

6/30/2020 12:32:00 PM

This proposed charter amendment needs to be thoughtfully considered by all the citizens, not rushed through with no planning or input. I hope the commissioners will realize that we need deliberate change and buy-in from our entire city.

It will take courage to say, "No, not this way."

Policing is a key role in government. The rush to eliminate the police department with no public discussion or plan in place will be destructive to all residents.

6/30/2020 12:32:18 PM

The city council is over reacting. For the reprehensible behavior of a few they are proposing to throw out an exceptional group of hard working and compassionate Police Officers. Minneapolis is not an easy city to Police. In 13 1/2 years as a Hennepin paramedic I have ,almost daily, witnessed MPD Officers be the victims of racial slurs and unwarranted bias and have no memory of them ever responding with anything but professionalism. For my part, I will seek employment outside of the city if you disband the MPD. I cannot safely do my job without them.

6/30/2020 12:32:40 PM

Don't be stupid. Government has only one major job: to keep their citizens safe on whatever level they operate (local, state, or federal, and let them live freely. Recent rioting in the streets was NOT a response to George Floyd's police-involved death but by our government's failure (in this case local mayors and city councils) to enforce established law. Police are there to do what their leaders say, The rare bad ones will be weeded out.

6/30/2020 12:34:06 PM

Go ahead and ramp up the budget for social services, and crime prevention, but you cannot defund the police in anyway for the foreseeable future with the existing crime trends in the city. Matter of fact, if you want relations to improve, you need more cops to be able to implement more community policing.

If infact you do dismantle the police, we will be moving out of the city along with many other residents and businesses.

6/30/2020 12:34:19 PM

The time is now to change the charter. We must change what "policing" looks like in our city (and broader.) We are prime to set the bar for change to benefit all citizens and improve safety for all of us. invest in housing, schools, community to create healthier and safer communities. We need livable wages and affordable housing, not high stakes punishment for a no-way-to-win situation so many are in. Do the right thing, city council!

6/30/2020 12:34:21 PM

I am in favor of substantial changes to policing in Minneapolis. But before putting such a measure to a ballot, I would like to see a well defined plan. Presenting the issue to the public with out a clear, comprehensive description of what would replace aspects of policing and which aspects would remain (an important component given the rise in violent crime) risks the ballot measure failing. Do the work of planning and designing a replacement before you ask citizens to decide if they agree with you.

Thank you for your service.

6/30/2020 12:35:02 PM

As a resident of Ward 4, a ward already wracked with extreme levels of violence and general disorder, the idea of Minneapolis being left without a traditional police department sounds nothing short of horrific. We have already seen the carnage that has been unleashed as officers have been forced to pull back in the wake of George Floyd's murder. The mayhem that has shocked many across the region and indeed the country as a whole, will undoubtedly become the norm should the MPD be culled drastically or removed from the equation altogether. The loss of businesses, residents, and visitors in droves will inevitably follow, and with it the effectual death of the Minneapolis we all knew and loved.

The vague proposals for these reforms mostly seem to center around replacing many if not all armed police with "social workers" and various "community outreach" efforts. Both of which already exist in spades across the city/county yet to what effect? What has the so-called Office of Violence Prevention - which if I am not mistaken, is sustained with hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars per year- actually done to prevent violence? Outreach groups such as MAD DADS were already present at the scene of the recent mass shooting in Uptown to seemingly no effect. Yet such entities are meant to be at the forefront of the "community centric violence prevention efforts" intended to supplant MPD. This city needs police, as a matter of life or death. And those police need to be able to do their jobs without interference and harassment from the likes of the city council. I hope that you all represent a more sensible body of government than they do.

6/30/2020 12:35:07 PM

I am a long haul trucker that delivers food products nationwide. I regularly service businesses in Minneapolis and surrounding areas. If the police are removed and/or replaced with non police substitutes I will no longer come to your city.

6/30/2020 12:35:33 PM

While I applaud the Council's speed on taking action, I do not favor the amendment as proposed. Much like the Mpls School District's CDD, there has been too little community involvement. This needs to be co-created with the communities who suffer the most from the current state. So yes, propose a change, and don't do this as a small group of people. Take a user-centered design approach, and have a plan on how to get from current state to future state. Good intentions aren't enough.

6/30/2020 12:37:37 PM

This is the stupidest idea I have ever heard. Where do people think all these ex police officers are going to get jobs? They are going to go the replacement and will be hired, and deservedly so, because they have the experience and training.

Just because you change the name of something to make it more acceptable doesn't change what it is. Years ago it was called slavery; today it is human trafficking. There isn't much difference; it is what it is.

Are whites the only ones capable of harassment? No, last December I made an internal harassment against two African American Security guards. The supervisor was African American, and my witness was African American. I am white. They fixed the problem.

Getting rid of the police department will not stop wanton violence. My suspicion is the perpetrators will test the new system to the hilt.

Good Luck

6/30/2020 12:38:46 PM

First - SLOW THE HELL DOWN

We are all interested in changing the culture that has created this recent abomination after years of things getting progressively worse. Again WE ARE ALL interested. And two days of public opinion on this is ridiculous. Your process so far is as abhorrent as the problem you're trying to fix.

With so little public discussion and input from all parties, anything you put on this November's ballot - I will vote against as a duty to make sure more time and thought is put into this.

So do your jobs. Put the necessary effort and time into this that is required to get the real problems addressed with REAL MEANINGFUL input. Many of the City Council names will be on this and upcoming ballots also, if you can't do this right, we'll elect others that will.

6/30/2020 12:39:07 PM

It is completely irresponsible to even consider changing the charter for political propaganda. The City of Minneapolis deserves to have a great police department. On May 24th no one had such a drastic concern regarding the police department. Now you want to get rid of them based on the actions of a few. Completely irresponsible! Shame on you for even fueling this garbage. City Council needs to go!

6/30/2020 12:39:17 PM

Minneapolis and more recently Seattle have witnessed firsthand what a weakened or no police presence does to a city. Lack of police leads to murder, arson, rape, assault, theft, looting and a general breakdown of social order. The two primary purposes of government are to secure citizens property rights and the protection of its citizens. This proposal fails on both accounts. The council seems to want to live with rules for thee but not for me, using tax dollars on providing private security for their members proposing this stupidity. Minneapolis has been a democrat run city for decades, they have created this problem, stop blaming the police. That this is even being considered shows how detached

from reality council members are. If this amendment passes, I will gladly move out of the city and encouraging the private equity firm I work for to leave as well. I imagine other hard-working tax paying citizens and business owners will do the same.

6/30/2020 12:39:19 PM

Removing the police department would be the worst idea in the history of minneapolis

6/30/2020 12:40:13 PM

I disagree wholeheartedly with both the proposed amendment and the procedure that led to this proposal. It appears to be a knee-jerk reaction to a few vocal sign carrying upset people in reaction to a single horrible incident. A change of this magnitude must be fully vetted and discussed by the entire community before amending the City Charter. In all honesty, it appears to be a power grab by the City Council members to insert themselves into the process of managing the "police". This amendment is vague in its explanation. I do not understand what the replacement would be. I do not in any way want the actions of the police officers to be punitively judged by a politically charged group of City Council members. I do not believe we need to throw out the entire police department in order to restore trust in those officers who keep order in our neighborhoods. The Police union needs less power and our court system decides justice. This proposal appears to decrease the authority of both the Police Chief and the elected mayor while garnishing more power to the city council members to decide justice....who can respond to alerts and what actions they can take. I do not want this proposal to move forward.

6/30/2020 12:41:00 PM

This is crazy. I am moving my business out of Minneapolis as soon as my lease is up. Without feeling safe, we wil no longer go downtown. My husband and I also applied for a concealed carry permit. I am glad it will be voted on by the citizens and I hope that they have more sense than our leaders.

6/30/2020 12:41:31 PM

I am not in favor of defunding the police department, but I do believe that we need to see change in the culture of the MPD. The city council should first try working with the Mayor and Chief of Police and with the Minority. It scares me as a resident of the city to see our leadership going off in such a different direction. I think its important to get this right and I am not sure the current leadership has the experience to do so. I feel the statements made by Lisa Bender in Powderhorn Park were not the voice of all the residents of the City of Minneapolis, just a self-selected group. I have been a resident of the city for 50 years and I was never so scared as during the riots. Lisa Bender and other city council member stood up at the most frightening time in Minneapolis history without explaining what "defunding the police "means. Many people understood this as abolishing the Police Department. The residents need to be clearly informed what they mean by "defunding the Police", not just have it shouted at them as a slogan. Please, don't risk destroying our City over this political programme's.

' Please don't risk destroying our city!

6/30/2020 12:43:44 PM

I am in favor of the proposed amendment. You can only reform something when there is hope of reform. The citizens of MPLS have sunk time and money into a failed policing institution. It is time for something new. People are dying each day that Minneapolis waits for reform to work. No more. No more death, no more waiting; abolishment now. Change now. Put this amendment on the ballot for Minneapolis in November.

6/30/2020 12:43:53 PM

Defunding and or dismantling the police department is not the solution. Crime will increase and if this happens I will not ever step foot in Minneapolis again. I work in Minneapolis as a Security Officer and need and use the police for assistance. If this goes through the city will be trashed worse than the rioting and looting! There won't be a Minneapolis anymore and it's sad I grew up in Minneapolis for 25 years went to school in Minneapolis. But the city council and Mayor think this is the solution. It will be harder to bring back the police department once it's gone. Trust me you do not want to do this!

6/30/2020 12:44:16 PM

The MPD should not be dismantled. To do so and replace it with an inferior system of response is beyond reproach. Improvements can always be made in any organization and with proper execution and supervision may be effective and sustainable. Forgive the City Council for they do not know what they do. Minneapolis is my home and I have always felt it is where I belong. The police have always been responsive to me in non-emergency situations. I work in the education setting and have worked with police liaisons as a partner, never as an adversary. I thank God for law enforcement, fire fighters, the military and my freedom that they serve to uphold. Dismantle the PD and you will be back pedaling in no time.

6/30/2020 12:44:30 PM

Absolutely Not Our police force is needed now more than ever. Look at Powderhorn Park as one example of the futility of community policing. How many more teen age girls need to be raped?..how many more carjackings in the cities?..How many more bullets?.The hipster 30 somethings talk Big..no back up or common sense.YES to our wonderful police force

6/30/2020 12:44:45 PM

I strongly oppose removing the police department and adding a department of community safety and violence prevention. There is no plan in place and nobody has any idea what that will mean. Very disappointed in the city council.

6/30/2020 12:44:53 PM

Please do not disband the Police Dept. What a stupid idea!! We need the police. Without it we'll have mob control. And you know it!!! What we need is mature leadership! I think the City Council should be replaced! The cost of housing is skyrocketing, taxes are out of control and the city council is more concerned with condos for the millionaires. Meantime the homeless have to live in tents in the park. Wake up!!!

6/30/2020 12:44:55 PM

No

This is a poorly thought through idea.

As a former resident and current employee as Fire Department Captain I'm totally agents this.

In the city where we need licensed police officers to provide safety to us and citizens on a multiple times a day . Dealing with violent situations and life and death situations do not need no police intervention. We need swarm officers that can deal with violent criminal situations and securing the scene.

If this passes

I will not bring my children into any city event or place for their safety.

What is happening now is a prime example of unchecked violent crime.

De fund the city council.

6/30/2020 12:45:08 PM

I work near the 3rd precinct, not a wonderful area but I always felt safe. Now I am apprehensive going to work and leaving. I feel a police presence is needed even more so now, and more Police officers as well. Having an additional tax on purchases in the city is enough to keep people from shopping there, but now police will add to that. I have relatives and friends who live downtown and go to the suburbs to shop because of taxes, and now even more because of being afraid to leave their condo.

6/30/2020 12:45:17 PM

I support ammending the Minneapolis City Charter in such a way that it would end the current MPD and create a cCommission if Public Safety which could include armed police officers but would not be required to.

Thank you for your work in this important and necessary change to make Minneapolis safe for everyone.

6/30/2020 12:46:56 PM

Police reform, transformation, education, sensitivity/bias training, etc... but not interested whatsoever in this plan to remove the police from the city charter. If this ever went on to the ballots, I will vote NO and so will almost every person I know. Bad choice and has increased the crime in Minneapolis now that people aren't worried anyone will call the police because they don't have our own City Council's backing, people are shooting left and right with no fear of repercussion. You should be supporting the police. This is truly a shame and I hope you fix what you started. This never needed to happen.. please make it right.

6/30/2020 12:46:58 PM

I do not believe that the Minneapolis City Charter should be changed.

I do not believe that MPD should be defunded and dismantled by the Minneapolis City Council.

If placed on the ballot in November to change the Minneapolis City Charter so the Minneapolis City Council can Defund & Dismantle the MPD I will vote against it.

My vote will be to keep the Minneapolis City Charter as is.

6/30/2020 12:47:02 PM

Absolutely not, do not disband the Minneapolis Police Department. Who will deal with human trafficking, sexual assault? The Minneapolis Police were told by Frey to abandon the 3rd precinct. Did that stop people from setting it on fire, no police presence and so did that stop the fires? How about the post office? No police presence, no fire department, what happened to the post office, did people go away? Nope they did not, the post office went up in flames. We need the police, and why does the city council have private security?

6/30/2020 12:48:32 PM

The Minneapolis city Council members all need to be immediately fired & publicly tarred and feathered. These lunatics suffer from psychosis & need to be placed into mental healthcare facilities. These asinine nincompoops are sick in the brain & should not hold public office in any capacity. I have never witnessed such a brainless group of individuals in my entire life. They are not only an embarrassment to the city of Minneapolis, but they are an embarrassment to the human species.

6/30/2020 12:48:34 PM

I oppose amending the Minneapolis charter that effectively eliminates the mention and funding for a police department. I also oppose the clear imbalance in power away from the Mayors office and towards the Minneapolis City Council.

While violent crime has risen over 69% in the last ten years the city couple wants to eliminate the requirement for a police department while grabbing more power in the process. No one questions there are major issues in the MPD but changing the cities charter without a plan is not the way to address the

issue. Removing the police department will make Minneapolis a target for violent crime and leave a trail of tragic deaths and increasingly violent crime in its wake. The citizens and businesses of Minneapolis deserve protection from people intent on doing harm.

The City Council has acted in a rash and irresponsible manner in proposing these sweeping changes without input from citizens, or a plan to address the serious issues in front of our city. Doing this right will take time and hard work but grandstanding and distracting from the real work ahead will get us nowhere.

I urge you to reject this proposal so Chief Arradondo and the city of Minneapolis can get to work and begin to heal this city.

6/30/2020 12:49:18 PM

I have worked many years in Minneapolis. The ONLY way I felt comfortable taking a walk down Nicollet Mall during lunch time was knowing that for the most part it was somewhat safe.

I say somewhat because you still always had homeless people who are high on drugs yelling at you, plenty of family domestics being played out in the street and panhandlers who would yell at you and call you "SATAN" when you say you don't have any change.

If you take away the police, you are taking away the people who enforce the laws and regulations YOU as the city council have approved and voted into law.

To defund and remove the police but hire private security for yourselves reeks of elitism. The 1% have private security. Not the public servants.

I am currently looking for a new job. If I see a job that is listed as being in Minneapolis, I am not applying to it. Even if the dollar per hour is more than I make now.

This will only hurt the city of Minneapolis and its residents. Crime will increase, residents will start to leave, tax revenue will decrease forcing the city to increase taxes which will speed up the exodus from Minneapolis.

Be wise with your decisions. Think about the majority of your citizens who elected you and what they want to see happen.

6/30/2020 12:51:16 PM

I am fully in favor of defunding and replacing the Minneapolis Police Department. This charter amendment is a required step in that process and I want the commission to know that I want the ability to vote on this amendment at the first opportunity this coming November. Please expedite the process required to allow the citizens of Minneapolis to exercise our choice on this matter.

6/30/2020 12:52:41 PM

I am absolutely opposed to this charter change. While I believe the MPD needs reform particularly with the union, this proposal as written gives no detail or plan. As a resident, I am tired of a city council with certain individuals voted in by a small percentage of residents controlling the whole city. This change takes power away from the Mayor and I am opposed to that.

I also object to the way this was rammed down with no time for public input. You did not listen to the overwhelming negative feedback to the 2040 plan and I hope you listen this time. Just know the City Council has very little trust of the residents that you will listen and be thoughtful about the change we do need.

6/30/2020 12:52:53 PM

I support the transitioning of funds from policing to more effective community resources that prevent the need for crime in the first place. I share the hesitancy that many people do about not knowing what that may look like. Our community is not yet safe, and we trust you to do the footwork to ensure that we have the resources needed to be safe and healthy.

6/30/2020 12:53:08 PM

Do you have another document that spells out in a lot more detail what the program encompasses and how laws will be enforced? The lack of clarity on this issue leads to anxiety on the side of many law-abiding citizens as it unclear specifically how they will be protected. Very specific information, a lot more communication from the city, and a clear understanding that you are really being thorough and are realistic may be needed from you to get more community buy in from those who are apprehensive.

I lived in north Minneapolis for 12 years; no longer live there but I still serve the community and city but I do work there and am invested in its success.

6/30/2020 12:54:56 PM

The way this is written, there is no way I would vote for this amendment. It explains very little about what would actually happen or what it means and leaves me with many questions:

-Are you going to demote our first black Police chief? Why does the director need to NOT have law enforcement training?

-Are you finally going to do something in this city about all the problems that lead to crime? All I've seen this council manage to do is build massive amounts of housing that seems to be for people with money while the homeless population in Minneapolis grows. Where are the treatment facilities for addicts? The housing and help for youth who struggle? The employment opportunities for POC? The mental health services needed? The help for neighborhoods (Like my own) dealing with gun violence and crime? I have very little confidence that what you have in this charter will make any difference in how many "gun shots or fireworks" conversations I have with my neighbors at night.

-What do you even envision what this would look like? I am glad to see that there is still some form of law enforcement in this charter. There are way too many guns in this city unfortunately to not have

armed police. But what about the rest of the needs? Who comes for a mental health breakdown? Domestic dispute? Burglary? You have a concept here but nothing to tell me that convinces me to vote in favor.

In order for me to vote for an amendment like this I need to see much more community involvement (not just a few days to respond online!). Mostly, I need to feel like I trust the council and honestly I don't at this point. If they haven't put the needs of the community over big business and developers these last few years, how do I trust that will change? I have zero confidence in what I have seen so far. I feel like you'll just cut police, not put the needs of the community and POC at the front and we will see homelessness, crime and addiction go up.

6/30/2020 12:55:29 PM

Different name but the game would be the same. Try reforming what we already have. Start with looking at complaints on record for all officers. Where's there's smoke, there's fire. Then work with leaders of BLM and other POC agencies to work together for reform. There's a lot of great officers out there already. We just need more of them.

6/30/2020 12:55:37 PM

I'm hard pressed to comment because I do not understand how/why city council and mayor are under the thumb of the Police Union. Please explain to me why you have to dismantle the force to make changes in how arbitration works. I will move out of Minneapolis if you disband the police and I'm born and raised in the city.

Your 2040 Plan sucks. Packing people into highrise housing is not the answer -

More bike lanes is not the answer. Closing parkways and lakes from car traffick is not the answer. Your ideas on how to govern a major metropolis come from inexperience and naiveté.

Worse city council EVER! I'm 68 years old and have lived in Minneapolis my entire life.

6/30/2020 12:56:51 PM

Are you daring us to move the 'burbs for police protection? I have been a homeowner for 22 years in Minneapolis. Disband the police department and I will move. It's just that simple. You have no plan other than to pay for private security for yourselves.

6/30/2020 12:57:51 PM

KEEP THE POLICE!

Our community citizens are very ignorant of what the police actually do—what ever happened to Social Studies?

The police do so much good for our communities and do not get recognized for the proud efforts they do.

I would go so far to suggest we put more police on our streets!

GET THEM BACK INTO THE SCHOOLS!

GET THEM BACK DOING 'THE BEAT' ON OUR STREETS!

6/30/2020 12:58:13 PM

I think the vast majority of cops do their jobs well. We need to flush out those with racial bias. We also need to remove individuals with a history of abuse and misconduct. I believe Bob Kroll must go. The police federation is best served by cleaning house of all board members and starting over. I think the city council is fraught with inexperienced members who seem prepared to "throw the baby out with the bathwater." For now, I think that's a big mistake.

I encourage the council to form a police review committee consisting of respected leaders, black, white, Hispanic and others...with a goal of making recommendation for law enforcement reform. And don't rush this to meet a November election deadline. Minneapolis needs a well functioning law enforcement structure to effectively serve the people of the community. Take the time to get it right. The people of Minneapolis deserve what's best knowing they'll be safe...

6/30/2020 12:59:48 PM

I believe you are moving way too fast on this important issue of reorganizing the police dept. I believe it is too important an issue to send to the voters in Nov. Police are a much needed resource for the city, and rather than reducing their numbers, how about rethinking the arbitration process. If the process of hiring, training and discipline were researched and revised, we would have a police force which would meet the needs of everyone. Please, please, please let cooler heads prevail on this important process.

6/30/2020 1:01:05 PM

While I am in favor of some needed changes to how police respond/detain/arrest people in the city of minneapolis, I am NOT in favor of eliminating the police force. There is too much violent crime, drugs, gangs and theft for the city to rid itself of the much needed protection that is needed for those that strive for peace. I would choose NOT to visit the city of minneapolis if they eliminate the police department. I would not feel safe. It was a tragedy how Floyd died. He was murdered. Justice needs to be done and swift to the officers involved so the public knows police are not untouchable. The police union is what needs to be eliminated. The union protects the "bad apples" that make the whole organization look bad.

6/30/2020 1:02:26 PM

No. No. No. No to remove/abolish the Mpls Police Dept. Lisa Bender and her band of nitwits on the Mpls City Council have no idea what they're doing. Please go on line and google some of the comments the national public has made about Bender wanting to abolish the MPD. What kind of integrity and intellectual capability can a person aka the Mpls City Council President! have if they make national statements to abolish the police force and then tell the world that they have no idea what the

alternative plan for public safety is??? Please, someone with some smarts on the Charter Commission, think about the fact that all Bender is doing is making a political maneuver to cover her ass for doing nothing to avoid the George Floyd murder under her watch. We absolutely MUST support Police Chief Arradondo -- a man of integrity and poise who wants to do the right thing for his city AND the FIRST black police chief in Mpls. Give him some time to let him do his job! And disregard sociopath Bender. In addition, what's the rush??? I thought Bender said initially there was going to be a year long period to research alternatives and gather public input. What happened to that?!?!!? In conclusion, I'm copying a highly intelligent post from a former Mpls Police Officer who happens to be a black female:

Repost from Lisa Clemens regarding police disbanding ammendmemt. IT'S A LONG POST BUT READ IT PLEASE: IF I CAN Be HONEST...AS I ALWAYS AM. I never care about who gets pissed at me for telling the TRUTH. I was a Minneapolis Police Officer for 13 years. I PROUDLY wore that uniform. There will be no cops standing up to say racism does not exist in MPD. In TRUTH no person in any job will say that. If they do, they are a liar...Plain and simple. I sued MPD 2 times, as a police officer and I won...It never made me not want to wear my uniform. Chief Arradondo and 5 other males sued MPD and won. It never made them want to stop wearing the uniform. It made us spend even more time talking to cops about change. It was not until Chief Arradondo became the Chief and DC Arthur Lee Knight became the Deputy Chief did I start to believe in change. THIS CHIEF has fired and demoted more cops than any of his predecessors. Chief Arradondo would NEVER offer up that information, because he is a man of character and it's nothing to brag about... It happens when you are making REAL change. NEVER have I seen a chief who has strong relationship with EVERY COMMUNITY and is inclusive of ALL people. NEVER have I seen a Chief pick up a phone and call Boots on the Ground organizations and Clergy to say I NEED YOU in an area of the City. I don't want to dispatch police officers unless you say you need one. NEVER have I seen a Chief make a policy that allows him to IMMEDIATELY fire an officer..... Something other Cities are already looking to copy. NEVER have I seen a Chief beat up so badly by a City Council from the first day he accepted his appointment....and they do it PUBLICLY. Never has a Chief been asked to change 150 years of a culture in 3 years with no support from anyone but the community....Knowing a City Council is waiting in the wings for any errors to pounce on you and finding ways to cripple you by asking you to do more with less. In the last budget Cycle a few on the council asked an organization come in and ask that \$1 million dollars be divested from MPD to be given to organizations in the community. I asked why they wouldn't take 1% from EVERY department under the City. Of course they went silent. But IF THEY HAD here is that breakdown: 1% of city budget: approximately \$18 million 1% of city departments: Best guess is between \$9-15 million 1% of MPD: approximately \$1.5 million The community got the short end of the stick because that \$1 Million didn't really come to the community....Poli-tricks! Since 2000 I have been working in the community, predominantly in North Minneapolis because that's where I grew up when we moved to the Great City of Minneapolis

Attachment:

IT'S A LONG POST BUT READ IT PLEASE: IF I CAN Be HONEST...AS I ALWAYS AM. I never care about who gets pissed at me for telling the TRUTH. I was a Minneapolis Police Officer for 13 years. I PROUDLY wore that uniform. There will be no cops standing up to say racism does not exist in MPD. In TRUTH no person in any job will say that. If they do, they are a liar...Plain and simple. I sued MPD 2 times, as a police officer and I won...It never made me not want to wear my uniform. Chief Arradondo and 5 other males sued MPD and won. It never made them want to stop wearing the uniform. It made us spend even more time talking to cops about change. It was not until Chief Arradondo became the Chief and DC Arthur Lee Knight became the Deputy Chief did I start to believe in change. THIS CHIEF has fired and demoted more cops than any of his predecessors. Chief Arradondo would NEVER offer up that information, because he is a man of character and it's nothing to brag about... It happens when you are making REAL change.

NEVER have I seen a chief who has strong relationship with EVERY COMMUNITY and is inclusive of ALL people. NEVER have I seen a Chief pick up a phone and call Boots on the Ground organizations and Clergy to say I NEED YOU in an area of the City. I don't want to dispatch police officers unless you say you need one. NEVER have I seen a Chief make a policy that allows him to IMMEDIATELY fire an officer..... Something other Cities are already looking to copy. NEVER have I seen a Chief beat up so badly by a City Council from the first day he accepted his appointment....and they do it PUBLICLY. Never has a Chief been asked to change 150 years of a culture in 3 years with no support from anyone but the community....Knowing a City Council is waiting in the wings for any errors to pounce on you and finding ways to cripple you by asking you to do more with less. In the last budget Cycle a few on the council asked an organization come in and ask that \$1 million dollars be divested from MPD to be given to organizations in the community. I asked why they wouldn't take 1% from EVERY department under the City. Of course they went silent. But IF THEY HAD here is that breakdown: 1% of city budget: approximately \$18 million 1% of city departments: Best guess is between \$9-15 million 1% of MPD: approximately \$1.5 million The community got the short end of the stick because that \$1 Million didn't really come to the community....Poli-tricks! Since 2000 I have been working in the community, predominantly in North Minneapolis because that's where I grew up when we moved to the Great City of Minneapolis. Where I PROUDLY graduated from North High school and where I was blessed to work as a Patrol Officer and as a Street Sergeant. In fact, both Chief Arradondo and DC Knight worked for me when I ran a team out of Minneapolis Public Housing. I hand-picked my officers who were ALL BLACK and one White. I was the first training officer of DC Knight... Both of whom came from single Black poor mothers in Chicago. Over the last 6 years I have been STRICTLY Boots on the Ground in North Minneapolis and Downtown... and sometimes in South Minneapolis. My team, A Mothers Love, was formed to help the City realize that Saving the Black Mother WILL SAVE the Black child. The Black mother has ALWAYS been the group not brought to the table so our voices were never heard. The first person to call on us was the Minneapolis Police Department and since we have been working closely with great people in all communities. WHY did the Deputy Chief call us? Because Black Police Officers know WHO the Black man, Black son, Black nephew, Black Grandson, etc has a strong love and respect for. In the good and bad,,,,,They love and respect us...Because Black female officers are great at de-escalation because majority of us came from the life many are living. I can tell you with 100% Truth: The Minneapolis City Council has put no real time in weighing the danger of dismantling/abolishing the police. THIS, no matter what perfume they spray on it, will get people killed, even more in MY COMMUNITY. They like to say that my point of view is a scare tactic...hmmmm and you telling someone calling for help makes you a White Supremacist. If a Black wants to call what would be the name for them? I don't do politics so I'll never put a vote before a life. I don't have an agenda. As it stands, there are MANY Boots On The Ground Organizations out here doing GREAT work but the TRUTH has to be told. WE have lost control of what is happening in the community. Many of US have not given up, nor will we. Like the police we run from call to call to call. The shootings, Homicides and other crimes absolutely drain you, but we keep going. I felt the same way when I was wearing BLUE. One would only have to listen to a scanner for 24 hours to know the TRUTH. Selling people UTOPIA when you have no plan for all the other dangers and issues in a City the size of Minneapolis is INSANE. When Minneapolis decided to go even bigger as a City, they opened the door for more Crime, including Sex Trafficking.... To now say we don't need the police is simply crazy. If they are going to have a year long conversation why are they seeking to change the charter before those conversation even start...PLEASE open your eyes to this vote me back in in 2021 game. When I say the City Council is dangling a shiny object in front of people eyes I mean that....MPD is the EASY Button and the only thing on their agenda. EVERY PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING has been focused on the police and NEVER the escalating violence in the community...Now City Wide This is a City that still can't find housing for our most vulnerable. A City that

when I BEGGED them to help us address the issues on Broadway/Lyndale last Summer NO ONE would call me back.... But when those vulnerable drug addicted people were mowed down in the Bus shelter RACISM is what they screamed....But they still NEVER came to give us any help nor any resources. We had soooooo many overdoses on that corner and still no help. If it's racism that nearly killed them when the White male driver mowed them down, what do we call it when OUR OWN are on that corner EVERYDAY feeding them the dope that causes those over doses? The price of doing business? We don't want the police saying anything to these people LOITERING with INTENT to kill with Drugs.... MOST OF YOU are too afraid to even approach..... How would you do that in the City Councils UTOPIA? Remember, Adults can refuse to go to treatment...Hence all the addicts in the parks that I pray for EVERY DAY. A few years ago, I attended several meetings between Hennepin County and Ramsey County about a joint YOUTH Treatment facility, to be built between the 2 cities, so that families could be part of the treatment process. I thought YES finally someone understands WE and other communities have a drug problem with our kids....Of course a group came in to shut down the idea saying, 'Our kids don't have a drug problem. This is just another pipeline to prison.' I was in ABSOLUTE SHOCK. There is NO DOUBT we have a drug problem with our youth...IN ALL DAMN COMMUNITIES. I stood up and said, "Are you kidding!!! We ABSOLUTELY have a drug and alcohol problem in our community. If you think these young people are pulling these triggers sober then I am even more afraid." I believed the facility should have been built with US being part of it every step of the way. It should have been Culturally Competent and the programs should have been designed by US to ensure our kids and their family's needs are met. After one more meeting at the Minneapolis Urban League, with the same group shutting it down, Hennepin County and Ramsey County pulled and we continue to deal with drug overdoses and deaths of our young people and our girls strung out and being sex trafficked....EVERY ACTION is knee-jerked with no other plan or option and the loudest mouths sets the rules..... Because people let them. While I believe all voices should be heard....Is that what's happening in Minneapolis or is the Council seeking like thinkers and exploiting them for their own personal agendas. Perhaps it might be too late when people really figure it out. In TRUTH, I and MANY others, lived through Murderapolis. I wore BLUE at the time and the REAL TRUTH is we worked strong with Black Pastors, the community as a whole, organizations throughout the City, Neighborhood Associations and retired gang members to bring the City back in control. EVERYBODY worked as a team.... No one saw color of skin nor the color of your clothes. That was when Minneapolis understood the term ALL HANDS ON DECK. I stand STRONG on the need for Police Reform but I stand equally strong on the need for Community Reform. EMAIL THE CHARTER COMMISSION AND ASK QUESTION... I'll attach their email info. Ask yourself WHY the Council is in a rush without a plan... before the "yearlong conversations". WHY they have addressed the MEDIA more than the voters....PAUSE AND THINK My mom will be 84 years old in July and she lives in Ward 4, as do my oldest sister. My mom is on edge about this and I KNOW I will go protect her AT ALL COST

6/30/2020 1:04:24 PM

This is an excellent update to the charter - emphasizing that, yes, we need law enforcement, but more than that we need holistic work to improve public safety for ALL residents and reduce violence . Thank you!

6/30/2020 1:05:00 PM

I believe that our police department needs to be improved, better training, the ability to fire and remove those officers that are not doing their job. It is greatly concerning that the union has such power and can override the chief's position. It makes sense when there is something that is questionable but when we have officers who are breaking the law or are clearly violating policy, then why should they have

protection for their jobs. Any one of us would lose our jobs. I am lacking confidence in the Mayors leadership at this time and this brings concern. I have little confidence in our city council's ability to do the job. I appreciate the diversity on the council and had hopes that this would make a difference. What I am most concerned about is that they have spoken quickly, used terms that I feel are inciting fear and panic to the residents and feel that their actions were careless. As a mental health clinician, people are already dealing with the affects of a pandemic; significant loss, changes, etc. We then witness the tragedy of a black man murdered at the hands of police officers followed by riots and destruction of our city. Many neighborhoods are already in a position where crime is higher and with fewer responses, lack of police support and then to hear that the council votes to disband the police. Now people are worried that there won't be any police at all. Again, the verbiage they are using is inaccurate and careless. I think that they should have had a plan in place. I think they should have been more thoughtful in how they communicate this message out to the residents of the city. I think that what the council has done is reckless and careless. If anyone of us working in other business would walk in, say things without having a plan, etc, it wouldn't go over well or possibly lose a job. The council has yet to put forth a plan or communicate what this would look like. The election is coming soon and these individuals likely won't be in office to finish the plan. I know that I will absolutely vote against my council member. I voted him in during the last election but feel he has failed our fourth precinct.

6/30/2020 1:05:24 PM

I do not support this charter amendment. It seems that the Council is being reactive instead of proactive on this subject. We need a police force - not THIS police force, but we need some kind of police force to deal with homicides, etc. Most important for this new police force is community/civilian oversight, accountability, and insurance carried by MPD/individual officers rather than the City. As it stands, it's broken. We need change. We NEED change! But this doesn't seem to be the correct approach.

I also know the Police Officers Federation and human piece of garbage Bob Kroll are a major speed bump on the road to change. If we need to make a last ditch, drastic effort to overcome this obstacle, then so be it! I just have no reason to believe we've reached that point.

If I've misunderstood the proposed amendment and we're on the same page, I apologize - I didn't have a ton of time to assembly my thoughts today. Did my best.

Thank you all

6/30/2020 1:05:28 PM

I believe amending the charter is premature. I think the city council needs to study the issue and come up with a plan, present it to the public, and only then seek to amend the charter. The public needs to know what the Community of Safety and Violence Prevention department will look like, what it will do, how it differs from the current Police Department, and how racism, poverty, and how crime will be adequately addressed. Without first making this information available, this proposed amendment seems like putting the cart before the horse.

6/30/2020 1:05:36 PM

you need to stop the city council from defunding our police. I live in mpls and we need our police to protect us. The actions of a few police officers does not account for all. We have to many bad people with illegal guns on our streets, worried about more violence and home invasions happening. please stop the city council from their actions.

6/30/2020 1:07:22 PM

Do not change the charter until a clear replacement plan is in place. I am definitely in favor of making major changes to end systemic racism and misogyny in the MPD; however, City Council has taken a sweeping knee-jerk reaction without doing the work in creating and proposing a more specific plan and processes moving forward.

6/30/2020 1:08:49 PM

I will not ever return to the city of Minneapolis if there is not a viable, active, fully functional police force. Fix actual flaws, gaps and/or imperfections in the department and union policies and training. Don't 'throw out the baby with the bath water'. It is the weakest and most marginalized that will suffer most from rash, foolhardy decisions like a complete defunding and disbanding of the Minneapolis police department.

6/30/2020 1:09:10 PM

I am supportive of the chapter amendment to create a department of community safety and violence prevention, in addition to other steps the City should take to end police brutality toward Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

6/30/2020 1:09:16 PM

I am thoroughly against removing police force. Perhaps a better solution would be to educate and effectively police the police. There has been a too long standing issue of protecting officers gone bad. It cannot be denied that it is a ridiculously difficult job at the outset and one with untold risks of health and safety. A dual system of community based safety and violence prevention should go hand and hand with protect and serve. Again, I am opposed to removing a police force from the city charter. I strongly endorse the development of a system in which a community safety and violence prevention mission is the goal.

6/30/2020 1:09:45 PM

As 20+ year residents in the Victory neighborhood, my partner and I are very invested in this community and the safety of all residents. However, rushing this change onto the ballot with no true clarity is short-sighted and dangerous. More emphasis on mental health and substance abuse intervention. And no rational person supports police violence. But we are deluding ourselves to think crime and violence are

the result of citizens basic needs not being met. Consider delaying this ballot measure until a concrete, actionable and measurable plan can be reviewed and understood by all residents.

6/30/2020 1:10:13 PM

We live outside the city. During the summer we often go to the city for treatments for my son, and other fun and educational events. We've always loved our visits there. Not once have I felt unsafe there. Now, there's no way I'd go to the city. The police department does need to change, it needs to treat everyone with respect. But there does need to be a police there. There also needs to be more community centers and schools for the residents living there. Minneapolis is a jewel, and has such a wonderful people in it. We need to work together to protect all of our people.

6/30/2020 1:10:16 PM

I fully support this charter amendment. Classifying public safety more broadly and not explicitly requiring a police department in its current form is the only way to ensure equity and appropriate crisis response in Minneapolis. Please let the voters decide via ballot in November. Thank you.

6/30/2020 1:10:29 PM

I support the proposed amendment to the charter of the City of Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 1:11:18 PM

I am currently not in favor of totally abolishing or removing the police department because the ongoing crime rates in Minneapolis are much too high and realistic. The unnecessary and uncontrollable destruction by the general public which recently occurred recently is proof. We cannot depend on the general public to always know how to behave properly, because historically they have always had ways of being destructive instead of creative in positive ways. Wars and other examples of destruction throughout history are proof of this fact. It is important to have staff who have skill to properly research and determine ongoing crimes of any kind whether we like it or not. Involvement within the social work field may be helpful and could even reduce the amount of financial support needed by the city to assist the public, but may not be enough of a threat to discourage the general public from committing criminal activity. It would also take a long time to establish the suggested Prevention Department by training, educating, and providing needed staff and may not be immediately achievable. The current suggestion goes too much to the extreme and needs to be reconsidered. The State of Minnesota may also need to make changes in its gun control laws before changes of this nature occur to prevent increased gun purchases by the general public as part of their own desires and intentions to learn to protect themselves as a result of feeling they may not longer be able to simply contact the police while or during a robbery attempt, being raped, sexually abused, etc

6/30/2020 1:11:30 PM

I believe the proposed amendment to the Charter Commission to remove the Police Department and establish a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department is the right decision in the name of justice, racial equality and community. Minneapolis is home to a diverse and multicultural community. I would love to see changes placed, such as the establishment of this proposed department, that would uphold the safety and wellbeing of my neighbors, friends and colleagues. Please take this as a personal anecdote from a Minneapolis citizen of white experience.

6/30/2020 1:11:38 PM

First of all I think it's the most stupidest thing I've ever heard in my life. City council work with the Union do background checks on the new hiring get rid of the bad cops. Simple as that. So you tell me the city council's going to hire group of people when someone is getting raped or robbed. car theft and they're going to go up to the people say please don't do that. Don't think so. Law enforcement shows Authority person walking up to me with a plaid shirt on shows me nothing. Or should I say criminals nothing. A criminal will not let anybody with a plaid shirt on take them to jail or talk them out of it. City council remember at election time who voted you in. And last of all if you do this to the city you will be a new Detroit and you will watch property values go down down down down and people leave your city turning into murderapolis right now peace love and God bless

6/30/2020 1:11:44 PM

End violent, gun-centric policing and increase education for Crisis responders and emergency healthcare providers.

6/30/2020 1:12:06 PM

I think this is just a knee jerk reaction to current events. I have more faith in a mayor elected by the entire city than a city council composed of various people with vested interests in their own particular neighborhoods. So, I want the mayor to be in charge of law enforcement, not the city council. Although I consider myself a liberal Democrat, I'm beginning to think the City Council is totally out of touch with what residents want and more into stereotypical touchy-feeling things. It seems they take the most extreme positions without taking into account what the actual situation is in Minneapolis, and trying to make policy based on that uniqueness. In other words, it may be cool to say do away with the police department, but I'm afraid the City Council doesn't think things through and come up with good policy for our city.

6/30/2020 1:12:17 PM

I'm not a resident of MPLS but we've spent some time there for medical purposes for my wife. I can tell you that the thing people fear in MPLS is NOT law enforcement. When I check out my travel plans and places I need to visit in MPLS, it's not so I can avoid if possible or prepare for encountering police. It's to avoid or prepare for encountering the countless people wishing to do me harm or take my stuff. You see...it's a bizarro world scenario to think cops are the dangerous part of your city-no matter your

ethnicity. Cops are a threat to those who do bad things. Cops are SUPPOSED to be a threat to people who do bad things. Cops should avoid harming or killing people who do bad things...and they do. They RARELY kill someone while every single day you have bad guys attempting to kill someone in your city. Stop thinking so abstractly and recognize that the only substantial threat in the city is from non law enforcement people with bad intent. You need more cops and you need to unleash them more to put the fear of God in the bad guys. Rather than reigning cops in, you need to push them to extinguish crime by any means possible. Then people will be happy to come to your city and spend their money there. I can't imagine going to MPLS if there is no real, armed and substantial police presence-and I'm one of the people who brings money to your city. Use some straight up logic on this.

PS- drop the political correctness. Let's be honest-I don't know the exact data, but I'd bet you money that a disproportionate amount of violent crime in the city is perpetrated by people of color. I-in no way-think that in racist terms, it's just a fact. I don't think you're destined to be criminals because of your ethnic makeup. It's a choice. But too many of those making the choice to commit violent crimes in the city are POC. So it's no wonder when police are wary of people of color, because they know most of those that are a threat are people of color. And because of this, the people they will be on the lookout for will be people of color. I don't want it to be that way and neither do you, so what do we do about it? Well.... I'd start with making it clear to everyone regardless of ethnicity that no crime will be tolerated in any way and make sure everyone understands that the only way there will be a harmonious relationship with law enforcement is for the culture of the city to change regardless of your ethnicity.

6/30/2020 1:12:19 PM

I am not a resident, but I am a tax payer and I visit MLPS regularly. If you take away the police, Minneapolis will become a dumpster fire in 6 months and I will not be risking my life or my family's to visit a place with no way to protect the law abiding citizens and enforce the rule of law. You really have NO idea what you're in for. Social workers will not suffice. This has got to be the worst idea ever. To throw away security based on the actions of a few is ludicrous and is ridiculously bias. Keep it up. The next Detroit is right around the corner.

6/30/2020 1:12:43 PM

Thank you for dedicating your time to serving on the Charter Commission.

I strongly support this amendment to the city charter creating a department of community safety and violence prevention to replace the existing police department. The Minneapolis Police have for years functioned as a tool of racial oppression in our community. They harass, brutalize, and even kill Minneapolis residents with impunity. We have stoked the racial paranoia in white neighborhoods like mine for years to generate support to maintain this racist system. It is critical for the future of our city that this amendment move forward.

6/30/2020 1:13:32 PM

I support the proposed amendment to the City Charter to create a new Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department.

6/30/2020 1:14:25 PM

The problems with the police are deeply rooted, cultural problems that cannot be fixed simply with reforms. We have seen that they consistently disregard attempts at reform and new rules.

Let's build a new system to keep our community safe and healthy- one that isn't riddled with toxic masculinity and racism. I don't trust the Minneapolis police department anymore. Please amend the charter!

6/30/2020 1:15:22 PM

We are not in favor of reducing, shifting, or in any way defunding the existing Police Dept. budget.

If public safety funding is at issue, it makes sense to review all other discretionary funding spending across the entire City Council budget to identify and divert \$ to support assessment of the situation and apply learnings to incremental training, support, etc. Defunding Within the department makes no logical sense. It's a punitive move, not a rationale, strategic move.

Quick moves, based on emotion, and an absence of proven examples of success, will lead to waste, harm, and continued challenges. Poor choices now may accelerate flight, crime, Impact property values, and do little to address the issues at hand.

6/30/2020 1:15:43 PM

I am in full support of the proposal to amend our City Charter. The creation of a department of community safety and violence prevention, replacing the existing police department is an important step in shifting the priorities of our city and our tax dollars.

We will still need crime prevention and criminal investigatory abilities, but we do not need to send traditional police to address mental health crises, many domestic abuse situations would be better served with trained intervention and service provision to the person facing the abuse rather than cops showing up and threatening to arrest everyone since they aren't trained to 'sort things out'.

We should be investing in jobs, housing, low cost health care, career training, and so on, so that the pressures of daily life are mitigated as contributing factors to unrest and crime.

I've lived in Minneapolis for 25 years. I remain committed to this city and our shared future.

This charter change moves us forward, and begins to address the racially unjust impacts of past policing, an urgent and unmet need here.

6/30/2020 1:16:22 PM

Get rid of the police ? Fo real? You bitches be trippin. Shit already off the hook. Maybe y'all need to bounce.

6/30/2020 1:16:44 PM

I support the motion to disband the police and replace it was a new visionary organization of public safety. I think that it Ian Extremely Important than current officers not be included in this new organization. Especially in positions of power and decision making. To do so would be to undermine the purpose behind this action, and would prove the entire motion to be a charade by city council.

6/30/2020 1:16:46 PM

Disbanding the pd is a ridiculous idea. If you have bad apples, deal with them. Same goes for the city council.  
Do something about such things as the Somali gangs. Change your sanctuary city status. Stop taking in refugees.  
And you do not pay officers near enough money to force them to live in the same community where they work...especially if it's Mpls.

6/30/2020 1:17:01 PM

I am very much in favor of disbanding the Minneapolis police department. I had already lost trust in the department after years of their obvious racial discrimination in countless incidents and their protecting of clearly guilty officers. But how the MPD handled themselves in the weeks of the protests and the riots removed any faith I had in them at all. Living in Phillips neighborhood we were terrorized by police simply for sitting on our front porches. Their displays through the neighborhood did not make anyone feel safer. And especially not on the Thursday after the riots started when a young Somali man was shot and killed on 14th Avenue and was left dying in the street for 30 minutes before police arrived on the scene. As he bled out on the street police and NG were clearly only blocks away running their sirens, scaring us into our homes, flying low over our houses in helicopters and parading armored vehicles through our neighborhood. It is 100% clear to me that the MPD does NOT care about the people of this city. It's time for something new. Whether it is a completely new police force that does not hire any of the old cops back or an entirely new type of security ot needs to be reflective of the people who live here. We need officers of color, multilingual officers and officers trained in deescalation.

6/30/2020 1:17:07 PM

I fully support this amendment being placed on the ballot this November.

While we cannot predict the future, I know that we must confront our racist past. We must find better ways to provide equal justice under law to ALL residents of Minneapolis regardless of their age, race, gender, size, income, citizenship, social position, or any other distinguishing factor. No human being should be living in fear of agents of our municipal government.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment despite the global pandemic.

6/30/2020 1:17:17 PM

If Minneapolis citizens choose to no longer have a Police Department, then I will choose to no longer be a citizen of Minneapolis where I have lived since 1996. My taxes, charity, community service and involvement will also be leaving the city. I had planned to stay in my home & retire in Minneapolis, but that seems VERY unlikely now.

6/30/2020 1:17:26 PM

Do NOT disband the police. Keep it off the ballot. Keep the police task in force. That is all.

6/30/2020 1:17:57 PM

If the Minneapolis Police Department is defunded, I will no longer support any businessness, concerts or venues because I will no longer be stepping foot in that city. Defunding the police just for politicians and city council to spend thousands of dollars daily on security companies to "keep safe" is completely hypocritical. The media needs to end the race war they started and look at the real problem-Themselves!

6/30/2020 1:18:06 PM

In the wake of civic upheaval of the recent month it is natural and right that the city would look at ways to improve our police department so that it protects all of our citizens equally. However, we must be judicious and thoughtful about the way we do it. Disbanding and otherwise "defunding" the police department is not the way to go. We need true reform. We need to reduce or eliminate the power that the police union has to protect officers who infringe on people's civil rights under the guise of "keeping the peace". We should bring back the requirement that an officer live in the precinct that he or she patrols; the officer would be much more invested in his or her own community, that on into which he or she commutes every day. There is a place in our city for a police force. But all of this takes time and we must do it right. City Council, please slow down and do this in a way that will truly protect all the citizens of Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 1:18:14 PM

As a life long resident of Mpls, I can not think of a more ignorant proposal the city council has offered up than this amendment (and that is saying something). You are going to hurt the people/communities that need the police the most. You have already elevated violent crime in the city post the Floyd tragedy which will only get worse and be more widespread. Your blanket categorization as all Mpls cops as bad is exactly the type of stereotyping you claim to be against. You will run every business out of the city (more than you already have) and most law abiding citizens. I grew up in south Mpls the neighborhood that you most willing allowed to be burned down (along with the Mayor). Your negligence for the most vulnerable screams of politics at its worst.

6/30/2020 1:18:37 PM

I support putting the proposed Charter amendment on the ballot. I believe the people of Minneapolis should be allowed to weigh in on removing obstacles to reforming or transforming the MPD and those obstacles are in the charter.

6/30/2020 1:19:43 PM

As a resident of Ward 8 in Minneapolis, I support this amendment. Our current system of policing has shown over and over again to be ineffectual and dangerous to the citizens of our community. The system of accountability being in the hands of the police chief and mayor "for better or for worse" (to quote the mayor) has proven to only be for worse. We must look at new ways to keep our citizens safe that do not rely on bringing violent police officers in from other communities and giving them free reign to abuse, assault, or murder our citizens.

6/30/2020 1:20:09 PM

Thank you for listening to my comments.

Last month the actions of four officers painted the entire MPD as racist thugs in the minds of many people. The reaction to 'get rid of them all' however will only lead to a result many times worse the current situation. There will always be bad times when the only way to bring peace is with a police presence.

Inherently this has to be made up of imperfect people who know there are consequences if they violate rules of conduct.

6/30/2020 1:20:19 PM

We NEED this amendment to be put to a vote THIS YEAR!!! The city needs this flexibility for long overdue reforms to the police and crime is absolutely a public health issue!

6/30/2020 1:20:30 PM

Hello,

As a current Minneapolis resident, I support a public safety amendment to the charter being proposed to voters.

Thank you

6/30/2020 1:20:57 PM

Hello, I'm writing today to say I support the public safety amendment to the charter.

Thank you

6/30/2020 1:21:19 PM

Thanks. I agree with this amendment.

6/30/2020 1:21:30 PM

My comment would be to not move forward with this proposed charter amendment at this time. I think more information needs to be explored before this change is made. I also think this proposal gives the City Council too much power over the city and lessens the Mayors input on the police department.

6/30/2020 1:22:59 PM

I encourage the Charter Commission to place this question on the ballot in November. The residents of Minneapolis deserve to have their voices heard regarding this extremely important matter.

6/30/2020 1:23:02 PM

How about we abolish city council and their private security first? Pussies.

6/30/2020 1:23:06 PM

As a social worker, I strongly support the removal of MPD and the creation of a department dedicated to community safety and violence prevention. Like many others, I am eager for the details and fine print as to how this will actually look, but I appreciate that consistent community engagement is considered first and foremost in the proposed amendment.

However, I cannot overstate how crucial it is to ensure restorative justice be a foundational pillar of this new department. Our current criminal justice system is punitive and inherently racist. It harms the victim, offender and the community. Victims are often powerless and rarely find closure. Offenders are isolated and punished, rather than given the opportunity for rehabilitation. Restorative justice reduces recidivism and builds a stronger community, which is precisely the goal of this new department. I urge you to employ restorative justice as the bedrock of this new department.

6/30/2020 1:23:08 PM

Minneapolis needs a transformation in the way we conduct public safety. MPD officers have proven time and again they do not care about the residents of this city and are in fact actively trying to harm us. The only way we can get rid of them and move their resources into programs that will actually serve the community is by changing the language in the charter, so that is what we must do.

6/30/2020 1:23:58 PM

I am writing in support of the charter amendment. I'm especially encouraged by the emphasis on violence prevention and public health; what things can we do, what conditions can we create, with money that is focused on preventing harm before it happens and creating a vibrant, healthy community.

6/30/2020 1:24:35 PM

I strongly support this amendment. The MPD has not shown willingness to reform and in its current state is a threat to the safety of many sectors of the community. I support the city council in re-envisioning public safety in collaboration with a broad range of leaders in our community, especially communities of color.

6/30/2020 1:24:50 PM

Do not create this new department. Zero details and rushed process by the clowncil

6/30/2020 1:25:17 PM

Let's think this through carefully before rushing to some half-baked solution. Yes, some reform is called for with the police department, but throwing out the baby with the bath water does not seem to me to be the solution. The fact that several council members are using a private security firm to provide for their personal safety is quite telling when it comes to the idea of eliminating the police department. I live in downtown Minneapolis. We need to have police officers. We need a visible police presence. I cannot imagine a city without police officers, and I probably wouldn't live in one.

Let's have a thorough discussion of this matter; more than one public hearing is necessary for adequate public input. Listen to the voices of north, downtown, and south Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 1:25:52 PM

I think this whole process is being driven by the calendar and not a sound plan. There is no transition strategy for getting from the current MPD to the new model. Placing this on the ballot now is a lose-lose proposition:

\*If it passes, there could be mass resignations from the MPD and mass panic in the city because there is no plan yet.

\*If it fails, there will be anger on the part of those who are fervent about this approach and it could make things worse.

Let's take the time as a community and a city to do this right. It took over a hundred years to get to this predicament; we're not going to solve it in a few weeks.

6/30/2020 1:25:57 PM

I watched the live stream of the council meeting last Friday and couldn't believe the lack of challenge, debate, questioning about a recommendation that has clearly not been thought through. Since the riots, every night has been ringing with fireworks and gun shots. Violent crime is up across the city. I don't feel safe going out alone in my NE neighborhood that used to be so quiet. The police department needs drastic reform, to be sure, but abolishing it is not the answer. The criminals are winning (as evidenced by the fact that several council members have hired personal security. I was planning to buy a second home as a rental in the city, but will not if this amendment passes.

6/30/2020 1:26:00 PM

I fully support the removal of the Police Dept from the city charter in favor of a community based dept. The MPD had proven it does not have the best interest of our black and brown citizens in mind, and furthermore, that it will use legal and administrative recourse to protect itself from any consequences.

We cannot trust MPD and they have no place in our streets.

6/30/2020 1:26:03 PM

I definitely support the proposed changes to abolish the MPD

6/30/2020 1:26:13 PM

Do not do this. That's all

6/30/2020 1:26:21 PM

See attached statement

To: Minneapolis Charter Commission

Date: June 29, 2020

I am writing to request that the Minneapolis Charter Commission do a thorough and informed consideration of the City Council's proposed Police Charter Amendment before taking your action and returning it to the Mayor and City Council.

As one who has spent her entire life in Minneapolis, much of it in public service, I feel very strongly about this matter. As the wife of an African American man, every day I live knowing the complex relationship between communities of color and the police. I worry about him every day. But when my house was burglarized in the middle of the night – not once but three times – we called the police. They responded with speed and professionalism. There is clearly need for substantial change within the department and its relationship to the community, but this proposed charter change does not accomplish that. Rather, it would effectively eliminate the Police Department and fundamentally change Minneapolis city government. This is a substantial change that should not be rushed or put on the "fast track."

The idea of putting something on the “fast track” takes on new meaning during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is my experience that public hearings, testimony, public engagement and all the things we rely on for transparency in government has been compromised during this time. While everyone is trying to do their best, there are new challenges for people obtaining information and participating in deliberations of public bodies. This is particularly true for our low income and senior populations who may, or may not have access to the technology needed to participate. Putting an item of this significance on the “fast track” at a time when citizen’s abilities to participate are compromised does not contribute to clear, transparent decision making. It is the responsibility of the Charter Commission to ensure that the citizens can make an informed choice. We rely on you to fulfill that role and appreciate your service to Minneapolis.

I oppose the Council’s proposed Police Charter Amendment for three reasons:

- (1) It is premature. The amendment eliminates the Police Department without a plan. Before the citizens are asked to vote on the elimination of the Police Department, there should be a plan in place that insures law enforcement and how the transition to a new system will be implemented without a loss of public safety protection for our citizens.
- (2) Accountability of diminished. It is simply not good public policy for the proposed Division of Law Enforcement Services, the Director of Community and Violence Protection or any public safety department to report to 15 bosses. This clearly diminishes accountability to the citizens, adds unneeded confusion and bureaucracy and diffuses authority, making it more distant from the citizens.
- (3) Lack of commitment to law enforcement services. The language in the proposed charter change replaces the words “must establish, organize and otherwise provide for these departments” with the words “may maintain a division of law enforcement services.” Changing from “must” to “may” is a change that gives the citizens no guarantee of public safety services. This is simply unfathomable.

Finally, the date of having this all accomplished and in place by May 1, 2020 is simply unattainable. Let us not forget that we are in a COVID-19 environment. As I said earlier, decision making and public input are more complex and time consuming in this environment and it doesn’t appear that is changing any time soon. This is a major undertaking. The council has said there will be a “year long” process – which is it, May 1 or a “year long” process. I firmly believe that the discourse with the public should occur before amending the Charter – not after. To amend the Charter without citizen input and without a plan in place would be irresponsible and put our City at risk.

I love this city. I have lived here my whole life. I have raised my family here. I have given much of my life in public service of our city. I stand with you to help make our city better and stronger - to rush this Charter change forward without robust citizen engagement and a plan in place would, in my opinion, be irresponsible.

Thank you for considering my opinion on this matter.

6/30/2020 1:26:40 PM

As someone who works in Minneapolis, I don’t think defunding the police is the message you want to send. It tells the public that crime is welcome in Minneapolis. I was on a meeting with colleagues today and when our boss proposed meeting at a park in Minneapolis for our next meeting, 8 out of 11 said “no I don’t feel safe in Minneapolis.” Please reconsider this decision.

6/30/2020 1:26:56 PM

I support advancing this proposed amendment to the November ballot.

6/30/2020 1:27:16 PM

I do not agree with this proposed amendment nor do I think it should be put on the ballot. I would much rather that you spend your time on decreasing taxes and putting an end to all of this crime that is going on in Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 1:27:18 PM

As a resident of Longfellow, I think it is absolutely critical we vote to change the charter so we can dismantle MPD. As the murder of George Floyd has shown, this is the only way to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents.

6/30/2020 1:27:21 PM

I work downtown. I already do not feel safe going to and from work. Removing the police from Minneapolis is terrifying. I feel as a non resident I would have no safety or support . Viewed as an outsider by residents.

6/30/2020 1:27:57 PM

I do not support the proposed amendment to the City Charter without much greater detail about what the Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department will look like, how it will operate, and what it will cost.

I think the City Council is severely overestimating resident support for elimination of the police department. As often occurs in politics, the loudest voices don't always represent the majority and I believe any such amendment will fail to pass a vote by residents.

I support ongoing reform and reinvention of the safety component of City services, but don't trust the out-of-touch City Council with a complete overhaul. The progressive-leaning City Council, in control for decades, has failed on many counts to effectively run the City. I don't believe the Council can lead such a major structural change successfully and fear the uncertainty ahead should the Council be granted this responsibility.

I'd suggest the voters be asked to allow for an alternative department by simply adding OR to the below under 7.2 (a).

(11) a police department OR a department of community safety and violence prevention (section 7.3);

This would allow discussions on deeper reform that may be necessary to challenge the power of the police union. It would allow the City to explore alternatives and even implement them, but always allow for going back to the current system of community safety if needed. Finally, given politics always being

involved, I do not support any public unions (all should be abolished) and I do not support the City Council being responsible for sole oversight of community safety as is proposed.

Thank you for reading my comments.

Ward 3 resident

6/30/2020 1:28:02 PM

This is a terrible and not thought out idea. Embarrassed to be from Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 1:28:09 PM

I support amending the charter to dismantle and defund the current Minneapolis Police Department. I believe it is rotten to its core and in order for the "good cops" to rise from the ashes, we need to start again. We need to re-examine the best practices to support and protect the residents of Minneapolis. People are fearful of the MPD and the lack of accountability they have. There is no peaceful future without this small step.

6/30/2020 1:28:21 PM

I am opposed to this measure. It is preposterous to think that a major metropolitan area can prosper or flourish in an environment that is devoid of a police force to ensure protection of the community. Rather than abolishing the police department and replacing it with untried and unproven alternatives, we, as a city, would be in a better position to try some pilot programs in targeted areas. The idea that this extreme proposal has advanced even to this point with little to no public input is horrendous. I firmly encourage the Commission to reject the proposal.

6/30/2020 1:28:26 PM

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

6/30/2020 1:28:37 PM

I will NEVER visit Minneapolis EVER again. I'm old enough to remember Murderapolis. Welcome back! You people are fucking crazy!!!

6/30/2020 1:29:14 PM

I support the amendment to the city charter creating a department of community safety and violence prevention to replace the existing police department.

6/30/2020 1:29:39 PM

I fully support this amendment and am confident we can figure out what this looks like and how to create a just system that works for all. This is likely one of our only opportunities to fully address systemic racism in our life times. We cannot mess this up. Please allow this to move forward to voters. I believe that reform has been given many opportunities and not succeeded I wholeheartedly support putting this on the ballot.

6/30/2020 1:30:05 PM

I urge the Charter Commission to allow the residents of Minneapolis to vote on the Public safety charter amendment. We need a conversation across the city about what makes us safe and how we invest in our communities - and we need that conversation now - not a year from now. Our elected representatives on the City Council unanimously support this- the charter commission must let us vote.

6/30/2020 1:30:58 PM

I support this measure. This is an opportunity to make history and set a precedent for other cities. It is likely that this system will not be immediately successful, but it is important to frame the peacekeepers in our society as servants to the community, not authorities with unlimited power.

6/30/2020 1:31:03 PM

I oppose this! Keep the police!!

6/30/2020 1:31:19 PM

You guys are so fucking dumb.

6/30/2020 1:31:24 PM

When I moved to Minneapolis in 1973 I would easily have bet my life on never having to write the words I'm about to write here. Dismantling police is an idea so beyond reason, so without critical thought, and so childish that it seems unbelievable to me. Unfortunately, the notion to dismantle the MPD is actually floating through the collective vacuous mind of the Minneapolis City Council. How does one explain this? I can only assume simple stupidity is not the answer, yet in my mind sheer stupidity is the only explanation I can think of that even begins to explain the MCC's astounding lack of clear thinking and sense. If this idea to dismantle the MPD becomes a reality the violence that will result will make the violence in Chicago seem like child's play, and the city will burn! I love Minneapolis and am the neighbor anyone would hope to have. I watch out for you, I blow the snow from your sidewalk, I treat all with respect and offer help if I see need. But with no adult leadership anywhere in sight we're getting the hell out!

6/30/2020 1:31:50 PM

I support the amendment on public safety.

6/30/2020 1:32:26 PM

I do not support the proposed charter language and encourage you to vote to not approve the amendment for the following reasons:

1. I do not support the striking of the police department and replacing with a department of community safety and violence prevention. Certainly not without a vetted, solid plan in place to replace them.
2. I am NOT in favor of "b) division of law enforcement services" which states the "Council MAY maintain a division of law enforcement services" when it should say "WILL maintain a division of law enforcement services". A city of this size must have a law enforcement department.
3. There are not enough details in the proposed amendment that adequately address the day to day workings of this proposed new department, especially compared to the striken language and the remaining fire department language.
4. Why is not the fire department a part of the community safety department? Most jurisdictions that have a public safety department do so for cost savings to combine law enforcement and fire.
5. If any action should be taken with regards to the city charter, that would be to decrease the number of city councilpersons from the board. Having too many has caused the priorities of the council to become too narrow and myopic in nature.

I, too, want reform and I want changes in how the police department functions, how officers are disciplined, and funding levels spent. I want to see specifics about how any new system will work before I can consider myself informed enough to support any reform. I want the opportunity to provide comments on proposed changes. The timeline of this amendment and rush to get onto the November ballot does not afford this opportunity. Please consider not approving.

I would rather give the current Police Chief the opportunity to make changes he was hired to make.

Thank you for your service on this Commission.

6/30/2020 1:32:28 PM

I want to express my support for amending the Charter in order to properly reform the existing Minneapolis Police Department. After honest efforts of incremental reform, it's clear that the structural issues within the police department are too deep to address without extensive reorganization. I trust my elected city council members' efforts to do this work and urge the Charter Commission to follow their lead.

6/30/2020 1:32:33 PM

Before changing the charter have a well articulated PLAN. Note that I live in North Minneapolis. It is a lawless country up here. Speeding, theft of cars and trailers, fireworks all day and all night. Nothing is being done to change behavior, at least that is visible. It is only going to get worse until the community understands that well articulated PLAN and knows issues will be addressed properly. NO clue what is happening, I understood there is only going to be ONE listening session (not anywhere near enough). My councilmember does not acknowledge my questions, nor answers them. I don't exist for him. Do NOT change the charter until a well articulated PLAN is in place.

6/30/2020 1:33:15 PM

Hi! As a resident of Minneapolis I really want the City Council to sit back and really think through what is being asked. It feels that a select few are reacting based on emotions and not really doing their due diligence, talking to community leaders to see what is needed for the City of Minneapolis. I for one do not want us to lose our Police Chief nor our good officers.

These are the things in my opinion on what needs to be accounted for;

1. Changes need to be made top down- legislation needs to be in lock step with what changes are being made in the city charter. Police Union contract needs to be renegotiated.
2. How would criminal cases be handled now if we have Mental Health workers and the community resources? How would evidence be handled, how would a case be brought together. Will these mental health workers and Community resources know what needs to be done? Will they have training?
3. The Minneapolis Police department from what I understand hired Mental health workers to go out on calls. Why is that program not expanded to add more types of these workers. How was it working?
4. If we get rid of the police will 911 now have to figure out what kind of person needs to be sent to a call? I can't imagine these calls are cut and dry. Are non police resources prepared for violent situations?
5. What impact is this going to have on trying to bring in big sporting events, conventions, tourism?
6. What impact will this have on the businesses in Minneapolis?
7. Allow the Police Chief to have more discipline control over his/her departments.
8. Maybe this is the time to bring in an outside source or our community leaders and have all police officers reapply for their jobs Clean house and then there is a new timeline to say - the old way is gone we are now as of this date having a brand new police department.

Let's make the city great again- A place where people want to come and visit. A place where everyone is treated equally.

I believe that more thought has been put into all of this however, it is more than likely getting lost in all the rhetoric and mis information going around.

Thank you!

6/30/2020 1:33:24 PM

### Establishing Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department (Legislative File 2020-00668)

This is way to hasty to knee jerk to amend the Charter. We need to have real discussions with the leaders from the community, especially people of color leaders.

Lets make a real plan then work the plan. We are swinging the pendulum to far in reaction to the rioting.

6/30/2020 1:33:37 PM

What you should do is NOT defunding or dismantling current police department. Instead, what you have to do is implementing improved and revised police training to prevent accidental death of the suspect and to improve the current police procedure of investigation.

I don't think the member of the councils have knowledge of how much of stress the law enforcement faces daily and still most of polices are very good, dedicated to our communities and sacrificing their lives in front line.

Just because of few unprofessional polices dismantling whole police department is just not fair to all other good and dedicating polices.

Stop listening to the whining people. People should follow the law and order to keep our community safe. It feels unhappy if you are being investigated, but get ourselves clear from being suspected we must comply to the police.

What you have to announce is not planning to dismantle the police department, but to announce that people must follow to police investigate when being investigated by police. I simply mean complying to them.

Sometimes it is much easier to remove whole than to fix the small part of problem then pretend the problem has never existed.

6/30/2020 1:34:22 PM

I am submitting this comment to voice my support for the proposed amendment to the city Charter. I hope that the Charter Commission is able to act swiftly to put this amendment on the ballot so that Minneapolis can make real progress towards creating more effective, equitable systems to promote public safety.

6/30/2020 1:34:51 PM

Absolutely should not abolish the police. People like myself would never come into Minneapolis to visit, shop, eat, enjoy sports at the big venues, concerts. We need and want police protection. I believe that because a few might make wrong choices doesn't mean all do.

6/30/2020 1:35:17 PM

I support the flexibility that a revised charter provides, but not this language. I reject the use of jargon without specificity: holistic, "consistently engage the public". We do not yet have an identified scope of responsibilities for the new department of community safety and violence prevention, yet we are setting a date to sunset the MPD and replace it with this un-scoped department by May 1, 2021. That gives us only 6 months from ratification to determine what that department will look like and do.

I DO support amending the charter to permit this change, but not require it. But I need to know how the leader of the department would be held accountable. I do not support the notion that the leader would report to the full council, as it dilutes accountability of council members. The buck has to stop at one desk, and I favor it stopping at the mayor's desk.

I would agree to this amendment:

Shall the Minneapolis City Charter be amended to permit the establishment of a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and to remove charter requirements governing the size and scope of the Minneapolis Police Department?

6/30/2020 1:35:22 PM

The terms defund & disband are cause for panic. The Mpls City Council is way overstepping their scope of managing the MPD. Mpls MUST HAVE LAW & ORDER. The current lawlessness proves this fact. The MPD has to weed out the bad apples by releasing all the excessive force & other complaints & fire the bad apples. The MPD Union has way too much power, Kroll has to go. The City Council members need to do ride alongside for a month straight to actually see what officers face on a minute by minute shift. We are fast becoming another out of control Chicago. Police need better training and everyone combined needs to look at other cities who have successfully done reform. I'm a 3rd generation Webber Camden former resident and over 10 years of Block Club leader plus Citizens Academy & I support Police, Fire, first responders and all who put their lives on the line daily. I am a 77 y/o female now in a senior complex in Robbinsdale. I have friends and relatives in Mpls. I am appalled by what the Mpls City Council is proposing.

6/30/2020 1:36:30 PM

If I lived in Minneapolis I would move immediately! This is the most asinine plan I have ever heard of. The weeks of the rioting will be the new normal for Minneapolis without police. Police ARE NOT the problem! They are there to protect and serve and 99.999% of the time they do with courage, respect, and without incident. To hold an entire group of people accountable for the actions of a few is reckless and irresponsible. If this passes your city WILL burn, it WILL erupt into chaos, and people WILL die because YOU left them with NO ONE to protect them.

6/30/2020 1:36:34 PM

We cannot remove the MPLS Police Dept.

If this were to happen, my entire family will NOT attend any sporting event, theater event, musical event, Dr. appointment, visit a dining establishment ever in Minneapolis again!

Removing the MPD and replacing it with the a community safety program would be extremely unsafe for all people!!

6/30/2020 1:37:05 PM

Depends on the "how". Do not leave the city uncovered by local helpers.

6/30/2020 1:37:14 PM

If the police are defunded I will no longer attend sports events, go to bars or restaurants, or spend any of my money in the city. I will also refuse to accept work assignments that require me to be in the city after dark. Moving in that direction will cause many valuable businesses and many loyal customers to move elsewhere. The move to defund the police is short sighted and dumb.

6/30/2020 1:37:37 PM

I am 100% against removing the Police Department. We, the tax paying residents of Minneapolis don't have access to the PUBLIC's tax dollars for private personal protection like some City Council members seem to have taken the liberty to utilize so we nee the Police Department for our personal property and individual protection.

I believe disbanding the Police Union should be something that is being discussed and voted on. I (now) recognize there have been police issues that have not been addressed and some individuals that may have been unjustly protected by the Union and this cannot continue. That said - I want the protection a Police Department provides the City and it saddens me, as a 5 year resident that chose to relocate to Minneapolis from Texas, that I will feel the need to move out of the City of Minneapolis if the proposed charter amendment is approved in November.

I believe efforts can be made to improve our existing Department by removing the Union, increasing training requirements, utilizing social workers within the Department not in lieu of the Department and not recreating the wheel several times over in each Community.

6/30/2020 1:38:06 PM

I am not a resident of Minneapolis, but I work in Minneapolis and I have spent a lot of time attending many various types of events, concerts, restaurants, etc in the city.

I absolutely do not support removing the Minneapolis Police Department and replacing it with the Community of Safety and Violence Prevention Department. I absolutely don't agree with trying to defund the police department at all either.

Quite the contrary I would hope that Minneapolis would start fully funding and publicly supporting it's police force. The majority of great officers and the thousands of positive interactions of those officers every year are being overshadowed unfairly. Look at the hard statistics that can't be manipulated for or against the departments record. I don't believe in the broad baseless claim that it's a racist department or has systemic racism built into it. Show us the PROOF that this exists if this is part of what the city council is claiming as a reason for making this drastic change.

Public safety and policing needs to get further away from the manipulation of politics and focused more on protecting the public through the enforcement of laws that are on the books. If the Minneapolis City Council wants certain laws to change or be enforced differently, then they should be working with legislators to work together for those changes.

The Chief and Union of the MPD have been requesting hundreds of more officers to keep the Minneapolis communities safe and those need to be provided and fully funded. More officers, more money for training, equipment, education and absolutely more support from their leaders to help push forward a united front with it's citizens to keep Minneapolis safe for it's residents and all of the visitors that may or may not come based on how this is handled. Minneapolis needs to provide the VERY best police for it's citizens and build an AMAZING reputation of safety to attract visitors and great events to our city.

I would hope that this council would work with MPD to make it the best police force in the country that great officers would want to work for and where they are supported by their leaders and given all they need to be successful in their duties. If you want great people, with great skills to become great cops for the city of Minneapolis, YOU have to make it a great destination for them to work. It can't be a department seen as a place where you have no backing from any of the leadership, where you won't have the numbers of cops on the streets to provide the safety you need not only for it's residents and visitors, but also the cops themselves to safely do their jobs and make it home every night to their families.

It will not work to replace MPD with a brand new Community of Safety and Violence Prevention Department. This change would not draw or provide Minneapolis with the quality applicants who Minneapolis needs to keep us all safe whether we live, work or visit here. This drastic change will lead to more crime across the board and leave the people that need the most protection vulnerable to becoming victims of this crime wave.

The numerous functions that the Minneapolis Police Department provides can not be wiped clean and switched into a new department without putting all the people in or visiting Minneapolis at great and dire risk of criminal activity.

Put all your efforts and money into making the Minneapolis Police Department into the destination for all the great officers and make Minneapolis known as one of the safest large cities in the world by supporting them with all the resources they need to do that.

6/30/2020 1:38:12 PM

I think there should continue to be a police department but should be lead by a chief and a coordinator of health and safety with some tasks being performed by safety officers and others the police officers. However, I think the leadership need to promote the concept of de-escalation with all employees being hired with a principal of cooperation and NOT aggression.

6/30/2020 1:38:22 PM

I agree with the plan, though I question the viability of replacing the police department with what appears to be a department of social workers. If nothing else, the new department must not be empowered to exercise authority over the people of Minneapolis in the same way the police have.

6/30/2020 1:38:45 PM

I support the amendment to the charter. Minneapolis needs more ways of preventing violence.

6/30/2020 1:38:55 PM

Live in Bloomington, work downtown. If anything we need more police, especially on the light rail. I've nearly been in a physical altercation twice this year alone on my way home from work due to belligerents on public transportation. There are shootings blocks from my place of work on a nightly basis. Defunding or disbanding the police would do nothing to resolve these issues, only exacerbate them. Now isn't the time for a well intended, but ultimately harmful emotional reaction

6/30/2020 1:39:22 PM

We don't need dismantle the police department . We need better training and calling it something different not going chance just get rid of the bad apples and inhumane ones. I've lived here about 60 years always loved Minneapolis but the democrats are going crazy. Why are we doing everything possible to a accommodate the protestors and the lawlessness acts going on? MORE GOOD OFFICERS, please. We also need to vote on a new charter ..RIGHT

6/30/2020 1:39:32 PM

I support the charter amendment on public safety. It's clear to me that our elected city council needs the authority to fundamentally rethink public safety in Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 1:40:35 PM

i want to dismantle the police department and push money toward mental health, school counselors, help for homeless/housing for them and have a smaller police department that doesn't ALLOW for police to have complaints and lawsuits against them over and over while still keeping their jobs. However, i do also want to make sure you as city council people are speaking to people and organizers on the North Side, who have many ideas about reorganizing the police.

6/30/2020 1:40:46 PM

This is stupid. I could shit out better ideas than lisa bender gets paid to make. Bitch needs some dick in her life apparently.

6/30/2020 1:41:33 PM

I do NOT support abolishing or dismantling the Minneapolis police department. However, I do agree there needs to be major reform in the police department and judicial system as a whole. I agree with providing funding for more training in deescalation and anti bias policing. I do agree that there are calls made to 911 that do not require police as the primary responder, but rather, people trained in dealing with human behavior, addictions, etc. I understand that the money for these changes will be substantial and agree that most of it should come from the police department; if they cannot/will not be trained in a way that makes all citizens feel safe in their own city, they should not have access to the money that can help train people who actually do want to help people. The amount of money the city has had to pay to the families of victims of police brutality is ridiculous and the police department has cost the taxpayers enough for their bad choices. However, instead of "throwing the baby out with the bath water", I do recognize there are "good" police and there are also situations that the police are the correct response. The police do Often exacerbate situations, but we need to understand that as a city, there will be crime and violence. Unless the city has a proven way of eliminating poverty, racism, and the other ills of a metropolitan area, crime will continue. If the police are dismantled without a very clear, concise, research based plan, people will not trust the city of Minneapolis to keep them safe. People will move to the suburbs or other areas. Tourists will not feel safe to come and spend money in our

city. Sports fans will not be eager to come cheer their favorite teams. The main point is, dismantle the police and you will have a financial crisis on your hands. Is this something the council is prepared to deal with? Bankrupting Minneapolis will be detrimental to the citizens that already struggle in our great city.

6/30/2020 1:42:25 PM

This idea is just embarrassing. No I do not support this.

I will take private security just like our special council members apparently get because they can't see the irony in that.

6/30/2020 1:43:16 PM

Reform, perhaps. Remove, ludicrous. No intelligent business will locate within the city limits, no thinking individual will consider jeopardizing their safety by driving or visiting within your boundaries and tax revenues will plummet. Your foremost responsibility is to attend to the safety and welfare of your citizens. What you are proposing amounts to a gross dereliction of duty and a sophomoric approach at feel good politics.

6/30/2020 1:43:47 PM

My thoughts are that we should most certainly move forward with decreasing the budget of the police department, or defund the MPD as a whole. There could potentially be a rehiring process with new expectations for officers, as well. The idea of entirely eliminating the department seems amazing, but I struggle with the reality of that move. I feel like more people will revolt either internally or with force. If the MPD will essentially becomes the CSVDPD, then that is different, but that would have to be explicitly communicated with the public. There is no room for vague phrasing in this conversation. The more direct, the better. Let me be clear in that I do fully support the notion of defunding the police because previous attempts of reform have fallen short. I think that we should instead decrease the budget away from the MPD around things like homelessness or mental health and allow situations like that to be handled through other agencies that are not the police. Those agencies would of course receive the dollars from the amount that would be cut from the MPD budget. The reason I feel this way is because it is more of a moderate decision in this situation. I feel we need to stride from away from extreme pathways as they will inevitably be exploited from outsiders or opposers. Not only does this reasoning make more sense in this situation, but it greatly applies to how Minnesota has handled COVID-19 and it is how our country needs to respond to things. This whole tragedy started here in Minneapolis and so I think the entire nation will be watching how we move forward from this. We have an opportunity to set an example of making the smart decision that is also the right decision, not just the popular one from each side. Thank you.

6/30/2020 1:44:15 PM

As an immigrant of 20 years living one and a half blocks from Lake Street, I witnessed the improvement of Lake Street in the past years and take pride in my street, my community, and even the name of my city, Minneapolis.

I am heartbroken for the injustice George Floyd suffered. I am furious at the rioting, looting, burning down of my immediate surrounding, all the grocery stores and all pharmacies and my family had to change pharmacies FIVE times to finally get my son's insulin!

The immediate food and medicine crisis my neighborhood suffers is devastating and still ongoing TODAY.

But for the police and the national guards, we would have suffered more burning and destruction. I am grateful for their law enforcement.

Instead of "defund the police", Minneapolis needs to increase funding for the police. The violence cannot be dealt with by just prevention. Increasing funding to police will help police do a better job with engaging the community, building trust, deescalating violent situations, and protecting people from harm.

So I do not agree wth your amendments.

If violence continues to increase and businesses feel unsafe and leave Minneapolis, there will be higher unemployment rate and higher crime rate and tax will increase for people who have jobs and pay taxes. In the end, people who are not protected and feel unsafe and are taxed heavily will simply quit Minneapolis and move to either suburbs or other cities, or worse, completely lose hope for Minnesota and move to other states.

So what happens next will decide how Minneapolis will fare, either sink or float.

You need to put a solid, feasible plan to make Minneapolis safer. No one wants to live in a place full of violence and crimes.

6/30/2020 1:44:41 PM

I DO NOT SUPPORT THE DISBANDING, DEFUNDING OR REORGANIZATION OF ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENTS. BY THE WAY HAVE YOU, THE CITY COUNCIL, MADE IT BROADCAST NEWS THAT YOU HAVE ALL HIRED PRIVATE SECURITY TO PROTECT EACH OF YOU AT THE EXPENSE OF US TAXPAYERS? THAT IS AN ABUSE OF POWER AND PUTS PAID TO THE LIES THAT WE DON'T NEED THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS. WHAT IF YOU HAD TO PAY OUT OF YOUR OWN POCKETS FOR THAT SECURITY - JUST LIKE WE WOULD HAVE TO.

6/30/2020 1:45:09 PM

I oppose the proposed Charter Amendment because it would create a vague process that has not been carefully and thoroughly thought out. It smacks of a "Hurry up and do something" process. There are lots of details left out. It may or may not be appropriate in 2021 when the City Council has provided more details about how public safety will be handled

6/30/2020 1:45:23 PM

This process of changing the city charter to remove the requirement of having a police force is disturbing. Something of this importance demands time for discussion and open meetings. Please delay this change so we can have the council members explain exactly how they plan on making the city safe.

thank you

6/30/2020 1:45:28 PM

Charter Commission Members,

Thank you for taking public comment on your upcoming decision regarding the proposed Charter Amendment establishing the Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and removing the Police Department from the Charter, and whether or not to bring that amendment to voters in November.

As someone who lives and works in Minneapolis, I love this city. And, as we've all seen over the last month, the city we love is in pain. In fact, living this city has always been painful for People of Color and Indigenous residents in Minneapolis since its founding. That pain came to a boiling point with the murder of George Floyd by the Minneapolis Police Department, and those of us who are white residents of the city could no longer ignore it.

The Minneapolis Police Department has shown time and again that they are beyond reform. No matter how much money we pour into the department and how much cultural training they have, the police department have shown contempt, hostility, and outright hatred to the community that they are

supposed to serve. I know I do not feel comfortable calling the police in any situation for fear that they would escalate and turn a non-violent call into the death of yet another resident of this city.

Residents of Minneapolis should be empowered to decide how we define safety and how we make our community safer. It shouldn't be left up to the police union and state legislature how we keep ourselves safe.

Please allow the people of Minneapolis to vote on this Charter Amendment in the upcoming November election. The time for us to act is now.

Thank you for your time.

6/30/2020 1:46:57 PM

The MPD and the US' police training and methodologies have consistently proven themselves to be relics of fear-mongering, self-preservation, and racism. They were never worthy of the public's trust, and it saddens me that so many innocent people had to suffer and die by the MPD's hand for this change to be considered. I fully support this amendment, and hope that it allows for a brighter, police-free future for our city.

6/30/2020 1:48:02 PM

Hello,

My wife and I have lived in Minneapolis for the last five years, and we do understand the initiative behind "defund the police" stemming out of the George Floyd situation and the need to change systemic structures in our society. However, I will say the lack of clarity around what will replace the MPD is weighing heavily on us and the decision to stay or leave Minneapolis when we need more space for our children.

I would encourage the council to keep the police chief as a last measure of accountability and not decentralize things by ward. In some of the conversations I've been a part of this has been a topic of concern as there is no accountability when it is split 14 ways, where there would be if one person was ultimately responsible for most policing in the city.

Additionally, I would encourage the council to double down on policing along with measures like mental health and social work with whatever comes next. Much has been made about Camden NJ and the success of their defund the police initiative, but it is interesting to know they actually employ more cops now than they did before.

Thank you for your consideration!

6/30/2020 1:48:15 PM

As a wife of a St. Paul fireman, I am ashamed of the city leaders I have voted for. Do you understand the impact this will have? What business will want to open its doors with no police force? What emergency response will rush to someone's aid without a secure scene? Who will protect taxpayers and their personal property. What visitor will come to a city with no police presence?

I encourage each one of you to ride with Minneapolis Fire, respond to a. gunshot victim, transport to Hennepin County ER. Do this unassisted, no police, no protection. Come back to me directly at email address above, and tell me my husband is not in danger.

6/30/2020 1:48:28 PM

I truly believe that this amendment will increase violence and encourage more people to conceal and carry weapons to feel safe. People become bolder when there's less monitoring while others will take matters into their own hands by carrying weapons and organizing militias. I don't think establishing a brand new organization on such short notice is going to have the capabilities, resources, and skills to handle what the current police department does. My recommendation would be to convert police from generalists to specialists and have a triage system. Some police can specialize in domestic disputes and social work for example while others specialize in rape or other types of violence. When a 911 call comes in, it is triaged to the right specialist police department

6/30/2020 1:48:35 PM

I believe this should be on the ballot. The Minneapolis police should be disbanded and replaced with a community lead safety organization that helps with the all around safety of a community

6/30/2020 1:49:48 PM

If you ask Rick Astley for a DVD of the movie Up, he won't give it to you because he's never gonna give you Up. However, by not giving you Up like you asked for it, he's letting you down. This is known as the Astley paradox.

6/30/2020 1:49:53 PM

I will not provide my name or address.

You the city and city counsel have failed to protect upper NE for all of my 38 years in my home.

Now you want to make it worst and let criminals take over and dictate. Every time I have called the police about a crime in progress or the result of a crime, I get to wait for the police to show up. I have never received follow up calls or results. Lets make it worst. Go ahead. I have my guns and will use !

6/30/2020 1:50:37 PM

I am not in favor of the proposed charter amendment. Before I could consider a change to the charter, I would need an actual detailed plan on what is proposed.

Thus far the response of the Minneapolis Council appears and feels like and emotional, knee jerk reaction. I am not impressed.

6/30/2020 1:52:20 PM

So a few weeks after an out of control, lawless mob destroys or damages hundreds of businesses you want to get rid of the police? Sure, that makes perfect sense. I say go ahead with your plan. That way when the city collapses you, the Council, will have yourselves to blame (but we all know that'll never happen). Just be aware that when you continue to pander to the mob, at some point that mob will turn on you too.

6/30/2020 1:52:25 PM

Infinite poop. You sit on the toilet to poop, but the poop never stops coming out of your butt. You have to start flushing the toilet every two minutes to keep up. You try to pinch your butt closed but that makes your insides hurt. The poop accelerates. You call 911. The paramedics call for doctors. The doctors call for specialists. The story trends on Twitter. You turn down talk show appearances. Your septic tank fails. People form a cult. Your toilet is finished. Volunteers arrive with buckets and shovels. You are completely used to the smell. The poop accelerates. You are moved to a stepladder with a hole in the top step. The poop accelerates. The shovelers abandon the buckets and shovel directly out the window. The poop accelerates. A candlelight vigil forms around your house. One of the workers falls over and can't free himself. The poop accelerates. A priest knocks over the stepladder and tackles you out the window. You land in the pile. The poop accelerates. The force now propels you forward and upward. Vigil goers grab at your legs. The poop ignites from their candles. The Facebook live event hits 1 million viewers. The poop accelerates. You are 30 feet in the air. The fire engulfs the vigil and your house. 60 feet. The poop accelerates. The torrent underneath you is deafening. 5 million Facebook live viewers. You try to close up shop but your butthole disintegrated long ago. 120 feet up. Your house explodes. The poop accelerates. 1000 feet. You are now tracked on radar. You try to change your angle of ascent but you should have thought of that way earlier. The poop accelerates. 4,000 feet. NORAD upgrades to DEFCON 3. Concentric circles of fire engulf your city. The poop accelerates. You have broken the sound barrier. 30,000 feet. You no longer take in enough oxygen to sustain consciousness. 60,000 feet. CNN is reporting on all the world records you've broken. 200,000 feet. You are no longer alive. The poop accelerates. Your body disintegrates but your poop contrail remains. NASA can no longer track you. You break the light-speed barrier and we can no longer bear witness. The poop accelerates. Forever.

6/30/2020 1:53:24 PM

I can understand the orientation towards swift action as promised by the city council. However the city council need to engage Minneapolis citizens in a process to determine what public safety means to different constituents. Everyone is talking about it, but no one is defining what they actually want. Racist systems abound in this city. Fixing one Department won't be an end all. This is a long slog.

6/30/2020 1:54:29 PM

Hi,

I agree overall with going forward with the proposed charter amendment. However, my concern is that there is still a requirement that the division of law enforcement will be composed of "licensed peace officers."

The definition of police officer/peace officer is struck through in section 7.3, #2, yet there is no replacement definition of what "peace officer" means.

What assurance do we have that these will not be the same officers that are currently causing issues in our community? How will they be licensed and trained? The amendment only states that they will be "subject to the supervision of the department of community safety and violence prevention." I think there needs to be more detail on this piece.

Thanks

6/30/2020 1:54:34 PM

Why is there no residency requirement for our law enforcement personnel?

Kroll from the union should have been gone years ago.

6/30/2020 1:55:37 PM

DO NOT MOVE FORWARD WITH MPD ABOLISHMENT. WE THE PEOPLE will vote you out!

6/30/2020 1:55:56 PM

It is irresponsible to ask voters to approve an amendment that punts on the most important question-- whether Minneapolis will have some sort of police force ("[t]he council may maintain a division of protective law enforcement services"). This attempt to placate all sides is not leadership. What is your plan? First give us specifics and then take it to the voters if charter changes are needed. I am not inclined to vote for a "trust us" amendment.

6/30/2020 1:55:59 PM

Hi,

I agree overall with going forward with the proposed charter amendment. However, my concern is that there is still a requirement that the division of law enforcement will be composed of "licensed peace officers."

The definition of police officer/peace officer is struck through in section 7.3, #2, yet there is no replacement definition of what "peace officer" means.

What assurance do we have that these will not be the same officers that are currently causing issues in our community? How will they be licensed and trained? The amendment only states that they will be "subject to the supervision of the department of community safety and violence prevention." I think there needs to be more detail.

Thanks

6/30/2020 1:56:10 PM

The proposed amendment to the city charter is vague and removes checks implemented in the charter to ensure the mayor and council act in the interests of the residents of Minneapolis and persons visiting the city. As a suburban resident I am called upon to attend to business in the city so this charter has direct implications on my safety and that of my family. The charter change removes staff levels allowing the council to understaff critical departments. The change does not mandate any role or duty that this new police force would be obligated to undertake nor require licensing of those officers. The new charter would allow employees without training or certification to be assigned to law enforcement duties. This means less likelihood that a responding person will know what the law is, what they can effect in a given situation, how to ensure that evidence is retained for prosecution. It is likely that this would decrease effective investigations and limit criminal justice. Without proper investigations, residents would not be able to seek relief from civil courts. The criminal justice system has been established with a uniform code of policing as its foundation. Minneapolis would be on its own and that doesn't work well for criminal justice. It would require Hennepin County and the State to demarc against this policy action so as to insulate themselves from the corresponding damages. Overall it is bad policy start to finish.

6/30/2020 1:57:29 PM

The police department is vital to the community of Minneapolis. The only residents of Mpls who don't want the police department are the rich who will just hire private security. Who is going to risk their lives answering a domestic violence call? Certainly not the "privileged" like Lisa Bender & her cohorts on the city council. My car was stolen 3 x and returned to me each time after the police department made arrests. A kindly police officer helped me find my car at dusk @ Lake Harriet after a concert on the lake. Another officer helped me find my birding group after I got mixed up because of road construction & road closures. I am vehemently opposed to defunding the police department & vehemently opposed to dismantling the police department. The police would have done their job if our coward of a mayor had not told them to "stand down" therefore letting the looters, thugs & criminals destroy our city. THE CRIMINALS NEED TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS. WAKE UP & ALLOW THE POLICE TO PROTECT & SERVE THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS. The city council needs to resign because they do not have the best interests of the residents of Mpls in their hearts.

6/30/2020 1:57:40 PM

I have lived my entire 69 years of life in Hennepin County, all but 8 of them in Minneapolis, the vast majority in North Minneapolis. Having read the charter amendment voted on by the Minneapolis City Council, I am dismayed that they are trying to rush it through to be put on the 2020 ballot just so they

can appease their political base and dismantle the Minneapolis Police Department. They currently have no sound plan for moving forward and are putting the cart before the horse. They just yesterday passed a resolution saying they "will commence a year long process of community engagement, research, and structural change to create a transformative new model for cultivating safety in our city." There should be not be any movement to change the city charter until that process is completed. The very earliest, if at all, that a referendum to change the city charter should be a ballot is 2021. I'm asking you to please reject putting the amendment on the 2020 ballot.

resident of North Minneapolis

6/30/2020 1:57:43 PM

I live 3 blocks outside of Minneapolis. If the city of Minneapolis does not have a police department I will not be entering it for business or pleasure.

6/30/2020 1:59:08 PM

Need better training or screening for not just MPD but all officers. If this is who will be apart of the Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department, they need to restructure the entire system. More training, better screening, and immediate attention/action to complaints against officers or those on this department.

6/30/2020 1:59:23 PM

As a homeowner if they defund police department, they want 50% of taxes back to pay for private security. I am defiantly against defunding and they are scared to death. We need more police, not less. Trying to push this through by ballot time is ridiculous...it needs more talk time and thought.

6/30/2020 1:59:49 PM

Dear Charter Commission,

Thank you for your hard work as volunteers for the good of Minneapolis community members. I am directly affected by good part of the Minneapolis community - I live in Southwest and my family members live in Camden. I strongly encourage the Charter Commission to take the courageous step of opening the door to true innovation in making our city safe for all residents. Due to the tragic sacrifice of another African American man George Floyd, we have broad community-wide recognition of the unequal and overuse of force against citizens and residents of color in our community. Now is the time when the community is giving you an opportunity to make true change. The job of the Charter Commission is simple - please help remove the barriers to reform written into the current city charter. The City Council and Mayor will then have the job of developing new policies on a policing model or reform. This amendment frees the city council and mayor to jointly determine funding levels, reporting hierarchies and specific scope of work for policing.

I agree with the innovation of having a community representative in between the mayor and police to provide appropriate priority and community engagement to policing. I agree that its time to separate several aspects of social and health management from police responsibility. The police should not be expected to be a social service agency and they need significant reform to do enforcement in an unbiased and non-dangerous way. The city council and community are asking you to uncuff them to conduct such significant reform planning. We need to put the idea of uncuffing them to the voters this November. Please make sure the timeline happens to get this charter amendment on the ballot this November.

Same letter attached.

6/30/2020 2:00:31 PM

Please replace the Minneapolis police department with a group that can peacefully work with the community. We don't need people with guns, poor training and lack of empathy on our streets.

6/30/2020 2:00:44 PM

Please do not proceed with an amendment without ample time for public input and an actual plan for what a department of public safety will look like including structure, funding and responsibilities of the separate divisions within the department. This is a power play by the City Council to take control of the police department away from the Mayor and Chief of Police, the consequences of which were seen during the debacle that was the response that lead to the third precinct being burned down. The Council has shown that it is not able to give the mayor or Police Chief the ability to direct resources during times of immediate need and crisis. The Council has provided nothing other than lip service to a hurting public in need of systemic change without putting forth any actual concrete change, I believe this is their way of taking control from the Mayor and Chief of Police, not an actual move towards reform.

6/30/2020 2:01:25 PM

I do not want to see the MPD totally defunded and disbanded. However I do think that we need real reform within the department and accountability. I also feel the police union has way too much power especially Bob Kroll.

6/30/2020 2:01:51 PM

I support the proposed charter amendment to the Minneapolis city charter. I think the police department must be replaced in order to fundamentally change the approach to safety and law enforcement. I do however think it is imperative that the police department not be disbanded until the new department is ready to take over, which I think will take longer than six months. Hiring hundreds of new peace officers and training them will take time, as will formulating new approaches to safety and violence prevention and procedures for peace officers. If we are going to get this right, we need to give the new department time to get ready, even if that means the police continue to exist for an extra six or 12 months. Hurrying the process risks getting it wrong, which will be harmful for the city's safety and may well mean the police return.

6/30/2020 2:01:59 PM

I realize that we are having troubled times, but to have the proposal to abolish the Mpls.police dept as it stands and change it to the warm and fuzzy, Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department just isn't going to cut it. I realize that all the politician are looking for votes from the enslaved citizens in Mpls. I'm proposing that instead of abolishing the police dept. Clean it up, which all the so called Democrat politicians have been saying since 1974. I think that "We The People"should abolish all the Democrat politicians at the ballot box. Maybe all you so called Charter Commissioners ought to wake up and smell the coffee. CHECK IT OUT, but make sure that you check it out with your cronies.

6/30/2020 2:02:28 PM

Please give a clear explanation of what citizens will be voting on and what those changes will mean in the future. Right now we don't have any information and are just appearing like we are correcting our racial inequities by changing the name. With all of the crime in Minneapolis (both violent and non-violent), this discussion needs to be started with how are we going to keep people safe and then ask for a change. You can't just put a band-aid on this and say everthing is okay.

6/30/2020 2:02:40 PM

I am in full support of removing the MPD and replacing it with a non-racist, well-rounded, community-focused organization that meets the needs of Minneapolitans. Minneapolis has a chance to show the country there are better, more effective alternatives than costly, violent police departments. We have a chance to show the world Minnesota can lead the US into the future. Lets build a better future.

6/30/2020 2:03:15 PM

I'm happy with the mention of the Director needing restorative justice and public health experience. I hope that experience in law enforcement doesn't preclude a person from being considered for this position as long as they have additional experience in the other two.

I wonder if there should still be text about the Mayor being able to discipline or discharge a member of the division of law enforcement services. I also wonder how the department would be funded. I worry that the Division of Law Enforcement Services would continue to be funded at a high level (similar to the current MPD) and the health and community safety side of things would be underfunded, which I do not think should be the case. Violence is linked to poverty and basic needs not being met, so broad investments in public health (mental and physical), education, housing, access to healthy food, and other community resources is ESSENTIAL and should be a part of this department.

I am very much in favor of this change, and hope that the Mayor and Council will continue to expand upon efforts to defund and reinvest / reform the way that things are currently done in a comprehensive way. I assume that the Police Union will no longer be a thing should this amendment pass, which I think is for the best. If it does continue to exist in some capacity, I hope that they will have less power over discipline/termination of officers and that Bob Kroll will be removed.

6/30/2020 2:03:29 PM

As a life long resident (47 years) of South Minneapolis, 3rd precinct, I think getting rid of the police is not a good idea. I believe there needs to be reforms made and cops need better training like 2 year degrees but getting rid of them is not the answer. I also personally myself have been a victim of police violence, probably close to 30 years ago, and it was done by the hands of the 3rd precinct. They would take you down by the river and kick your ass. I also had my shoes and jacket taken by them in the middle of winter. But I still do not think getting rid of them is a good idea.

6/30/2020 2:03:34 PM

I strongly support this amendment. Public safety needs a holistic approach that involves community support as the primary focus, with enforcement used where necessary.

Thank you for considering this!

6/30/2020 2:03:49 PM

When will the sheriff's departments and MPD demilitarize their forces? The prevention of violence MUST include stopping excessive use of force by law enforcement, particularly against the

Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities in the county!

6/30/2020 2:03:53 PM

Please finish looking at the proposed charter amendment and return it to the city council in time to get it in the ballot in November! We have tried many times to change the police, and this appears to be the most promising way. Given recent police violence, we deserve a chance to vote on the possibility of real change. You do not have the right to stop the vote via timelines

6/30/2020 2:04:20 PM

One would be hard-put to find someone who condones George Floyd's death.

One would be hard-put to find someone who condones George Floyd's manner of death.

One would be hard-put to find someone who condones Derek Chauvin commitment of murder in cold blood and use force far outside what was necessary.

One would be hard-put who doesn't believe that Chauvin's fellow assisting officers present were wrong to be silent bystanders.

That being said, the following are true:

-Convenience store personnel were justified in calling law enforcement.

-Law enforcement was justified in responding.

-People, regardless of their race, do not dial 911 due to any sort of “racial privilege”. This city council president was wrong on all accounts to publicly declare such an accusation. It is unprofessional of an elected official and is both demeaning and patronizing to everyone who was the target of said accusation.

-Not every law enforcement officer is a Derek Chauvin and his fellow bystanding officers.

-Peaceful protests are one thing. Burning, looting, stealing are not protests. Those folks exploit Mr. Floyd’s death to cause mayhem and steal.

City council’s actions are similar to deinstitutionalization. There were serious and legitimate concerns regarding mental healthcare. However, deinstitutionalization was and is a radical and extreme reaction. Society continues to suffer from those consequences today, namely the lack of mental healthcare. And no, so-called “community” healthcare is completely insufficient.

#### I DO NOT SUPPORT

-Defunding, abolishing, dismantling, or whatever word or pun on word this city council uses, of the police department. Address concerns, hold office accountable. Why is this city council smearing an entire department over the actions of a handful? That is great injustice to every officer and employee of the police department, and that of their families. Why is the entire police department being stereotyped?

This city council’s goal of a “police-free future” is an unrealistic utopia. I don’t see any sociologists, counselors, social workers, psychologists, etc. waiting in line to report to a domestic violence call, robbery, rape scene, murder, etc. Could they report alongside police officers to assist in deescalating situations, definitely. Every situation has the potential to become violent, hence why police officers must always respond.

#### I SUPPORT:

-Retaining an actively funded, fully staffed police department like every other city, state, country, etc. in the civilized world.

-The creation of a new, separate department of violence prevention that focus on mental healthcare and drug addiction. Restorative justice should be part of the court system. Funds currently used for city council private security details should be allotted to new, separate department.

-Enhanced accountability off all officers and transparency regarding disciplinary actions.

-Social workers, psychologists, counselors, etc. reporting alongside police officers to assist in deescalating and diffusing situations.

On a related note, why hire private security? Defund police but hire private security? Totally hypocritical. Why not use sociologists, social workers, psychologists, etc? Practice what you preach!

6/30/2020 2:04:52 PM

I am completely in support of replacing the police with this new organization.

Please don't have the same practices, training, hiring, hierarchy, etc. Etc etc as the police do. Anything that is the same as the police do it is suspect and should be worked out in the final plan.

You have promised to replace them with something new. PLEASE do not go back on that. This change is needed now.

6/30/2020 2:05:08 PM

I support this proposed amendment. A Safety and Violence Prevention Department would benefit our city more than the racist and corrupt Minneapolis Police Department. We need an organization that is committed to helping and protecting ALL of their citizens. By establishing a new Safety Department, the city of Minneapolis can screen applicants for any racial/homophobic/transphobic biases and create an extensive training program for their officers. The citizens of this city need change and I implore the Charter Commission to take action.



6/30/2020 2:06:10 PM

I support the idea of putting to a vote the question of how our city government should proceed as it pertains to public safety. I would like the wording of the initiative to be crystal clear, however, that policing can be a PART of the new department. The current initiative wording which includes "remove the Police Department" should be amended to read as follows:

A proposed charter amendment by referendum amending Articles VII and VIII to provide for the establishment of a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department which can include a division of law enforcement services, composed of licensed peace officers.

The idea of removing the Police Department is going to turn off many voters and garner many "No" votes. To appeal to both policing disruptors and skeptics, to get a "Yes" vote on the initiative and thereby be able to make change/progress, make it clear that policing is or can be a part of the new plan.

6/30/2020 2:06:30 PM

I support the removal of the police department and a sufficient replacement that focuses instead on a variety of properly trained professionals responding as necessary to various conflicts.

6/30/2020 2:06:36 PM

The time for policing is over. Brutality cannot continue to be inflicted by supposed community protectors. Peace officers need to live in the City. Police officers in the U.S. kill someone experiencing a mental health crisis every 36 hours. This cannot continue to happen and Minneapolis has the opportunity to be the visionaries at fixing this institution; by abolishing it once and forever.

6/30/2020 2:07:02 PM

Please do this. As a black male American I would really like to feel safe around the police, and I desperately worry about my 2 teenage boys. Please do this.

6/30/2020 2:07:33 PM

Dear City Council members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to your recommendation to change the City Charter in order to defund or eliminate the police dept. I am a homeowner, small business owner and landlord all within the city of Minneapolis.

When I first heard the City Council's proposal after the murder of George Floyd I immediately started hearing from friends on social media telling me it was time to get out of Minneapolis, a thought which had already occurred to me. The mere possibility that we will be without a police department is absolutely frightening to me and all my neighbors (I have yet to find anyone that thinks this is a good idea), and a joyous occasion to criminals. Just look at what has been going on already even though we still have a police dept. The fact that the criminals know the police are not supported by the City Council has given them a license to do as they please. A friend of mine that is a pastor talked with a local store

owner at the corner of 38th and Portland asking him how things have been. He indicated that business has been very slow and that he may not be able to continue, not because of the slow business but because young individual (he indicated young black men) simply walk into his store and steal food and other items and walk out. When he confronts them they tell him to, "f\*\*\* off! There is nothing the police will do about it."

Reform in our policing is absolutely necessary. But eliminating the police dept and replacing it with some form of social policing is insane. Just look at the situation at Powderhorn Park. A young girl was sexually molested but the people involved and the neighbors that came to help REFUSED to call the police. So this poor girl now has to live with her attacker in the encampment, if she is allowed to go back to her parent(s), as well as knowing none of the adults that should be protecting her did nothing to help her. How many people have been shot since the murder of George Floyd and how many more will be if the City Council has its way?

My wife and I were in the process of doing a \$50k remodel/addition. Plans have been drawn up and we were looking into financing. This remodel will not happen if the City Council is allowed to change the City Charter. I don't know how to measure this but I am certain our property values have already declined considerably. What family is going to want to move into a city with no police? What business is going to want to rebuild, let alone a new one move into a city with no police? We are now instead considering selling our home and moving out of the city. The only thing that keeps us from doing that is the belief that we may not get much for our home. This is what the City Council has done by boldly stating their desire to eliminate the police without any hint of a viable alternative.

Council member Jeremiah Ellison stated that, "It would be disingenuous for us to engage with the public about what a new public safety system should look like knowing full well that we can't implement those things because of the charter." Really?? You don't want to know what the public thinks?! Who are you serving?? Sounds to me like you are only serving yourselves if you think engaging the public on a change to the city charter is a waste of time.

6/30/2020 2:07:51 PM

I live in the city and work downtown, the safety and security of the residents and visitors should be paramount. The plan to disband the Police Force in favor of a Community safety department is short sighted and dangerous. Crime was already ticking up and has grown larger since the protests and riots began. Disbanding the Police would embolden the criminals and increase the danger associated with living and working in the city. Police reform would be a better path to take as opposed to full out replacement. Please reconsider this decision.

Thank you.

6/30/2020 2:08:38 PM

As a life long resident, homeowner, and taxpayer in the City of Minneapolis, I want to keep the Minneapolis Police Department. I believe that for the safety of the residents of the city, we deserve to have the MPD.

My husband and I feel so strongly about this that we are prepared to sell and move out of Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 2:08:43 PM

I am strongly opposed to the charter amendment being put forth by the Minneapolis City Council. I have been a long time resident in Minneapolis and have lived in North Minneapolis since 1996. I have felt safe in my house and my neighborhood. We as neighbors have worked hard to keep the drug dealers and the violence off of our street and we have been successful on the most part. We have each others phone numbers and each others backs.

But now as we witness the violence increasing at an alarming rate I say now is not the time to talk about dismantling the police. It's absurdly naive of the city council to think of appointing a non-law enforcement trained person in charge of Community Safety and Violence Services Supervisor for Licensed Police Officers and their Director i.e. Chief. Of course that individual will be appointed by the City Council. The City council will have the final word on who this individual will be. No Thank You

Add to that the fact of the glaring loophole of changing MUST maintain to MAY maintain when it comes to the wording for providing for a division of Law Enforcement Services.

This is not well thought out and seems more like a knee jerk reaction to placate the masses and prove to us you are "in touch" with the people. These individuals on the City Council were elected by a small percentage of the licensed voters in the city of Minneapolis and that is shame on us, but to say they represent us is a half truth because they represent less than half of us. I am 4th ward and our own City Council person was elected by 157 votes so not an overwhelming majority. Let's put this in perspective. This is too big an issue to be decided in a 4 paragraph amendment to our City Charter. WE need the Police. Taking them away is not going to fix the problems in the streets they are making them worse.

<https://www.facebook.com/KSTPTV/videos/966586477111012> my neighborhood now..

6/30/2020 2:08:53 PM

I support the amendment. It is necessary to replace the unmanageable police department. I feel that the police department is primarily responsible for the extensive damage suffered by Minneapolis this year.

6/30/2020 2:08:59 PM

Although, I believe most police officers are respectful of all Minneapolis residents, it is clear that a few have given the police department a negative reputation. For this reason, I believe that there may need to be greater oversight of police procedures, actions and training.

However, I strongly disagree with defunding or dismantling the Minneapolis Police Department.

I believe such a move would be detrimental to the safety of all Minneapolis residents. If such a move is enacted, I believe the results will be negative and dangerous to all of Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 2:09:13 PM

The city council should no use the City Charter to change the police force. Rather, the council needs to actually accept responsibility for the current situation and fix the issues itself. We have to maintain a police force in our city -- we have too many issues related to guns, drugs etc. to not have one.

The city council should re-do the bargaining agreement with the police department and then give the chief the ability to make changes as he sees fit. I also suggest we require more education of our officers; that they live in the city and that pay be increased as the basis for extending the contract with the police union.

I have watched Donald Trump ruin this country over the past 3+ years. I don't wish to see the city council follow the same course.

6/30/2020 2:09:45 PM

I fully support this proposal to place a question on the ballot this November about the establishment of a Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department. I just completed an MPH at the University of Minnesota and during my studies, I realized how much work we have to do to ensure we close educational and health equity gaps in our city and state. We must reinvest resources in education, affordable housing, healthcare, and so much more. This change allows us to reprioritize our commitment to racial equity in Minneapolis. We must preserve the sanctity of life.

Right now, I am stuck in a trauma loop and experience dissociative flashbacks and nightmares after having the police throw tear gas, rubber bullets, flash grenades and more at me and my community. None of us should have to go to war over a potentially fraudulent \$20 check when millionaires and billionaires continue to accumulate capital while the rest of us fight over scraps. The current social and cultural situation in this city and across this country is shameful.

Junauda Petrus's poem about giving the police departments to the grandmothers resonates strongly with me right now. My paternal grandmother was raised in Baghdad, Iraq, and immigrated to the United States in the 1954. She sought refuge in Cincinnati, Ohio from the revolution occurring in Iraq. She raised four children there including my father. She was a stoic woman who was far from perfect, but she survived assimilation. She passed away several years ago. My maternal grandmother is also a survivor. Her twin sister tragically passed away in a car accident at age 16. My grandmother survived the abuse of my grandfather, an alcohol-dependent veteran who served in the Vietnam War. She also survived the tragic death of her second husband many years before I was born. My grandmothers live(d) full and painful lives, and like I said, neither are perfect, but neither would even think to point a gun at me or anyone who chose to stand up against a multi-generational legacy of police violence.

We are all ready for change.

6/30/2020 2:10:16 PM

As a longterm Minneapolis resident who would like very much to see deep and permanent change in the city's policing and public safety efforts, I am nonetheless appalled by the lazy and irresponsible conduct of the City Council over the last month. Their only ability seems to be leaping to unwarranted conclusions in a single bound—without ever once leaving the echo chamber in which they seem to live. If they truly have a realistic vision of an alternative approach to public safety, they need to describe that

vision in detail and test it thoroughly in conversation with all of the city's stakeholders. Vague slogans, cherry-picked hypotheticals and unsupported comparisons to other cities vastly different from our own do not count. Until they have done that hard work, they have no business requesting a change to the charter—let alone on an expedited schedule that suspends normal process. I strongly urge you to deny the council's request to place the proposed Charter amendment on the ballot this year.

6/30/2020 2:10:50 PM

Thank you for having the conviction to change something. The eyes of the world are on us and I firmly believe removing the police department and establishing a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department is the right thing to do.

I'm excited to see how it develops.

6/30/2020 2:11:16 PM

This is dumb. Not thought out at all. Businesses will be leaving Minneapolis. Residents will be leaving Minneapolis. My family will not become to Minneapolis if you disband the police department. We aren't even a gun owning family and started talking about purchasing one if this happens.

Thank God for the Mayor and some common sense. Knee jerk reactions do not help anyone.

6/30/2020 2:11:18 PM

Please take your time in making your recommendations about this proposed charter amendment. Please note the police department DOES NOT serve the community equally nor has it been designed to do so from its inception. The department is overworked, undertrained and incapable of providing equitable services to BIPOC peoples across a multitude of issues. for these reasons the charter commission should establish a Community of Safety and Violence Prevention Department.

6/30/2020 2:11:49 PM

Go ahead and do what you want but if this does go through, my family and I won't set foot anywhere in the metro area. As it is, it's a scary enough place for those of us from rural areas but without police - no way. Oh and wait - you're assuming I'm white, right? No, I'm part Aboriginal so you can throw that race stuff out the window.

When we head south, we can go to some other city instead. I feel really bad for the community and George Floyd's death is tragic but to brand all law enforcement as bad is like saying all doctors are bad just because maybe one of them in their profession screwed up and killed someone - which has happened. It happened to my mother-in-law.....

How is it that your city councilors have private security? Isn't that just police re-branded? Seems that way. Nothing makes sense anymore. This is all political and people aren't thinking clearly. This isn't the way to make history. Good luck because you are going to need it.

6/30/2020 2:11:53 PM

Absurd. The city council continues to illustrate how out of touch with reality they are. Sensible reforms yes. Defund no. The entire city council should be removed from office.

6/30/2020 2:12:40 PM

we want the police! The Law enforcement, its needed

6/30/2020 2:12:52 PM

.PDF with my thoughts and comments on the proposed charter amendment attached!

Thank you sincerely, for your time and consideration.

Attachment:

Dear Minneapolis Charter Commission,

I care for my community; I care for my city. I care for my neighbors of all races, religions, sexual orientations; I care for them regardless of the uniform they do or don't wear.

Because I care about my neighbors and fellow citizens, I write to you, BEGGING you to please not approve the Minneapolis City Council's amendment to the city charter, section 7.3. I believe reform needs to happen, and some of the goals of the City Council \*should\* happen, but they should in-tandem with our police department, not in place of it.

Even if I felt that MPD should be entirely defunded/dismantled/abolished, I'd still know in my heart and mind that this process is being rushed, at best. They've decided to strikethrough 22 full lines of text of our charter, and replace those lines with barely more than half of the text; there's no real clarity or guidance present in their amendment. Where the current charter section 7.3 clearly lays out how many employees per resident, the proposed amendment has no firm numbers, and the department could clearly be as few as a handful of people; I can't say confidently that's what the City Council is proposing, but they don't clearly state that it's NOT what they want—again, this amendment lacks clarity and definition, which should never be the case in \*ANY\* legislature, let alone that which is supposed to guide public safety.

I want to believe that our City Council members are attempting to do what they think is best for the safety of our city, but this short, vague, rushed amendment signals that they don't know what is best; honestly, that's ok! We're all trying to figure out what the best plan of action is, here. I, and many of my fellow neighbors in NE Minneapolis firmly believe that the best course of action is to pump the brakes, flesh out the idea(s), come up with a concrete/tangible game plan, and then put forward a vote. Disbanding our police department (especially with the massive uptick in violence over the last few weeks) and then figuring out what to do, is irresponsible at-best.

Thank you sincerely for taking the time to read and consider my thoughts and comments on the proposed amendment, as you enter your review phase; it means the world.

Sincerely

6/30/2020 2:12:59 PM

As a black woman who has lived in Milwaukee and near Detroit, I do not believe we should change the city charter yet. WHY SHOULD WE GIVE THE COUNCIL UNILATERAL POWER TO ABOLISH THE POLICE WHEN THEY (1) HAVE NEVER IMPLEMENTED REFORM TO THE ACTUAL POLICE UNION CONTRACT, AND (2) DON'T HAVE AN ACTUAL PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN OR ALTERNATIVE? Whether you want to reform, defund, or dismantle the police, the critical first step is for the Mayor and City Council to modify the police union contract with the city. WHY? The police union contract is a critical tool: (1) that the city can use NOW; (2) that the city has NEVER REALLY USED to address policing issues so the city doesn't know its power; (3) that tax payers already fund; and (4) the city can execute while implementing larger plans.

(1)Fix the union contract and (2) come up with a new public safety model, THEN ask the public to change the charter so the public safety plan can be implemented.

6/30/2020 2:13:14 PM

Mpls. needs more law enforcement, not less. Translation...more educated cops on the beat. Just look at response times for proof.

6/30/2020 2:13:16 PM

I am concerned about the implications this new system will have in terms of safety for our community members and families. Most concerning is the little transparency there has been as to what this new system would entail. I believe our county needs police reform but the current uptick in violence in our community and the lack of response from our elected officials has made us feel like we are left to fend for ourselves. I feel that I don't have a say in our safety and the future for our city.

6/30/2020 2:13:38 PM

I believe the mandate of police departments most everywhere has been radically expanded, and Minneapolis is no exception. If budget for weapons and updated vehicles can be spent on wraparound services including nutrition for area students, rehabilitation of area blight, and other tested policy methods for avoiding crime all together, the results will be a happier populace at a lower cost.

I am not blind to the truly discriminatory view the twin cities has had for many generations, but ultimately I believe everyone wants their neighbors to have a chance to participate as employees and customers and volunteers in the same community.

True trouble is always caused by a small fraction of people. That our police force views all members of the public with some degree of suspicion means we need something else. Culture change often cannot happen from within. You need to start with a new charter and a new belief in a worthwhile mission. Police departments serve a vital function in society. We should let them do that and take burdens of mental health treatment, food deserts, lack of economic opportunity and other features of inequality off their plates.

6/30/2020 2:14:04 PM

Dear charter commission,

For your meeting on July 1, please consider your role in the democratic process. While you may or may not agree with the charter amendment proposed by the City Council, I believe you should respect the right of the citizens to vote on the matter in a timely manner. Minneapolis is now in the international spotlight after another murder of a Black person by our police department. So the world is watching how we respond. In my opinion, we have the chance to envision and then do the hard work of fundamentally re-designing public safety, given the history of racial and gender disparities. Your job now is to simply allow the process of municipal conversation, leading to a vote on Nov. 3, 2020.

Thank you for your service to our city,

Minneapolis resident

6/30/2020 2:14:19 PM

I fully support the proposal to amend our city charter through a public referendum to create a department of public safety and removing the existing restrictive language specific to the police department. This amendment, if approved, will provide the residents of Minneapolis and their elected leaders greater latitude in providing for the public safety of the residents, visitors and businesses of Minneapolis. All cities must evolve to meet the needs of the current day and the cities of the future require that the complex challenges arising from people living, playing, and working in community are addressed through holistic community-based solutions. The existing charter language prohibits innovative, empathetic, cost-effective solutions from being introduced. Please allow for a full vote by the residents of Minneapolis to determine our course. This amendment is rooted in democracy, recommended by a unanimous vote of our elected city council representatives, and if approved by the voters, will represent the will of the people.

6/30/2020 2:14:33 PM

Background: 24 yo female, liberal, U of Iowa college graduate, bilingual, marched for BLM, volunteered to clean the community, and Hennepin Co Paramedic.

The last title on the list is one of my most proud accomplishments: saying I am a Minneapolis paramedic. I moved here from Iowa to work for the best agency in the country with the best opportunity for me to learn and gain skills in emergency medical management, however I have gained much more than that already.

Being a Minneapolis Paramedic has given me a new perspective on life. I have saved people in every skin color, religion, sexual/gender identity, or ethnic background. I have walked the dangerous streets of shootings or gang violence or the most scary: the immediate riots after George Floyd's tragic death, to save as many people as I could while trying to maintain safety myself. I think I have the coolest job in the world. I play lots of roles every day. Some days I am a therapist, some days I'm a surgeon, sometimes I deliver babies, sometimes I am a primary care provider, etc... but what will never change is my role as a patient advocate for ALL of my patients.

Being a white female, I will never personally understand the injustices of racial discrimination, however, I am trying to. I see the aftermath of cold blooded racism just about every day. I use my voice as a white female and public servant to make sure all other voices are heard. I have stood up to other pedestrians, hospital staff, and yes, police officers when I have seen a patient mistreated. I am their advocate ALWAYS.

I pride myself on my ability to de-escalate patients. I use compassion, empathy, genuine love, and learned techniques to talk patients out of committing suicide, I have calmed down violent drug users, and I have used science and medicine to safely calm the people down who cannot calm themselves down in a medically safe way. In the latter part of the previous statement, I am referring to a term called Excited Delirium. While my de-escalation techniques are widely effective, some patients cannot be "directed". People with this condition, in my professional experience, often cannot comprehend reality, simple commands, and that I am trying to resolve their MEDICAL EMERGENCY. Sometimes, patients have weapons, and as a paramedic, I am left vulnerable with only a calm and soothing voice as self defense. Some of these people need physical restraint via police so it is safe for me to calm their heart and blood pressure down so they don't stroke. As much as I want to help everyone, I cannot help people if I get shot, stabbed, assaulted, kidnapped, etc., so having police by us to make sure our scene is "safe" is CRUCIAL. We as medics WILL NOT go to shooting scenes, belligerent drunks, overdoses, and domestic violence calls without a police officer being present before our arrival. I have personally been attacked by a patient who could not differentiate reality from his/her hallucinations, and police officers successfully saved my life.

My last point highlights the events after George Floyd's death. Unfortunately, despite that paramedics are only here to heal and not hurt, we have no weapons, and we are patient advocates, we were somehow framed targets. The night Precinct 3 went up in flames was the worst night of my life. I had unending panic attacks as people threw rocks at my ambulance, they called me vulgar names, they made fake 911 calls to ambush our ambulances, as I was told to kill myself and that my children deserve to be raped, etc. The night was horrifying at best. Despite all this, I fulfilled another day of work in providing exceptional medical care to my community. If it wasn't for the police officers making sure we could safely get to calls, there's a high potential my patients and I wouldn't be here today.

So many intelligent and genuinely good cops work in Minneapolis and I have the luxury of seeing them daily. Please protect the men and women who protect us.

6/30/2020 2:15:14 PM

As long as every single council member is forced to move from their Ward and live in North Minneapolis among the absolute destruction and chaos they have caused and do not get private security I am all for it. This city council is inept and should be kicked to the curb right along with the MPD if this is their proposal.

Day in and day out gun shots ring throughout our city with no recourse, prosecutors are culpable, the Mayor is culpable and all of the city council is culpable. Will anyone give a rats ass about the actual residents this hurts? NOPE. Just looking for headlines and PR Fluff ... "

The council is a joke. The city of Minneapolis a joke. The boy Mayor is a joke. Hennepin County Sheriff is a coward and so are Freeman and all of the local governments. Do something meaningful instead of 'hopes and dreams'. Listened to that for 8 years yet race relations deteriorated way before Trump. Grow up!

6/30/2020 2:15:38 PM

I support this change in the ballot.

6/30/2020 2:15:59 PM

I support the charter amendment. I've lived in Minneapolis since 1999. The MPD doesn't make us safer. We effectively don't have a number to call in an emergency, without worrying that the situation would become more dangerous. We need an alternative we can trust won't be so quick to use violence as we saw with George Floyd, Justine Damond, and Jamar Clark among others.

In the most recent case of George Floyd, the MPD officers killed a man and then the department lied about it. It showed no commitment to public safety, while MPD consuming more than \$190million of our public safety budget.

This amendment is the correct next step. We need something new, a paradigm shift toward violence prevention.

6/30/2020 2:16:08 PM

Chief Arradondo is great, and don't want to see him replaced. I have personally seen police be rude and unnecessarily rough with young black kids on Lake St. I am totally in favor of protests and Black Lives Matter. I have been in a mixed raced marriage for more than 30 years, so have heard MANY stories of police brutality from those that experienced it. So many things have to be fixed, and there are many of those that will take a long time. Please read Lisa Clemons' posted letter. She was an officer for 13 years with MPD.

Here it is:

IF I CAN Be HONEST...AS I ALWAYS AM.

I never care about who gets pissed at me for telling the TRUTH. I was a Minneapolis Police Officer for 13 years. I PROUDLY wore that uniform. There will be no cops standing up to say racism does not exist in MPD. In TRUTH no person in any job will say that. If they do, they are a liar...Plain and simple.

I sued MPD 2 times, as a police officer and I won...It never made me not want to wear my uniform. Chief Arradondo and 5 other males sued MPD and won. It never made them want to stop wearing the uniform. It made us spend even more time talking to cops about change.

It was not until Chief Arradondo became the Chief and DC Arthur Lee Knight became the Deputy Chief did I start to believe in change. THIS CHIEF has fired and demoted more cops than any of his predecessors. Chief Arradondo would NEVER offer up that information, because he is a man of character and it's nothing to brag about... It happens when you are making REAL change.

NEVER have a I seen a chief who has strong relationship with EVERY COMMUNITY and is inclusive of ALL people.

NEVER have I seen a Chief pick up a phone and call Boots on the Ground organizations and Clergy to say I NEED YOU in an area of the City. I don't want to dispatch police officers unless you say you need one.

NEVER have I seen a Chief make a policy that allows him to IMMEDIATELY fire an officer..... Something other Cities are already looking to copy.

NEVER have I seen a Chief beat up so badly by a City Council from the first day he accepted his appointment....and they do it PUBLICLY.

Never has a Chief been asked to change 150 years of a culture in 3 years with no support from anyone but the community....Knowing a City Council is waiting in the wings for any errors to pounce on you and finding ways to cripple you by asking you to do more with less.

In the last budget Cycle a few on the council asked an organization come in and ask that \$1 million dollars be divested from MPD to be given to organizations in the community. I asked why they wouldn't take 1% from EVERY department under the City. Of course they went silent. But IF THEY HAD here is that breakdown:

1% of city budget: approximately \$18 million

1% of city departments:

Best guess is between \$9-15 million

1% of MPD: approximately \$1.5 million

The community got the short end of the stick because that \$1 Million didn't really come to the community....Poli-tricks!

Since 2000 I have been working in the community, predominantly in North Minneapolis because that's where I grew up when we moved to the Great City of Minneapolis. Where I PROUDLY graduated from North High school and where I was blessed to work as a Patrol Officer and as a Street Sergeant. In fact, both Chief Arradondo and DC Knight worked for me when I ran a team out of Minneapolis Public Housing. I hand-picked my officers who were ALL BLACK and one White. I was the first training officer of DC Knight... Both of whom came from single Black poor mothers in Chicago.

Over the last 6 years I have been STRICTLY Boots on the Ground in North Minneapolis and Downtown... and sometimes in South Minneapolis.

My team, A Mothers Love, was formed to help the City realize that Saving the Black Mother WILL SAVE the Black child. The Black mother has ALWAYS been the group not brought to the table so our voices were never heard. The first person to call on us was the Minneapolis Police Department and since we have been working closely with great people in all communities. WHY did the Deputy Chief call us? Because Black Police Officers know WHO the Black man, Black son, Black nephew, Black Grandson, etc has a strong love and respect for. In the good and bad,,,,,They love and respect us...Because Black female officers are great at de-escalation because majority of us came from the life many are living. I can tell you with 100% Truth: The Minneapolis City Council has put no real time in weighing the danger of dismantling/abolishing the police. THIS, no matter what perfume they spray on it, will get people killed, even more in MY COMMUNITY. They like to say that my point of view is a scare tactic...hmmmm and you telling someone calling for help makes you a White Supremacist. If a Black wants to call what would be the name for them? I don't do politics so I'll never put a vote before a life. I don't have an agenda. As it stands, there are MANY Boots On The Ground Organizations out here doing GREAT work but the TRUTH has to be told. WE have lost control of what is happening in the community. Many of US have not given up, nor will we. Like the police we run from call to call to call. The shootings, Homicides and other crimes absolutely drain you, but we keep going. I felt the same way when I was wearing BLUE.

One would only have to listen to a scanner for 24 hours to know the TRUTH. Selling people UTOPIA when you have no plan for all the other dangers and issues in a City the size of Minneapolis is INSANE. When Minneapolis decided to go even bigger as a City, they opened the door for more Crime, including Sex Trafficking.... To now say we don't need the police is simply crazy. If they are going to have a year long conversation why are they seeking to change the charter before those conversation even start...PLEASE open your eyes to this vote me back in in 2021 game. When I say the City Council is dangling a shiny object in front of people eyes I mean that....MPD is the EASY Button and the only thing on their agenda. EVERY PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING has been focused on the police and NEVER the escalating violence in the community...Now City Wide This is a City that still can't find housing for our most vulnerable. A City that when I BEGGED them to help us address the issues on Broadway/Lyndale last Summer NO ONE would call me back.... But when those vulnerable drug addicted people were mowed down in the Bus shelter RACISM is what they screamed....But they still NEVER came to give us any help nor any resources. We had soooooo many overdoses on that corner and still no help. If it's racism that nearly killed them when the White male driver mowed them down, what do we call it when OUR OWN are on that corner EVERYDAY feeding them the dope that causes those over doses? The price of doing business? We don't want the police saying anything to these people LOITERING with INTENT to kill with Drugs.... MOST OF YOU are too afraid to even approach..... How would you do that in the City Councils UTOPIA? Remember, Adults can refuse to go to treatment...Hence all the addicts in the parks that I pray for EVERY DAY. A few years ago, I attended several meetings between Hennepin County and Ramsey County about a joint YOUTH Treatment facility, to be built between the 2 cities, so that families could be part of the treatment process. I thought YES finally someone understands WE and other communities have a drug problem with our kids....Of course a group came in to shut down the idea saying, 'Our kids don't have a drug problem. This is just another pipeline to prison.' I was in ABSOLUTE SHOCK. There is NO DOUBT we have a drug problem with our youth...IN ALL DAMN COMMUNITIES. I stood up and said, "Are you kidding!!! We ABSOLUTELY have a drug and alcohol problem in our community. If you think these young people are pulling these triggers sober then I am even more afraid." I believed the facility should have been built with US being part of it every step of the way. It should have been Culturally Competent and the programs should have been designed by US to ensure our kids and their family's needs are met. After one more meeting at the Minneapolis Urban League, with the same group shutting it down, Hennepin County and Ramsey County pulled and we continue to deal with drug overdoses and deaths of our young people and our girls strung out and being sex trafficked....EVERY ACTION is knee-jerked with no other plan or option and the loudest mouths sets the rules..... Because people let them. While I believe all voices should be heard....Is that what's happening in Minneapolis or is the Council seeking like thinkers and exploiting them for their own personal agendas. Perhaps it might be too late when people really figure it out. In TRUTH, I and MANY others, lived through Murderapolis. I wore BLUE at the time and the REAL TRUTH is we worked strong with Black Pastors, the community as a whole, organizations throughout the City, Neighborhood Associations and retired gang members to bring the City back in control. EVERYBODY worked as a team.... No one saw color of skin nor the color of your clothes. That was when Minneapolis understood the term ALL HANDS ON DECK. I stand STRONG on the need for Police Reform but I stand equally strong on the need for Community Reform. EMAIL THE CHARTER COMMISSION AND ASK QUESTION... I'll attach their email info. Ask yourself WHY the Council is in a rush without a plan... before the "yearlong conversations". WHY they have addressed the MEDIA more than the voters....PAUSE AND THINK My mom will be 84 years old in July and she lives in Ward 4, as do my oldest sister. My mom is on edge about this and I KNOW I will go protect her AT ALL COST

6/30/2020 2:16:20 PM

I fully support the charter amendment proposed by the City Council.

This city has seen too many of its Black residents harmed, humiliated, put into an unending cycle of fear and mistrust, profiled and ultimately killed by the Minneapolis Police department. It's time the city learns from its past and focuses on ending its racist systems to build a better future with opportunities for ALL.

The police department was put in place to control marginalized communities through intimidation and brute force. It's time to say that was wrong and let's make a change. I think of my 4 year old son. He understands fairness and kindness. I had to explain to him how 4 police officers lynched a black man in public because of the color of his skin and how this city didn't respond until the community let out a cry of righteous anger. I want him to grow up in a society that stands up to systemic racism.

My family wants to be on the right of history. This is a chance for this city to make progress in fighting the dark racist history of this country

6/30/2020 2:16:24 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis, I fully support

an amendment to the city charter creating a Department of Community Service and Violence Prevention. We must defund the MPD, end the leadership of Lieutenant Bob Kroll, and begin anew. I look forward to voting on this in the fall.

6/30/2020 2:16:58 PM

Please refer this amendment to the voters in November 2020. We need to be able to participate in the process of reimagining community safety in Minneapolis, and this charter amendment is the first step in that process.

6/30/2020 2:17:01 PM

I am against the charter amendment because it is too vague. I also believe that structural changes can be made with the right people in place.

Congress is dysfunctional but I don't want to disband it and start over.

6/30/2020 2:17:04 PM

My fear is that this will lead to complete elimination of the police department because there is no indication that any law enforcement has to happen in Minneapolis. This could lead to the city breaking down into a series of No Go Zones policed by warring vigilante groups. Given all the shootings lately, this may already have happened. I really don't want to have to move farther from Minneapolis for my own safety.

6/30/2020 2:19:05 PM

I ADAMANTLY disagree with the proposed charter amendment that would remove the requirement to maintain a police department. This initiative to create a new Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention is incoherent and reckless.

6/30/2020 2:19:21 PM

Read the proposed language. Right now, it is seriously lacking in terms of what powers the Division of Law Enforcement will have, specifically, will peace officers be armed / have the right to defend themselves or others with potentially fatal violence?

6/30/2020 2:20:04 PM

This is a really bad idea. This is a rush to some kind of idealistic solution to solve an important issue, but has no supporting facts. The city council first needs to outline in detail what it is trying to address, not the blatant rhetoric that dominates the discussion. If reducing “systemic racism” is the goal, what are the current metrics that defines this and what will the success factors be in a new solution? Until these are articulated, there will be no support from me and I will actively demonstrate against this.

6/30/2020 2:20:40 PM

This should be the decision of the MPLS residents! Yes, the city council was elected by residents, but I don't think anyone could have thought this would be a topic. I certainly didn't. I would have voted differently.

6/30/2020 2:20:57 PM

No. No. And no. Reforms are way overdue and should be significant, but do not defund/disband the entire police force.

6/30/2020 2:20:59 PM

As a property owner and taxpayer in the city of Minneapolis, I want to voice my concern over the disbanding of the police dept. I have lived in Minneapolis my whole life, love this city, and the actions that are being suggested by the city council are not realistic. They keep referring to the example of Camden, NJ, but the difference in population size does not make this a fair comparison. I am for changes within the dept. as discussed by Mayor Jacob Frey and Chief Arrandondo, (whom we are very lucky to have leading our force!) , but by no means do I feel Minneapolis should be a city without a police force. We are all upset by the fact that three of the city council now are using our tax money for their private security, and yet suggesting we

go without. I am against changing the Minneapolis city charter, as suggested by the Mpls City Council. Thank you.

6/30/2020 2:21:18 PM

I do not agree with the proposed amendment eliminating the Minneapolis police department. There will still need to be law enforcement services to provide a safe environment in the city. This proposed amendment does not guarantee any law enforcement services will be available unless the council deems it so. The city council needs to do better than this for our residents. The current police department needs severe changes, however eliminating it completely is not in the best interest of the safety of our residents. Does there need to be more funding toward public safety and community violence? Yes. Will moving all our funding to these initiatives prevent violence and the need for law enforcement? Absolutely not. We still need people that are trained to handle these situations. There is still a lot that can be done to invoke positive change in our city and not eliminate law enforcement in the process.

6/30/2020 2:21:25 PM

I am very much in favor of this amendment. I think it is a first step in ensuring safety and protection for all our citizens, no matter their color or where they live. I believe that there is a culture of violence and racism in our police department, which is protected by the police union.

6/30/2020 2:21:27 PM

I fully support redirecting a portion of the police budget towards community services but I believe this needs to be done in a very careful manner. We've already seen an uptick in crime when people perceive that there is a decreased police presence, even that hasn't even happened yet. We absolutely still need ample funding for our police department to ensure there is stability in our community while these new programs are put into effect. The slogan "defund the police" is incredibly misleading and will hurt public support as it incites fear of lawlessness. We need to be absolutely clear that there will still be a police department, with enough funding to successfully receive proper training while performing their necessary duties, while still redirecting a portion of their funds towards community outreach programs. This needs to be done carefully as we cannot let less police funding lead to a stretched police force that cannot properly ensure the safety of our community.

6/30/2020 2:21:46 PM

I support the amendment on public safety

6/30/2020 2:22:24 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my understanding that the City Council of Minneapolis, to which the citizens pay their salaries have deemed themselves fit to make decisions about the safety and the necessities of each individual resident.

I am fully aware of the criminal record of George Floyd and his threatening to kill a pregnant woman's unborn baby, and though Mr. Floyd under no circumstances deserved to be murdered by a psychotic

police officer, this does not give anyone the right to determine that our lives as the tax paying citizens in this city are not valuable, yet we must pay for private security for these council members.

My council member has been informed of the action I intend on taking the minute I learn that anything has happened to this Police Department. I find the council members a hell of a lot more dangerous to our safety than I do the Police Department.

Case in point, unless you purchase a bias newspaper bought and paid for by liberals, citizens were not made aware of this grandstand play behind the citizens back of removing their rights to vote on this decision. No surprise there. I WILL NOT BE THREATENED with the likes of any one of those self - righteous morons.

Like Cuomo, you are placing the senior citizens in this city in jeopardy without even batting an eyelash or giving them the opportunity to defend their needs.

I am hereby telling you as a citizen of the City of Minneapolis since 1957, that if you defund and disband the police department you shall also defund and disband the City Council. These people seem to forget that they represent everyone in Minneapolis, not just the ones that agree with them or do favors for them and our lives are in danger if they think this move is going to do anyone any good but themselves.

6/30/2020 2:22:28 PM

This amendment terrifies me! I am in total support of deep deep reform of our police department, but I want to know what that means in real terms....not just a philosophy. The listening and the planning needs to happen now before the charter is amended, THEN let us know what the specifics are. The police (or whatever that role will be called) cannot have responsibility to 14 people. That structure will NOT work. I do not support the way this happened nor do I support the vagueness of the amendment.

I already have one neighbor who put their house on the market and is moving to the suburbs and this could well drive more away. I do not want an ultra-liberal approach to this to drive more people away. BTW - I used to think I was pretty liberal, but this is too far.

6/30/2020 2:22:57 PM

We need the police - don't change the name. Adjust policies and add training, but don't rid the police. We need law enforcement! Please don't remove the police department. We need law and order. I have too much respect for the police to be in agreement of this potential change. They put their lives on the line for us to protect us and they are trying to keep us safe already.

6/30/2020 2:24:11 PM

Do NOT remove the MPD; remove the union, or at the very least get rid of Bob Kroll! We need a police force! Imagine the anarchy without any cops. REBUILD the MPD, do not remove it!

6/30/2020 2:24:13 PM

I think that this is a great step towards correcting the problems of today. Having social services take over a lot of what the police does now will help free up the people who need to be armed so they can respond to the things that they need to be armed for and those things only.

I do think that we will need to figure out how things are going to be taken care of for mental health calls if PD isn't arriving first to clear the scene for HCMC, but that is something that we can figure out as we go. I think that a joint effort between HCMC and county social services would be a good way to do it, using a team of one paramedic and one social worker to evaluate calls as they come in and request and ambulance or otherwise problem solve from there. We need two people that have mental health, medical, and some self defense training to problem solve and keep each other safe.

6/30/2020 2:24:23 PM

When the City Council, Mayor, and Governor allowed the city to burn I lost all confidence in the city/state leadership. I would rather dismantle this "leadership" than the police department.

In addition, three City Council members are asking for private security after threats....\$4500 a day! The very three who think we do not need police! You can't make this stuff up!!!!

City Council members - Please stick to bike paths and banning plastic bags. You will still screw this up but at least I will still feel safe when I visit Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 2:24:50 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis, and graduate of North High, I oppose the proposal for this charter amendment. This mayor and city council , along with past administrations, created the situation we have with our police force. Fix the police force we have. I don't trust your ability to create something new and better.

6/30/2020 2:24:54 PM

Yes, I support the removal of the police department and the establishment of a new community policing department. Here's how:

I would support firing all of the current staff. Then I would support a re-hiring of only officers who meet new criteria for the job. The job descriptions should be re-written.

Arrondondo should be retained.

Kroll should be removed; in this case; he has no organization to monitor.

Sad that we have to go to such lengths to remove ONE PERSON who has traumatized the entire city and state.

KROLL HAS to go.

6/30/2020 2:25:24 PM

I believe replacing the MPD with the Community safety & violence protection department is not only a good idea, it's necessary. The MPD have shown time and time again to escalate situations and increase violence when the situation does not necessitate that.

6/30/2020 2:25:48 PM

I am a lifelong white Minnesotan, born and raised in St Paul and have lived in South Minneapolis for the past 26 years. I live in the 3rd Precinct, and it was my local post office, grocery stores, pharmacies, restaurants and community organization buildings that were burned down and damaged in the riots. This has been heartbreak and stressful, to lose so many cornerstones of my local community. But not anywhere comparable to the heartbreak and anxiety of living in a city where our citizens fear the police department as much as any criminal elements because of decades of police abuse, unaccountability, disconnection from our communities, lack of transparency, violence, militarization, and arrogance. We have tried training, we have tried body cams, - these small, incremental attempts at reform that have clearly not succeeded in making our city safer or more peaceful.

I 100% support the amendment to the city charter, in order to allow us to create meaningful, structural change to the ways we protect and serve our communities. As horrific and heartbreak as the events of the past month have been, I am incredibly proud of Minneapolis and our City Council members for being brave enough and clear headed enough to recognize that old attempts to solve these problems have failed and that a deep systemic change is needed for our city and our country to heal from these deep wounds. My neighbors and larger community (that I'm in contact with, aware of) are all in favor of this important step to amend the city charter and I wholly support this move. Thank you.

6/30/2020 2:26:11 PM

When the City Council, Mayor, and Governor allowed the city to burn I lost all confidence in the city/state leadership. I would rather dismantle this "leadership" than the police department.

In addition, three City Council members are asking for private security after threats....\$4500 a day! The very three who think we do not need police! You can't make this stuff up!!!!

City Council members - Please stick to bike paths and banning plastic bags. You will still screw this up but at least I will still feel safe when I visit Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 2:26:19 PM

I am against the defunding or abolishment of the police department. We need reform! Abolishment is a huge mistake and I will not vote for it.

6/30/2020 2:26:35 PM

When the City Council, Mayor, and Governor allowed the city to burn I lost all confidence in the city/state leadership. I would rather dismantle this "leadership" than the police department.

In addition, three City Council members are asking for private security after threats....\$4500 a day! The very three who think we do not need police! You can't make this stuff up!!!!

City Council members - Please stick to bike paths and banning plastic bags. You will still screw this up but at least I will still feel safe when I visit Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 2:26:46 PM

When the City Council, Mayor, and Governor allowed the city to burn I lost all confidence in the city/state leadership. I would rather dismantle this "leadership" than the police department.

In addition, three City Council members are asking for private security after threats....\$4500 a day! The very three who think we do not need police! You can't make this stuff up!!!!

City Council members - Please stick to bike paths and banning plastic bags. You will still screw this up but at least I will still feel safe when I visit Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 2:26:57 PM

When the City Council, Mayor, and Governor allowed the city to burn I lost all confidence in the city/state leadership. I would rather dismantle this "leadership" than the police department.

In addition, three City Council members are asking for private security after threats....\$4500 a day! The very three who think we do not need police! You can't make this stuff up!!!!

City Council members - Please stick to bike paths and banning plastic bags. You will still screw this up but at least I will still feel safe when I visit Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 2:27:04 PM

When the City Council, Mayor, and Governor allowed the city to burn I lost all confidence in the city/state leadership. I would rather dismantle this "leadership" than the police department.

In addition, three City Council members are asking for private security after threats....\$4500 a day! The very three who think we do not need police! You can't make this stuff up!!!!

City Council members - Please stick to bike paths and banning plastic bags. You will still screw this up but at least I will still feel safe when I visit Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 2:27:07 PM

I am strongly opposed to the proposed charter amendment. I do not believe that the City Council has had the time to think this through carefully. They are responding to an understandably emotionally charged moment in our city's history, but they are forging ahead without creating a well-considered plan. The issues of gun violence, sexual assault, and drug trafficking are enormous in our city, and their plan does not take into consideration the safety issues that we all face in the city. I believe that radical reform of the police is necessary so that the violence against African Americans in Minneapolis will finally stop. However, the City Council has not created an appropriate way for this to be addressed. This

amendment will only cause divisiveness, while furthering the political aspirations of the City Council members, and it will have a destructive impact on the city. I truly hope that the charter amendment is rejected, and that the City Council will listen to its constituents and come up with a more sensible plan.

6/30/2020 2:27:12 PM

When the City Council, Mayor, and Governor allowed the city to burn I lost all confidence in the city/state leadership. I would rather dismantle this "leadership" than the police department.

In addition, three City Council members are asking for private security after threats....\$4500 a day! The very three who think we do not need police! You can't make this stuff up!!!!

City Council members - Please stick to bike paths and banning plastic bags. You will still screw this up but at least I will still feel safe when I visit Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 2:27:18 PM

When the City Council, Mayor, and Governor allowed the city to burn I lost all confidence in the city/state leadership. I would rather dismantle this "leadership" than the police department.

In addition, three City Council members are asking for private security after threats....\$4500 a day! The very three who think we do not need police! You can't make this stuff up!!!!

City Council members - Please stick to bike paths and banning plastic bags. You will still screw this up but at least I will still feel safe when I visit Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 2:27:30 PM

Dear Minneapolis Charter Commission,

I care for my community; I care for my city. I care for my neighbors of all races, religions, sexual orientations; I care for them regardless of the uniform they do or don't wear.

Because I care about my neighbors and fellow citizens, I write to you, BEGGING you to please not approve the Minneapolis City Council's amendment to the city charter, section 7.3. I believe reform needs to happen, and some of the goals of the City Council \*should\* happen, but they should in-tandem with our police department, not in place of it.

Even if I felt that MPD should be entirely defunded/dismantled/abolished, I'd still know in my heart and mind that this process is being rushed, at best. They've decided to strikethrough 22 full lines of text of our charter, and replace those lines with barely more than half of the text; there's no real clarity or guidance present in their amendment. Where the current charter section 7.3 clearly lays out how many employees per resident, the proposed amendment has no firm numbers, and the department could clearly be as few as a handful of people; I can't say confidently that's what the City Council is proposing, but they don't clearly state that it's NOT what they want—again, this amendment lacks clarity and definition, which should never be the case in \*ANY\* legislature, let alone that which is supposed to guide public safety.

I want to believe that our City Council members are attempting to do what they think is best for the safety of our city, but this short, vague, rushed amendment signals that they don't know what is best; honestly, that's ok! We're all trying to figure out what the best plan of action is, here. I, and many of my fellow neighbors in NE Minneapolis firmly believe that the best course of action is to pump the brakes, flesh out the idea(s), come up with a concrete/tangible game plan, and then put forward a vote. Disbanding our police department (especially with the massive uptick in violence over the last few weeks) and then figuring out what to do, is irresponsible at-best.

Thank you sincerely for taking the time to read and consider my thoughts and comments on the proposed amendment, as you enter your review phase; it means the world.

6/30/2020 2:29:29 PM

I support abolishing the police and replacing it with a fairer system of protection. For to me support this, this change also requires eliminating police responsibilities that fall outside of their training - like assisting people with mental health issues- and routing significant and sufficient dollars to those providers.

Abolishing the police will ONLY work if those other services are well funded, now and in perpetuity.

6/30/2020 2:30:01 PM

As a resident of Longfellow, and a supporter of the plans of my elected City Council member Cam Gordon, I demand that your lawful but unelected body get completely out of the way of this important proposal. I demand the right to vote on the charter amendment without delay, this November. Anything less will be taken by me to be the obstruction of progress towards racial harmony in this city and will be met with vigorous personal activism against any members that choose to try to stop the amendment. In no uncertain terms, I demand to vote, and I demand that you not be an impediment to that plan in any way. I demand that all of your deliberations be public and that you operate with transparency.

6/30/2020 2:30:33 PM

I work for Metro Transit driving bus. I feel that the people making these decisions are not in the heart of the city on a daily basis like bus drivers and other community service people are. This city is getting so violent. I feel we need more police officers. When I drive down Nicollet Mall and there are 15 to 20 drug dealers and byers at all of the main stops You can really see how out of control this city is. All you have to do is park a police vehicle there and the crime drops by 80%. Granted it probably just goes to another area. The idea of having more mental health workers and drug counselors is a very nice and warm and fuzzy idea. However the money that you need to follow through and help these people is not there. You will need a massive amount of money to build the infrastructure to deal with the mentally ill, homeless, drug addicted people, chronic alcoholics and more. When I have issues on my bus, nothing at all happens to the people who are threatening fellow passengers or myself. When I talk to the police about it, they say that there is zero support on the side of the city for doing anything about Z's violent people. The city has created this mess by being lax in so many areas! If we actually prosecuted and did not slap hands and let people walk away, this city would be so much better. If the city stepped up prosecuting these offenders, it would actually have the ability to focus on the mentally ill and displaced people

appropriately. I talk and work with the police on a daily basis and I am 100% convinced that many people making these decisions About defunding the department and shifting focus and balance have no clue what is really happening on the streets because they're not riding my bus at 1 AM. I dare each and every one of you to come ride my bus from midnight to 2 AM. You would look at things so differently!

6/30/2020 2:31:11 PM

Dear Charter Commission,

Wanted to urge you to support the amendment to the City charter creating a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention to replace the existing police department.

And hello to all the beautiful FOIA artists!

6/30/2020 2:31:41 PM

There's a greater need to address the black on black crime. Cops are much more at risk policing black communities than any others. Until black on black crime is addressed within the community no name changing of police will make any difference.

6/30/2020 2:32:40 PM

Hello,

I am writing to express my support of the amendment on public safety.

Thank you

6/30/2020 2:33:27 PM

Instead of disbanding the police department, why don't you hit the less than stellar members of the police dept where it counts - their pensions! If they are going to act and treat people poorly and/or cause harm, hitting their pensions might wake them up.

I think the entire Minneapolis police dept should be fired and a whole new force hired. I don't think it is possible to redeem the current force.

I disagree with the community model and don't believe it will work. Hasn't worked so far - no police and our crime rates have already gone up across the board in my neighborhood. How is this new dept going to address the guns issue, gang issue, etc.

This city counsel has done nothing but raise my taxes for no reason. Truly wish they would listen to the community for a change. I have no confidence they will.

6/30/2020 2:33:36 PM

This proposal is ridiculous! By moving forward with this proposal you're only going to hurt the city, not help it! Without police as a deterrent you're going to have crime like you've never seen before. Is that what you want? More crime? This proposal is not the answer!

6/30/2020 2:33:56 PM

The proposed charter amendment articulates that the council "may" be able to maintain a division of law enforcement services, but does not require them to. This is too vague.

This language gives me misgivings since it is not clear that the City Council has plans to form a force that could respond to active violent crimes, particularly gun violence sprees that we are seeing spike currently.

I agree that investing in public safety outside of utilizing officers is incredibly important. However the current language of the charter amendment leaves open this question of whether or not officers will play a role. I think in its current vague form, it will not garner sufficient support on a ballot measure, even from those who would otherwise support reinvesting policing money into public safety, but are terrified of gun violence. The current language leaves the charter amendment under attack from people who say 'who will respond to someone with a gun breaking into your house? A social worker?' and so the language of the amendment must make plain whether or not officers will be part of the department.

In order for me to support such an amendment to the charter, I would need a clearer framework for what the council actually plans to do. I understand the council plans to do community outreach to build a new department of public safety. But the fact that a charter amendment vote would come before that process is finished leaves me uncertain of my support. Voting to approve such an amendment without knowing what their plan is would be a leap of faith in the Council; if the vote was tomorrow to change the charter, I have no idea what I would vote.

6/30/2020 2:34:49 PM

In section 3 (c) Fire Police the charter should stand. Fire police do not need to be law enforcement officers and may still supervise the police at fire scenes. This should remain as fire police training is very different from law enforcement and often fire police do not carry weapons.

The amendment in general is good.

6/30/2020 2:35:14 PM

Th needs to be studied other side of the equation in more detail.In many situations, you need those that are mentally and physically able to deal with many of these people that Cops have a toughjob with many of these are on drugs and are emotionally out of hand; Blacks need to do more and meet the police half way. Always two sides, Black lives matter but not any more than the lose of life of young cops also with loving families. There is and will be more white back lash This insanity will not be let continue. "You may fight the law but the law and order ill win!"

6/30/2020 2:35:25 PM

I strongly oppose the proposed amendment to the City Charter. The Minneapolis Police Department has been an asset to our neighborhood.

The City Council members are acting like racists in their opposition to a black Chief of Police.

6/30/2020 2:36:05 PM

Please do not dismantle the Police Department! What is happening now will only get worse and the Minneapolis that I know will be gone. There is room for improvement and would be more than happy to see changes be made but what is happening now is not working and will end up in complete anarchy. And why are the council members who want to dismantle the police department having private security, where is mine or are we all on our own?

6/30/2020 2:36:24 PM

I'm writing in support of amending our city charter to remove the Police Department and establish a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. As a Minneapolis resident raising children here, I want fundamental changes to our public safety approach. I want to be able to call for help in a wide variety of situations without fearing that police officers with guns will show up, and I want racism eradicated from the systems I support with my tax dollars and my presence here. Thank you for your work on these issues!

6/30/2020 2:36:27 PM

This charter does not show how it will help any way of support the homeowners and businesses when there is a theft, domestic shooting, or drive by shooting, and any other crime. The crime has increased.

In the provision it says the Council "May" maintain a division of law enforcement services, This tells me that we are allow the Council to make their decision to have one or not.

This means we may not have a set of individuals that are trained in deescalation of individuals with guns/knives, people handling homicides, individuals with lethal means robbing a person or home, and handing individuals that are shooting at people on scene..

What about SWAT to handle drug busts? Who is suppose to do this? Will they use lethal means or they are not allowed at all to use lethal means? Will the public safety team be armed?

There is no numbers in this update to state how many people we have based off of the population. We may have only 50 people which would not handle all the current homicides.

(b) Division of Law Enforcement Services. The Council may maintain a division of law enforcement services,

composed of licensed peace officers, subject to the supervision of the department of community safety and violence prevention.

(1) Director of Law Enforcement Services Division. The director of the department of community safety and violence prevention shall appoint the director of the division of law enforcement services, subject to confirmation by official act of the City Council and Mayor.

6/30/2020 2:37:48 PM

I am not in favor of defunding the police. I would have to see the specifics of what is proposed and understand under various situations how it would work exactly. This is not something that should be rushed into. It will have very serious implications that we will be living with. Minneapolis will be branded as a city without police and that will have serious consequences when it comes to attracting businesses to move to our city. Conventions will all but dry up if Minneapolis is perceived as not have a proper police department. What will it do to our hotel, restaurant and other businesses that operate in Minneapolis. Regardless of how it might really work, if it is perceived as no longer being a safe city due to no police department, we will lose a tremendous amount of business and revenue. I won't want to live here any longer.

6/30/2020 2:37:59 PM

Please conduct the year long study BEFORE putting the amendment on the ballot. I will vote No if an amendment is on the ballot this year. I definitely want major changes but we must do this right.

Thanks

6/30/2020 2:38:58 PM

Increase the funds for police. Use funds to train the officers continuously all year round. Move all the white cops in Minneapolis to different areas and give Minneapolis residents what they want. People of their own kind patrolling the streets. This way it'd take the whole white cops are all racist narrative out of the equation. Have the community people that keep saying they want to patrol the streets, have them patrol the schools and also serve as mentors and role models to these young kids who are being raised with no dad in the home and being raised with this attitude of "dont let anyone ever tell you what to do" mentality. Which is why kids now a days dont respect authority, teachers, cops, adults in general. Nothing will ever change if the mindset of kids doesnt change. Its too late for these criminal adults who have no empathy for human life. But kids they can change. The toxic adults that are ruining these kids lives have to go. Lock them up for a long time. There are so many good people in Minneapolis who deserve to live without all these worthless criminals amongst them. Robbery, theft, assaults, gang activity need to be dealt with harshly. Not with social work. Focus on the kids who are at the cusp of making really bad decisions. Kids keep dying because their parents make bad decisions and the kids end up collateral damage. Teen moms should be forced to do parenting classes. You cant expect a child who was never taught anything worth a darn to turn around and raise her child right. Its a vicious cycle that noone wants to talk about. Young male teens who keep fathering multiple babies and do nothing for them, need to be given a choice, you do father classes or u suffer severe consequences. Child support threats dont work. They just incentivized to make money illegally that they dont pay taxes on therefore no childsppt paid.

6/30/2020 2:39:14 PM

I support the proposed amendment to the Minneapolis City Charter that would form a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police Department from the Charter. To that end, I support its appearance as a ballot question in the election this November.

6/30/2020 2:39:20 PM

I am current resident in the ECCO neighborhood. I am against the current Charter Question.

This current proposal is unclear as to what we are voting for. Are we abolishing the police or will there be still some police?

Will the Chief of Police still be in charge or will he be demoted?

The current proposal ends the accountability and will cause major issues on "who is in charge" in times of crisis and confusion.

We need to change but we need to do so with clarity from our elected leaders. This current proposal is not clear.

6/30/2020 2:39:32 PM

I'm not sure more or less police officers are needed. But defunding/eliminating the MPD is heading down a road this city will never recover from. Before you ask to change the City Charter, lets see a plan for improving, not disbanding the Police Dept. Weed out the bad (got a plan?); examine your hiring practices and criteria (got a plan?); protect the good cops from bad cops (got a plan?); protect ALL the people of Minneapolis (got a plan?) Let's spend less time worrying about masks and social distancing and find some leadership to deal with the problems the City Council keeps blaming others for. CC and Mayor did nothing when the rioting, looting and burning started. Nero, at least played his violin when Rome burned. If the mayor and CC are afraid of the police union or are not strong enough to deal with them, defunding MPD is NOT the answer. Let's defund the weak, elected leadership and replace them with courageous people with conviction and desire to protect all the citizens of Minneapolis. If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem!

6/30/2020 2:39:35 PM

Please go ahead with this charter amendment. The City of Minneapolis needs to get out from under the threats of the Minneapolis Police Federation.

6/30/2020 2:40:08 PM

I vote and politically support the amendment to create a Community Safety and violence prevention department...and remove the current police department from the charter.

My wife is from Minneapolis and we have lived here going on 11 years. During that time we have witnessed brutality and murder at the hands of this police department...and attitude that if there is the

least suspicion the police act as judge, jury, and executioner. There is no..."protect and serve" for ALL people...including a "suspect". As well, under current circumstances the least bit of fear allows lethal action. The department, particularly with the police union and leadership, has systemic racism and brutality attitudes.

6/30/2020 2:40:46 PM

I do not think the charter should be amended to defund the police department. I think changes need to be made in the police department, such as limiting the unions power to protect the police officers that have mistreated/harmed the public. I feel we need a well trained police department with officers that are trained in de-escalation methods and racial sensitivity. Chokeholds need to be banned. Weapons should be drawn as a last resort. I think the officers need to be more engaged with and invested in the community. I think we need to look to other large cities that have had issues with the police and see what they have done. Maybe the policing should be provided through the county.

6/30/2020 2:41:41 PM

This proposal will bring even more chaos to an already crumbling structure. Why did the board members use tax payer dollars to have their own security, but are taking the people security away? A civil society needs police. We Americans do not want anarchy! Not to mention, people will not feel safe to visit your city anymore, further hurting your citizens with loss of revenue from tourism.

Don't let them do this Minnesota!

6/30/2020 2:41:49 PM

We attend football games and twins baseball, as well as shopping.

We would stop doing all those activities. We would not drive near Mpls, or plan anything near the city without police protection in the city

6/30/2020 2:42:25 PM

While I certainly understand the sentiment of starting over with a new organization, I believe it's a mistake to essentially remove a police department from a major American City. Even as a black male that would like to see sweeping changes to the culture and protocol of policing, the creation of an ambiguous entity as the cure-all is a mistake. I think a better approach would be to overhaul the structure of the department and its tactics first, and then address some of the negative issues rampant in its culture.

6/30/2020 2:42:38 PM

The sensible residents of this city wants a well-trained police force. Not some added social programs that didn't work in the 60s and will not work in today's environment. Keep the police funded and fighting crime with its citizens. Employee need unions too. Our elected official are taking a cowardly stance against getting tough. This will bring future regrets. And why you are at clean up 38th and Chicago. This has gone on long enough.

6/30/2020 2:43:31 PM

We strongly oppose changing the city charter until a well-researched plan to address police reform is developed and made public. Changing the city charter without a concrete policy plan is irresponsible and leaves the city wide open to misuse of power by the few individuals who are city council members. These city council members need to be answerable to the public by having an alternative plan and making that plan public.

All our neighborhoods, and especially the most vulnerable to violent crime, will potentially be affected by the irresponsible and unaccountable actions of the Minneapolis City council if allowed to make sweeping changes without careful consideration of facts, long-term implications and what is ultimately good for the safety and protection of all citizens.

We must support the good police we have now if we are going to attract good people to law enforcement whatever it looks like in the future! Changes and reform must be made in an atmosphere where we acknowledge and respect those who serve our community faithfully and put their lives on the line.

6/30/2020 2:43:32 PM

Although I am not a resident of your fine city, I do not believe disbanding the police department is a wise idea.

Please stop knee jerk reaction and work for a reasonable solution.

Thank you

6/30/2020 2:44:06 PM

Please don't allow this vote in November. This should not be supported until there is a solid and executable plan to move forward. This city is wonderful, but is not immune from the types of crime that plague most cities. Let the Police continue to do their job while the council builds a plan & opens it to public thought & comments. Put it on the ballot for November 2021.

6/30/2020 2:44:11 PM

the police terrorize our communities. We can keep each other safe without police. We demand the defunding of police and for the funding of community based solutions for mental health, housing, mutual aid, and transformative justice. We demand the police be disarmed in the meantime. No guns or tear gas! The state sanctioned violence has to stop!

6/30/2020 2:44:37 PM

I do not support amending the charter until there is a clear plan in place and all residents of Minneapolis have had the chance to weigh in on any proposed changes. It is irresponsible to eliminate or even decrease the number of armed police officers when there are already not enough to respond to calls. Yes, changes must be made, but not this way.

6/30/2020 2:44:43 PM

If you are planning to remove the MPD, you should definitely put it to a vote. I would like to see many more details about what this "Safety and Violence Prevention Dept." would look like in order to make an informed choice in the matter.

6/30/2020 2:44:57 PM

Hello, I live in Central neighborhood, and I am 100% in favor of removing the police department.

Anyone who tells you that the police are fine as is has not been victimized by the existing police force. We have had enough innocent people murdered by the police. End it.

6/30/2020 2:46:04 PM

As a city resident and tax payer I am not in favor of eliminating the police department or defunding them. With all the problems involving crime in this city we need more police. They need to be better trained to handle certain problems but getting rid of them is beyond belief. I know people have suggested having social workers and other paraprofessionals perhaps ride along with them on calls. I don't believe that this would be the correct solution either. Let's start with recruiting better candidates, screening them better and training them better. Please do not even consider getting rid of the police. Something needs to be done but start with something reasonable. A good first step would be eliminating some of the power of the police union. They seem to think they run the city. I hope most of the voters want to keep the police force.

6/30/2020 2:46:07 PM

As a resident of the Metro area who rides the Metro Transit bus to our office in downtown Minneapolis, I would respectfully request that the charter amendment not go through at this time. The amendment is premature. At this time there is no plan in place detailing what a "Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department" would look like, how that would keep those who live and work in Minneapolis

safe, and how that would be an improvement over the current police system. A better course of action would be to conduct the necessary research and develop an appropriate plan for reforming policing and related services. Once the plan is available, then put the amendment to the citizenry. At the moment, we have no idea what we are voting for.

6/30/2020 2:46:51 PM

I do not want you to abolish our police department nor do I want you to defund them. I'm open to reform by increasing their training funds and increasing the bar we set for individuals to become police officers.

I don't understand the statistical basis for dismantling/abolishing/defunding the Minneapolis police department. Supposedly, YouGov polls have only one group that agrees with defunding the police - left-liberals (not blacks, not minorities, not university students, the list goes on & on). If this is true, then why are we voting for an agenda that the majority of people do not support?

I think we have grouped police officers and placed a pang of guilt upon their shoulders. This is dehumanizing and is exactly what happened in the soviet union. Look at the Kulaks, a group of peasants who rose up to be great farmers. The Soviets acknowledged them as a group and placed guilt upon their shoulders for "gathering their wealth by plundering those around them". They abolished 2 million of them to Siberia (a death sentence) and in the 1930's we consequently saw 6 million Ukrainian people starve to death.

I am not arguing that this will happen, but I am suggesting that what is being done neglects the dignity of the human person. You cannot place the sins of one man upon the entirety of a group without concrete statistical evidence, nor can you perceive the negative effects that will surface when you abolish a pivotal department in society.

6/30/2020 2:46:56 PM

Hello city council,

I support your decision to defund the police and replace it with another public safety department. The toll the police department has taken on our black and brown communities is unjust and I am proud that we are taking a stance against systematic racism in this way.

I do hope however that the council will understand that change doesn't happen over night, and I hope the dispersement of funds away from the police will happen over a long period of time. While I know the true solution is to invest more in our communities, making sure they have education, food, housing and economic security. I also know crime will never completely go away.

That's why I hope we can develop a system that still keeps us all safe, while eliminating the racism we have seen from this institution.

I would also like to say that I believe the language we are using is polarizing and I would like to see it change. I believe that defund the police only divides us further from people who may be on our side if the issue was explained and talked about in a different way.

There are ways to talk about this that will demonstrate that the world could be better for both our black and brown communities AND those who serve our community (like cops).

For example, explaining defund the police as a way to provide more training and specialization to those who protect us, so that they can be safer and more equipped to handle difficult situations.

I support this policy and hope that Minneapolis will consider changing the narrative on what community safety can be, to include both the safety of our public servants AND our communities.

6/30/2020 2:47:15 PM

I'd say defund welfare before you defund the police department. One stupid guys action does not constitute actions of the other good officers that are there to serve and protect.

6/30/2020 2:47:29 PM

Please take time to listen to our communities of color and all residents to make the police department better and reform the problems, not eliminate our ability to have a safe city. We need real meaningful change, not quick fixes.

6/30/2020 2:48:14 PM

I support the City Council's charter amendment. I have live in Minneapolis for over 20 years and have seen more efforts to reform the Minneapolis Police Department than I can count. The police union has fought them at every turn, keeping officers on the job who should have been charged with crimes or at the very least, dismissed without pensions. The city pays out millions in taxpayer dollars every year to settle wrongful deaths and police brutality cases and now we, as a city, are the focus of negative international attention because once again an officer with a documented record of brutality was allowed to continue in his job until he murdered an innocent man in front of numerous witnesses. This is not a police force that can possibly be reformed in its current structure and we as city residents, we need to reckon with this. I support setting up an alternative safety organization to provide for public safety for all of us, as well establishing and supporting existing alternatives to the MPD's role in handling mental health calls, etc.

6/30/2020 2:48:30 PM

THIS STATE HAS MADE SOME FAR LEFT CRAZY DECISIONS\_BUT TO VOTE TO DISBAND/ELIMINATE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS THE STUPIDEST OUT-OF-TOUCH WITH REALITY COLLECTIVE DECISION THAT ANY GROUP OF ORGANIZERS HAS MADE!!!! AS FRINGE GROUPS LIKE THE NON ELECTED CITY COUNCIL MAKE THESE DANGEROUS AND FRIVOLOUS DECISIONS PUTTING THIS CITY'S RESIDENTS IN DANGER FOR IDEALISTIC WACO IDEOLOGIES-PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO LEAVE TAKING THEIR MONEY/EMPLOYEES OUT OF THIS CITY AND STATE

6/30/2020 2:48:34 PM

I approve of the new charter language. I'm still a bit unclear about who these new community safety & violence prevention officers would be. I have not seen any signs of contrition from any Minneapolis police officers. I get no sense from the average officer or from their union, that there is any sincere regret about the pattern of willful abuse in their actions. I have seen nothing indicating the average officer is in any way committed to reform or that they respect the democratic will of the people of Minneapolis. the statements from the chief do not qualify as he is not those officer's chosen representative. I hope this council amendment sufficiently frightens all Minneapolis police officer out of their complacency, warrior mentality, and sneering insubordination.

6/30/2020 2:49:01 PM

Democrats have ruled this city, its schools, and its mayors office for 50 years. One wonders when the residents are going to get smart and quit buying your bullshit. You've continually promoted policies and ordinances that have ruined this once great city for business, for opportunities, and most importantly for its minority communities. All in the name of getting re-elected. The major problems still exist in North Minneapolis, South Minneapolis and has, for the last decade or so, migrated to destroy our downtown and uptown too.

One week after your very political and very much publicized 'De-fund the Police' effort, over 100 shootings and a few stabbings occurred. That blood is on your hands. Congratulations - now you have minorities killing each other openly -you must be so proud.

You people are idiots. 'Make America a Shithole Again... Keep Voting Democratic.' Look around... Detroit, NY, Chicago, LA and Minneapolis are all proud Democratic strongholds with legacies of crime, lack of affordable housing, and poor schools (Minneapolis being the WORST in the nation) and a history of continued issues plaguing these communities.

If you abandon the police department, those of us who work hard, keep nice neighborhoods, and pay taxes will abandon your self-created shit-hole. You continue to "Gentrify" neighborhoods, then wonder why you have no affordable housing. You continue to let the teachers union provide zero accountability and suppress school choice, denying minority and under-represented communities their children's opportunity for a better education to get them out of the shit-hole you created and still can't fix.

How sad. How terribly, terribly sad. Perhaps minorities will wake up to the Oppression, Dependence and Decimation the Democrats have brought them for 50 years. If we had the 400 cops Chief Arrandondo requested, we wouldn't need to keep the few bad cops. One or two bad cops is not the problem... YOU ARE!

6/30/2020 2:49:58 PM

I live in South and had no CHOICE but to be present on E Lake street for TEN full nights In a row with a SHOTGUN defending MY community. It adds insult to injury when many of my fellow protectors showed up to keep MPD's AND the NG's workload down to have our council members vote for dismantling and replacing the MPD. We took a LOT off of these critical first responders plates.

Maybe 3 neighbors in our community want to replace, the ABSOLUTE majority is wondering what is wrong with city council. There are many ways to make the PD system better. Third party background checks on all officers... hire local and trim the union powers back...etc

Question in closing...

Would you want a perpetual Militia holding down their respective neighborhoods, or have Law Enforcement (MPD) that has more accountability?

Because, that's what will happen. We have LESS confidence in the new vaguely proposed system. We aren't moving, so this is how it will be.

We will be voting accordingly.

Thank you.

6/30/2020 2:50:53 PM

We want MORE officers with better training, and a meritocracy, not union protectionism. Each and every police officer should be someone who understands white privilege, structural racism and their deleterious effects. They should be actively working to be an antiracist at all times! This is not negotiable. The future of the society we leave for our children depends on it.

6/30/2020 2:51:19 PM

I support the charter change, not only as a matter of justice but as a much better & more efficient use of my tax dollars.

6/30/2020 2:53:19 PM

I live in the St. Cloud area, but take the train to Target Field to watch baseball games and other activities in the area. I am afraid to take a train to start with because of the crime on the trains, but won't be able to attend games either if there is no police presence in Minneapolis. The "protestors" are emboldened by the lack of police and are now attacking completely innocent people, especially the elderly. This whole idea is nuts and if it continues you will see an exodus of people to South Dakota, myself included.

6/30/2020 2:53:23 PM

We want MORE officers with better training, and a meritocracy not union protectionism. We want officers to receive training in handling people with special needs. We want more than 75% of those police officers to live in Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 2:53:37 PM

I am in support of the proposed changes to the City Charter.

6/30/2020 2:53:44 PM

I would like to suggest that this item be moved to the Ballot of 2021. It is entirely too soon to bring this to the registered voters of Mpls this Nov. There needs to be more organizing; voter registration, education and discussion about what type of models of crime prevention, education and outreach can be structured for the good of the City as well as what model of sworn law enforcement model(s) can be implemented. The manner of death that Mr Floyd went through is egregious. The knee jerk reaction of the majority of elected City Council has been appalling, non transparent and conducted via parks with audiences NOT inclusive of all of us. Ward 6 has no Council member to "vote" voice for those in 55454, tho existing aides try-they do NOT vote. The back lash of lawlessness, looting, riotous behavior etc., has taken a severe toll on the ENTIRE city. Please SLOW DOWN! Thank you. 2021 is soon enough for a vote--meanwhile--please be INCLUSIVE, working together WITH the people, renters, homeless, home owner, immigrants, businesess and faith communities -those who elected the current council and those who can't vote for whatever reason. Thank you!

6/30/2020 2:54:43 PM

I am against the proposed charter due to the process in which it has been created. I understand the need for reform is necessary, but all indications are that the city council is rushing this process without defining solutions. In fact it's been more or less stated explicitly by the council that it's being rushed in order to get this on the 2020 ballot. As a taxpayer, I'm not interested in being a part of an experiment that isn't defined / communicated to the community. I also foresee this proposal negatively affecting the communities this reform is intended to help. Please work collaboratively with the Mayor Frey and Police Chief Arradondo. They are both open to significant change and need to be a part of the process.

6/30/2020 2:54:45 PM

You, the City Council and the Mayor have surrendered our once wonderful city to anarchists, criminals and thugs. It's the policies that you have put in place that have led to its demise. INCLUDING the policies that keep the poor very poor and mired in the ghetto (that you have all completely ignored). Spend a night on the north side sometime. Have you ever done that? Have you ever wondered why we have so much black on black crime? Doesn't it occur to you that throwing a few dollars at, or starting your phony community building programs do NOTHING to help? It's also your policies that govern the way the police department is run that allowed the murder of George Floyd to happen, his blood is on your hands. The onus is 100% on your shoulders. You should be ashamed! And de-funding and getting rid of the police will -as we've witnessed in the last couple of weeks- only lead to more violent crime. IT'S BECAUSE MINNEAPOLIS IS A WIDE OPEN TOWN AND CRIME AND VIOLENCE ARE THE RULE, not the exception. Your ideas of programs and hand-holding and singing songs will do nothing to stem the violence being committed against our citizens.

EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU NEED TO RESIGN. RIGHT NOW. Including the completely worthless Mayor. Not only do we NEED the MPD, it's our constitutional right! Our right to a peaceful existence is being rejected. You are breaking our constitutional rights! What happened in Minneapolis during the riots is 100% YOUR FAULT. Every idea, policy and plan you have in place, including the ridiculous 2040 plan will only lead to its further demise. You're unqualified to run to a city, the riots and the ridiculous plan to disband the police are proof. And the fact that some of you have now hired private security to protect

you proves that you live and exist on a third rail and the rules you try to apply to the lot of us do not apply to you.

I was born at the Swedish hospital in Mpls 1965, I have lived here my whole life, have been a home owner since 1997 and sent our son to public school. We are listing our house, selling and moving away because of the way YOU have run this town into the ground. You have failed us on a massive level and getting rid of the MPD will only make it much worse. Good riddance to you fools.

6/30/2020 2:55:04 PM

Absolutely do not remove the charter. This is going to increase crime all over minneapolis. So many people are afraid for their well-being and quite frankly the city council has been pretty damn quiet. Not to mention the terrible job the mayor is doing as well. Lisa Bender is a disgrace.

6/30/2020 2:55:33 PM

I do not support removing the police from the city charter.

6/30/2020 2:56:38 PM

Let us vote on this amendment!

6/30/2020 2:56:51 PM

I am generally in favor of the proposed amendment to rethink the future of policing in our city.

However, I have some questions about said amendment:

-Originally, the charter states we need "0.0017" police for each resident. How many new employees will be allotted to the city in each category (community safety, violence prevention, and law enforcement)?

-How does the amendment to the charter effect the police force in terms of detectives, and other law enforcement personnel who are not necessarily the ones we think of as regular "cops"?

-Who are you working with in the community to help you write these charter amendments?

-Can incentives be offered for these new personnel to live in the city which they serve?

-What kind of mandatory training will the reimagined peace officers need to graduate from in order to serve our city equitably and effectively?

I look forward to learning more.

6/30/2020 2:56:58 PM

I am in favor of defunding the police and working toward a solution far less reliant on law enforcement and more focused on community and reformation. I would rather see resources aimed at reducing poverty and homelessness and addiction and funneled into more opportunities for social work. I am in favor of the city councils approach.

6/30/2020 2:57:23 PM

I have so many questions on what this means for how the city responds to crime. I understand and support fully investing money into crime prevention as opposed to response, but I think we also have to recognize that crime will always be present in society. How will the new department respond to situations such as your house being broken into, a car or property being stolen, rape and sexual assault taking place, mugging, carjacking, etc? Will citizens need to know what branch of the department to reach out to for immediate help, or will 911 dispatchers? And in those situations of immediate danger, how will the physical response under the new department differ from more traditional policing?

Another comment I have is the thought of sending mental health professional to respond to situations. I very much like this idea. But practically speaking, I fear many times we don't know it's a mental health issue until someone responds to the scene - a caller to 911 will likely be unable to make that determination, nor do I think it would be fair to place the responsibility for deciding that onto the caller. So, do we always send a mental health professional first, and then if turns out that is wrong then send a peace officer? Or do we send a peace officer first? Or does the 911 dispatcher have to make that call without being on the scene? How will the new department make that assessment?

Last, what role do gun laws plays into this? America is sadly an armed society. The studies from England I have seen referenced about police without guns being a success work in England because such a low percentage of the population own guns, but the landscape is vastly different here. What does the department think about an armed population, and in turn instances of armed criminals, being monitored by potentially unarmed peace officers? Less guns is always safer, but if that conversation is not happening at the federal level do we put safety at risk?

We need so many more details on the practical implications on what this all means, and specifically 1) how that changes our interaction with the city when we are victims of crime, 2) how the changes will curb the spread of racism, and 3) how the new department will prevent another police killing.

6/30/2020 2:58:22 PM

This is desperately needed, and I am so glad to see it acted on. I have witnessed decades of attempted reforms of the MPD, and witnessed them fail. Even as our rate of crime continued to fall, the MPD continues to eat up a larger and larger share of our resources, move toward increased militarization, move toward a "killology" approach to policing, and reject any oversight. We desperately need to put these resources toward actual solutions, toward programs that address the root causes of crime, toward approaches to public safety that do not rely on a highly armed army treating our city as a war zone, and one in which minorities and the disabled are frequently targeted and victimized by the people who are supposed to protect them.

6/30/2020 2:58:36 PM

I commend the council for removing police, steeped in a long history of slavery and racial violence, from the charter. Be careful that our Division of Law Enforcement Services is not a bastion for continued state sanctioned violence. How will we keep this division accountable to the holistic approach of the larger division?

6/30/2020 2:58:57 PM

police need reform and the Police Chief can do that after mpls. gets rid of the police federation contract. it is a bad contract and needs to be rewritten. Mpls needs the police to serve and protect ALL citizens.

6/30/2020 2:59:14 PM

Excellent.

6/30/2020 2:59:38 PM

The militarized MPD is a violent, white supremacist organization, thus incapable of honoring their vow to protect and serve. Our neighbors aren't safe as long as they're allowed to act with impunity. The vast majority of 911 calls can be handled by SAFE alternatives. For dangerous calls we need a new design for what "policing" looks like. The police union is not a labor organization as a union should be. They're corrupt and dangerous and any real change will be impossible unless they're eradicated. I trust our current city council has the community's interests in mind and I greatly appreciate your efforts. Mpls was the city that finally said ENOUGH. Mpls is the city that inspired a worldwide action. Let's make Mpls the city that leads the way on a new model of policing.

6/30/2020 2:59:46 PM

As a Minneapolis resident and property owner for over 45 years, I absolutely want DEEP STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION of the MPLS Police Department & the brutal culture that currently exists within it. That said, WORDS MATTER, and without a REAL PLAN for public safety in place, I find words such as "abolish and defund" to be less than helpful at best, if not foolish and dangerous when we have unprecedented community violence taking place on our streets right now. At the very least, if the goals are to restructure the police department and reallocate its resources, your words represent terrible branding, painting a picture guaranteed NOT to garner the support of many of us who agree with those goals.

I support Black Lives Matter, and I do not want more meaningless, if well intentioned, platitudes for change, but I also do not want politically motivated grandstanding without a viable plan for public safety in place. We are currently in the midst of an unprecedented pandemic, accompanied by the highest unemployment and the worst economic collapse seen in our lifetimes. For the first time in my 4+ decades on Lake Street, I, along with my family, tenants, and neighbors fear for our safety, as well as our

property. We certainly do not need an escalating civil war sparked by agitators (red or blue), or opportunistic troublemakers aware that no one is going to stand in their way or come to stop them.

With that in mind, I believe that the Commissioners should vote 'NO" to changing the city charter at this time.

While I am white and live Uptown, I am in agreement with the reasons listed below for not dismantling the police in this way at this time. These reasons were written by an African American woman living on the North side.

MORE ON WHY THEY SHOULD NOT CHANGE THE CHARTER NOW:

1. AGAIN, There is no plan to replace the current police department
2. A disproportionately white population of folks who don't live in North Minneapolis, (and never would) and non-Northsiders are behind dismantling the police. Most African American folks I know demand that the police radically transform by any means necessary, but we don't want announcements about getting rid of the police now. Our children are being shot and killed on our streets. Protecting them is our #1 priority– Not politics!
3. The City Council's announcement that it plans on dismantling the police is immature, premature and dangerous. We are in the middle of the greatest crime and violence spree in our neighborhood since 1996 when Mpls was dubbed 'Murderapolis.' Now is not the time to tell those committing unchecked violence daily that we are getting rid of the police. This has become a license to kill and shoot.
4. Under the new charter the new 'department of safety,' would report to 14- Council people who are responsible for different parts of the city that have different needs. Currently the police are held accountable by the Mayor and Police Chief. 14 bosses are too much!
5. We haven't fully supported, nor given a real chance, to the first African American police chief, Arradondo. He has already stepped up and refused to negotiate with the police union– something which no other chief has done before.
6. The timing on this is just bad. Let's get a plan and possibly put something on the ballot next year. Not now.

6/30/2020 2:59:49 PM

Please, the answer is not to amend the charter and/or dismantle the police. We need more officers with better training, not less! Just a few weeks ago over 1000 buildings were burned, destroyed, and badly damaged in Minneapolis. This happened because there were not enough officers to stop it. What will happen if you get rid of the police? How many will be murdered? How many people's homes and livelihoods destroyed? Residents of Minneapolis, myself and my family included will flee the city. Business will close and go elsewhere. There will be no tourism, no conventions, the city will go broke and crumble. Please think about this logically and stop pushing for a vote in November. It is not the answer!

6/30/2020 2:59:55 PM

I live in Eagan and visit MPLS regularly. If the city goes through with defunding, replacing or eliminating the police, I WILL NOT SET FOOT IN THE CITY EVER AGAIN!

Wake up and do the right thing. Increase funding for training and more officers. If not, your beautiful city will be no more.

6/30/2020 3:00:08 PM

With violent crime on the rise I won't be voting for anything this half baked.

Before this year I had no idea who was on city council. Though I respect that they got elected, I don't believe these bottom of the ballot small fry's represent the majority of residents.

6/30/2020 3:00:27 PM

I would not vote for a charter change when the city council can not tell the citizens what the plan actually is. Will there be a police dept.? How many police officers? How will incidents of violence be handles? Who investigates robberies, shootings, etc.?

And isn't it ironic that the city is paying for licensed, armed security for 3 council members, because they are afraid for their safety. How can they maintain, with a straight face, that the citizens do not need to have that same sense of personal safety?

6/30/2020 3:00:44 PM

I support removal of the Minneapolis Police Dept from the charter and replace it with a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. For too long Bob Kroll has fomented a cruel culture of unfettered aggression & brutality within the police union, toward BIPOC persons of Minneapolis. Kroll has tripled-down on statements he made calling Black Lives Matter a "terrorist organization" and believes that if police officers are "in this job and you've seen too much blood and gore and dead people then you've signed up for the wrong job." Minneapolis does not need a department that chose as its union leader someone who minimizes & scoffs at the influx of PTSD among officers involved in armed confrontations and would actually prefer to have officers de-sensitized to "blood and gore and dead people." We owe it to every neighborhood in this city to do better, to rebuild trust and create services that address the real gaps in community services & constructively problem-solve these issues to which the police force has shown they are professionally out of their depth to respond.

6/30/2020 3:00:48 PM

I am so happy the City of Minneapolis is moving in this visionary direction. Please continue to keep a police presence out of all threads involving protecting and serving Minneapolis. Stay vigilant. Black lives matter.

6/30/2020 3:00:52 PM

I support this amendment moving forward to be voted on in 2020. Let the citizens of Minneapolis have the final say in this matter.

6/30/2020 3:01:56 PM

Please do not disband the police department. We need them or there will be anarchy. Find strategies they can employ, more mental health and drug training, have them read books to address racism. We need more officers, not less. I understand that you all feel bad, but we have to make efficient change.

6/30/2020 3:02:17 PM

I urge that the charter commission approve the proposed amendment for a variety of reasons.

Firstly, the Minneapolis Police Department has shown a track record of abuse towards those it is supposed to protect and serve, and this pattern of violence affecting our Black citizens specifically is toxic and resistant to attempts at reform. The trust of the community has been broken and advancing this amendment would serve as an important first step towards restorative justice and reconciliation in Minneapolis, allowing us to create a safer, more prosperous city for all living here.

Secondly, the police department is the only city department that does not report to the city council. As we have seen this arrangement does not work and should not continue. There is no reason for the Police to bypass city council and go straight to the mayor.

Thirdly, and most importantly for the unelected charter commissioners to remember is that this is about what the people want. It is not your place as an appointed, not elected member of the commission to censure justice and knock down amendments created in the service of justice by the people's representatives. Regardless of what you may think of the merits of the proposed amendment, I ask that you please advance it, knowing that it will not immediately go into effect and will need to be ratified by voters. That alone should be enough for you to advance it. If a majority of residents want this change, why should you get to stop it just because you agree? Let it play out at the ballot box, not on the floor of the unelected charter commission.

6/30/2020 3:02:41 PM

I'm against the proposed amendment that wants to remove the Police Department and establish a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department.

6/30/2020 3:02:44 PM

While I am firmly of the belief that the MPD requires major reforms to eradicate racism and brutal methodologies, I do not condone the charter commission as it is written. A division of law enforcement (whether called by the name police or otherwise) is needed to keep bad actors in check.

In particular I have a problem with the word "MAY" in the following statement: (b) Division of Law Enforcement Services. The Council may maintain a division of law enforcement services,

composed of licensed peace officers, subject to the supervision of the department of community safety and violence prevention.

This simultaneously leaves citizens of Minneapolis unprotected and allows for the creation of an agency with no particular accountability.

A more targeted reform is necessary to increase the accountability of police officers.

Police officers must be trained in de-escalation tactics.

They must be required to report use of excessive force.

Officers reported using excessive force must be fired.

Additionally, We need service providers other than the police to help with problems related to homelessness, substance abuse, and other social problems.

Such reforms do not require the abolition of a police force. Or, if the police force is abolished, it should not leave a law enforcement void.

Do we need to keep the Minneapolis Police Department as it stands today? No. Do we need to keep a department called "Police"? No.

However, we need a law enforcement body that is properly trained to serve and protect the community.

6/30/2020 3:03:19 PM

We ask that the Charter Commission REJECT the proposed Charter Amendment regarding removal of the Police Department.

The City Council has proposed to "commence a year long process of community engagement, research, and structural change to create a transformative new model for cultivating safety in our city."

That engagement and research needs to be done BEFORE a Charter Amendment is written and submitted to the Commission, let alone voted on by the citizens. The City Council is acting recklessly and irresponsibly in regard to public safety.

6/30/2020 3:03:22 PM

Without a fully-funded, well-trained, and authority-given police force, I and my family will no longer visit the City of Minneapolis. If you are not going to protect all citizens from the crime that is now running rampant, we will make the decision to not visit the City of Minneapolis. We will not stay in a hotel the City of Minneapolis. We will not buy meals in the City of Minneapolis. We will not attend concerts in the City of Minneapolis. We will not attend a Minnesota Twins game in the City of Minneapolis. We will not attend a Minnesota Vikings game in the City of Minneapolis. We will not attend a Minnesota Timberwolves or Lynx game in the City of Minneapolis. We will not attend a Minnesota Gophers Football, Basketball, Hockey, or other university sport in the City of Minneapolis. We will no longer attend shows at Guthrie Theatre. The only people who want less law enforcement are those who run afoul of the law or do not want to be subject to the law. The short-sighted ignorance and putrid pandering of the Minneapolis City Council and Mayor Jacob Frey has set back the City of Minneapolis

decades, from which it may not ever return, and certainly will not return until diversity of thought returns to the Minneapolis City Council and Mayor Jacob Frey.

6/30/2020 3:03:28 PM

Removing the Minneapolis police department would be one of the worst things that the city could do. I do not support this amendment. You are inviting Mayham into our city, and it would propel me to leave. Taking my tax dollars with me.

6/30/2020 3:03:32 PM

We are strongly against amending the charter to remove police department. The riots and violence after the riots fully reveal the sad truth that if we do not advocate law and order, crimes will start destroying our community. 99% of the police are doing a great job for this great city, and we definitely do not want this wonderful city turning to Chicago South.

6/30/2020 3:03:57 PM

MPD has proven itself beyond reform. New, effective public safety solutions are needed urgently and this amendment is a necessary step on the path to those solutions.

6/30/2020 3:04:28 PM

I am opposed to a change in the city charter being put on the ballot this November. The rush to put this through with no plan being given is dangerous. I know the feeling is that something has to be done and that anything is better than what we currently have. Anything is NOT better than what we currently have when "anything" is no plan at all. I worked in government for 34 years, much of that time involved work on policy planning. There is research that shows that policy made during a crisis to in reaction to a crisis rarely proves to solve the problem or be helpful. This is a huge issue and one that should have much thought and discussion. I am not in favor of giving the city council any more power than it already has, putting this on the ballot this November puts the city at risk of that happening if it would pass. This is a big deal and deserves thoughtful discussion and planning. A rush to put it on the ballot this November serves no purpose.

6/30/2020 3:05:48 PM

Minneapolis police department needs to stay right where it's at

Without them Minneapolis residents are in deep trouble the good policeman Far far far outweigh the few bad and they should be dealt with

Please do not disband them

6/30/2020 3:06:07 PM

You seriously going to endanger the residents that obey the laws and have no police departments. Crimes are increasing and the protesters that don't want a police department destroyed your city. It is ridiculous, that the City Council will think this. It is the most stupid idea. You need the police department so residents can obey the law. That is problem, most of the people that don't want the police don't to obey the laws. If you ask every person that don't want the police department what the police did wrong to them, providing proof, I bet you they will say nothing. It will be a grave mistake by council and Mayor Frey needs to put his foot down and tell his council police department is not going anywhere. Abolish City Council for being stupid.

6/30/2020 3:07:52 PM

I agree that some changes need to be made to our police department but I am NOT in favor of disbanding. I do believe it is possible to reform without getting rid of our police. I am a mom of young kids who lives in Minneapolis and is invested in seeing good changes happen here. I do not think removal would be a good change.

6/30/2020 3:09:12 PM

I support this charter amendment. MPD Will tell you they are asked to do too much and I'll equipped to deal successfully with the variety of needs the community has. Please prioritize housing and mental health care before policing.

6/30/2020 3:09:15 PM

I believe that the citizens of the city are entitled to a lot more detail in the proposal of how this recommendation is going to be planned, funded, demented and as importantly, reviewed for effectiveness. You can't expect an entire city to vote for a proposal with absolutely no specific planning on how this will work. In one swipe this will significantly change the direction of an incredibly important part of the city's operation and every resident of the city of Minneapolis is entitled to understand and support any substantial chance moving forward.

6/30/2020 3:09:19 PM

No, no, no! This is a knee-jerk reaction by the Council without any benefit of discussion or a well-thought out plan to protect the citizens and visitors of Minneapolis. Until you have a viable alternative do NOT put this on the ballot. People will vote to get rid of the police because they mistakenly think it will solve all the city's problems. It will not.

Secondly, this is nothing more than a naked power play by the Council so they can run the City. Where is the balance of powers? The U.S. does not put the House of Representatives in charge of the country. Why should the Council have that much power.

Lastly, fix the Police Department. Get rid of the Union and the collective bargaining agreement (or whatever it's called). Find ways to make the police work for us.

6/30/2020 3:09:21 PM

This decision is long overdue. The police department as currently funded, operated, and protected, does not do our residents justice, especially the poorer neighborhoods and POC. A completely new police department can potentially be part of the solution, but in its current state it is broken and needs to be tossed out. Newer ideas, technologies, and community resources can do most of the police's current jobs and provide better results.

6/30/2020 3:10:07 PM

I oppose the proposed charter amendment. Go ahead and create different divisions within the police department, addressing the additional needs beyond protecting life and property. Make changes within the department regarding discipline and racism. But DO NOT send unarmed social workers and the like into the community to answer calls that are known to be potentially dangerous. Do not have unarmed Community of Safety personnel trying to keep the public safe in this country where so many people are already armed. I will be voting "no" on the proposed charter amendment.

6/30/2020 3:11:16 PM

I am opposed to seeking a charter amendment at this time.

It is irresponsible and reprehensible of the council as a whole to do this before further delineation of the proposed changes.

The citizens did not elect you on this idea nor does it emend give the citizens a reasonable opportunity to weigh in by a vote on the amendment as proposed.

Please don't rush this. It is not what is best for the city.

Propose something later, after you get robust public comment, debate and a majority of the city to back up a more detailed proposal.

6/30/2020 3:12:07 PM

I would like to voice my strong opposition to this amendment. I feel it is premature to add an amendment to change the police department until a WELL thought out and COMPLETE replacement is designed...not just a piecemeal plan that bends to the loudest and most aggressive voices in the current environment. I have shared these views with my council member...Andrew Johnson.

6/30/2020 3:12:27 PM

Dear Charter Commission: I oppose the charter amendment that would remove the requirements to maintain a police department. I believe that the City Council is trying to move way, way too fast with this issue. I encourage you to push this out to at least 2021 and carefully and thoughtfully (like you always do) weigh all the pros and cons.

The city that I love so much is experiencing too much turmoil to permit this proposed charter amendment to move forward at this time.

Thank you.

6/30/2020 3:12:30 PM

I am against defunding the police. Especially with the lack of leadership in the mayor office and city council. We are not allowed to protect our children while our corrupt city council spend thousands on their own personal security. We had to endure the riots with no police and had to protect ourselves. I move to defund and remove Bender, Cano, Jenkins and Cunningham.

6/30/2020 3:12:44 PM

I fully support the charter amendment. I look forward to voting for it in November and working with city council to create public safety without police who have lost any ounce of trust they had left in this city. I support a thoughtful transition away from carceral punishment, towards violence prevention that includes meeting basic needs of residents and offering support to those in need.

6/30/2020 3:12:47 PM

Through extensive discussion among citizens in my area, this comprehensive statement was developed by a former mental health practitioner. She has given me permission to use her succinct summary.

We are asking for this vote to amend the city charter to be placed on hold until all these Stakeholders can be brought into the discussion. There are many agencies, Henn. County, Human Services,, mental Health Services, Homeless Coalition, Emergency and Crisis Services, Adult and Child Protection, ChemDep., 911 Call Center, Foster Care, Domestic Abuse Services, in addition to the Police Dept, the list could on. These are the many services provided in the community that all have their own rules, regulations, laws. So to consider reallocating resources from the Police to these agencies, needs very thoughtful Discussion to occur in order to work together, redefine responsibilities and partnerships. THEN a plan should come forward the public can vote on. This needs to be done in a competent and thorough manner. There is great momentum across the country right now and it will continue and get much greater buy-in from more people if we do this the right way. The big societal issues, poverty, jobs, housing, healthcare are huge national issues that are underlying many of the issues requiring the need for above services and they need tremendous amount of work, but beyond the scope of this Amendment.

6/30/2020 3:12:50 PM

To advance without an actual plan that has been vetted with data and real study is reckless. We need council members with pragmatic experience as we embark on making changes.

6/30/2020 3:13:51 PM

I think this is a horrible idea. I'm just glad I don't live down there. Wonder how much crime will have to happen for the police to be reinstated. I definitely won't be coming to Minneapolis until the police are make and I feel it's a safe place for me and my family.

6/30/2020 3:14:04 PM

Hello,

I strongly support redirecting portions of our budgeted monies for the MPD going towards other types of care for the residents of Minneapolis. I think that social workers, city employees, community members, etc. could do a better job helping with lots of different calls that the police force is responding to currently.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

6/30/2020 3:14:12 PM

Minneapolis residence are yearning for leadership. I have lived in South Minneapolis for 30 years. I keep a picture of a helicopter flying over my house every 3-4 minutes I took, during the nights of unrest. I keep it to remember the anger and then being scared, of what did and was going to happen. What you are proposing is not leadership, it is activism. I have told my children you will encounter two types of people in your life. When presented with a problem, some (too few) will immediately think of a solution, but most will have to determine who is at fault, before they can offer a solution. I have told my kids I hope they are the former. Question which one are you?

6/30/2020 3:14:32 PM

I serve students in the Minneapolis School District and reside in Minneapolis. Please consider the domino effect of defunding the police department. While our community needs change we also need support upholding the laws. Defunding the police department will likely affect teaching positions in the district (many of us work in unsafe areas). You will likely be looking for new teachers and community service employees in all areas. We need safety to do our jobs.

6/30/2020 3:15:59 PM

This amendment is much to vague. Why is the City Council not asking for community ideas and opinions from ALL CONSTITUENTS not just the loudest voices. I believe the Police Department needs reform and its duties and responsibilities redefined. I want a police department! I want a safe and just community for all Minneapolis residents. I would like to leave my apartment walk downtown and not have to dodge bicycles on the sidewalk and be hit up for money EVERY time I go out. If the City Council would manage and deal with all the issues of All city residents instead of trying to live in la la land then real police reform might stand a chance. I'm not hopeful ramming through a Change to the City Charter done this hastily is the right way to proceed .

6/30/2020 3:16:06 PM

I'm absolutely against disbanding or dismantling our Minneapolis police department! This proposal by city council is making me lose faith in all of humanity! I no longer feel safe in my own home due to all of the violence in my neighborhood since the horrific death of George Floyd. I by all means support police reform and want to help be a part of positive change for our community. However, the foolish proposals of city council are not the answer. I'm about ready to sell my home and get the heck out of the city with all of this nonsense. And, why are we spending all of our tax payer dollars on "protecting" these individuals with private security?! What a joke.

6/30/2020 3:16:34 PM

I fully support the removal and replacement of the Police Department. I believe that our city can become a model for other major cities to follow, if we have the strength of will to see it through. I acknowledge that this change will be divisive and messy, but I firmly believe that it is the right thing to do for the betterment of everyone and especially those who have been unjustly targeted and harmed by the current system. We have to do better and we have to start now.

6/30/2020 3:16:47 PM

I want a stronger mayor system for leading Minneapolis. A strong mayor is accountable to the public instead of a city council whose members shun accountability. I want the mayor to have more power and do not want the city charter changed to provide more power to the city council. Words do matter.

6/30/2020 3:16:52 PM

I support the amendment to Create a new safety and violence prevention department and remove the current police department.

6/30/2020 3:17:21 PM

The citizens of Minneapolis need to know the full intent of the city council regarding this amendment before the authority should be granted to them without the public's input. Originally there was going to be a years worth of community involvement. Now there is none. And, the city council is trying to fast track a huge policy change without ever hearing what citizens desire. Their flagrant disregard of a public forum concerning policing policy was in full evidence at Powderhorn Park, with their display of "dismantling the police". We, as citizens, demand the right to be properly represented by the elected person to each ward. That has not happened. Passing this resolution greatly diminishes the ability of every citizen to be heard and respected. Also - according to an email sent by the city of Minneapolis, the Charter Commission has AT LEAST 60 days before submitting a decision. That means NOT LESS than 60 days, which puts that date almost to the end of August, well past the deadline for filing the amendment. PLEASE don't forget that. It would be a violation of the law. Making this entire discussion moot.

6/30/2020 3:17:28 PM

Quit bowing to the mob and keep your citizens and everyone in Minneapolis for any reason SAFE. This is ridiculous. I don't live in Minneapolis, but during a normal summer I'm there A LOT. That'll all change if you get rid of the police. I always feel a little unsafe in Minneapolis because I have been approached by sketchy characters, but I and many others will avoid it like the plague if you are going to bow down to the mob. DO. YOUR. JOB.

6/30/2020 3:17:36 PM

I am NOT in favor of amending the City Charter to remove the Police Department. The amendment as written is too vague and puts too much power in the hands of the City Council.

There are better ways to transform and restructure policing in our city. If you want to amend the City Charter then amend it to create a strong Mayor government system.

6/30/2020 3:17:50 PM

I am a US citizen that is concerned about the current state of the city of Minneapolis, and the absurd idea of removing the Police Department to replace it with some other network outside of the protections of the Minneapolis City Constitution. you don't have the right to dismantle, defund or replace the police and you know it, the Charter doesn't allow you to. you have no legal recourse to continue with that absurdity. you are deliberately putting at risk the lives of your constituents, all because you want to virtue signal, or your being threat by left win groups, or maybe you really have some sinister intentions, or perhaps you are simply stupid. There is no statistical data that even justifies trying to dismantle the Police Department, and you also know that. The police are a force for good, they safe lives daily, and trying to reduce or remove them would only put people's lives at risk, that is quite frankly grossly negligence on your part, as it presents a public safety hazard. you're approach to the matter would only create more problems than fix them, and your lack of common sense only proves that you are unfit to serve as city council members and you should immediately get replaced. you are being selfish and childish, and I am not reserving my opinions of you to myself, because you honestly don't deserve the respect of the public. the crime rate is augmenting in the inner cities were police reduction measures are being taken, which is a clear indication that reducing the police to any measure is detrimental to the safety of the general public. black lives matter and antifa should not be a driving factor to make decisions for the rest of your constituents, because at the end of the day, many of those so called activists don't even live im the local area, and if things the dangerous for the local citizens, they simply won't care, because they won't affected by it. And no calling the police in a matter of personal safety does not come from a place of privilege, its a basic human right you are denying the people from the city of Minneapolis. the increase in crime lately is a great indication that you are taking a harmful and dangerous approach, and people who lack the kind of responsibility needed to ensure the safety and peace of a community, should not be entrusted with such decisions. In addition you have been using thousands of tax payer dollars for your own private security, while attempting to leave the people of Minneapolis unprotected. non of you deserve the benefits of security and safety, if the people in your city will not be extended those same benefits. Hypocrites and traitors is what you are! another thing that is concerning is that you want to replace trained police officers with years of experience in dangerous situations, who know the community very well, with a group of inexperienced people that might walk into violent situations without a clue, putting their lives in danger as well. Sincerely your lack

of honesty, moral character, and care for the safety of the people of the city you are supposed to represent, is a testament if why we need the Charter as a protective layer against anarchy and sedition, and why we need a police force that is not governed nor controlled by the city council, but it is its own separate department.

all if you should resign immediately, and the federal and state government should file charges against you for putting politics over public safety. I would draw you a picture of what the words I wrote mean, so that you could have better comprehension of the point I am trying to convey, as by what you are proposing shows that you might not be very intellectually or cognitively aware of reality, and the harmful consequences that it could have on innocent people, and specially on the most vulnerable!

Thanks for reading my comment, and please create a conscience, if you don't have one.

Steven Lopez, a BLM protester, kills photographer who supported the movement in Louisville. Many online initially blamed the killing on a white supremacist.



What we know about Steven Lopez, the suspect in the fatal Jefferson Square Park shooting  
[courier-journal.com](http://courier-journal.com)

T-Mobile LTE 4:05 AM 8% Feed

David Harris Jr. @DavidHarrisJr 3 hrs ago • ②23k

Mayhem and Riots Last Night in Harlem as Democrat State and Local Leaders Tell NYPD to Stand Down (VIDEO)

@DavidHarrisJr 63 134 388 Show Conversation

Echoed By @carpedonktum

Matt Gaetz @RepMattGaetz 5 hrs ago • ①186k

This is the official Parler account of Congressman Matt Gaetz. Working to get

When's the two week funeral  
for these two ?



6/30/2020 3:18:29 PM

To the charter Committee members, as a resident of Minneapolis, I see a need for a police department which has dpractice corruption, not only in the past month but for many years, to be replaced buy an alternative form of Safety and violence prevention. On our upcoming fall ballot, Consider the city charter proposal Amendment To remove the police department and replace it with a community Based safety and violence prevention department

6/30/2020 3:18:52 PM

We need more Police. Enlarge the police force and maybe this unrest can be controlled. As it stands today I'm afraid to go out and it's not due to COVID it's due to the unrest. George Floyd was a criminal, stop letting him influence our city. Keep the police, hire a lot more, teach them to shoot the legs of criminals when needed. Any crime committed puts the officer in danger, let them defend themselves.

6/30/2020 3:19:00 PM

Eliminating the police force is the worst idea ever, police officers go through years of training to be able to handle many different scenarios. To remove the police force because of some bad cops is ridiculous. Now if you want to find out who is behind authorizing officers to receive warrior training and defunding the police union (which is allowing bad cops to stay on the force) you have my undivided attention

6/30/2020 3:19:54 PM

I feel that the current police dept is fundamentally broken. Police are asked to do too many things and they don't do any of it well. In some cases, they endanger the lives of our residents. The union has continually protected its officers from discipline and reform. Therefore, I think the charter amendment is an essential first step towards creating better solutions for community safety. It essential that the

amendment removes the mandated size of the police force and restructures the dept to include a multi-faceted approach. I feel less strongly about the shift of control from the mayor to the council. Our city has a weak mayor, but I am comfortable leaving the dept under the mayor's control. Nor do I feel strongly that job skills for the director should be baked into the charter.

6/30/2020 3:19:57 PM

I cannot believe you all are actually considering dismantling the police department. I hope you all get voted out. Dismantling systemic racism is what you all should focus on. I want to feel safe. So I as a resident of Minneapolis I oppose your reactionary and emotion driven change request. And I dare say I not the only one.

6/30/2020 3:20:33 PM

This is a mistake and I cannot even imagine that it has gotten to this point. I do not support removing the police force that is in place. These are trained professionals with all the experience and know how. Instead lets look at how the city of Minneapolis can step up and help the current Police force with what they need for success. Lets disband the City council and vote in people that will help the community and not throw blame to a division as a whole.

6/30/2020 3:20:58 PM

A 45 year resident of the city, I oppose this amendment as proposed.

- Authority of the mayor over the police would be diluted among 13 Council members when we need more focused accountability, not less
- A second layer of bureaucratic responsibility is established between the head of law enforcement and elected officials, again diminishing accountability for police conduct
- Odd to describe the qualifications for the new department in negative terms ("non law enforcement")
- While the amendment is presented as a way for the Council to take charge, I believe it is actually a way for members to distract and delay action on controversial reforms (such as union representation), avoid individual responsibility when it comes time for reelection, and give mere surface appearance of concern to residents who want to see real changes in police behavior.
- Instead, the city should enact reforms within the current language and our first black police chief should be looked to for operational ideas that could make a real difference in addressing community voices for change. If specific ideas with support from elected officials and the public require charter revisions, propose them at that time.
- No objection to changing the name of the police department to the Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention and incorporating allied functions
- I have no confidence in the ability of the current council as a group to manage changes needed to reduce police misconduct and restore respect in our police. They do not deserve more authority, yet are asking for a blank check. But even with a competent council, I believe the proposed changes would not be in the best interest of the city.

6/30/2020 3:21:01 PM

As a resident living in downtown Minneapolis, I fully support this change. While I do believe that sometimes armed officers are necessary, it's much, much less frequent than currently. I believe this is due to the lack of other help for "public nuisance" issues such as panhandling, public urination, or general disturbances. I believe the preponderance of police calls downtown could better be served with someone able to get people the housing and/or mental health resources they need. And since the amendment still allows for a police force, those issues that do present a real danger can be handled by the appropriate officers.

6/30/2020 3:21:06 PM

I am writing to express my support for this charter amendment. Attempts at incremental police reform have been happening as long as I've been a resident of this city, and they have accomplished nothing. I'm confident the charter commission will do the right thing and get this proposed amendment to voters quickly.

6/30/2020 3:21:19 PM

I have been apart of this city for a long time and you need to regain trust within the community with the police force. You have the right chief there, losing the police will only lose you businesses, revenue from tourism, and put people in harmful situations. The city has been in a tough situation for years, but recent crime rates have went up and violent crimes at that. Please look for a way to reform the system we have in place.

6/30/2020 3:21:28 PM

I strongly support the proposed amendment to the city charter and hope we will be given the chance to vote on it. The recent murder of George Floyd by Derek Chauvin was not the first tragedy caused by a police department that is too prone to respond to non-emergencies with violence and seems to encourage its employees to forget fundamental human empathy.

The subsequent documented use of chemical irritants and flashbang grenades on peaceful protesters showed that the the police as currently configured cannot keep themselves from harming the citizens they should be protecting, even when they know they are being filmed. What do they do to helpless people when no one can see them?

If the charter commission were to prevent the public from voting on an amendment that has the backing of a supermajority of the city council and a large number of residents, it would make many of us question how responsive the democratic process is.

6/30/2020 3:23:12 PM

I support this amendment!

6/30/2020 3:23:40 PM

What's the plan here, Lisa. You have no specifics on your shitty plan.

#DisbandCityCouncil !!!!

6/30/2020 3:23:43 PM

We definitely need the police department. I think they should have a committee made up of citizens of Minneapolis to oversee the complaints made against the police. It should be residents of different ethnic backgrounds and different areas of the city.

6/30/2020 3:24:01 PM

I am writing to fully support the charter amendment. I support the amendment because I hope the with committed ongoing conversations and actions from council members with communities we can transform public safety for residents of Minneapolis. I want the council to redirect MPD funds to social service and other existing and new organizations to meet the safety needs of residents more effectively and compassionately. Mental health, domestic violence, vagrancy, drug possession, minor crimes, and many other things would be better handled by non-police entities that have more appropriate training for those issues. I do not want senior MPD officials to remain in a small police force or moved to other functions. I do not trust any MPD, but especially senior force members to respect community and have our best interests at heart. They have shown that over and over again. I want them to be retrained for non-police employment opportunities, and not hired by unsuspecting jurisdictions. MPD is broken fundamentally, and the failure of reforms and leadership make that case for itself. Abolition is comforting and hopeful, not scary.

6/30/2020 3:24:13 PM

you have lost your mind if you get rid of the police department if this is done I will no longer shop or eat at a restaurant in your are there are no public people I trust so if you want to destroy your businesses just keep up the horrible job you are doing

6/30/2020 3:24:27 PM

This has got to be a joke!

6/30/2020 3:25:01 PM

Thank you for your service to the City of Minneapolis will all of it's beauties as well as deep challenges.

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.

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. The World is watching. Lives are at stake.

6/30/2020 3:25:24 PM

Lisa Bender and the other city council members are the dumber than Trump. Fuck them all!

6/30/2020 3:26:12 PM

Thank you.

6/30/2020 3:26:24 PM

This proposal is a horrible idea without any specifics. Minneapolis city council is embarrassing themselves.

6/30/2020 3:26:30 PM

Not sure how you don't have a police department. At the end of the day the officers have to go home. Their safety is #1. Yes, improve training, holds, but generally there are very few bad cops.

I would never live or travel to Minneapolis without having a police presence.

6/30/2020 3:26:32 PM

Does it make sense to ask the public to vote just four months from now? Community safety is complex and fundamental to the organization of a city. No substantial alternative to current structures have been presented. Costs, funding, and relationship to other entities (such as Hennepin County) have not been identified.

6/30/2020 3:26:54 PM

This is hasty. A few days or a week of public comment is not nearly enough time to discuss the issues. This is being rammed through. No specifics have been made public and we - the taxpayers of Minneapolis - have been given no idea what the proposed system of public safety will cost.

This might be more appropriate for the 2021 municipal election. Let us decide the fate of both the police and city leaders at the same time!

6/30/2020 3:27:07 PM

I support the amendment, although I think it should make less room for police in the new department. Cops have been killing Black and Indigenous people in Minneapolis for more than a century and a half. We don't need a gentle transition away from this legacy, we need immediate relief from MPD's terror. We need safe, plentiful public housing, we need to stop the privatization of public housing, and we need schools that don't traumatize their students! Build homes not jails!

6/30/2020 3:27:25 PM

I disagree with this amendment. Do not disband the police or try to restructure from the top down. Changing it at this time without having a firm plan on how we will address changes isn't a good idea.

In fact we need to increase the police force so that there is less pressure on each individual officer. This will allow more police to interact with the community and thus improve the relations with the police. Also by supporting the police we will foster better officers to stay and make it easier to remove bad ones.

6/30/2020 3:27:31 PM

Getting rid of the police dept. Is dumb. I already feel scared when visiting, without a strong police dept. No body in their right mind will feel safe there. And, what happens when the insurance companies raise the rates because you no longer have a strong police dept?

6/30/2020 3:27:52 PM

No less than complete abolition.

6/30/2020 3:27:54 PM

As a lifetime resident of the City of Minneapolis i have to say this amendment cannot be allowed to go any farther. This is pure knee jerk reaction and a bunch of buzzwords. There is no real plan in place to implement the idea they have. there is no real means to do any of this. this is just a re-naming of what we have and hoping everyone will forget about it. The issues with the police force in Minneapolis need to be fixed within the structure that exists.

This city needs actual strong leadership, something we haven't had for as far back as i remember. Leadership that steps up when it the hardest. Not what i saw last month, our mayor crying while my city burned. A mayor begging for the national guard but having no plan to use them.

I agree that we as residents need more mental health training for our officers, more people that are not always armed that respond to certain calls, more training for our 911 system to triage these calls. but to just rename to MPD to something new and hope that appeases everyone? This will put us right back here in a few years. And unless the plan is a big secret that is all this looks like to me. But how would anyone know since the mayor and city council are refusing to reply to calls, emails, and questions asked

in person by the citizens. and for the record i have tried contacting my CM Cam Gordon on the Nextdoor app, Facebook, and through email with no reply.

This amendment is nothing more than lip service to the public. This will put us back on fire in a few years. This will, in the long run, cripple the City of Minneapolis as residents leave, businesses leave, convention and major sporting events leave.

This cannot be allowed to happen.

Please feel free to contact me

6/30/2020 3:28:13 PM

I will not visit nor go anywhere in Minneapolis if this passes. police are very important to our safety. I'm a mother of 4 children and travel frequently to Minneapolis for hockey and dance competitions from Northern Minnesota. I need to feel safe when traveling with my children. Lately you crime has gone up just with the rioting and such. This does not make Minnesota feel very safe.

6/30/2020 3:28:17 PM

We need a Police Department. In fact we need more police officers. This proposed amendment is a knee jerk reaction, from the city counsel. A large portion of my property taxes fund the police department and I'm happy to pay for the service.

It's the city counsel that needs to be looked at with a fine tooth comb. How dare they try to remove the police department from the charter and hire them to protect themselves! Are the threats being investigated? For all the money paid for the service, I would hope so.

6/30/2020 3:28:19 PM

Minneapolis wants and need thoughtful leadership, to move forward with this proposal without an actual plan is incompetent. I most certainly agree that changes need to made within the police department but to move toward elimination is irresponsible and lead me to believe that this group of council people are disconnected with what's going on in North Minneapolis or just don't give a damn. I would hope and pray that the charter commission will show the much needed leadership on this issue and reject this proposal. Our community has been put at risk while they try and figure things out. I also believe that we can't resolve an issue by simply trying to make it go away. I ask that you do The Right Thing!

6/30/2020 3:28:36 PM

WE NEED OUR POLICE DEPARTMENTS....ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY OF SAFETY & VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEPARTMENT IS NOT THE WAY TO SOLVE YOUR PROBLEM...I DON'T AGREE WITH IT AND DO NOT SUPPORT IT...

6/30/2020 3:29:12 PM

There needs to be an addition to the community of safety and violence that they must follow the laws of MN. The union will simply work over the years for immunity for the new charter. A Good incentive to stop hurting people is jail time for violators.

6/30/2020 3:30:08 PM

As many large cities who reduce funding or seek to transform policing are showing, the progressive-sponsored charter in Mpls is going to have serious ramifications for the lives of the citizenry in our city. The following facts are undeniable:

1. The people do not support a reduction in funding for law enforcement, despite the fact that some reforms are needed.
2. Violent crime is already skyrocketing, here in Mpls and in many other cities.
3. An anarchic mentality is in dramatically increasing on Mpls streets, as seen in the behaviors of many who do not respect their neighbors' rights to live peacefully. This is destroying our quality of life.
4. When law enforcement is underfunded and absent, it is the vulnerable, elderly, disabled, and young that suffer. Women are put at higher risk, and criminals and violent offenders always go after those who can least defend themselves.
5. The language of "privilege" is replacing the language of "freedom" and "rights," so that when good people seek to prosper and help their neighbors, they are seen as the cause of others' suffering, while criminals are excused.
6. Most importantly, these facts are so obvious, that it is impossible to conclude that our city council members are not aware of them. They know that, despite some concerning issues in the culture of law enforcement, the real danger is not to young black citizens, but to the vulnerable, and the rights of these people to law enforcement protection will be lost.

The city council members words and behaviors have convinced me their true objectives are not to reform police-community relations. Their willingness to risk the lives of our vulnerable neighbors convinces many that it is not the health and safety of our community that they want, but rather to create crisis and suffering that can be manipulated to further their own ambitions.

Those who have resources and opportunities will leave Mpls, while the vulnerable will suffer. Our city council members, who have hired security for their own protection, understand this, and wants this. Back-and-forth dialogue with them is fruitless. Voting for more conservative city council members is mandatory.

My street address is not included, because I am genuinely concerned about retribution. Maybe this is without warrant, but we should be concerned when people perceive it to be so.

6/30/2020 3:30:23 PM

I do not believe a vote on changing the city charter should be presented until the council can fully explain their plan for safety enforcement. While I strongly want a radical change to the police department I feel it is a disservice to have people vote on something the city council has yet to figure out. I've read a different answer from each council member in explaining the changes. These types of radical changes are best done by building a consensus around a thought out plan. I feel the city council is just trying to score political points in an election year instead of listening to the community they are supposed to represent. It is reckless and worse yet it could possibly harm the very community you are wishing to help

6/30/2020 3:30:30 PM

Things absolutely need to change in the department but getting rid of them all together is ridiculous. You are putting the cart before the horse. Have you seen what is happening since even the thought of no Police department was mentioned? I have lived in Mpls my entire life and dont want to leave but you will force me a thousands of others to do just that.

6/30/2020 3:30:54 PM

We need some form of police force, not to just disband the entire force altogether.

6/30/2020 3:31:19 PM

Please remove the knee jerk emotion to the recent tragedy and seek solutions to protect all parties, businesses, and government property. If you move forward with this I will not be bringing my family downtown for events or dining. Hard times like this call for strong leadership. Please take on this burden or remove yourself from the conversation.

6/30/2020 3:33:40 PM

I fully support this measure and believe we should see it on the ballot in November. Thank you!

6/30/2020 3:33:52 PM

I was born in Blaine, MN and moved to the "exciting, big city(a.k.a.MPLS) when I was 17. I ABSOLUTELY loved it. Had only positive encounters w/police(Black AND White.) I feel strongly that every city needs Police, Fire, Hospital

6/30/2020 3:34:04 PM

I was born in Blaine, MN and moved to the "exciting, big city(a.k.a.MPLS) when I was 17. I ABSOLUTELY loved it. Had only positive encounters w/police(Black AND White.) I feel strongly that every city needs Police, Fire, Hospital

6/30/2020 3:34:11 PM

Keep the police-train them better.

Keep them 2 years on the street

one year inside so they have chance to

not to deal with the bad things at all times.

6/30/2020 3:34:13 PM

MORE ON WHY THEY SHOULD NOT CHANGE THE CHARTER NOW:

1. AGAIN, There is no plan to replace the current police department
2. A disproportionately white population of folks who don't live in North Minneapolis, (and never would) and non-Northsiders are behind dismantling the police. Most African American folks I know demand that the police radically transform by any means necessary but we don't want announcements about getting rid of the police now. Our children are being shot and killed on our streets. Protecting them is our #1 priority– Not politics!
3. The City Council's announcement that it plans on dismantling the police is immature, premature and dangerous. We are in the middle of the greatest crime and violence spree in our neighborhood since 1996 when Mpls was dubbed 'Murderapolis.' Now is not the time to tell those committing unchecked violence daily that we are getting rid of the police. This has become a license to kill and shoot.
4. Under the new charter the new 'department of safety,' would report to 14- Council people who are responsible for different parts of the city that have different needs. Currently the police are held accountable by the Mayor and Police Chief. 14 bosses are too much!
5. We haven't fully supported nor given a real chance to the first African American police chief, Arradondo. He has already stepped up and refused to negotiate with the police union– something which no other chief has done before.
6. The timing on this is just bad. Let's get a plan and possibly put something on the ballot next year. Not now.

6/30/2020 3:34:16 PM

I am against this proposal as there are lots of good cops out there who treat people of all races with respect

6/30/2020 3:34:56 PM

I go to Minneapolis to see Twins and Vikings games and shows at First Avenue.

If there is not a SERIOUS police presence, I will not be going to these events.

That means no JD Hoyts or Bunkers after the games or to O'Donavan's for a drink before shows at First Avenue.

I will be contacting these businesses.

6/30/2020 3:35:16 PM

The proposal is too vague to even vote on. Who is in charge of the remaining police? What proportion of money goes to police alternatives? Violence in the city is spiking and we don't even know what the replacement is. I'm 100% for police reform and defunding the police, provided there is some plan in place for a replacement. To date, I've seen nothing even remotely concrete. If this came to vote as is, I might have to vote "no," on the charter amendment, even though I want reform.

6/30/2020 3:35:22 PM

I believe the city council will do everything in their power to turn Minneapolis into a third world country! We need to defund/disband the city council of which none of them have the experience needed to make decisions on a 1.6 billion dollar budget!!! 95% of school kids want a police presence at the school. Taking police out of schools will stop school shootings...Morons!



6/30/2020 3:36:25 PM

I already dont feel safe in Minneapolis. Last year you had gangs of kids beating people up and stealing phone. I will never come back if the police are defunded. We will spend our money in the suburbs

6/30/2020 3:36:34 PM

I was born and raised in MN. I am 56. I am proud that we disban the police. They've ruined many lives with their inflated ego's, lying on police reports and in court! Yes, we need to have laws upheld, but, this includes EVERYONE. You can't have separate laws for some like police. ALL must abide or why have them at all? Police have terrorized communities, committed acts of violence against communities across this nation including MURDER and RAPE ... and then gotten away with it, REPEATEDLY. Every one of the reports filed against police should be investigated so the can be held accountable for their crimes.

6/30/2020 3:36:43 PM

I am heartily in favor of this proposed amendment to City Charter except for "(b) Division of Law Enforcement Services. The Council may maintain a division of law enforcement services, ". I believe that some level, albeit much smaller than what it currently is, of law enforcement is essential to the safety of the Twin Cities community, especially in Minneapolis. There are people in our society who are dangerous to the health and well being of the majority of citizens and there are times when trained law enforcement are needed to stop the damage they are creating.

6/30/2020 3:37:03 PM

IM GONNA START SELLING CRACK AND HEROIN OUTSIDE LISA BENDERS HOUSE SINCE I KNOW THERE WON'T BE ANY COPS AND HER NEIGHBORS ARE TOO PRIVILEGED TO CALL 911

HAHAHAHAHAHAHA WHAT A DUMB BITCH

6/30/2020 3:37:16 PM

Clearly, as the past decades have shown, attempts at reform of the police department will only have minimal and temporary impact. So we applaud the city council for attempting deep structural change and we strongly urge them to continue forward. While we are fully aware that these changes will require sacrifice and commitment on behalf of all of us, these changes are long overdue and further procrastination will only exacerbate the problem. It's long past time that the city of Minneapolis and its citizens regain control of the people it hires to serve and protect.

6/30/2020 3:38:15 PM

I do hope that you make every effort possible to implement a public safety plan that is not a gang of militant thugs. Public safety should be in the hands of the people. It should be accountable, local, and community driven. Do all in your power to make Minneapolis an example for the rest of the world. We

can make our mark on the future if we decide as a city to leave behind the racist and outmoded institution that is policing.

6/30/2020 3:39:25 PM

I think this is a great idea. Not only have the police been shown to exhibit racial biases time and time again, we as a society ask far too much from them. I am 100% in favor of the removal of the police department and the establishment of a more community-centered organization for the betterment of Minneapolis and the safety of its residents. It should NOT have taken the death of an innocent man for this to be taken into consideration, but we have an incredible opportunity to pioneer a system (no offense to Cambridge, NJ) that could be used as a model for other cities around the country and indeed in other parts of the world. It is very clear that an institution so incredibly racist such as the MPD cannot be changed and thus the best path forward seems to be a new organization built from the ground up with safety and support in mind. We can't undo the hurt that has been brought upon our residents, especially disproportionately to residents that are also people of color, but we can ensure that going forward, Minneapolis will be a safe place for all, ensuring that no one fears for their life simply due to the color of their skin.

6/30/2020 3:39:44 PM

First: There should be no charter amendment vote until there is a plan! Otherwise voters are being asked to vote on a pig in a poke, sight unseen. Betting our safety on the city council's ability to dream up an alternative solution to a problem virtually no city in the nation (world?) has been able to solve is absurd.

Second: Such a risky move should not be made without first exhausting other solutions. The City Council claims it has done so, but it has not. It has not supported reforms requested by our excellent police chief. It has not beaten a path to the legislature to ask for reforms. "First do no harm."

Third: The assumption underlying the "defunding" of the police dept is, in effect, that there is no — or at least very little — evil in the world that we can't "social work" our way out of. No; that is either an infantile or a disingenuous proposal. There are and always have been bad people, and it is the fundamental responsibility of government to protect society from them.

Fourth: This is a particularly dangerous time in history to be entertaining a proposal that even hints of risking public safety. The man in the White House and his followers are actively fanning the flames of discord, no doubt hoping for a civil war to save his presidency. The pandemic has frightened people. We live in a hair-trigger environment that bad people, sensing confusion and lack of trust in government, can take advantage of.

Fifth: It is irresponsible to have the police reporting to 13 or 14 people — who are, historically, in perpetual disagreement with each other. No one would be in charge of public safety.

Six: I hope the Charter Commissioners recognize this proposal for what it really is, at least in the minds of some City Council members: a power grab. It would further weaken our weak-mayor system, making the City Council president the only true political power in the city.

Seven: Instead of an amendment to put the MPD/Public safety under the City Council, we should be looking at a charter change that would reshape our municipal government as a strong-mayor system. That would help give greater direction and order to our city, eliminate at least some of its proclivity toward dysfunction.

6/30/2020 3:39:49 PM

My fiance works in Minneapolis, as well as many other family members. They are worried about going to work and I am worried about their safety. As a social worker, I could not imagine not having the police to call to help with mental health calls and child protection calls. Us social workers did not get any training in school to do the jobs of police officers. If the police department is replaced with other people (whoever they may be) the possibility that these individuals will freeze, flight or fight in dangerous situations is very risky. they are not trained like police officers. This is a scary thought. The city is an uncertain place. Even though the police are not removed from the city. There are citizens that act like they are and think they can do whatever they want. My sister in law lives right next to where there was the shooting in uptown where 11 people were injured and 1 person died. She is trying to get enough money to move out even though her job is there. She feels like the city doesn't care about her safety. Please DO NOT get rid of the police department. The cities around Minneapolis need them too. We will be moving out of Andover if Minneapolis dismantles their police department due to Andover being too close to the unsafe area.

6/30/2020 3:40:18 PM

Dear Charter Commissioners,

You have a big job ahead--one that will change the course of history. Luckily, all you have to do is approve the language for the ballot and the rest is up to us! I've had to educate myself on this commission since the start of the discussion about defunding/abolishing the police dept and I've heard several times that your commission is the place big ideas die. I hope that's not the case, but if it is, I challenge you to change that perception.

None of us know exactly what the future of policing looks like. We're all following the lead of organizations and folk that have been doing the hard work for way too long. I hope that you'll also do your homework and understand that this is not a rash decision or one that's not been around for many, many, many years. I hope you listen to the voices of those most affected by police violence, mostly BIPOC and trans folk who are disproportionately affected by the state of our police.

Mostly, I want you to give the power back to the people. You are not elected, you are appointed. Which means you don't formally represent us nor should you. Our voices should be our own and the future of our police in minneapolis should be ours to evaluate and change. This ballot measure is the first step. A step we need to take and one I hope you are on the right side of history on. Thank you for your work and please do the right thing and vote to put this measure on the ballot in November.

6/30/2020 3:40:34 PM

I would like the police department disbanded because they are not the appropriate department to respond to 90% of 911 calls and they have proven to be a danger to my community.

We need to start fresh with a new peace force where necessary and social workers, etc where necessary.

Thank you

6/30/2020 3:40:42 PM

I feel law and order with properly trained police is needed. Maybe the focus should be on the union which has allowed some of these police to keep their jobs? I'm not sure but iam against removing the PD. Build them up, re train and more frequent re training or keeping current

6/30/2020 3:41:33 PM

I support this amendment. I believe the MPD should be abolished and replaced by another department.

6/30/2020 3:41:50 PM

What a bunch of stupid mindless spoiled idiots. Oh but you morons think you need to have protection. What a double standard. I pray you will get your just deserves. IDIOT LOSERS!

6/30/2020 3:41:52 PM

I absolutely support the necessity to change the culture and function of the MPD. However, this amendment, in my opinion, is very premature and does not reflect any community wide discussion and/or study of necessary changes and how to achieve those outcomes. To abolish the MPD may be one of many options generated by community wide discussions/study but to propose that as the correct option with this amendment is extremely myopic.

6/30/2020 3:43:26 PM

This is absolutely absurd. Instead of being open to any kind of police reform, you abandon the police? Have you seen the statistics of crime increase from the other cities who did this? You will have people, including me, flee from this city. We cannot live without law and order. The police get such a bad rap when less than one-tenth of a percent is a problem. Throw out the baby with the bathwater. These guys are heroes putting on their uniforms daily and putting their lives on the line for a lame salary. Why don't you increase their pay, increase their training, and allow them to do their job? When one bad incident happens it doesn't mean you stop law enforcement. This city is going to turn into Chicago statistics by the increase. The police have done so many incredible things for our city. And you give them a slap in the face. Who are you,, as a committee, behind closed doors, not considering public safety of your citizens, to make such an asinine decision. Absolutely nuts!!!! let's vote you out.

6/30/2020 3:43:30 PM

I support the amendment on public safety.

6/30/2020 3:43:32 PM

I support the amendment to the city charter. The MPD is not able to protect public safety in this city.

6/30/2020 3:43:35 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

Please reject adding this to the ballot. We were promised community discussions and this is not happening, we have a council that has not done their job at protecting the community and we now have over 190 people shot this year. While reform is very important we can not put the city's safety at jeopardy especially on a plan that has not been discussed, researched, or negotiated with the various communities.

Force the council to do their job properly and get community support for any reform or replacement of our public safety, it's just not worth rolling the dice!

Thank you

6/30/2020 3:44:11 PM

I am excited to see what change brings. The current system of policing is unsustainable. I am a white, middle aged woman living in Bloomington and teaching middle school ELA in Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 3:45:38 PM

I agree that funding for mental health, homelessness and non violent calls should be increased. However, I am concerned about details regarding responses to violent calls such as those involving weapons and assault on life and property. There should be careful consideration of how many "police" officers (or whatever that contingency will be named) will be "left over" to handle the violent calls. If one uses statistics from past months, those may not be reflective of the current climate of uncertainty and unrest. The uncontrolled looting and rioting that left our beloved city in ruins and us residents of South Minneapolis vulnerable and terrorized MUST NOT be allowed to happen again. I fear that outsiders may again descend on our city once the "police" force is "right sized" to take advantage of any chaos (in addition to local organized crime gangs, etc) that may well be an unintended consequence if it is not managed and considered very carefully.

6/30/2020 3:47:43 PM

Dismantle the police is the dumbest idea there is, who is going to save the people who are being attacked, shot and assulted. You do notice that Minneapolis city council members have private security, you won't be safe but they will. Keep listening to the dumbocrats. They f\_\_k up every thing.

6/30/2020 3:47:46 PM

I support this amendment to the City Charter to be referred to voters in November, to create a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police Department from the Charter.

6/30/2020 3:48:18 PM

The recent string of violence is a perfect example of how and why the police have failed and continue to fail to keep us safe in our neighborhoods. This is a gross waste of tax dollars that could be used to build our communities up.

We are less safe with police present.

6/30/2020 3:48:33 PM

I write to voice my unequivocal opposition to the proposal to fast-track the charter amendment process in order to eliminate the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD). While I believe the MPD needs radical reform, I have much greater confidence in Chief Arradondo and his leadership than with the current Minneapolis City Council who would move to eliminate the MPD without any discussion or clear idea of what would replace it. One fundamental responsibility of government is to protect the well-being of its citizens. The City Council has clearly abrogated their responsibility in this domain.

I urge you, as City Charter Commissioners, to reject this radical move until such time those advocating for it can articulate what exactly their vision is. That is the least the citizens of Minneapolis deserve.

6/30/2020 3:48:40 PM

I just want to go on record that I am OPPOSED to the idea of disbanding the MPD. I am in favor fully of reform and changing policing practices, and believe that there is a need to lessen the grip of the union so that officers can be appropriately disciplined when necessary. "Bad Cops" must be dealt with... and good cops must be equipped, supported and kept accountable to do the jobs they've been hired to do.

History points out that when you remove something, a vacuum is created, and the most powerful force enters the vacuum... the process that is afoot risks creating greater instability. Please no I see no good path for disbanding the police department. Is there room for a different approach to dealing with certain types of calls? Of course. But, keep the police, and allow Chief Arrodondo to make the changes that are necessary.

Thank you.

6/30/2020 3:49:34 PM

I am writing to inform you of my dismay as a constituent of the 11th Ward of how the 'Dismantle the MPD' initiative has been handled. I do not believe MPD should be eliminated.

This City Council has appeared to pander to the media and listen to only one group; not all constituents, which is what the job entails and for what my taxes pay.

I believe their actions and planned actions are and will cause grave consequences to the businesses and safety of the residents of this city.

I believe that the Proposed Charter amendment related to community safety and violence prevention should be something that is discussed with the community and voted on by the community before the City Council removes the Police Department as a Charter Department, Article VII and Article VIII.

If you are planning to have year-long community engagement and input in this process, then why do we need to make this change now?

The City Council does not need more power over this process, especially since they do not include the community they serve in the process.

The recent acts of Council Members have made me lose trust in these city leaders. Based on how this situation has been handled, it appears the agenda is not about color of skin or equality, it is about the agendas and political pursuits of the City Council. If past behavior is any sign of the future, then I will make my voice heard at the polls when the time comes.

I am 59 years old, grew up on the North side and have lived here all my life. I am very heartbroken to see city be allowed to burn and be destroyed like this.

6/30/2020 3:50:02 PM

I am a twelve year resident of the Phillips Neighborhood. I love this neighborhood, Minneapolis, and my neighbors. My wife and I are active, engaged community members who have chosen to raise our children here. In the past weeks I have joined protests, cleaned up looted streets and businesses, actively rallied our neighbors together as we faced violence and chaos, and stood behind community members and business owners to protect our corner store, the only source of food for neighbors for several days during the riots. I am deeply grieved by the murder of George Floyd on top of years of police bias, wartime mentality, corruption and overall lack of police accountability that has lead to the harm of my neighbors and community. I have wept over the lives impacted by the destruction of small businesses, clinics, housing, and food supply for our community.

Things must change. In particular, the power of the police union should be further limited. Qualified immunity leaves "bad eggs" in power for years after abusing residents and furthering toxic police culture. Deeper relationships with the community MUST be developed.

However, I am deeply concerned with the proposal put forward by the City Council to remove the police dept from the city charter. Minneapolis is no stranger to violence, both outside forces of oppression and chaos from within.

Our city needs a better police force that is accountable for its actions. We do not need a power vacuum that will exacerbate an already growing problem.

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

The proposal lacks any sort of actual plan. We want change. Why not create a plan of what actually would replace the police dept, and allow residents to vote on something concrete? Instead this proposal gives the city council a blank check to do whatever they would like. What reason do we have to trust the council to create a plan we trust and approve? If they have a plan residents approve of, why not allow us to vote on that? Why not use the coming months to get feedback from residents, and shape a concrete proposal? This current proposal lacks transparency and clarity while holding the power to drastically alter our city for decades to come. Why rush such a seismic change?

We have a police chief who knows the city, knows the police dept, and is committed to change. Why would the city council and mayor not instead rally behind the police to bring about change rather than burning it all down instead? Would the council rather metaphorically spray paint "ACAB" on our city charter?

It is easy to tear something down. Destruction is within the power of anyone with a hammer and gas mask. Building something worthwhile requires patience, discipline, a close eye on reality, and commitment. Our city has experienced enough destruction in the past month. We need our leaders to build our future with vision, precision, and accountability. This proposal lacks all three.

We are faced with problems created by those with power using it violently against our community without accountability. The City Council's response apparently is to give themselves more power with less accountability, with the assumption that violence is not an issue in our community. The fallout of this approach will be predictably devastating to those most vulnerable in our city. We must do better.

Sincerely,

Minneapolis Resident and homeowner.

6/30/2020 3:50:36 PM

The MPD presents a classic 'Principle-agent problem:' The MPD is not responsive to the community it serves or the public officials charged with overseeing the department. Officer Bob Kroll and the police union have made concerted efforts over many years and through several police chiefs, mayors, and city council members to thwart all meaningful oversight and reforms. They firmly believe that no one can tell them what to do or how to do it. It may be the case that there are only a few "bad apples" among the 800 police officers, but Kroll and the union have made it impossible to separate the bad apples from the good. Therefore, to address this principle-agent problem, the MPD must be disbanded.

Concurrently, a new public safety organization must be established, which would include the reconstitution of a new police department with a limited scope of responsibilities. It is critical that this new public safety organization be structured such that the same principle-agent problem cannot reoccur. Elected officials, including the mayor and the city council, must have absolute authority to oversee the organization.

6/30/2020 3:50:46 PM

I am a victim of false arrest and police brutality. (One dirty cop) I also live in the community real estate agents refer to as "highest crime relative to Hennepin County" I have been the victim of at least 25 crimes in my community - all young Black men. I have needed police and they have been there. Our city has headed in the direction of soft on crime and this isn't at all helpful (abolishing and defunding police). My home was broken into by a young Black man while I was sleeping. He was released and pounding on my door the next day (I never met this person, I did not know him). As he continued to terrorize me, the case was dismissed, he was not charged. This person was from Chicago. How are community programs supposed to help residents of Minneapolis with criminals from Chicago coming to take advantage of soft- on- crime Minneapolis? The City Council needs to support police (why wasn't the Chief given the additional officers he requested?) The City Investigative, Internal Affairs, and Civil Rights Commissions need overhauling, not the police. The Police Department has been trying to establish community relations. I have been to events -coffee with police, National Night Out, Picnics and open houses at my Precinct... My neighbor, a Black woman, knew G. Floyd and former officer D. Chauvin from their former place of employment. She thinks the incident was personal. G. Floyd's brother stated that the incident was personal. White officers, a Black officer, an Asian officer... what proof is there that this was a racial incident? It was a horrific display of inhumanity, but that wasn't why our city was partly destroyed. Certainly reform and revision is necessary (and has been for a while). Training, use of force, accountability, qualified immunity -all need looking into. But City Council members who demand Police protection for themselves should not be messing around with Police protection for the citizens of Minneapolis. I have been satisfied, for the most part, with our precinct police both personally and with my business (noting room for improvement). And victims of crime aren't coming from "a place of privilege" as our Council President stated on national TV (made Minneapolis laughable to much of the rest of the country). Victims of crime need police. And I do not trust social workers handling vicious, violent, drugged persons that their own relatives can't even handle (I am not a trained officer, but I have been in a position with these mentally altered persons where I feared for my life). Reminder: hard core criminals are coming from Chicago to take advantage of soft-on-crime Minneapolis. Please continue to provide Minneapolis citizens with a crime fighting Police Department that protects the citizens and their property while respecting those citizens they are protecting. Please install enforcement of nuisance crimes, gateways to harder criminal activity. What does unicorn and rainbow thinking get us? Look at Lake Street. Thank You.

6/30/2020 3:50:52 PM

I am in support of this proposed amendment and would vote for it if it ends up on the ballot. As the city continues to make changes to move away from policing as we operate today, towards a future of true public safety I hope you consider several concerns both in this charter and in the implementation of the new department. You state that the department will be adequately funded - please further define what adequate funding means. In the prior language around the police department there are very specific metrics about law enforcement staffing, and I would encourage the council to be clear about what adequate funding would look like to ensure this department is funded. I also strongly recommend the council continue to work closely with advocates on their vision for safety in our city. We need a clear and bold vision about how any new department charged with public safety will not continue to perpetuate the same harm to black and brown communities. We also know that divestment from a police department is not enough - we must increase public support in housing, education, family

support, employment etc. We will not see the transformative change we hope to see in our city unless we are investing in the people in our city in a much broader way.

6/30/2020 3:51:20 PM

I support amending the city charter to abolish the Minneapolis Police department and move forward with creating a community safety system that values black lives and accountability, and eschews violence.

6/30/2020 3:51:23 PM

I support a foundational and sincere change to how policing works in Minneapolis. From the top down, the current system is based in racism and perpetuates inequality and police brutality. Yes, I believe there are good cops. But when they exist in a system that protects bad cops, it makes no difference. This is absolutely unacceptable, and it simply cannot continue.

I've come to realize how many calls to the police really don't need a police response. There are mental health calls, minor disagreements with neighbors, noise and other non-violent ordinance complaints, etc. Three years ago I needed to call the police due to a violent threat I received. The threat was vague and non-imminent. They spent 20 minutes with me and offered to file a report. There was no need for them to respond. Cars and bikes are stolen in my neighborhood regularly. Occasionally there is a home robbery. Police are notified. Rarely, if ever, are suspects caught in the act.

That said, in order for this amendment to have ANY chance of success at the ballot box or the Mayor's desk, it needs more clarity and definition. People will simply not vote for this major structural change en masse without knowing what they are getting in return. I can tell you there are VERY different interpretations out there of what "defund the police" means, and the proposed amendment does not clarify the intent. Amend, defund, abolish, restructure, reform are all terms that are floating around, and there is no unified understanding of what "removal of the Police Department" means. At face value, sure, it means what it says. But replacing police with peace officers sounds like semantics. There will need to be widespread supporting documentation and absolute clarity on the ballot in order for taxpayers to support this measure. As is, you'd be asking residents to take a leap of faith with many families' safety and well-being.

I would like to see peace officers paired with social workers and EMTs. No longer should police be able to respond alone to mental health calls to 9-1-1. I support ending qualified immunity. I support officers (including peace officers) being required to report questionable, violent, or racist language and behavior. I support de-escalation being the focus of peace officers' training. I support a mandatory percentage of peace officers being required to live within metro limits, so as to build relationships with the population they serve.

I strongly believe that specific department structure and responses need to be outlined. But scenarios MUST be addressed in order to make this happen. Do we plan to send peace officers to an active mass shooting scenario? Is SWAT maintained, or any sort of crisis team? I believe in and support fundamental restructuring, but there ARE times when force will be needed, and people will need to hear specifics about what a Peace Officer's role will be, and whom they collaborate with in order to respond to such a wide range of social situations. Finally, a timeline needs to be addressed. The increase in shootings and violence we've seen in the past two weeks is due to people thinking this change happened overnight. It

needs to be crystal clear to voters what the timeline for this transition would look like. I assume years, not months or weeks. People need to understand that in order for this to have any hope of passing.

Thank you

6/30/2020 3:52:16 PM

I've lived in a suburb of mpls my whole life. If the police are abolished, I will never come to mpls again and I will advise others, especially those with children to do the same. This concept doesn't even seem real. It will result in total chaos and lawlessness. I'm an ex con so I understand the criminal mind. It will not go well if the police are abolished for law abiding citizens just trying to live peaceful lives.

6/30/2020 3:53:19 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to urge you to approve placing on the ballot this November an amendment to the city charter adding a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and removing the Police Department from the city charter.

Whatever our race, religion, gender, or zip code, we all want our families to be whole and be free to move through our communities without fearing for our lives or our loved ones. But time and time again we have witnessed the brutality that the Minneapolis Police Department has committed against Black, brown, Indigenous, and white people. When faced with the clear evidence of their brutality, they dole out lies and distractions, which too often go unexamined and unchallenged by those with the power to end this brutality and aggression. We are coming together from all parts of the city to demand that our neighborhoods be safe for every one of us, and that the resources we contribute to the city be used to create services that make us healthy and whole, not kill us. The city council has voted unanimously to refer this amendment to you - I urge you to follow their lead and place this amendment on the ballot this November. The people of Minneapolis deserve to vote on this urgent issue now.

6/30/2020 3:53:28 PM

I fully support the Charter Amendment to remove the Police Department and establish a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. The main reason for my support is that, quite frankly, I don't feel like I can use or recommend anyone else use the police as a resource. I'm a young, middle-class white woman living in South Minneapolis, demographic information I share because it means that I am not in the populations disproportionately affected by the failures of the Minneapolis policing system. Yet, I would not call them.

It's unclear to me what benefit comes from having the Minneapolis police. Setting aside, for a moment, the evidence of their extreme bias and toxic work culture, on a purely "job evaluation" level they seem to serve little purpose. If it's for a break-in or a robbery, then the police aren't preventative. They are simply responding after the fact, and in my experience are not very helpful in ensuring that future crimes won't occur or that lost property is recovered. It would be far more valuable for us to put resources towards addressing the causes of crime in the first place. Furthermore, police have proven themselves poorly equipped to support someone who has experienced an assault (sexual or physical),

mental health emergency, or drug emergency. Their most successful role seems to be in traffic control, a job that can be largely done using technology.

That lack of value alone is reason for this charter amendment, but in addition to that the Minneapolis police system has proven itself committed to supporting brutality and racism in such a way that all past efforts to reform, retrain, or reimagine their role have failed spectacularly. We find ourselves with a structure that allows abuse to flourish and destroys any efforts by individual officers to be effective community resources.

What is the point of having the police if they are at best ineffective and at worst actively harmful to our city? At residents of this city, we deserve to vote for a better system.

I look forward to voting on this issue, and appreciate the work of the City Council and Charter Commission to put this on the ballot.

6/30/2020 3:54:38 PM

I think dismantling the police department is a stupid idea.... You think you have problems now?? Just wait until there are no police

6/30/2020 3:54:53 PM

The police force is not equipped to handle the diversity of emergencies required of them and I look forward to a transformative model to cultivate safety. One where experts respond to emergencies they are specifically trained to manage, without a violent and traumatic outcome. Covert and overt racism is rampant among officers and even the cops that want to be better aren't speaking out and condemning or stopping their colleagues. Moreover, the union has made it nearly impossible to hold cops accountable. I'm white and have few to zero negative interactions with cops, but a police force that doesn't serve everyone and keep everyone safe is not a police force I want for my community. Just because it's the way it's always been does not mean it's the way it has to be. Let's think big and be bold. Let's work to ensure the new model is not built upon the racist foundations that the MPD was built upon. Thank you.

6/30/2020 3:54:56 PM

I fully oppose this proposed amendment. The police department funding should be increased and made stronger rather than its elimination. The city needs a strong "POLICE" department to combat the increase in crime and fear in the city. The city residents (my wife and myself) are more fearful now of the safety in the city, and this proposed amendment won't do anything to alleviate that fear or provide increased safety.

Please remove this proposed amendment and spend your efforts to increase the effectiveness and funding of the "POLICE" department instead.

6/30/2020 3:55:23 PM

I want to see a proposal that provides for very significant reform in the police department but does NOT remove the requirement for police from the city charter. We need another option. The city council is not doing its job if the only option citizens are being presented with is to eliminate the police dept. I'd like the council to go back to work and come up with a better option. We do need change, but as the old saying goes, "don't throw the baby out with the bath water,"

6/30/2020 3:56:01 PM

I support the proposed charter amendment to reorganize our city's public safety institutions. Big government in the form of the police has been denying basic freedoms to many citizens, particularly people of color and indigenous people. Atrocities such as George Floyd's murder do not occur in a vacuum. Black and brown folks have been experiencing everyday infringements since the police department's inception. The existing department has proved immune to reforms, despite the best efforts of good people including Chief Arradondo. This amendment brings hope of establishing public safety institutions that are fundamentally dedicated to preserving liberty and upholding humanity for everyone.

6/30/2020 3:56:05 PM

To whom it may concern, Minneapolis City Charter Commission:

As a resident, taxpayer, and investor in the City of Minneapolis, I strongly plead you to vote no (oppose) to defunding the Minneapolis Police Department and changing the Minneapolis City Charter to remove the nomenclature, functions, and requirements of the "Police" department. Police reform is appropriate, whole-sale public safety changes should not be made quickly without due process. I have compiled my brief plea below, given only one hour to submit my comments on the matter.

No Plan in Place, Moving Too Quickly for Public Process. The Minneapolis City Council does not have a solid plan in place to so-called "defund the police" or even change the City Charter. Changes to public safety should be carefully planned with vast amounts of community input and expertise – anything short of that is irresponsible. We should not move forward with any changes to public safety(not even changes to the Charter) until we have a well-vetted, community-supported,or even Mayor-supported plan. There has not been enough time to submit comments for this milestone on such an important issue. With continued unrest and division in our great City, this is not the time to make such drastic changes quickly and without proper process. This affects all residents of the City, and should NOT be made based on voices of a few (as is happening right now).

No Public-Funded Private Security for Council Members. It is not appropriate for Minneapolis City Council members to have private security funded by City of Minneapolis taxpayers. The Council is not above its constituents and should not receive special security detail outside the protection of the Minneapolis Police Department that they want to defund. This is hypocritical, and furthers their agenda to defund the police department.

As a resident of the Howe neighborhood, the past few months have greatly affected our family. During the riots we felt unsafe in our own home. Defunding the Police Department and changing the City Charter is the wrong move for the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, and the State of Minnesota.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Resident of 3rd Precinct

Minneapolis, MN 55406

6/30/2020 3:56:20 PM

Please keep the police force funded as-is. Additional training and reform should be considered and installed as needed. Funding of the police is critical to the safety of our schools, children, businesses and the the community as a whole. Even "victimless" crimes have victims.

6/30/2020 3:57:37 PM

The property damage in Minneapolis should not be the responsibility of other MN taxpayers. Jacob Frey & the Minneapolis City Council are responsible for the extent of the damages.

I am in favor of expanding the police department to include non-law enforcement personnel. The non-law enforcement personnel should respond to some situations so that an armed police officer does not have to.

Lastly, we need public education regarding how to properly interact with police. The Mayor and Minneapolis City Council also needs to take part in the education.

6/30/2020 3:58:00 PM

Your police can't keep up now how are you going to defund them you all are crazy down there no common sense

6/30/2020 3:58:03 PM

I support the amendment! This is a time for big change. We can't let MPD, a department with such poor outcomes, continue there are viable alternatives that have been studied and that would lead to better results.

6/30/2020 3:58:45 PM

No to City Council Charter. Pushed too quickly without feedback from community they serve.

6/30/2020 3:59:07 PM

I support the plan to remove the Police Department and rebuild something which will actually work for all of us.

6/30/2020 3:59:43 PM

As a community mental health worker I have utilized the police department for situations that did not necessarily suit the scope of policing but saw no other option available. It has been common knowledge to explicitly request a CIT officer who has received specialized training in de-escalation and crisis intervention techniques which has been helpful in working with folks who have a history of trauma, and a lot of them with specific trauma around police enforcement. What I never understood was why this was a "special" kind of officer. Why not all police officers were expected to have received thorough training in de-escalation and crisis intervention techniques, with a trauma-informed, person-centered lens. I appreciate that there are going to be emergency, potentially violent situations that are within the scope of police type services however, on a whole I believe in a department that focuses on safety and is pro-active in violence prevention not one that leads with force. It's important to include the members of our community whom are being affected most often by police brutality and injustice, in our conversations about reform in order to address the needs at hand and not look to an out-of-touch, culturally incompetent faction of our community to do the talking. I stand by the amendment to replace the Minneapolis Police Department with the "Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention." Let's do it right this time!

6/30/2020 4:00:07 PM

After reading the proposed amendment/resolution, and learning to gain an understanding as to what the Council power currently is under the present Charter language surrounding police in Minneapolis, I believe what the Council is proposing is premature, poorly written, and unnecessary. There are actions that the Council could take, in cooperation with the Mayor and the Chief of Police, that would accomplish many of the goals toward police accountability. For some reason the Council has decided not to pursue those efforts. I do agree that removing specific language about police staffing levels related to city population would give the Council more flexibility in utilizing peace officers vs other public safety workers - but see no need for the Council to strip oversight of police from the Mayor, nor for the Council to lay out specific experience qualifications for a new Community Safety Director. I hope that the Charter Commission will #1 - slow down this process so that a real conversation about what current City leadership is and is not doing within their current mandated powers and #2 - reject this proposal. Thank you.

6/30/2020 4:00:10 PM

I am supportive of the ballot measure to explore and allow for new public safety models for our city. The current MPD model is dangerous and not functioning for all citizens. Police reforms to date have not led to the much needed change.

I would like to see a thoughtful path to plan the new Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department, and I would like to see the current MPD leadership at the table to help in the design. .

A.) You need to realize that there will ALWAYS be criminals with firearms in any city!!! Big questions (without sufficient answers, I be voting NO to change the charter this fall):

1.) Will there be a mandate that there will be an public safety group (or part of) that will be carrying firearms. If you say no, I say no to your charter, because that shows how naive and stupid you are. Not to be mean, but that's the hard truth. (MN is a concealed carry state, and the # of firearms nationwide has drastically increased since COVID-19, and then further after the riots). Most of these gun owners are responsible and non-violent, and now see a greater need for firearms due to the civil unrest, increase in violent crimes, and now the possibility of "defunding" the police. However, CRIMINALS WILL ALWAYS BE ABLE TO OBTAIN FIREARMS legally or illegally.

2.) Who decides, and which types of responders will go to which calls? If you send (unarmed) social workers only to a domestic, and the perp has a firearm, or is otherwise dangerous, what kind of training and self defense is each group of responder going to have in order to protect themselves, as well as the other people involved.

I am absolutely NOT a gun fanatic, but I feel like I have a much better understanding of what's actually happening and do NOT want to see those responding to calls in even more danger because people who don't REALLY UNDERSTAND what it's like to be in these situations, jobs, or lifestyles are naive and ignorant, which, sadly, is exactly how it feels.

You say you have models, this is not new, etc, etc - general, political, feel good, cover up the truth and avoid answering the question responses, but I want to know exactly which law enforcement people, and which people who actually have the most experience with violent crime, etc (who used to be perpetrators, or those who've had a MASSIVE amount of experience dealing with it. You need people on both of those ends of the spectrum in order to do this correctly, as it's pretty evident, none of you really have that much experience with it.

I want to know exactly what... branches there will be?

And how many people in each branch. and what each branch will be responsible for (responding to, or what programs they will be, and how those are going to create direct, immediate results)?

What will be the hiring process for every person in each of these branches? Who will be responsible for creating and enforcing all/each of the protocols of each branch? What consequences will there be if the protocols are not followed? Who will create/decide on these consequences?

What will the budget be for each of these branches?

I think one of the best things for the city council to do, is a workshop with police officers where each one of you, one at a time, has to physically control and handcuff a larger, muscular, completely unarmed person (who can be untrained in any sort of self defense, as well) who acts as a perp. I also think it's very naive to ban choke holds, unless it's an for an extended period of time. While you're trying to wrestle that pretend perp to the ground - if you have any clue about what your doing controlling the head can be extremely useful, and safe. I'm guessing whom ever banned choke holds has very little knowledge of how they actually work.

I AM 100% FOR DE-ESCALATION TECHNIQUES. I unfortunately can't remember what city implemented it, but I remember seeing that it had very good results. I'm 100% in favor of implementing de-escalation techniques. Unfortunately, de-escalation is NOT going to work 100% of the time.

I am also 100% for BJJ (Brazilian Jiu Jitsu) training for all police officers, or whatever you want to call them.

6/30/2020 4:00:19 PM

Police reform needs to happen but if “defunding the police” means fewer cops and not policing “low level” crimes we are on track to turn into San Francisco, LA, Seattle and other major cities/states where we are seeing a mass exodus of citizens simply leaving. This will lead to loss of local business (already occurring), degraded tax base and struggling schools/services. Not enforcing “quality of life” laws puts areas in a downward spiral.

6/30/2020 4:00:22 PM

I lived in Mpls 1973 - 1991. I feel that revisions need to be done with all law enforcement agencies. Along with Trauma Informed Care- there should be transparency about Anxiety-Depression and Compassion Fatigue/PTSD among officers.

You MUST have a good plan in place and working for 1-3 months before disbanding the police Dept. Otherwise there could be chaos just like the riots... when I travel to Mpls, which I do frequently, I want to feel safe! Thank you!

6/30/2020 4:00:28 PM

This is absolutely amazing! I'm glad that the Minneapolis city council has taken the steps to abolish the police department while many other city councils and mayors around the country aren't brave enough to make the much needed change (or even believe there is a human rights problem!). I applaud all of you for not shrinking behind the group of people that haven't done their research and have lived in a privileged world that they don't want to admit. Thank you for making this change. Keep it up despite some others that may try to tell you that you made the wrong decision. YOU have made history and changed all of our lives better. Don't ever forget that.

6/30/2020 4:00:51 PM

I do not approve disbanding the police department. Training should happen first. There are many good police officers on the force. I would hate to see what would happen without our police. Maybe the council members who proposed this should be removed. That was a ridiculous proposal.

6/30/2020 4:01:28 PM

I am contrary to changing the city charter to abolish the Minneapolis Police Department.

I grew up in a country (Argentina) where after a brutal dictatorship the police force was greatly reduced. As a result violence has grown exponentially and the citizens are forced to put metal bars all around their houses to protect themselves and nobody can safely go out at night. The drug cartels moved in and

there is nobody to push them back, please don't be naive and allow Minneapolis to became something similar. I trust chief Arradondo to do a good job.

6/30/2020 4:01:31 PM

I agree with Mayor Frey that there are many questions to answer about the way this will be implemented. i wonder whether the Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention would be stronger by standing separately from the Police Department, with emphasis on public health, restorative justice, and crime prevention. i would like to see how the public thinks and feels about the changes you are considering. i would like to see more discussion about community policing, how it works and how it fits in.

6/30/2020 4:01:43 PM

A statement by city leadership in support of defunding the police emboldens criminals and crime will increase. The city of MPLS deserves strong leadership and is not getting it. Hopefully other residents will see this need and consider running for city council. A qualified candidate would be experienced in areas like business, accounting, project management and law.

A charter amendment in not needed. What is needed is a council willing to step and do thier job.

6/30/2020 4:01:51 PM

I am a Saint Paul resident and will be a Minneapolis resident (in Longfellow) starting on July 20. I am a strong supporter of the proposed charter amendment. During and in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd, the MPD has demonstrated a disdain for and hostility toward Minneapolis residents, local and national journalists, other city employees, and most clearly, BIPOC community members. Based on the feedback from long-time Minneapolis residents, this is not a new problem but one that dates back to the very formation of the MPD and that has persisted despite many attempts to reform. The community of Minneapolis has a right to decide if the MPD should continue to exist or if it should be abolished, and approving this amendment is a step toward listening to the voices of the Minneapolis voters as they decide what public safety should look like for them.

6/30/2020 4:02:03 PM

I think a total recreation of the police department is a complete waste of time and funds. There are a lot of departments that really do work well and can only suffer with a large structural change. I also think that whoever you would hire would know just how easily you will dismiss them when things don't go smoothly, regardless of performance. It is typical of the city council to think they know more than the experts. The police were put in the schools as a knee jerk reaction to shootings in other states yet somehow it seems to be there fault for being there when the most likely did not want to be. It is not always easy to fix things but it is often worth the effort. It seems a shame you would rather go for the headline instead digging down and actually working on it.

Hiring more officers particularly with more diversity and giving them more training could go a long way. They could spend more time interacting with the community in positive ways and it would give you the

time to dismiss the officers that are not living up to the new standards without the stress of being understaffed.

6/30/2020 4:02:09 PM

The police are abusing their power over the citizens of our community. The violence that has been portrayed is absolutely unacceptable. There is no need for such heavy firearms and illegal teargas against unarmed civilians. Things MUST change immediately. Citizens should not feel scared to interact with the police when they are doing absolutely nothing wrong. They shouldn't feel scared for their life even if they are doing something wrong. The police are supposed to PROTECT and SERVE and enforce the law, NOT abuse power and kill people.

6/30/2020 4:02:12 PM

What happened to George Floyd was tragic. Was that a racist white police officer? Absolutely possible. He had a history of being an asshole. But the truth is, almost all cops are good people. In 2019 less than 1% of people killed by police were unarmed black men (14). Why were they shot? One was naked trying to eat a teenager not responding to tasers. Another was killed accidentally, that cop was charged with murder. Only one other black man killed by an officer was deemed not justified and that officer was also charged with murder. Its easy to react to the raw numbers but you have to look at why. Blacks are disproportionately killed by police officers. Why? Are all cops racist? Unlikely. The truth is that blacks commit 53% of all murder in the United states. 13% of the population commit 53% of all murder. 38% of all violent crime. Blacks put themselves in situations where deadly force may be used at a much higher rate than any other race in the United States. Why does this happen? A good guess is that 4 in 5 black children grow up in single parent households where they are up to 20 times more likely to end up in jail than a child with two parents. An effort to keep the black family together would be a much better solution to preserve black lives. 100 blacks were shot in Chicago over the weekend. They were not shot by white people. They were shot by other black people. No riots, no one says anything, do black lives really matter?

The reason for this is for perspective. I care about all lives. Skin color does not matter to me. I care about the content of a person's character. I agree with Martin Luther King Jr. and I believe that disbanding the police will do far more harm than good. Please reconsider.

6/30/2020 4:02:15 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis, I do not want the Charter Commission to be amended. Unnecessary waste of tax payer money. The police needs reform but it cannot be substituted with social engineering project. Money from the other social endeavors can come from a percent of the city budget or a small percent of all other city departments. The police cannot be de-funded. We need more and better trained officers.

6/30/2020 4:02:18 PM

I don't think any defunding should happen until there is a clear, solid, specific plan in place as an alternative. And I think there should be a citizen referendum on that plan, with our input and actual tax costs attached to the plan.

6/30/2020 4:02:23 PM

We must defund and abolish the police department as current constituted. It is a racist institution that causes harm and fails to protect the most vulnerable members of our community. We must work to achieve real community safety which means unarmed people checking in our loved ones during mental health crises, etc. We spend so much money on police that could be better spent ensuring actual safety of our residents.

6/30/2020 4:02:26 PM

I have lived in Northeast Minneapolis for the past 13 years and spent the first 12 years of my life in South Minneapolis. I am incredibly embarrassed to be a resident of Minneapolis at this given time. Most of our city council members (9 of the 11) should be ashamed of being so quick to pledge their support of the protesters' plea to defund/abolish the police, without even a thought to first gauge their constituents for whom they represent. Instead, they saw an opportunity to jump on a political bandwagon of opportunity. They were so quick to jump on board with the notion of defund/abolish the police that they couldn't even provide a viable alternative, which to this day, are still all across the board on what a replacement will look like. This rash decision making is dangerous political rhetoric and has spread like poison across our city and beyond. This is not how people should lead.

I was happy to learn that Kevin Reich, who represents my ward, took a more thoughtful approach and delayed his position until more information is brought forward.

There is no question that the MPD needs a drastic and complete overhaul with their continued profiling and verbal/physical assault on minorities. They are provided with a militaristic arsenal and continue to show they are well versed in escalation vs deescalation tactics.

I'm embarrassed of our Police Federation, where they continue to prove how unions abuse their power, by protecting their own at all costs. Defund and Abolish the union. Take away their power to influence city leaders and lawmakers.

We need our police. There are truly bad people out there who want to hurt others through both verbal and physical violence. Bad people have shown and will continue to take advantage of an environment where police are stretched thin or, are nonexistent. When a few of the city council members needed to hire private security from these bad people, they did not hire safety and violence prevention officers. The irony is real.

We need both better city and police leadership. We need a long term vision for who we want, who we need to protect our great city. We need better police hires, people who live in the communities they serve, people who are passionate about helping others, people who are empathetic, people who are accepting of all human beings. The police on-boarding and continued training programs needs a complete overhaul, by literally starting from scratch and rebuilding.

We need the other great programs that have been recently mentioned too. These are absolutely important, but taking the money away from the police is not the answer. This should not and never be a "are you with us or against us?" debate. Our city can do better than this. Let's get a bit more creative, rather than presenting our only option is to completely tear down one program to fund another. This continued polarization of this topic has continued to divide our city, where it should be uniting us all.

I was embarrassed that Mayor Frey didn't seize the opportunity to own the moment by changing the narrative of uniting our city. To actually lead. Instead, he greatly fumbled this opportunity by being a causality of answering a loaded question. However, I do commend him for sticking to his position (not in support of defunding the police) in front of a crowd that only wanted to hear one answer. I'm optimistic he will learn from his mistake and continue to become a better leader.

Let's have a plan. A well thought out plan. A long term vision. A strategy that is inclusive for all. Our city council should know better than this. We need to create an environment where all people feel safe and protected. Drastic, significant and meaningful change must take place.

I was happy to learn that if this were to move forward, that it will be on the ballot for voters to weigh in. Shame on the city council for being so quick to speak on behalf of our city.

6/30/2020 4:02:36 PM

I vote yes! Police reform: in recruiting and ongoing trainings include implicit bias evaluations, deescalation strategies to be used on civilians and police officers, anti-racist and pro equity. Offer significant incentives to officers to be residents of Minneapolis. Zero tolerance for any physically aggressive action on suspected non violent crimes. Demand accountability of all officers involved. No tolerance of racist, genderist, sexist, etc remarks, symbols, language and actions. Do not hire members of known hate groups.

6/30/2020 4:03:17 PM

I agree in principle with the charter amendment and would vote YES in Nov. I have a lot of questions. But I agree in principle.

Reforms have not lived up to their promise. We need deeper and broader changes.

6/30/2020 4:03:30 PM

As a resident living in Sewars, I fully support this change. While I do believe that sometimes armed officers are necessary, it's much, much less frequent than currently. I believe this is due to the lack of other help for "public nuisance" issues such as panhandling, public urination, or general disturbances. I believe the preponderance of police calls in our city could better be served with someone able to get people the housing and/or mental health resources they need. And since the amendment still allows for a police force, those issues that do present a real danger can be handled by the appropriate officers.

6/30/2020 4:03:57 PM

I have seen the crime level rise due to the lack of leadership in mpls. Letting these teens and gang banger run the streets without penalty.i believe that the politicians are handcuffing the police so mpls looks like a friendly place to live and work . I wouldn't ever visit mpls if the police force is defunded. Bad idea . Maybe the politicians should ride with the officers for a month and see what they are up against everyday. It's easy to play armchair quarterback while your sitting in your safe office. A strong police force is needed not a bunch of feel good liberals thinking soft handed techniques is the answer . The path they think is the way of the future will only make mpls another Detroit .

6/30/2020 4:04:33 PM

Defund the police, please give money to more therapy, training, education, and the needs of black people.

6/30/2020 4:04:35 PM

I'm glad the move is being made to remove MPD from the charter. However, I am slightly concerned about the inclusion of a "law enforcement services division." We aren't truly disbanding the police if we just end up replacing them with another police force.

6/30/2020 4:05:31 PM

I am strongly in favor of placing this amendment in the ballot this fall. I know there are concerns with how quickly the work needs to get done in order to get the amendment on the ballot, but it is critical that it gets there in time for the election. The residents of Minneapolis deserve the right to determine the future of public safety in our city. While the current department is innocuous from a charter standpoint, being a charter department, combined with the power of the Iloilo was union, has prevented meaningful reform in spite of the best intentions.

6/30/2020 4:06:19 PM

CPAC. We need community control over this department as the mayor and city council have proven time and time again that their words are empty on the issue of true police reform. If the community is not driving this process it will be a failure from the get go.

6/30/2020 4:06:46 PM

This is an excellent first step that needs to me made. The vast majority of the people of Minneapolis support this direction and I do too. The eyes of the country are on us, let's do this right.

6/30/2020 4:07:18 PM

I do not want to put my name on this, for my opinions can anger people. My wife and I own a home in south Minneapolis. We need more funding for policing. This will give cops more training, resources, and recruit better candidates. We also NEED MORE SOCIAL WORKERS! There is a reason there have been so many shootings the past month. Criminals are acting without fear due to a reduced police presence. No matter how many resources you put into the community, there will always be a population that commits crimes. As a proud gun owner, I can protect myself. However, many of my neighbors cannot. That is where the cops come in. Give cops less responsibility. A social worker should be called and address many issues cops are having to handle. Furthermore, anyone can write speeding/parking tickets. Give cops more resources, give them less job roles, and hire more damn social workers. We are not building rockets here. This is not that hard to understand.

6/30/2020 4:07:43 PM

I am 100% for replacing the MPD as it is now with something that's more focused on prevention and less focused on response.

6/30/2020 4:07:49 PM

Start with institutional racism and problems with the police union. get rid of them first. This would be a huge step forward for the whole city.

There is real, violent crimes where the most vulnerable neighborhoods and neighbors suffer. Do not get rid of the police. Allow the police chief and the mayor to fire the bad ones.

Also start hiring from MINNEAPOLIS. Not the suburbs.

Do NOT just "disband" the police.

6/30/2020 4:08:13 PM

This effort needs to be workshopped and proposed changes need to be "soft launched" on a small scale to see if they work before widespread implementation. The worst thing we can do at this point is to let some internal committee plan a big, across-the-board change without field testing proposed changes to judge their effectiveness, Please read "The Lean Startup" to see how it's done.

6/30/2020 4:08:16 PM

I do not want the city charter amended. I believe the police can and should be reformed without changing the charter.

6/30/2020 4:09:22 PM

You want to remove the Police? Then I hope you have enjoyed the last few weeks, the violence, the car jackings, the murders. Because it will escalate. And who were those murders by? Not the police. Who obstructed the police from getting to help those in need? The CRIMINALS. The Minneapolis Mayor and Gov have let these criminals have a free for all of the city. People are afraid to go outside, people are afraid to visit the city, to go to the businesses that were already hurting from COVID. More will leave the city if you abolish or defund the police because people are not going to want to come down to the theaters, the restaurants, the sports games. You did not stand up for your officers when the George Floyd incident happened. You put them all as one, telling the city, telling the world that they were wrong, that they are bad, that they all need to be reformed. I hope none of the members of the City Council, the mayor or the Gov ever need the police. I have officer friends and family that are struggling to do a job they once loved because they are being spit at, having things thrown at them, having people in their face yelling Murderers. Why is that happening? Because the leaders of the city and state have told people this. Oh and what happened? Now you need to have private security because you are scared. The police are there to protect and to serve. Just because one officer is bad, doesn't make them all bad. Maybe if that officer in question would have been dealt with when his first incident happened, then he wouldn't have been there to deal with George Floyd. Maybe instead of defunding or abolishing police some of the polices should be looked at or the person in charge should have different qualifications to see that the policy is followed through instead of a slap on the wrist. There is no law and order. It is a free for all and the criminals all know it.

6/30/2020 4:10:11 PM

Hello,

I am a South Minneapolis resident. I support the decision to disband the police. I do not want former police officers on this Community of Safety & Violence Department.

There should be measures in place to ensure that this new department does not receive military equipment and does not have a bloated, inefficient budget. The current budget for police should be directed to more useful areas (public schools, mental health services, projects lead by members of under-served communities, etc).

There needs to be civilian oversight of this new department. They should be completely transparent, and answer to citizens, not just the mayor and city council.

Thank you

6/30/2020 4:10:24 PM

I am very much in favor of replacing the Police Department with something such as a Community of Safety and Violence Prevention Department. There are a multitude of issues (mental health, substance abuse, protection from abuse, among other) that get inappropriately shunted to the police, who are not trained and therefore not capable of handling those issues in a productive manner. The police department as it currently stands has also demonstrated clear overuse of excessive force and a collective unwillingness to acknowledge the depth of its systemic issues, especially racial profiling.

6/30/2020 4:10:26 PM

I work in Saint Paul and have lived in the Twin Cities Suburbs and cities all my life. I am very worried and concerned regarding the charter language to disband the MPD. The crime rate and shootings in Minneapolis are a staggeringly high number, sending out unarmed social workers to potentially dangerous situations is neglecting the current events and peoples personal safety while on the job. I think reform needs to happen but not by disbandment.

6/30/2020 4:10:46 PM

No one disputes that significant reforms need to occur in MPD. But there needs to be time given to the current Chief and for the study by the MN Dept. of Human Rights to determine the best way to do reforms. An amendment to the City Charter relating to policing --which is one of the most fundamental of all responsibilities of local government--requires thoughtful consideration and input from the public. It is irresponsible to "ram" through an amendment to the Charter without a well-thought out, concrete proposal describing what the proposed new Department will look like, how it will be staffed, and most importantly, how it will perform all of the functions that the numerous state statutes require be accomplished by licensed peace officers. The suggestion by many that we rely upon "community groups" or armed

neighbors as happened during the recent unrest is an invitation for a breakdown of all law and order.

6/30/2020 4:11:11 PM

Please pursue this course of action. The police, in particular, the police union, have too much power and require too much of Minneapolis's budget. There are better ways to spend it that will have a much better impact on those in need. Especially, those of color, lgbt+, and women.

The budget can be better spent on mental health professionals and finding ways to help those most in need.

Thank you for starting this process. I hope you follow it through.

6/30/2020 4:13:11 PM

I support the removal of the Police Department & the establishment of a Safety & Violence Prevention Department.

It is to the benefit of the community (Primarily BIPOC) to dismantle systems of white supremacy and work on community led efforts for safety and harm reduction.

We need to decriminalize drug use & sex work. We need to have housing options for people experiencing homelessness.

6/30/2020 4:13:35 PM

Please do NOT approve this Charter Change -- send it back to the City Council for revision.

It is entirely too vague, with no specific plan or numbers in it. To send it to the voters in this form would be a scam, expecting them to vote on "a pig in a poke". Your responsibility as a Charter Commission is to ensure that proposals going onto the ballot are clear & well-defined. This is neither.

6/30/2020 4:13:42 PM

I support this amendment. We should have the flexibility as a city to address public safety without solely relying on the police department. The police department as it exists today has not demonstrated itself as an effective tool for public safety and violence prevention.

6/30/2020 4:13:55 PM

I completely support the proposed amendment to remove the Police Department and establish a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. The police have not and will continue to not protect our community, and we need community controlled protection. Organizers have been planning and researching the idea of community controlled safety for years, and the violent actions of the police in the past weeks especially (as well as the violent actions of the police over many years) has supported their ideas for community controlled safety.

6/30/2020 4:13:58 PM

I fully support the move to abolish the police and create safety measures that do not include hiring murderers. I don't believe any current or former police should be involved in creating the new structure, and I hope that mpd150 and Reclaim The Block are able to lead the conversation going forward.

6/30/2020 4:14:02 PM

Hello. I'd like to comment about the amendment to disband the MPD and replace it with a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. I am very much in support of abolishing the police department. However, I want to know what steps the city/city council will take to ensure that this isn't just the MPD under a new name. How are we going to put an end to racist and classist policies and practices that continue to harm, even kill, people? I've lived in Minneapolis since 2012 and have never felt safer with police present. Thank you.

6/30/2020 4:14:58 PM

I do NOT agree with the removal of the police dept. If the city council wants to transform the police dept, perhaps the better way to do that would be to implement the proposed changes they deem necessary into the existing police force, such as "dept of community safety" and "dept of violence prevention", to see how these new departments can work in conjunction with the existing police force and then draw down the police force to the appropriate staff numbers based on the population instead

of eliminating them all once. The current plan sounds like a reactionary move without any real thought of the consequences. It's obvious that there needs to be some form of security if the city is spending \$1,500.00 tax dollars per day for the private security of 3 council members.

6/30/2020 4:15:09 PM

If Minneapolis defunds the police, it needs to be done neighborhood by neighborhood with City Council Members and Mayors neighborhoods first. Also, it should be illegal for the Mayor and City Council members to contract any type of private security, paid for or voluntary. Otherwise, the Mayor and City Council become elites that abide by separate rules.

6/30/2020 4:16:58 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.

As then-Chief Judge of Hennepin County District Court told the Star Tribune in 2010, Charter Commissioners receive their positions via an undemocratic and ill-considered appointment process. The judge "generally receives little information on which to base his choices. 'I get a bunch of applications, no letters of support, no explanation of whether someone has been a good or a bad charter commission member,' Swenson said. He also said he questions whether having one judge make the appointments is the best way." (Steve Brandt, "Judge removes commission chair," Star Tribune (July 10, 2010) available at <https://www.startribune.com/judge-removes-commission-chair/98150214/>.)

If you fail to refer the proposed amendment to Minneapolis voters this November, it will be obvious to every voter in Minneapolis that the Charter Commission is a rogue and anti-democratic institution, and 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.

6/30/2020 4:17:16 PM

I am absolutely in favor of removing the police department.

One of my main requests is demilitarization of the force. Stop buying military equip.

Scale out responder options to include social workers, community organizers instead of the only option being a gun with an attitude.

Overhaul training methodologies to focus on deescalation instead of forcefully stopping behavior. This should include a heavy handed anti-racism/sexism component. Any active officer who pushes back on new training methodologies gets immediate written warning and desk duty until they incorporate the new training.

Police unions must be disbanded.

Internal monitoring for white nationalist leanings with any positive identifications made public, and immediate termination with no recourse for appeal. If an officer is fired from the force, they lose the ability to be a law enforcement officer in perpetuity.

I have thoughts about protecting so-called 'good cops' but don't know how to word that right now.

Abolish qualified immunity. At the same time abolish prosecutorial immunity.

If I can't have a complete and total overhaul that includes abolishing the force entirely, these are my minimums. These items are non-negotiable in my head to create a new level-set to create new habits upon.

6/30/2020 4:17:41 PM

Dear Charter Committee, my family and I have been house hunting in the Twin Cities since February 2020. In the days following George Floyd's murder, we joined demonstrations ad volunteered with the informal mutual aid groups. We watched Minneapolis residents come together and show up for each other. This past week, we signed the purchase agreement on a home in the Longfellow neighborhood, less than a mile from Lake and Minnehaha. Rather than being hesitant or fearful, we are proud to join this amazing community and to soon be able to call ourselves Minneapolis residents. I'm inspired by this charter amendment because it reflects the will of a people who are daring to be creative about public safety. I think we can all agree that policing in the US needs to be changed, and I see this amendment a step toward that change. While I had hoped that the amendment would more clear that no current or former police department personnel would play a role in the leadership of the new department, it still has my support.

6/30/2020 4:18:01 PM

I support the council's proposal to change the charter.

6/30/2020 4:19:03 PM

I want multiple, special disciplanary boards to enforce accountability of police misconduct. These boards MUST NOT include any current or former member of the police or military. I want the police force to be reduced to 20% of the officers previously employed. I cannot condone my tax dollars to be used for ANY further militarization of the police force, including removing funds and ties to guns, gun protections, pepper gas, and other violent weapons used against me and my community. The funding for weaponry must be slashed t0 5% of what it used to be. Funds must be reallocated to disciplinary boards and services, body cams and body cam recording services such as records maintenance, and then reallocated to the city with a focus on education and community building.

The police force may not be able to reapply or ask for more funding for another 5 years.

If cops dont like it, they should learn coding and switch careers.

6/30/2020 4:19:10 PM

I currently live in richfield but have lived, worked, and studied in Minneapolis. I spend a lot of my free time in Minneapolis and am happy to see the MPD be disbanded. Their budget and power have been continuing to expand in an alarming rate. The growing escalation of force and power is unnecessary and leads to harm and death, especially in our communities of color. The union has also grown way to power hungry and seems bent on doing whatever it takes to stay in that power. We need law enforcement we don't need MPD

6/30/2020 4:19:40 PM

If this were to pass, myself, friends, family and co-workers have all vowed to no longer visit or conduct any commerce in the city of Minneapolis, period. I suggest you take your time and think long and hard for alternative, common sense solutions. I also believe that the 13/14 people on the council do not have the cities best interests in mind. The Mayor should not be able to be over ruled by the City Council.

6/30/2020 4:19:43 PM

This is the right decision. The MPD has shown time after time after time that reform is impossible. One goal of this process, to me, is to rid our city of the horribleness that is Lt. Bob Kroll, whose racist leadership of the police officer's union is one giant reason we're in the mess we're in in the first place.

6/30/2020 4:20:08 PM

100% against this action. I will no longer visit Mpls for sporting events, theatre events, convention center events and most definitely not for the nightlife. Your actions thus far have been about re-election and deflection for you alone have the full responsibility of the results of the George Floyd death. YOU have been in charge for over 50 years. YOU have created and allowed systemic racism to live within you police department now YOU need to own it and fix it. Currently your proposals are making it worse. Shame on you.

6/30/2020 4:20:45 PM

I am in support of a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department but disagree with the Mayor nominating and the City Council appointing the director of such a department. I don't feel our Mayor or City Council members are qualified to make these nominations or appointments (case in point: Mayor Frey telling the police to abandon the 3rd precinct and letting our city burn for 4 days). Instead I feel the citizens of Minneapolis should be electing these officials. We still need police to address the serious crimes occurring in our community but we need more social infrastructure in place to deal with non-violent crimes or issues such as substance abuse, addiction, domestic abuse, homelessness, mental illness, and so many other needs. I would love to see a partnership between those who are already experts in issues such as mental illness AND the police who should be relied on to address violent crimes. Rehabilitation must also be a focus for citizens who end up in jail or prison. Disparities in sentencing is another issue that must be addressed. What's the plan to better police the community, so that the police can police, and human services can do their jobs?

6/30/2020 4:20:54 PM

The MPD needs to be disbanded as the union, it's union head and the federation have had control of MPD instead of the citizens and our elected officials. We need complete accountability and oversight of all firearm carrying LEO's going forward to have a healthy community.

6/30/2020 4:20:56 PM

I am dead set against the very idea of defunding the police Dept. What you really need to do is leave the police Dept the way it is with strict rules against choke holds and a stronger policy in deadly force. Instead of defunding police, serve those cases that require a social worker with ADDITIONAL FUNDING. There is no rhyme nor reason for an unarmed social worker to face a domestic violence situation or a person in need of psychiatric Help without the assistance of an armed police officer. I can tell you emphatically. I leave in the 5th Precinct in Lowry Hill and we are ALL sick and tired of deadbeats roaming our streets every night, breaking into cars and homes and stealing anything they can get their hands on. It happens here every single night.

Let the police do their jobs and if you choose to proceed with this defunding I can guarantee you that I, along with every single person I know in this neighborhood will give it our utmost to get you all out of office. Start listening to the people that pay the taxes and your salaries.

We have rights and our lives matter too regardless of our color.

Thank you

6/30/2020 4:21:03 PM

I believe this amendment is not only necessary, but the best way to address this issue. The community needs to be protected and served by individuals that are properly trained, not the police force who do the opposite, despite what they say.

6/30/2020 4:21:22 PM

I am dead set against the very idea of defunding the police Dept. What you really need to do is leave the police Dept the way it is with strict rules against choke holds and a stronger policy in deadly force.

Instead of defunding police, serve those cases that require a social worker with ADDITIONAL FUNDING.

There is no rhyme nor reason for an unarmed social worker to face a domestic violence situation or a person in need of psychiatric Help without the assistance of an armed police officer.

I can tell you emphatically. I leave in the 5th Precinct in Lowry Hill and we are ALL sick and tired of deadbeats roaming our streets every night, breaking into cars and homes and stealing anything they can get their hands on. It happens here every single night.

Let the police do their jobs and if you choose to proceed with this defunding I can guarantee you that I, along with every single person I know in this neighborhood will give it our utmost to get you all out of office. Start listening to the people that pay the taxes and your salaries.

We have rights and our lives matter too regardless of our color.

Thank you

6/30/2020 4:21:28 PM

I have lived in Minneapolis all my life 60 years. The people running Minneapolis have been ruining it ever since Sharon Sales Belton and Amy Klobachar w/ the catch and release.

Need to back the police, and uphold every law. Jaywalking, drug sales, Northside where I was born you can't be out after 8 pm. We need more police and more community policing, and all residents need to quit closing their eyes and mouths to the law breaking and law breakers in our neighborhoods and turn them in, we all have cell phones and cameras.

I'm 60 y/o and giving great consideration to moving out state and let the thugs trash the place.

My truck has so many scratches and rock dents from the protests/riots last month.

I don't have a city supplied car and driver like you Hi muckety Muck Officials. I don't have private security like you do.

I will be voting for people who are supportive of Equally Applied Law Enforcement w/o consideration of how it looks.

6/30/2020 4:22:20 PM

Quit messing around and go ahead and cancel the police department. You whack-a-moles keep dicking around and purchasing private security for yourselves while throwing your citizens under the bus. Quit messing around and dump your cop shops and let CNN applaud your stupid asses for your handling of the crisis. It will be CNN's finest moment filming Thugs, Punks, BLM, Antifa and other shitwipes that need imprisoning to be finally free to bend your council over a table to finish banging the hell out of you. In the meantime, the rest of the nation is going to buy snacks and watch you idiots having your heads bashed in by those unfortunates that you support and appease. So just do it today, you idiots don't need a vote. The nicest thing you can do is give the caring citizens 24 hours to get out of town.

6/30/2020 4:22:45 PM

Dear City Council Members,

I applaud your commitment to real change in how Minneapolis conducts protection and well-being of its residents. It is long overdue. In that spirit, I am in favor of the proposed amendment that establishes a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Dept. However, I suggest different rhetoric which would more aptly describe what we need: not Defund, but Key-Fund. That is, absolutely fund key methods for improving standards for how police graduate to being police (or whatever we call them in the new era). I know personally, someone who was killed at the hands of police, in her own apartment, during a mental health crisis. She was vulnerable, not threatening. So I support efforts to diversify and make official response teams of professionals who are appropriate to the kind of call made. Sexual assault occurred in the night nearby recently (we heard later), and I did not know how to help, hearing someone yelling out. That is a sickening feeling. (There is a crisis of confidence in the police. They are perceived as dangerous, especially to black, indigenous, trans, queer, and poc.) Every call does not need an armed response. That said, as we who live close to the Sanctuary in Powderhorn have observed, for example, increased cases of high speed driving and drug dealing and episodes of close gun fire are part of life in an armed society. We are all vulnerable. Thus, sadly, given the widespread use of guns at large, we need to keep on staff, some number of armed responders (police) (who are trained in heightened sensitivity and assessment skills as well), for those (few) cases when citizens are at risk due to weapons in our midst. We should proceed as a community with the assumption that de-weaponizing ourselves as a people is the direction to go. But those who choose to remain on the police force must be required to complete education to promote understanding that if they are bullying then they are promoting hate and likely operating out of fear. These (therapeutic) issues must be dealt with as part of the process of becoming sworn peace officers. Bullying and racism must be seen for what it is, and what gives rise to it. The culture of hate and domination must be seen clearly as archaic, and not anything they would want to defend or condone. We must step way back in how trainees are turned into police officers, and actively, directly create a culture of respect and insight. (Obviously, guaranteed impunity, must be eliminated at the highest levels of policy through legislation.)

6/30/2020 4:23:08 PM

The Minneapolis Police department has proven itself, as a system, to be lethally violent against people of color and peaceful protestors. As an institution it has been resistant to change, training, or reform. The leaders of MPD have publicly stated that they have no remorse about shooting our citizens, and will not comply with policy changes made to reduce unnecessary violence. Additionally, an armed force is

only an appropriate response in a limited number of public safety situations. I believe, in and will vote for, a new system of public safety that will be more effective and most importantly, less deadly for the residents of our city.

6/30/2020 4:23:12 PM

Per the MPDM Stat Crime Dashboard, in the last day, Minneapolis has 40 Part One reported crimes. For the last seven days, Minneapolis has ---> 454 <--- part one crimes on the books.

Four Hundred Fifty Four incidents of the most dangerous crime happened in our city in 7 days!

Until we have personnel in the precincts trained and tested in abatement techniques, it will be totally irresponsible to "Remove the Police Department".

I notice that members of the City Council already have hired unusual security protection for themselves. The citizens of Minneapolis only expect "usual" security from the city. From the wording on this page, it looks very much like we are not going to get even that.

6/30/2020 4:23:22 PM

As a senior citizen living in Richfield, I truly believe that this is a dangerous precedent. There are bad cops & bad people. Look at the Seattle situation. What if you owned a business in the CHAZ zone? Two young kids were killed, and the mainstream media didn't report on it. Police are specifically trained in all kinds of situations. I will not feel safe in my own home if some sort of "community policing" group is protecting me and my family. I personally have needed Police & Paramedics on multiple occasions. This is just common sense. Please don't take away what the majority of people still need. Thank you for having a comment period.

6/30/2020 4:23:32 PM

I think Minneapolis should go for it. I'm not a resident, thank goodness. I go downtown for events, but it's becoming more and more of a hassle. For sure now I'll be steering clear. No more farmers markets, sporting events, motorcycle shows, camping shows, shopping, brunches, plays, musicals, etc. It's going to ruin Minnesota, but it seems to be on a path to destruction anyway. So, I say hey go for it. It'll save me some \$ and I'll support my local events more often. Wonder what will happen to the city when people from out of town or out of state won't want to come visit and spend money anymore and businesses start leaving? Hopefully Mpls will give tax breaks or something so they can hire private security like the city council members did. So I say go for it and good luck!

6/30/2020 4:23:35 PM

I think that this amendment is a good option for our city. Of course, I do believe the amendment also brings up many questions - such as what exactly is the Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department? I am in favor of establishing this department, and I definitely believe that an approach utilizing community safety is better than increasing the police force budget and asking them to deal with problems they are not equipped to deal with. I'm excited to see what lies ahead with our city's ability to

choose who should be contacted for what emergencies. I also really hope that whatever budget isn't utilized for the police force actually goes toward solving other issues in our city. Issues such as homelessness have been neglected for so long, and any money put toward the homeless community is just a band-aid that covers up the problem, but only makes it worse. We need our funds to create actual solutions and not just brush issues under the rug.

6/30/2020 4:23:50 PM

I believe that the Proposed Charter amendment related to community safety and violence prevention should NOT be changed to remove the Police Department as a Charter Department, Article VII and Article VIII. The City Council in my opinion has done a terrible job managing the policing issues and to give them more power over police to make changes without first educating and engaging the community would be a detriment to our city. Especially when we are hearing that if BLM does not get their way they will "burn it down."

Changes to policing, including training and attracting the right people need to be made, need, yet this charter commission change is not appropriate until voters SEE an actual plan and estimated budget.

The recent acts of Council Members have made me lose trust in these city leaders. Based on how this situation has been handled, it appears the agenda is not about color of skin , safety or equality, it is about the agendas and political pursuits of the City Council. Given recent uptick in crime and shootings over the years, we need more police not less in some communities.

6/30/2020 4:23:54 PM

I oppose the proposed amendment to the Charter Commission relating to the Police department for the following reasons: (a) there has not been enough public engagement on this issue, (b) the reporting relationship of the new department head to the Council and the Mayor does not improve accountability, and (c) there is no certainty there will be adequate law enforcement resources.

6/30/2020 4:24:42 PM

Please take a long and thorough look at what the Mpls. City Council is proposing. I believe this would be a terrible mistake. Reform, yes. Defund, no. Police morale is already at a low point. Crime is up including violent crime. Someone in this city has to step up and be the adults at the table and that is not the mayor or the council right now. Please, please slow down.

6/30/2020 4:25:06 PM

I support the proposed amendment to remove the police department from the city charter. I urge the Charter Commission to move quickly to allow this amendment to be put to voters this November.

6/30/2020 4:25:20 PM

I am in favor of this proposal, the police department in Minneapolis has been allowed to run roughshod over the community and needs to be abolished in favor of a more public, community based plan for safety.

6/30/2020 4:26:14 PM

I support the efforts to defund the police department and replace it with a community driven safety plan. The racism and homophobia in the MPD is irreparable at this point and cannot be reformed. To reduce violence we must reduce tensions in the community and invest in preventative resources instead of increased police presence and militarization/weaponry. Trust is key to community safety and must come from within our community to truly be effective. More investment in education and mental health services are also key.

6/30/2020 4:26:20 PM

I think that there needs to be major changes. You have a chief of police that sued the department for racial discrimination. The MPD need to be looked at for the cases they have handled they kill minorities unfairly they arrest minorities at a much greater rate especially African Americans, and have gone rogue with several investigation groups ie gang task force, CRT team. We need to see officers documentation's for discipline. Why ever would an officer be allowed to train others that have had as many infractions as Chauvin? The union needs to go as well as the police. Why do they have military style vehicles and weapons? It's absurd you can't bully people and expect people to stay silent. The other thing is why are we not holding these prosecuting attorneys responsible that work with these cops that use racism to charge there investigations, they lock these minorities up and put them in jail without questioning if these police that have write ups and are racially driven are being honest, that's not justice of any kind. So I say we need to protect the public but as a white woman with biracial kids I do not and can not support the current MPD. I say defund dismantle and any police officer with more than 3 complaints in 5 years no matter the outcome needs to be fired and not be able to be a cop and that the people should have the say in the hiring process.

6/30/2020 4:26:27 PM

We have a duty to see the future of public safety for all residents of Minneapolis. Dismantling the MPD will be messy. It will come without support from state and governmental agencies. It will mean the breaking of a chain of racial oppression that also means breaking financial chains for very powerful people. I ask though why would we not do something because of a lack of precedent? Why would we live in fear of a world we've never known? while the one we do is know is cancerous and fatal to Black folks and people of color. How much patience does this community have to reform and reform over and over. When the root of the problem is without reform. I would say we've seen how much patience there is left. It is there on lake and Minnehaha. It is there on lake and Chicago. The answer to the question of how much patience do we have is there in those embers.

"We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills..." -JFK

6/30/2020 4:26:31 PM

Because I am not a black woman or a part of that community, I can not offer true guidance on how this change should best serve and protect those communities, but I can suggest a few forms of accountability amongst the remaining Peace Officers that will most likely resemble our current police force.

1: GO AFTER THEIR PENSIONS! While I know Peace Officers will be different than our current police, they will still most likely have pensions. When one officers grossly oversteps their responsibilities and harms another human, THE MONEY FOR THE FOLLOWING LAWSUIT AND DAMAGES WILL COME OUT OF EVERY OFFICER IN THAT DEPARTMENT'S PENSION.

This way, Peace Officers will hold one another accountable.

2: Try to get as many people as possible to live in the community they protect. If an officer lives in the suburbs, they work in the suburbs. If they want to protect and serve the inner city, they must know, understand, live in, and have the trust of the community. HIRE AND TRAIN PEOPLE WHO ARE A PART OF THESE COMMUNITIES TO PROTECT AND SERVE. Quit the trend of outsiders coming in to police a neighborhood they have no connection to, no affinity for.

3: While I understand this change would help alter focus from reaction to prevention, I do still think it is important to have the Peace Officers superficially resemble 'police' as we know them today. While training, means of operation, how armed they are, and even who they are is going to drastically change, It is important to know that there is a powerful line of defense to deter organized crime. Many people are asking what the MPD will be replaced with, and I think it is important to stress that this kind of presence will not entirely disappear. Perhaps retrain current officers on a new Peace Officer Curriculum that is intensive, trauma-informed, deconstructs unconscious bias, and actively dismantles systemic racism in public safety. WHEN CHOOSING WHAT OFFICERS TO RETRAIN AS PEACE OFFICERS, EXAMINE THEIR RECORDS EXTENSIVELY! Anyone who shows a history of repeated misconduct or racism is PROHIBITED from retraining as Peace Officers. They are not safe for BIPOC and should not be in this line of service.

4: Implement continued, thorough, and EXTENSIVE training for Peace Officers. Current requirements for becoming a police officer are embarrassingly low. Bias training should never end, and should be continually refreshed and required for all officers, especially non-BIPOC officers. Include in the ongoing Peace Officer training history of systemic racism (red-lining, especially) so all personnel understand how systemic racism has throttled these communities for generations.

Thank you all so much for your time, energy, and dedication to this change. Your work on this is revolutionary, and it is because of you, the City Council, that we are starting to see the change we need to ensure the safety of everyone in our community. Thank you for taking this big step, and I am proud of the work you have done.

6/30/2020 4:26:37 PM

The police department needs more training and recurring training in handling aggressive situations. They need to know that the police chief, the mayor, city council members, will back them up in these situations until it has been reviewed. The police need to be in the community, helping people, organizations that are striving for a better community. Police are not the bad guy. I am sure there are some bad actors, and unfortunately with a union they are allowed back to work. We need more police in our city. It has become crime and murder ridden.

6/30/2020 4:27:02 PM

I think removing the Police Department is ridiculous and the way the Minneapolis City Council is pushing this and the handling of this is causing way more problems than need be. Someone needs to step in and stop all this nonsense it will be one big mess in the end and no one will take responsibility if there are all these "special" departments. I feel the Minneapolis City Council is not thinking this through and are just pushing it through. We need the Police Department!!

6/30/2020 4:27:12 PM

I support abolishing the MPD and starting over. As a Minneapolis citizen, I have lost confidence in the ability of the MPD to be reformed; the city needs to try a new approach. The Police Chief is an honorable person, and many of the officers are undoubtedly excellent, but there is an organizational history that appears to be impossible to overcome. I would support having current officers be able to apply for a new public safety force, but the role of the Police Union needs to be changed. Too many problematic officers have been retained or reinstated. I would also support a law/rule that officers must live within the city. Officers must know and respect the citizens they are entrusted with safeguarding.

6/30/2020 4:27:14 PM

I think its a really bad idea....

6/30/2020 4:27:46 PM

This will be great. Get rid of police, legalize drugs, rape , murder, assault and anything else that is a crime. No crime, no need for police. Good Luck

6/30/2020 4:28:51 PM

Defunding the Police is the DUMBEST idea I've ever heard of. We will be looking at moving if you proceed with it.

6/30/2020 4:29:39 PM

I am in favor of the charter amendments and look forward to them being put to a vote by the public on the 2020 ballot.

6/30/2020 4:29:57 PM

I as a citizen of Minneapolis am in favor of a police force in our city. I am not in favor of disbanding our police.

6/30/2020 4:30:35 PM

During the riots/protests I didn't see any police in my neighborhood for 5 days and everything got looted, pillaged, and burned. And we had to be our own police and guard our neighborhood with vigilance. Now I agree the police needs reform and new/different training, but to abolish them is insane. The neighborhoods will become the wild west and people will start defending themselves, which I don't completely disagree with, but there has to be a police force so the criminals know that they cannot do whatever they want with impunity. The city council should be ashamed of themselves, as should the Governor, Mayor, Police Chief, and the Commissioner of public safety. They abandoned our city in its greatest time of need and I have not one ounce of respect for any of them. I hope there are open forums to discuss this matter in whole, I feel like are city politicians are deaf, dumb, and blind if this is there answer.

6/30/2020 4:30:38 PM

As a Black man of 41 years, I have never felt safe in America. I have witnessed and been the subject of man instances of police racism. If Minneapolis successfully abolish their police department, I will move to your city. I'm tired of living in fear. My neck is tired.

6/30/2020 4:30:59 PM

The police union must go. It keeps poor officers in place. Uses off duty jobs as leverage to keep the good ones in line. Young officers are being burned up covering for older officers who do little work. Military and warrior tactical training puts emphasis on weapons over negotiation. No beat cops. no traffic cops. The whole department is under Bob Krull and Sherral Schmidts control. The council and Chief Arradando seem powerless to do more than wait for attrition. I as a white male have seen first hand several times the police have failed in fairly simple tasks. We need help in South Minneapolis and the only ones putting an effort into change us the protestors.

6/30/2020 4:31:26 PM

U people are nuts thinking u can replace the police put it to a vote ul lose big time but them Democrats will cheat tons on go people leaving the state another Gary Indiana Chicago coming up

6/30/2020 4:31:38 PM

I have lived in Minneapolis most of my life and currently live in Robbinsdale on Victory Memorial Parkway (right on border of Mpls.). I worked downtown for 3 years and also spend a considerable amount of time in Minneapolis. It has been one of my favorite cities and I have been very proud of it (up until recently). I am still dumbfounded with what happened after George Floyd's death and the subsequent mayhem and complete disregard for property and people's lives and how this was entirely allowed and condoned and even encouraged by our city leaders. I am further dumbfounded by this recent charter amendment to change the police department as we know it. I am deeply concerned for my safety now in Robbinsdale and also for the safety of my son who lives in Mpls. I also have an 85 year old mother who lives in Minneapolis, and am extremely nervous about her safety. I will need to think more than twice about venturing into Mpls to spend any time at restaurants or other venues with the changes the City Council is proposing. I am deeply disturbed about the lack of real thought and planning that went into this proposal and also the complete lack of true leadership. I feel that our city is going right down the tube and I never thought in a million years I would see that happen. Please do not proceed down this path or you have lost both my husband and I as true supporters of Mpls.

6/30/2020 4:31:49 PM

I support most of the amendment but agree with Reclaim the Block that it could have gone farther, especially that there should be explicit provisions to prevent leadership by current or former cops.

6/30/2020 4:31:57 PM

I don't think removing the police would help.

Like any job, more on the job training about how to handle situations is always helpful.

From a young age I have heard of all the crime in Minneapolis, and I think it would make it an unsafe environment for the residents and businesses there, plus I hear from a lot of my friends on Facebook and including myself refusing to go there if the police were removed, so in turn, I think it would be bad for the economy especially.

What happened to George Floyd was unacceptable, but getting rid of the police will be like giving to streets of Minneapolis to the gangs.

6/30/2020 4:32:32 PM

Disarm. Defund. Dismantle. I am in full support of this charter amendment. The MPD as it stands does not protect our citizens.

I have been at the protests following George Floyd's death. I have been to the "war-torn" countries of Sri Lanka and Sierra Leone as a single, white, female. I have never been more afraid in my life than when I was at one of the George Floyd protests. I was kneeling on the road, hiding behind my sign. Do I put my hand out to show that I am no threat? Or will my hand then be a target for a rubber bullet? Everytime I showed my hand, it was uncontrollably shaking from fear. Not long after I knealt down, I felt something hit the front of my sign and tear gas began to go off near me. As we all began to ran from the gas, other protesters came to aid my burning eyes, nose and throat. Not the police, the community.

The day before at another protest, my boyfriend had just arrived at the 3rd precinct. I immediately noticed the police in full riot gear on top of the roof aiming guns at us. I will admit, I gave one of them the middle finger. Not 5minutes after arriving, a concussion grenade was fired directly at my head. Luckily, I turned and guarded myself at the last second. The concussion grenade bounced off of my shoulder blade seconds before exploding. I was not the first person that day who had projectiles aimed at their heads. Either the entire force at the 3rd precinct that day has terrible aim, or they we're aiming directly for our heads. Either way, their actions needed to be addressed. They were not.

I have lost all hope and trust in the MPD. There are many other professions that deal with potentially harmful people (ex. Those in the medical field) that are much for skilled at harm reduction and deescalation. The MPD needs to be replaced with a community-driven team that is properly equipped and trained to deescalate and give medical aid as needed.

6/30/2020 4:33:02 PM

I oppose the proposed charter amendment because there is no plan for how this magical transition will be effected.

Furthermore, rather than working in conjunction with the Mayor and Chief of Police to come up with a workable plan, the City Council is using this tactic only to increase their power in an already weak mayor system.

6/30/2020 4:33:10 PM

I already limit my time in Minneapolis to around ten Twins games a year. Removing the police presence at Target Field would keep my family and I away indefinitely. There is no way I would venture anywhere else in the city, like block E, due to lack of policing and constant crime. Minneapolis voters should remove their elected officials from the top down. The mayor looked over his head at best; at least St Paul's mayor looked calm, collected, and confident when speaking about the riots/looting/arson and their cities policing. Mayor Carter earned my respect that day. Just a thought from Sherburne County.

6/30/2020 4:33:31 PM

I DON'T feel it is in the city's best interest to move forward with the proposal. I believe the intentions were good but decision -making, rash. As in any business and situation, one must side with the experts and the city council doesn't have the experts to lead the charge. No offense.

Lets let the police department work with options as to how they could deal with some of the situations internally. This should be the first step. Community outreach via the police department/liasons would be the next to find out where their time/resources could be better spent. The majority are there to protect and serve. Give them a chance to do what they know best. If you don't, they won't feel supported and you will have police officers not sticking around.... at least not the good ones that can find jobs somewhere else.

6/30/2020 4:34:28 PM

I am a 14-year resident of Minneapolis. I live in the West Phillips neighborhood with my wife and 4 children.

While I agree that change is needed in the way that we hold bad-cops accountable, I am baffled by the idea of removing the police department completely.

Those that I have heard advocating for dismantling the police often point to the need for proper mental health responses. While I'm sure there is room to create a more holistic approach to crime prevention - I believe this focus ignores the existence of violent crimes that are increasing in our neighborhoods.

We need a strong and decisive response to people that are intent on doing harm to our neighborhoods. Otherwise they will be emboldened and the greatest harm will be done to those that are least able to defend themselves.

We can make our system better without removing the protection that police offer our communities.

6/30/2020 4:34:32 PM

I stand behind the proposed amendment and encourage the committee to allow this to move forward.

6/30/2020 4:34:52 PM

I am for the abolition of the MPD. I believe the system was always in place to keep minorities and poor people down. I hope the new system benefits folks in a way MPD has never done.

6/30/2020 4:34:56 PM

Am not planning to vote in favor if giving the authority to the council to institute a currently nonexistent and secret plan for the police reform

6/30/2020 4:34:59 PM

I support the changes to the charter. More investment up front will go a long way in improving public health and safety. MPD is being asked to do too much. Let other professionals help with mental illness, addiction and nuisance issues. Use law enforcement as a last resort, not a first response.

6/30/2020 4:35:02 PM

I think the citizens of Minneapolis have spoken through our protests, our riots, and our tears. After all, riots happen when our voices are ignored. We are sick of black and brown folk dying at the hands of the MPD. They've had their training, they've had the money to do better, and nothing has changed. Give us the option to vote in November and defund the police.

6/30/2020 4:35:17 PM

The simple renaming of the Minneapolis Police Department to "Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention" is a hollow and pathetic sham. You are not addressing the root cause of the issues the public seeks to address. The public understands the police do not protect the community at large and we are seeking to defund this racist, corrupt, department of organized crime in order to fund social programs that will actually help people. The police must be defunded not renamed. The citizens have shown we have the will and power to protect and organize ourselves as we do not need the police but greater social services, healthcare and housing. Follow through on your promises. We want police abolition.

6/30/2020 4:35:47 PM

We need to clean up the police department and have higher pay , better education and more stringent hiring practices. I think this is a ridiculous idea. Don't throw out the baby with the bath water.

I am a resident and a local business owner

6/30/2020 4:36:02 PM

The Minneapolis Police Department is not fulfilling its mission to serve and protect. Every time something dangerous happens in my neighborhood, I have to weigh the risk to my brown and black neighbors. That's not right. I should be able to count on safety initiatives for things like graffiti, vandalism, theft, and reckless driving but right now I can't die to the way the MPD has repeatedly behaved itself. The MPD causes more harm in our poorest and most diverse neighborhoods than it does good and it's time to reimagine community safety. I support this change in the charter and in our city.

6/30/2020 4:36:30 PM

I strongly support this proposal.

6/30/2020 4:38:04 PM

I am against the dismantling of the MPD because we citizens need protection, not a neighbor or something social worker to help us out if we have been burglarized or threatened for our life.

It's interesting how Mpls City Council members use our tax money because they are being threatened! Who protects each Mpls citizen?

You members have been reacting emotionally in an illogical manner and seem like you have to prove something because George Floyd's murder happened here.

Walking in our Nokomis neighborhood last night, my husband and I saw five(5) new listings for houses to be sold. You are sending people away from our city, not helping it.

6/30/2020 4:38:07 PM

I am against this proposal. I believe that we can change policing while increasing the number of police in Minneapolis. I believe this is necessary due to protect tax paying citizens from increasing violent crime in Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 4:38:45 PM

I am in full support of the city council's proposed charter amendment to remove the Police Department and establish a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department. Knowing the changing a name doesn't necessarily change the practices, I am in favor of a complete re-imagining of how a community safety department could be properly trained with the highest standards of trauma-informed care to address the variety of community safety needs, including (but not limited to) mental health, housing stability, addiction, domestic violence, and more. Minneapolis has the opportunity to lead in a bold new way and I support this charter amendment.

6/30/2020 4:38:48 PM

I am against this proposal. I believe that we can change policing while increasing the number of police in Minneapolis. I believe this is necessary due to protect tax paying citizens from increasing violent crime in Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 4:40:00 PM

I have been a small business owner on Hennepin Avenue South for the last 18 years. I have lived in St. Louis Park for most of my 55 years, 4 miles from our business. My center was looted and turned upside down on May 28th due to the rioting and direct lack of leadership from our city leaders who should have stopped the destruction in its tracks before our beautiful city was destroyed.

I have many concerns with the proposed charter amendments. I also believe it is hypocrisy that Lisa Bender and other members of the Minneapolis council can defend the cost and need of their own personal security protection but believe a whole city should face a different set of lawlessness and a recommendation to call a neighbor or social worker if faced with a violent offender or crime. I have faced firsthand what it looks like when a crime is being committed and no one will come to help.

I am thankful both my parents who raised us in this area were not alive to see what the lack of leadership looks like at the end of a one week period. This beautiful and vibrant city definitely required improvements but it should not have come at the cost of lost businesses, horrible destruction, large scale theft, destruction of low income housing, many jobs and so many economic hardships to small businesses who were going to reopen after the temporary closures due to Covid 19.

I absolutely agree that the murder of George Floyd mandates changes and improvements. I have disagreed with many of Mayor Frey's decisions and actions but have pasted his response to the elimination of the Minneapolis police department comment below, which I agree with 100% and hope that most people understand we are not prepared in this city to eliminate the hard working men and women of the Minneapolis police department. They need training and additional support to perform their jobs to the best of their abilities. We the community and leaders are just as much to blame as the

Minneapolis police department for this terrible set of circumstances. Hopefully we are all up to the challenge of becoming the city I thought we already were.

"We also need to stay focused and press for changes to state law, engage community and undertake meaningful reforms to help Chief (Medaria) Arradondo – and officers who are committed to his vision – shift the department's culture," Frey said. "It's hard, complex work – and we can't pretend that eliminating the department is a serious substitute for that hard work."

6/30/2020 4:40:15 PM

I know longer want to buy a public safety plan that is overpriced, over-weaponed, and puts many community members at risk of injury, incarceration and death. We do not need a SWAT team to respond to most issues. We must reimagine how we keep our city safe and healthy. We must look at how other cities have created mental health outreach teams to respond to those in crisis, and how these teams guide people to the appropriate places: NOT jail. People need healthcare, crisis care, etc. We, as taxpayers and consumers of public services, demand a different model, one that helps, cares, guides. Police are there to enforce, and nothing else. Please amend the City Charter so that we can create a system that works for all people.

6/30/2020 4:40:30 PM

Please establish guidelines to prevent militarization of the police force and monitor the purchasing agents that reinforce militarization of public service officers and publicly report expenditures on police equipment with a listing of military surplus reporting and grants. Additionally please ensure civilian review of all excessive force cases as well as civilian review of the death of unarmed civilians within 24 hours of arrest. Steroid and narcotics use by police should be matter public record and prescription drug and mental health records should be made public if civilian review board warrants excessive force case. Financial ties of senior police union officials should regularly be audit to ensure no ties or graft between commercial agents and police union and purchasing activity.

6/30/2020 4:40:33 PM

We need a functioning well trained police department. Minneapolis has crime and much of that crime is violent and gang-related.

Reform is needed:

- 1) The police should not be immune to consequences for abuses of power.
- 2) Qualified immunity needs to go.
- 3)The police union has too much power.
- 4) Bad cops need to be weeded out.
- 5) We need a strong gang task force.

Reform, not defunding is what is needed.

6/30/2020 4:40:35 PM

While I support re-evaluating the funding and relationship/role of the Minneapolis Police Department, this move by the city council is VERY concerning to me. They've pushed forward without a concrete strategy, without this we do not know what we're voting on. This isn't a reasonable approach. Especially considering that certain council members, as recently as December 2019 were advocating for the hiring more police officers than Mayor Fry was requesting (double the amount, in fact). She's my council woman and will not be receiving my vote in the next election. When you're willing to turn around that sharply on an issue, I do not trust you to act in the best interests of our city. I do not think it is responsible to push forward this charter measure without a detailed plan in place from the council - stripping protections based on a promise to "build something new and great" isn't a responsible choice.

Reallocate funds - create a new brand of public safety, 100% agree. Strip this from the charter without a detailed plan in place to replace it? No.

6/30/2020 4:40:50 PM

fuck 12. Abolish the Police

6/30/2020 4:41:09 PM

Removing the police department from the city charter is an ill-advised move. It is an act of punishment not of the police but of the community that the police serve, and the suggestion of a "community safety and violence prevention department" with no details of what that would look like says those who are proposing this are rushing to action and are not truly concerned for the COMMUNITY that would be most impacted by this. More accurately, the communities that would be most affected, as that varies from neighborhood to neighborhood. This would leave more of us unprotected, underprotected, and much more vulnerable than we already are.

6/30/2020 4:42:06 PM

Being a police officer should require a degree at least something involving law and how to handle stressful situations and they should not have any deadly weapons at all. They should have a tazer a lesser form of pepper spray and maybe maybe not a baton. They should on top of the degree have a 1 year police training. And if they have killed anyone in their police time they should be fired or at very least be fired if they have killed multiple because it shows they do not know how to deescalate a situation well enough for the job. And if they have had any felonies ever they should not be allowed on the force. An officer should be held accountable for any crimes they commit while being an officer and not be immune unless it was something similar to speeding to catch another speeding car. Also anyone on the force now should be fired and not be allowed on again unless they meet the requirements already said.

6/30/2020 4:43:16 PM

I was born and raised in Minneapolis and come back to visit multiple times per year. I was considering a 2nd home there until the violence happened. If Minneapolis moves to remove an actual police presence in anyway I will avoid the area completely. Downtown has deteriorated and become so dangerous that I have avoided it at almost all costs and would not frequent it a night. Businesses and residents will flee that area. I'm all for reform and overhaul of the MPD and officers and getting a better police force in place. I'm also for more community programs to supplement the PD and keep them from responding to mental health issues but the reality of it is that if the individual is violent they will have to respond.

Please do no defund the police;

6/30/2020 4:43:20 PM

The city of Minneapolis should defund and/or disband the police and divert funds to more useful programs that could reduce violence and promote public health and safety. The police do not currently keep people safe. They keep white property safe and ensure that more poor people and people of color will become trapped by the criminal justice system and will live in fear of being assaulted or killed. This does not do anything to prevent violence or crime. We need more preemptive not reactive solutions to violence and crime. Changing the city charter is a step in the right direction towards that goal.

6/30/2020 4:44:04 PM

I am writing to voice my support for disbanding the MPD and finding a community-led task force that will not carry guns. This is the best thing we can do to make sure all of our communities, especially our minority communities feel safe and are no longer going to face trigger happy cops who will harm them.

6/30/2020 4:44:50 PM

Removing the Police Department is the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard. Additional training and mental health screening would be helpful. But abolishing the Department altogether would cause even more chaos than is currently happening. Social workers etc...could be on call for specific situations. But most often that police presence is what is going to stop the law breakers.

6/30/2020 4:44:55 PM

As a Minneapolis homeowner, I fully support this charter amendment. I am angry, appalled, and ashamed that not only did four Minneapolis police officers torture George Floyd to death, but they did it on the clock, their salaries for murder paid by my property taxes.

As a middle-class homeowner in a nice neighborhood, I of course want to have a police force to help protect me, my family and neighbors, and my property. I want a police force that enforces the laws equally, justly, and mercifully, recognizing the human worth of every person they encounter. But the Minneapolis Police Department, in its current incarnation, is not that police force. And I do not believe they can become that police force.

I believe it is time for radical reform of the police in Minneapolis, including abolishing MPD entirely and replacing them with a new, much smaller force (or multiple forces), with a more focused mission and a great deal more civilian oversight and control. Money currently spent paying police to do a bad job at things they aren't trained to do and shouldn't be doing is money that could be spent on unarmed public safety professionals who will do a far better job.

But that sort of radical reform cannot be done within the constraints of the current charter, which mandates a minimum force size of over 700 officers. Without a change in charter, real reform is impossible. Any changes will be merely cosmetic.

I have been listening to "reform" since the death of Jamar Clark nearly five years ago, and five years of "reform" just led us to police torturing a citizen to death, my neighborhood in ashes and ruin, and countless violations of the Constitution, the Geneva Convention, and basic human decency by the police against anyone who dared speak up in the streets about police violence. I do not believe that the MPD that continues to elect Bob Kroll as their representative is ever going to negotiate in good faith for the good of the city and the citizens. They are a danger to public safety and need to be eliminated, for the good of the city.

This charter change, if approved by the voters, will represent a commitment of our entire community to a better future for law enforcement and public safety in Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 4:45:19 PM

I am disgusted in the leadership of this State and especially the city of Minneapolis. How dare you..... trying to take our safety away from us. I will never vote Democrat again. You give more respect to the criminals around here the decent hard working people that pay taxes. Don't you know businesses will flee the city. They have already started. Im not taking a knee.

6/30/2020 4:45:47 PM

I do not support removing the police department. It is clear that within the past 2 weeks there has been an increase in gun violence in the city. I have family members that live in the city and they are concerned for their safety.

6/30/2020 4:45:50 PM

The charter states... "(1) Director of Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department. The Mayor nominates and the City Council appoints a director of the department of community safety and violence prevention under section 8.4(b). Individuals eligible to be appointed as director will have non-law enforcement experience in community safety services, including but not limited to public health and/or restorative justice approaches." The term "non-law enforcement" could mean either (a) never had any law enforcement experience or (b) has experience beyond only law enforcement. I assume (b) is the intent, but I suggest clarifying this point so the charter doesn't inadvertently exclude candidates with some law enforcement experience.

The current charter provides specific, minimum funding for the police department. This revised charter is silent on the funding amount. I wonder if it makes sense to document a funding expectation for this department.

I recognize that the scope of this document is limited to the charter and as such is not specific on what the Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department does, how it is structured, how staff are qualified and hired, etc. At the same time, I think the Commission needs to offer a vision for how this department will operate before and as the public is asked to vote for or against this charter revision.

Thank you for moving swiftly to support the public's call for change in law enforcement and community support. Please also be thorough in your definition of this change in advance, so we don't jeopardize the communities we're trying to support.

6/30/2020 4:46:03 PM

Do not disband the MINNEAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT!!! If you follow through with this insanity...the result will be ANARCHY!!!

6/30/2020 4:46:14 PM

Dear Minneapolis City Council,

I am writing in support of the proposed amendment to the city charter to establish a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police Department from the Charter.

6/30/2020 4:46:29 PM

I'd like to keep my comments short and as productive as possible. I believe that the move to abolish the MPD and establish an alternative department based on community safety and holistic security practices is a vital step towards undermining systemic racism in this state and country. I also believe that this move cannot be done halfheartedly or without serious specific questions answered and would like the city council to very publicly address the following questions/concerns as they move towards November.

- 1) How will parts/pieces of the MPD be integrated into this new department? The valuable experience that some members of law enforcement have in dealing with intelligence and violent crime should not be discarded in my opinion but I would like to know what the plan will be for incorporating certain sections of MPD as advisors/trainers or for handling contingency scenarios like a mass shooting or hostage taking.
- 2) How integrated will this new department be in the community support and watch networks that have already existed or have developed during the protests and riots that followed the murder of George Floyd? There's a robust network in both Southside and Northside neighborhoods that already performs some of the duties that the hypothetical department will perform, but whether or not they will continue to function independently or will be integrated into the new department is unclear.
- 3) What sort of oversight boards will exist for this department? One of the fundamental tenets of a new security force should be that an effective oversight structure should exist to prevent incidents of abuse

and murder like those that have marked the MPD's history. I personally would want to see both a city-funded oversight committee as well as an independent civilian review board.

I think those three pressing questions are going to figure prominently into peoples' thoughts as the vote draws nearer and elections in general draw nearer. If these questions cannot be answered or are not answered effectively, a vote in favor of abolition will be less likely.

6/30/2020 4:46:32 PM

were this poorly thought out bit of virtue-signaling to pass I would not bring my dollars to the city. I'd prefer to enjoy eating and being entertained in an environment that provides protection to citizens.

6/30/2020 4:46:38 PM

Hello - I believe the idea of reallocating police funds and reforming the department is necessary. I'm very interested to get more information about the Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department.

Things to consider and not overlook in my opinion include:

1) The recent increase in violent crime seen by Minneapolis. Has there been research done on what has caused this? What has happened in other cities that have defunded police? Has violence lessened, increased, or stayed the same?

2) White flight. While unfortunate, this country has a history of middle-upper class white people packing up and moving to the suburbs when city life gets harder. If you remove the police force and it leads to lower levels of safety (or even the feeling of less safety), many Minneapolis residents may opt to move out of the city. Especially since companies are moving to more flexible work from home arrangements - so living close to downtown might be less necessary. How will you convince the white middle/upper class to stay? Their taxpayer dollars are important.

3) Could there be a negative impact on poorer communities? It's my understanding that areas like North Minneapolis already have trouble getting ahold of the police in certain times of need. People with more wealth can upgrade their security systems, build fences, etc. Will the new Community Protection Department have the resources to handle violent crime and keep all communities safe?

Lastly, I think it's important to note that the phrase "dismantle the police department" (often used by city council members) sounds scary to a lot of people. I understand that the city council is looking to please a group of people who are incredibly (and rightfully) angry over George Floyd's death, and that the strong language of "dismantling the police" accomplishes that. But to get any traction with this idea, you need to make sure people understand it's a repeal and replace, not just a repeal. Consider softening the language and remember you represent everyone in this community. Figure out ways to bring people together on this issue instead of pushing them apart.

I look forward to seeing where this initiative goes! Thank you!

6/30/2020 4:47:05 PM

When the Nazi's in Germany were elected by scared people the first thing they did was disarm all civilians. The second thing they did they disbanded all Police forces in the country. They replaced them with evil people called Brown Shirts who were willing to do anything asked of them and nothing citizens asked of them. They started the systematic round up of Jews, Romanis, everyone who was not of sound body or mind, perverts (their term, unless they were SS), nonGermans, African or mixed race people, Christians and others who refused to obey their War on the world.

They did away with municipal courts and took away everyone's rights and freedom. They Tried to destroy history and past heroes and Statesman.

They got so far so fast because the rich grandparents of the people we refer to as Globalist throughout history illuminati invested money in Hitler's NWO like is being invested in our UN NWO. Same name, came evil.

They bought, framed or indoctrinated the young with lies and promises they never intended to keep. And it is happening again in Minneapolis and endangering everyone in the Twin Cities. You are not modern or kinder or cleverer than the system you selfishly are destroying. You don't follow rules or laws and open the city up to much smarter, meaner and more evil takeover. UN is two faced. One face says things we all would like to see but they have no power. The UN NWO gets their money by trafficking humans, drugs, weapons, adrenochrome in the countries they are sent to help in disasters and caste warfare. Who is not a health agency but a group of criminals lying to start assuming power over the people of the world.

My grandchildren attend school everyday in Minneapolis but this will be in the schools because children learn what they see adults do and the adults in Minneapolis politics are short sighted selfish monsters who have the blood of 100 innocent policeman and babies in other cities who believed the actors killed in the hoax video murdered George Floyd, when his death was from overdose and disease, a week earlier May 17th according to the Obama Foundation to use to further your evil selfish hateful agenda.

It is not to late to repent and atone and remember the extra blessing you have had living in MN where refugees and immigrants have been welcomed and allowed to become citizens and participate in the joy of helping neighbors who want to live in a Constitutional Rebuplic and then help go after those who hate us and want to destroy us for our humanity and freedoms, the elite Globalists and their minions.

It is a Thin Blue Line of hardworking dedicated trained policeman who never wanted to be Militarized by the Globalist minions after 2003 that allow us to peruse our dreams and live good long lives.

If you have to disband anyone the Minneapolis FBI has been responsible for 911 happening, Sen Wellstones and Jacob Wetterling murders never brought to justice because they were Globalist murders and a 1000 more evil things we were unaware of.

6/30/2020 4:47:07 PM

I am in support of this amendment.

6/30/2020 4:47:23 PM

100% support this!

6/30/2020 4:47:49 PM

Suggesting that Minneapolis should get rid of the Police is ridiculous! Do you really want a mass exodus out of the city? Get rid of the Police and watch people leave in droves. Along with the people will be businesses. Do you honestly want to lower housing values? Which, in turn, reduces the amount of taxes the city receives. Why would you think that removing a police force from a large city would make the majority of the city feel safer? I do believe some folks believe that removing the Police is a good idea, but I feel the silent majority agrees with me, in that we do need Police. I do agree that at times the Police have to much to do and we could stand up an additional department of some sort to help out with petty situations, but when violence and people's lives are at stake, we need the Police force. Without Police, people will be free to act in ways that do a disservice to this city and others, all because they know there are no consequences. As I tell my children, there will always ALWAYS be authority in their lives, and they need to respect authority. Disbanding the Police is so childish and is not teaching our children anything good. It is teaching them that if they do not like something or it is hurting people's feelings that they should in turn revolt and try to take down whatever is causing them hardship or fear. Instead, what we need to explain to everyone is that people of authority, at times, will take advantage of their authority and misuse it. Please reconsider this amendment and focus on the real problems, which take time to address, but are worth it in the long run. Thank you!

6/30/2020 4:48:12 PM

I work in the city of Minneapolis. I also used to spend a lot of money in the city with my family. My sister used to own property in the city. I think the city council has lost their mind with trying to disband the police or restructure it. I thought the city council and the mayor were nuts when they did not give the chief of police the number of cops he initially asked for. The city is no longer safe due to the actions of the politicians. Businesses owners have complained about crime in down town for years which fell on deaf ears. I have witnessed the crime go up especially the violent crime first hand. Soon businesses will leave because of the actions of the city council. I will no longer bring my family in to the city if the police are disbanded. Many of my friends feel the same way. You should not make these changes because of the actions of one bad cop . It is obvious you are pandering to the mob due to an election year. Have some courage to do what is right. If you get rid of the police you are either crazy or just cowards.

6/30/2020 4:48:16 PM

I want to abolish and/or refund the current state of the police in Minneapolis. Start fresh!

Thank you very much for beginning this process!

6/30/2020 4:48:25 PM

I want the police abolished and the money to go towards improving the lives of everyone in Minneapolis

6/30/2020 4:48:36 PM

Policing has not been working for our community at large and the resources that they use could be invested into harm reduction, public housing, education, libraries, and the like. Defund MPD. And don't just recreate it by another name.

6/30/2020 4:48:42 PM

We need both. We need the police to investigate crimes of many kinds and we need a safety and violence prevention department. We need them to work TOGETHER at all times. The police have been a catch all solution for too many problems for too long. A social/psych welfare response team backed up by the police would be great.

6/30/2020 4:48:47 PM

I am not on board with removing the police department and would feel very unsafe working in a city that has done so. I am however on board with an overhaul of the department and an in-depth look at all officers currently employed. I would like a mandatory review of all personnel to identify those who have had instances where they may have used excessive force. Anyone with a violation should require extensive retraining and those with multiple violations should be fired.

6/30/2020 4:48:53 PM

Pass the charter amendment Changing the policing language so that voters can vote in November

6/30/2020 4:49:16 PM

Concerns with proposed amendment:

- Council rushing the amendment process to get something on the ballot this year without sufficiently explaining urgency of the specific changes contemplated in the amendment
- Insufficient explanation of why a name and organizational change is both requisite to achieve the underlying necessary changes, and why they are required to be rushed through
- Subordinating powers from the city-elected mayor to the ward-elected councilors including council self-selected officers turns critical public safety, violence prevention, and policing into political issues rather than decisive leadership with clear chain of command. The existing charter language already allows for appropriate council input and oversight relative to the roles of the mayor and chief.
- Term limits are not provided for the 2 new roles proposed in the amendment. This results in less accountability for these new leaders as political appointees with potentially lifetime jobs.

- Proposed amendment says council “may” employ law enforcement/peace officers. This is not an appropriate situation for a major city such as Minneapolis. Law enforcement is requisite for a municipality that intends to have laws. Peace officer requirements and language ensures proper anchoring to state law.
- Removal of “Public Health,” “Temporary Police,” and “Fire Police” clauses without adequate replacement in the proposed charter language leaves the city at risk of unclear direction, unclear chain of command, and ineffectual operations in crisis and emergency response incidents. The Council has clearly rushed to put together this proposal and have clearly exercised haste over thoughtful consideration of the impacts and implications of the proposed changes.

I don't think any resident of our great city disputes the need for change to policing practices, procedure, and operations in the city of Minneapolis. This proposed amendment does not effectively achieve those necessary changes. This is a rushed, haphazard, organizational and name change while leaving clear vulnerabilities with regards to the functions stricken from the charter, along with obfuscating the chain of command and turning critical public safety functions into political positions subject to the whims of the council.

We're all in this together - the council ought to work thoughtfully and deliberately with all stakeholders to ensure the changes we ultimately make as a city are truly the best plan with efficient and effective implementation. This amendment fails at achieving the outcomes our city needs.

6/30/2020 4:49:33 PM

I strongly feel that if you do plan on keeping the MPD, there needs to be heavy regulation. The union needs to be abolished. There also needs to be extensive background and mental health checks MONTHLY. They need to be defunded and the weapons need to go as well.

6/30/2020 4:50:08 PM

I support putting the amendment to the city's charter on the ballot this November. We should allow residents and voters to have their voice heard. These decisions should be publicly made and not in backrooms when the impacts of these decisions will have such wide-ranging repercussions.

6/30/2020 4:50:21 PM

As a Minneapolis taxpayer, the more I learn about defunding the police the more I believe the time to do this work is now (since we can't start yesterday). We have already tried reforming the police and have gotten nowhere. I hope we can use money that used to go to police budgets to instead reinvest in our communities and create safer more equitable neighborhoods. I hope that the police the city does keep can be held accountable to the community for their actions instead of protected by their unions while taxpayers are forced to pay out large settlements for their misdeeds. I hope this work can be led by the communities of color who are not currently protected or served by the MPD. As a middle-aged white woman my life and the life of my kids is largely uninfluenced by police violence, and I hope that my city can lead the way for this to be the reality for my Black, Indigenous and Latin neighbors in the future as well.

6/30/2020 4:50:51 PM

I absolutely believe the Amendment to change the City Charter is wrong. The Council - in its rush to placate the loudest voices in a time of crisis - will learn the hard way that there will be negative consequences, as will the citizenry. Not the least among them will be a shortage of Officers - either by the Council unwisely reducing the numbers, but more likely by Officers retiring/resigning due to lack of support by City Council as is happening right now. (It is interesting to note that nearby suburban PD's are offering "bounties" for new Officer hires running \$2500 to \$5000!) Sure hope I don't need 911 any time soon!

The Mayor and Chief Arradondo should manage P.D. - not a committee of 13 with no clear vision of policing. We, as residents and businesses of the City have the right to expect trained police personnel in sufficient numbers to keep us safe 24/7/365!

This is not to diminish the importance of social programs, which are truly necessary - but, in combination with effective professional policing. Anything less, I would expect a decline in the livability of Minneapolis. Already, I have had a neighbor of 17 years tell me they are moving out of the City due to City Council actions. Additionally, two different couples who were seriously planning to move from suburbs to the City changed their minds, and are going elsewhere. Is that the beginning of a pattern? People vote with their feet.

Thank you.

6/30/2020 4:51:23 PM

As a 30 year resident of Minneapolis, it is tragic to watch the crime and violence continue to escalate in our city. I do not support removal of the Police Department, rather we need more police officers and increased patrols in the residential areas.

6/30/2020 4:52:28 PM

I strongly support this charter amendment. We should pursue a broad, public process of transforming public safety in Minneapolis. I believe this charter amendment is essential to that process.

I have family members who have been in scary situations. I've interacted with police. I've heard the stories of pain from families affected by violence. We can do better.

6/30/2020 4:52:39 PM

You are may be the first city in the world who will not have a police department. It's absurd to eliminate it or call it differently because of one bad policeman. You have to have a city referendum to do that as you need to listen to a majority of people and not to a dilitant group of young people.

6/30/2020 4:53:06 PM

Please DO NOT lose our police department. We saw in Minneapolis what happens to the city when there is no police.... Crime sky rockets! Yes police changes in how it handles everything but loosing all police will destroy our city! You council are responsible for everyone and not having police is un responsible. No community volunteers can do everything. Paid police 24/7 is critical.

6/30/2020 4:53:20 PM

The policing force definitely needs more training. A city without a police presence is in my opinion a city that is headed in a direction of chaos.

Just look at Lake Street and even with police the destruction that took place is unbelievable. Lawlessness at its best.

6/30/2020 4:54:59 PM

Abolishing the police is the first step to abolishing slavery. As we know, under the 13th amendment slavery is in fact legal in a penitentiary context. Abolishing this system requires the abolition of the police and justice system as we know it. I said abolishing slavery R E Q U I R E S the abolition of the police and justice system as we know it. Not reform. They reformed slavery, did not abolish it. And in 400 years, absolutely nothing has changed. Our most powerful politicians run child sex slavery rings (public record). Nothing. Has. Changed.

We have the power to implement a system that serves us all, under which we answer only to each other. We need folks who are actually from and for our communities to be the ones taking care of each other. The key word here is care. We also have an incredible opportunity to make a model of ourselves for the rest of the country. To be frank, regardless of what happens we have a spotlight on us. There is tremendous pressure to do this effectively. And we can.

If you insist on simply replacing the police, we will inevitably fail. We cannot possibly succeed under the same framework that has caused incalculable terror. So how do we do this?

Mechanics who patrol the city with spare parts (compressed air, spare tail lights, extra fuel, etc) could be paid by the city to offer roadside assistance.

We need to expand our scope of resources and accessibility to those experiencing homelessness. We could fund more soup kitchens, learning centers for kids and adults, and food shelves.

We could invent a sort of Uber-like system for anyone who needs a safe ride across the city. No questions asked.

Free towing services

Free parking city-wide

Free child care

Fund programs to help parents who have been targeted by CPS. Emphasis here on trauma informed care.

24 hour safe place for those dealing with domestic abuse, with a location that changes for safety.

I'm sure you have countless other brilliant ways to move coming in. I want to say thank you for what you are doing. I trust that you will make the best choices, as you have thus far. We are all so grateful for the work you are doing. So the last thing I can ask of you is to just keep showing up. Don't give up. Keep fighting for us all. Thank you.

6/30/2020 4:55:27 PM

Do not dismantle MPD. Hire people who live in the city only like the old days. Get rid of evil people.   

6/30/2020 4:55:35 PM

The Minneapolis Police Department as it is organized now is a corrupt and racist institution. If Minneapolis government wants the community to trust law enforcement, a fundamental change needs to happen. We need to re-imagine policing and community support. Defunding street patrols and funding positive intervention services is an important step. Minneapolis has failed its citizens, especially BIPOC citizens, it's time to change policing. Lets build a future that relies less on arresting folks, and more on building a safe community.

6/30/2020 4:55:45 PM

Don't do it. That is the most short sighted and asinine idea I have ever heard. Just look at the "autonomous zone" in Seattle. No police = more and increasingly violent crime. How about establishing a department of how to behave to teach the feral youth running wild in your city.

6/30/2020 4:55:47 PM

The police in Minneapolis and all across America have shown that they cannot hold themselves accountable and make real changes. Rates of death by police remain high. We do not need fully armed militarized police that continue to kill citizens. We need people who specialize in mental health to respond to mental health calls. We need specialists in addiction to respond to drug and alcohol related calls and well funded EMS to respond to medical calls. The budget for the police department as it is now should be gutted and reallocated to affordable housing, education and mental health care to help address many of the root causes of small crimes. I live in St Paul but work 40+ hours a week in Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 4:56:14 PM

I am a resident of Northeast Minneapolis and I support this charter amendment. After the death of George Floyd, it is absolutely clear that public safety needs to be re-imagined in Minneapolis. The current mayor, and those before him -- along with their respective police chiefs -- have implemented policing reforms, all of which failed to protect Mr. Floyd's life. What we need is structural change, and

we create the opportunity for that structural change by implementing a new department of public safety and violence prevention. Under that framework, the city can focus on providing the right resources to Minneapolis residents, not always defaulting to armed officers. I ask you to be swift in your recommendation to the council so that the amendment can be placed on the ballot this November. Thank you.

6/30/2020 4:57:01 PM

I believe this charter amendment MUST happen in order to begin to address systemic and structural racism. Police are required to handle situations they are not even trained for. I believe an amendment that prioritizes having the appropriate resources to communities( social workers, mental health professionals, restorative justice professionals) will benefit our communities and help stop the killing of BIPOC and the suppression/oppression of BIPOC.

6/30/2020 4:58:09 PM

i am in FULL support of this effort to safeguard our communities and begin the process of defunding the police.

6/30/2020 4:58:13 PM

I really think this is important. Our community has shown that we can protect each other more than the police ever could. I've never felt such a strong sense of community and togetherness. Everyone is looking out for each other. People are coming up with other ways to handle situations instead of just calling 911. The community is beautiful and i really think this would benefit not only Minneapolis, but potentially the rest of the country too. America should be about togetherness not war.

6/30/2020 4:58:16 PM

I strongly support this effort in bringing a ballot measure to advance disbanding and replacement of the MPD.

6/30/2020 4:58:21 PM

I think it's a great idea to remove the police department entirely! I'm so glad this is a step Minneapolis is taking. I think it's important to note that there is a big risk of the CSVDP becoming a renamed or reformed MPD. This is not what organizers have been calling for. This new organization should have little to no similarity to the MPD in terms of structure or goals.

A couple of things:

- The CSVDP should be 100% demilitarized. No lethal force and no weapons. This, for me, is non-negotiable. If employees are allowed to enact violence with the backing of the city (and on the taxpayer's dime), then it is no different than the MPD.

- CSVPD employees should not be former police officers. Leadership positions should be given to abolitionist organizers who have led the movement to defund the MPD.
- The CSVPD should recognize that crime is a construct created to oppress and marginalize BIPOC. Most "crimes" do not hurt anyone. If no one is being hurt, then no one should be criminalized for their actions. This should be a founding principle of the organization.
- The CSVPD should not criminalize homelessness, public intoxication, erratic behavior, and all other non-violent "crimes" with no victim.
- Employees should be trained in harm reduction, conflict de-escalation, trauma sensitivity, and active listening.
- Employees should be members of the community where they work. The demographic makeup of employees should be similar to the demographic makeup of the communities themselves.
- Part of the funds diverted from the MPD should be used to purchase hotels or apartment complexes for homeless people to live in for free, with no strings attached. The Department should provide meals and medical treatment to residents, should they want it, also with no strings attached.
- The CSVPD should not be a single department. It should be a network of departments, each with their own specialized training (mental health/suicide prevention, domestic violence/victim support, administrative/insurance reports, etc).

Most of all, though, I ask that the Commission recognize the labor that has been done by Reclaim the Block, Black Visions Collective, and other BIPOC abolitionist organizers. Honoring their work means centering their demands, even if you don't personally agree with them, or if you don't see any point in them. If this Department is created without the full support of the aforementioned organizations, then it is not what people organized for, and it isn't what people want.

6/30/2020 4:58:31 PM

Whether folks want to defund or reform, the police are already off duty right now. Mpls downtown and uptown is riddled with crime, shootings and un housed folks from out of town coming to staying at hotels. Imagine be a woman waiting for public transportation after a long days work. It was bad when the police we actually doing their job. But riddle me this would I get paid in full by my employer if I was on strike. or better yet would I even have a job if I didn't actually do my job. Police have told us that they are giving the community what they asked for no police, but yet they are still collecting a paycheck!

6/30/2020 4:59:46 PM

Yes. Please do it.

Defund the police and make MPLS safer for our BIPOC community.

The murder of George Floyd was egregious and 100% a avoidable. Meet the demands of the city the the folk of color, or continue to let them down.

Your choice.

6/30/2020 5:01:32 PM

I stand in support of the city council and the proposed amendment to the city charter. Reform will not work. It has been tried and yet our black and brown brothers and sisters continue to be murdered by police officers. They are not doing their job which is to serve and protect, not to traumatize and kill. The council along with their constituents can develop our own form of violence prevention and protection through specialized neighborhood programs suited to each neighborhood! Please quickly review this proposal and return it to the city council so that the citizens can vote on it in November. We deserve the right to have our say in this pivotal moment. The world is watching. Minneapolis has the opportunity to step up and lead the way in dismantling racists systems that oppress people of color!

6/30/2020 5:01:45 PM

I fully support an amendment to remove the Minneapolis Police Department and reinvest in alternate forms of community care and safety. My support of this is fully informed by the tireless work of MPD150, Reclaim the Block, and Black Visions Collective, as well as the many inspiring individuals who have stepped up for their community so many times in the face of police violence, as well as creating the vibrant undercurrent of mutual aid we are seeing at work right now. The creation of this Community of Safety & Violence Prevention MUST prioritize these experienced voices and leadership. We CANNOT turn to the same systems that have repeatedly failed to reform the violent structures of policing and prisons. This is an opportunity for a true fresh start, we have to treat it as such.

6/30/2020 5:01:49 PM

I am in strong support of disbanding the police and reallocating the funds to different community based resources. I feel the need to emphasize that whatever "peace officers" we have should not just be rehired police officers by a different name, and they should be required to live in the communities they serve.

6/30/2020 5:01:52 PM

You people are idiots, and I hope the libtards of MN finally vote you out of office in a show of democracy.

6/30/2020 5:02:03 PM

The charter should not be amended until city government has a specific plan about how to replace the police department. Spend a year developing a plan, then hold the charter vote in Nov. 2021.

6/30/2020 5:02:26 PM

I watched/listened to the June 26 Press Conference where council members made the case for the amendment. I agree with the amendment, but feel that the Council needs to better explain that citizens will still be protected by "police" in a division renamed "Law Enforcement Services" which will be

reporting to the Council, not the Mayor (if I understand the reporting correctly.) If people think that the police will be eliminated, I don't think they will vote for the amendment.

6/30/2020 5:02:34 PM

I support putting the charter amendment up for a vote come November. I support changing the way we handle law enforcement in this city as our current system has failed so many citizens. I think that requires dismantling the Minneapolis PD as it currently stands and putting in a system that can better meet the needs of our city in a way that does not discriminate.

6/30/2020 5:03:07 PM

We must channel the funds previously set aside for the police into programs that will better serve the public.

6/30/2020 5:03:46 PM

I am in favor of the change. The murders haven't stopped despite good chiefs and lots of reform attempts. Bob Kroll speaks with contempt about the people of Minneapolis. Reform is not possible given his attitude. Time's up. Change the charter.

6/30/2020 5:04:17 PM

The city of Minneapolis is a beautiful city. Defunding the police will allow crime to run free. If police is defunded I will never set foot in that city again even for a Twins or Wolves game. The implications on businesses will turn it into Detroit.

6/30/2020 5:04:19 PM

I believe abolishing the current police department and/or union in Minneapolis and possibly Saint Paul is the way to go.

It is clear the police as an institution are not acting in the interest of their public. It is only appropriate to reimagine the system to address that. And it needs to be done quicker rather than not.

6/30/2020 5:04:29 PM

I wholeheartedly support this proposed charter amendment. The MPD has proven time and time again to structurally and systematically dehumanize, criminalize, harm, and brutalize Minneapolis community members of color and working-class community members. The MPD has shown itself to be an arm of white supremacy and racial capitalism. The city of Minneapolis cannot continue to support, fund, and ideologically bolster the MPD. The MPD does not keep us all safe. The MPD actively causes harm in the Minneapolis community. To continue to support, fund, and defend the MPD is to be complicit in the anti-Black violence of the MPD. Think of George Floyd. Hold him in your mind, hold his family, his

community, his daughter, the people who could have been him all in your mind. If you care about safety, you will listen to the screams, pleads, demands, and visions of local Black and Brown abolitionist organizers who have been envisioning real structures of safety and community accountability for years, and remove MPD from the City Charter. We keep us safe, not MPD.

6/30/2020 5:05:06 PM

The Charter Commission should NOT amend the City Charter as proposed by the City Council. The Charter should retain the requirement of a Police Department.

The City should maintain the current City Charter, whereby the Mayor manages the Minneapolis Police Department. Reform of policing, including intensive training, retention of quality officers and expulsion of bad officers led by our Police Chief with broad-based community support should take place.

Reinforcing of best practices in the field such as CompStat, highly responsive, data driven policing making the department and its leaders more accountable, and the Broken Windows approach, where being attentive to and addressing quality -of-life offenses and low level crime, that if left unattended becomes the invitation to higher level and more frequent crime.

Attached article:

### **Why We Need the Police**

They save lives and keep New York City safe for all residents—especially the most vulnerable.

Heather Mac Donald

June 8, 2020

New York

Public safety

“How lovely when we see the police! They are my friends.”

So said an elderly lady attending a police-community meeting in the Bronx several years ago. Her voice is representative of the thousands of senior citizens, middle-aged workers, and small-business owners who fervently support the New York Police Department. These vulnerable New Yorkers want more police presence, not less; they view officers as their only protection against predation. What will the activists seeking to defund the NYPD tell these law-abiding residents—that they are now on their own?

The people who live in high-crime neighborhoods understand more about policing than the anti-cop agitators. Since the early 1990s, when the homicide toll in New York City topped 2,000 per year, tens of thousands of lives have been saved, thanks to the NYPD’s highly responsive, data-driven policing. That policing model, known as Compstat, holds precinct commanders ruthlessly accountable for crime in their jurisdiction; it has driven homicide down 86 percent from 1990, to only 319 in 2019. Most of the lives saved by suppressing crime since then have been black and Hispanic.

At the same time that the department has lowered crime to levels that would have been viewed as unimaginable three decades ago, it has radically cut its use of lethal force; the NYPD has among the lowest per-capita rates of officer shootings among big-city

departments nationwide. In 2018, the most recent year for which full data are available, NYPD recorded the lowest number of shooting incidents since records were first kept in 1971—35—and the lowest number of subjects shot and killed: five. Four of those suspects were threatening officers with guns or

knives; the fifth, reported as being armed by bystanders, pointed what appeared to be a gun at the responding cops.

New Yorkers who live in gang territory still fear lawlessness, however, and implore the police to bring order to the streets. At the 41st Precinct in the South Bronx a while back, residents complained repeatedly about large groups of youth hanging out on corners. "There's too much fighting," one woman said. "There was more than 100 kids the other day; they beat on a girl about 14 years old." A middle-aged man asked: "Why are they hanging out in crowds on the corners? No one does anything about it. Can't you arrest them for loitering?" These citizens know that violence can erupt out of street chaos. A 2015 Quinnipiac poll found that 61 percent of black voters in New York City wanted the police to "issue summonses or make arrests" in their neighborhood for quality-of-life offenses, more than white voters asked the same question. Back at the 41st Precinct, the president of a local mentoring program begged for a police watchtower in his neighborhood. Whenever he hears gunfire, he said, he runs toward the shooting, terrified that one of his three children has been struck. If the police go away, these law-abiding people will feel abandoned, and rightly so.

The claim that better-funded social services can deliver public safety is baseless. New York City tried that experiment for decades, and it was a resounding failure. No city spent more on welfare, yet crime continued to rise. Only Compstat policing reversed the chronic lawlessness of New York.

It is equally preposterous to say that social services are underfunded. The city spends a whopping \$8.2 billion on social services, constituting more than 8 percent of the city's budget, and that sum

does not include all the social workers larded throughout the Department of Education. Government workers cannot substitute for the two-parent family in teaching children discipline and self-control. When parents are absent in their children's lives, police are the second-best solution to crime—the only other one proven to work.

Fewer cops and depleted NYPD funding mean longer response times and less training. Cops who cannot get back-up quickly when confronting a violently resisting suspect are more likely to escalate their own use of force. Officers are desperate for more hands-on tactical and de-escalation training. What they don't need is implicit-bias training, which is an insult to their intelligence and street knowledge.

Supervisors should constantly emphasize the need for courtesy and respect. But police officers daily confront a degree of social breakdown that would be unimaginable to most of us, and yet they continue to believe in the good people of their community. The city should not let those people down by caving to anti-cop hysteria.

6/30/2020 5:05:30 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis, I completely support the removal of the police department, and advocate for the implementation of a safety and violence prevention department. I believe that people who do not support defunding and dismantling the police do so out of fear. They do not know what a world looks like without policing. Minneapolis has the opportunity to be a national leader, and show people what a world without police looks like. Even as a white, middle class, young woman, I don't feel protected by the police. The current system does not work, and it is our responsibility to listen to the activists that have been working on this issue, and are most affected by this issue. A society whose needs are met does not need police, and I believe that we can meet the needs of our society through this proposed amendment. Thank you.

6/30/2020 5:05:39 PM

I am in support of adding this amendment and I 100% support eliminating the MPD.

I would recommend that this Commission listen to the voices in Black Visions and Reclaim the Block as their positions reflect that of me and my family.

6/30/2020 5:05:42 PM

The supervision of the police, if they can't be under civilian review 100%, need to be supervised by the folks we elect directly to the council. The mayor and city council have tried to reform the police department for as long as I've lived here, almost thirty years, to be a unit that actually SERVES and PROTECTS the people of our city. Nothing has changed. I really hope you've seen the film Women in Blue, which premiered at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Film Festival just days before George Floyd was murdered. The director got access to the women in the department when Harteau was leading it and it was shocking at how little difference it made even the department's leader was a woman. We in the city are done with attempts at reform. I really hope you got that clear message the last week of May and early June and all the way up until now. Please. Let us vote on this.

6/30/2020 5:05:46 PM

I don't understand the difference between a "police department" and a "community of safety & violence prevention department". The later sounds like whoever is in that role would not deal with crime that is occurring or has occurred and instead would deal just with preventing crime. Who is this scenario would handle crime as it's happening?

6/30/2020 5:06:25 PM

Please, speed up this process. I can't wait for the show. You "don't need no stinking po-lice".

6/30/2020 5:06:43 PM

I live in Standish neighborhood and this is the plan I want implemented as soon as feasibly possible.

6/30/2020 5:07:13 PM

This proposed amendment is premature. I cannot vote for a blank check to eliminate the MPD without a fully developed plan for replacement, not just a new "Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department" in name only at this point. It is possible I could consider a charter amendment after the year-long study has been completed.

I am against putting this amendment on the November 2020 ballot.

6/30/2020 5:08:03 PM

Police with guns should only be responding to calls of violence. An armed officer who views everyone as a threat has no place pulling people over for traffic violations, no place approaching someone who is asleep, no place approaching an unharmed and calm individual. Unarmed peace officers offering assistance and guidance instead of arrests and fines is what the city of Minneapolis needs. Officers, both armed and unarmed also need to live within city limits, if they are to be community officers they need to live in the community.

6/30/2020 5:08:18 PM

I am opposed to the removal of the Police Department because I believe it will deny justice and peace to our communities. As an example, when a juvenile was sexually assaulted at the Powderhorn Park tent encampment, the suspect was (and continues to be) shielded by those running the operation. It took the emergency department staff (mandatory reporters) to file a police report. There is no justice for the juvenile. There is no peace for the community. Bad cops need to be vetted, but it is crazy to say we don't need police. People are living in fear.

6/30/2020 5:08:42 PM

Good Afternoon Charter Members,

I want my voice to be heard! I stand behind the decisions put forth by the City Council last week.

I have read the submitted revisions and stand behind Andrea Jenkins!! I demand you all listen to her voice as well.

A new system is necessary in order for our communities to thrive. I want to see total acceptance of our relatives of color as human beings. Those whom are and have been Hurt, Murdered & treated unjustly By law enforcement and the system in general.

As a white woman (who arrived in Minneapolis at 17 years old & raised my children here) I have experienced unnecessary show of force by police.

Once being pulled over after my young son climbed in the sky roof of my landlord's car, which we used when he was out of town. Someone reported that we were stealing it.

I had another of my children with us, who was a baby then. A female officer pulled us over and had her gun drawn on us. I was livid that my children were put through that. Totally unnecessary!

When our peace keeping efforts shift from violent, testosterone dependent individuals to people from the neighborhood, I imagine that incident would not have occurred. They would have known who we were!!

I will be watching diligently what happens next with the proposed revisions.

In Peace and Love,

Mother, Grandmother ready to fight for Justice for All.



6/30/2020 5:09:00 PM

I support the public safety transformation. Thank you for your work on this.

6/30/2020 5:09:19 PM

Police reform should be a subject dealt with along side many other issues that are also important. The people of Minneapolis do not want to be living through a beta test of sorts on running a major US city. In addition to the very real and legitimate problem of police violence, there are other issues that you have done NOTHING about, such as dealing with growing gun violence in our city, homelessness, mental health, drug abuse, domestic violence, ... need me to go on? You cannot and should not make quick and extreme decisions to appease a small but very vocal minority who can wants to get rid of police. The message sent to the public here can be dangerous if it's not delivered correctly and well thought-out and coordinated with the Governor, Mayor, Chief of Police, State Congress, etc

6/30/2020 5:10:45 PM

We do not need to disband the police department, we need to get more officers with better training. Most of our officers are fine, caring people who are good at their jobs. No safety department is going to stop the gangs and drug sellers from shooting up our city.

Stop and think before you make a huge mistake.

6/30/2020 5:10:53 PM

That Bob Kroll and the union must go!

6/30/2020 5:10:57 PM

The police are designed to serve and protect whiteness and wealth. They have done so exceptionally, at innumerable cost - the lives of so many. mostly Black and brown people, but no one has been exempt from their violence.

You can be on the right side of history on this, or stall and get more uprisings, riots and protests the next time they murder someone - as they absolutely will.

One pathway feels new and scary but is actually less work for you in the long run. The other is a betrayal to the communities and people you proclaim to represent.

Our will is clear.

Is yours?

6/30/2020 5:11:56 PM

I support the charter to remove our police force and rebuild as a department of community safety & violence prevention! The MPD is a violent, racist institution that has time and again proven that it's impossible to reform.

6/30/2020 5:12:04 PM

I'm a business, commercial property

And homeowner in Mpls. Since 1973.

This is one of the most ridiculous ideas

the city council has come up with.

Who am I gonna call? Ghostbusters!!!

6/30/2020 5:12:13 PM

Perfect let them disband the police department so they can all kill each other! While they are at it just put a wall all the way around Minneapolis so it can all turn into the geto! It would do the rest of the state a favor

6/30/2020 5:12:52 PM

My comments are listed below in the attached statement.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to voice my concern regarding the City Council's recent attempts to dismantle the Minneapolis Police Department.

I strongly disagree with that proposal for many reasons.

First, Minneapolis is a large city with all of the benefits and downfalls that entails. I was born and raised in Minneapolis until high school. I then came back to go to college at the University of Minnesota and I have stayed here my entire adult life.

My husband and I bought a home in the Humboldt Greenway development because I wanted to stay in the city that I loved. We paid a great deal for our home and we loved the diversity of the area. It was where we hoped to raise our children.

In the past few years, crime has slowly increased in this area. Most of the issues are "livelability" crimes such as car break-ins, garage thefts, stolen packages, excessive fireworks all summer long. All things that while not ideal, are somewhat expected in a big city.

A couple of years ago, things changed. One evening, a bullet came through our front window and lodged in our dining room wall. My husband had been sitting in the living room not 10 minutes prior to this. Had he been in the same spot he had been sitting in, he would have been killed instantly by a shot to the head.

Nothing was ever done about it. I don't know if anyone was apprehended or if anyone even cared to look into it. I wrote my City Councilwoman at the time (Barb Johnson) and heard nothing. Around the same time, Susan Spiller was murdered in her own home just a few blocks away from us. The murder went unsolved for years. One afternoon not long after the murder, my husband was working in the yard when he saw a man jump the 6 foot fence in our neighbor's yard. My husband confronted him and he ran. We called 911 and they never showed up. This was mere weeks after a murder in the neighborhood.

Over time, I have felt less and less safe in my neighborhood and in my own home. We are hesitant to have guests over at night and never in the summer months because we hear gunshots on a semi-regular basis. Keep in mind, I have never in my life heard a gunshot until recently.

At the same time, I absolutely believe that the culture of the Minneapolis Police Department must change. Bob Kroll and the Minneapolis Police Union are toxic and do nothing to benefit the citizens of this city.

My husband and I strongly support BLM. We are progressives who also respect GOOD, honest law enforcement. We know they exist. But we also know that there is an enormous problem with systemic racism, bias and unfair treatment to people of color.

Police officers should not be mental health workers and we agree that different types of situations call for different types of responses.

But abolishing the police department is wrong. Its short-sighted, reactionary, unsafe and not what the majority of Minneapolis citizens want.

I want change. Serious, significant change. But when a bullet flies into my home, I want a police department to respond, act and apprehend the person who fired the gun.

If someone is breaking into my home, I want a police officer. I want decent, fair, unbiased police officers who are invested in our community.

This shouldn't be an "either-or" proposition. I can stand up and support police reform, stand in solidarity with people of color, speak out against police brutality and still believe that we need police officers.

I believe that Chief Arradondo is the right person to oversee the department, but he needs the support of the City Council, the Mayor and the city itself.

Let him do his job. Give him the resources he needs to keep Minneapolis safe and the authority to fire police officers who will not be part of the solution.

I implore those of you in charge to listen to ALL sides of this argument and respect what we are all saying.

Work with organizations such as A Mother's Love Initiative, Mad Dads and others who are actually OUT THERE in the real world, seeing the impact of crime in our beautiful city.

My husband and I want to stay here. We want to be proud of where we live. We want our brown and black neighbors to be safe, respected, heard and treated the same way that we are treated.

We also want to be safe.

How do we achieve this together?

Thank you for your time.

6/30/2020 5:12:59 PM

I fully support defunding and disbanding the Minneapolis police department. We need something different. Built from the ground up.

6/30/2020 5:13:03 PM

It is absolutely vital that we re-imagine the entire concept of law enforcement in our city. The Minneapolis Police Department has been terrorizing our streets for decades, my father Ruben Armendariz saw this first hand during his short foray into law enforcement in the early 90's. While this is a multi-headed beast one of those that needs to be removed is Bob Kroll.

Brutal intimidation and abuse has been his M.O. which started back in the 90's again seen first hand by my father. We need to remove the massive PD budget and distribute it so that we take on a helping role. Decriminalizing drug possession and homelessness and instead of locking them away, helping them find safe housing and the tools to learn and work and grow. To love their community that helped them versus cursing those that beat them.

This is a vital moment in our history as a city. I urge you to remove the Police Department from the charter to allow for this re-imagining. Employing civil servants that can help the community in specialized ways(mental health etc), with a very specific and highly trained group that has access to firearm usage when it comes to violent crime. With healing our community, we still must protect it from violence. Violence won't just disappear. Bias training, de-escalation training, community-centric BIPOC recruitment and incentivizing will be vital, keeping BIPOC voices heard throughout this process will be crucial to this improving our community.

Thank you for your time

6/30/2020 5:13:06 PM

I'm not convinced that it goes far enough in dismantling systemic racism, but I hope it's a step in the right direction.

6/30/2020 5:13:40 PM

It is of utmost importance that this city sets an example for the rest of the country as to what is truly possible in community reform. Our police department is ineffectual at best and lethal against its citizens at worst. There is an incalculable wealth of data, insight and community plans for implementing a defunding or abolition of the police force. We can not argue that this is insurmountable or just too hard. Communities across the country and the globe have risen to this challenge, and we too must rise to it. We can look as far as European nations where the majority of police forces are not armed with lethal weapons, or look right at home where local community action is keeping residents safe by mere presence and compassion. Look no further than groups like MPD150 for thought out plans for how to truly implement this. It is possible, doable and so so so necessary.

6/30/2020 5:14:44 PM

I am NOT supportive of the charter amendment to remove the police department. I am seriously concerned for the safety of Minneapolis if this takes place.

6/30/2020 5:15:04 PM

Please reconsider this proposal. A lot of people in my community are very worried and scared about the idea of the police being removed from the city. We understand that there is a systemic issue at hand and that needs to be address. That does not mean the answer is eliminating the police. I beg you to listen to your residence. Go into North Minneapolis and actually talk to those residence about what their stance is on the idea of them no longer having the ability to call on the police as the gun violence continues to intensify in that community. I am asking for you to truly think about a city where there a no

police. Where has that worked? You cannot recall Camden, NJ because they have a police force. They saw what was happening and decided to build from the ground up. That is possible here if we do this right. I implore the council to please leave Linden Hills or wherever their fantasy Minneapolis is and take a ride along with a police officer. Actually listen and understand what a night on duty is for them. Understand what changes needed to be made based on your experience not from you biased ideas of everyone being good in this world. We know you are finding this out due to the security you are making the tax payer pay for now. So I beg you to listen and understand your residence. We are trying really hard to do that and I would expect the same from the people representing us. I love Minneapolis and I hope you have a good day.

6/30/2020 5:15:41 PM

I would like to see a vast majority of officers unarmed. When you have a tool you feel more inclined to use it even if it's not needed. Officers responding unarmed to a vast majority of calls will still be able to effectively enforce the laws while dramatically decreasing the chance of the murders of unarmed black men and women

6/30/2020 5:16:23 PM

I don't think the Minneapolis Police department should be dismantled. I agree that we need to make a lot of changes in training, holding bad cops accountable, not letting the union protect bad cops. I don't see how a Community Safety and Violence Protection program is going to keep me and my family safe. Since COVID when the police were not able to investigate gang crimes, our garage was tagged for the first time since living in Minneapolis (going on 12 years) and we constantly hear gunshots. Who is going to monitor the gangs and who is going to respond when my house is broken into and my family is upstairs sleeping? If this goes through then the state or city of Minneapolis needs to change their laws so a person can defend themselves in their own homes. I also will be shooting back at anyone that shoots at my house. If you want a bunch of vigilante neighborhoods, that is what you are going to get. This is a very BAD idea. Everyone on the city council today is responsible for doing nothing and letting bad cops get away with murder. The blood is on your hands and everyone else who sat in office and let the violence to the black community continue. Now after this you finally want to do something but take it to extreme measures. Just resign so we can elect people who will actually do something and make a difference.

6/30/2020 5:16:58 PM

Law and Order are the only ways we can keep our city safe. Instead of trying to manipulate us in to believing that this will be a softest approach to policing, require law and order first. Too many out there are playing with you all. Fear and threats should never be the reason we change laws.

6/30/2020 5:17:07 PM

Individuals from the homeless encampment have been wandering over to one of my houses a couple of blocks away from Powderhorn Park and using my hot tub in the middle of the night. Please don't dismantle the police department because I really don't know who I would call about this problem. You

cannot dismantle an essential service without having in place first an alternate plan that you know works at least as well as the one you have deemed broken. Please don't force me to install barb wire, cameras, flood lights, and potentially a fire arm. At least if you do, how about reducing my property taxes by the amount these items cost me. I can mail you the receipt. Or perhaps a member of city council can stand guard in my back yard, with their security envoy.

6/30/2020 5:17:56 PM

I fully support this amendment that abolishes the Minneapolis Police Department. There's no reason we should have such an inflexible city charter that makes it impossible to make actual changes in the way we approach public safety. I truly, truly hope that this process of amending the charter doesn't drag on as it did in 2018, and that we can actually vote on this amendment in the fall.

6/30/2020 5:18:09 PM

I do not support dissolution of police dept as it is proposed in this amendment. I do support reform and restructure.

I believe we need a police presence and am not comfortable with the wording that makes peace officers an optional part of the plan. At the very least, police/peace officers should be part of the "active plan" when it comes to the community safety & violence prevention dept.

6/30/2020 5:19:09 PM

To put it simply, those who own property, live in, and do business in Minneapolis pay a lot of money in taxes with the expectation that when we call 911 police will respond, streets will be maintained, and that we will be able to conduct our business, the cities leadership has made it more expensive to live here, harder to find housing, and did not do enough to stop those doing harm, as someone who lives in a low income neighborhood, I know it will take years to replace the businesses and property lost. There is still roofs with tarps from the 2010 tornadoes on the Northside. Prosecute the officers that failed Mr. Floyd and invest in additional training and resources for the police. Do not waste money recreating the wheel for something that may not work and puts the whole city at risk.

6/30/2020 5:20:40 PM

Though I'm sympathetic and thinks racism needs to be eradicated in MSP, there is not enough time to form a plan. You haven't given the public anything else. I'll be voting to not abolish

6/30/2020 5:20:51 PM

While I am glad that this proposal is being put to the people of Minneapolis by the way of putting it on the ballot for November, the City Council's proposal needs further work before it can be implemented. While the death of George Floyd was a terrible tragedy, the City of Minneapolis needs to really really think what will happen to the city if the police department is dismantled. The city pretty much would go

into anarchy. People of all colors would feel less safe here in Minneapolis if the police department was dismantled. I understand the city council has the majority to disband it, but they have to really really really think how in the heck are people going to be safe in this city if it is dismantled.

6/30/2020 5:21:21 PM

I am strongly in favor of the proposed charter amendment. As a homeowner in South Minneapolis I believe my family will be safer without the police. I believe my neighbors will be safer without the police. I am hopeful and enthusiastic about what a Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department could look like, as long as it is truly different from the MPD, has no ties to police unions, is adequately funded, and is orchestrated by and held accountable to people of color. I look forward to seeing this question put to the voters!

6/30/2020 5:21:40 PM

As a longtime resident of the Kingfield neighborhood of Minneapolis (almost 30 years), I am writing to share my bewilderment and alarm over the Proposed Charter Amendment of the City Council.

Although it is clear to all reasonable people that the Minneapolis Police Department needs significant change and improvement, it is absurd to suggest that the department should be dismantled. Further, it is inappropriate to propose abolishing the department without a plan to maintain community safety. Any proposed amendment needs to follow established procedure including the gathering of community input. It needs to clearly provide the replacement plan. This proposed amendment was developed in a vacuum of community input. It does not provide a plan to maintain community safety. It is designed to give the Council unlimited power without any accountability to the city residents.

I urge the Charter Commission to reject this proposed amendment.

6/30/2020 5:22:14 PM

I will not be going to another concert, sporting event, out to eat, etc...

Why the hell would you remove the police department over 1 horrible cop. Just stupid.

Please keep the minneapolis police department!

6/30/2020 5:22:23 PM

I vote NO! Keep MPD and tweek the Union contract YOU agreed to.The lawless is shameful.



6/30/2020 5:23:01 PM

PLEASE!! who's bright idea was it to even think of disbanding or refunding the police department?? Not such a bright one!

I can't even imagine calling a community dept! (whatever that will consist of) people who wouldn't know what to do if there was a shooting, a rape, or any other major emergency! Maybe they'd want me to call my neighbor or my family for help and put them in danger! NEVER!!

These ideas are totally ridiculous! I have a better idea! Instead of replacing the police, let's get rid of the city council and the mayor!

6/30/2020 5:23:50 PM

I do not think it is a wise idea to remove the police department, for a few reasons. First, there are many people who will be out of a job and while there are many arguments that the police is violent and police brutality, there are many more good police officers who are upholding the law, why should they be screwed for other people? Why not implement stricter rules or bounds for the officers, instead the government is just throwing them under the bus. Should we not be about rehabilitation or creating a good relationship between people and officers? Why aren't You, the government, holding them more accountable, and now you are just trying to blame the whole system, as if it isn't your faults? Nobody has tried to fix the system, this is gonna jump from one bad situation to another. Also, when there are accidents and robberies and drive by's, or kidnappings, who are people supposed to call? The safety and violence prevention club? What are they going to do? The city is going to be a lot worse off with this, more unsafe, many people will get away with a lot more crimes, but this city is pretty good at allowing chaos to rule the cities, I guess this is more up your alley...

6/30/2020 5:23:55 PM

i think its crap we neee our men and women in blue!! Regardless of color of skin

6/30/2020 5:24:11 PM

I support abolishing the MPD by a change to the city charter and the creation of a new department of public safety that will be accountable and will protect all citizens equally. The MPD has proven themselves incapable of reform despite numerous attempts by mayors and police chiefs. This has lead to general dissatisfaction and the extrajudicial killings of Minneapolis citizens, primarily people of color over decades. We cannot wait for slow reform while our black and brown brothers and sisters are killed and traumatized. Defund and recreate from three ground up. There well never be justice for those killed but at the very least we must create a new structure and demand accountability

6/30/2020 5:24:56 PM

MPD has a long-standing history of violence, racism, and bigotry in our community. MPD has lost the trust of the people they are sworn to protect. Numerous police chiefs have been unable to successfully make necessary changes and reforms to MPD due to Bob Kroll, the MPD Union, and a large population of police officers and lobbyists who actively work against meaningful change that supports the community and promotes peace and equality.

It is clear that the only path forward is to remove / defund the MPD and start fresh with a new model. The Community of Safety and Violence Prevention Department could be an effective way to achieve this, and could be the first of many steps that could bring lasting, meaningful change to our beautiful city of Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 5:24:58 PM

Please don not defund the police. Criminals WILL run free knowing they have nothing to fear!

6/30/2020 5:25:17 PM

The Minneapolis Police Department has proved time and time again that they are NOT here to protect its people! It is time to DEFUND the police department due to their lack of respect for citizens of their own city. Bob Kroll is a danger to society and should not be allowed to make any decisions for the police department. Instead of letting these bullies police the citizens and decide who should live or die, we should have thoughtful citizens who care about their community ready to help those in need.

6/30/2020 5:26:18 PM

Removing the police department would be a positive change for the Minneapolis community. Whatever changes come need to include a diverse group of community leaders, and a variety of well-paid professionals who are unarmed to assist with various things. This should include social workers, psychiatrists, professionals trained in mental health first aid, professionals trained in working with people with disabilities, and unarmed community leaders.

This amendment should also put any excess money towards educational and community programs seemingly unrelated to public safety like affordable housing, shelters and long-term living situations for unhoused people, community centers, anti-racist education and training, and public assistance. Money should also go toward scholarship funds and reparations for Black people. Investing in all of these communities will

help keep them safe.

6/30/2020 5:27:27 PM

I strongly support the proposed charter amendment. I support the work of organizations MPD150. Black Visions Collective, and Reclaim the Block. Minneapolis must progress beyond the documented failure of reform and reformist power and into the empowerment of community through abolishment of police and incarceration as our sole models of public safety.

6/30/2020 5:27:46 PM

I believe the proposed amendment would have a huge negative impact on our City. I Believe there needs to be some kind of reform. But to dismantle the Police would bring on complete and total mayhem. We already have so many issues we are dealing with right now like gun violence, drugs, gangs and passenger safety on the light rail has also been a growing problem. If we take away the only real protection we have from these crimes. The criminals will have free reign on all your citizens. The criminals will be committing more and more crimes without any repercussions and or any consequences.

Please make the correct and sound decision on this matter.

Thank you

6/30/2020 5:28:48 PM

I strongly support the amendment on public and community safety.

6/30/2020 5:31:27 PM

Let me state clearly, we do not feel safe in our home or our Uptown neighborhood. We have lost confidence in Minneapolis city management especially the city council.

We have been left to fend for ourselves while our commercial districts were burned and looted by indiscriminate parties. Even our wonderful, multi-culti post office was not spared, burned to the ground depriving our community of daily interactions with global diversity.

Uptown has a tight community bond and had the advantage of offering residents easy, walkable access to groceries, pharmacies, etc. But now violence has significantly risen to the point where going out at night carries the real risk of being shot.

We cannot allow George Floyd's name to be just added to the ever-growing list with no real change to make all of our communities safe and peaceful with actual justice for all. We are not looking for grand statements made with no substance, like changing the charter, which is offering no defined solution to correct current public safety, but just more words.

Lack of accountability has long existed in Minneapolis but what exactly is the plan to bring just order to our city, for everyone, with details and a timeline to completion?

6/30/2020 5:31:47 PM

I own the home at [REDACTED] avenue south, and I am firmly against removal of the police department. The police union is the problem, not the price as a whole, the police unions culture is what has tainted not only the Mpls PD, but many others in the US. That is where real reform and positive change occurs.

6/30/2020 5:34:22 PM

If replacing the current Police department means no more lives lost than yes I agree whole heartedly. I know there are alot of good cops but there placing there careers on the line to protect the bad ones and thats putting civilians in danger.

6/30/2020 5:34:27 PM

I support the charter amendment. Due to racial profiling experiences I've witnessed by the MPD and experienced myself. The handling of the innocent murders of Philando Castille, Jamar Clark, Justine Damond and George Floyd. Its clear that police departments across the country have not been held accountable for their deadly actions. Dismantling the police in Minneapolis the only logical step to reaching a community where citizens dont get killed by the people sworn to protect them.

6/30/2020 5:34:37 PM

Hello. Sovereign political power holder here to encourage the idea of removing police from our social landscape. The fact that you can talk to an “officer” about their oath of office, what it means to them, and you will be met with ignorance. Take the power out of the role of peace officer and you have solved the problem. POWER CORRUPTS. Old news. A step further is to create a social environment that encourages people to communicate with one another. Part of scheme of racism and supremacists ideology of any kind is to separate, to divide. Unity is acceptance of all others differences under the ideology that life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness are the only guidelines we need to make informed decisions. People can be what they want, but hate will never have a place. The police are the physical seesaw keeping the balance of hate in our world. Just let go and you will see the better of all step up. Thank you, without prejudice

6/30/2020 5:34:51 PM

You should not disband the Minneapolis Police Department. Quite frankly it would be foolhardy. I understand that the department is in need of a make over on many fronts and I am sure that they would not mind if you were to divert some of their calls to a community based team to handle prior to involving the MPD. The reason you do need the MPD is for the dangerous crimes. I believe there have been more than 1600 shots fired since this all began and quite frankly if you want real security you need a police force to handle violent crimes of which there are plenty in Minneapolis. If I am being totally honest, I do not feel same coming to Minneapolis for anything at this point in time. Typically, I visit the city of Minneapolis several times in a given year to attend Twins, Timberwolves and Vikings games in addition to at least a few music concerts at the new US Bank Stadium. I would not feel safe at many of these events without a police presence. With all that said, I urge you to please reconsider your plan of action. Find a better way than eliminating the police department. Currently, you have all of the negotiating power please utilize it wisely. Thank you.

6/30/2020 5:34:54 PM

Questions:

“Adequately fund”. How? What is an estimate of cost? Where will the money come from?

“Consistently engage the public about” How will this be done? How are you doing this right now for those who don’t use a computer or don’t feel safe identifying themselves on a site like this?

Who, other than the “division of law enforcement services” would be providing services of public safety?

What is the timeline for this transition? Who will provide public safety during the transition?

What is the plan for working with current providers of public safety/service like hospitals, insurance companies who control mental health admission to hospitals, courts, schools, etc.?

The phrase “Defund the Police” is creating misunderstanding, division, and opposition to this plan, however good it may be. If you want this plan to happen, this amendment to be passed, will you be willing to take the drama out and call it something else so more people will see what you are trying to

do? Soon. Something that draws attention to the actual positives in the future if this plan can go forward.

In my view, leaders bring people together toward a goal. In this arena of persuasion and motivating people to vote for something new, labeling people, categorizing people, shaming people doesn't work as well as listening, acknowledging people's concerns, explaining, informing.

/30/2020 5:35:09 PM

I support the amendment. Abolish and replace the police department. For too long Black, indigenous and other POC have been harassed, attacked and murdered by the police. The police of this state or any do not serve and protect the people, instead existing to enforce hierarchy, racism, and the general disenfranchisement of those not at the top of our society. We can and should do better.

6/30/2020 5:35:49 PM

I oppose the proposed charter amendment. This hurried process is flawed, allowing insufficient time for community review and consideration before commenting. The amendment is too vague and would actually worsen the City's current problem with community safety and policing. Please stop pushing an unfinished, hurried amendment; constituents deserve more from our elected officials. The current City Council has lost the trust of many constituents and must commit to more specifics and details for all aspects of a charter amendment, before expecting citizens to vote on it.

6/30/2020 5:36:02 PM

I do not agree with the city council's attempt to amend the charter to remove the police department.

They are moving forward and removing services without any plan.

Reform must happen but not at the expense of safety and security for our city.

6/30/2020 5:36:10 PM

I agree with Reclaim the Block. This is a good start but the proposed amendment does not go far enough. The proposed amendment:

- would eliminate MPD as a city department, to be replaced by a department that "will have responsibility for public safety services prioritizing a holistic, public health-oriented approach." I AGREE WITH THIS POINT.
- would eliminate a long-standing requirement to maintain a police force proportional to the population of Minneapolis. I AGREE WITH THIS POINT.
- does not prohibit law enforcement from any specific roles. I DO NOT AGREE WITH THIS POINT AND PREFER THAT CURRENT AND FORMER LEOs CANNOT TAKE A ROLE.

- 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. I DO NOT AGREE WITH THIS POINT.

Also I hope you are prioritizing BIPOC and especially Black and Indigenous voices as you review comments. I am POC (Latina) but not Black or Indigenous. I am fearful whenever I see police, including MPD. I do not trust them and they are dangerous. Mpls has tried numerous reforms in the past, such as improved training and body cameras. IT HAS NOT WORKED!

6/30/2020 5:36:21 PM

I work in south Minneapolis at a residential mental health facility. I am deeply concerned over this proposal and believe there are SEVERE consequences that are not being considered. I also find it horrific that there is so little respect for knowing the nature of the day to day jobs of law enforcement officers. I Like it or not, we are indeed a major city with major city problems. I believe what we are seeing with our lack of control to the increased violence and public safety will turn away people who have been loyal with living and running businesses in Minneapolis which will impact the economy, quality of life and hard working nature of what we are known. I am considering moving out of state if there continues to be lack of leadership and a one track mind about solutions. It is absolutely horrific that the public's opinion does not seem to be considered although we likely have the same end goal which is equality and positive change. This does not and will NEVER happen over night. The execution is not sitting well with me and many other people I have talked with.

6/30/2020 5:36:54 PM

Do NOT defund the police department. Actually I vote for more police to deal with the increased crime rate in MN. Hire another 2000 officers. Make sure your hiring practices are diverse to serve all of our great citizens. Act quickly before Minneapolis is overrun by the out of state criminal element flocking to Minnesota after the city council opened the door wide to them, indicating no more police.

6/30/2020 5:37:39 PM

I have stood watch how people act when there is a police presence and when there is not. Defunding the police department is the stupidest thing to do. Our state Politicians are the spineless people I have ever seen. We need to back our police with funding and better training so that the situation that happened in mpls won't happen again. The mayor and governor are cowards and act like a step parent that goes with the flow rather do what needs to be done. I work in mpls and have seen the violence that occurs. I have watched the men and women of the police department run TOWARD gun fire and make sure citizens are safe. Since the riots have been occurring I have watch our cowardly mayors and governor ALLOW the crap to happen JUST to get future votes. It makes me absolutely sick how this country demonizes the men and women in blue and how our garbage mayor and governor and other Democrats are destroying this state. It's a simple formula, less police = more crime



6/30/2020 5:38:36 PM

No further charters or large info structure change should occur in Mpls without first restructuring the City Council leadership/authority Charter to revise structure that does not have 13 individuals and Mayor all in charge...this equals...no one is accountable, yet they have unlimited authority.

6/30/2020 5:39:32 PM

I do not reside in Minneapolis however I have been and continue is to be employed in Minneapolis for almost 26 years. Yes I fully agree things need to be looked at in regards to a lot of things in Minneapolis but let's not turf all Of the safety issues on law enforcement Because I know from personal

Experience there is a lot of structural and systemic problems in our community and politically so to say that getting rid of a police department and out in its place a community of safety and violence prevention is not going to cut it. We see this playing out at lake Nokomis already with this hands off zone. Get in and do the hard work of working and supporting law enforcement and yes get rid of negligent persons. In closing I would say it's much like the priests that have abused parishioners and teachers inappropriately engaging with students.....taking this thinking and let's abolish churches and schools.

6/30/2020 5:39:40 PM

I believe we need a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. We need to try something different. In the 70's we had a street/beat cop on Lake Street who stopped into the businesses and got to know who was working and hanging out. That worked. We need peace officers who live and work in the neighborhoods they know. We need people who can respond to robberies and to pleas for help

with violent family members - to aid all concerned. Our MPD seems to be rotting out. It must be very difficult for those police officers who uphold justice to continue working within a system that allows fellow officers to commit crimes on the job. Let's vote on the charter amendment. Thank you.

6/30/2020 5:40:10 PM

No, no, no!

Better training is needed. Promotions based on merit, not union protections.

It's the police union that needs the overhaul, not the police force.

6/30/2020 5:40:14 PM

The City does not need to remove the Police Department. The City needs to remove the Union, headed by Bob Kroll, and leave Chief Aradando in place. Chief Aradando can then rehire the Police Officers directly who meet the criteria, including new training of diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as implicit bias training, and requiring officers reside in the City. The Concil can add support for peace officers, liaisons, social workers, health care providers, to the City support network. These individuals work in collaboration with the City Police to support them in situations of abuse, mental health, poverty, homelessness, and more. Update Police policy so that it also removes arbitration for Police reprimand. We need Police. We need Aradando. We need more help in the City for mental health, public health, poverty, homelessness, education. We DO NOT NEED a POLICE UNION. And we certainly DO NO NEED BOB KROLL.

6/30/2020 5:40:35 PM

Removing MPD is quite possibly one of the dumbest ideas I have ever heard. Invest in training and partnerships. Push for colleges to include more social work based classes as part of a criminal justice degree.

Also- I am an advocate for a local domestic violence agency. We work closely with MPD and they are doing some phenomenal/ groundbreaking work with us that isn't being talked about. A lot of the proposals include ME responding to a crisis without law enforcement. I REFUSE to do this because I will not be safe. I will ONLY respond with law enforcement. Please ask us if these plans are realistic. This will cause a lot of great advocates to leave this profession.

Disbanding MPD will cause harm.

6/30/2020 5:40:55 PM

Abolish and defund the Minneapolis city clowncil.

6/30/2020 5:41:22 PM

I am in full support of the abolition of, and re-establishment in radical new vision of, the police force of Minneapolis specifically, but also American police at large. I believe they are protectors of property, not people, and prove to be a danger to marginalized, poor, and colored communities, and their role in crisis response should be severely limited and many of those roles relegated to other professionals better equipped for those situations

6/30/2020 5:42:15 PM

I fully support this initiative; for too long our MPD has been functioning with impunity and restricting the civil rights of (non white-straight-cisgender) individuals. Further, the lack of accountability coupled with the lack of training on how to handle the increase of non-violent calls has led to severe mistrust and abuse of power.

6/30/2020 5:43:07 PM

While what happened to Mr. Floyd was wrong on many levels, as someone who was raised in Minneapolis, I disagree in the creation of a new department to replace the MPD. I also do not want to minimize systemic racism that is in ALL of society. Not just black, white, brown.

There are too many good men and women, of all races, in the police department, that have been a positive influence in their neighborhoods.

I'd challenge the City Council, Mayor, Chief Aradonda, the police union, and selected residents, from different backgrounds and experience to develop a plan moving forward so we can ALL do better. The violence in the last couple of weeks shows our need for a struggle, and well trained, police force.

6/30/2020 5:43:16 PM

I have lived in Minneapolis my whole life. The Minneapolis police department is racist and bad. I want cameras on every corner. Make us feel safe. Make your community police all have bachelors degrees and have two years of training before being on the street. Hold police accountable for abuse of power and end the blue line policing

6/30/2020 5:43:53 PM

Minneapolis has a chance to set an example for the rest of the country and be leaders for other midwestern cities. I support replacing the Police Department with a Community of Safety and Violence Prevention Department. I hope Minneapolis can set a precedent of meaningful change towards social justice that Madison, Wisconsin can follow.

6/30/2020 5:43:57 PM

If Mpls is going to defund the police force. My husband and I will not be going into the city to spend money on dining, bars or various entertainment events. We have zero confidence that the Community Safety & Violence Prevention Dept will be able to control the street violence. The average person will be left at the mercy of this “dept”. It is a disaster waiting to happen. It’s sad that 3 city council members who are pushing this have their own private security. If there is no need for security why have it. Have community members oversee their safety. I strongly feel that it will be very difficult for Mpls to bring in large events. Overall, there will be more shootings, less revenue coming into the city, businesses WILL follow Cowboy Jacks and pull out of Mpls.

6/30/2020 5:44:31 PM

I’m not a resident of Minneapolis but I often spend money and time at businesses there. Right now I’ve been completely avoiding the city completely because it’s clear that it is not safe.

If the police department is dismantled as the city council intends, I do expect things to get worse and I will visit restaurants and other businesses in other cities. This is a complete overreaction and I won’t be part of some social experiment where one of the most violent areas of the state has no police force.

No thank you.

6/30/2020 5:44:34 PM

I am in support of this charter.

6/30/2020 5:46:22 PM

You people are an embarrassment. Looking forward to the next election.

6/30/2020 5:47:04 PM

We can not allow the twelve Minneapolis City Counsel members with no real life experiences to disband the Minneapolis police department. Look at Seattle and the Chop zone. Where police are forbidden to enter death and chaos follows. Two people have been shot in the Chop zone in Seattle. You can not create a department of children smiles and happy thoughts and expect it to combat crime. It will not work!. If you do this think of what will follow business leaders will flee Minneapolis because they have no protection and citizens will arm them selves myself included. And many will just move out of Minneapolis because it will become Murderapolis.

6/30/2020 5:47:22 PM

Modification of the City Charter is not a task to be taken lightly, and certainly not under the cover of darkness along with the compressed timeline that we are seeing here. The council has a reputation for ignoring public input and the approach being taken here only confirms it.

I have read the proposed changes to the charter. They were clearly prepared by persons who are well beyond their depth. There is no real plan - other than a transfer of power from the Mayor to the Council. This is a despicable and transparent abuse. The residents of Minneapolis will rightfully demand that a detailed plan is developed BEFORE any vote is taken on the charter. We will not provide this council a blank check. If the commission recommends this process proceed before such a detailed plan is completed, then you have failed miserably in your responsibilities to this city.

6/30/2020 5:47:27 PM

I would like to know more about the plan to put this into place. At this point it's essentially voting on a rebranding and feels more like an experiment than an evidence- based new system. I agree with shifting funding around to better serve our communities as they've grown and changed, and to address existing racial disparities, however I think this needs a more thoughtful approach. I want to hear about the community conversations, the evidence based information, details of what a new system would look like and how much it would cost, and what staffing is needed to support that new system.

6/30/2020 5:48:45 PM

Lifetime born and raised in South Minneapolis.

This amendment is being pushed far too fast. There should be much more discussion and community input BEFORE even being put on the ballot. November 2021 maybe.

6/30/2020 5:48:54 PM

I think we can all agree that the death of George Floyd was a heinous act and he should not have died. And I think we can also all agree that his death was a combination of many different factors including, but not excluding, racist police officers, not enough or bad training, the vetting of personalities that should and should not be on duty in our city and the strength of the MPD union.

That being said, another missing factor is the inaction of city leadership, the City Council and the Mayor's Office, to do anything about the problem over the last 10 to 20 years. All the while knowing that there was an issue. City Councilperson, Linea Palmisano, of Ward 13, acknowledged as much when she said in a recent public statement, "...'officer involved shootings' — didn't just start three or four years ago."

So then, if the problem has been around for a very long time and it may or may not be caused by a number of different factors how did parts of the Minneapolis City Council, that are driving this change to the City's Charter come up with a solution in a span of couple of weeks time? How did the City Council come up with the changes needed to the Minneapolis Police Department with little or no reflection, investigation or community discussion? And given the changes asked for what is the plan? If they are

asking for a change, they must have a plan. The public has heard abolish the police and defund the police? That may be the goal but that is not a plan. So what is the plan? What is the plan in detail? And will there be enough time to communicate the plan and discuss the plan and reflect on the plan before November. Or are we to believe that we should trust in the City Council when they have stood by and done nothing to this point.

In my opinion, the City Council needs to get their act together. Present the plan and take the time to explain why what they are proposing is better than what we have now. If that is 6 months or a year? Whatever it takes. Or are we just going down another path that will end us up in the same place as we are now?

I say no to any amendment change being put on the ballot this November.

6/30/2020 5:49:25 PM

This is a wonderful idea. I hope that the new department would be able to run on much lower funding than the MPD required. The money used to cushion and protect police who would otherwise be fired or charged should be redistributed to education and mental health endeavors.

6/30/2020 5:49:38 PM

The police only harm us. We cannot allow for this violent system to continue. I was a community that keeps each other safe. I want a community who looks out for one another, keeps people fed, houses, clothed. And the police do none of that. Crime only exists because people are in need of a help. Whether materially, or emotionally or psychologically. Cops create crime, not safety. They don't protect anyone but themselves.

6/30/2020 5:50:18 PM

I cannot even believe this is an option to get rid of a police Dept. I fear for victims of domestic violence, children in abusive homes, citizens dealing with home intruders, the list doesn't end. Minneapolis will become an even more dangerous place to live. We need police reform and reorganizing, for sure, but not eradication.

6/30/2020 5:50:47 PM

I will not change the charter and have no desire to vote for someone who proposes this without a detailed plan in place as an option when considering a change. I am also against the 2040 plan. Minneapolis home owner.

6/30/2020 5:51:25 PM

get rid of your private guards before you get rid of the police. We need police, do something instead of talking and talking and doing nothing.

6/30/2020 5:51:36 PM

Please approve the proposed charter amendment. This amendment is the first step toward a solution to the problem of police violence in our community. If kept intact, the current police department will only continue to inflame tensions and lose credibility with the very citizens it is meant to protect and serve. This vicious cycle of escalating violence and tension between citizens and police can only be broken with structural change to public safety in Minneapolis, which requires changing the charter. A public health-led community safety agency is not only more desirable in the abstract; it is also a pragmatic solution that addresses the fact that the current system of policing has utterly failed to keep people safe.

6/30/2020 5:52:07 PM

Please do not defund or reduce the police force. Retrain yes but don't reduce or defund. We are already under protected from all the criminals in the North Minneapolis area. We are constantly in fear and nobody comes when we call 911. It's clear the mayor and city council don't care about North Minneapolis. We need more police presence and better police response not less. You know who the criminals are and we have laws but there is no enforcement and no consequences. The city and courts just tell the criminals not to do it again and let them back out to laugh at you and do more crime. Why would they stop? There are no consequences and no enforcement. The people who are the victims of the lack of enforcement and consequences are the ones who continue to suffer every day. We want to live in peace like the people in the suburbs do. Please add more police and properly train them. I can't rely on my neighbor to stop the criminals. I can't rely on my neighbor to protect me from someone assaulting me or breaking into my property. I can't rely on my neighbor to give me emergency medical attention. I can't rely on my neighbor to patrol the neighborhood 24/7. The city council and mayor need to live in North Minneapolis and then they might understand the crime and the fear we all live in 24/7. Please give us more police that are well trained. Let Mayor Frey have his neighbor protect him and see how long he waits to call his police body guard back to protect him. If his neighbor isn't good enough to protect the mayor then our neighbors aren't good enough to protect us either. Live in our shoes before you make decisions like defunding and getting rid of police.

6/30/2020 5:52:32 PM

What do you think will happen to violent crime rate when there is no one there to protect the public. Only proven by your own members having security paid for by tax payers.

The tax payers are paying for the police and we expect and demand their service.

6/30/2020 5:52:57 PM

I do Not want the Police Department removed.

6/30/2020 5:53:20 PM

Since New York City's action to remove officers and dismantle vital anti-crime units gun violence has surged 358% since this time last year. In a recent interview with Harlem residents, 99% supported police presence stating without them it would make their communities less safe.

Wasn't it Mayor Frey's proposal to add more police officers in the force in 2020? In October 2019 didn't business organizations request of the Council to add more police in the downtown areas? It would appear we need law enforcement more than ever.

Neighborhood Watch takes on new meaning when Twin City business owners and residents are forced to defend their homes and businesses. Look at the CHOP in Seattle for wisdom. Four shootings; two dead and others critically wounded. Missing? No police allowed.

Your new model of public safety? The new Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention is yet to be fully defined. Can the changes even be implemented? You ask us to put all of this power in your hands, after we waited days for our officials to quell the riot days later. The world looks at us now as the home of the beginning of this tragedy. They are watching us. What will be our legacy. Who would even want to visit a city that has no law and order?

I am against police brutality. I am not against police. I favor spending more money for mental health concerns in our City. I endorse programs such as Tony Danza's NY Police Athletic League that brings policemen and minorities together for sports, acting clinics and choirs where both participate. Build a bond.

What you propose will only leave us lawless, unprotected and frightened. You are inviting crime if you choose to amend the Charter in such a fashion. Will it be enough? Ilham Omar. As well as City Council President Lisa Bender have requested a complete defunding the Police Department. I see the troubled look in our Mayor's face. Surely, surely, you can not believe this will work?

*Same letter added as attachment.*

6/30/2020 5:55:05 PM

I believe that our city has recently shown how effective we can be when we come together and begin to lift up those who need it. I know that disbanding the MPD would not only keep our communities safer and literally save lives, it would also foster an entirely new way of thinking about safety and community, especially for the younger generation. This is how change happens.

Thank you,

6/30/2020 5:55:17 PM

This amendment is in severe violation of the public safety of all people in the state of Minnesota, not just the city of Minneapolis. This is our state's major city and it deserves to be protected by a system of law and order, not citizens who are not trained in these areas to deal with the violence and misconduct that exists. Individuals should also be held accountable for creating it. Adequate funds and resources to improve our current system may be necessary but removal of our police force is dangerous and completely ineffective in maintaining law and order. The city council should not have any power to remove necessary systems of safety from the city of Minneapolis. They do not have the experience or the knowledge to make these kinds of decisions and as a result cannot act in the best interests of all of the people of the city or state of Minnesota. Not only will communities with high crime and violence have an escalation of the same in these areas but those communities affected and at risk will be emboldened to create further risk and violence for a city that does not have a system of law and order. Those who are living outside of the city who either work in or frequent the city of Minneapolis are also negatively affected, and will not frequent it. Our beautiful city will turn into a desolate place with little hope for improvement economically, or in the area of crime. Those who live outside of Minneapolis also did not vote the people on the city council into office nor do we believe they should have the power of any kind to be deciding these issues that affect us as much as they affect the citizens of Minneapolis. They are not trained or educated in these areas of public safety and for far too long have been operating on their own personal opinions and ideologies instead of on fact or the welfare and good of the people of the city of Minneapolis and the state of Minnesota. Outreach in the form of discussion or therapy in the moment in a situation of violence is unrealistic and a completely ridiculous approach to maintaining law and order in our city and state. To suggest that this will be an effective means of bringing peace and unity to our great city is ludicrous, unfounded, and dangerous. When a crime is committed, we must have systems in place for accountability and safety. Outreach by someone who is not trained as a police officer when someone is in an altered state of mind, armed with a violent weapon, or waiting for an opportunity to inflict harm on another will only increase violence without a system of law and order. As a former Minneapolis resident, who lived there her entire childhood and young adult life, I am thoroughly disgusted with the ineffective, inexperienced, and lack of knowledgeable members that are sitting on the city council right now. Based on this proposal, they are a completely inadequate group of people with too much power incapable of using it responsibly and are wrapped up again in their own personal feelings and opinions instead of logical and reasonable approaches to peace and safety. I propose we take a closer look at our city's government versus our city's police department. Throughly afraid for the future of our state and city after the ineffective way our mayor and governor dealt with the violence in our city and our public safety. It never should have gotten to the level it did and it never should have been tolerated but instead prevented. To allow a precinct to be burned down and surrounding areas along with looting should have been prevented. You don't allow for or stand for violence anywhere, anytime. If we are going to allow violence as response to racism and respond with legitimizing it, we are no longer part of the solution but a huge part of the problem. Violence inflicted on one does not justify violence inflicted on all and both forms were from individuals breaking the law. The City Council is now putting us at greater risk for chaos and unrest not peace and unity.

6/30/2020 5:56:04 PM

Abolishing the police would not do well for Minneapolis community and residents.

There are other efforts to explore than to make communities unsafe without police.

6/30/2020 5:56:13 PM

The Charter should contain only the most essential structural elements, leaving more flexibility for other more easily modified governing documents. In this case, the two key elements to include are the elimination of the minimum number of employees and the organizational demotion of the Police Department to be a division with a broader Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. The proposed amendment comes close to sticking to that minimum, with the most significant exception I see being the inclusion of a negative requirement on the Director of Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department. That job description, like all elements of the Charter, should be kept flexible. As such, it should specify only the essential traits the Director must have. That they have expertise in a particular area is relevant; that the expertise comes from outside a specified (sub-)area is not. As phrased, the requirement is also likely to cause contention over interpretation. Can an individual have non-law-enforcement experience if they also have law-enforcement experience? I would say so, but surely some would say the intent was to exclude at least those whose law-enforcement background predominates. As indicated previously, better to focus on the positive of what is wanted, not the negative of what is to be excluded.

6/30/2020 5:57:14 PM

I am in support of removing the MPD. I would like to make sure that CSVDP does not turn into the new police department by not using any cops currently employed by MPD. Instead, hire already existing social workers, mental health counselors, substance abuse experts, domestic violence/rape experts, etc. Additionally, this department needs to look like the community!!!! Hire black, Latino, indigenous, and other minority workers!!!! It is crucial that workers are seriously vetted and background checked for any history of racist behaviors as well as domestic violence. Additionally, training needs to be much more extensive and broader than it is for the MPD (preferably these would be taught by POCs)

6/30/2020 5:57:33 PM

Please DO NOT put this to ballot or amend the city charter and remove the number of required police officers for our city.

6/30/2020 5:57:54 PM

I do not support this amendment and will vote no. This is far too hasty, there are no concrete plans or roadmap to even understand what this would look like. I propose the year long study happen prior to any amendment. Do we even have the resources, qualified people that would even want to step into some of the positions that are proposed. Too many unknowns and I believe that we need a study and to look at it from all sides and have community input. It's a pretty privileged view from the City Council to try and push this through on their beliefs rather than listening to communities of Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 5:58:10 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis I do not feel it is in the City's best interest to push a charter change through and bring it to vote this quickly. While I believe some change is necessary and prudent, moving to eliminate the current police department without taking the time to complete due diligence around what the replacement safety model would look like is a disservice to all residents of Minneapolis.

Emotions are currently running high. Please do not put this forth to a vote until we've all interested parties have had an opportunity to come to the table and discuss what moving forward safely can look like.

6/30/2020 5:58:23 PM

Defunding our police is the most moronic idea I have ever heard. A few of the council members are absolute hypocrites for hiring security on our dime. It will destroy our city

6/30/2020 5:58:38 PM

Do not remove the MPD! Stop being such a radical leftist organization! #keepthepd

6/30/2020 5:59:54 PM

I think defunding the police department is LUDICROUS! Do they think a social worker will show up for a domestic violence call? Hell no! People need law and order in a democracy like our country is supposed to be! Getting rid of the Department and severely limiting what they can do is a major step towards COMMUNISM!

Perhaps some well meaning changes in training that would be required for all law enforcement would be a better alternative!

Blacks are the only ones I know of who glorify their criminals! Latinos, Mexicans, Asians, Whites do not!

6/30/2020 6:00:02 PM

As someone who visits Minneapolis on a regular basis for various activities, I'm troubled by this proposed charter amendment to abolish the current police department and replace it with a new Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department. Under this department, there may be a division of law enforcement which the previously mentioned proposed department would be in charge of. The key thing that has me concerned is the fact that the person leading this proposed department would not have a law enforcement background. I should also note that since the city council has to approve whomever the mayor nominates to lead this department also has me concerned. We're giving the city council more power than it already has. Also, the fact that there is a possibility of not having a law enforcement division also has me concerned in the fact that there would be even more crime than there currently is in Minneapolis. In short, it seems like the city council doesn't have a real plan. To tell you the truth, I feel that we're playing with emotions and not facts. yes what happened to George Floyd was a tragic incident that should not have taken place as far as the officer kneeling on his neck for as long as he did. It seems like that we're not dealing with the real problem. That problem is the fact that Derek Shauvin, the officer who knelt on Floyd's neck, had 17 prior complaints, one of which resulted in

disipline. The problem it seems that Minneapolis officers are not being held accountable enough for their actions. Rather than abolish the current police department, why not focus on the issue of how much power the union has and hold officers more accountable for their actions. I can tell you with certainty that if this proposed amendment passes, my visits to Minneapolis to attend things such as Twins games and concerts or other recreational activities that I participate in will be way less if at all. There are plenty of people who feel the way I do. If those people who also go to Minneapolis for entertainment reduce their visits not to mention places of employment leaving the city, the tax revenue will go down significantly. The majority of people would tell you that they would rather have a police department than no police at all. Rather than playing by emotions, let's take a look at the real problem which I previously mentioned being how much power the police union has and holding cops more accountable.

6/30/2020 6:00:19 PM

I think the decision to disband/defund/etc. The police is a completely rash decision with unpredictable consequences. There is no doubt that reform of the MPD is necessary, this continued abuse and mistreatment of POC is unacceptable. I have lived in the Twin Cities metro area for over 15 years though, and in that time have seen a city I love and have created many memories in continue to decline. I no longer feel safe in Downtown or Uptown, alone in daylight or with my husband in the evenings. Even in areas that were once known as bustling and centers of action. As the lack of support for police has continued to increase, so has the lack of safety for residents, visitors and local businesses. I strongly encourage this board to veto the defunding/disbandment of the MPD, and look at other options for reforming them through training programs. I believe strongly in the need for improved community health programs and I know those come with a cost, but there surely has to be other areas in the cities or states budget that can accommodate for this while still ensuring all citizens regardless of race feel safe and protected.

As a side note, if the council members who are for defunding the MPP think it's such a good idea, then why are we taxpayers paying for their private security in a time when they seem to not feel safe?!

6/30/2020 6:01:01 PM

This is the change we want to see. Defunding the police is the first step in the process of dismantling institutional racism. I support this and I look forward to seeing the rest of the plan come November.

6/30/2020 6:01:08 PM

This is the change we want to see. Defunding the police is the first step in the process of dismantling institutional racism. I support this and I look forward to seeing the rest of the plan come November.

6/30/2020 6:02:10 PM

Restore all the strike-throughs of the current amendment - and remove the power of the city council to amend the City Charter. Restore the power of the mayoral position to oversee the council decisions. Keep the police force in place for community protection.

6/30/2020 6:02:31 PM

The city council has no skills to run a police department. This de-funding is a Terrible idea.

They are basing this decision on emotion not fact and data. They need to be reformed and the union needs to be reformed. NOT scraped for a Public safety group.

6/30/2020 6:02:52 PM

Esteemed Members of the Charter Commission,

I'd like to voice my approval and support for the proposed amendment to the Minneapolis City Charter. However, I urge you to consider the following revisions as proposed by community members and activist organizations:

- 1) Include language in the amendment that excludes current and former MPLS cops from leading the newly established department
- 2) I urge the Commission to consider language that does not simply allow for a smaller police force. In the words of MPD150, "...in this long transition process, we may need a small, specialized class of public servants whose job it is to respond to violent crimes." However, they also go onto say, "It's important to note that that's one option, and it's an option that brings up as many questions as it answers. Different activists, thinkers, and communities will have different responses to these questions. How can we intervene humanely and safely in high-risk situations? How do we ensure that those people trained and entrusted to this work during the transition process do not become "police" with a different name? How might different communities be empowered to decide for themselves what they need, whether that's AIM patrols, community mutual aid efforts, transformative justice programs, and/or governmental solutions?"

In summary, I support the proposed amendment to the City Charter and strongly encourage the language revisions above.

I look forward to voting on this in November.

6/30/2020 6:04:05 PM

I think it's great. I can't wait to see the cell phone video of these new department community organizers in action trying to talk down someone high on bath salts or a sexually violent offender; armed with a polo shirt and clipboard. Chicago is gonna be sooooo jealous of you guys. Hire more cops? Pfft Idiots, all the gangs will fold before SVPD. I hear Mexico is eagerly awaiting the results of this too. Plus, Having a non law enforcement background as head that can be recommended by the major but also has to be

approved by City Council? Brilliant. Surly that won't cause any sort of resentment or inner agency conflict/communication issues. I have no programing experience but I'm gonna go demand Apple make me a Senior Programing head because I'm a Person Of Color. Of course since you all have such faith in this new department SURLY, YOU won't be adding any sort of extra safety measures or Private Security to YOUR homes will you? I mean, once people stop visiting and tourism dries up once this passes it's not like you'll have the money to pay for any of this anyway. Although I look forward to your ever panicking tweets about "alarming increases in violence."

6/30/2020 6:04:37 PM

Regarding the charter amendment changing the name and reconceptualizing the police department: I am in favor of bringing the issue to the Minneapolis voters in November 2020.

6/30/2020 6:05:40 PM

Please be strong and stay firm about disbanding and the police and restructuring our safety nets. This is an historic moment and we need you to not cave into fear, threats and pressure of people that want to continue to brutalize and murder our citizens. During this uprising it has been my neighbors that have protected us not the police.

Please continue to fight for the rights of people who have been screaming for justice for multiple generations.

6/30/2020 6:06:08 PM

It's pretty evident that with reduced police presence that criminals terrorize the city. It's easily noticed how the quality of life in Minneapolis is greatly diminishing. The city council appears to only care about bicycle fetishes & kumbaya utopia fairytales. The concerns of their law abiding citizens has fallen on deaf ears. Imagine all the housing we could have provided for those in need by eliminating funding for bicycle lanes/pathes and stadiums. As a direct result of the city council's incompetence my family is preparing to sell the house we love & the only house our child knows because we no longer feel safe. I imagine that thousands of others will leave resulting in mass exodus from the city. You can't kumbaya violent criminals away. I'm embarrassed by the Minneapolis city council & mayor Frey.

6/30/2020 6:06:37 PM

I do not support this change and will be voting no.

6/30/2020 6:06:55 PM

I am a resident of Victoria, MN in Carver county

6/30/2020 6:07:00 PM

I don't believe the police department should be abolished. I am against systemic racism, and there undoubtedly needs to be change, but getting rid of the police department makes me very nervous about the safety of the city.

6/30/2020 6:07:26 PM

If the police in Minneapolis are disbanded, I will avoid attending any events in the city. Concerts, meetings and sporting events will be a thing of the past for me and my family. Safety is my concern. The increase in violence since the vote by the council confirms my fear that your city will be mob rule and outsiders will be targeted.

I wish you good luck and truly hope you provide a safe environment. But I fear that there are many like me who will not risk our safety and lives to spend our dollars in your city anymore.

6/30/2020 6:08:15 PM

I in no way support abolition of the Minneapolis Police Department. My preference would be less so called "warrior" training, and greater emphasis on sensitivity and de-escalation training.

I understand the feelings of council members to address this issue swiftly. However, I can only support members of the council who search for alternative opportunities to police abolition.

My fear is that the neighborhoods who interact with the police department the most now will suffer the most by such action as abolition.

6/30/2020 6:09:04 PM

I would not visit Minneapolis if there were no police. I would not feel safe and do not believe that a few bad apples means to just throw the entire police dept. out. I believe that you are running with this idea because you are not able to stand with the law and want to pamper these people to feel they got their way. There are rules and regulations (the law) that needs to be followed, if these residents would stop doing drugs (which Floyd had in his system), killing each other, shaking their babies, robbing stores and individuals, they would be much better residents of their community.

6/30/2020 6:10:09 PM

I believe the commission should deny the City Council's proposal to amend the charter to defund the police department until a plan has been drafted that describes what the department of community safety and violence prevention will be. Since it will take a year to get community input and draft the plan, it is not urgent to vote on defunding the police department now. It could wait until the next voting cycle. It is plausible that many people (including myself) believe that substantial reform is needed but will vote "no" for the amendment because it is unclear at this point in time what an alternative department will be.

If commission believes it is the best course of action to move the amendment forward, then the I believe 1) the mayor not City Council should have oversight of the new department. 2) the director should not be restricted to the people who do not have a law-enforcement background (though the director could be someone without a law enforcement background, 3) funding and total headcount levels should be maintained (though the new department could include some personnel that do not have law enforcement licenses).

6/30/2020 6:10:26 PM

No to the city council being in charge of the new police reforms. There's already too much of their influence on things that do not get done and not enough transparency. We need to start fresh with a citizen-based panel making the rules and doing the oversight.

All police must be required to self insure against any lawsuits. No more taxpayer money being spent on bailing them out. We need things for our schools and vulnerable populations.

6/30/2020 6:10:28 PM

As someone who visits Minneapolis for sporting events and concerts. I will no longer be going into Minneapolis if there is no Police Department. There must be a better way than the proposal.

6/30/2020 6:10:50 PM

I support a dismantling of the police but not an abolition.

I think a tiered system of different types of officers from which a 911 dispatcher can select the best person for the job.

Examples of tiers:

A small Violent Crime Unit (the only armed division)

Petty Crime (unarmed, no force allowed, job is to write up and fine offenses like garage break ins or midnight fireworks)

Mental Health (unarmed, handles crises with drugs or people having public mental health breakdowns)

The overall department will be smaller with the rest of the former MPD budget going to community building efforts supporting reduction of drug use and getting money and jobs to the citizens.

This change cannot be immediate as the shock to the system could lead to problems. Slowly move funds and lay off officers hiring only the most exemplary into the new system.

Officers would ideally only work within their own community.

6/30/2020 6:10:54 PM

I was born and raised in Eagan. I moved to MT in October with plans to purchase a second home downtown next year. First you have ZERO credibility when you call to defund and dismantle the Police and go ahead and hire your own personal security. The tax paying public can't do that for themselves. Shame on all of you! There is NO WAY we will be purchasing in MN unless the violence gets under control and there is a decent police force! Period. We have been Twins season ticket holders since Target Field opened, we will not be renewing our tickets if this isn't resolved! You are going to lose businesses, you are going to lose residents and your property values are going to plummet. Hard working, law abiding citizens want to know they will be protected by the police and the police are supported by their mayors and city councils. This is completely ridiculous to dismantle the police department. A SIMPLE solution is to a) get rid of the Union President and b) review the records of EVERY cop and anyone who has 3+ complaints is fired, no questions asked, no more chances to do better. Then you hire and train fresh new police who will do the job in an honorable fashion! Most of my family is still in the twin cities, this is very important to me!

6/30/2020 6:11:24 PM

I think you guys have went from crazy to insane. No body has the experience required on the council to lead, construct and follow a budget, and let alone run a city the size of Minneapolis. No one on the council is qualified to run a city the size of 1,000 people. Please resign and let's have qualified adults run this city before it burns, more innocent die, businesses move out, and you become the continuous black eye for this state.

6/30/2020 6:12:26 PM

The Minneapolis Police Department has failed my community for years. It has become blatantly obvious in the past few weeks that the police system has no interest in protecting the community. On the contrary, they have been terrorizing, brutalizing, and killing the people they are supposed to serve. The MPD has been given too much of our city's budget and too much authority, and it's clear the department does not benefit the people of Minneapolis. Public safety should be in the hands of people who actually live in Minneapolis, people who actually care about helping their neighbors. By defunding the police department and channeling that money into public assistance programs, crime rates will be reduced without resorting to violence.

6/30/2020 6:14:46 PM

I am against removing the police department, but am all for much IMPROVING the MPD. Better screening and training are needed to insure quality officers. In addition, serious consequences for bad actors are needed. No more caving to the union and allowing murdering or otherwise criminal officers to collect pensions or avoid jail time.

6/30/2020 6:15:32 PM

I don't support the removal the Police Dept from the City Charter. I think it is a mistake to do propose this amendment and will not support it.

6/30/2020 6:15:39 PM

I am strongly opposed to the proposed amendment to the Minneapolis City Charter, and the rushed process the city council has chosen to use.

6/30/2020 6:15:47 PM

I support the amendment

Vote Yes

6/30/2020 6:16:00 PM

Res Ipsa Loquitur, it speaks for itself, trying to address lawlessness and crimes of passion, anger, larceny and a host of other means by asking amateurs and sociologists to step in is pure Fantasy. You may not like what you have but it is a detriment to the community as a whole to abandon the primary source of protection.

6/30/2020 6:16:39 PM

I LOVE Minneapolis and because we spent so much time there for so many years, my kids grew to love it too. My daughter now lives there. I've always felt safe there - until the last year and especially now. Reform the police department-kick out those cops with multiple complaints. If the union is the problem, figure out how to get rid of the corruption. But don't cut off your foot because it has warts. In order for a neighborhood to thrive - have jobs, good schools, parks the kids can play in, etc THERE MUST BE LAW AND ORDER. Without public safety, the rest does not happen. You just invited all criminals to your city and you are doing it without a solid plan!!! This isn't a 7th grade social experiment! Please please please take care of your city or you won't have much to take care of in short order. No one will come to see concerts or ball games, tax revenues will shrink and homelessness will increase and it will be all on you.

6/30/2020 6:16:59 PM

I completely support full abolition of MPD.

6/30/2020 6:19:11 PM

Don't defund the police. Add more to their funding. They are underpaid. And if you abolish the police department, I will no longer visit there or make any deliveries there.

6/30/2020 6:19:48 PM

This proposed amendment is too vague. Crime has skyrocketed to a level where many tax paying, business supporting residents are considering leaving Minneapolis because they do not feel that they are safe now and feel that there is no assurance that crime will be dealt with. I personally have not slept in days. Where I live there have been shootings throughout the day and night every single day. I am tired of being told that this is just normal for the northside. That the people that call the northside home should just deal with it. What I have been reading from crime reports is that this is young people that now feel that getting rid of the MPD is their license for total anarchy. I look at the proposal and it is so vague that I wonder if Anarchy is exactly what is coming. If this is not the intent they need to spell out what the new model would look like in real life scenarios. If my home is broken into do I call a social worker and ask nicely for the burglar to wait for them to arrive so we can talk about why they feel they should break in and kill my family? Because this is what the proposal sounds like to me in the way it has been presented. I do agree that we need to show the young people a future they can fight for. I agree in prevention. But I also want an assurance that there will be officers that will still handle violent crime. We cannot be lawless. I read crime reports and right now we need to bring order to chaos. Prevention should have happened the moment our governor thought about closing down the state thus ending jobs with no support for these people. Northside, our most vulnerable area. Where people were already living paycheck to paycheck. Those of us still trying to get by the best we can now living in terror because our youth have turned to other things. Our city taken hostage by a small percentage of the population. This was coming BEFORE George Floyd! While I do believe the reason we are here today is because of systemic racism and I want to see change, I do not think allowing bullets to fly day and night is a problem that can be ignored and must be dealt with! Nobody should be afraid to leave their home. People that have lived here 20 years, paid taxes here, supported businesses here, raised family here are ready to pack up and leave. When they do who will support those businesses that employ people? This is an avalanche. It is short sighted to believe it can be ignored. What is the city going to do about that? Violence has become a pandemic of itself. I see from crime reports that many of the shootings involve young people. How many of them will die because the city does not want to address crime? I get why this is happening. People have lost hope. They have turned to crime because it is the only thing left in their mind to turn to! If ignored too long it will be the only thing left as more and more flee the city. I love this city but the proposal does not get specific enough to win my vote for sure. Show me that violence will not be tolerated regardless of reform. People are not feeling that right now. I see you are spending our tax money on extra security for yourselves so you are feeling that right now as well! Meanwhile I wake up throughout the night to the sound of gunshots, yelling, fireworks, wondering if my family is in danger. Many in the same boat. At the moment it feels like nobody cares about the people here. Its not right. I agree in many aspects of reform. What Happened to George Floyd must never happen again. It was sickening. Racism is apparently still alive and justice must be served to ANYONE that commits murder and no an officer should not get a free pass to do what was done to George Floyd. But also NOBODY should get a free pass to run about shooting people. I am all for reform but not lawlessness. We still need police. We may need them better, but we need them. Spell it out !

6/30/2020 6:20:32 PM

I had a business that was burned down on the 26th block. We have received little support from the city of Minneapolis. You have turned this into a simplistic issue of blame the police. Our block was abandoned, left to burn. So please reconsider defunding. Enforce current laws. Support the first responders that have to work in potential dangerous conditions. Your group make the rules and the

police have to enforce those rules. The blame starts at the top. I've been in practice their for 29 years this September. A once busy hub was reduced to rubble, up and down Lake St.



6/30/2020 6:21:26 PM

Minneapolis City Council,

There is nothing in the amendment that guarantees the public services that the City Council is promising residents of Minneapolis. The amended charter should clearly state how many employees the Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention (DCS) will provide per resident. From there, the total number of DCS employees should be broken down so residents can view our rights to social workers, crisis negotiators, and whatever we decide to call the police.

There should be an additional clause attached to this amendment. The amendment must include a ban on City Council members receiving income, donations, and future employment from nonprofit and for-profit organizations associated with DCS. This request is not off topic. The new amendment gives the

City Council greater control over the lives of Minneapolis residents. There should be protections in place for the citizens of Minneapolis. We have a right to know that the choices being made by City Council are not profit motivated. The Council is responsible for restoring faith in our institutions. Rebuilding our broken police system and banning political self-enrichment would be a good first step.

6/30/2020 6:21:28 PM

I work in Minneapolis. Why is the city council able to justify spending city tax payers money to assure their own safety while disbanding protections for the rest of the city? This is peak hypocrisy.

The owner of the company I work for has stated that if there is no longer policing in Minneapolis, he will have to close the business; too much liability to operate and frankly, an unnecessarily dangerous situation.

6/30/2020 6:22:29 PM

We need the Police Department. Yes there needs to be more training and reform within the department but there are many good cops that risk their lives every day for our safety. A social worker or neighborhood group is not going to be able to enforce laws and help when violence breaks out, when there's guns involved, addicts that have become angry/violent, or if someone breaks into your house. Why does the council need private protection in the city and thinks we'll be ok without the same kind of protection from our Police Department? It's just not right.

6/30/2020 6:23:19 PM

This is ridiculous. Mpls needs the police. Unfortunately mpls turned to a shithole due to the stupid demorats! Retrain the cops, change things but do not get rid of them, that would be stupid and in no way let the sharia law start there either, not sure if that was true but please, keep the police!

6/30/2020 6:24:07 PM

Kroll and his union should not be associated with the city of Minneapolis, nor recognized as a peace keeper. We need more than police reform. The city of Minneapolis needs to dismantle the police department and build a system with appropriate training, strict regulation and sustainable/actionable legal consequences for use of a deadly weapon on unarmed civilians.

6/30/2020 6:24:35 PM

Disband the Minneapolis Police Department!

Please see the attached comments.

We would like to comment on the proposal to create a new Minneapolis Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention.

We generally favor this proposal but have two serious concerns with the draft ordinance:

- First, the idea that it is optional for the city to have a law enforcement service is completely unacceptable yet this is exactly how the proposed ordinance is written: "The Council may maintain a division of law enforcement services." (Emphasis added)

Law enforcement is a necessary function, not an optional one. Recent news coverage indicates that Minneapolitans across the city value and want professional law enforcement services.

The problem that George Floyd's tragic, racist killing spotlights is not that we have a police department but that we have the wrong kind of police department. We need a better law enforcement agency, one that is charged to protect, to use force only when absolutely needed, and to do so in ways consistent with high humane and professional principles.

- Second, the proposed ordinance would weaken management of, and accountability for, law enforcement. This is because the ordinance would give control of the proposed Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention to the City Council. At present, the Mayor has "complete power" over the police department. The Mayor should have the same power over the proposed new department, making the Mayor accountable for all it does. Vesting that power in the Council would subject the new department to attempted management by each Council member and would make no elected official accountable for the department's performance.

One of the shortcomings of the current City Charter is that it makes the position of the Mayor weak because, in many areas, it allows the Council to exercise executive powers that detract from those of the Mayor. The proper role for the Council is to serve strictly as a legislative body rather than seek to insert itself into operations of City agencies. If the Council fills that role it will find that its control of City policy actually is enhanced because it will be able to concentrate on law-making and oversight.

The underlined passages in the following show our recommendations for changes to the proposed ordinance consistent with these two serious concerns:

#### Sec. 7.3. Community Safety and Violence Prevention

(a) Direction. The Mayor has complete power over the operation, maintenance, and command of the Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention and over its constituent divisions and other units. The Mayor may make all rules and regulations and may promulgate and enforce general and special orders necessary to operate the department. Except where the law vests an appointment in the department itself, the Mayor appoints and may discipline or discharge any employee in the department (subject to the Civil Service Commission's rules, in the case of an employee in the classified service.) The Mayor may, in case of emergency, appoint any necessary temporary employee for up to one week.

(b) Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. The City Council must adequately fund, and consistently engage with the public about, a department of community safety and violence prevention, which will have responsibility for public safety services, prioritizing a holistic, public health-oriented approach.

(1) Director of Community Safety and Violence Prevention. [As in the current proposal]

(b) Division of Law Enforcement Services. The Council must adequately fund a division of law enforcement services, composed of licensed peace officers, subject to the supervision of the department of community safety and violence prevention.

(1) Director of Law Enforcement Services Division. The director of the department of community safety and violence prevention shall appoint the director of the division of law enforcement services, subject to confirmation by the Mayor.

(2) Civil Service. The director of law enforcement serves in the unclassified service, but with the same employee benefits (except as to hiring and removal) as an officer in the classified service. If a director is appointed from the classified service, the director is treated as taking a leave of absence while serving as director, after which he or she is entitled to return to his or her permanent grade in the classified service... [Remainder as in current law]

Very sincerely yours

6/30/2020 6:25:53 PM

This is an essential amendment to the city charter. The police in Minneapolis have never helped me, only destroyed my property and caused me fear. I have owned my house in the Phillips neighborhood for over two decades, and I welcome an end to the rampant police violence and racism.

6/30/2020 6:26:15 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis I demand that we defund the police and the criminal justice system to fund public emergency response programs, community support systems, job opportunity programs, etc. We must be the first major city in this country that actually shows people how a 21st century society should treat its residents.

6/30/2020 6:26:22 PM

This is a necessary first step that our city must take in order to build a future in which people of color are not unjustly murdered and disenfranchised. I fully support the removal of the Minneapolis Police Department and to have it's funding moved to social services and other underfunded aspects of our government.

6/30/2020 6:26:25 PM

I fully support the dismantling of the Minneapolis Police Department. However, simply creating another police force under a new name is something I cannot get behind. We need the police force to be completely upended in favor of a radical, community-based approach.

6/30/2020 6:26:39 PM

As a resident of north Minneapolis. I am opposed to the proposed amendment, as well as anything that weakens the ability of the police to maintain law and order. If anything, we need more police and more enforcement of the laws that affect community livability.

6/30/2020 6:28:43 PM

Interesting proposal, but impossible to appreciate the significance of the details without much more information. The public will need much explaining from all the effected parties before a reasoned decision can be made. Please be prepared to provide us with details of the vision of where you think this will take us in actual practice. I'm excited about a better future, but fear you're rushing it.

6/30/2020 6:28:46 PM

Dear Charter Commission:

I strongly support amending the City Charter to create a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and remove the Police Department from the Charter as a necessary first step in repairing the broken system of public safety in Minneapolis. Decades of well-intentioned policing reforms led up to the killing of George Floyd and the unacceptable police response that followed. I see no reason to believe that any further reforms that preserve the existing structure of our police department can produce different results in the future.

I chose to make my home in Minneapolis in large part because this city struck me as a place genuinely committed to making life better for its citizens. I still believe that to be true. But it is clear that we have a vast amount of work to do to foster genuine peace and safety, and the Charter as it currently stands blocks that work from reaching its fullest potential.

I am outraged by the failures of the current system and enormously hopeful about what we can accomplish in rethinking it. I appreciate your time and attention at this critical juncture for our city.

6/30/2020 6:29:38 PM

The Minneapolis city council is folding under the pressures of mob mentality. What happened to George Floyd was awful, but there are criminals in every single profession and you should not blame an organization for an individuals actions. If anything, we need more money to the Minneapolis police department for better training and to keep the good officers! I'm tempted to move out of Minneapolis because I do not feel safe without good law enforcement officers able to do their jobs without society

blaming them for everything, even though 99% of the time it's the media and online social platforms that are twisting the narrative.

6/30/2020 6:31:06 PM

This is a no good, horrible, really bad idea. For a major city in the United States of America to turn its back on the Police is Dangerous and will lead to horrible consequences. I have family on this police force and he is a Good person. I'd wager the mass majority of police country wide are also good people. What your proposing will be very dangerous to state like California. It will be very bad if the police lose the will to do their job because they are fighting for their job.

6/30/2020 6:31:26 PM

We need police to protect us when violence or crime happens. However, the current department needs to be dismantled and rebuilt. The protection these officers get for misconduct is unacceptable. Individual officers should be required to carry liability insurance like doctors and nurses do. Officers hired back after reorganization should have a MINIMUM two yr degree in either criminal justice, psychology, or other area pertinent to their role of serving the community. They should also be required to earn continued education credits every year.

Furthermore, social workers, mental health professionals, community health nurses, etc, should be available to respond to calls when appropriate. Resources should be made available so their recommendations can be followed through on. Temporary homeless housing, inpatient treatment for substance abuse, job coaching, or whatever would help prevent crime and lift people up should be implemented.

We have an opportunity to make a great change, and we should seize it to improve the future of our city!

6/30/2020 6:31:34 PM

This idea is such a knee jerk reaction. What happened to George Floyd was terrible and should never happen. Murder and killing someone should never happen. But that happens weekly in Minneapolis with police around. Without Police the criminals are going to take over. I live 50 miles away and if there is no police presence I won't be coming to Minneapolis to do anything. My friends won't come to Minneapolis. The travel industry will become a fraction of what it was. Nobody wants to live like it's the Wild Wild West. That's what it will be. Businesses will move. Minneapolis will become a Haven for crime. Good luck.

6/30/2020 6:33:22 PM

For too long have the citizens of Minneapolis been under the thumb of Bob Kroll's gang of aggressive, undertrained, violent thugs. It's time for something dramatically different, that is actually built to protect and serve this city. The police cannot be reformed because they do not wish to reform. They should therefore be removed.

6/30/2020 6:33:41 PM

This is a terrible idea and if passed it will lead to the further decline of this once great city.

6/30/2020 6:33:49 PM

As corrupt as the department may be, eliminating the force in its entirety is reactionary and a huge mistake. Better off hiring in from different parts of the state or out of state to replace all the bad apples. I for one would not call a "citizens brigade" to help me... Good luck, again, reactionary and not a good decision...

PS I for one will never visit the Minneapolis

again out of concern for the welfare of myself and my family

6/30/2020 6:33:55 PM

I support the proposed amendment being put in the ballot. I think a fundamental reorganization of the department is necessary and this seems like the required first step.

6/30/2020 6:34:51 PM

I think all the council members should be voted off immediately. Nobody will want to work for a violence prevention dept. Who will ever want to work for the city of Minneapolis again?

I will never again go to or through Minneapolis again!

6/30/2020 6:35:25 PM

Do you realize people will not want to work downtown and I will bet companies will leave downtown and move to the suburbs?

6/30/2020 6:35:29 PM

I am withholding my address and phone number due to my work, but am more than happy to respond to any questions by the Commission via email. As a clinical psychologist working with our most vulnerable populations, I implore you to absolutely not change the charter. As a former employee of Hennepin County COPE, I would encourage you to review existing programs and instead work on expanding those. Do we need major changes made to the MPD? Absolutely. Do we need police? Absolutely. I can say firsthand that those who need the police the most are the voices not being heard whatsoever. People of all races, ethnicities, and gender. The major changes needed are going to take everyone's voices, everyone's input. Our City Council appears to have good intentions, but are too short-sighted to see the extreme and harmful unintended consequences of their knee-jerk reactions. It would be nice to be able to see some maturity and wisdom from the Council, in the sense of making changes that have been well-planned and thought out. If you need an example of the unintended consequences of a knee-jerk reaction, look at the Park Boards decision to allow encampments in the parks, after the

Park Police severed ties with MPD. There have been multiple sexual assaults on CHILDREN in the encampments, and Park Police complete their shifts around midnight, and MPD aren't allowed to respond. Who's protecting the most vulnerable in the parks? The same problems occurring in the parks can be, and should be, easily anticipated on a massive scale. Who will respond to violent acts? How about school shootings? Has anyone asked the mothers of kids gunned down in the past month their thoughts? I have one client whose son was recently murdered, and she is terrified there will be no police to keep the rest of her family safe. How about those actively hiding from abusers? I have many clients terrified there won't be police to protect them from abusers. Again, these decisions need to be made swiftly, but with planning and input from everyone. The Council seems to be too far out of their league with this one, please don't harm our residents with their ignorance!

6/30/2020 6:35:32 PM

It is vital that the new department be more than a rebranded police department and that Bob Kroll have no input in its creation.

6/30/2020 6:36:08 PM

I have a son who attends the U of MN & like many he students resides In Dinkytown. In the 3 years he's lived in Minneapolis he's been severely assaulted more than once. First time was on Erie St and second time was at Dinkytown McDonalds. Reason for assault was 1st for an old cellphone which he didn't have on him so they beat him & 2nd was for not giving a gang affiliation. He was on his way to weekly art group mtg. when confronted & because of his dreads & looks assumed he couldn't be a student. Both times he could have lost his life easily w/o cops I can't & won't encourage him risking his life in a city without cops.

Loved one in Minneapolis suffering from bipolar 1 in full mania was taken to Fairview by 2 very respectful cops w/o any incidents of disrespect & even contacted after to offer good healing thoughts.

Change is NEEDED but to allow a Council to make such a drastic change isn't it. They want it expedited, they have hired private security that city pays for but kids literally taking bullets?

I've thought a lot about as a mom of black adult kids in Minneapolis & honestly without more cops I can't see my kids thriving.

Easily could be a loved one if mine in Floyd's situation & understand the anger but I wouldn't support abolishing citizens & don't support abolish cops.

Need to find a middle ground.

I've attended council mtgs before the members don't have to have power over Department to enact some changes but I feel they want it anyway, why?

I also feel that if this is the remedy the majority of Minneapolis wants the Council should be able to run for next term with that as their goal, if re-elected under those pretenses then I'd be more willing to consider it. It's really unbelievable to me that their number of votes is so small yet they want complete power.

\*Also I request my personal information name, etc remain private

<b>Minneapolis Population 2017</b>	<b>421,072</b>			
		<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Total Votes Casted</b>	<b>Total Votes</b>
	City Wide	249,519	105,928	<b>65,020</b>
<b>Office</b>	<b>Name</b>			
<b>Council Ward 1</b>		19,722	8,864	
Winner	Kevin Reich			<b>4,296</b>
<b>Council Ward 2</b>		17,702	7,034	
Winner	Cam Gordon			<b>5,912</b>
<b>Council Ward 3</b>		24,522	9,877	
Winner	Steve Fletcher			<b>4,861</b>
<b>Council Ward 4</b>		17,156	5,349	
Winner	Philippe M Cunningham			<b>2,605</b>
<b>Council Ward 5</b>		15,302	4,278	
Winner	Jeremiah Ellison			<b>2,313</b>
<b>Council Ward 6 *</b>		15,725	7,397	
Winner/VACANT	Abdi Warsame			<b>3,629</b>
<b>Council Ward 7</b>		20,789	9,255	
Winner	Lisa Goodman			<b>4,742</b>
<b>Council Ward 8</b>		18,090	8,275	
Winner	Andrea Jenkins			<b>5,762</b>
<b>Council Ward 9</b>		13,111	5,650	
Winner	Alondrea Cano			<b>2,982</b>
<b>Council Ward 10</b>		20,942	7,911	
Winner/PRESIDENT	Lisa Bender			<b>4,883</b>
<b>Council Ward 11</b>		20,264	9,592	
Winner	Jeremy Schroeder			<b>4,757</b>
<b>Council Ward 12</b>		22,735	10,704	
Winner	Andrew Johnson			<b>8,874</b>
<b>Council Ward 13</b>		23,452	11,742	
Winner	Linea Palmisano			<b>9,404</b>

6/30/2020 6:36:34 PM

As far as zoning/community/rent situations— we need someone who knows the community and can advise/protect against gentrification?

Can we keep 911 dispatch concept somehow? We need a centralized number for those who are not/are not able to be plugged so tightly into a community.

6/30/2020 6:38:04 PM

You're all failing your city

6/30/2020 6:38:25 PM

We need more police. Have you seen what has been going on in this city for the last couple of months. Do you think maybe you the City Council and the Mayor are to blame for this mess. Time to move out of Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 6:38:33 PM

Resign.

6/30/2020 6:40:51 PM

If you defund the police, I will move my family and my business out of the city. We are afraid to leave our house now. How can things possibly get better by defunding. We need massive reforms from the top down.

6/30/2020 6:41:26 PM

I fully support this and I think it should be on the ballot this fall

6/30/2020 6:41:33 PM

I hope the Charter Commission puts this proposed amendment on the ballot in November 2020. I think it is an important step to creating a new, better approach to public safety in Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 6:43:04 PM

I support police reform but believe the city council's amendment to the Charter is not the best way to bring about much needed reform. There needs to be more clarity about the ramifications of this amendment on the day-to-day safety for Minneapolis residents.

Reform under Chief Arrandono will be more impactful in both the short and long term.

6/30/2020 6:44:13 PM

I am vehemently opposed to the charter amendment to remove the requirement to maintain a police department. The proposed replacement, "Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention" is a fatuous, ill-conceived fantasy which panders to the extreme left and which I believe will put Minneapolis citizens at great risk.

6/30/2020 6:44:23 PM

Disbanding the MPD and replacing it is not only good but necessary. We need to rebuild a new system from the ground up rooted in trust between the community and the people meant to protect the community, with people trained to respond to unique situations, and not being a gun into situations that need deescalation. I am not in Minneapolis myself but I live in the Twin Cities area. I work in Minneapolis and have many friends there. I would love to see Minneapolis set an example of what is possible from a public safety system genuinely founded on the safety of the people.

6/30/2020 6:44:27 PM

I am both a former and future (as of July 15th, 2020) resident of Minneapolis, and I request the establishment of a Case Review Task Force consistent with Item #15 under Article VII, § 7.2(a), Departments, of the Minneapolis City Charter. The Case Review Task Force should not consist of current or former Minneapolis police officers, and should provide case-review services to identify potential shortcomings, inaccuracies, and inconsistencies in filed police reports. The Task Force should review files against existing evidence, and officers who have been found to have included falsified or misleading information in their reports shall not be permitted placement in the Minneapolis Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention or Division of Law Enforcement Services. The Case Review Task Force MAY NOT be a temporarily appointed department. It shall exist in perpetuity to review all cases filed by the Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention or Division of Law Enforcement Services.

6/30/2020 6:44:36 PM

I believe that it is necessary to remove the police and establish a community safety and violence prevention department. Police are called for many many situations that they are not trained for, and a lot of the time these people that call for help get hurt or killed. We need more money for education, mental health resources, social workers etc. No more murders at the hands of police. Breaking down the broken system and rebuild one that actually serves and protects the people.

6/30/2020 6:46:18 PM

Will Minneapolis residents who feel unsafe be able to utilize tax payer money to pay for their own private security like three of your council members?

Or is that reserved only for the elite? Honest question.

6/30/2020 6:46:44 PM

Please stop this nonsense idea that we can function as a society without the Minneapolis police department. Removing the police is not the answer to the events that have taken place. But what matters most in this world is knowing where you go after this life. I pray you all encounter Jesus and surrender your life to Him before he brings his judgment.

6/30/2020 6:49:00 PM

I do not support this charter amendment. Police reform is needed. But defunding the police is not.

6/30/2020 6:51:23 PM

I have concerns about the lack of clarity regarding the proposal to remove the police department from the Charter. There is no outline or even an idea of how a community safety and violence prevention department would operate?

Minneapolis police officers use qualified immunity doctrine to avoid prosecution, does the charter change this? Do police officers that have many complaints and poor performance with the community continue to be in their jobs? How would that change with the charter proposal?

I request that the mayor, police, and city council get busy and work on the changes that are needed. Wishing for a charter change to make it happen seems like wishful thinking and a way to avoid dealing with the problems in our city.

6/30/2020 6:51:26 PM

I endorse a new public safety and violence prevention department of the City of Minneapolis, which would effectively abolish the existing MPD. Additionally, I endorse the funds set aside for the MPD be allocated to various public health and violence prevention initiatives including, but not limited to, safe housing for the un-homed and for low income residents, violence prevention programs waiting at risk communities, jobs programs for youth, expansion of drug and alcohol treatment facilities and services, and the creation of a restorative justice program. One huge benefit would be to break up the Police Officer's Federation, which works to protect officers that violate protocol and can effectively rack up numerous brutality charges with impunity. Officer's records should be open for review by the public or by a body of citizens that can call for an officer's removal. Officer Chauvin had 17 complaints of excessive force or brutality against him and was insulated from punishment by the Union. Additionally, I would endorse a plan for officers to carry their own liability insurance. I'd like to see new protocols around use of crowd control weapons and tactics including banning rubber bullets and projectiles, tear gas and flash grenades.

6/30/2020 6:51:50 PM

I am glad that Minneapolis is committed to disbanding the police. I truly do believe that the department is beyond reform-- that policing in America has failed the most vulnerable residents of our communities. I look forward to reading your plans to make a community controlled department of public health and safety that differentiates the various problems we face-- from mental health, to spousal abuse, to tax fraud, housing insecurity, and violent crime-- that deserve specialized responses. I look forward to hearing about your plans to create a department focused on responding to sexual assault and abuse that believes victims and doesn't "misplace" rape kits. I look forward to being able to call someone qualified to help me when my friend is acting in a way that I believe will harm themselves or others due to intoxication or a mental health crisis without fearing that the respondents will only make the situation more volatile. I can't wait until BIPOC community members have people they can count on to truly work in their best interests, to protect them and help them in difficult situations, without fearing that they will be mistaken for criminals and murdered. As a city, you know that it is wrong that MPD is responsible for all of the above. They are not trained for that, and they can not do their jobs without the trust of the community they serve-- a trust that they have broken. You know that you can't just replace them with another one-size fits all solution that resorts to violence at a drop of a pin and has irredeemable roots in white supremacy. You also know that the transition, no matter how hard you try, will not go smoothly, and you will be under attacks from the media, from conservatives, from groups you haven't even considered yet. Acknowledge that now and do it anyways. This is worth it-- but only if you do the work correctly. Do the work correctly. Our lives depend on this.

6/30/2020 6:52:00 PM

I support this charter amendment being placed on the ballot this November, provided that it adds language ensuring that no hires or appointments be made of people who have previously been part of the MPD, Saint Paul PD, or police departments anywhere across the state of MN or the US. We can't truly divest from our police department unless we start from a completely clean slate.

6/30/2020 6:52:30 PM

The link below is to Bob Kroll describing his career and how to defeat civilian oversight of the police in his own words. It is quite revealing about what has been going on for decades. This problem needs to be fixed now. Letting brutal cops be reinstated through arbitration, deleting records of brutal incidents after the passage of time, and negotiating with a union that doesn't get rid of police who should not be police has been going on way too long.

<https://patch.com/minnesota/stillwater/s/h5sbb/minneapolis-police-union-boss-bob-kroll-tells-podcast-how-to-defeat-civilian-review>

6/30/2020 6:53:54 PM

I fully support this move. As Vice President of the Sheridan Neighborhood Organization it's my duty to advocate for the neighborhood. This is why I support dismantling MPD.

"Being safe has always required other things—a home, access to food and health care, the ability to earn a living and pay bills. Over the past few decades, anti-violence efforts have spread through the country to aid communities in achieving those things.

'These violence-interruption programs can be incredibly important when they are well funded, well run, and lack police interference. They can show tremendously positive results in reducing shootings and homicides,' Vitale said. 'We have research that shows that these programs can work, and we need to dramatically expand their usage in all kinds of settings.'"

Real-world examples of programs that are already working - and succeeding - to create safety without police.

6/30/2020 6:53:59 PM

I heartily support the charter amendment to remove the Minneapolis Police Department. The MPD has shown us that they do not keep our community safe, nor are they invested in the welfare of Minneapolis residents. I support the city council's plan to replace the MPD with a new service or group of services created to address the root causes of "crime," and provide real support and help to everyone in the city, but especially its most vulnerable citizens. I am imagining a safer, more equitable Minneapolis that does not include the Minneapolis Police Department.

6/30/2020 6:54:36 PM

I simply don't have faith in my community leaders to do this well. However, I figure, what have we got to lose? I have not had adequate police protection in my neighborhood for years, even less now, after the protests, as police are not responding at all. (I mean, would you respond now if you were a cop?). 90 minute wait times for an intruder on someone's back porch, (and that was before George Floyd) and the same drug dealers, pimps, prostitutes and panhandlers on our blocks that have been there for years with no consequences. I myself have basically abandoned my post as block leader, because, why bother? Our supposed city council representative, Alondra Cano, is always there for the photo op of being a pretty Latino woman, but she blocks our emails if we bother her too much about the actual crimes on our block. We have not had a crime prevention specialist in the 3rd precinct for at least a couple of years now, and how is that money being spent? Our tax payer money! And yet a man passes a \$20 counterfeit bill and gets murdered for it. That, 911 responds to. The whole system needs to be redone from top to bottom, and I am concerned that the current city council and ineffective mayor will push through something quickly, without the proper checks and balances, that will look good politically for them, but will be a disaster for us, the residents of Minneapolis. I truly hope that I am wrong.

6/30/2020 6:54:54 PM

We were planning on visiting Minneapolis and a lot of other cities

But any city that does not have a police department we will not be visiting

6/30/2020 6:55:52 PM

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

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 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 your 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. Please take the time to be deliberative and give this proposal the consideration worthy of a permanent change to our charter.

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. Changing that aspect would provide more flexibility for alternate responses to mental health crisis calls, homelessness and other social issues.

Thank you for your consideration.

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?

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).

### **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 that would have to happen by August 21, 2020. Since this is very unlikely, the amendment will likely be on the ballot in 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. 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 6:56:55 PM

I grew up in mpls. Please don't do this! This will ruin mpls for yrs to come.

6/30/2020 6:57:58 PM

I am very supportive of defunding the police in favor of a new way forward to establish safety for the citizens and visitors of Minneapolis. There is so much that can be done within this. I am hoping this can make a safer community which respects all citizens and could be used as a model going forward. I have ideas myself and am looking forward to hearing other people's ideas. Also willing to help in any way I can. Thank you for your bravery to start this process.

6/30/2020 6:58:05 PM

If this is the only way we can lessen the power of the police union - then I support this. Please bring it to vote. The police chief needs to be able to have more power to hire and fire people. I do not want to get rid of the police force, but yes I want to get rid of the union.

Ward 3

6/30/2020 6:58:28 PM

I am supportive of disbanding the Police Department and establishing a new department that would focus on evidence-based, community-driven, holistic practices to ensure public safety. There should be no automatic hiring of members of the old Police Department - this cannot be the same people with different titles.

People employed by the new Department should believe in the new direction Minneapolis residents want their city to take. I am appreciative that the Council intends to engage in a community process to develop this new department, and encourage them to stick with that intention.

6/30/2020 6:59:11 PM

I believe abolishing the police and replacing it with a Community Safety department is unwise and will result in more crime and violence in our city. Living in North Minneapolis, I know that criminals are armed and are willing to use their fire arms and force to execute their crimes. Likewise, any agency establishing peace and justice will need to be armed and able to use similar force when confronted with such criminals. The Minneapolis Police Department clearly needs reform in contracts and leadership. That will be a tough road, but in the end reforming our police department would be the better choice to making our city safe for businesses and families.

Ward 4

6/30/2020 6:59:23 PM

I am totally against this proposed charter amendment. Totally against everything about it, it's unreasonable.

6/30/2020 6:59:39 PM

Make more safe zones while you're at it. Words can hurt.

6/30/2020 6:59:49 PM

We need MORE police officers ! To take away our protection is completely unbelievably stupid. It is giving criminals a free reign in our city ! Yes there needs to be reform and specifically better training ! So many cut corners in the past and lack of discipline for bad officers. This is what needs to be addressed ! For this city council to make such a poor decision that reflects on almost 400,000 residents of Minneapolis is horrible ! The whole country is watching this debacle in this city council's decision to take away our police department !

Making us a laughing stock ! Unbelievable !

The city of Minneapolis RESIDENTS.... should be voting on this proposal !

6/30/2020 7:00:02 PM

I absolutely disagree with any action taken to disband the police department.

6/30/2020 7:00:31 PM

I support the proposed charter amendment, with the hope that substantive changes to the way community safety is achieved in Minneapolis go well beyond the name of the department. Policing as we know it needs to be completely abolished and replaced with a community oriented, service-oriented, publicly accountable, professionally liable, licensed and frequently evaluated group of professionals to include mental health workers, substance abuse workers, domestic violence specialists, traffic specialists, and other qualified workers to respond in situations now assigned to the police. These professionals should engage in mandatory equity and implicit bias evaluation and training at least annually. They should be held to a high standard of professionalism in their work.

6/30/2020 7:01:23 PM

While I think there is a need to reimagine public safety, I do not think we are yet ready to vote on removing the requirement of a police department before we have a plan for what will replace it. Our public safety Can not be compromised as it is currently.

6/30/2020 7:01:26 PM

The only situation where police would be unnecessary - is when we have an incredibly virtuous society. And given the number of shootings that have occurred In the last month. We do not have an incredibly virtuous society.

6/30/2020 7:02:52 PM

We need more police not less! More police training not less!

Ward 5

6/30/2020 7:03:28 PM

I reject this proposal to eliminate the Minneapolis Police Department. Your budget for health and human services is nearly half of your spend and that has not made progress in any of these situations you feel the police are unequipped to handle. I reject any outside or "private" entity whereby the citizens would not have oversight. Also, I don't approve of taxes paying for your private security! If we cannot have protection of my choice (the Minneapolis Police Department), why should you?! And ultimately, if you are fearful of the threats being made, perhaps you should reconsider what "protection" really means! The police need training, no more Union so individuals can be held accountable. We need our police - not a social worker to handle crime.

6/30/2020 7:03:50 PM

I will never go downtown Minneapolis again. Not for shows, concerts, sports or dinners if there are no police. I will boycott it. I don't appreciate that you stupid people are judging all police by the actions of a few. I also think you fools should all be fired from your jobs as it should not be the decision of a few dumbshits to fund the police. It is your job to protect everyone not make stupid decisions based on your misguided stupidity. I also think if something happens to a family on the way of a crime because of no police in the city the family should be able to inflict the same pain or crime on city council members.

6/30/2020 7:04:18 PM

Hello - I'm worried for the city of Minneapolis. I'm watching what is happening around the city and I'm nervous. I am not supportive of disbanding the police. I believe doing so would create a situation where the most vulnerable that we are all trying to protect from police brutality and misconduct would be most at risk and underserved. What happens in the middle of the night when someone is experiencing domestic violence and they only person they can turn to is a social worker or domestic violence hotline? In my opinion, the first answer need to center around a strong point economy with low unemployment rates, specifically low unemployment rates for minority communities. Low unemployment rates will equate to lower crime statistics.

I think we need to focus on really strong police reform. I believe Bob Kroll is unfit for his position and needs to resign. I also feel we need to re-hire the entire police force in Minneapolis - meaning additional background checks and a microscopic look at all complaints for every officer. I also feel we need to start by recruiting more Black officers into the MPD. We need to focus on programs with youth that drive them to want to serve the community in this role. I also believe the Minneapolis police force should live in the city it supports or a large percentage of the force should reside in Minneapolis.

Additionally, I'm surprised by the use of taxpayer dollars to fund private security for council members. Why not practice the same message you are preaching? Or why not utilize the Minneapolis Police Department and speak with them while utilizing them for security. You may have some healthy dialogue.

I do not live in Minneapolis but have lived there for several years, work in Minneapolis and visit for recreation purposes. I'm afraid if the direction we are heading. The message to defund the police was presented with no facts, no vision and no plan. How can Minneapolis have confidence in leaders when that is how the plan is presented.

Thank you

6/30/2020 7:05:48 PM

I grew up in south Minneapolis in the Fulton neighborhood. I think that Changing the charter of Minneapolis to "re-imagine" the police department might be one of worst ideas since not letting Hitler into art school. Look at Detroit. In some areas the response time is 30 minutes or more. Sometimes the police are unable to respond. I believe that society does need change, this is not the way to enact that change. Maybe the mod and the park police need to be rejoined in a common goal of keeping our city safe and flourishing.

6/30/2020 7:06:05 PM

As a Minneapolis resident, I fully support the proposed amendment to the charter of the city of Minneapolis to create a community safety and violence prevention department in the city of Minneapolis. The distinction of director CSVP who will appoint a director of law and forcement is clear.

Sincerely, Ward 8

6/30/2020 7:06:13 PM

The proposed changes to the charter appear to be at best high level guidelines. It appears to this citizen of Minneapolis that the ordinance changes have not been "beta staged" with stakeholders to see if they are workable at a granular level.

The amended section 7.3 uses vague non-measurable terms such as "maintain, adequately fund, and consistently engage..." This will definitely lead to constant tension and disagreement as each stakeholder will create her/his interpretation of these terms.

The phrase "non-law enforcement experience" is also open for wide interpretation.

In section 8.4, there is mention of an executive committee. There is not mention of the make-up of this committee, how formed, to whom does it report? One has to look in other sections of the City Ordinance to gain a knowledge of the Executive Committee. This is a prime example of asking for engagement without adequate and easily obtained explanation or a working diagram.

Asking the public to vote on this is ill-advised in my mind, given the vagueness of the details and the lack of workability, especially as regards the reporting structure, the measureables and the monetary viability of the personnel changes.

From a practical matter, there is no explanation on how the police department can be decommissioned and a new department be established and fully functional without creating a dangerous gap that will significantly endanger the populace of Minneapolis.

It will be extremely difficult to educate the public as to the actual changes that will occur given a yes vote. This ordinance changes, as written, imply incredible pie in the sky

outcomes in that these new super humans that will enforce safety in the city will come with no faults, weaknesses, prejudices of ill-will, and if they do, the city will ferret them out immediately.

If the city had or plans to have such insightful hiring and accountability practices, then the existing structure is as workable as the new structure and the other departments in the city would be or will be working at a world class level.

In my opinion, changing structure without a fundamental ability and accountability throughout the system including the mayor and city council is like shuffling the chairs on the Titanic.

We are in a republic, not a democracy. We elected the mayor and the city council to lead and make the city work for all its stakeholders. Putting this charter change on the ballot appears to me to be an abdication of leadership.

The unanimous vote of the city council to put this proposed change on the ballot insinuates that there is no other workable structure or that the existing structure cannot be tailored to work. As an esteemed

colleague of mine once quoted, "Don't tell me what can't be done, just tell me what you don't know how to do'."

This is an all or nothing change. This is a forced outcome without alternative approaches being discussed and input taken. There is no what happens if this initiative fails.

I recommend that this ordinance change not be advanced to the voting public but rather make the desired outcomes happen within the existing ordinance nomenclature and reporting structure. This will keep the public safe and also get to the desired outcomes in a more timely and safe manner.

Thank you for attention in this manner.

6/30/2020 7:06:17 PM

I do not support the police disbandment however I do completely support police reform. We need to ensure that the leaders of this organization are not racist bigots, we also need to make sure there is diversity in the hiring process. Adequate mental health evaluations along with enough resources and programs for police officers to engage for mental health. Rotations amongst the officers in the “bad neighborhoods” is also key to making sure that officers do not become desensitized or suffer from PTSD. I agree that enabling neighbors to protect their neighbors and themselves brings communities closer however it also puts people who have no training or experience in a precarious situations and can be a heavy burden on community members. I believe there would be an uptick in firearm purchases as community members will feel as if the only way to protect themselves is to purchase a firearm and that is alarming. We can use technology to predict or evaluate police officers mental health, an example could be making police officer video log everyday before and after their shift. Using the video log we can develop algorithms to determine the baseline mental health based on facial expressions and word use for each officer. By forcing the video log everyday the algorithms can predict if the police office is out of norm and if so flag that officer for an evaluation. I believe in a hybrid solution of community members and the police department working together and diversity is the key.

6/30/2020 7:06:38 PM

Please keep the police. None of you have been in the private life of business and just look at Seattle and Learn. Do you not learn from history of less than a month ago.? No police on lake street and they burned it down, and if you do this, your citizens will have to protect themselves like the couple in St Louis and I believe you will be causing more harm to Black Lives.. think about it, the majority of looters and rioters were black, they start doing this to people's homes, people will defend themselves and more Black people will be facing guns of inexperienced people. More will be killed. Think your decisions thru!

Ward 1

6/30/2020 7:08:25 PM

No, we should not defund the police. I've been followed and harassed on East Lake street and Chicago. When I needed help, the police were there not a social worker. You want to defund the police so you cause chaos in mpls. More people will get guns and get a permit to carry. Then you will achieve the Chaos you seem to want. The council should be paying for there own security, What is good for

everyone else is good for the mpls city council. You want your police to live in mpls if they work there then stop wasting my tax payer money on your security as you should get the same security as everyone else. Pay for it yourself.

6/30/2020 7:09:05 PM

As a long time resident of South Minneapolis, I do not support the amendment as currently devised. The council has not taken the time to really develop the specifics of what these changes will look like, and as a result the City will be left much worse off than it already is. I would highly encourage City council members and residents of Minneapolis to do research into the ideas of "Transitional Justice" as helping our City and state address the enormous racial justice issues that we face.

Here is a link to blog post that describes police reform through the lens of Transitional Justice:  
<https://blog.acton.org/archives/116552-when-police-get-it-wrong-repeatedly-the-rule-of-law-and-police-reform.html>

Here is a link to the Chicago Principles of Post-Conflict Justice": [https://law.depaul.edu/about/centers-and-institutes/international-human-rights-law-institute/projects/Documents/chicago\\_principles.pdf](https://law.depaul.edu/about/centers-and-institutes/international-human-rights-law-institute/projects/Documents/chicago_principles.pdf)

Ward 2

6/30/2020 7:13:44 PM

I am opposed to this proposed charter amendment and defunding of the Police Dept. Please work with Chief Arrodondo and work towards reforms and better training and selection. But do not dismantle and start over! The city council has way overstepped their bounds on this and it will be the end of our beautiful city if this goes forward as proposed. We will vote against it if it makes it on the ballot this fall. SO much more discussion and public involvement to define the best plan going forward is needed!

6/30/2020 7:16:02 PM

I do not support the move to disband the police. Further, you do not have the authority to do so. Less police will mean more crime, and more serious crimes. One can only conclude that is the intent.

6/30/2020 7:16:24 PM

While I believe the MPD needs to be reformed, I do not think it is a good idea to remove the police department. Especially without a solid plan as to what a Community of Safety and Violence Prevention program looks like.

How can we vote on something when we don't even know what it is that we might be voting on?

6/30/2020 7:16:37 PM

Please replace our broken police department with a safety department that protects all people in Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 7:17:08 PM

I live in Oakdale, eastern suburb of St. Paul, I go to Twins games and Vikings games. My wife and I go to Minneapolis for entertainment and dining. we love Minneapolis. If you abolish the protection of the police, we wont ever spend another dime in your city, ever! When I see an Oakdale cop, I thank them for what they do and tell them that we appreciate them. Do your residents do that?

I don't reside in Minneapolis

6/30/2020 7:17:47 PM

So if we defund the police, then each one of us and neighborhoods will have to arm themselves for protection. Is this absurd or not? What are they thinking?

6/30/2020 7:18:08 PM

Wouldn't it be more intelligent to have a workable police reform solution in place before defunding the police? As a 58-year resident of this city, I never thought I'd live to see the day when an arsonist, looting mob rules the city. Defund the police the mob demands and the council agrees. What will the mob demand next?

6/30/2020 7:19:06 PM

I support a redistribution of police funding to other community services but I want the City Council to be very careful about the idea of an idealistic/utopian society which isn't realistic. Many people use the example of suburbs when it comes to imagining a society without police. Suburbs obviously have police but their role is often very different than what police often deal with in Minneapolis. Suburbs have very little poverty which allows the communities to function differently than in a large metropolitan city. We live in a capitalist economy which means there will be poor people and, unfortunately, poverty directly and indirectly contributes to many of the issues that areas of Minneapolis face where the police are often called to intervene.

There has not been enough information provided by the City Council for me to make an informed decision on whether or not to support this charter amendment. In order to support it, I will want to see a laid out proposal/plan for what this "Community of Safety and Violence Prevention Department" would look like. The Minneapolis Police Department definitely needs some changes but before I can support a full abolishment, I need to see the plan and at this point, the charter amendment is not enough.

6/30/2020 7:19:22 PM

In the wake of events both preceding and concurrent with the current unrest in the Twin Cities, it is clear that the Minneapolis Police Department is unfit to serve the needs of the citizens of Minneapolis. Going forward, in the establishment of this new department there must be a strong emphasis in community growth and investing money that would have gone to policing back into the communities of Minneapolis in order to have better public health and safety to prevent crime from occurring in the first place, such as better equipped first responders that are trained on the disputes they are called for, investing in early and ongoing education, resources for addiction and help for those struggling with drug addiction, and youth programs. In order for these implementations to be effective, there must be significant input from the communities that will receive these investments, and they must be at the center of the conversation.

6/30/2020 7:20:13 PM

As a Minneapolis resident I am not safer because of police. Police actively harm communities of color, especially Black and Brown communities, as well as low income communities. If Minneapolis wants to be safe, they should remove the need for a police force from charter. I support its amendment.

6/30/2020 7:21:01 PM

I would like to see more social workers and professionals with experience with behavioral disorders and mental health be utilized as to better address situations police consistently mishandled. We need more BIPOC people represented in these positions as well. There is no need for the police as the institution they currently are. Changing the park police's uniform does not effectively change how safe our parks are or their associations with MPD. Abolish the police.

6/30/2020 7:21:04 PM

From what I've seen and read the Council members are very smart, capable and courageous. If appointed OLD public officials, elected politicians, judges, Star Tribune, TV news, businesses, community organizations, non profits, foundations, faith community and all of us had done our jobs, spoke up enough and demanded needed police change we wouldn't be here today wondering how the Young people are going to make it all better. I am proud of the council members, that they even have the courage to take it all on. We know there lives are being threatened and its just amazing what you have to go through to make things better for people. Helping people should be the easiest thing to do. I'm glad the world is watching and I am praying steadfast success for the council members and God Bless Them All.

6/30/2020 7:21:20 PM

How can you justify this plan when the tax payers are providing security for you? Hypocrites. Don't you see that businesses will leave, people will move and property value will go down. Cartels will move in and will use Minneapolis as a distribution center. All the progress Minneapolis has made since being the

murder capital will be out the window. You people will all move and the rest of us will be left picking up the pieces for the next 30 years.

6/30/2020 7:21:54 PM

Improve the police department, but do not dismantle it. I've been looking at the crime statistics and we need more police, not less.

How many residents have now applied for gun permits? That will tell you how unsafe we feel right now. The Powderhorn encampment is growing and out of control. You have made the surrounding area unsafe. Fix it now!

You do not have a mandate, so stop pushing and start representing.

6/30/2020 7:21:57 PM

I am very much in support of this amendment and believe it is an important first step towards redefining the role of law enforcement and keeping the peace in a better way.

6/30/2020 7:24:07 PM

I think it is a dangerous move to get rid of our Minneapolis police department. Taking revenge on the whole police department because of some bad cops is not the answer. Make changes but keep our police department.

6/30/2020 7:26:52 PM

Every civilization is governed by laws, without law society crumbles. Where there are laws, there must be law enforcement or lawlessness runs rampant and tramples the rights of law abiding, tax paying citizens...

Attachment:

**Every civilization is governed by laws, without law society crumbles. Where there are laws, there must be law enforcement or lawlessness runs rampant and tramples the rights of law abiding, tax paying citizens.**

We are in agreement that there is no place for racism in armed positions of authority, but to think we live in some kind of utopian society of law abiding citizens that have no need for law enforcement officers is beyond ridiculous.

Maybe it feels good to please the angry mob of protesters demanding their own idea of a quick fix to a problem that affects us all. Be ready to accept responsibility for the bloodshed in the streets as a result of ending the police department as criminals take advantage at every turn.

There is an ongoing gang war between the North and South Minneapolis street gangs, shots are being fired day and night. Why aren't people protesting the street gang violence that kills innocent bystanders of all races, including blacks? This whole movement to replace the police department with this committee run community based department is predicated on racism. Why isn't anyone addressing black on black violence? Black Lives Matters while they live too. Why isn't there a movement to guide youth away from gang violence before it's too late? For that matter why aren't people protesting crime and the criminals that are destroying property, stealing and murdering people without giving it a second thought because they were "dissed" on social media?

Before you ask the citizens of Minneapolis to vote yes or no to end the police department, you've got to lay out the vision and publicize it so they can make an intelligent decision. Right now, the ordinance puts it to a yes or no vote to remove the police department and replace it with this new department of public safety and crime prevention without any details of what that would entail and how it will affect the residents and tax payers of the city of Minneapolis.

How will average citizens specifically vetted to eliminate candidates with law enforcement training answer to the gun violence happening in the city day and night? Who will uphold the law and protect the innocent? Who will determine which "branch" of public safety is needed for each situation? What will happen if it turns into something else or turns volatile? How will unarmed, average citizens protect the public from armed criminals who will kill people and destroy property without remorse? Crime prevention is great if it works, but all too often crime happens too quickly and after the violence happens it's too late for prevention.

What makes you think a committee for public safety will not be prejudice or racist in their actions or that citizens responding to situations will not take vengeance and determine for themselves what is just in each situation? What would prevent these citizens from taking the law into their own hands? These people would need to wear body cameras to be held accountable for their actions just like police. How many people will comprise this new department that would be supervised by the city council? Will they be available around the clock for emergencies? Will they be held accountable? How long will they be in this position? Can they be fired?

I've studied the draft of the ordinance and the city council has all the power over this new department. The structure of this new department makes it subject completely to the micromanagement of thirteen individuals plus the Mayor. Direction by committee by its very nature would introduce bureaucratic red tape and bottlenecking of decision making. The police chief only has a three year term. City council members have unlimited four year terms. Which means if chaos and crime takes over, we as residents are stuck with a mess of a city and who will foot the bill? This new department will need funding and the ordinance does not clarify the source of the funding. This sounds like too much power for a small number of people to govern the safety of a city the size and crime rate of Minneapolis. One of the main goals that has been talked about is moving funds used for police to community resources. Yet the city council has recently spent thousands of tax payer dollars on private security to protect themselves. The rest of the residents of Minneapolis will have to fend for themselves with a heavily bureaucratic department ill equipped to fight crime in place of a police department.

We are in the middle of a deadly pandemic, with cases rising and people dying. Businesses are struggling, some are going under and many workers are unemployed. The economy has been hit hard it affects us all. Families are separated from their loved ones who are quarantined for their own safety. Now you add to all this surmounting anxiety, fear of the crime wave that will surely result in ending the police department.

Now is not the time to reinvent the wheel, scrap out police protection altogether and develop an untested, undeveloped alternative. The mobs demanding defunding and dismantling the police think they have a solution to the problem. The reality is that no one knows exactly how that would work or if it would solve the problem or create more problems and cost more lives. Replacing the police department with a small group of government employees ruling over a new department using Minneapolis residents as guinea pigs, does NOT solve the problem of racism. Racism lives inside people and is revealed by their actions regardless of position in society, whether within a police department or a department of public safety and crime prevention. Each individual is responsible for their own actions and needs to be accountable to the city of Minneapolis residents and governing bodies. In a city without a police department the streets would be ruled by gangs, crime would become more organized and businesses would be at the mercy of criminals. This is what happens when we don't learn from the past.

6/30/2020 7:27:16 PM

I won't visit Minneapolis again if the police department is dismantled! No sporting events, restaurants, shopping or anything else. It's a very bad idea and it is not the way to solve the policing problems that the Mayor and City Council have let fester through their incompetence!

I don't reside in Minneapolis

6/30/2020 7:27:25 PM

Please allow this Proposed Charter amendment related to community safety and violence prevention (CH2020-00014) to move forward and appear on the ballot in November. I think its essential that we radically reimagine how the police function.

thanks

6/30/2020 7:28:08 PM

I support the proposed charter amendment and attach here a statement of support.

Attachment:

**Statement to the City Council of Minneapolis**

Written in Minneapolis, Minnesota on June 30, 2020

I write this comment with full-throated support for the amendment to § 7.3 to remove the Police Department and to create the Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department.

It has become abundantly clear that Black residents of Minneapolis feel less safe in our city, and I myself have hesitated and decided against calling the police when there have been escalated situations in my own neighborhood of Cedar Riverside. *The New York Times* reported June 3, 2020 that while 20% of Minneapolis is Black, nearly 60 percent of the time the person subject to police force is Black. (See <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/06/03/us/minneapolis-police-use-of-force.html>). The article goes on to note that "police in Minneapolis used force against black people at a rate at least seven times that of white people during the past five years." We cannot continue with business-as-usual in Minneapolis knowing this.

To be honest, I started into this conversation after George Floyd's murder believing that we needed incremental changes to our policing. In my research, I have been shocked by the statistics above. And I have been disgusted by Office Bob Kroll's record and behavior, and by the police union that he heads—but it makes these statistics above ones we should expect if we embrace city officers with demonstrated patterns of misconduct and thinly veiled white supremacist viewpoints. But still, I thought maybe more training in bias recognition and mental health support were what was needed, or perhaps restructuring so that every single officer became a community outreach officer. In short, I did not support a full restructuring away from having police.

But I changed my mind.

After a month of researching, I believe that what our city (and the cities across America) need is to replace the police with something that actually serves the communities' much more nuanced needs—and with something that does not imperil our community members. This excerpt from an article (<https://www.essence.com/feature/defund-police-abolition-m4bl-song/?fbclid=IwAR011AgOOBKrlRdkvL0aTHm1q1-CtbjplRtBVWNUGkGTXVIAJNZbvGnKnl>) sums up what I now think: "When we say #DefundthePolice, what we're really saying is #FundThePeople to be able to put resources toward real public safety. This intentional shift in how we spend public dollars will represent the beginnings of a just redistribution of wealth. We know, and the research confirms, what creates community safety is stable and affordable housing, well-funded public schools, accessible and quality health care for all, including community-based, non-coercive mental health services, and ending the criminalization of unmet mental health needs and drug use. And we've seen the success of community-based and culturally relevant violence prevention programs." This is the direction Minneapolis should be taking. Amending the Charter is a step in that direction.

I know a lot of people will be afraid that we will be less safe without officers who can—if called for—use force in service of public safety. The problem is that the amount of times that's what we actually need seems like it is a lot less often than justifies how much of a problem to public safety our police officers have been based on the above statistics. I read an insightful, albeit colorful, article from a former police officer who said that most of the time, police are there to take down your name and birthday after someone absconds with your minor possession. (See <https://medium.com/@OfcrACab/confessions-of-a-former-bastard-cop-bb14d17bc759>). If we make this change to defund the police, here's what this former officer observed, which I think is right: "Would there still be a few bad actors in the world? Sure, probably. What's my solution for them, you're no doubt asking. I'll tell you what: generational poverty, food insecurity, houselessness, and for-profit medical care are all problems that can be solved in our lifetimes by rejecting the dehumanizing meat grinder of capitalism and white supremacy. Once that's done, we can work on the edge cases together, with clearer hearts not clouded by a corrupt system." I have to say, it seems about time to address those bigger systemic problems that lead to poverty and inequality, that in turn position people in society with choices that make them feel outside of any social contract that keeps them safe, well, and valued. We need to stop putting effort into police and start focusing on society—and on making a social contract that includes everyone in its benefits and rights.

In short, "[w]e cannot insist on "real change" in the United States by continuing to use the same methods, arguments, and failed political strategies that have brought us to this moment." (See [https://www.newyorker.com/news/our-columnists/how-do-we-change-america?fbclid=IwAR0s8wrtgy5pe78D5ndQ\\_QrwCPb-IW4cwqlUsupmB9bz81AnW9h1NU-QoNA](https://www.newyorker.com/news/our-columnists/how-do-we-change-america?fbclid=IwAR0s8wrtgy5pe78D5ndQ_QrwCPb-IW4cwqlUsupmB9bz81AnW9h1NU-QoNA)). As with the whole U.S., so with Minneapolis. And if we are George Floyd's Minneapolis, and we as a city do not rise to the task at hand of recognizing incremental change has failed, and if we do not become a city that rises to a new experiment in public safety, then I believe we have failed ourselves, our city, our children, and our Black community for this generation. Change this Charter, and we start down a new path that may be full of learning from our mistakes, but they will be new mistakes and not the same old mistakes

that are killing our Black residents like George Floyd, like Jamar Clark, like Thurman Blevins, like Philando Castile, and like so many more before them.

Reflecting on this past month, I have observed that the protests in this city (and so many others) are because people have hope. They hope that if there is no justice, and they respond with no peace, that there are real leaders in our city who will act. This is the moment to prove their hope right.

I have read the new Charter language, and I fully agree we need a holistic, public health-oriented approach that does not equip officers with weapons and send them to respond to all emergencies. I also support the idea that the department's head will have non-law enforcement experience in community safety services. I believe it is essential to not only restructure and rename this department, but to give it leadership with a different background who can create that more holistic vision engendered by this amendment.

Incremental changes to a police force, I have come to believe, is simply not good enough anymore. We have tried it, and it has failed, and we must try something else. We must, as Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "slam[] the door shut on a past of deadening passivity." He went on to say, "The black revolution is much more than a struggle for the rights of [Black people]. It is forcing America to face all its interrelated flaws—racism, poverty, militarism, and materialism. It is exposing the evils that are rooted deeply in the whole structure of our society. It reveals systemic rather than superficial flaws and suggests that radical reconstruction of society itself is the real issue to be faced."

Thank you for moving forward with the changes to the Charter. They are overdue and welcome.

Sincerely,

6/30/2020 7:30:20 PM

With all the crime in mpls and the multiple shootings day and night I want a bigger presence of police! I am a law abiding citizen and a mpls taxpayer! I deserve to be safe. You go through with this nonsense there will be no taxpayers left in this miserable city or businesses. Everybody left in mpls will be your unemployed criminals. Will be a complete cesspool! This is the most ridiculous thing ever!!! Wake up mpls!!!

6/30/2020 7:32:29 PM

Members of the Charter Commission:

I am writing you in favor of the charter amendment brought forth by Minneapolis City Council members to develop a new department of community safety and violence prevention. This department could then develop services based around a holistic, public-health oriented approach.

Minneapolis needs a transformative model of public safety. For years and years, community organizations and community members have been appearing before the city council to ask for divesting of funds from the ever-increasing MPD budget to fund public safety measures with a focus on community-led initiatives. These have ranged from housing to education to nutrition and youth engagement. As a citywide community here in Minneapolis, we recognize that to make sure we can thrive our neighborhoods must have adequate resources, strong schools, access to healthcare, and various other public service concerns that enrich and stabilize our lives. As an educator here in

Minnesota, I have watched what defunding and lack of investment have meant for our public schools in the district. This is one example, and the negative effects ripple outward from the students to homes and neighborhoods.

Our city is built upon community after community that knows what it means to prioritize for our well-being. Throughout the uprising here in Minneapolis after George Floyd's murder by MPD officers, communities established donation and mutual aid centers, ensured medical treatments and prescriptions were procured for those in need, childcare was coordinated, and even healing/therapy professionals visited various areas in need. This happened in the moment. People came together to provide out of their own pockets, expertise, and energy. As was stated in a recent article from Teen Vogue featuring words from Kandace Montgomery, Director of Black Visions Collective, "Communities with less police often have lower crime rates, but those communities also have well-resourced schools, accessible grocery stores, better-paying jobs, and cleaner air. The issue is not whether we need police to be safe; it's about figuring out how to get those basic resources and needs met." I grew up, primarily, in two communities: a medium-sized suburb (Sterling, VA) and a small farm town (Kasson, MN). In both cases, our community had an extremely low police presence. I can't remember ever even seeing an officer while in Sterling. In Kasson, perhaps once a week, if that. But we did have: strong, well-funded schools, plenty of food options, access to clinics and healthcare, good-paying jobs, investments at the state/county level, and our community was able to thrive because we had what we needed. The police: they caught the occasional speeding motorist, the extremely rare break-in to investigate, or, in a real case of dire need, a domestic assault. But in Minneapolis, the MPD has a decades-long record of racial profiling, brutality, negligence, and violence that has had a disproportionate impact on Black, brown, and Indigenous communities.

Some are arguing for reform initiatives. But as MPD150's report lays out, the MPD has been a hallmark case in police reform initiatives that have not stemmed police brutality and have not addressed the underlying needs of communities in regards to public health. From Vox, "In Minneapolis, before George Floyd was killed, police there had already undergone extensive anti-bias training, received body cameras, and engaged in other reformist options for reducing police violence. These methods did not sustain George Floyd's life."

MPD cannot be reformed nor its police union. We need something new. Something centered on communities, their needs, and a department under new oversight and guidance. We need it now. We cannot allow this abuse to continue. Friends, neighbors, and families are in the balance.

6/30/2020 7:33:08 PM

I support the proposed amendment and the difficult work ahead to improve the resources available to our whole community.

Ward 12

6/30/2020 7:34:10 PM

I fully support this. The police cause more harm than prevent it

6/30/2020 7:34:19 PM

My hubby and I would be very cautious about coming downtown for any reason without a strong police presence. We would look to other venues for gathering with friends. Police need support from other agencies, and i would defend a police department that generally works for the public good.

6/30/2020 7:34:21 PM

While it is not an easy decision, I fully support removing the Minneapolis Police Department in favor of a Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. I know it sounds like a drastic solution, but it is the ONLY solution to the drastic, widespread, and endemic problem we are facing in our city.

Back in 2016, I was horrified at the murder of Philando Castile by St. Anthony police officers. My initial reaction was, "This does NOT happen in Minnesota." Maybe in other states, but not OUR state. Throughout the past four years, history has proven unequivocally that it DOES happen here.

The murder of George Floyd, and the MPD's reaction to it, has forever poisoned our citizenship against our own police force. Let us not forget the MPD's attempt to cover up the incident by initially declaring that "a man died after a medical incident during police interaction" in their preliminary investigation, while we were all watching body-cam footage of a racist cop brutally choking the life out of Floyd while he cried out for his mother. The reprehensible statements of Police Union leader Bob Kroll, criticizing the firing of the officers while our entire city was reeling from their actions, only underscores how little the entire MPD's leadership can be trusted, or will be trusted by Minnesotans.

I live in NE Minneapolis. It is an older neighborhood, and more conservative than many areas where protests have occurred. Still, I am amazed by how many BLM and Defund the Police signs I see in our neighborhood. People do not trust our police, and frankly, they shouldn't. The MPD has lost that trust through their own actions. Police forces often like citing the "few bad apples" adage as an excuse when their officers murder unarmed people of color. They rarely cite or acknowledge the end of that saying: That a few bad apples SPOIL THE ENTIRE BUNCH.

The MPD has been spoiled. They've been spoiled by the actions of these cops, and the cops who have committed similar atrocities before them. It should be lost on NO ONE that the officers who were most at fault in this incident were VETERAN cops who have been on the force a long, long time.

The MPD has been spoiled by the initial reaction to this atrocity, their attempt to downplay the incident and gaslight our community into not believing what we were seeing with our own eyes. The MPD has been spoiled by abandoning our city for three days while rioting occurred, by slashing the tires of protesters, and by pelting citizens with paintballs and tear gas. The MPD has been spoiled by the rash of officers quitting the force in protest of police reform. The MPD has been spoiled in part by the corrupt and violent actions of other police officers across the country, who have sowed distrust across our entire nation. I would feel sorry for them, if they didn't already have so much blood on their hands.

And so defunding the MPD isn't that drastic of a solution after all. Instead it offers us a rare opportunity to start fresh, with a force that actually fulfills the intended goal of serving and protecting our community. A community-focused force without the decades of baggage that the MPD has earned with racist cops like Derek Chauvin and their vitriolic apologists like Bob Kroll. A force that the community can actually trust and work with -- because a Police force does not work PERIOD without the support of its community. The MPD forgot that a LONG time ago. A Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department can be built from the ground up to treat our community with compassion and

understanding, to support and foster equality, and to finally end police brutality and racial discrimination, with the support of the community behind them. Does ANYONE believe the MPD can do the same? My wife doesn't trust the MPD. My 60+ year-old PARENTS do not trust the MPD. I do not trust the MPD, and based on the signs plastered all over my neighborhood, our citizens do not trust the MPD. It's time for a change.

6/30/2020 7:34:43 PM

I have lived in Minneapolis since 2007. In that time, I have not seen the Minneapolis Police Department fulfill a useful role in community safety. I support the charter amendment to create alternatives to community safety that divest away from and disbards the Minneapolis Police Department in favor of alternatives to safety that are developed by and for community.

6/30/2020 7:36:03 PM

The idea to disband the Mpls police dept is the most outrageous thing I've heard in my 60 years on earth. I'm strongly against this. Although I don't live in the City, I'm in a first rung suburb that would be greatly effected.

6/30/2020 7:36:31 PM

Last year I moved from the suburbs to downtown to be able to walk to work and enjoy the entertainment district (sports, concerts, theater, museums, restaurants, etc.). Within a few weeks of moving, I wondered if I had made a mistake. The summer of 2019 saw an uptick in crime all over Minneapolis, particularly in the downtown zone within a few blocks of my residence. Shootings, homicides and gangs of youths attacking and beating people were captured on widely distributed video that made national news. I felt relieved when Chief Arradondo asked for additional officers and dejected when the City Council gave him a fraction.

In more recent weeks, my walks home have become so dangerous that my co-workers give me rides. Fireworks, drag racing, and donuts on Hennepin Ave at all hours of the night and lack of sleep are the norm. Shootings, homicides, armed robberies, and carjacking's have skyrocketed. The Park Board of the #1 park system in the nation has given the stamp of approval for tent cities, including one just a few blocks from me.

The president of the City Council said on national television that calling 911 and expecting help might mean I come from a place of privilege. I thought my right to public safety came from the \$4600 a year I pay in property taxes. Apparently that right to safety is only afforded to City Council members that are in the process of defunding the police while at the same time so in fear of their own safety they have hired private security on the taxpayer's dime. I can think of many families in North Minneapolis that wish they also could take advantage of private security.

MPD was already overworked and underfunded yet our "progressive" City Council has very publicly proclaimed they wish to defund and dismantle the police department. They made this announcement based on input from a select few groups with a clear agenda against law enforcement, yet they claim this is what the entire community wants to see happen. They have reimagined a utopian society were community members respond to crime leaving only a skeleton police force for the most violent crimes.

This announcement was made without a concrete plan and is being rushed on the November ballot. It is absolute mayhem here with the City Council publicly denouncing the police while handing the keys to the city to the criminals. I implore you to spend any night listening to the police scanner to understand the state of our city. The media reports only about 1/10th of what is happening.

The recent riots after the death of George Floyd underscore the importance of having a chain of command, not 13 additional cooks in the kitchen trying to manage the next crisis the city may face.

I acknowledge the voices that ask for change within MPD, but to have fewer officers on the street will only cause the crime crisis to escalate. Businesses, restaurants, and citizens will leave Minneapolis only further eroding our sales and property tax base. Minneapolis will no longer be a metropolitan city known for large-scale events such as Super Bowl, Final Four, X Games, and various conventions. Minneapolis will be known as social experiment gone bad. Please do the right thing and reject this proposed amendment to the City Charter.

6/30/2020 7:37:32 PM

The City Council has no ability to run the city I once resided in. Look at the backgrounds of the 14 members, no business experience what so ever. You cannot dismantle the MPD in good conscience, it would be catastrophic to this once great city. I sincerely hope this comment is not the only one here. People of Minneapolis, wake up and get rid of these Marxists or Minneapolis will be the next Detroit.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

6/30/2020 7:37:45 PM

I don't think the solution is to replace the MPD. Why not talk about how the MPD should be reformed instead? 1) Drive cultural change in which color of the skin should not determine actions 2) Redefine the role of police in the community 3) Hold police accountable through data analysis as well as actions 3) Reduce militarizing the police 4) Screen and select the right candidates to join the police based on the new culture and role 5) Use some police funding for other community services like drugs, mental illness, education and poverty 6) Remove police who don't want to be part of the new culture 7) revisit the rules of engagement with members of the community and 8) use force only for violent offenders.

6/30/2020 7:38:22 PM

I am a resident of Robbinsdale and a border to north Minneapolis. I have ceased coming into Minneapolis and have not shopped at any store located in Minneapolis since the unrest and announcement of the defunding of the police. The crime has increased with the announcement of defunding and I will not enter Minneapolis as it feels very unsafe. I have not visited parks or bike trails. I have not walked the lakes or trails.

If this goes through that you disband or limit the law enforcement of the Minneapolis police and do not increase their funding to keep the peace it will completely solidify my resolve to never enter the city or downtown to go to a restaurant, theatre, game event, or activity ever again.

As a controller at a service business I will not allow our employees to enter or service any business unless we have security which will increase the cost to any business that resides in the city of Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 7:39:40 PM

Minneapolis Charter Commission Members:

I am writing to ask you to consider carefully changes to the Minneapolis City Charter, and to plan a thoughtful, inclusive, and transparent process that produces important and lasting change in the organization and governance of the Minneapolis Police Department, and better aligns city services with prevention and appropriate intervention in ways that keep all citizens safe and thriving.

Specifically, I am asking that you not approve a revision to the City Charter that would appear on the November ballot to eliminate MPD and create something akin to a department of safety.

Let me be clear: Real, substantial, and rapid transformation of policing and community safety/development in Minneapolis is desperately needed. We have seen in clear focus with Mr. Floyd's killing something that has been apparent for too long: MPD has too few resources or structural features or mechanisms to engage in "public service" in ways that we find humane and adaptive. They have weak processes or too little inclination to identify bad actors in their ranks and move them out. And we have tolerated problematic arrangements - including the "protections" afforded by the Police Officers Federation - for too long. The culture of 'warrior policing' must end - but we must have a plan for what will take its place.

We should not fall prey to impulsive actions simply because we have ignored major and systemic problems for so long. Addressing complex problems requires thorough and careful analysis, thoughtful and iterative planning, and systematic implementation, evaluation, and iteration. To the best of my knowledge, the proposal before your commission reflects none of these features.

I am not asking you to do nothing - I am asking you to do "right." We need deep and structural transformation of both policing in Minneapolis and attention to resources that reduce violence and antisocial behavior and promote adaptive and resilient behavior. Right now, we are in the midst of a burst of crime and violence not seen here in more than 20 years, and "stopping" without a plan and momentum for "starting" makes no sense. Chief Arradondo has demonstrated his commitment to beginning the 'starting' and transformational work, and his efforts will be important as the Charter Commission, the Mayor, the City Council, and we citizens develop more complete plans for the longer-term future.

Please do not move the proposed amendment to the ballot at this time. Instead, express your commitment to real and meaningful change, and to a process that is likely to produce it. We can and must make the right choices here, for now and for the future.

6/30/2020 7:39:43 PM

The actions of the MPD have for decades been shameful, lawless and indefensible. An officer should be held accountable just as any citizen of Minneapolis would be. It is far beyond time to dismantle the MPD and start new. The citizens of Minneapolis deserve to have officers who not only enforce the law but also abide by the same laws they enforce. Police brutality does not exist only in Minneapolis but nationwide. Policy changes has proven time and again to be worthless. No more excuses. It's time they ALL face real consequences for those who acted in brutal, racist treatment of Minneapolis residents and those who refused to stop other officers abusing their power. They are ALL guilty. If I had 3 complaints at my job I'd be fired. How can we accept a system that allows an officer to keep their job after multiple "violent" complaints on their record?!!!!

6/30/2020 7:39:51 PM

I'm not a resident of Mpls, but I do a lot of work/recreation in the city. I can tell you that if you dismantle/disband the MPD that will be the last time I come into the city unless I absolutely have to, (i.e. going to the goverment center or something).

I am not the only person who lives in the suburbs who thinks this. You can pander to the crowds right now by talking about disbanding the MPD, but know that the moment you do a lot of your business are going to suffer.

Sure, use the threat as a bargaining chip with the union, but know that if you actually do it there are going to be serious monetary repercussions to the city.

6/30/2020 7:39:53 PM

This is a really really great step in the right direction. Looking forward to seeing this idea take shape and create more positive interactions between residents and their government.

6/30/2020 7:41:37 PM

Why is this up for debate in such a fashion when actual physical and psychological violence is being done to my community by the ones supposed to protect it?

This needs to be on the ballot, this needs to be addressed now.

6/30/2020 7:41:44 PM

This process is rushed and it is inappropriate for this question to be on the ballot this year. The new charter change will alter the way public safety is conducted in the City of Minneapolis before there is any clear alternative proposal. Additionally some of the proposed alternatives for public safety conflict with State law which would have to be altered. The current charter also provides a clear funding requirement for public safety including a minimum number of officers, something the new proposal does not.

Ward 12

6/30/2020 7:42:56 PM

I fully support the proposed amendment. We also need to make sure we are firing and not rehiring cops who have participated in the current system.

6/30/2020 7:43:09 PM

The citizens of Minneapolis need a specific, written, approved plan before we can consider a vote changing the charter.

6/30/2020 7:44:17 PM

I work in Minneapolis, I would not feel safe without a Police Department.

6/30/2020 7:45:11 PM

Don't get rid of the police. Get rid of City Council involvement and put more power in the hands of Sgt Arrendondo and Jacob Frey. The City Council is reactionary groups of sycophants who think more about their reputations than seeking an all inclusive and effective approach to running the government. All this money has been spent in down town and south Minneapolis and it looks like shit and it isn't safe. You need to be talking to the people who also want to keep the police with changes and ask them what and how needs to change to make a difference, Not just yell, "Dismantle/defund the police." What a limited and self serving decision.

Frankly, we pay for the police and I don't want a second job in my neighborhood as a peace officer. I was the neighborhood watch organizer and the police officer and I touched base occasionally to check in on the neighborhood issues and freebies for the neighborhood. (Signs, material etc.)

My suggestions are: increase the size of the police force, implement evidence based training and practices (look at Camden, New Jersey), Make living in Minneapolis a requirement. For those currently not living in Minneapolis, require that they do 20 hours of volunteer community work a month. Consider paying more to the officers who live in Minneapolis. Base it on a merit system instead of seniority in the police union. Use re-education and supervision for infractions. I also strongly urge that you license your officers and require that they do 20 hours of continuing education training in mental health, poverty and racism every year. Peace officers are a secondary force and mental health professionals, social workers and psychiatrists would be very helpful but there would need to be a system for triaging or matching up a police officer and a health/mental health care professional.

And for God's sake, please, please, please return the traffic cops to the streets. I see so many acts of aggression when there is a serious traffic jam, or a light doesn't work and causes a jam, or even in the winter when the weather makes downtown driving a nightmare. We don't need another attempt to beautify or cram everyone apartment buildings. Take what needs to be fixed now and plan ahead for these "beautifying projects". It is an insult to the communities of color when the middle class white neighborhoods get all these designer changes and absolutely nothing is being done at large for communities of color. This negligent at the least and racist on the other end. Build a bike trail for Lisa Bender or an expensive entertainment center in an area that has poverty all around it. Gentrification

will only add taxes and an increase in property value will be forces on people who barely have the means to provide for themselves.

Put your priorities on building a community is safe for everyone and build in opportunities on the north side, I'm not trying to segregate at all. I would suggest asking people how they would improve their area and fund it. Is it any wonder that there is crime on the north side and mothers and fathers have to give their children "the talk" and then tell them to run for safety from their own neighborhood criminals.

I'm strongly considering moving from Minneapolis. The taxes I pay don't go towards the real needs of the city. They go to the self serving city council and the rest of Minneapolis suffers. I have lived in Minneapolis since 1985 and this is the worst city council and recreation board I have ever witnessed. Build a strong, beautiful and safe city and forget the foofoo decorations you promote. I hope you ask the people for their solutions and don't believe that you know the answers right now. . Demanding defunding was just irresponsible. We need drastic changes with input from the city population. Stop focusing in on south Minneapolis projects and focus on the city safety for all. Your time for making comment was irresponsible.

6/30/2020 7:45:34 PM

Philandro Castile should never have been shot. Nor should Justine. The death of George Floyd was the most disgusting abuse of a badge ever. The department is getting worse, not better. The funds taken from the department can be used to heal the community. Let the citizens of Mpls decide how they want the \$ used

6/30/2020 7:46:43 PM

Do any of you even live in Minneapolis? But guess it does not matter cause you use taxpayer money for personal security and you want to defund the MPD I don't understand your thinking not all police are bad

6/30/2020 7:47:22 PM

At voting time, I will not approve this proposal. There is no definite plan for what the proposed department would do and thus, no supporting data on how it would better keep us safe. And yes the job of the police department is to enforce the law in order to keep us safe, not to hold our hand as the hospital bedside prevention program plans to do. How exactly does that program help prevent violence after it already occurred?? Yes the police could do a better job connecting with the community. Why not require the police to be from Minneapolis so they are taking care of their own neighborhood? Also, it would help if people stopped committing crimes. I have not heard or read a single idea on proactively preventing crimes. With the decriminalization of the light rail tickets, people are no longer held accountable to even having to pay for a ticket.

Additionally, what information is there on how the city council members have experience or knowledge to earn the duty to be in charge of the proposed department.

Ward 2

6/30/2020 7:48:20 PM

Hello Minneapolis city council! I've seen that your plan to "disband" the MPD includes working closely with the current MPD chief of police. I urge you to, instead, work with community leaders and activists to make plans going forward, in order to meet the needs of the community more adequately. It was chief Rondo's department that was responsible for the violence against black folk in Minneapolis that we've been protesting about. His voice, and the voice of his department, should not be centered in this. Thank you!

6/30/2020 7:49:15 PM

Keep the police. Yes it needs reform, and the union needs major reform so officers who are performing poorly can actually get fired. But there are lots of excellent officers who do their job well. Disbanding the force is a ridiculous idea that would not serve our community well.

6/30/2020 7:52:28 PM

I oppose the change in the charter. There is no detailed plan just misguided knee jerk reaction to a terrible loss of a life. This is not the time to make sweeping changes without a detailed plan of how it would be implemented. I am extremely unhappy with the city council.

6/30/2020 7:52:31 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 7:52:56 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 7:53:34 PM

I urge you to put this amendment on our ballots. Please support the resolution before you. Let the people decide! The people of Minneapolis deserve to decide the future of policing in our city, so allow us to put this measure on the ballot.

6/30/2020 7:53:38 PM

My wife and I have repeatedly struggled with whether or not to call 911 when we encounter someone who is experiencing a health emergency, which is not infrequent- in part due to the underfunding of community resources in favor of the police. I know from first hand experience that calling 911 when there is a medical emergency is not always a safe choice; I waited for 30 minutes for emergency assistance when a man had overdosed on the light rail platform and had to call 911 multiple times before anyone arrived. The officers who did finally show up did not administer narcan and did not treat this man with dignity or respect. When we call 911 we have to weigh the chance that someone would be murdered rather than assisted and no one should ever have to do that.

Please do not allow former or current officers to make up any part of the new community safety plan. Including them would allow for the likely possibility of recreating the same racist, dangerous dynamic currently in place and will not make my neighbors or my family feel safer or protected. It would completely defeat the purpose of defunding and dismantling the current system.

Thank you.

6/30/2020 7:54:02 PM

I strongly support the decision for the City of Minneapolis to divest and remove the Police department and establish community lead safety measures and violence prevention measures.

6/30/2020 7:54:27 PM

I support defunding the police. We can use that money to create social programs to help, not kill people. The police need to be completely restructured. They are there to help, not serve as judge, jury and executioner. Let's show the rest of the country how to do it right! We can become better. These are just the first steps towards a brighter future for all of us. Black lives matter.

6/30/2020 7:54:57 PM

Absolutely NO! Do NOT abolish the police department!

6/30/2020 7:55:01 PM

Don't do it. Lol

6/30/2020 7:55:38 PM

I urge you to add this to the ballot, and allow the people of Minneapolis to voice their opinions on creating a more versatile and just system of community safety and violence prevention.

6/30/2020 7:55:55 PM

I would like to register my voice in support of this Charter amendment change. I think this change should be approved by the Commission and should be put to the voters on a ballot initiative this year. There are countless reasons to Defund and/or Abolish the MPD but for a lot of great reasons check out the MPD150 report and recommendations. But also the intimidation of Minneapolis Council Members and the possible insubordination to city leadership in the wake of George Floyd's murder. Please consider these important changes and know that they do not necessarily mean no safety but a radically different imagination of what "safety" and "crime" mean in our city society.

Ward 7

6/30/2020 7:56:05 PM

No the amendment as written. No citizen appointed group! Defund and reconstitute the department. Residency rules, make all officer re-apply and demand anti racist behavior.

6/30/2020 7:56:22 PM

I am completely against this charter amendment. This was rushed, without professional development and understanding.

This language was developed by Jeremiah who admitted to a group of community members today that he put this together after white liberal groups encouraged him to.

This language is not the voices of the community, his Ward 5 constituents, or organization.

This is the wrong way to reforming the MPD. I stand in 100% support of Cheif Arradondo. Allow him the space, time, authority, and support he needs to clean house.

Here is a link to a community video I shared in anti-support of this charter amendment;  
[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=10216664659269285&id=1244780290](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10216664659269285&id=1244780290)

6/30/2020 7:56:31 PM

Please defund, reorganize, and reform the police dept. But do not abolish it!

6/30/2020 7:56:39 PM

I urge you to pass this amendment and allow the citizens of Minneapolis to help more agency over the Police department. This is the best way for us to do this and it will be overwhelmingly popular. Please let democracy continue and let us decide for ourselves.

6/30/2020 7:57:23 PM

The irrational total rework of a institution that has been around for endless decades that just needed some minor fixes of some issues is a recipe for disaster. Just watching what is happening right now in Mpls is just the beginning. You will see people like me moving out... staying away from restaurants .... businesses and theater. We are watching a demoralized police department right now and watching so many more people being hurt and killed than ever before. It will only get worse and people will not trust or feel safe in the city. Sometimes getting carried away causes more problems than want it tries to fix and fails at it.

6/30/2020 7:57:30 PM

This is the craziest thing I have ever heard. I used to live in Minneapolis, but moved to the suburbs when I had kids. My wife and I still visited the restaurants often, but there is no chance I will visit this city ever again unless things change. Good luck, I cannot wait for the restaurants to move out to the suburbs so I never have to go downtown again!

I don't reside in Minneapolis

6/30/2020 7:57:34 PM

I urge the Charter Commission to forward the public safety charter language on to voters to share our input on our collective vision for safety in our city through our ballots. Please ensure that the option meets legal standards and requirements, and that we have the opportunity to weigh in.

Please approach this question with the urgency that our city needs to ensure we are all able to be and feel safe.

Ward 7

6/30/2020 7:57:59 PM

I fully support the proposed amendment. As a brand new resident of Minneapolis I am excited by the prospect of living in a city that could lead the movement to remove policing as we currently know it from our cities.

6/30/2020 7:59:18 PM

I am in support of the charter amendment which would allow Minnesotans to vote on the abolition of MPD. I have lived in Minneapolis my whole life and have never once had a positive encounter with police. I have seen the endless cycle of police violence in Minneapolis and how it disproportionately affects Black, Indigenous, Latino, and poor communities. I have always felt safer to turn to my community in times of need rather than the police and with proper investment into our communities we will have the tools to ensure everyone is looked after and remains safe.

6/30/2020 8:01:10 PM

I would like to see more specific duties of the new department, including how their protocol will differ from the police department. "Holistic" is too vague of a description for the department.

I really hope Minneapolis can set an excellent example for the rest of the country in making large systematic changes to our existing ideas of justice! I'm so happy that City Council is making these amendments. Keep up the great work!

6/30/2020 8:01:15 PM

I fully support this amendment. I wish it had stronger language preventing current/former MPD from continuing or acquiring positions in the new department without undergoing an intensive screening process.

6/30/2020 8:01:49 PM

Police departments should be removed completely and replaced with healthcare and social workers. Current officers should be checked thoroughly (complaints, behavior ect..) before being allowed to work in one of the new departments.

6/30/2020 8:02:42 PM

While I wholeheartedly support the need for massive police reform in Minneapolis, I ask that you take the promised year before rushing a charter amendment to the ballot in November. Alternative solutions need time to be researched, proposed, and submitted for public comment. Rushing a charter amendment without a well-thought out alternative, while I'm sure we'll-intentioned, is needlessly reckless. We have the opportunity to be a model for the entire country if we do this thoughtfully, so let's take the time and make sure it is done right. If not, the naysayers will be right there to say "I told you so." Let's not give them that opportunity!

Ward 13

6/30/2020 8:04:42 PM

I would like to see a community room on the main level of the police station where groups could go through a liaison to schedule events with officers. Events should be open to children to adult groups.

Samples ideas:

Monisory school groups that get little tours or a story book read to them about kids and police officers read by a police officer.

Scouting groups learning the different training it takes for the different rolls inside a police department. Or the state of the art electronic involved in modern policing.

Senior groups meeting their local police and learning how to protect themselves from phone/computer scams. Home safety and security tips classes where officers sit with seniors to help them understand

what to they can do to be prepared incase of an emergency; ie. help fill out emergency health packets to attach to the side of their fridge it case of emergency.

Quarterly meet and greet events with focus on getting different parts of our community together; business owners, landlords, church groups...with an plan to building the community.

Intro to self defense classes.

These are just a few ways that trust/mutual respect/ friendships could be built between a group of highly trained people in very difficult jobs and the community they serve. Thank you for considering my proposal.

6/30/2020 8:05:35 PM

Please do not proceed with this charter amendment. It is reactive, vague and will only serve to complicate the situation even more. It is an idea without a plan at a time when we are all struggling to make sense of what is going on in our city. Creating a stronger role for the mayor would be helpful, so that all city residents vote for and have access to our leadership and real progress can be made toward re-building our city and establishing a fairer, kinder and more cooperative relationship among all of the people who serve our citizens, including police. Police reform is necessary, but this will not serve that goal. Police need to come to the table with all terms on the table and negotiate in good faith. but we also need them to be part of any solution.

6/30/2020 8:06:29 PM

No do not abolish the police dept!!

6/30/2020 8:07:15 PM

While I support reform, I don't want to see something done hastily, and incorrectly. Important matters need lots of time for public comments, and well-researched plans for action. I would like to see more details. Perhaps next year is a better year for this to hit the ballots.

Ward 12

6/30/2020 8:08:10 PM

Minneapolis City Charter shall NOT be amended. Proposal presented will further jeopardize the safety of residents and visitors of our city.

Ward 1

6/30/2020 8:08:38 PM

This is an absolute terrible idea to even consider defunding let alone abolish the police. Sure there's opportunity for reform. But I STRONGLY encourage you to see the actual crime going on in Minneapolis that even the police cannot contain, and not for a lack of trying. There is much more happening than what the media is reporting. It is a free for all and it will only get worse. Not to mention the residents that will sell their houses and leave, and the businesses that will pack up. This is a death sentence for the economy and residents.

6/30/2020 8:09:02 PM

What will the question be on the ballot? Who will be leading this process? Will we re-institute or create a citizens review board? Will we reduce the amount of money that is spent on the police department/violence prevention department? Can we have a tiny amount of police officers trained in de-escalation as well as violence prevention peace officers and social worker/case managers/psychologist? Can we take this moment to look at the need for holistic structural change, to house those in MPLS who are unhoused, support those who are addicted, those who are unemployed or employed at unlivable wages? How will this department be different and not abuse their power? How will we hold leadership accountable? Can we create policies that require all leadership to live within the city limits? How are you diversifying your department whatever you call it?

6/30/2020 8:09:06 PM

I think it was incredibly irresponsible to make these statements and now actually voting on "defunding" and "abolishing" the police.

Action needs to be taken in the wake of several cases of police brutality. However abolishing the police is not one of them as cases of violence and murder surge in the city not to mention the frustration of theft and vandalism .

The scary thing I saw was not viciousness but apathy in the faces of the officers arresting George Floyd.

Better training in de-escalation , better emotional health in our officers , more quality applicants , more educated, better trained , and more diversity is needed.

What happened to the de escalation training promised after the last Philando Castile and Justine R?

How you find these new people ? I don't know but you're not winning any fans the way it's going or making it a desirable occupation.

Required degrees in criminal psychology? Don't bring the equivalent of an heavily weaponized military to situations that don't warrant it but rather inflame situations?

We need police! We need caring and intelligent police !

Have a plan in place before you say and do something idiotic just to win some votes.

6/30/2020 8:09:25 PM

I am against the city council disbanding the police department. We need more police officers, not less. The police are doing an incredible job, and are incredible people. Support the police officers, and support law and order.

6/30/2020 8:10:17 PM

Clearly you don't know what you are doing. Your naivete is simply amazing. While you want to strip away any feeling of security that people either visiting or live in Minneapolis require to have a vibrant community you hire private security at tax payer expense, disgraceful! I will no longer be comfortable coming into the city for events and spending money when you take a persons security in such light regard. I can only hope that the good law abiding people that pay taxes and deserve a reasonable expectation of personal security vote you out of office. Needless to say I DO NOT SUPPORT what you propose.

6/30/2020 8:10:36 PM

I support abolishing the Police Department and replacing with Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department. Accountability must exist for all peace officers. Qualified immunity must be eliminated, along with any other practice that uses past precedents to avoid accountability for present actions. Unions should negotiate benefits, not protect officers who are racist, victimize and/or murder citizens, especially at an egregious rate toward non-white, non-straight persons. In the new structure, a citizen review board must have powers to override police officers, internal affairs and the police union. City and county attorneys must prosecute abuses of power and all crimes, regardless of who does it (police) or who is the victim (persons of color). Mental health, homeless, parking violations and other similar issues do not need officers with a license to kill. I'm glad to hear that the City Council is moving forward with a complete restructuring of public safety and law enforcement services. Most importantly, citizens have the right to peacefully protest abuses by government, businesses and law enforcement - there is no reason to send in militarized law enforcement officers and inflict violence on citizens just to "make it go away" for the rich white business owners. I look forward to a new era of law enforcement that serves all citizens equally and justly. The new structure is required to remove the power of racism and finally create accountability for all citizens and city employees.

6/30/2020 8:10:43 PM

It doesn't go far enough. Oversight of "peace officers" needs to be laid out and transparent to the public. If we don't address the root of the problem we won't be able to fix it.

6/30/2020 8:12:34 PM

Please advance the proposed city charter amendment re police funding. The people should be allowed to vote on the changes to the city charter! Thanks Heather.

6/30/2020 8:12:58 PM

I agree with getting ending the Minneapolis Police Department.

Most of the time when the government takes action, unintended consequences farther the problem, rather than the problem being solved. The problem being violence accruing in Minneapolis, and the police furthering the violence.

Insanity is trying the same solution and expecting different results.

Farther more, I hope the Community of Safety & Violence Prevention Department does not farther the problem it will be created to solve. I hope we're not just renaming a police department.

One of the keys to solving violence is solving the basic needs of the individual, so they're not incentivized to be violent. This will need to be a focus if we want individuals to be peaceful.

How do we give every member of Minneapolis their basic needs?

1. Universal basic income
2. Deregulation of laws which make experimental housing illegal, experimental housing is affordable housing

I am very optimistic with the proposed changes.

If you need help, contact me by email at stevenmarkhuston@gmail.com

6/30/2020 8:13:47 PM

Please allow the public to decide on the charter amendment. I believe that we have a great opportunity to be leaders for our country to transform public safety so that we are all safer. Let's divest from violence and mass incarceration and invest in healthier communities.

6/30/2020 8:14:06 PM

I support the first Black police chief of Minneapolis and believe we need to work within the organization to rebuild and reconstruct. I would like to see the case studies that are informing this policy and why it's believed to be better to have civilians than trained officers who've been properly screened and evaluated.

6/30/2020 8:14:24 PM

Disbanding the police department is a knee jerk reaction and not a solution. Please put some time and effort into a solution without throwing out the baby with the bath water! By finding the right leaders and not politicians to supervise the police force would be a great start. The mayor is not the right person to be determining the education and supervision of the police force. Put in place rewards and bonuses for good behavior and pay cuts/ time off for bad behavior like any other business. Just like not all priests are abusing kids, not all cops are killing people of color. Look at what is working by asking the work force and find out what is not working! Listen and roll up your sleeves and get some work done!!

6/30/2020 8:14:29 PM

Please let us vote on this. Please put it through so it can be on the ballot.

6/30/2020 8:14:41 PM

I am a mental health professional and in total favor of disbandment of MPD. I grew up in Minneapolis and currently reside here. Working in the mental health field for more than 10 years, has exposed me to dangerous situations and I've DE-escalated people without ever taking a life. My issue with MPD and the police structure overall, is the lack of compassion when dealing with POC. I've had several experiences with MPD who are like rogue cops. They arrive to the scene with closed minds, ears and hearts. I've regret calling them, and have chosen not to in, other situations. Most of them don't live in the communities they police, so they're totally disconnected from the people whom they serve. This is dangerous. In the past 10 years, several unarmed men, in MN, have been killed by police. If they're PEACE officers, who are supposed to protect and serve....then it is time to go back to the drawing board, and figure out how that looks in practice. We need a structure who sees us as humans FIRST. So that taking a life will be the last resort, instead of first. Disband!!!

6/30/2020 8:15:10 PM

I support the amendment. I would like to see a new system built with scientific research on human behavior. Traffic enforcement should be automated. Let cops get back to being heroes who save the day when it really counts.

Ward 4

6/30/2020 8:15:14 PM

Please advance this charter amendment and give voters the opportunity to vote in November. People of color are speaking out to say they have never felt safe with the Minneapolis Police Department, despite past reform efforts. I think we can agree that all people in our City need to feel safe and have access to resources and opportunities to live a good life. Those asking to dismantle the police are not advocating for chaos, but rather a system that would put resources in place to prevent problems (such as better education, employment, and health opportunities), as well as provide targeted solutions, such as social workers being deployed to help with conflicts. Minneapolis has the opportunity to take the lead on envisioning a new way to keep its citizens safe. I hope you will push outside your comfort zone and the status quo to give all people the opportunity to voice their opinions in the coming months, and work together to forge a new way forward.

6/30/2020 8:15:32 PM

I ask that you seriously consider what evidence we have for realigning public safety with this new proposed amendment. Making sweeping changes unsupported by data could have disastrous effects on poverty and class mobility in Minneapolis. Violent crime is one of the main causal links in creating and sustaining poverty. Poverty and hopelessness also create conditions that increase violent crime. Crime is an index of the amount oppression there is in a population. If this amendment increases

violent crime the city council will be directly responsible for creating a more oppressed city with much more inequality, suffering and death.

We need to prevent violence and increase hope. We need guardians who will both protect and prevent violence. We live in a country with more guns than people, that fact does not change regardless of how anyone feels. Do the work. Find the right evidence to craft public safety reforms that work based on evidence not emotion.

Other cities like Vallejo have failed miserably at this type of change. Officer shootings went up in their case. I ask the charter commission to consult with experts in the science of crime and violence prevention before you move forward with amendments like this. The Minneapolis city council could easily destroy the lives of tens of thousands of people in our community by making mistakes. Be careful.

6/30/2020 8:15:43 PM

Cancel this charter and do the work of engaging the entire community around SOLUTIONS. This is reactionary and irresponsible.

6/30/2020 8:16:35 PM

I support the amendment. I would like to see a new system built with scientific research on human behavior. Traffic enforcement should be automated. Let cops get back to being heroes who save the day when it really counts.

6/30/2020 8:17:21 PM

I support systemic change, but I think any change to the city charter is premature. A vote for change should only take place after full assessment has been completed and a plan is presented to the public for what this new department will look like, what expertise they will have and how they will be funded. Additional change and funding with relation to other departments that will also get new funding (schools, housing etc) should be a part of that plan presented to the residents of the city before we vote on a charter change.

6/30/2020 8:17:24 PM

I fully support the charter amendment to remove the police department. I urge the council to mandate that no current or former police officers should be involved in the new safety and violence prevention department, as we do not want a new version of the current system. We want a new system that funds programs that address the root causes of inequality and crime: education, housing, healthcare, etc. A radical reworking of our carceral system will take time, but the first step of listening to the community is vital, and I am a resident of Minneapolis saying that I do not want police officers holding any power in this city to continue to enact violence on our communities.

6/30/2020 8:17:41 PM

I am a resident of Minneapolis committed to a future where all our residents are safe. This charter amendment is a step in that direction and I urge the Charter Commission to put it on the November ballot

6/30/2020 8:17:49 PM

I am totally opposed to the council's recommendation to amend the charter in order to defund the Mpls Police Force. INSTEAD, I think the council should work with the Police Chief and Mayor need to determine a plan first - which includes:

- 1) determine areas that need to be changed and develop possible solutions
- 2) sort of solutions to determine feasibility - prioritize
- 3) select one or two of these options to start working on IMMEDIATELY

I think it is unethical and problematic to expect three of the council to be protected with security when they are not willing to protect their constituents from potential harm

6/30/2020 8:18:13 PM

I feel like the proposal to form a Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department in place of the police department is a worthwhile idea and I am in favor of this amendment. I look forward to voting yes on this.

Ward 3

6/30/2020 8:18:47 PM

I support this action.

Ward 11

6/30/2020 8:19:16 PM

The actions of the City Council are clearly rushed. This ballot question has been proposed without adequately or formally soliciting public opinion on this important issues. Moreover, the implications of this change to the Charter have not been sufficiently elaborated; there does not appear to be a clear plan in place, nor does there appear to be consensus within the ranks of City Council on what the forthcoming amendment will look like. The community has not been provided with explicit details outlining how City Council will provide for public safety if the proposed charter amendment is adopted. The City Council is putting this question to ballot prematurely and with a conspicuous lack of transparency. Such a hurried attempt is not appropriate given the gravity of this important issue. Specific actions are necessary to affect real change in our community, the City Council has not enumerated the actions it intends to take. They appear to be asking voters for full license to overhaul Minneapolis public safety at their own discretion and without oversight. It is incumbent upon City

Council to provide specific details on what the proposed changes will actually be and how they will effect Minneapolis residents, only then should a change to the charter be considered.

6/30/2020 8:20:49 PM

"Urgency" is often a TOOL OF WHITE SUPREMACY. The community in Minneapolis KNOWS that you, our CITY COUNCIL, wants to respond immediately to the urgent, LONG PAST DUE, problem of POLICE BRUTALITY and VIOLENCE. I wish your Council had already been working diligently on this for the entire time (decades at this point) that community activists have been unsuccessfully inviting you to leadership- but you haven't done so.

I want you all to take responsibility for the fact that the problems in the Minneapolis Police Department have been known, they have been documented, and community activists have been advocating for your leadership on this issue for YEARS ALREADY. This council chose not to prioritize reigning in an out-of-control Minneapolis Police Department and let them act with impunity, perpetrating crimes against the humanity of Black citizens, Brown Citizens, Disabled citizens, Native citizens, Homeless citizens, and other marginalized people UNTIL NOW.

So I say to you- this URGENCY..... is your own making. It is city leadership's making. I understand that many of you are in your first years on City Council and I am sorry you inherited this mess but you're in it now and I beg you to be VERY VERY considerate in every step you take.

Where is the due diligence around HOW THESE SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS WILL IMPACT OUR CITY? Specifically how will this impact our most vulnerable populations? Where are your literature reviews? Where are your case studies? Where have you explained how those case studies are relevant/not relevant to a city like Minneapolis? What was your public, open, transparent methods used to come up with this amendment? Where are your expert testimonies? EXACTLY WHICH COMMUNITY MEMBERS DID YOU CONSULT? Honestly, WHO did you consult?

These are important questions. You owe at least this much to the people who have been brutalized, murdered, and incarcerated unjustly by this biased, violent and out of control police department.

THIS IS TOO IMPORTANT TO MESS UP BECAUSE IT WAS HURRIED. Haste will allow the racist white-liberal ideologies and power structures that created this police department and allowed it to continued unchecked for decades to be able to worm their way in to leadership positions on this "civilian board." I am terrified that there will be EVEN MORE LACK OF TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY than there is now with Police- who are at least licensed, who are at least public employees.... what about when "KAREN" and a bunch of her friends "BECKY" and "HEATHER" are in charge? Full stop. NO. THIS. CANNOT. BE. THE. UNINTENDED. OUTCOME.

I am very concerned that the city council is rushing out here to get something/anything done NOW and have sloppily thrown together an amendment that you really don't know how it is going to impact the city. One very very likely outcome is PURE CHAOS. This city does NOT need chaos- that will just be another window for white supremacy to sneak in on a power grab.

Instead, I implore you to DEFUND the department. GIVE THAT MONEY BACK TO COMMUNITY GROUPS and INVEST IT IN BLACK AND BROWN LEAD ORGANIZATIONS.

Instead, I call for you to CLEAN THE DAMN HOUSE- FIRE ALL OF THESE OFFICERS, except Chief Medaria Arradondo who has shown leadership here and who has the confidence of many stakeholders and

longtime community activists! SUPPORT THIS CHIEF IN FIRING ALL THESE OFFICERS AND HIRING/RE-HIRING those can actually be trusted to act humanely, are willing to work out in the open and be transparent.

Instead, I implore you to take seriously ALL of the evidence-based recommendations that I know CUAPB have put before your Council over the last 20 years.

Instead of acting hastily, I implore you to radically re-vision and re-build the Minneapolis Police Department without doing so in a manner that will leave a gaping power vacuum that white supremacists will HAPPILY FILL up with their cadre "concerned citizens". Mpls has been run for far too long by racist white liberal elites!

6/30/2020 8:22:41 PM

I own a security company that moved out of downtown Mpls 2 years ago after being located downtown for 37yrs.

Mpls is going down the toilet, and the number of shootings, assaults, and break in prove my point. If you can honestly say disbanding the police is the answer, go for it. I will be backstroking in \$100 bills due to your piss poor leadership! You may want to find a new hobby...

6/30/2020 8:24:33 PM

I think this is a wonderful idea. I used to live outside of the city and had several times where police officers helped me. I always felt that I could trust them and ask for assistance. I have not felt like that living in the Twin Cities. I currently live in North Minneapolis and am more afraid of cops than anything else around here. I'm sure if I were a POC this would be even worse. I am really proud of my city and my state for making the moves to change this. I hope it sees us into a period where we begin to address the roots of the social issues police are usually called into deal with. We could re-invest the money into housing, youth programming, job advancements, parks, etc. I think we should also be preparing every community servant with a deep understanding of the many varied communities they serve. I think it would save us (the city) a lot of money in the long term.

6/30/2020 8:24:49 PM

Totally disagree, we NEED THE POLICE! I agree we do need police reform but we need police.

6/30/2020 8:25:11 PM

I reside in the surrounding suburbs. I used to visit Mpls multiple occasions a year for dinner, drinks, events, etc. Over the past few years the crime has gotten so bad along with panhandlers and catcallers that I now only go into Mpls for events only. If the defunding of the police were to get passed I would drop the events as well. Not a single dollar would get spent in the Mpls city limits ever again. Watching what has happened to Mpls over the past few months is truly sad, and a defunding of the police would really be the last straw for me. I hear that from many others as well. Mpls residents always say that suburban residents should keep their nose out of what Mpls does. But that is far from the truth, we all

come into the city to work, shop, and play. Along with many outstate residents and visitors. Minneapolis is every Minnesotans city. I used to have great pride in our state and city, now I am truly embarrassed to be from here. Please keep your police department, make it better than ever before and keep your residents and visitors as see as they have ever been.

I don't reside in Minneapolis

6/30/2020 8:25:37 PM

There is a need to continue having a police department given the size of our city and the demographics. The violence we continue to see in our city should be enough evidence to show that law and order require enforcement. The police union does need drastic reform in which officers cannot maintain their positions while having multiple offenses or complaints filed against them. As a resident of Minneapolis, the idea of removing the police force and replacing them with a community-based approach, rather than supplementing the existing police officers with appropriate mental health, social work, and other systems' help does provoke me to look at moving out of the city into a different community.

6/30/2020 8:25:51 PM

I strongly support the general idea here - we need to be removing the police from the city's function. I appreciate the point in which the director of community safety has to come from a non police background.

There are a couple of things that make me somewhat wary. For one, the new law enforcement division seems like it could easily just recreate police, and all of the profiling and violence a policing structure creates.

For another thing (somewhat related), It would be perhaps more comforting to see it alongside additional divisions, such as a mental health response division, a division for gendered and sexual violence, and more spread out responsibilities. I hope to see these come into being soon. I also wish that the law enforcement division is not overfunded or overpowered, and forces a completely different culture than policing has had for its history. We can't just replace the police with "peace officers" that are police by another name. Even if it looks good from the outside, black Minnesotans could continue to suffer constant mistreatment this way. I would love to see specific plans in place to prevent another police and a contingency for if what forms is more of the same.

What's more, I'm curious about how the new proposal (and the city council) seeks to address the other parts of the justice system, whether it involves more rehabilitative measures rather than carceral and punitive ones in response to law breaking. The police are an awful part of this system and I'm glad to see them go, but it's important to make sure we keep fighting for the rest to go better.

6/30/2020 8:26:03 PM

My initial concern is about the nature of the peace officers mentioned. I just hope this doesn't end up being a blatant rebranding of the same racist and harmful institution. I know the charter isn't going to be the best place to lay out the specifics, but when it comes to it, we need safeguards in place.

Percentages of budgetary spending guaranteed on the reinvestment in community. We need the defunding of the police department to include reparations for the black and indigenous populations.

6/30/2020 8:27:40 PM

I support the charter amendment

Ward 2

6/30/2020 8:28:10 PM

Hell no Do Not abolish the police!

6/30/2020 8:28:45 PM

This is a terrible idea. As someone who is responsible for the security of a business in YOUR city this will have disastrous consequences. I agree with police reform and accountability. Defunding is NOT the way to go. You are embarrassing the city and our State !! It was appalling to watch the lack of response from the city council, the mayor and the governor in the recent riots and looting. This is not the correct direction after the fact.

6/30/2020 8:28:56 PM

Keep the criminals in jail. Three strike law

6/30/2020 8:29:09 PM

I don't believe in abolishing the police. I want to see reform within for example some police officer should have a 4 year degree in psychology, chemical dependency, American Indian Heritage or African American heritage. The knowledge to prevent crimes within these areas and also the knowledge and skills to handle mental illness and drug issues. They would have to have a degree and be a police officer. Then they are assigned the appropriate calls.

6/30/2020 8:29:41 PM

I disagree with the City Council proposal to remove the Police Department. Minneapolis is a violent city and we need the Police. There is no time for experimentation. A reform of the Police Department is needed but not replacing it.

6/30/2020 8:29:42 PM

As a Minneapolis resident of over 27 years, I urge that the proposed Community Safety and Violence Prevention Charter Amendment Ordinance be placed on the ballot for voters to consider in the next available municipal election. This amendment is important for improving governance and public safety in Minneapolis, and the voters deserve the opportunity to vote on it.

Ward 8

6/30/2020 8:30:12 PM

I am not a resident of Minneapolis, but I do spend a large amount of time in the city with my husband, who is Filipino. Although we are both law abiding citizens, he is always very stressed coming to the city because of the MPDs history of violence against POC. I have seen the man put his hands on the dash when I got pulled over for a broken headlight one night. The MPD inspires fear, not safety. Any organization that is causing that much distress needs to be reimagined.

I know that my story is not the most brutal or shocking, but it is probably something that happens most often. Please, please, disband the police!

6/30/2020 8:31:23 PM

The police have proven to be a threat to our community. They are used too often to solve problems that they aren't equipped to handle. They overreact to stressful situations, racially profile, and brutalize residents of the city. They, along with their union, have wielded too much power for too long and there are plenty of opportunities to reduce their involvement in our daily lives. If someone doesn't need to be shot to death (perhaps for trying to pass a counterfeit bill), then there doesn't need to be an armed police officer there. If we are going to keep the police in any form, they should only be used as a last resort and never used for non-violent emergencies.



6/30/2020 8:31:49 PM

I am strongly in support of the proposed charter amendment. I support giving oversight of public safety to City Council the way all other departments function, and removing the required number of officers per residents—this should be a matter of council decision, not written into the charter. It is clear that the police do not keep our BIPOC neighbors safe and I am in full support of moving forward to defund MPD.

6/30/2020 8:32:17 PM

I support the dismantling of the MPD and want this charter amendment to be on the ballot.

6/30/2020 8:33:17 PM

As a resident of Minneapolis, I urge the charter to let the public vote on this amendment in November.

The public outcry against police cannot be ignored. We must build new models for public safety focused around community and restorative justice. Police do not keep us safe, nor do they serve the people.

The public has used their words. Now is it time for them to use their vote.

6/30/2020 8:33:21 PM

Removal of the police department is irresponsible, dangerous and will be expensive to the city on many levels for years. This will further jeopardize the stability of our city and the safety of citizens and visitors. Changes within the police department are necessary but must be done within the current city charter to provide consistent checks and balances that strive to ensure greater safety for all of Minneapolis, all who live, work and visit.

6/30/2020 8:33:39 PM

Please disband this corrupt and violent department and replace it with community-based programs that seek to remedy the root causes of crime, rather than sending armed officers who are trained to kill into situations that rarely warrant that kind of response. It is shameful that Bob Kroll and the police union have been allowed to shield unfit officers this long, and now the whole department is irredeemable. Thank you, Minneapolis City Council, for taking the hard but necessary road to true healing and community safety.

6/30/2020 8:34:30 PM

This is an insane charter. MPLS needs a cleaned up police Dept with our current leader the Chef in place. Not a Citizens Group!!!

6/30/2020 8:35:39 PM

I am strongly opposed to changing the charter. The voter needs to see a fleshed-out version of what the new changes will be and how they will be installed. I need to see exactly how changing the charter and eradicating a police department with some "" politically correct" vague terms will be of any benefit to the citizens of Minneapolis.

6/30/2020 8:35:43 PM

I do not support defunding the police department. I do believe there are serious issues that need to be addressed and course corrected, but this is not the way. Empower Chief Arradondo to do what he needs to do to be the great leader that he is.

I am troubled at the rushed nature of this legislation and process. It's classic behavior of this body to act in such and unplanned and uninformed way. Why haven't you consulted with stakeholders? Where are the conversations with neighborhood leaders? I think you will be blindsided by the outcome of this election in November.

Ward 8

6/30/2020 8:35:51 PM

I support amending the charter as proposed and having it put up for a vote on the November 2020 ballot.

Ward 12

6/30/2020 8:35:53 PM

You must check your self. You are not acting on facts (I know the police have made egregious mistakes) but what you are doing (and have done) will have long lasting repercussions. Negative repercussions, without a strong police force Minneapolis will become Detroit in less than a year. I hope you all come to your senses and follow the course of order. I know we have have a long way to go with race in our country but you will add years and drive a larger wedge if your city continues to allow the gangs run your city. Yes the world is watching us your head not your heart. Good luck.

6/30/2020 8:36:35 PM

Do not defund the Mpls. Police, instead how about defunding the Minneapolis City Council? 13 members and no one is charge of anything? I live in Hastings but work in the city. I will not spend one red cent in Hennepin county until some changes are made that benefit us working stiffs. No fuel, no food, no items, no dining out, nada, sip, nothing, ever again until something positive for the WORKING MIDDLE CLASS comes out of your pie holes.

Forget about the plastic bag bans and bicycle lanes and the menthol cigarettes. How about being USEFUL instead of trying to look important. Lisa Bender, you should be ashamed of yourself. 4800 votes does not a mandate make!

If the police department is defunded you will have finally succeeded in turning this once shining city into another Newark/Compton/Detroit/Baltimore..."It's just Bricks and Mortar".

Pull that hand back in that is grasping for our tax money Mayor Frey and try rebuilding your own city without us.

6/30/2020 8:38:30 PM

I request that no current or former law enforcement officials be present in the planning, implementation, and running of the new department.

I request that Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color be centered in the process of planning the department.

I request that the new department not have access to riot gear, tear gas, military-grade weapons, or assault rifles.

I request that the fastest possible timeline be in place to defund and dismantle the police department.

6/30/2020 8:38:36 PM

I am a long time citizen of this city (family since 1926). I support the chief of police and his efforts to change the culture of police department in Minneapolis. I didn't just arrive here to look good for the press and wave a new banner of progressive slogans. I pay way too much in taxes for criminals to think we have no police department. These folks will move in faster than these new progressives can get their act together. The chief has a plan. That's why he is the chief at this time. I feel like if you live around the one lake in south Minneapolis you have all the say, if you live in central or north you are excused from the discussion. This isn't a game.

#2. I think there should be a moratorium on taxes for people 70plus. You are running them off to less expensive suburbs.

6/30/2020 8:38:39 PM

This entire city and all those in the government can shampoo my swampy sweaty crotch. You're failures and incompetent leaders. Go fuck yourselves

6/30/2020 8:39:34 PM

I strongly support this charter amendment and allowing the residents of Minneapolis to vote on such a significant policy change.

If reform were possible under the current charter, the last 3 mayoral administrations would have succeeded. If the selection of a change agent as police chief were sufficient progress would have been made under the last two chiefs. Instead we are in a worse situation. Drastic change is needed.

The new language allows for freedom to respond to broader and potentially changing public safety needs. The changes in this amendment could create the circumstances under which Chief Arrondondo can be successful. It allows for a traditional police force under another name or something radically different. Without this charter change, no meaningful reform will occur.

Budgets are moral documents. By specifying a number of police the charter requires an expenditure regardless of the size of the city budget — regardless of property tax payments, local government aid. It's essentially an entitlement, but one that residents are not benefiting from. The increase in violence and lack of police response, while the police are fully funded, does little to demonstrate their value to community. By removing the specific formula that ensures the size and composition of the police force we can design a holistic public safety system that includes but does not center law enforcement.

Finally, by putting this change on the ballot, there will be robust community education campaigns for and against. This will engage residents in thinking critically about this issue, another precondition for change and certainly a requirement for implementing a new vision of public safety. And by voting we ensure that more people have skin in the game of making and realizing this change.

Ward 1

6/30/2020 8:40:04 PM

Needs of the community and goals of the new law enforcement/violence team should be as follows

- connect ppl with resources
- be adequately trained regarding mental health
- increased deescalation training
- a culture shift begining within law enforcement
- anti racist culture and education/training
- fact and truth based history on the police department taught and processed within the police department (consider utilizing community mental health professionals to facilitate discussions like these)
- increased % of mpls police whom live within minneapolis zip.code
- increased multicultural competency training amongst officers
- consistently held consequences for behaviors that do not abide by the new teams mission statement (create a missions statement that reflects that purpose of the team and how the serve the needs of all community members)
- decriminalize small non violent marijuana charges
- educate officers on systemic racism and the role law enforcement has played in it historically and currently

-encourage officers to discuss topics such as race in a safe confidential place perhaps taking a group counseling approach

-teach officers strategies to build relationships with community members

-invite people of color (and diverse in other ways) within the community to the table to speak their experiences, work for your team etc.

6/30/2020 8:40:11 PM

Please give the public a chance to improve our community by rethinking how we handle public safety.

6/30/2020 8:40:19 PM

I would prefer to see a requirement for the existence of the Division of Law Enforcement Service. I am not comfortable with the council having discretion about whether it exists or not without going back to the public. Like it or not we live in a society with guns and violence and the existence of an armed police force will be necessary in some capacity for the foreseeable future. I would also like to see better language about the line of authority. I see you have taken control from the Mayor but I am concerned about how crisis will be handled with 14 bosses. It's difficult to operate by committee in a crisis.

6/30/2020 8:40:25 PM

I do not think anyone disagrees that the MPD is in need of large scale reform, but I think the city council is pushing their agenda too quickly. They have not put forth any sort of detailed plan in which describes at length the measures they are taking and what that entails. A plan of action needs to be well thought out and have community input. We live in a major metropolitan area, and you cannot just eliminate the police as we know it. Crime has already increased since all of this began. People are worried about their safety and I also worry about the future of our city. Who will want to come to Minneapolis to do business, for recreation (sports, shopping, dining, etc) when everyone thinks it's unsafe and lawless.

I feel they are putting the cart before the horse so to speak and this needs to be thought out on how it affects the entire community.

I also have little confidence in the council and mayor to take into account what their constituents want - even on something like 2040 they didn't care that lots of people opposed it. They haven't felt the need to do anything about policing issues in the past, but now all of the sudden it's their number one priority. I feel like the council thinks it's good PR to make a drastic change to prove they are willing to do something about the issues, but this cannot be a hasty decision. Please do not allow this charter amendment to be made unless they have a complete plan of action and it also needs to be voted on by the citizens of Minneapolis. Thank you

6/30/2020 8:40:40 PM

There is a need to continue having a police department given the size of our city and the demographics. The amendment does not state how funding will be established or maintained and whether there will be a minimum requirement for size of the department based on population size.

The violence we continue to see in our city should be enough evidence to show that law and order require enforcement. The police union does need drastic reform in which officers cannot maintain their positions while having multiple offenses or complaints filed against them. As a resident of Minneapolis, the idea of removing the police force and replacing them with a community-based approach, rather than supplementing the existing police officers with appropriate mental health, social work, and other systems' help does provoke me to look at moving out of the city into a different community.

The amendment should maintain that any responsibilities the mayor holds currently with regard to the police department, the city council will now maintain responsibility. If the intent in the first section of the proposed charter is to state that the council will hold the same responsibilities as the mayor currently holds -- more details should be added. There is no consideration made for future riots (remember rioting occurs both as celebration and anger; don't hold your breath, but maybe the Vikings will win a Super Bowl). What additional level of experience will be required of a future head of this department beyond having a non-police background? The issue is not the police. The issue is with holding people accountable for their actions -- in this case, the inaction of the police union to remove officers who should have been removed long ago.

Ward 12

6/30/2020 8:43:37 PM

My family strongly supports the amendment.

Ward 7

6/30/2020 8:43:54 PM

I strongly support the proposed amendment to the Charter. I believe the actions of the officers of the Minneapolis Police Department, especially in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd, amply demonstrate the ills of the institution and confirm that the benefits it has historically been charged with providing can be achieved better by the proposed department of community safety and violence prevention. Thank you for your consideration; I hope Minneapolis can lead the way on this urgent matter.

I don't reside in Minneapolis