat of white supremacist violence; we have been caring for the un-housed residents that are being sheltered at Powderhorn Park. We are doing it not only with limited support but also with ACTIVE push back and yet, as a community, we are finding the best ways to care for each other. Talk to your people in South Minneapolis about the 20,000+ community mutual aid group, ask them about neighborhood watches and helping the un-housed, talk to the folks doing 15 hour volunteer shifts at Powderhorn. I bet you will see a lot of on the ground action that could definitely use resources and lot of voices that would have real world experience to contribute to the conversation on what community safety looks like. The police do not need any say whatsoever in any solutions that are proposed. They are not here helping. I repeat: THEY ARE NOT HERE HELPING. They have yet to have anything to say that has done a lick of good. If all we get for a sizable chunk of the city's budget is union leaders battening down the hatches and performative statements of "doing better," then I'm ashamed of the "progressive" politics that the Twin Cities touts. City Council Members: y'all got this. I know you

do. And I felt so much honest pride when I saw you stand in solidarity for the dismantlement of the MPD and call things like you saw them. A lot of people are watching. Please, keep fighting down the last detail to make this amendment the best it can be for your beloved community. Keep the police out of this.

7/1/2020 1:23:43 PM

Please don't abolish the MPD. I'm a lifelong Mpls resident. I think it makes more sense to defund, rebuild with quality officers & reallocate funds to community resources. To abolish the MPD without a viable plan laid out seems like an irresponsible move. Please please please take the time to study options for a feasible safe plan for Minneapolis instead of moving towards abolishing the MPD hastily.

7/1/2020 1:23:59 PM

I support disbanding the Minneapolis Police Department. Ward 12

7/1/2020 1:24:03 PM

Dear council, I am concerned about the proposal for the council to take over the MPD and in the process for chief Arradondo. He is a trusted leader in the community and those most impacted by the history of police injustice have faith in his abilities to lead and their voices should be heard. While I support the dismantling of the MPD, it is not your job as a council to run the police. There are people that have been working on this problem for years that have the knowledge. Please step out of the way and allow them to lead. Thank you.

7/1/2020 1:24:12 PM

I support a complete reorganization and demilitarization of the police. We need to restore legitimacy to these public servants and remind them what their role in society is. We need more social workers, more mental health professionals, more actual public safety and less people with guns. Better mental health offerings and anti racism training for armed police. They are clearly on high alert. It's time to stop the racist responses from heavily armed police.

7/1/2020 1:25:09 PM

I support the disbanding of the police to form the new community safety and violence prevention department and I would like to be able to vote on this matter. Ward 1

7/1/2020 1:25:13 PM

I'm in support of adding the Charter Amendment to the ballot. I think the current structure is not working for ALL of us and that adding services focused on safety and violence prevention makes a ton of sense. I have great respect for those who raise their hands to protect and serve. I'm in support of narrowing and defining their role in a way that will both enable them to respond to the appropriate calls and hold them accountable (just like in my job). By expanding preventative services we can reduce the need for safety and violence response services.

7/1/2020 1:25:34 PM

I support disbanding the MPD and would like to be able to vote on it. Ward 12

7/1/2020 1:26:03 PM

I appreciate that the city council acted quickly to put together an amendment to the charter that addresses the payment guarantee to the police department and the minimum size requirement. I also appreciate that the peace officers would be accountable to the new department I challenge the commission in charge of drafting the amendment will provide teeth to this language. The system that replaces our current police department cannot be opaque, it cannot have a code of silence, and an understanding that cops can do no wrong.

I believe that the damage done to our community in the name of perpetuating mass incarceration has caused deep wounds and I hope you have the strength and conviction to address the pain and work to heal our community.

7/1/2020 1:28:01 PM

I am in favor of the City Council's move to change the charter and replace the MPD with a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Thank you! Ward 10

7/1/2020 1:28:11 PM

Dear Commissioners:

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 1:29:09 PM

I support disbanding the police department and re-structuring public safety departments in our city. I believe citizens of Minneapolis should vote on this issue and future decisions on how to RE-fund other efforts that better addresses crime, safety, and poverty. Ward 12

7/1/2020 1:30:35 PM

I am definitely voting in favor of this amendment. The MPD is corrupt & harmful. They are not held accountable, and they have proven that they cannot be reformed. We need entirely new ways of approaching public safety, and rehabilitation rather than punishment for people who commit crimes. Ward 8

7/1/2020 1:32:09 PM

Hi folks, The MPD has only cleared 22% of all rape cases in the last three years and they have a 1,700 backlog of testing rape kits. That's why I'm asking you to 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.

I'm a survivor of sexual assault and very familiar with the ways that MPD fails and in many cases harms survivors. Remember the Strib report on this two years ago? (<https://www.startribune.com/denied-justice-series-when-rape-is-reported-and-nothing-happens-minnesota-police-sexual-assault-investigations/487400761/>) That's the first time I asked City Council members to dismantle the MPD.

Now I'm asking again: please, let us amend the Charter. Let us vote. I deserve better safety and justice than the MPD has proven it can provide. Resident of Ward 2

7/1/2020 1:33:25 PM

This is a ticket to disaster. Is their goal Sharia Law? Except for Dr.. appointments, we have no intention of ever going to Minneapolis, again. We would never feel safe. It was bad enough before the upheaval.

7/1/2020 1:33:58 PM

The recent rioting, looting, and arson is proof that we need MORE police with MORE funding! The government's primary job is to protect the citizens! Do NOT defund the police!

7/1/2020 1:34:02 PM

I am writing to support the proposed amendment to the Minneapolis charter that would allow for the defunding and dismantling of the Minneapolis Police Department. The MPD has demonstrated again and again that they do not create or maintain true public safety in our city. I would like to see our charter amended such that we do not have to have a police force of any kind in our city, I do not think that we need to include the Peace Officers that are written into the currently proposed charter amendment. If that language is to remain, I would like to see the addition of a) true community oversight of the officers and b) provisions preventing current MPD leadership from taking leadership positions with either the Peace Officers division or the new Division of Public Safety.

7/1/2020 1:34:23 PM

I strongly encourage Mayor Frey to veto any proposal to change the charter of Minneapolis regarding dismantling the police department. While I believe many fundamental changes need to be made within the police department, starting with disbanding and eliminating the union, the city still needs a strong enforcement and security system that the police provide. This is not something that should quickly be presented to residents for voting. The council and mayor should carefully study any proposed changes and have a well thought out plan and process before presenting anything to the residents for a vote. This is way too large and serious of an issue to have a knee jerk reaction, which is what is currently happening. Ward 7

7/1/2020 1:35:55 PM

Please engage community organizations like Reclaim the Block and Black Visions Collective. Please identify community members who are already doing this work so they are involved from the beginning. Thank you for moving this forward and listening to our voices!

7/1/2020 1:36:19 PM

I oppose the Minneapolis City Council action to amend the Minneapolis City Charter (see attached Council action "Amending Article VII of the City Charter). My reasons for opposing the Minneapolis City Council action to amend the Minneapolis City Charter.

The proposed charter change:

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

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

7/1/2020 1:36:33 PM

I strongly support this change to the charter. It is only a small step, but it will allow Minneapolis to lead the country in reimagining public safety in a way that keeps all citizens safer. Ward 3

7/1/2020 1:37:34 PM

While I reside in the suburbs, before COVID-19, I frequented bars and restaurants in Minneapolis almost every week. Additionally, I would visit the lakes, theaters, concerts, block parties, clinics and other businesses in Minneapolis regularly. I have a 4 year degree from the University of Minnesota and I attended the Twin Cities campus in the 1990s.

I find the ideas of disbanding/dismantling/abolishing or even defunding the Minneapolis Police to be terrible ideas. Instead, I would suggest things like disbanding the police union, holding officers accountable when they do the wrong things, firing bad officers, providing more funding for additional deescalation training, and hiring more police officers to patrol high crime areas. Dismantling or defunding the police will certainly embolden criminals and lead to more crime. And, the worst part is that it will disproportionately hurt the minority communities that you say that you support.

I'm not the only who feels this way. In fact, EVERYONE I have talked to about this is against defunding or dismantling the police. I don't know of a single person who thinks that this is a good idea -- and that includes both black and white individuals.

It appears that you've taken a terrible tragedy, the murder of George Floyd by a police officer -- something that EVERYONE was united in condemning -- and you're exploiting it for political gain. I find that appalling and disgusting. If you really care about the disadvantaged in the community, you would ensure that all have equal protection by the police rather than abandoning these communities' safety.

Finally, I will not visit Minneapolis until you support the Minneapolis Police. Your actions have undermined the safety of the city and have already caused a drastic increase in crime. I no longer feel safe in Minneapolis. Your decision to provide three city council members with private security show that some of you no longer feel safe in the city, either. Until you take steps to active support the Minneapolis Police and the safety of it's residents and businesses, I will go elsewhere to spend my money and I will not support the City of Minneapolis.

7/1/2020 1:39:26 PM

I live in North Minneapolis. I am white. The police of Minneapolis need to be defunded and transformed out of white supremacist structures, AND WE NEED POLICE in order to provide safety. This community is terrorized by shootings, and as poor a job as the police do in hearing and respecting the Black voices here, we NEED the police. We can't simply remove them without a real plan to ensure our SAFETY. Thank you.

7/1/2020 1:39:36 PM

I very much disagree with the plans to replace the police. There is a place between the current state and getting rid of it, I feel we should be there. You are scaring families out of the neighborhood. Houses are being sold and that is why. Ward 12

7/1/2020 1:40:32 PM

Pretty please take the time necessary to get the verbiage of the charter amendment written so as to achieve the highest possible level of citizen-accessible accountability and oversight, while holding fast to the fact that non-law-enforcement personnel are what the city wants and needs.

I know that this is an arduous task to achieve, and may require several drafts, as none of us can see the future. We can, however, see the past clearly, and policing has failed all of us who believe in the values of democracy. If we must wait until 2021 for this to be done prudently, then so be it.

Pretty please get this right. The city council has much trust to regain among the non-moneyed voters, who see the council as far too cozy with wealthy developers. Please use this opportunity wisely, and try to prove you're on the side of the people, instead of the establishment.

7/1/2020 1:40:40 PM

Hello, I am deeply concerned that the voices of black activists or not heard in this conversation. I am white, and originally I was in support of this amendment because I believed that we needed to start from scratch in building a different system. However, when I hear many black activist opposing the amendment, it gives me pause. We need to listen to those voices who were most impacted by the brutality within the Minneapolis police department, and they oppose this amendment

7/1/2020 1:41:42 PM

I have lived downtown for almost 10 years and I have never felt as unsafe as I do right now in my all my time living in the city. The crime is rampant. Carjacking's, robberies...you can't even walk a few blocks without seeing something. Abolishment of the police would kill this city. Already many people do not want to come to Minneapolis to eat or watch sports games. We need to get the city under control and work on deterring crime. The city council needs to work with the police department and put the political BS aside. This city is on its way to becoming the next Detroit. The MPD needs changes but getting rid of them is not the answer. Already, criminals think they can get away with anything. Just look at the number of shootings since the George Floyd unrest? Lack of police will only add to this crime and thus hurt the image of the city. The economic downfall will be catastrophic.

Lisa Bender telling me that calling 911 "is a privilege" might be the most insulting thing a city official can say to their residents. I pay taxes to this city and deserve to be protected. Citizens of Minneapolis are scared and many are thinking of moving out of the city due the direction it's going. The city council needs to step up and protect its people.

7/1/2020 1:43:43 PM

I fully support having our community vote on the charter amendment this Fall. Onward!

7/1/2020 1:43:48 PM

No charter ammdement. We want more police officers, better training. Give them authority. No unionism - let the chief fire those that need to fired and replaced with better officers.

7/1/2020 1:44:20 PM

Do not pass this charter. It was done without the input of the people of Minneapolis, and will allow white and racist civilians the ability to continue profiling and terrorizing members of our communities. Many community organizers and members of the community would like to see Chief Coronado to stay in place and guide the restructuring of a better police organization that is not inappropriately funded. Give more to the people to help the police do the work and give funding to local organizations already doing community work. Hire officers from the community who love the people they serve. Defund do not abolish.

7/1/2020 1:44:25 PM

As a frequent visitor to Minneapolis and someone who has lots of family and friends in the area, plus a daughter at an area university, I am strongly opposed to this change in the charter. I concur that changes are needed, but this is not the right direction to go. The police department plays a vital role in the city. Please vote to NOT have this on the ballot in November.

7/1/2020 1:45:21 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 2

7/1/2020 1:46:55 PM

Please allow us to vote on the amendment that the city council passed. I would like to have that opportunity. We need to use this moment to work towards ending systemic racism and stopping this would only stop that movement. Please allow it to move forward. Ward 10

7/1/2020 1:48:15 PM

A viable, ethical, and just police department for all is an equity issue. I do not support the proposed charter amendment to eliminate the police department. The Minneapolis Police Department should be deeply reformed, not eliminated. I support the kind of intelligent reform that Mayor Frey and Chief Arradondo have already embarked upon, but not an expensive, disruptive, divisive, and unclear process as the council has proposed. Our city has been through the wringer, the most difficult year in recent memory. This idea will only further unsettle and divide us as a city at a time that unity is needed more than ever.

I have travelled extensively in countries where police departments are corrupt, dysfunctional and essentially nonexistent. In one three week period in Mexico and Honduras, I was robbed twice, once at gunpoint. The lack of safety and security in Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico is one of the main factors driving people (quite reasonably) to seek refuge in the United States. I have heard countless stories about the lack of safety and security in these places from my students, friends, and neighbors. In these places, the richest and most powerful people have access to private security guards (like our own council members Cano, Cunningham, and Jenkins), the somewhat less privileged buy their own guns and install electronic security systems, and the poorest are left at the mercy of organized (and not so organized) criminals. This is not the future that I envision and hope for the city that I have lived in for 30 years. Minneapolis can do so much better than this. Ward 2

7/1/2020 1:48:19 PM

The purpose of having a police department in the Minneapolis City Charter should only have been to promote community safety and help prevent violence, but the existing police department has proven time and again that it is unable to serve the whole community of Minneapolis in that capacity. In fact, the Minneapolis Police Department has proven to be the cause of violence and the antithesis of safety to some community members, damaging the whole community as a result.

This proposed charter amendment does not by default eliminate policing as a portion of how Minneapolis promotes community safety, in fact it explicitly allows the proposed Community Safety and Violence Prevention department to maintain a division of law enforcement services. What it does do is widens the explicit scope of the department and opens the door to other, community based intervention and holistic public safety services that this city so desperately needs.

This is the first small step in a necessary process for coming together as Minneapolitans and doing the work to make Minneapolis as a community safer for all residents.

Please support this proposed Minneapolis Charter Amendment to replace police department in the charter language with a department of community safety and violence prevention and associated necessary changes to Sections 7.3, 7.4, and 8.2. It is not a complete answer or the end all be all, but it is a necessary step to making Minneapolis truly the best city to live in for all of its residents. Ward 10

7/1/2020 1:48:43 PM

Giving the mayor and city council control is not the same as providing community oversight and control of the police. Especially given that it was the city council that lately unanimously voted to increase the MPD budget, this community needs a deserves REAL civilian oversight and the ability to discipline. Providing that power to the mayor and the city council, electable officials who can be endorsed by and funded by the MPD, is a direct conflict of interest. There are many actions this council could still take to demonstrate a real commitment to ending the cycles of police violence that would have a greater and more immediate impact. Please consider listening to the community members' specific proposals, especially those on the ground who have been working with communities and families directly impacted by police violence. Ward 9

Attachment: NO MORE HALF STEPS: WE DEMAND REAL CHANGE TO END POLICE VIOLENCE  
([www.cuapb.org](http://www.cuapb.org))

7/1/2020 1:49:58 PM

Replacing the police with the police and just placing them under a safety and security director is not police reform. A rose by a different name still smells just as sweet, or in this case pricks your finger. There needs to be disciplinary actions that actually happen, have you thought of involving the MN P.O.S.T. board to revoke officers licenses when they have multiple complaints? How about a more stringent hiring process and raising the minimum age from 21 to 25? Why is there video of officers spraying mace out of the windows at peaceful protesters as they drive by and none of them have been disciplined? Have you thought about making a better complaint system that is reviewed by a third party?

7/1/2020 1:50:01 PM

I do not believe the police department should be dismantled!! Retraining maybe. Those with bad Mark's should be taken off the streets or suspended without pay. Our neighborhood needs more attention from authorities.

7/1/2020 1:50:12 PM

The following issues from the charter amendment are in need of revisiting:

1. The amendment does not indicate clearly who is responsible for police discipline.
2. It uses ineffective language (i.e. proposed wording of Section 7.3(b) states "The Council MAY maintain a division of law enforcement services, composed of licensed peace officers..." while subd. 1 states "The director...SHALL appoint the director of the division of law enforcement services..."),
3. Most importantly, the City Council has not allowed for nearly enough public input.

Two days is not enough time to receive public comments, and the public should be allowed to attend any and all hearings regarding the charter.

I urge the Charter Commission to further its conversation with the public to create a better amendment, and in the meantime the City Council and Mayor should move forward NOW with actions to rein in the

MPD and hold them accountable. They should start by dismantling the ineffective Office of Police Conduct Review and replacing it with true community oversight of the police, including empowering the community to directly oversee the police chief and assign discipline. Lives are at stake, and the people are watching.

7/1/2020 1:50:21 PM

I'd really like to see something about ongoing education and mental health evaluation of the force rather than disbanding the police. As a resident this movement is equally as alarming to me as I want to ensure my family and neighbors have someone to protect them.

7/1/2020 1:50:43 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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7/1/2020 1:50:47 PM

This seems like a good groundwork for restructuring public safety. I've had many conversations with people both in Minneapolis and from outside. As long as clear proof is provided that Minneapolis is not descending into a pit of anarchy and crime-acceptance with no hope but to lay down and succumb to the Purge, I don't think any arguments against this community service redesign hold up. Longfellow, Ward 12

7/1/2020 1:50:50 PM

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

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

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

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

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

Following the death came the riots and protesting. One particularly hard night for me was May 28th. An initially peaceful protest ended the night on my street (Marquette & 4th) in a less peaceful manner. For hours and hours I heard shouting, glass breaking, explosions from tear gas, cars zooming by, horns honking.... I watched people spray painting buildings, crashing in glass doors and windows, and jumping in and out of cars. I watched the Police/National Guard stand by as people screamed in their face and disrespected them – no rash action was taken, they stood stoic and allowed people to exercise free speech, that turned into vandalism. In the distance I watched the fires from the Third Precinct 3 miles away. I listened to the news trying to report the madness from across the city. Living alone, with my family 700 miles away and only a handful of new acquaintances/coworkers in town – I felt isolated and scared. My fears were a breach of my building, my building being set on fire, etc. In all seriousness, I feared for my life. The rational part of me knew that I was on a high enough floor in a strong building, so I would probably be okay. But reason went out the window as I watched the horrific acts unfold below. And I wasn't even at the epicenter of the worst parts of town where true destruction happened... South Minneapolis, Uptown, etc.

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

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

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

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

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

7/1/2020 1:52:17 PM

I would like our dollars to fund a Public Safety unit to help and unite the people rather than kill and divide them. Ward 9

7/1/2020 1:52:55 PM

Defund the police. Do NOT abolish the police. The people who are most impacted by this decision (communities of color) are not having their voices heard. Please consider and involve them in this decision.

7/1/2020 1:53:16 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 1:53:53 PM

I live on the outskirts of Mpls, your decisions affect our neighborhoods as well but this isn't about what you are going to do to my city, but what you are doing to the citizens in your community. You are all behaving like you have studied policing and not one of you actually has any educational or foundational knowledge of the subject. This is all about optics & feelings- and what you "feel" will only serve to harm men, women, children of all skin colors. Your decisions have long strained the resources in Mpls policing, what is and has happened directly falls on the Government bodies in Mpls. There are reasons we have a social contract & you don't and shouldn't have the privilege to cancel that without a reasonable vote. Not just a tally of activists because the people who pay your wages are not paying you off to give them the title of crime victim-murder victim-assault victim. It is a terrible shame that you will compromise their lives, as if it couldn't get much worse than what your policies have done, your most recent decisions are going to have deadly consequences. You need to step back & talk to experts of which none of you are.

7/1/2020 1:54:14 PM

I think that the future "law enforcement service" still needs to be held directly accountable by the mayor, rather than the city council as a whole. This will ensure quicker action and accountability for the time being.

I also think that future drafting of legislation on this topic should work with the non-profits that have started this fight and already done much of the work of envisioning new systems. Please meet with and listen to Communities United Against Police Brutality and MPD150. It is not enough that you have allowed for a couple of days of comments from the constituents. You need to work with the groups that are responsible for educating the public, thus bringing about this change in the first place.

7/1/2020 1:55:03 PM

Hello would like to remove current police program and enforce a new public safety measure for our diverse areas in Minneapolis. I feel that this is a positive opportunity to improve the current program and implement a new style of public safety enforcement. Thank you Ward 9

7/1/2020 1:55:12 PM

The Mpls Police need reforms... not total rejection. Without law and order provided by police presence, many citizens will avoid Minneapolis. Until resolved I will no longer come to Mpls for my dentist, sporting events, music, theatre, restaurants, etc. as the Police are not supported by the Mayor and City Council. Social intervention specialists that have been discussed could be helpful in some situations but it may be tough to make the decision on who goes to a domestic dispute. A social intervention specialist may be perfect but if any violence erupts due to drug, alcohol or just highly elevated emotions, then what? A social intervention specialist will be of no help in a robbery, assault, rape, etc. Please thoughtfully consider... Respectfully submitted I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 1:55:55 PM

I oppose the charter amendment to eliminate the requirement to maintain a police force. I believe MPD needs fundamental change to deal with the deeply embedded racism, but the City Council is asking us to move forward without a plan. For me to endorse any plan regarding the Police, the plan would need to require a police department even if we reduce the burden on the police related to dealing with matters that social services might be better suited to handle. I also feel strongly that it moves in the wrong direction with regard to authority. The mayor needs more authority and not less authority over the

police. I have read about the reformation of other departments, including the City of Camden, New Jersey. I am not opposed to change like that, but I do not have confidence that the City Council is going to end up with a plan that makes sense for the City. Until I do, I oppose the change to the City Charter.

7/1/2020 1:56:01 PM

I am so excited about this proposed amendment. The police are a force that POLICES crime--their work is not crime reduction. They have also proved time and time again that reform does not work in their department.

Police were created in the interest of white supremacy, and they continue to work in favor of white supremacy. As a city, by continuing to have the police on the charter, we are promising to continue to work in the favor of white supremacy. Our city is better than that.

Not only do I dream of a world where violent force is not needed, but I know that we as a city are strong and smart enough to start the work to let this vision come to life. Our citizens deserve it. Those who are not in favor of this amendment are those who are either too selfish or cowardly to vote for a future that works for the community to improve the lives of all residents.

I hope this amendment will be on the ballot, and I cannot wait to vote on it. Ward 3

7/1/2020 1:56:33 PM

I'm a resident of Minneapolis and I am wholeheartedly behind the proposal to replace the current Minneapolis policing system with something else; something community backed and community centered. Thank you Ward 9

7/1/2020 1:57:28 PM

Not only is removing the Police Department an unsound proposal, it is reckless. How does this city expect to protect its citizens and provide service and aid? Without the law, it will become a lawless city. This is insane! Ward 5

7/1/2020 1:58:12 PM

Policing in this city doesn't work. It doesn't work in many, if any, cities. Citizens must be given a chance to participate in the process of making our city better. Failure to allow citizens to vote on this proposed amendment in November is an abdication of duty by the charter commission. More than that, it's a denial of direct democracy and a signal to communities across Minneapolis that their voices do not matter and they do not have a voice in how the city runs. Do the right thing. Bring it to the ballot. Ward 2

7/1/2020 1:59:11 PM

This is just rebranding the police. There is lack of community involvement. There needs to be community control.

7/1/2020 2:01:38 PM

I do not find this amendment an adequate response to the community's demands for reform.

I do not support this charter amendment and believe the city council needs to go back to the drawing board with the assistance of a greater representation of the community

7/1/2020 2:02:21 PM

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a resident of the Longfellow Neighborhood of Minneapolis. When our neighborhoods burned during the unrest around the killing of George Floyd, we were asked to take upon ourselves the responsibility to look out for each other. My neighbors and I took shifts on a night vigil and had deep conversations about police violence. We are sick of having our tax dollars support a department that has proven itself irredeemable, and are hopeful that a transformation is possible in the systems of public safety for our city. Our neighborhood stepped up because we know we make up the social fabric of the city. This is why I believe it should also be up to us to decide what kind of municipal response we want-- and why an amendment to the city charter should be put to us residents for a vote.

The powers that we give to our city -- especially those which bring the unaccountable lethal power of the state to our neighborhoods -- are far from inevitable. They are choices we make as a society and choices we should be free to unmake. Though I grew up equating police with public safety, that's far from true for most of my black and latino friends and neighbors. I want a chance to start from scratch to build a system of public security and emergency response that centers their experience. I want to toss out the recalcitrant police federation and the militarization and start from scratch with a new agency that incorporates many of the ideas embedded in reform. One that puts public health and care at the center, and whose premise is that crime is a breach in the social fabric that can be repaired. I still want investigation and crime solving, but am convinced that now is the time for a clean break from the past.

Perhaps my neighbors don't want this. But I want the chance to convince them. I want us to have the conversation and not sweep under the rug the terror and violence our black neighbors have known for generations. I want to put aside the culture wars and the politics that are so far away and focus on this, our city, in which we can build something new, in which we can decide not to numb ourselves to the inhumanity of our society, but rise above it. So let us vote. Ward 2

7/1/2020 2:02:43 PM

This city needs to demilitarize its Police force. I feel that my tax dollars would be better spent on expanding social programs, rather than lethal toys for sociopaths.

I do not believe that sociopathy is endemic to the Police force. I trust that the "good cops" will be able to adapt to new expectations without hiding behind a billy club.

7/1/2020 2:02:47 PM

I believe some semblance of a police force needs to exist to intervene in situations like shoot outs or murder investigations. All other matters that typically require police like traffic violations, mental health emergencies, fraud, etc etc... should be handled by officials that do not carry life threatening weapons. There are so many instances in our society where we default to police involvement instead of wondering what other professionals could be more qualified.

7/1/2020 2:03:44 PM

Ladies and Gentlemen, I hope that you are well. I want to provide my opinion on our need for smarter policing here in Minneapolis.

I don't believe that we need to defund the department, per se, and we actually need more officers. What we do need is to realize that our police are people who we are subjecting to intense pressure to resolve all kinds of social ills.

We need to change the skills of the police towards de-escalation, but we also need to look at our total budget (not just the police budget) to provide social services, mental health help and special response units, and development opportunities.

People are our only meaningful assets and the quality of society effects us all. So let's help build a community that is strong and united no matter what your role, your race, or your beliefs. Thank you for your time and be well.

7/1/2020 2:03:48 PM

The proposed amendment Section 7.3 - is extremely vague, no details are provided and more importantly in 7.3 B - the use of the word "MAY" maintain is very troubling how about "Must". If I put together this type of vague proposal to a client or my management, I would have been shown the door. This is unacceptable and you are rushing to get this on the Nov ballot and the residents will pay the price given it is so vague and leaves too much power in the hands of the Council to do as you please. I am troubled that some of you have private security paid for by our high taxes yet you are leaving the residents exposed with little protection. If you feel peace officers are the answer, than the Council members should set an example and have a peace officer protect them. More specifics please..... Ward 3

7/1/2020 2:03:53 PM

I support the proposed amendment and the removal of the police force in its current form. I support the redirection of police funds toward community safeguards that would address non-violent issues with a non-violent approach. Funds should also be redirected into communities of color that have been the recipients of redlining practices and the communities that have been divested from by the city. Affordable housing, healthcare, mental healthcare, homelessness, domestic abuse, access to affordable and healthy food are all issues that should be addressed at the core and no longer dealt with by armed police. Peace officers should be required to live in the communities that they patrol.

7/1/2020 2:04:10 PM

Y'all have got to stop giving in to these demands, the majority of Americans do not think like they do. It's getting ridiculous, that if something offends a small group of people it can magically be erased due to their demands and threats!

7/1/2020 2:04:58 PM

I am in favor of this change, insofar as the city maintains the correct oversight AND this is not simply a rebranding of the police. Our community deserves better than militarized and armed individuals.

7/1/2020 2:05:32 PM

I do not want the City of Minneapolis to remove the Police Department without a very specific plan in place that voters can approve. This is a very high stakes decision and we cannot just make it up as we go along. We need a lot of reforms, but we need to implement them in a studied, systematic and intentional way. It is ludicrous to put this before voters and expect us to just "trust the process". The City Council has already acted irresponsibly and impulsively by declaring they will abolish the police without any kind of plan in place. If a city of our size has weak or absent law enforcement we will be even more dysfunctional than we are now!

7/1/2020 2:06:47 PM

I am very concerned about this amendment that undermines the role of Minneapolis' first Black police chief and worry that we are rushing into something that will be even worse than what we already have. Please consider major reforms underneath our current police chief.

7/1/2020 2:06:57 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis, I am seriously disappointed in your support/advocacy for this specific charter amendment and for "ending the MPD" as a specific means of reform for the very real injustice of George Floyd's death and others like it. Taking away money from meaningful police work -- especially protecting the city's citizens against repeat violent offenders -- in favor of vague "community-based solutions" will not solve the problem at hand; it will exacerbate it. Do we really expect social workers to be first through the door in responding to a domestic violence call? Do we expect the members of our community, unskilled in such matters, to properly and effectively investigate / bring to resolution a violent crime? Your willingness to amend the charter to "end the MPD" but offering no specifics on how you will effectively replace the aspects of policing that \*are\* working effectively is neither fair to your constituents nor a source of confidence about the Council's understanding about the task at hand.

Residents and visitors to Minneapolis need to feel safe, and obviously there is major improvement needed in that area as far as the safety of the African-American and BIPOC community is concerned. Reform is needed. To that end: work to end the Police Union's protection of bad cops and bad policy. Work to change the types of crimes that the police allocate their time to: less on drugs, more on violent crime, etc. But don't throw the baby out with the bathwater. The charter is not the issue here, nor is the presence of the PD. There are skills that trained police officers provide that the community cannot -- it does not have the time, means, or expertise to do so. Rather, let's work to change the aspects of the MPD that have allowed it to escape accountability in George-Floyd-like situations of the past. Reforming the culture and controls within the MPD rather than replacing it outright will have a more meaningful impact AND better ensure and preserve the safety of Minneapolis citizens against violent crime.

7/1/2020 2:07:11 PM

I reside a few miles northeast in New Brighton. If enacted, this change will lead to a rise in the level of violent crime in the city. Disbanding the police department is not the answer. Rather, a third-party system of holding officers accountable for misconduct and crime should be put in place.

Also, if the public wants availability to social workers and the like, another department can be established separate from the police. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 2:07:15 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 10

7/1/2020 2:08:24 PM

I am in full support of changing the charter in this manner and would like the chance to bring it to a vote. Our police force is overly weaponized and violent towards citizens of Minneapolis, particularly those who are not white or wealthy, and it is not held accountable by city government or its own chief with the current structure despite years of attempted reforms and inordinate amounts of money spent on the MPD.

7/1/2020 2:09:00 PM

As a resident of mpls and a pastor in the Lyndale neighborhood, I am in favor of having the mpls council supported charter amendment to remove the police department and establish a community of safety and violence prevention department on the ballot this fall.

It is important to create a system of public safety that keeps all mpls residents safe no matter what color their skin is, where they live or how much they earn.

7/1/2020 2:09:42 PM

I am a former resident of Ward 1 [REDACTED] now pandemic resident of Eagan. I want to voice my support for the amendment and reaffirm the calls to abolish the police and replace them with community safety measures and community funding. I urge all elected officials to continue working with and following the strong leadership already present in our communities as we work to create a safer and more equitable reality for Minneapolis. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 2:10:07 PM

I honestly do not think this is a well thought out idea. At this point it has some may statement that bother me. I think having 13 people over the police (or whatever they call it) is not an ideal option. The city council hasn't acted before and now want to lead but yet the mayor was quite responsive with the George Floyd situation.

What I think? First we have to have real accountability for the police. There needs to be a review board instead of this external reviewer mess that allows these offers back on the force which costs the city money in the end. I think this board should be appointed individuals representing the city (colors sexuality etc).

To be Blunt no I do not think the city charter needs to be changed until the city council actually listens to residents (not just these random people showing up who don't even live in the city limits)

7/1/2020 2:10:28 PM

I and my family will not venture into Minneapolis without LEO's. I hope you reconsider this decision and protect citizens.

7/1/2020 2:11:27 PM

While I believe the culture of our police force needs a dramatic change, I believe this amendment throws the baby out with the bathwater as the saying goes.

Improved, proactive violence prevention programs and social services programs are critical to the change that is needed, but believing that will eliminate the need for law enforcement is both naïve and irresponsible. Unfortunately, there will always be people who choose to do the wrong thing and enforcement is needed for accountability.

The amendment statement that there "may" still be law enforcement services is also deceptively misleading. To the average person, this gives the impression that there will still be law enforcement. However, anyone familiar with Legal language knows this statement is utterly meaningless based on the word "may". This is just not acceptable.

I also believe that culture change within a unionized workforce like a police department takes time and commitment. I believe we have the right police chief in place to drive that culture change without changing the city charter. Ward 11

7/1/2020 2:11:54 PM

As a public citizen I will not patronize Minneapolis without a police department. The wording of the ordinance is vague. What is "holistic " in describing public safety? The unrest here after the Floyd killing showed the Mayor and city council were woefully unprepared to be proactive and slow to be reactive. What makes anyone believe you all have a better idea to how to handle a policing role?

Where is your plan for implementation? No electorate should vote to approve an amendment without understanding the implementation.

Those I know who run businesses in Minneapolis are making plans to exit the city, should this pass. I don't reside in Minneapolis

7/1/2020 2:12:31 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.

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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 12

7/1/2020 2:12:35 PM

No to charter amendment. I support community control of the police. Ward 3

7/1/2020 2:13:10 PM

Hello, Thank you for taking the time to read this. I'm writing to let you know that I believe it is imperative that the citizens of Minneapolis get to vote on the proposed charter amendment regarding community safety. For too long, we have not had enough of a say in how this city's public safety is handled, and in the hands of MPD it has been handled very poorly (despite the efforts of our chief, and any of our more honorable officers, who have been unable to change a violent, dangerous police

culture). This amendment would allow us to envision a transformative new approach that would keep our city AND its officers safer by allowing funding to go towards preventative efforts rather than often futile compensatory efforts. Thank you for your hard work and consideration. Ward 8

7/1/2020 2:14:11 PM

To Whom It May Concern; 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 Mayer 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 Mayer 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. Ward 3

7/1/2020 2:14:40 PM

Please do not go along with this amendment, until the Minneapolis city council goes through the proper procedures in getting community output and refining the language of the Amendment.

7/1/2020 2:14:52 PM

ABOLISH THE POLICE. We do NOT want them "reformed" because it has been shown again and again that reform practices do not work. It has been tried. We want to try something new. That doesn't mean take the current police and rename them "peace officers." You are spending an absolutely OUTRAGEOUS amount of money on funding the police, instead of funding things like education and affordable housing. You realize that if you took the entire police budget away, no one would need to be homeless? We could afford free college? Teachers wouldn't have to buy their own supplies with their own money? It makes me sick that you allow this to happen. You allow Black and other minority communities to be killed by police, instead of spending money on educating youth or allowing people the basic right of having a place to live. That this is even a question is astounding. DEFUND THE POLICE. ABOLISH THE POLICE. There are so, so many ways this money could be used that will save so many lives. It is not a hard decision. Police aren't even helping anyone - as a multiple-time rape survivor, I can tell you firsthand that the police don't help people. As a trans person, I can tell you police only make me afraid for my life. I do not know a single person who has been helped out by police. They are murderers that we are forced to fund against our will, and I cannot wait for the day that changes. No one can. Especially not Black, Indigenous, POC, queer, trans, and disabled communities. Please, please, please listen to those vulnerable communities and do better. There are other ways of doing things. Look into CAHOOTS in Oregon. Look into restorative justice. The options are out there, the information is out there, the platforms are out there. Educate yourself. Do better by the people of this city. Please.

7/1/2020 2:15:36 PM

I am leaving a comment of a resident of Minneapolis. I'd like police reform, and I'd like a way to reimagine and redesign how we approach public safety. I'd like less armed police officers patrolling our neighborhoods as this unfairly and disproportionately effects black bodies. I'd like to see more mental health workers responding to complaints. My goal for our city is less lives taken at the hands of officers. My goal for our city is less racially biased patrolling. My goal for our city is for BIPOC to feel as safe in their neighborhoods, homes and vehicles as white people. I want an opportunity to vote on this. I want to see change, and at the very least see an attempt to change that is structurally based rather than an attempt to pacify by banning chokeholds or submitting officers to clearly ineffective racial bias trainings. We need a way to remove officers who have a history of doing damage to our community and the values of the people in the city. Thank you for your time. Ward 8

7/1/2020 2:15:50 PM

Hello, I would like to support City Council's move to change the charter and replace the MPD with a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. I believe that the MPD has proved time and again that reforms don't work, and that the only way to transform safety in Minneapolis, particularly for BIPOC, we need to completely reframe how we think about community safety. Cops shouldn't kill and harass people, and that has been the case for BIPOC in Minneapolis for a long time. None of the reforms have worked, so the problem is in policing itself. The police do not protect and defend everyone, only those who are most wealthy and privileged. Let's protect all of Minneapolis, and replace the Police Department with a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. Ward 10

7/1/2020 2:16:19 PM

I believe it is too soon for citizens of Minneapolis to be voting on this charter amendment for public safety in November 2020. I would like to see a lot of discussion and details before voting on this amendment. Ward 11

7/1/2020 2:16:50 PM

As a white Minneapolis resident, I support this amendment, and hope this helps the city begin to find a way to make ALL residents, not just white residents, safe in Minneapolis. Because until we are all safe, none of us are truly safe. While it certainly feels uncomfortable to move in such an unknown direction (for those of us who haven't experienced police violence directly), I think many many many citizens of Minneapolis have lost faith in the MPD and have seen reforms fail over and over. I personally stopped calling MPD to report minor level incidents many years ago, since I could not trust them to react appropriately. That did not make my community safer! We need a new department, free of Bob Kroll's influence/control, with new values, standards, and behavior to actually make Minneapolis safe.

7/1/2020 2:16:55 PM

Not perfect, but a step in the right direction! Thank you for being willing to consider bold ideas. I look forward to voting on this amendment.

7/1/2020 2:17:56 PM

I am writing in support of the charter amendment to replace the Police Department in the City of Minneapolis with Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department (CH2020-00014).

7/1/2020 2:18:17 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 efforts to reform, years of evidence show us that the problems of the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) are deep.

Instead of seeing improvement from these reforms, we've seen that the MPD:

- Has 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 intimidates businesses and elected officials.

We as a City cannot tolerate the police brutality and mistreatment of the public from our Police Department. It is clear and without a doubt that Minneapolis Police are not squarely under the control of our democratically elected leaders or the official chain of command. Furthermore, the rampant and even indiscriminate tear-gassing and firing on the public, protestors, and journalists by Minneapolis Police demonstrate evidence that members the Minneapolis Police are not here to serve and protect the peoples constitutional rights.

The continued pain caused by our police force towards BIPOC, towards women, towards our community as a whole is unacceptable. The continuation of sympathies shown towards White

supremacists by members of the Minneapolis Police, including by their union president Bob Kroll is unacceptable. The view point as shown by recent interviews with members of the Minneapolis Police force that they view our city as a dirty and dangerous place full of criminals is unacceptable. The fact that a majority of our police force lives outside our city, is not part of our community is unacceptable. The over militarization of our police force is unacceptable. As a descendant of holocaust survivors it pains me that this is our reality as we know what happens when a police force view the community they are supposed to serve and protect as the enemy. The bloated budget of the Minneapolis police force is unacceptable. As an educator for over a decade we continue to hear the phrase do more with less when we know that education, social services, mental health services do more good for our community than policing does, yet we continue to see our budgets fall while policing budgets rise.

The people of Minneapolis demand a meaningful community process to re-imagine the health and safety of our city. The barrier of outdated language in the City Charter significantly hinders this process and dims the reality of the true structural change that needs to occur. The people of Minneapolis deserve a City Charter that does not block our local elected officials from carrying out the will of the people. The City Charter belongs to the people, and we deserve a chance to exercise our democratic voice.

Support the expedited approval of the Charter Amendment language so that Minneapolitans can exercise their voice on this most important issue in the upcoming November election. Let us vote. Ward 6

7/1/2020 2:18:23 PM

Defund the police, but please don't dismantle them.

7/1/2020 2:19:38 PM

I believe that the proposed charter change is shortsighted and potentially hazardous. I have lived in Mpls for 60 years and I have never felt so unsafe. The defunding of community policing will be very dangerous and likely lead to more violence. I'm horrified by George Floyd's death, but what we need is police reform, not defunding. I strongly oppose this proposed change and I urge Mayor Frey to not approve it's inclusion on this year's ballot. Ward 13

7/1/2020 2:20:04 PM

I Was always In favor of increasing the amount of police officers In the city of Minneapolis.

Training has always been the problem with the Minneapolis Police Department young officers come out of the training too quickly and not fully prepared. This silly idea Of defunding the police department or eliminating them Is the craziest thing I've ever heard of.

7/1/2020 2:22:22 PM

This needs to be on the ballot this November! Ward 8