

Mon 7/20/2020 9:42 AM

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. The people of Minneapolis have clearly spoken that Minneapolis police are not the answer to create healthy and thriving communities. For too long, Minneapolis police have protected the lives and interests of white residents only. As a white person myself, I am disgusted that the city would continue on in this manner, turning away from this blatant injustice. I am urging the city council to defund MPD and fund programs and initiatives that protect all residents of Minneapolis. We cannot wait another day.

Mon 7/20/2020 10:26 AM

Hello,

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Give the people of Minneapolis the space to craft something better than policing, we can do it, but the charter can't stand in the way.

Mon 7/20/2020 10:50 AM

I am an attorney whose law firm is on Lake Street in Uptown Minneapolis. I live in North Minneapolis. Part of my practice is handling civil rights police brutality cases. I would like to call into the meeting to make a comment about changing the charter. How do I call in so my voice can be heard during the meeting tomorrow? Thank you for your help.

Mon 7/20/2020 11:41 AM

Dear Mr. Cunningham, As a Minneapolis resident in your ward I implore you to not go forward with disbanding the police department. I am all for reform and seeing how we can make common sense changes to how policing happens in our community. If the police department is disbanded what incentive do current officers have to stick around as a new system is figured out and implemented? I am very concerned about ideals being put over other citizens voices. I respect the fact that other people have other opinions on what should be done. As your constituent I felt I should share my voice and the concerns that my fellow neighbors share as well. I hope a compromise is reached but I recognize that partisanship is getting in the way as it always does which seems to be forcing the hand of the city council to make such a drastic decision. I am hopeful that reforms can be passed specific to the issues of police brutality and community engagement. Please urge our fellow representatives and senate members to leave out other agenda's so that real change can happen rather than trying to take everything we can because we have a moment to seize as much as possible. Thank you for your time.

Mon 7/20/2020 12:26 PM

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Give the people of Minneapolis the space to craft something better than policing, we can do it, but the charter can't stand in the way.

This is the first step, of many, needed to make our city safer for ALL peoples.

Mon 7/20/2020 2:05 PM

Andrea: I have a few thoughts in opposition to the proposal to amend the city charter.

First, I have been involved in efforts to transform policing for a long time. In 2009, I investigated the Metro Gang Strike Force and uncovered rampant corruption and a culture that encouraged the violation of civil and human rights. As United States Attorney, I investigated officer involved shootings of African American men. Over the years, I have seen both the best and the worst of policing and I have engaged with officers, community members and experts on how to bring about change.

Second, I now believe that we are at a time of general consensus—civil rights leaders and activists, business leaders and many officers (per the published open letter) are calling in unison for fundamental change. This is a time to seize on the consensus and do the hard work of transforming the police department. The proposed amendment is divisive when we need unity, and will be an unnecessary distraction to the hard work we need to do.

Third, in my discussions, it is clear that the consensus also includes the need for a sizeable and functioning police department, one that works with, not against the community. If so, why amend the charter?

Fourth, the consensus, for the first time in my experience in Minnesota, also includes respect and appreciation for the police chief, who most believe is the right person to help drive the change we need.

Fifth, if this proposed amendment goes before the voters in November, the debate will be quick, and limited. Debate will take place in September and October, with money on both sides, Ads, etc. all while we cannot meet in person due to the pandemic and all while we are engaged in a critical national election over the future of our country. We should spend that time working on transforming the police department, not debating the city charter.

Finally, nothing in the city charter prevents the community from getting the police department we deserve now. We can change the culture from the top down and the bottom up; we can change who we recruit and hire as officers; we can change policies, training, accountability and more without a change in the charter. And we can negotiate a better union contract. Let's seize on this opportunity to bring about systemic change, reject racism in the department and come together as a community.

Mon 7/20/2020 2:07 PM

Dear City Council Members of Minneapolis,

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Please give the people of Minneapolis the space to craft something better than policing. We can do it- we have the knowledge and the energy- but the charter can't stand in the way.

Thank you for your work on this

Mon 7/20/2020 3:39 PM

Dear Commissioner Sandberg,

Please approve the amendment put forward by the city council. Your job is to assess the language and legality of an amendment, NOT to evaluate it for its implications or effectiveness for our city. The people of Minneapolis need to vote on this issue on November 3rd. If it isn't a good proposal, that will be clear at the ballot box. Let the debate continue. Approve the amendment.

Mon 7/20/2020 4:29 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to voice my support for the charter commission moving the current language of the city charter amendment to a ballot vote in November. Our communities deserve to make the historic decision to end policing in Minneapolis as we know it and vision a new people-centered community safety model.

We can do it, but the charter commission and the charter itself cannot stand in the way.

Thank you

Mon 7/20/2020 7:24 PM

I have put these comments into the online public comments form but am sharing them here also.

I have been a homeowner in the North Loop for the last 20 years.

I do not support the City Council's proposal to amend the City Charter create a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and remove the Minneapolis Police Department from the Charter.

I believe that the recent increase in crime, both violent and non-violent, will grow even larger in a Minneapolis without the Minneapolis Police Department and that the city will become less attractive to businesses and tourists and more worrying and less viable for homeowners.

I have not seen a detailed plan from the City Council showing the in-depth analysis behind their proposal. I have not seen an impact study showing the full spectrum of potential effects that could be caused by the removal of the Minneapolis Police Department from the charter.

I do not believe that this proposal is ready for the ballot nor do I believe that it will be ready for the ballot until the City Council has done its due diligence which would include public hearings and conversations with many different types of Minneapolitians from all walks of life, with law enforcement, and with other experts.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Mon 7/20/2020 9:28 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

I am unable to attend the Charter Commission meeting happening on July 21, 2020 at 6 pm and I am writing to submit comments to this email address as indicated on the publicly posted agenda.

I am a resident in the greater Longfellow neighborhood and have experienced the ongoing failures of the police department in Minneapolis. I strongly believe that we ask too much of police officers as they go from dealing with violent crimes to dealing with homelessness. We need to narrow the job of our police so they solve more violent crimes and also leave other crimes for people to deal with who are similarly better positioned for success, such as social workers and medical teams.

To achieve this end, there are multiple aspects of the charter that need to change. Over the coming year, we need to know that the charter will not stand in the way of a creative, public, and open process to reimagine safety in our neighborhoods. I ask the charter commission to adopt the proposed changes from the City Council without changes so we can vote on them in November. These proposed changes are sufficiently narrow and not overly prescriptive to allow a process of creating a new department of public

safety to unfold. The city charter is not the place to create detailed policy, but the place to sow the seeds of good policy. The city council proposed charter amendment achieves the start of good policy.

I also believe that good feedback to our police force is needed. Good feedback is timely and clear. For our feedback to be timely to the police and the police union, we need a chance to vote on a proposed change to the city charter this November. The changes also clearly show that we want something different without overly prescribing the new form. Please do not stand in the way of democracy.

Finally, I am disappointed to read that the charter commission, an unelected group of civically minded individuals, believes itself best positioned to offer a competing proposal to the city council. It pains me that unelected officials feel that their proposal on this matter deserves a place on our ballot. On principle alone, standalone ideas of this committee shouldn't have a place on our ballot. If I want to get something on the ballot, I have to gather thousands of signatures, which is an appropriate threshold for an unelected person. Please, offer your feedback on the proposal from the city council and send it back to them in time to be on our ballot in November, but do not take it upon yourselves to force a competing proposal on the table. If you want to do that, run for city council.

Mon 7/20/2020 9:57 PM

Hi, My name is [REDACTED] and I live in Ward 9. I am commenting today to encourage the process of allowing a vote for the Charter Amendment.

The Charter is a barrier to accessing community safety and resources. Our city's budget has shown where our values are, and that is with the police. Far too many of our neighbors are housing and food insecure, yet our police force is over resourced. As a therapist I am always reminded of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. I wonder what would happen to our rates of crime and perceived need of police if our community members were housed, had access to food, to culturally responsive and reflective mental health services, harm reduction substance abuse services, and to infant and maternal mental health care. It saddens and angers me to see so much money poured into a system that harms and murders our Black and Brown neighbors. This is not safety. I would vote "yes" because I value community care over control and power.

Thank you!

Mon 7/20/2020 11:51 PM

Good evening,

The Minneapolis city council, elected by the voters of their respective wards, have proposed a plan to amend the charter in response to the failure of the MPD. That plan **should** go to voters in November, who as citizens of the city should have final say as to how the public safety of our city should be administered. Any attempt to delay the charter amendment from appearing on the November ballot will be accurately seen as a result of your own arrogance. While it is true that legislators often propose legislation that is poorly written or will result in unforeseen consequences, your proposed amendment has clearly laid out the fact that you simply disagree with the proposal from the council; you would rather resort to pandering half-measures than to acknowledge the intent of the council's proposal and seek to refine the language to best serve the city and its population.

By proposing your own amendment, you, as unelected members of the charter commission, have asserted that you are smarter and wiser than both the citizens of Minneapolis and their elected representatives. Experts should be listened to, and their opinions should be weighted more heavily than someone picked at random off the street. But your proposed amendment is, *somehow*, more poorly designed than the

Council's proposed amendment. This shows that you are not interested in attempting to solve a legitimate crisis in how policing affects communities of color, and are instead solely focused on subverting efforts of real political change by elected representatives and grabbing 15 minutes of fame for yourselves.

Regardless of your opinion on the Council's amendment, you should seek to make the text of their amendment fit with their stated goals as best as possible before allowing the amendment to go to voters in November. Anything less than that is a dereliction of your duty.

Thank you,

A resident of Northeast Minneapolis

Tue 7/21/2020 9:19 AM

Our elected city council has proposed an amendment to our city charter. Get this ready to be on the ballot and let the people vote. Thank you.

Tue 7/21/2020 9:53 AM

Hello,

I live in Ward 6 (█████ Clinton Ave) and I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Give the people of Minneapolis the space to craft something better than policing, we can do it, but the charter can't stand in the way.

Thank you.

Tue 7/21/2020 9:57 AM

Here is a piece on what happened when Baltimore police felt attacked/undermined. It's more evidence that rather than simply defunding the police, we need to educate and work with police (and yes create further structures and ways of responding).

NYTimes columnist Bret Stephens penned a very relevant column published recently: "Crime and the Baltimore Model." Here's a link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/17/opinion/policing-crime-baltimore.html>

I am also strongly opposed to your power grab (motion to change the city charter). How knowledgeable are you all on public policy? In your fervor to do "good" please be careful not to swing too far to the authoritarian-right. Changing rules to give oneself more power, rather than working within systems, makes me very nervous.

An extremely concerned citizen

Tue 7/21/2020 10:03 AM

I have always been opposed to the proposed charter amendment on grounds that:

- It's too vague
- It eliminates the requirement for a police department (again with no details on how this would be done)
- It suggests studying the options for a year when we can already access other studies and make meaningful change now

Given that the Legislature has now reached a comprehensive deal on police reform - I think this proposed change has even less merit. The Council should support the agreed-upon changes and focus their efforts elsewhere.

Tue 7/21/2020 10:03 AM

The online public comment form is not working.

I am against the proposed amendment to the City Charter. If public safety is not provided by official police to protect and serve me, I am out of here.

Tue 7/21/2020 10:08 AM

Thank you for spurring this conversation, it is important. It is also important to do this properly and responsibly. Acting simply with emotion and limited facts will hurt the outcome and fail - which is a total disservice to those you serve.

Today, the table is set for a mass exodus of businesses if this is passed as it has been messaged by the City Council (defund the police, no police department,). What's the hardship on your constituents then? You have the opportunity to invite the entire community into this discussion, gaining support for increased funding for community safety and to close the gap of inequality.

Adding to the police reform discussion, the City Council must move to the top of its agenda closing the opportunity gap in our City - one of, if not the largest, in the country. This is the time as council after council since the 90's, if not much much earlier, has known this and done very little. The Governor is on board, major corporations, the community,.... all are expressing desire to help. Now's the time to leverage this to accomplish this.

The action needs to be bold and swift. We can accomplish this via partnerships with accomplished organizations today - public/private - with the know-how to scale and tackle this problem that has been in front of us for so many years.

- 1) Massive increase in our funding for affordable housing using facts and data to determine the funding need, location and delivery model (accomplish this in partnership with Hennepin County and the State)
- 2) Jobs creation for those experiencing the opportunity gap - the business community has said they are on board so lean on them to make it happen
- 3) Community support for healthy families. We have countless non-profits with the know-how to advance this.

Minneapolis can do more. We need your wise and thoughtful leadership. We need a coordinated community effort. Thanks

Tue 7/21/2020 10:09 AM

Dear City Council and Charter Commission,

First, I thank each of you for your service to our city and your desire to see the city improved as a place to live, raise families and conduct business.

In regards to the proposal to remove the City Police department from the City Charter, **I state that I am categorically OPPOSED to the idea.** I am firmly in agreement that reform is needed, but also firmly in belief that law and order is necessary, and that a strong police department is needed.

In the last month we have seen crime increase dramatically. We have lived in the city the last 6 years, and while we have seen the presence of crime, it pales in comparison to what we have seen in the last 4 or so weeks in our neighborhood. We have seen an increase in fast and erratic driving as cars now race past our house regularly, we have seen people shooting up drugs, we have seen a gang surround a man and beat him on the street in broad daylight, we have been hearing gun shots almost every day, and this very morning, my wife personally witnessed a shooting in our back alley.

This is all coming at a time when the very suggestion that the police are being disbanded seems to be giving a sense of lawlessness in the city and restraint is being thrown off. It is creating an environment where the criminal elements seem to feel safe, and as they begin showing their presence more and more, private citizens and business owners are increasingly feeling unsafe. There is a sense that the city leaders are more concerned in protecting those who wish to do harm... while I know that is not reality, it is the appearance as this is playing out.

There is a narrative at play that says that all African Americans want the police disbanded. Though I am white, I know this is categorically false. I have talked to African Americans in the neighborhood and while they want reform in the police, they want the police presence and see it is a necessity to having a safe community.

I get my hair cut in an African American barbershop on 35th avenue. I was in there just last Thursday. **My barber, who has been in this neighborhood for the last 30 years, told me he thinks the idea of removing the police department is absolute insanity and he is nervous.** I asked him how many people, from what he can tell, in the African American community want the police removed as is being proposed. **He said, "I have not yet met anyone in the African American community who thinks this is a good idea."** This is a man, whose shop is very much part of the community, who has people from the African American community coming into his shop all day long to see he and the other barbers, and he has not yet met an African American who wants the police disbanded. **He said, "I have no idea where this idea is coming from, but it is not coming from us."**

Having stated above, I again state that I am categorically opposed to the proposal to remove the police department from the city charter.

Thank you

Tue 7/21/2020 10:10 AM

Minneapolis needs law and order. We need to increase the number of police officers in the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD). Let the MPD do their job the way they need to. Police misconduct can be exposed and rooted out. But Minneapolis needs a strong police force for the good of all who live in and visit our city. Thank you for your time.

Tue 7/21/2020 10:12 AM

I believe the idea inherent in the proposed change is solid but would not support the proposed change as written. I believe it currently leaves too many questions unanswered. I would definitely not support the director of any new public safety department having to report to all City Council members as supervisors - too many potential political minefields. Would encourage Charter Commission to rewrite the proposed

amendment to not jump so far ahead without first a better way to vet ideas proposed, maybe retaining police component for now with built-in option to assess what is needed (I know, yet another committee to explore, we've had enough of that, etc., but as it is currently worded it appears to me the City Council is trying to push something through too quickly without measured thought - sort of run things by us roughshod, which the Council has a tendency to do when they don't want to entertain alternatives).

Tue 7/21/2020 10:20 AM

Attention Charter Commission,

I strongly encourage you to not put the issue of amending the charter to give the city council preview over the police on the ballot this August. Firstly tensions are running too high. Current city council members and their activist allies have bullied and intimidated their constituents into silence, amplifying the voice of a small minority over the voice of others. Now they are trying to use this small group to push the Charter Commission into rushing a very important decision. Many, many citizens of this city do not want to turn policing over to the city council or cut their funding in any way. In the strongest terms I urge you not to put this to a vote in August but at a later date when every citizen's voice can be heard.

Tue 7/21/2020 10:29 AM

My name is [REDACTED], and I live in ward 9 in Minneapolis. I am unsure if I will get the chance to speak at tonight's public hearing on the city charter amendment so I am sending comment via email. I grew up in the suburbs of St Paul and have lived in Minneapolis for the majority of my adult life. I am for the charter commission allowing this amendment to be added to the November ballot because I believe it should be up to the citizens of the city to decide how we want to be policed/how our public safety is executed in our city. Based on years of police violence and murder of my neighbours of color, I believe the MPD is a public safety threat not a solution. The amount of people voicing this sentiment as well as city council unanimously voting to amend the charter makes it clear that the president's of Minneapolis want changes made to our systems of public safety.

Like I said I grew up in Oakdale, MN and attended North High School in North St Paul. I then went on to live across the street from North High School in North Minneapolis, and I've seen the disparity in these 2 communities first hand. My school was fairly well resourced with school councillors and after school programs, and maybe one or two security guards. I believe many of the police officers are residents of suburbs and not of this city. This means a large portion of Minneapolis city budget (our tax dollars) is going to police officers wages and pensions for the duration of their lives. This means we are funneling our tax dollars to fund schools in the suburbs (via property taxes) and away from the schools in our community. We then pay those same officers to terrorize the children in our schools. Does this seem fair to you?

I've seen homelessness grow into more and more of a crisis in my city as well.

We should have a say in how large our police departments can be so that we can utilize our tax dollars for assisting our unsheltered neighbours and creating public safety initiatives that go directly into uplifting our communities.

So again I'm asking for this decision to be added to the November ballot and let the city residents decide.

Thank you

Tue 7/21/2020 10:42 AM

Hello,

I believe that the current policing system needs to see radical change and the bloated police budget must be reduced and funds reallocated to programs, organizations, and communities that can do the work necessary to heal our fractured city. It is clear that the police are not now and never have been equipped to prevent crime, and rather they serve to only react to it. And that reaction can be deadly.

Instead, we must put our financial support behind ways that we can reduce the resource deprivation that is inextricably linked to crime (both non-violent and violent). When people have housing, food, jobs, and everything else that is needed to promote a high quality of life, they are more invested in their communities and feel less of a need to just eke out their existence through other means.

This should not be news to anyone, but still, we act like we don't know how these things actually work. While we still need a fully fleshed-out plan, adding the charter amendment to the ballot provides a valuable way for many in the community to have their voices heard.

And then we can begin the long and hard work of reimagining what our community can look like. And then we can finally see how amazing we can be. The Revolution started in Minneapolis for a reason, now let's see it all the way through.

Thank you.

Tue 7/21/2020 10:41 AM

Dear Commissioners and Councillors;

My name is [REDACTED]. I am white, a homeowner, and voter in the 12th ward.

As a nursing student, I wish to speak to the relationship between policing, racism, and public health. In public health, social determinants of health are the forces in the environment where people are "born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age" that impact an individual and population's health, level of functioning, and quality-of-life (CDC, 2020). A person's access to fresh fruits and vegetables, living in a community close to a coal-plant or other polluter, quality of education, access to living wage jobs, access to transportation, and neighborhood safety are just a few examples of the conditions in which individuals' health outcomes or risks are mitigated or exacerbated.

Policing and police violence, too, are social determinants of health. According to the American Public Health Association (2018), "physical and psychological violence that is structurally mediated by the system of law enforcement results in deaths, injuries, trauma, and stress that disproportionately affects marginalized populations (e.g. people of color; immigrants; individuals experiencing houselessness; people with disabilities; the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer [LGBTQ] community; individuals with mental illness; people who use drugs; and sex workers). And, in fact, police force is the sixth-leading cause of death for young black men, at a rate of 2.5 times more than white men, a fact that is unconscionable in 2020 (Edwards et al., 2018).

Recently, the Minneapolis City Council passed a resolution decrying racism as a public health crisis: without meaningful action, these words will ring hollow. I call on you to take action now and amend the city charter to remove the Police Department and create a new department of community safety and violence prevention, and allow the people to vote.

Thank you for your time.

Tue 7/21/2020 10:48 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing with concerns of the public safety changes. I am all for changes needing to be made, but I am concerned with the city council members idea of completely defunding the program. The scary thing is they have no form of a plan. I feel that completely defunding the police department is absurd. There is a lot of ways that changes can be made, but going to the extreme, and totally defund the police department, with no idea of a new plan is crazy. I have been a resident of Minneapolis for almost 50 years and I am really starting to lose faith in our city leaders. The riots getting out of hand was a disgrace, now the possibility of defunding the police department, letting homeless set up tents in parks and now women to go shirtless at beaches. What is this city coming too? I am very disappointed in all of our city leaders. If the defunding goes through, you will lose many residents I fear. I am one that will take my family and leave the area for our own safety. I hate to leave Minneapolis, but my families safety comes first.

Tue 7/21/2020 10:59 AM

Hello!

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. I think allowing the people of Minneapolis to create something better is the best path forward. We don't know what can be accomplished if the charter continues to stand in the way.

Tue 7/21/2020 11:00 AM

What Neighborhood do you live in: Field

Do you think our current system of policing is working:

☐ Yes, I am happy with the current system.

☐ No, I feel we need a new system

☒ I feel the current system could work with some reforms

IDEAS/COMMENTS about what is working, not working:

Further train police on handling certain situations peaceably. Review each police officer's records and identify repeat offenders of city policies with a focus on excessive force and racial profiling. Get rid of the few bad apples!

Add police officers. Do not de-fund or reduce the already depleted force.

The tabled amendment has no chance of being effective and frankly I'm embarrassed that it is actually being proposed.

I was the victim of a violent crime (1st Degree Assault) so I have a personal investment in keeping my neighborhood and my two children safe. I will be moving out of MPLS if the amendment is ratified.

One more thought.....you're assuming all residents of the 3rd Precinct (and the rest of MPLS) think rationally....which is a utterly ridiculous assumption. The amount of conceal and carry permit applications are going to increase dramatically if they haven't already.

Other Comments:

Section 7.3:

(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. **COMMENT:** Isn't the highlighted requirement discriminatory? Seems hypocritical to rule out ANY prospective Directors while supposedly promoting diversity and equal opportunity.

(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. **COMMENT:** You're either in or you're out. We should eliminate any ambiguous language from the amendments. It exhibits the already rampant indecisiveness of our leaders.

(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. **COMMENT:** Where is the Director of the Division of Law Enforcement Services defined? If you're not committed to maintain a Division of Law Enforcement Services (per 'b' above), why are you using the word 'shall'?

There is a lot of other wishy-washy wording/phrasing in the amendments. Was this intentionally done to promote discussion? You give the impression that these are the actual proposed amendments.

Tue 7/21/2020 11:07 AM

This failing city needs more police. Community policing. The police need to know the neighborhood they are protecting. The police should have to live in the city.

Change the charter to get ride of Kroll, whatever it takes.

All of you should consider resigning. You should all be embarrassed. You give liberals a bad name.

Tue 7/21/2020 11:08 AM

Hello,

I am not keen on removing the police from the city charter. But given the obstacles to police reform created by Bob Kroll and the police federation, I would support doing this.

Following a model of what was done in Camden NJ might be a good way to approach police reform.

Tue 7/21/2020 11:22 AM

Later today, you will be considering the creation of a new Charter Department to provide for community safety and violence prevention.

My neighborhood and community members have taken it upon ourselves to finding answers as to why things are the way they are. And so many honest discussions about our implicit bias, our beliefs, and our values have come to the forefront. We are growing and connecting from block to block, learning more about this city's history, the names we see stamped on our neighborhoods and streets and learning there is so much more below the surface of things. And we believe we need to expose those foundational injuries

and injustices that have for so long influenced so many generations without us actually understanding why or how. But the truth is there and needs to be a part of all of these discussions.

And so to you I ask that you read the following letter. Look into the background links I myself just learned about, and ask yourselves if this is not long LONG overdue. A systemic change in how we agree to be towards one another. And an example to the rest of our country and indeed the world, how through the ashes we rise stronger, and more united. We ALL.

.....

Dear Commissioners,

I am a MN born Black American. I grew up in St. Paul in a "nice" neighborhood and now live in an area of South Minneapolis. Neither of which, 100 years ago, would I have been allowed to live in. Instead my family would have been forced out by vandalism, harassment, and even threat of lynching. All based on the supreme court upheld practice of racial covenants, which as I'm sure you're aware, reserved this area for the exclusive use of white people.

Let us not forget this key historic event in our Minneapolis, MN history. As it directly impacts the bias and racist slant our police department, and even the communities of this city have grown up with as a foundation to how we treat one another. As I like to say today, these are the ingredients in the cool-aid we've all been fed for generations. That people of color are irresponsible, drive down property values and bring crime into otherwise "Nice" neighborhoods.

It is no wonder the police force, which has its own history of embedded foundational racism, continues to thrive off of the funding and accepted strong armed tactics our city and its residents have grown to tolerate and in some cases promote. It is an underlying agreement our businesses, communities, and labor force installed and practiced less than 100 years ago.

I searched for and found a meeting recording of the charter commission in June where this Charter amendment was discussed. Having listened to the proposal put forth by the council members, and the offers of alternative amendments by your fellow Commissioners, as well as the questions and further discussion that took place in the later portion of the meeting. I am more confident in the change agent suggested by the City Council members in the amendment I heard and have since read more about. But during the meeting, I feel the discussion had forgotten the aforementioned attempts by our city to install a NEW NORTHERN JIM CROW.

Without these types of historical practices, brought to bare, and included in the public dialogue about where racial bias, aggressiveness towards non whites, and inequity was allowed and promoted willfully in Minneapolis and shortly after across the country, there will remain a "Not us" attitude, and attempt to solve problems using money and big data. But it is intention and example that has always been the path towards this country's change. As seen by several states using the racial covenants to create and maintain their own ghettos - and also why you see the uprisings after George Floyd's murder spread so swiftly to every corner of our country.

And people like myself, who grew up believing like William H. Simpson who thought he should be able to live his dream of home ownership here, only to be met by hate and anger, which erupted into the race war of 1909, RIGHT HERE in Minneapolis.

<http://historyapolis.com/blog/2014/02/24/minneapolis-race-war-1909-prospect-park/> and subsequent practices put in place with racial covenants one year later.

It is we who now have more and more rights, more and more money, more and more ability to stand up and voice our needs. We collectively dispel that which was for so long forcefully inflicted, and wrongfully dismissed as "Not us". Those in positions of historic power have forget perhaps HOW that power was wielded not so long ago, and why.

"The premises hereby conveyed shall not at any time be conveyed, mortgaged or leased to any person or persons of Chinese, Japanese, Moorish, Turkish, Negro, Mongolian or African blood or descent. Said restrictions and covenants shall run with the land and any breach of any or either thereof shall work a forfeiture of title, which may be enforced by re-entry." See the actual redlining map of Minneapolis and St. Paul. THIS HAPPENED HERE. <https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=12/44.973/-93.358&city=minneapolis-mn&area=B16>

It is we who grew up believing the statement that "All men are created equal" meant something, and stand together now raising fists and signs reminding those "Not us" folks that not only do "All lives matter" but that NO LIVES Matter if it isn't equally true that "Black Lives Matter" !

AND SO...

Pick up this torch. allow this new fuel of justice and healing to work its way into the systems of change. And not by little incremental data driven steps when there is need and plenty of evidence and data to support that BIG steps are available, and necessary.

I will be listening to the meeting tonight. And I would like to hear the message that systemic change IS needed, and that "You're willing to do so...NOW"!

"Love all and exclude none"

Yours very truly

Tue 7/21/2020 11:25 AM

Hi!

I'm a Minneapolis resident (Powderhorn neighborhood) and I support changing the charter to to decrease our dependency on police and work towards their abolishment.

Thank you!

Tue 7/21/2020 11:28 AM

Hello,

As a longtime Minneapolis resident and a homeowner and landlord in the Powderhorn neighborhood, I support removing the Police Department from the charter and adding a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department.

Recent events in our city have illuminated how severely our police department is failing us, and as a taxpayer, it makes me sick to know that my dollars are going to support the corruption, racism, and violence that the department regularly unleashes on our city.

I urge you to listen to the residents and take bold measures to imagine a better future for our city. The MPD as it exists now has no place in that future.

Thank you for your time.

Tue 7/21/2020 11:56 AM

Good Morning, I am a home owner at [REDACTED] Polk Street NE in Minneapolis MN 55318. I absolutely disagree with defunding the Police!! We need our Police force to stay and work for us. Police is a special trained institution that will protect citizens from criminal individuals. A community based group to protect the citizens of Minneapolis is not and I repeat not in any way qualified to act as a protector for law and order!!

Tue 7/21/2020 11:59 AM

Removing the police department from the charter is the worst idea I've ever heard. We have seen the violence escalated quickly since the police have stepped back to allow peaceful protests

Tue 7/21/2020 11:59 AM

The City Council has completely lost its way. This city is in a steep downward spiral, on so many fronts, that is being perpetuated by this City Council.

I would be supportive of reforming or restructuring the police department to make it more effective for all Minneapolis residents, but come up with a specific plan for that before asking voters to allow for the elimination of the police department.

I can see how the Council's plan will help those who want to break the law, but I am a law-abiding, tax paying (\$12k in property taxes alone!) citizen. What is your plan going to do for ME (and other law-abiding, tax paying citizens that make up the majority of this city)?

Promise me that your newly envisioned public safety department will take property and "quality of life" crimes seriously, then I may support your plan. Promise me that violent crimes will have a quick response. Promise me that you actually have a plan to protect the assets of the city and its citizens next time there are riots.

I am white. I feel as though you want me to accept less from my city so people of other races can get more. I have no problem with others getting more, but not at the cost of the safety of my family and property, not to mention my general quality of life in this city.

I have lived here over 25 years. I send my kids to Minneapolis Public Schools. My wife and I never intended to leave Minneapolis. However, for the first time in our lives, we have been discussing moving from this city. We are not the only ones. Several other people I know (those law-abiding, tax-paying types) who have historically been firmly committed to living in Minneapolis (and using the public schools) are for the first time considering living outside the city.

Yes, make the police department better, but get your act together and get back to the basics of rebuilding this city that you have allowed to be torn apart in such a short span.

Tue 7/21/2020 12:00 PM

This character proposal is The Most underhanded, misguided, double cross to the community!!! I am completely and totally against this ignorant, backwards, half job/half assed answer to a long standing problem in communities of color! Why??? Is this Not Being brought OPENLY before community members???? Most people in these communities don't even know about this idiotic proposal and their voices are NOT BEING HEARD!!!!!! I VOTE THIS PROPOSAL DOWN!!!!!!!

Tue 7/21/2020 12:10 PM

As a Minneapolis homeowner, I DISAGREE with including the proposal to remove the Police Department from the charter and adding a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department on the November ballot.

Tue 7/21/2020 12:19 PM

Please do not let our community suffer anymore!

We need a real Police Force still! Provide new training on how best to react in a crisis, accountability and recognition of the consequences in any physical encounter/use of force - keep those camera's on!

A counselor cannot manage a Murderer, An Armed Madman hell bent on harming people, or provide the needed protection in a home invasion or armed robbery - What type of craziness is this? Really? Please Defend our Police!

Do Not Defund - there is plenty of opposition, the polls will not go in your favor - Just saying.

Tue 7/21/2020 12:27 PM

your online public comment form is having an error

i am using firefox browser

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

yes renaming is good

I don't understand what becomes of Arradondo- I like him and I think he should be a part of the new organization.

would this position supervise Arradondo?

(1) Director of Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department. The Mayor nominates and the City

would this be Arradondo?

(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.

Tue 7/21/2020 1:03 PM

I do not want Police defunded or abolished.

I feel more time is needed to draft a proposal. I feel there will not be enough time for public comment or Charter Commission to evaluate.

I do not feel most people know how to comment on proposal. I do not feel there has been enough publicity about public meetings. I am mostly getting my info about dates and times from Kingfield neighborhood.

There are too many guns, blatant burglaries, assaults and shootings to not have an effective police force. Powderhorn encampment and area around 38/Chicago tried to do without police and both have had significant violence.

I agree Mental Health/SW/ community resources can help. However often police need to back up on SW, child protection, Public Health Nurse visits due to guns in community. I know this from community workers.

In the hospital I work at, Security comes to Behavioral Emergencies As a back up. They are a back up when things are violent to protect patients and staff. However, they are also beRn well trained in deescalation and very effective part of the team. Amazingly, just the sight of the uniform makes some patients settle down and deescalate. The gravity of the situation becomes apparent. We also have have situations of delirious patients, acute psychological emergencies, drugs, acute withdrawal from drugs, or acute medical disorders leading to unsafe situations for patients and staff. The Security is a valuable part of the team in helping defuse and prevent injury. I think the police should be part of this role for the community.

Don't abolish police. Even Camden, NJ has a police force and actually have added to their numbers.

Thoughtful change yes. But involve the community and allow enough time for comment. Rush to make November ballot is very concerning. Not sure Charter even needs to be changed to change police. We need Charter vote to decide.

Don't abolish or Defund police.

Tue 7/21/2020 1:10 PM

I do not support the Council recommendations. I do NOT want the Charter changed at this time.

I can support what I have seen from Mayor Frey including ability for team members to step in to stop actions and encouraging/incenting police to live where they work.

THESE are positive moves to modify behavior and strengthen our police presence while moving to a better force.

The Council should stop trying to disband or handicap the police force. We NEED police.

Do you want budgeting for police District by District???? MAYBE that could work because you certainly have Districts who want and need police response and protection which the Council proposal would like to severely handicap.

Tue 7/21/2020 1:13 PM

Hello,

I am 100% for police reform, but I would not vote to change the city charter until I saw a very detailed alternative plan that made sense and looked like it could keep our citizens safe. Why not start with moving the funding of the police department towards the minimum required, and use saved funds for additional safety resources?

We can not afford to be with out a police department right now with all of the violence our city is undergoing. We can't afford for criminals and anarchists to think that Minneapolis is lessening their public safety presence. I want someone to come if I need to call 911.

Yes we need complete reform. But we have a good chief in place right now. Let's start with reform.

Thanks

Tue 7/21/2020 1:15 PM

This is a rediculas proposal. Yes we need to change the way people are treated by some police officers. I agree.

However, our City Council and their private security force paid for with tax payer money, did NOTHING to solve this.

Our police are needed more than ever right now. As a ward 3 resident for over 33 years, my neighborhood is no longer a safe place to live. I get to PAY for all the DAMAGE from the RIOTS, and my city council wants to take away any police protection from me. If they suceed, I will move OUT of this city next year!

Is that clear enough for you to understand? There are 4 homes for sale in 2 blocks of me right now. Do you get the message?

I will be forced out of my home of 33 years, due to a stupid city council, that wants me to have NO police, but also wants me to pay for their private security force.

I say vote all the city council OUT, and defend them permanently.

Thank you,

3rd ward resident

Tue 7/21/2020 1:24 PM

Absolutely DO NOT remove our Minneapolis Police Department and try to replace it with a poor, sad substitute. Our MPD is 99% good, caring officers, who are well-trained and knowledgeable. If we lose our police force, I will have to move in order to feel safe and protected. I am almost 81 years old, and I live alone. The sight of a police car cruising my neighborhood is a joyful thing. I live in the 3rd Precinct, and vote at every election. Please back off any elemental changes to what works, and works well.

Tue 7/21/2020 1:20 PM

I do not support the City Council's proposal to amend the city charter for the purpose of restructuring the police system. I noted in the news this morning (Washington Post) that most U.S. adults are opposed to reducing funding for police departements and spending that money on social services instead.

Changing the city charter this early with no specific plans for alternative management in place is foolhardy and irresponsible. While reducing funding for the police may ultimately be the best action, it is a very significant action, and requires careful thought, planning, and preparation before implementation. I see no evidence that such preliminary steps have been taken. Going forward with the proposal for the election ballot in November makes me profoundly unsettled regarding the need for peace and effective law enforcement in our city.

I also disagree with the drastic reduction in the mayor's power. This proposal strikes me as self-serving and supporting the City Council's desire for more power than they already have. They have not convinced me that this action is at all necessary.

I sincerely hope that you will reconsider this proposal. I will not vote for it should it be placed on the ballot.

Tue 7/21/2020 1:24 PM

What Neighborhood do you live in:

Ventura Village

Do you think our current system of policing is working:

I feel the current system could work with some reforms

IDEAS/COMMENTS about what is working, not working:

I live on Park Ave across from Peavey Park. Chicago/Franklin has been an extremely dangerous corner for the 4 years that I've lived in this neighborhood and I can't understand why there isn't police presence there 24/7. There are many hotspots here in the 3rd precinct and they should be monitored constantly. With constant presence, there will be less crimes committed.

I am a nyc native and for hot zones they have set up those giant surveillance cameras with facial recognition that were more than obvious recording and over time, less criminal activity happening.

There needs to be more police in communities, walking around, talking with residents, bring back the trust that is deserved of our officers. We need to be more aggressive with criminal take down and prevention, and to stop making it a racial thing. How can you want to "demilitarize" law enforcement, but support the military? A lot of great officers come from our military!

The real problem is a basic distrust of police because neighborhoods of color do not see officers that look like them patrolling their neighborhoods, but how is that the actual precincts fault if they do not choose to become officers? i just don't think it's completely fair to place the blame solely on our MPD. This state and city government is failing them and the residents.

3. Please share your ideas/concerns regarding the potential charter amendment proposed by the City Council to reconstruct the police department. If you would like to learn more about the proposed amendment, you can go to: <http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/charter/public-safety>

I am 100% against the amendment to defund the police. My interactions with MN police has ALWAYS been pleasant and professional. There are bad apples in every profession. But I think defunding the police is not the answer and we are see it firsthand with just the mentioning of this. Too many people are hearing "defund MPD" and thinking it's already done. They burned the precinct down and now taking advantage of the fact that my neighborhood and area doesn't have a precinct. So they come out to start shooting anyone they can. If we have more police present, I guarantee they wouldn't be so bold to do half the things they are getting away with doing.

The city council has has many opportunities to help reform the current system and they did not act on them for years. They do not have the mental capacity to do what these officers do every day. They also have made the officers jobs much harder during this time by making these ridiculous statements causing an over-abundance of criminal activity and I think the MPD needs to call them out on their irresponsible actions.

my heart really goes out to law enforcement at this time, not only are they dealing with the threat of a clown council defunding them during a pandemic, but now they're being kept busy all day and night from unnecessary street violence. How much more stress can these brave people take? Our city government has no backbone!

Chief Arradondo has been more than amazing. My neighborhood and many of our community activists completely support him and our officers.

4. What ideas do you have to increase the safety and peace in our community?

At this current time, I think we need to call back the national guard and have more presence in the streets. Us residents do not feel safe anymore after a certain time. As a single female, i do not feel safe in a city that should not have this many crime issues.

Our mayor, our governor and the minneapolis city council are failing at providing a safe environment for residents and a safe environment for law enforcement to do their job. They need to do what is right and call in more reinforcements to give our officers a break for once!

I have seen first hand the amount of community outreach officers have done prior to the george floyd incident. There are still residents that live here that do not agree with our current system but it starts with the people we have running (or ruining) this city. Officers do not make laws, they serve and protect them. If any of these overly liberal progressives had any sort of clue in their free thinking brains, they'd realize this and stop making the police lives a living hell.

Tue 7/21/2020 1:29 PM

My name is [REDACTED]. My wife, 2 yr. old daughter, and I live in Minneapolis across from Hiawatha Park (28th Ave. South - district 12). We are very concerned about the City Council's proposed amendment to the city charter to remove the Police Department from the charter and replace it with a "holistic community safety and violence prevention department".

We strongly implore you to deny this amendment request until the City Council presents a more detailed and thoughtful proposal of what this new department could look like, what it would cost, and most importantly how it will create a safer, more orderly city.

Giving them approval to add this to the November ballot without a thoughtful and researched outline for what comes if it's (*Godforbid*) passed would only embolden criminals more than they already are, as indicated by the recent crime wave plaguing Minneapolis.

While I am strongly for reform, increased transparency, and harsher punishments for bad actors within the police department, disbanding the force and replacing it with the undetailed proposal that's been dreamed up by the current City Council is nothing more than a whimsical wish for peace and order, without a concrete plan to achieve law and order - ***the people of Minneapolis deserve more.***

I appreciate your consideration and welcome follow-up if I can provide any additional thoughts or feedback.

Tue 7/21/2020 1:31 PM

I have lived in Minneapolis for over fifty years. I am adamantly opposed to changing changing the city charter in regards to removing and replacing our police department. I am already seeing several neighbors selling their houses and moving because of the lawlessness brought about by the mere hint of eliminating our police. Minneapolis is becoming a haven for armed robbery, home and garage break ins, assaults, rapes and drug dealing. With no one to enforce the laws, what good are they?

Tue 7/21/2020 1:31 PM

Dear Charter Commissioners,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a resident of Minneapolis. I also teach at the University of Minnesota and am very much invested in our community. I believe Minneapolis can be at the forefront of much-needed structural change. And you can help make that happen.

Please, I urge you to allow the amendment the City Council created to go on the ballot in November. Let the residents of our city vote on it so that we can decide how to better take care of each other, especially those among us who are Black, Indigenous, and of color. We have collectively failed them, over and over again. The time to act is now, not later.

Sincerely

Tue 7/21/2020 1:34 PM

Proponents of the Charter revision have done interesting research on how the Minimum Authorized Force was hurried into the charter 60 years ago. I feel the current council is resorting to much the same abusive hurry-up offense, or *of-FENSE* if you will. Proponents know, some even admit, they are trying to seize unprecedented momentum and hunger for drastic change. This is an abhorrent method of governance, from some who promised better quality and transparency no less. And for those who think a slapdash revision of the charter and a vague promise or allowance to defund/disband/dismantle/destroy PD/decertify the Federation is to honor the memory of George Floyd, it could be argued it's similarly a cynical dishonor.

I express my respect and appreciation for the current council often. I've met many personally. I try to honor their largely thankless effort. But to enact a major power shift about a crucial core service, and then promise to engage about it later is, I'm sorry, just asinine. All of them are smarter than this. No one pays a laborer for contract work a year in advance. This council has signaled clearly what they want to do. If given the keys, they'll drive off...a cliff. They want this action soon as yesterday, so that a) THEY are the ones in power of it and b) maybe so they don't have to run alongside this issue, which would likely be a tremendous motivator of the typically disengaged more conservative or complacent Minneapolis voter. Some of the council won their elections by a sliver during a progressive wave. Do the math.

I stand corrected about the new CS&VP leader. It's not that they CAN'T have LE experience, but they must have OTHER public service education. I'm guessing many police also have more public health exposure than a public health technician has LE training. It also signals strongly that the council already has their personnel selection in mind so they've created a very specific pre-req as a block out. And, credible rumors are brewing that the council has a sitting COUNCILPERSON on the short list. (Hence the urgency.) I don't like to trade in rumors, but if this is true, it's an outrage. But there is precedent for this council up-selling one of their own, unfortunately (lack of qualifications notwithstanding), so citizens would have to take this as a distinct possibility.

Prior to the emergency restructuring of standing committees, believe it or not Minneapolis had a committee for PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT. "Emergency Management." (I know, right? lol) I watched that group fairly closely as I tried to testify a few times . . .when they didn't postpone on short-notice. Would we say that was a high-functioning body? Did they really do all they could on reform and culture change? Did the well-compensated members devote both their office hours and community hours fully to the needs of keeping Minneapolis on solid footing, or were there other political

ambitions and diversions and distractions undercutting this committee's energy and commitment? Some worked very hard on researching issues and problem-solving. Some just did a lot of griping. They are wide-open to the charge that they let city problems fester to crisis level, ignored obvious warning signs, now they want to manage the crisis? It's quicker and less labor-intensive than actually doing the hard groundwork, or the necessary back-channeling. Citizens begged them repeatedly to open their eyes to the increasing crime dangers in the city. And a full-scale riot MIGHT suggest that the threat was out there and the people, "for once," were right. I, personally, could NOT get some of them to even consider the realities. "There's a [false] perception of crime" they said. "National crime stats are down," they said, as if it mattered to the more cosmopolitan and culturally complex Minneapolis. "More police wouldn't have prevented the shooting at Crave" restaurant, as if crime reduction only works by live interception, not long-term intel, or that physical presence isn't a deterrent in the moment 99.9% of the time. None of that seemed to fit their pre-existing position: "We are safe, we don't need more, or any, police." I'm sorry, I just don't think the council has fully earned the rights intended by themselves, for themselves.

Proponents of the revision do have a point that the public deserves a vote and a voice. Similarly, voters deserve to know what they are voting on. Proponents who suggest that "if the wording is found faulty, it will be voted down." That's really a high-wire act, or an outright trick if it misleads -- casually or deliberately -- what the revision enables or directs. Again, the council appears to be delegating responsibility. For a body that surrendered to Police Federation power every chance they got, and who again is dumping it on the the Charter Commission, they sure crave a lot of power now. I'm not impressed.

Proponents argue that "the charter is not the place for specific policy direction and detail."; But the AUTHORS are the ones who went part way down this road. "...the establishment of a new Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department and to **remove the Police Department.**" The technical department, or its constituent members? I just find it all hard to discern for lack of quality, multi-faceted engagement and discussion on the severe complexities of this high-speed chase. Average citizens of Minneapolis, and at this point, worldwide observers, are under the distinct impression that Minneapolis just removed all their cops. We banned high-speed chases in Minneapolis. Let's call this one off as well.

The city is in severe financial crisis. That should be their focus. We need more time for this debate, and THAT seems far more democratic than saying, "time's up" before we've even started. And if current leaders want to better fund the existing Office of Violence Prevention, it's lack of fiscal prudence other than police budgeting that impedes them. And a fiscal crisis seems an odd time to create a whole new city department, unless you really plan some serious downsizing. City leaders have done about as little as possible, even in an emergency revision. We could end up with the WORST of both worlds, not the best. But, we are not here to debate public policy. So this may not be the time to ask what is the ballpark budget for social spending that would make even a small dent in the need for law enforcement? 500K? 1m? 10m? 45m? 193 million? How much do we spend now? What is the size of the gap, remembering that Minneapolis is merely one city in a large state, and does not operate its school district. Which social spends truly prevent societal breakdown. Which spend enhances it?

Lastly, I was privy to a community survey on the future of policing around 3rd Precinct. We're not a political group per se, as much as a citizens conduit for feedback and information. We received 300 online responses and more by mail. You might expect that a police and safety-oriented citizens group might lean toward status quo. True, there was not great appetite for outright abolition of police. But there is a LOT of dissatisfaction, either on the ethics and conduct side, or the basic service and performance side. Or both. So many desired again for a police force that had personal connection and concern for out neighborhoods, a value we've lost, through the work of all of us to a degree. And less numerous, but no less vociferous,

was citizen disgust with the lawlessness that pervades, which increasingly was tolerated or promoted by elected leaders, and which put PD in an untenable, and unsustainable position, and then all of us in a dangerous spot. There is absolutely no certainty that ever-changing elected leaders have all the right answers.

There is MUCH agreement -- almost unanimous consent -- the scope of police work needs re-exam. But the instrument for that is bright light and a sharp knife, not a keg of dynamite. (I've had enough of flammable explosives for a while, thank you.)

There is also much agreement that the current Federation president must abdicate for any good to proceed. I can't get a clear answer if this charter movement is really a device to eliminate the current force and reconstitute it. I'll be honest, it's appealing. Some people truly believe A.C.A.B. (all cops are. . .), but most believe there are good and bad and they want the better and want free right away of the worst. Would this technique even legally allow that? How many perceived "bad cops," are there? If this revision is an instrument to that end, but it isn't truly allowable, why are we doing this major revamp at a time of so much other organizational stress on the city? I understand political reality, and sometimes you just cannot be utterly and absolute candid, but I don't like the possible unspoken or ulterior motives of this design, not in this much hurry and about such a fundamentally important city function. I totally understand the community disgust and determination, but all but a very few of us in various communities need more time to see the bigger pictures.

Some have argued it is not the Commission's job to evaluate policy aim or strength, or put their thumb on a scale. I would guess the Commission's job is to serve the public interest by avoiding careless calamity through popular misunderstanding and official underhandedness. I wish you well in that, however you move. I also hope that the threats of direct physical intimidation to the Commission that I heard expressed by at least one of the revision's strongest public agitators did not truly come to pass.

Thank you.

Currently in Page Neighborhood, Chicago Avenue

Tue 7/21/2020 2:34 PM

I think that it is a grave mistake in removing the Minneapolis from the charter. A very few police will be left. That will be a travesty,

I know that you are proposing citizen patrols. There MUST be backgrounds run on each person selected. This should be at least a nationer search. They SOULD NOT have guns, No gang members!!!

Thank you.

Tue 7/21/2020 2:47 PM

Hello,

What is your plan? How can you recommend a change without a replacement plan? Slow down! I get you want to have this on the ballot in November, but if you don't have a concrete plan in place you will lose confidence in your proposed amendment. People will stop going down town if they don't feel safe. Conventions won't come to town, investors won't buy buildings in Minneapolis. All of this equals loss of revenue and compromised programs. You need to define what you see the future of Minneapolis to be.

Tue 7/21/2020 2:51 PM

Hello, 17 year resident of Minneapolis, Nokomis area. Here is my comment.

Do not defund the police. Reform yes, defund no. Listen to our black and brown communities. You made this decision in a vacuum without their feedback.

Tue 7/21/2020 2:51 PM

I am not in favor of altering the City charter with regards to removing the Police department and adding a Community Safety & Violence Department. I favor accomplishing the same goal in coordination with the existing police department or adding a Community Safety & Violence Department without altering the City charter.

Tue 7/21/2020 3:29 PM

I support the council's decision to remove the police department in favor of more proactive measures to prevent crime and violence in our community. The MPD has proven itself, on multiple occasions, detrimental to our communities of color and ineffective in making our community feel safer. I firmly believe the funding previously intended for MPD can be better allocated by investing in preventative, community-building initiatives.

Tue 7/21/2020 3:36 PM

You all suck ass.

Tue 7/21/2020 4:07 PM

I write to explain my comments in case technical or time constraints prevent me from making a public comment via phone as planned. Below are my thoughts.

I am thoroughly disappointed that the council has failed to aggressively reform our policing structure in Minneapolis. I encourage the council to take much more dramatic action, including adopting the recommendations of Communities United Against Police Brutality. That being said, the charter amendment represents a baby step in the right direction and I will not let perfection be the enemy of the good.

I support removing the MPD as a required city department, and support the removal of minimum funding requirements. Those two things together can help reduce the harmful effects that the MPD causes on communities of color.

I encourage the committee to immediately approve the charter amendment and ensure that it gets on the ballot in November. But that cannot be the end. You have to do better by dramatically decreasing funding for the MPD, and shifting those resources to community programs. You also have to provide community accountability for police misconduct, including at the highest levels of the MPD.

Thank you for beginning this work, but you are far from done and more is required.

Sincerely

Tue 7/21/2020 4:34 PM

I am writing to express my disapproval what I feel like is a well-intentioned, but completely misguided attempt to address abuse by some police officers.

I have traveled to places that have a lack of police and they were scary places where crime was rampant and citizens didn't even leave their homes after dark. Power vacuums are ALWAYS filled and usually by criminal elements such as gangs.

I have called the police to intervene in violent crimes in progress and their response times were life-saving. When I lived on Blaisdell, I saw police respond within a couple minutes to a violent mugging. When I lived on Lake Street, I saw police intervene almost immediately in a violent beating in the Sullivans parking lot that likely could have saved the victim's life. I have ZERO confidence that any sort of unarmed social worker (or whatever you want to rebrand a police alternative as) would have saved those people. Although well-intended, blood of victims will be on the hands of the city if they take away police.

Like most people, I want justice for George Floyd and anyone else who suffers police abuse, but gutting a life-saving service over the actions of a few is insane.

If we get rid of police and crime goes up more than it already has, I will definitely leave Minneapolis.

Sincerely

Tue 7/21/2020 4:36 PM

Council Members – I think it would be a huge mistake to defund/dismantle the police. This appears to be a kneejerk reaction intended to appease the vocal minority, but it is wrong to lump 800 men and women into the same category as the officer who murdered George Floyd. Two months ago these same men and women were considered heroes in their roles as first responders during the still ongoing COVID 19 pandemic.

There seems to be some magical thinking going on in the City Council regarding what will be accomplished by letting the police go. Somehow if we dismantle the police, the shootings will stop, kids will do better in school, and the homeless will all have a place to live. I think that it shows a lot about who you are when you dismiss minority community leaders who are asking you NOT to dismantle the police. Shouldn't they have a voice? They know, as I know, up on the north side where we live that we need the police to stay safe. It's no coincidence that once you announced that you decided to defund the police, violent crime escalated. Most criminals are opportunists and you handed them the ultimate opportunity.

Consider in this police free society who you will call when someone you love has a heart attack or stroke, the police are the first ones to respond and they are there in minutes. Who are you going to call when someone is crawling through your window? A social worker? Try to remember that the citizens of Minneapolis for the most part do not have private security, and please remember that you represent all the citizens of Minneapolis, not just the "woke" minority.

Thank you

Tue 7/21/2020 5:16 PM

I support adding the charter amendment as written by the City Council to the ballot for a public vote this November.

I do not support a delay beyond this election, and I do not support an alternative amendment that was crafted by a group other than the City Council.

Tue 7/21/2020 5:23 PM

Hello,

I live in Minneapolis and Johnson is my CM. I support defunding and/or abolishing our current policing system and building something new from the ground up with community involvement.

Thanks

Tue 7/21/2020 5:34 PM

I will be short and concise with my comments.

I am writing in favor of the Charter Commission approving the advancement of this proposed amendment to the city's charter in a time frame which allows for it to be included on the ballot during the November election. Given the extraordinary circumstances occurring on and after May 25th, 2020, it is important to allow the citizens of Minneapolis to vote on the changes included in this proposal.

The portion of the city charter in the section related to the Police contains a glaring flaw, in that it includes a specific formula for a minimum size of a police force. By itself, that warrants the need for an amendment, but I don't believe simply narrowing the issue to that is sufficient. I believe the proposed amendment is appropriately written in its current form and I do not believe that it needs further revision. It provides a solid framework or foundation at a structural or governance level, which is my understanding of how the city charter should work.

The majority of the City Council is in favor of this proposal. I firmly believe and support the proposal, as written, including the use of the word "may" in regards to the division of law enforcement and licensed peace officers, and believe that allowing it on the ballot will allow it to be properly vetted and voted upon by all of the City's residents.

Please, please, please let the residents of Minneapolis vote on this.

Thank you

Tue 7/21/2020 5:59 PM

Commissioners: Barry Clegg (Chair), Jan Sandberg (Vice-Chair), Peter Ginder (Secretary), Greg Abbott, Dan Cohen, Jill Garcia, Alvaro Giraud-Isaacson, Andrew Kozak, Barbara Lickness, Jana Metge, Toni Newborn, Matt Perry, Lyall Schwarzkopf, Andrea Rubenstein, and Christopher Smith

I am writing to encourage you all to advance the proposed Charter amendment in time for it to be included on the ballot this November. Because the police department is codified in the City Charter, real reform is not possible until that changes. While I support the amendment as written, I understand that there are some who do not. However, the only way we all get a say is if we are allowed to vote on it this fall.

Mayor after Mayor have demonstrated that the current structure does not allow for real reform at the police department. It's time to change the organizational structure and system of accountability. Please move the amendment back to Council.

Tue 7/21/2020 6:15 PM

Hello Charter Commission,

I received the wrong phone number for tonight's meeting and was unable to voice my testimony. I am a Black Minneapolis native of Ward 5 and I am in favor of moving the charter amendment forward as written so that we can vote in November. My neighbors and I deserve the opportunity to participate in meaningful conversations to transform public safety in Minneapolis, a public safety built on justice and equity for all. Thank you!

Tue 7/21/2020 6:20 PM

Hello,

I have some serious concerns about this charter amendment. I agree that we need to make changes, but we cannot abolish the police. I am particularly concerned about community policing. How will we ensure that the citizens will not use this power to take advantage of the citizens in the community? We have seen corruption both in the police and in the community, do we really think that there won't be corruption in the community model? What if a neighbor uses their power over those they do not like? How are we going to check this? We need both police and the community to work together, we can't just have one or the other. Also, what if a community deems certain activities okay? Like drug activity and people are not held accountable? I'm seriously concerned that citizens will ignore certain laws and not take community policing seriously. I want to live in a safe, clean community without drugs. Look at the mess at Powderhorn? The citizens decided to not call the police and let people do what they want. People have been shot, someone has been assaulted, is that what community policing looks like?

Tue 7/21/2020 6:26 PM

City Council Members,

While I understand the heart behind the amendment, and the subsequent defunding of police in the aftermath of a deeply emotional and painful time in our city, a city that I grew up in, in the Kingfield neighborhood, I respectfully ask that you look beyond.

That you see beyond the emotion, the guilt and the responsibility we are all feeling now, to the long term. Our poorer communities are crying out on the news and social media for more law enforcement in their neighborhoods, not less. We need to hear them, not be deafened by the voices ringing in our ears, that say they speak for these communities. Almost as soon as the Police department was rendered impotent by unprecedented lack of support and openly despised, crime took a leap in our city, unchecked.

Tue 7/21/2020 8:22 PM

Hello, I am [REDACTED], homeowner in the Field neighborhood, Ward 8, volunteer with the ACLU.

Thank you for your time today and for all your efforts.

Minnesota welcomed me 14 years ago, Minneapolis became my home 7 years ago - and as a transplant from Phoenix, it's the amazing depth of this city that made me love it *despite* our winters. However, the city is *not* amazing for all its residents. Living so close to where George Floyd was murdered made an ongoing truth impossible to ignore.

Though police reform has happened, our Black community members keep being killed. Reforms aren't enough - they're band-aids on a system that, even when well intentioned, is rooted in a history of slavery and oppression. Detroit has been invoked - they have police: over 2000. The amendment provides flexibility to change. Without it, planning cannot begin in earnest as our attention will always be divided. With this on the ballot, we can vote. With the change, Andrea Jenkins and our city council representatives can continue the changes we are already participating in.

Please put the amendment on the ballot, and give *all* the people of Minneapolis the opportunity to vote.

Thank you again - I imagine this is a long process. Your patience while we all worked through the phone number issues and technical difficulties on the call was appreciated!

Tue 7/21/2020 8:37 PM

Dear City Council Members,

I am a resident of Ward 3 and I urge you to put the proposed charter amendment on public safety on the November 2020 ballot. It is time to start moving forward to create a public safety model in this city that protects people of color and Black and Indigenous people. We cannot wait any longer or lives will continue to be lost. Let the people of Minneapolis vote on this amendment.

Thank you

Tue 7/21/2020 9:23 PM

To the Charter Commission:

I strongly support you moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. This decision needs to be made by the people of Minneapolis and no one else. Every person wants and needs to feel safe, but for so many of us, the current system is actively unsafe and violent. Minneapolis is a creative and innovative place, and it's time for us to pave the way forward for a new future of public safety, one that relies on genuine community input and not on people coming from outside of our city to police us. The time is NOW!

Tue 7/21/2020 9:44 PM

Tue 7/21/2020 9:44 PM

I didn't get a chance to speak tonight although I was listed to give public comment.

I want to applaud the city council for a proposal that reframes policing as a single component of a holistic community safety. In a short time, they've created a clean, intelligent proposal that organically creates a transition from existing structure, and I'm excited to vote for this in November.

If the commission's proposal, which takes the smaller step of removing the policing minimums, is also on the ballot, I'm fine with that. What I'm not fine with is pushing this back 16 months.

When the commission expresses concerns about the readiness of this amendment for the ballot, I guess I'm not totally clear what the concerns are.

If you have concerns about the outcomes, vote with us in November. If you have concerns about the phrasings and structure of the proposal though - I work at a fortune 300 in the area and I know what a deadline for a big project means. **Don't tell me you can't revise half a page of content to have clarity of vision, with clean, tight language in 2 weeks time. Don't tell me that you need another 12 months - I don't accept that as true.** If you have concerns about the language, spend these next two weeks making small refinements.

Don't spend your time on counter proposals, or dragging your feet in a way that guarantees we will miss the moment.

To this end, my feedback for the current proposal is as follows: I worry that the language "restorative justice" is alienating, and I worry that the term "may" instead of "must" for the existence of the law enforcement division is likewise alienating, and functionally unnecessary. I want to have a clearer understanding of what it means when we replace the term "police" with "law enforcement".

Spend your time working with the city council to ensure that the proposed amendment clearly conveys the intentions, and don't tell me you need 12 months to do it!

Thank you for the consideration.

Tue 7/21/2020 10:20 PM

Hello,

I wish to enter a comment into the public record.

I support the charter amendment drafted by the City Council regarding the elimination of the Minneapolis Police Department from the City Charter. The City Council has been elected by the citizens of Minneapolis whereas the Charter Commission has not. Why would I as a voter and citizen want an unelected board to draft an amendment of their own on this issue? Let the people vote on the amendment offered by the City Council this November 2020.

Tue 7/21/2020 11:48 PM

I do not agree with defunding and/or disbanding the Minneapolis Police Department! I believe that the entire department needs to reevaluate its policies and procedures. Ban choke holds and unnecessary aggressive tactics of force. We need law and order. We need to get back to "To protect and serve"! The entire police force should not be punished for the actions of a few bad actors!! There are many of us that feel this way and will be at the polls in November! Please take this in to consideration and make the right decision.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Tue 7/21/2020 11:53 PM

Dear Minneapolis City Council and Charter Commission,

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. Give the people of Minneapolis the space to craft something better than policing, we can do it, but the charter can't stand in the way.

Tue 7/21/2020 11:59 PM

As a former staff member of various crisis hotlines, I know that resources for survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, trafficking and other forms of abuse are always slim in Minneapolis. Helping someone get shelter, financial help, legal assistance, and other support for themselves and their children is very difficult to near impossible. Often those reaching out did not want to involve the police due to concerns for safety. In order to truly increase public safety for all, we need more funding for prevention and intervention services to help our communities support those experiencing violence in their homes. We need public safety solutions that empower survivors to get the help they need. Let the public vote for solutions that reduce the over-reliance on policing that does not provide help to those living in violent situations.

Wed 7/22/2020 12:31 AM

To Charter Commission members:

I write to you all as a long-time resident of Minneapolis. The Minneapolis Police Department has repeatedly demonstrated that it is fiercely committed to enacting racist violence on the people of Minneapolis, especially those who are Black, Latino, and Indigenous, and that it cannot be reformed. What happened at Powderhorn Park on Monday is only the most recent example, where after weeks of failing to protect unsheltered homeless people in our community, Minneapolis Police Officers dragged people out of tents and bulldozed their belongings.

The Minneapolis community is currently engaged in talking about the charter amendment, and the best time to place it on the ballot is right now, while it is at the center of the public conversation.

We deserve to have the option of developing public safety and violence prevention programs that do not involve policing. I request that you use your power to facilitate democratic community participation by moving forward now with placing the charter amendment on the ballot for the voters to decide.

Thank you.

Wed 7/22/2020 7:52 AM

While I appreciate that it's imperative to make drastic changes to the police dept., I do not support amending the charter at this time. I believe there are changes that can and should be made immediately without the amendment. I can not support eliminating the police dept. all together without a comprehensive plan in place.

Wed 7/22/2020 8:55 AM

Charter Committee,

I know you had loud voices from organized groups that are associated with the Council Members. Please know they do not speak for all of the residents. They are a small and loud group who has time to go to meetings. MANY MANY residents in North Minneapolis were not heard last night, which is typically the case. I have been a resident of Minneapolis for 30 years and Northside for 20. I am also a small business owner in North. We are rarely heard or listened to by the city so many of us have stopped trying.

Until we have a detailed plan, with departments, data and research we should not be voting on the defunding of the MPD. Because we ultimately don't know what we are voting for. It is incredibly

irresponsible of this council to propose a vote with NO details. It's rushed and fueled by political ambition and emotion.

Since Memorial day there have been two 2 shootings on my street where 30 to 50 rounds have been fired and one man died on a front lawn. A 7 year old was shot in the foot coming out of the store and 3 women, two who were pregnant have been brutally murdered and 50 children ages 5 to 10 years that had to hit the ground during football practice. Our police are running from one crime scene to the next and I am running inside during gardening to dodge bullets. This level of trauma and chaos is not the city that I love.

We need BOTH an adequately staffed and radically reformed MPD and a public health approach to violence.

Wed 7/22/2020 9:23 AM

Dear charter commission,

I am a concerned Minneapolis resident, and I'm upset about the violence and corruption that has been allowed to explode in our city's police department. As we all know, policing doesn't reduce violence or crime. I am writing to demand that you allow the amendment to defund the Minneapolis Police Department to go to a vote.

We CAN have a democratic, peaceful, lawful city in the United States, but first you need to do your job and allow our city to vote.

Thanks

Wed 7/22/2020 9:48 AM

To the Minneapolis Charter Commissioners,

I want to state my support of the proposed amendment to the Minneapolis City Charter to remove the MPD as a required City Department, with the purpose of putting it to a ballot vote in November. Our city, like many many other cities, is seriously dysfunctional when it comes to making sure that all residents feel safe in their homes and neighborhoods. This is an opportunity to show the rest of the country that there is another way of keeping the public safe, and to make good on the promises we made in the wake of George Floyd's murder at the hands of MPD. We are looking to you to lead the way.

Wed 7/22/2020 9:49 AM

Good morning,

Yesterday I tuned into the hearing to hear the community's opinions about putting the city council's proposed amendment on the November ballot. I live in Powderhorn Park and sat on my front porch while listening to the hearing and could also hear a gathering at the George Floyd Memorial at the same time, and I was also aware of the protests happening yesterday regarding the death of Calvin Horton who was killed during the riots by a white pawnshop owner. My concerns with the organized voices in yesterday's hearing is that the majority of callers are from South Minneapolis and from less troubled areas of the city. Very few callers were from Wards 1-5.

The very fact that privileged people are able to participate in a virtual hearing means that they are getting the loudest voice. I have concerns about this.

I am following the Citizens United Against Police Brutality who have been working on this issue for years and . They're proposals are endorsed by:

Asamblea de Derechos Civiles

Black Lives Matter Minnesota

Black Lives Matter Twin Cities Metro

Blue LIES Matter

CAIR-MN Justice for Marcus Golden

Minnesota Disability Justice Network

Racial Justice Network

Twin Cities Coalition for Justice 4 Jamar

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/cuapb/pages/270/attachments/original/1595193284/Understanding_the_City_Council_Charter_Amendment_2020.pdf?1595193284

These voices DO want a law enforcement division but are in favor of getting rid of the minimal funding that is part of the current charter and advocate for diverting financial resources to other social programs and along with other proposed policies for a law enforcement division. I encourage a change in the wording of the proposed amendment or an alternative amendment to vote for on the November ballot that still keeps a law enforcement division a requirement in the charter without minimal funding.

Thank you.

Wed 7/22/2020 9:49 AM

I've lived in my home for 70 years and have ALWAYS felt safe.

My opinion is, don't disband police. Retrain them and get rid of Bob Kroll, he is a racist and we don't need anyone like him pulling the strings of our police department.

Thank you

Wed 7/22/2020 9:49 AM

Dear Minneapolis Charter Commissioners,

I'm writing today to urge you to advance the proposed amendment to the Minneapolis City Charter - to remove the Minneapolis Police Department as a required City Department and establish a new Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention - to the November 2020 ballot. This amendment is a critical first step in designing new systems for community-led safety across our city.

We do not need a militarized police force in this city; we need a department focused on safety and crime prevention. Too many lives are lost and damaged by reacting, instead of putting those same dollars into preventing crime and dangerous situations. Of course there are many details to be worked out, as we try to envision and create a new way to make our communities free of police brutality, intimidation, and crime, and safer for all residents.

However, advancing this measure to the ballot is an essential next step in continuing this conversation.

I ask that you as the Charter Commission put this amendment on the November 2020 ballot so that we as residents of the City of Minneapolis can decide what the future of public safety should look like. Give the people of Minneapolis the space to craft something better than policing. Let us vote. Do not delay the process. Complete your evaluation with the urgency required, and advance the Amendment to the Charter so that it can be on the ballot this November. Thank you for your consideration.

Wed 7/22/2020 9:52 AM

Mr. Clegg,

I believe that tonight's hearing conveyed an overwhelming belief in the rights of citizens to decide on this charter amendment. I **believe that the role of the commission should be to take what the council has proposed, to do your absolute best to understand the intent of the change, and to help them understand how to most articulately convey that intent.**

Please move to spend the commissions time on *that*, and not on hemming and hawing over a move forward, or an alternative proposal. Over these next two critical weeks, I'd like to see more "may v. must" conversation and less "should we or shouldn't we". One of those is substantive and productive, the other has clearly been decided by the citizens of Minneapolis.

Thank you

Wed 7/22/2020 9:54 AM

I was totally appalled at finding out that the council hired privet security firm while defunding the police. The police should be reviewed not defunding and these civilian vigilantes squads are not the answer. Gangs will chew them up. Peace officers are what we called the police. This is very unpopular and will look forward to ousting all of you out of office. We in north Minneapolis are tired of the lack of any funding for police, schools and community funding.

Thank you and see you at the voing polls.

Wed 7/22/2020 9:55 AM

Hello Commissioner Clegg,

My name is [REDACTED]; I'm a resident of Minneapolis and I have been highly engaged in the current affairs regarding public safety. I watched the Charter Commission's initial meeting with the City Council, in which the proposed amendment for the Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention was discussed. In that meeting, Commissioner Abbott proposed a substitute amendment that would give the Council the authority to conduct a two-year pilot project in part of Minneapolis to gather information before the city commits to an alternative public safety model.

My coworker and I strongly believe in the benefits of the city taking such an approach, so we drafted a 30-page proposal detailing how this pilot project could be structured. The proposal bears in mind the numerous logistical variables that must be taken into consideration when making changes to public safety practices.

Our proposal offers support for Commissioner Abbott's substitute amendment, and it may prove helpful to the Charter Commission in gaining common ground with the City Council. If you are interested in reading the proposal, please let me know and I will send you a copy.

Thank you for serving our city

Attachment:

TARGETED CRISIS RESPONSE
A Proposal for a New Crime and Community Safety Model in Minneapolis

[REDACTED] & [REDACTED]

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ABSTRACT

This proposal offers the means by which the city of Minneapolis may create a new approach to public safety. The writers believe that it is critical for the city to conduct a small-scale trial for an alternative safety model. Such a trial will allow the city to collect data on the effectiveness of the alternative model before it is implemented to serve the entire city. Four methods of operating a data-collection trial are offered: Absorption (With Police), Absorption (Without Police), Bypass, and Integration. Following the description of these four models, a number of factors are explored to ensure every logistical detail is taken into consideration. The proposal then concludes with the writers' informed recommendation of the Integration model, which is believed to be the most plausible and effective model based on the minimal changes required of the current infrastructure.

CONTEXT

In the wake of George Floyd's murder at the hands of four Minneapolis police officers, emotions have boiled over for many residents of the city. These emotions are not new, and they are not limited to police misconduct - the police serve as the front door of the intricate building that is the American criminal justice system. That system is one of several fundamental pillars of this country, believed by a number of Americans to be instruments of sustaining and worsening inequities along racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic lines. The police, and the accompanying feelings of discomfort, danger, and de facto oppression that certain groups of Americans feel toward them, are pieces of a much larger American puzzle.

The tension in Minneapolis is notably high, and understandably so. George Floyd's murder is one of the most well-documented cases of an unarmed civilian being killed by a police officer. The now infamous, graphic video of Floyd being suffocated for nearly eight minutes is deeply disturbing and tragic. Regardless of anyone's views on politics, policing, or racial inequality, there is no denying that George Floyd was killed while he was handcuffed and compliant by an MPD officer with three other officers present.

To the citizens of Minneapolis who view the police as instruments of targeted inequality rather than community safety, Floyd's murder has become the catalyst for serious conversations about the effectiveness of the police in addressing crime and keeping *all* residents of the city safe, including racial and ethnic minorities as well as communities affected by poverty. It is a worthy conversation, and one that has been going on in various capacities nationwide for decades. In light of this conversation now taking place in

Minneapolis, many residents have expressed a strong desire to see a new crime-and-crisis-response model implemented in the city; a model that can serve as an alternative to the current one, which, for the most part, begins and ends with the MPD.

This call for a new model finds itself at a striking point in history - a point in which a substantial number of Minneapolis residents, a majority of the city council, the mayor, the chief of police, and several members of Minnesota congress have expressed openness to significant changes to the status quo, which is to say that a historic ideological alignment between many various interest groups and institutions has come to fruition. That alignment is being undermined, however, by strong differences in opinion as to what the changes to the current model should be.

There has been a loud rallying cry throughout the city to abolish the MPD and allocate its funds to a new community safety model that does not yet exist. For some, the abolition of the MPD is indisputably necessary in creating this new model. To quote from *Enough is Enough!*, a report by the advocacy group MPD150, "The US police system... is not reformable," and, "the militarized, combative presence of police is not the medicine needed in our traumatized communities." For others, although similarly in favor of a new model, there is uncertainty about removing the institution of the police entirely. Not everyone is convinced that a model that doesn't involve a standard police force in some capacity will truly uphold the safety of the community at large.

POSITION

This debate as to whether or not the MPD should be abolished has minimized a very large and complex idea - creating an alternative approach to respond to crime and crisis is a serious undertaking. Regardless of the effectiveness of the police as the current model, there is no denying that the MPD is deeply woven into the infrastructure of the city as the primary government-implemented measure of crime-and-crisis-response (for emergencies that are not fire or medical). With that in mind, whether doing away with the MPD and replacing it with something else, or even maintaining the MPD and adding an alternative model to coincide with it, this is not simply a matter of creating an alternative crime-and-crisis-response. It is a matter of restructuring the government's law enforcement capacities to either function without the police, or with the police *and* a different group of crisis-responders. Both scenarios will require drastic policy changes in order for the new model to operate within the bounds of the law. These kinds of changes may be possible, but those in favor of such changes must

recognize that this is a deeply challenging venture; one that will require exhaustive cooperation between several different departments of state, county, and city government as well as the overwhelming support and confidence of Minneapolis-area residents.

If the aforementioned transformations are to be made, it is the firm belief of the writers that such changes will be most effective when enacted incrementally, as opposed to being enacted in one large action. The incremental approach allows for more method-testing, observation, data-collection, discovery of flaws, and improvements to the model. On the other hand, if a new community-safety model were to be implemented broadly and immediately, it is the fear of the writers that such an approach may cause harm to those it was designed to protect. Thus, the challenge of improving the model and lessening that harm would prove to be far more difficult than if the model was implemented more slowly and started out smaller. It is also the firm belief of the writers that the proposed methods and functionality of the new model must be supported by tremendous data, given that its functionality at scale will be largely theoretical.

These two core beliefs have led the writers to conclude that *before* action can be taken to significantly change the crime-and-crisis response model that exists in Minneapolis, a proposed new model must be tested at a small scale in order to provide the data necessary for theorizing such a model at the full, city-wide scale (or even beyond). What follows, then, is *not* a comprehensive model for addressing crime and community safety; instead, the writers offer the

means by which such a model could be created.

PREMISE

This proposal draws inspiration from a portion of MPD150's *Enough is Enough!* In that report, MPD150 highlights a number of programs and organizations operating in the Minneapolis area that specialize in responding to certain types of crime or crisis situations. For example, the report mentions the Hennepin County program COPE (Community Outreach for Psychiatric Services) which, along with a few similar programs, specializes in responding to mental health crises. Mental health is one of ten crisis areas listed in *Enough is Enough!* with existing response options other than the police. While the writers of this report are not affiliated with MPD150 and are not inherently aligned with MPD150's goal of abolishing the MPD, the writers do acknowledge *Enough is Enough!* for conceptualizing how certain *existing* programs and organizations could be further integrated into the city's crime-and-crisis-response methods.

In light of the fact that there are existing programs specializing in specific crisis areas, it is possible to theorize a future in which those programs are more heavily utilized for the crises that fall under their expertise. Continuing in this report, that idea will be referred to as **Targeted Crisis Response**, or **TCR**. The scope of situations requiring police response is broad; it ranges from petty crime all the way up to life-threatening emergencies - it is not a *targeted* approach to crime-and-crisis-response. Such a range of situations and responsibilities makes policing an incredibly difficult task. TCR, in theory, could make the duties of police officers simpler by limiting the scope of their work to crime and crisis situations that are particularly suited to police involvement. Drawing from the mental health example, if a mental health crisis was taking place and responders from a TCR initiative, like COPE, were sent out instead of the police, then 1.) that situation would be handled by specialists, who could potentially be more effective at de-escalating the matter or communicating with the individual in crisis, and 2.) police officers would not be sent out to handle a situation that falls outside the scope of their training or practices. This concept applies to any crisis area that existing TCR programs and organizations respond to currently, or could respond to in the future.

The writers believe that, *in theory*, Targeted Crisis Response has the potential to create more effective response experiences for Minneapolis-area residents, while also simplifying the responsibilities of the police force. The writers also acknowledge, again, that for these theories to become *models*, the efficacy of TCR must be tested via small-scale implementation. This would allow for data to be collected that will help the city gauge how effective TCR

service-providers are at responding to those particular crisis areas. That data can then be compared to police data for corresponding crisis responses, and once there is a clear side-by-side comparison, then *and only then*, will the city have a reasonable and justifiable foundation for integrating TCR into the current model of crime-and-crisis-response. As previously stated, this report is not *yet* advocating for any particular new model; it is advocating for a means by which a new model could be created. In other words, the following section is a model for how to make a model.

MODEL

The writers propose that Targeted Crisis Response be initially implemented for a data-collection trial at a regional level no larger than a ward, and no smaller than a neighborhood. The writers recognize that there are many programs and organizations, like the ones mentioned in MPD150's *Enough is Enough!*, that serve

as alternative responders to crime and crisis. However, the writers propose that one TCR crisis area be initially implemented into the model, with more crisis areas and corresponding service-providers added incrementally upon the model's success. Examples will be used throughout this section to illustrate that initial implementation; mental health will serve as the crisis area example, COPE will serve as the responder example, and Minneapolis Ward 5 will serve as the regional example (as Ward 5 Councilmember Jeremiah Ellison has been one of the strongest voices calling for an alternative crime-and-crisis-response model).

The writers propose four distinct models for a Targeted Crisis Response data-collection trial. The models all bear in mind three key aspects of general emergency response: dispatch, response, and documentation; they also give consideration to the complexity of emergency communication networks. Although these models are not the only means by which data may be collected, the writers find them to be well-suited to the task. The four models are **Absorption (With and Without Police)**, in which TCR will be directly grafted into standard 911 emergency services along with police, fire, and medical responders; **Bypass**, in which TCR will operate entirely separate from 911 emergency services; and **Integration**, in which TCR will not be directly grafted into 911 emergency services but will work cooperatively with 911 dispatch. The following sections will outline how these models will respond to an emergency scenario.

Diagrams of each model, along with a brief synopsis of the response procedures, can be found in **Appendix A**.

Absorption (Without Police):

COPE has its responders ready to respond to any mental health crisis in Ward 5. COPE has been added to 911 emergency services as a responder to be dispatched. For the trial period, COPE will only be dispatched when a mental health emergency is taking place in Ward 5. COPE will have access to ARMER (Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response) in order to receive instruction. A call comes to 911 dispatch concerning a mental health emergency in Ward 5. The dispatcher has received new training, in conjunction with Targeted Crisis Response implementation, and, seeing that this emergency falls under the scope of COPE response, directs this emergency to COPE. COPE has been added to the dispatcher's CAD (Computer-Aided Dispatch) screen as a responder option, in addition to police, fire, medical, and all other standard services that appear on the dispatcher's CAD. COPE receives the instruction and sends the appropriate responders to the scene. Police officers

are not dispatched along with COPE. If an arrest is to be made, or if the situation requires police intervention, COPE responders will have to make a 911 call themselves. When the crisis is resolved, COPE responders will be required to document the outcome of the incident as extensively as a police officer is required to complete a police report. That documentation will not only be filed into COPE databases, but also into a TCR repository.

Absorption (With Police):

When COPE is dispatched to the scene, police are also dispatched. Police are required, in conjunction with Targeted Crisis Response implementation, to permit COPE responders to handle the emergency without police intervention, unless requested by COPE responders. If the situation escalates beyond the capacity of the COPE responders, police officers are already on the scene and can quickly intervene. If the police intervene, COPE responders will still be required to document the outcome of the incident.

Note: Under the Absorption (With Police) model, it may prove advantageous to have TCR responders working in close physical proximity to the police precinct. For the sake of efficiency, it may be best to have TCR responders traveling with police officers in police vehicles to emergencies (more on this under **Considerations**).

Bypass:

COPE has its responders ready to respond to any mental health crisis in Ward 5. However, COPE has not been added as a responder to 911 emergency services; instead, COPE has been added as a responder to a separate Targeted Crisis Response dispatch which operates independently of 911 dispatch. For the trial period, TCR dispatch does not have or need immediate access to ARMER or the E911 dispatch network. TCR dispatch has its own three-digit phone number, as opposed to a standard 10-digit number; this easy-to-remember phone number will enable TCR dispatch to be as easily accessed by callers as 911 dispatch. When this number is called, the caller acknowledges that they have chosen to call TCR dispatch and not 911 dispatch. The caller acknowledges that if they are seeking police intervention, that they must call 911, and that by calling TCR dispatch, the caller is consenting to TCR intervention instead of police intervention. When a call for a mental health emergency comes in, and the location and nature of the emergency fall within the scope of TCR response, TCR dispatch will directly contact COPE, who will then send the appropriate responders. If the location and nature of the emergency are *not* within the scope of TCR response (e.g. if the call is coming from outside of the Minneapolis area, or the call is for an

urgent medical emergency), then the TCR dispatcher will either have to redirect the call to 911, or instruct the caller to hang up and call 911. If an arrest is to be made or the situation requires police intervention, the COPE responders will have to make a 911 call themselves. When the crisis is resolved, COPE responders will be required to document the outcome of the incident as extensively as a police officer is required to complete a police report. That documentation will not only be filed into COPE databases, but also into a TCR repository.

Note: The Bypass model as it is detailed above is structured for the initial implementation of TCR. Under initial implementation, since the amount of calls coming in will likely be considerably low given TCR's limited range of operation, access to the current emergency communications network (E911, ARMER, etc.) is not necessary. If the Bypass model is then scaled up to serve more crisis areas and larger regions, access to these emergency communication networks will be critical. However, under the Bypass model, TCR would conduct its own operations *separate* from 911 emergency services; therefore, TCR dispatch and TCR service-providers would require their own emergency communications network separate from E911 (more on this under **Considerations**).

Integration:

COPE has its responders ready to respond to any mental health crisis in Ward 5. COPE has not been added as a responder to 911 emergency services; instead, COPE has been added as a responder to a separate Targeted Crisis Response dispatch, which works *cooperatively* with 911 dispatch as opposed to separately. A call comes to 911 dispatch concerning a mental health emergency in Ward 5. The dispatcher has received new training in conjunction with TCR implementation, and, seeing that this is a mental health emergency, redirects this call to TCR dispatch. Instead of COPE being added to the dispatcher's CAD screen, TCR dispatch has been added to the screen as an option for directing the call. The TCR dispatch center receives the call from 911. COPE has not yet been notified; the call has simply been transferred from 911 dispatch to TCR dispatch. TCR then notifies COPE of the emergency and gives instruction, and COPE sends the appropriate responders to the scene. Police officers are not dispatched along with COPE; when 911 dispatch receives a call that falls under the scope of TCR, the 911 dispatchers simply redirect the call to TCR dispatch and their work is done. If an arrest is to be made, or if the situation requires police intervention, COPE responders will have to make a 911 call themselves. When the crisis is resolved, COPE responders will be required to document the outcome of the incident as extensively as a police officer is required to complete a police report. That documentation will

not only be filed into COPE databases, but also into a TCR repository.

Note: In emergency dispatch, seconds count, and they can be the determining factor in the outcome of a crisis. The Integration model inherently involves a call transfer, which some may argue costs valuable seconds, even if only a few. That said, the Integration model is predicated on the fact that call transfers *already* exist in various capacities in 911 dispatch. For example, in certain medical emergencies that require a civilian to take action before medical services arrive (e.g. CPR, symptoms analysis, etc.), the 911 dispatcher may transfer that call to a medical professional trained in coaching civilians through such action. In another example, the 911 dispatch center in Austin, TX splits its operators into two categories: call-takers and dispatchers. The call-taker receives the incoming 911 calls and records the necessary information given by the caller, but instead of dispatching emergency services themselves, the call-taker transfers the call to a dispatcher. The dispatcher views the information recorded by the call-taker, then alerts and instructs the corresponding emergency responders.

The advantage of this call transfer from 911 dispatch to TCR dispatch is fully realized as TCR reaches its capacity of crisis areas and corresponding responders. Under the **Absorption** model, when TCR reaches its capacity, 911 dispatchers will have several new responder options added to their CAD screen. It will require extensive training for these dispatchers to appropriately direct emergencies that fall within the scope of TCR. Given that 911 dispatchers already have a high-stress, high-pressure, high-proficiency task *currently*, the writers feel it best to make their job simpler, instead of making it more complicated. Under the **Integration** model, all the 911 dispatcher would need to know is the crisis areas that fall within the scope of TCR, and then make a simple call transfer. The 911 dispatcher doesn't have to do any extra critical thinking for a job that already requires extreme critical thinking for every call. It is of the utmost importance to the writers to consider the needs of emergency dispatchers, as they are the true first responders in any emergency.

CONSIDERATIONS

The **Absorption**, **Bypass**, and **Integration** models have been created with a partial understanding of the complexity of emergency response. All three models are subject to revision upon the writers' evolving insight into the complexity of emergency response. The writers acknowledge that even under the trial period, Targeted Crisis Response must be as efficient, expedient, and effective as standard 911 emergency services; the new community

safety model must be at *minimum* as good as the current model, and certainly no worse than the current model. That said, the writers also acknowledge that the efficiency, expediency, and effectiveness of the current model is attributable to a number of crucial factors, some of which have been alluded to within the models themselves. Here are just a few of them:

MN Emergency Communications Network:

The state emergency communications network allows 911 calls to be efficiently routed to the appropriate PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point, or 911 dispatch center) given the location of the caller, which is the reason that a 911 call made in Minneapolis is routed to a Minneapolis PSAP, and not a St. Paul PSAP. ARMER, a service of the state emergency communications network, allows dispatchers and emergency responders to expediently exchange information and instruction. In conjunction with Targeted Crisis Response implementation under any of the four models, changes would have to be made to the network. Assuming TCR is operating at scale, then under the **Absorption** model, TCR services would require the same access to the network as standard emergency responders. Under the **Bypass** model, TCR services will need their own network *separate* from 911 to receive calls from the public and to communicate with service-providers, which will be an extremely complex task. Under the **Integration** model, the TCR dispatch center would need access to the network to receive calls from 911 dispatch, and it would only need an *internal* network to communicate with TCR service-providers. It would not demand the *external* network, which receives calls from the public, as 911 dispatch is receiving the calls and then directing them to TCR dispatch. An internal communications network requires only TCR dispatch and TCR service-providers to have access to it, whereas the external network requires *every person in the Minneapolis area* to have access to it.

Any changes made to the state emergency communications network will require extensive approval, guidance, oversight, compliance, and cooperation between TCR and the Emergency Communications Network (ECN) division of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS), as well as the Metropolitan Emergency Services Board (MESB), a division of the State Emergency Communications Board (SECB). Furthermore, all emergency communications must be compliant with regulations set by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and TCR would be no exception. In addition to this, the state emergency communications network is funded by the state via a fee applied to every state resident who has access to the 911 network. Changes to the network in conjunction with TCR

implementation would likely require either an increase to the existing fee, or a separate fee. That fee has been set by Congress in MN Statute Section 403.11, which would likely need to be amended in conjunction with TCR implementation. Finally, while ARMER and E911 were previously mentioned as parts of the state emergency communications network, there are others, such as IPAWS (emergency alert system) and, upon implementation, FirstNet (broadband network for public safety responders) and NG911 (modern 911 system that will allow for more accurate location data, improved text-to-911 capabilities, and photo/video information from caller smartphones to be shared with dispatchers). How these many moving parts, and the interoperability thereof, would be affected by TCR implementation, remains to be seen. Again, considerable guidance from ECN and MESB will be required to gain a thorough understanding of these concepts.

Standards & Rights:

Dispatchers are bound to a set of minimum requirements for their work, such as those found in Metro 1.11.3 - Minimum Training Standard, Emergency Communications Professional. Continuing the idea that Targeted Crisis Response must be as good as the current response model, and no worse, TCR dispatchers would abide by the same set of requirements to ensure excellent service to callers and emergency responders. In addition to the standards for dispatchers, consideration must also be given to the standards for TCR responders; police officers operate under certain rights, protections, and legal provisions which permit them to enforce the law. For example, the police have the right to use force, including deadly force. Police also have the right to make an arrest, restrain and handcuff a person, put that person in a vehicle under the threat of legal or physical action if the person refuses or resists, and bring that person in the vehicle to another location. The city will have to decide whether or not similar legal rights will be extended to, amended for, or denied TCR service-providers.

Some may argue in favor of TCR service-providers being 'peaceful' and denied the use of force so that that power cannot be abused, but crisis situations are complex. As an example, say COPE is dispatched under any model except Absorption (With Police) to a mental health emergency in Ward 5, within the TCR trial period. If the situation escalates beyond the capacity of the responders, they have to call 911 for police intervention. If the person in crisis is now threatening or causing significant harm to others, what will happen if the COPE responders do not have the right to restrain or use force of any kind with that person? The responders and those nearby the situation are at the mercy of a person having a mental health crisis until the police arrive. Or, as another example, say a person

undergoing a mental health crisis has committed a particular crime and an arrest is required. The COPE responders, without the authority to make an arrest themselves, have to call 911 for police intervention, but in the interim, what if the person in crisis flees? Will the COPE responders be required to follow the person, so as to give live location updates to the incoming police officers who were instructed to go to the original location? What if, in the ensuing chase, passersby come to harm? Now additional time, personnel, effort, and potential endangerment of civilians are required to complete an arrest and contain the crisis. These situations and more will require guidance from the MPD and state policy-makers.

Functionality:

When police, fire, or medical services are dispatched to an emergency, the responders transport themselves to the scene via government-commissioned emergency vehicles. These vehicles are fast, well-maintained, and are equipped with sirens. The city's traffic light network cooperates with these vehicles, halting all traffic in the path of an oncoming emergency vehicle. Civilians know well to pull over to the side of the road to allow an oncoming emergency vehicle the necessary room to quickly get by. Targeted Crisis Response service-providers must be equipped with similarly efficient means of transportation, from the vehicles themselves to the cooperation from the city's infrastructure and the public. Without efficient transportation, critical time may be lost in responding to a crisis, which may negatively and severely affect the outcome of the emergency. Transportation across many different programs and organizations would have to be standardized, and likely provided for and maintained by the government in the same fashion that 911 transportation is provided for and maintained, in order to guarantee transportation standards are being met. This, alone, is a complex and costly task. Furthermore, police officers are not just stationed at the police precinct until an emergency is taking place. Officers patrol designated areas of the city, allowing them to potentially respond to an emergency faster than they would be able to if they were at the precinct. Would TCR service-providers have a similar patrol style in order to respond to an emergency faster, as opposed to waiting at their headquarters until dispatched? The list of questions continues. The police play an integral role in the justice system; to what extent will TCR service-providers be involved in the justice system? Will TCR reports be used in court? Will TCR service-providers be asked to testify in court in the same way that police officers are? The MPD has a union; would TCR service-providers benefit from having their own union? The MPD is subject to government and civilian oversight, albeit limited; what kind of oversight will TCR be subject to? The answers to these questions will require guidance from MESB and DPS.

Funding & Oversight:

Emergency services are government-sanctioned and government-funded. While many of the various programs and organizations that serve as alternative crisis responders currently operate independently of the government, the writers find it highly unrealistic to think that this would remain the case if Targeted Crisis Response were to be implemented as a government-sanctioned emergency response in the same fashion as police, fire, and medical services. That said, there will need to be an establishment of powers between TCR service-providers and city, county, and state government. TCR service-providers would likely have to become compliant with the standard operating procedures set by the government for all emergency responders. Service-providers would likely also have to submit to strict government oversight to ensure standards are being met with excellence. This leads to a number of questions regarding the nature of the government's relationship to service-providers. For example, will TCR service-providers no longer operate as their own entities, but be absorbed into departments of Hennepin County? Will employees of what used to be a nonprofit service-provider now be considered government employees, and therefore be subject to different employment or hiring standards? If an employee of a service-provider is to be hired, promoted, or fired, do these decisions go through the organization of the service-provider itself, or does the government then have a say in such decisions? As for the question of funding, it remains to be seen what it would cost even for the initial, small-scale implementation of TCR for the trial period, much less TCR at scale. And given that emergency services are provided for by the government, the funding of TCR will have to be apportioned from the city's emergency service budget via tax revenue. Fleshing out these concepts will require guidance from the mayor and the city council.

Dispatch Structure:

Under the **Bypass** and **Integration** models, Targeted Crisis Response would have its own dispatch center apart from standard 911 Public Safety Answering Points. This dispatch center would have to be at least as efficient and effective as a 911 PSAP and certainly no less of either. That said, the organizational structure of the TCR dispatch center should be nearly identical to a standard 911 PSAP to ensure standards are being met with excellence. The 911 dispatch organization chart, as reflected in the '911' section of the 2020 Mayor's Recommended Budget, lists dispatchers, overseen by supervisors, overseen by an operations manager, a training and quality assurance manager, a training and quality assurance specialist, an administrative analyst who oversees an office specialist, and an

assistant director overseen by an overall 911 director (see **Appendix B** for the organizational chart). This organizational structure, of course, is such because 911 is operating at a city-wide scale, and how TCR dispatch would need to staff given the scope of its operations remains to be seen. As mentioned under *Standards & Rights*, TCR dispatch would abide by the same training and quality assurance standards of 911 dispatch, such as those found in Metro 1.11.3 - Minimum Training Standard, Emergency Communications Professional. TCR dispatch should also abide by the hiring standards of 911 dispatch. Furthermore, while the hardware and software of TCR dispatch do not necessarily have to be the same as that of a standard PSAP, as TCR dispatch may have slightly different needs, the equipment and programs used must be equally efficient and reliable to those of 911 dispatch. Additional insights on this subject will require the guidance of Minneapolis 911 and MESB.

Police Officers:

The writers recognize that many, though not all, in favor of a new crime-and-crisis-response model are, by extension, in favor of the removal or drastic downsizing in personnel and scope of the MPD. The writers are not *inherently* in favor of either of these outcomes. It is the preference of the writers that if a new model is implemented in Minneapolis, that it would be done with the support and cooperation of Chief Medaria Arrodondo and the MPD as a whole. The potential effects of Targeted Crisis Response on police officers, in both the trial period and in full implementation, must be taken into consideration. This will require guidance from Chief Arrodondo and the MPD.

Data-Collection:

The primary assertion of this proposal is that a new community safety model should absolutely be predicated on strong data that would suggest such a model could be successful at scale. In fact, it is the opinion of the writers that without strong data, there is no justifiable or responsible manner in which to implement a new model. That said, the data collected during the Targeted Crisis Response trial period is of the utmost importance. Accurate and comprehensive information on what takes place during a TCR intervention and how the situations play out is the only way that the model can be truly analyzed, scrutinized, exposed for its flaws, and made better as a result.

To compile this data, the information a Targeted Crisis Response responder would have to document will greatly depend on criteria stipulated by the governing bodies that will guide and ultimately approve of TCR's implementation. It is the opinion of the writers that the

reports documented by TCR responders should be reminiscent of a standard CAPRS report which is filed by MPD officers upon an arrest. Similarly inspired by MPD policies and procedures (specifically P&P 4-601-C.), the writers believe that TCR reports must be delivered to a central reviewing individual or group within the overall organization of TCR that would approve and accept reports completed with satisfactory detail, and conversely, disapprove and send reports lacking in detail back to the responder in question for completion. The information contained in these reports will be routinely compiled into a central repository and the data will be continually analyzed for correlations and benchmarks regarding the effectiveness of TCR. For example, some data variables that will be crucial in understanding effectiveness are: 1.) whether or not an arrest was made, 2.) whether or not force was used, 3.) how long it took for TCR responders to de-escalate the crisis, 4.) whether the person in crisis is a repeat offender, 5.) whether the person in crisis caused any harm to themselves, other citizens, or the responders. Still, there are *many* other variables that may prove helpful in gauging TCR's effectiveness. For more of these variables and further insight into data-collection, the guidance of the MPD will be vital.

Definitions:

As mentioned in the section above, the essential goal of the initial implementation of Targeted Crisis Response is data-collection. That said, the essential goal in collecting that data is to determine whether or not TCR service-providers can be more *effective* at responding to particular crises than police officers. For the data collected to be in any way conclusive, it must be decided how the term 'effective' will be defined, given the number of factors at play. Will TCR be considered more effective if it produces less arrests than the MPD? How about if it produces less sentencing than the MPD? These figures will be crucial to understanding the overall impact of TCR, but they will not tell the whole story. For example, a crisis situation may be de-escalated by TCR service-providers and the perpetrator may not be arrested or sentenced, but it is still possible for that person to cause another crisis situation some time later and bring harm to others, which might have been avoided by an initial arrest being made. The writers are in no way insinuating that arrests and sentencing are inherently best practices for addressing criminal behavior, but rather that the outright removal of such consequences may give way to repeat offenders.

Additionally, many of those calling for the dismantling of the police are doing so in light of police misconduct, specifically physical harm and death that comes at the hands of police officers. Will TCR be considered more effective than the MPD if less physical force is used,

and if less physical harm is done to the perpetrator of a crisis? This is another crucial factor to consider, but not indicative of *effectiveness* in and of itself. Will TCR be considered more effective based on the level of comfort and expertise on the part of the service-providers as opposed to that of police officers responding to similar crises? How about public confidence and trust in TCR, or general feelings from the public about the safety of the city under the new model? These are also noteworthy determinations. Moreover, will TCR be considered more effective based on an improvement of the long-term behavior of the perpetrator of a crisis? How about if the region in which TCR is implemented sees a decrease over time in crises that fall under the scope of TCR service-provider response? Both of these factors are among the most relevant, but they would, of course, require *years* of observation. All of these variables, and more, contribute to the overall picture of what it would mean for a proposed community safety model to be considered more effective than the current model. This subject will have to be fully explored by the mayor and city council with extensive guidance from DPS.

Crime Prevention:

It is worth noting that within the calls throughout the city for a new community safety model, many have expressed the desire for greater crime prevention methods to be involved in that model. In fact, one of the prominent criticisms against the MPD (and policing in general) by those in favor of dismantling the department has been the idea that police respond to crime instead of preventing it. While there is no reasonable means of empirically determining how many crimes are *prevented* within a given timeframe, it is true, of course, that the primary function of the police department is to respond to crimes in progress. This may have an effect on future crime, as the arresting and sentencing of the perpetrator of a crime may prevent that individual from committing crime for the length of their sentence. Still, that remains a contentious issue, as the topic of restorative justice as opposed to punitive justice has also surfaced amid the current conversation about new models. It should be noted that those ideas and all related ideas have more to do with the practices of the overall justice system than

crime-and-crisis-response, specifically; as this report is focused on *response*, crime prevention is not a current facet of the models proposed. Nonetheless, crime prevention is a worthy topic to explore. Going forward, the writers would be happy to investigate and contribute to the prevention conversation as well as the response conversation.

Public Support:

It is very likely that for Targeted Crisis Response to be implemented, even just for the trial period, that the initiative will require overwhelming support and confidence from the citizens of Minneapolis. This is a complex matter, as there are those in Minneapolis open to significant changes to the community safety model, as well as those not in favor of any changes. Further, among those open to changes, there are those who are strongly in favor of dismantling and defunding the MPD, as well as those not in favor of such action. While not particularly suited to any ideological extreme, TCR does, in theory, present all of these clashing groups with the opportunity to get something they want. Given that TCR, as it is proposed in this report, would *coincide and cooperate* with the MPD, and not necessarily replace it, those not in favor of significant changes to community safety will still have the police department that they know and trust. Those in favor of replacing the MPD will now have an alternative to standard policing which they can rely on in certain situations, putting the choice in the hands of the individual as to what kind of intervention they seek, instead of police being the only option for crime-and-crisis-response. Those in favor of changes, but not in favor of the dismantling of MPD, will have a new community safety model in place *and* the MPD, and both may be relied upon to serve different functions. In addition, TCR would need particular support from residents of the geographical region in which the proposed trial would take place. For example, using the aforementioned Ward 5 scenario, if Councilmember Ellison was in favor of the trial taking place in Ward 5, it may be required to have the residents of Ward 5 vote as to whether or not the trial should take place there. Subsequently, if TCR is successful at the small-scale and is then to be scaled up further, additional votes may be required as well. These insights and more regarding public support of TCR will require the guidance of the mayor, the city council, and input from Minneapolis-area residents.

RECOMMENDATION

As this proposal draws to its conclusion, let it be said, once again, that the concepts within this report have been created with a *partial* understanding of the complexities of emergency response on the part of the writers. Despite the dozens of hours of research, ideation, discussion, drafting, and editing put into this proposal, it is the opinion of the writers that no amount of this work would be sufficient to properly approach the subject of an alternative model for community safety without exhaustive guidance from the many individuals and groups listed throughout this report. Again, the writers have proposed a means by which a new community safety model could be created: a data-collection trial

period in which specialized crime-and-crisis-responders will be able to take on more responsibility in a specific region of Minneapolis in full compliance with the city government and support from the residents of that region. This proposition by the writers is in no way the only possible means of creating a new model, and it is also not the only means of collecting data relevant to the subject. In fact,

Targeted Crisis Response, as a concept, is far from the only alternative crime-and-crisis-response method that could be implemented in Minneapolis.

The writers believe that the Targeted Crisis Response concept holds many theoretical merits; this concept currently serves as the long-term vision for the proposed data-collection trial. In selecting which of the four TCR models presented in this report would be best for the data-collection trial, the writers take into *strongest* consideration the structural complexity of implementing each model as well as the effects of each model on emergency dispatchers, as these are the main differences between the four models.

The writers are most in favor of the **Integration** model being implemented for the trial, and, upon the success of Targeted Crisis Response within the trial, for full-scale implementation. The **Integration** model, while somewhat complicated to set up (creating a TCR dispatch, adding TCR dispatch as a call-direct on 911 dispatcher CAD screens, creating a network for TCR dispatchers and TCR service-providers to communicate in real-time, etc.), this model does not pose as daunting of a communications network challenge as the **Bypass** model when implemented at scale, as the **Integration** model only requires an *internal* network for communication between TCR dispatch and TCR service-providers. The **Integration** model does *not* require an external network to receive calls from the public, as the calls from the public are coming into standard 911 dispatch via the existing 911 network and are then being transferred to TCR dispatch. The added benefit of this is that the public still only has one emergency phone number to know: 911. Under the **Bypass** model, a separate communications network *and* a separate emergency phone number for the public would be required.

In comparing the **Integration** and **Absorption** models, the advantage of the **Absorption** model is that no new network, internal or external, would be required as TCR will be grafted into standard 911 emergency response along with police, fire, and medical services (although TCR service-providers would still need access to the internal part of the network [ARMER] to communicate back-and-forth with 911 dispatchers). However, the

Absorption model, at scale, poses a significant challenge to 911 dispatchers as they will have *several* new responders to dispatch, and it is the opinion of the writers that the job of an emergency dispatcher needs no further, significant challenges. This is the advantage of the **Integration** model: instead of a restructuring of current 911 emergency response practices, as well as substantial new training for 911 dispatchers, the **Integration** model requires no changes to current 911 emergency response structure, and requires 911 dispatchers to add just *one* new call-direct and the knowledge of which crises fall within the scope of TCR.

In summary, the **Integration** model does not require the public to call an emergency phone number separate from 911. It does not require vast changes to the current emergency services network, nor does it require an entirely new external communications network to be created. It does not require changes to the organizational structure of 911 emergency response; rather, it creates a separate division of emergency response with its own structure. It requires little additional training for 911 dispatchers and only one software change made to the dispatcher's CAD display. For these reasons, the writers find the **Integration** model to offer the greatest benefit to the public, to 911 structure and dispatchers, and, in light of the administrative considerations, to the government.

The writers are eagerly open to input on this recommendation, as well as input on all of the topics listed under **Considerations** and anything else not mentioned in this report. It is the strong desire of the writers, if this proposal is found to be favorable, to be able to continue fleshing out the implementation of this model with extensive cooperation from all of the individuals and groups mentioned under **Considerations**. It is also the strong desire of the writers, if this proposal is not found to be favorable, but certain aspects of the proposal are considered for creating a new community safety model, that the writers may remain involved in the initiative and contribute to its creation. In either case, the writers are fully prepared and enthusiastic to continue the work that has been started with this proposal in creating a more effective model for addressing crime and community safety.

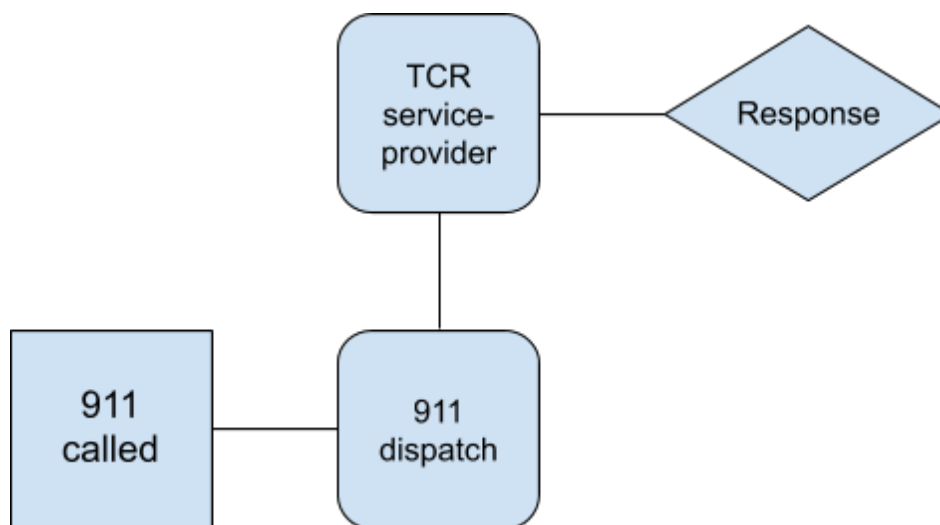
CONCLUSION

Minneapolis has found itself at an extraordinary point in time and consciousness. Many in the city, from citizens to elected officials, are passionately in favor of a new approach to public safety. While there are countless approaches to this undertaking, any particular approach being considered for implementation must bear in mind the scope and nature of transforming something as important as public safety. It is the opinion of the writers that any proposed new crime-and-crisis-response model being seriously considered for

implementation must be supported by tremendous data indicating the effectiveness of that model. While there is still variance in public opinion on what a new model should look like, and even whether or not a new model should be considered in the first place, the writers believe it to be unanimous that every resident of Minneapolis desires and deserves to feel safe. Therefore, it is the hope of the writers that the needs of the entire city, both socially and logistically, are addressed as the conversation continues.

APPENDIX A - Model Diagrams

Absorption (Without Police):

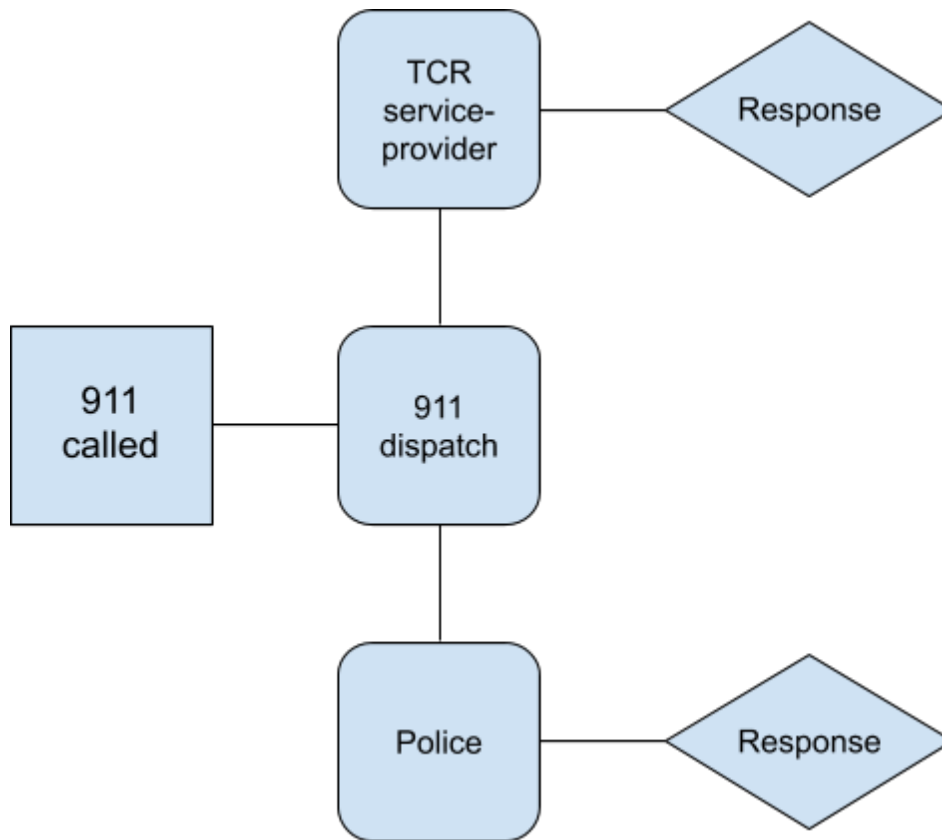


Synopsis:

A call comes into 911 dispatch. The dispatcher interfaces directly with the TCR service-provider to give instruction. The TCR service-provider sends its responders to the emergency.

APPENDIX A - Model Diagrams

Absorption (With Police):

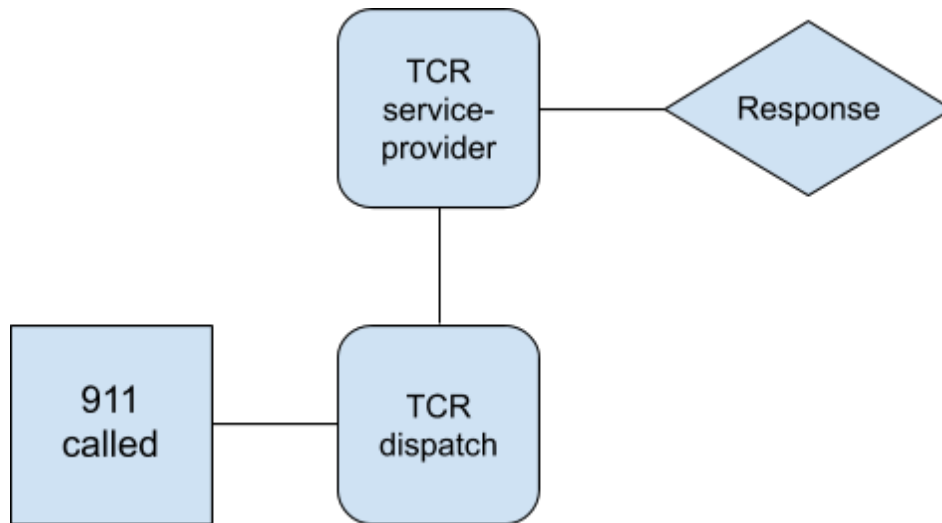


Synopsis:

A call comes into 911 dispatch. The dispatcher interfaces directly with the TCR service-provider and the police to give instruction. The TCR service-provider and the police send their responders to the emergency.

APPENDIX A - Model Diagrams

Bypass:

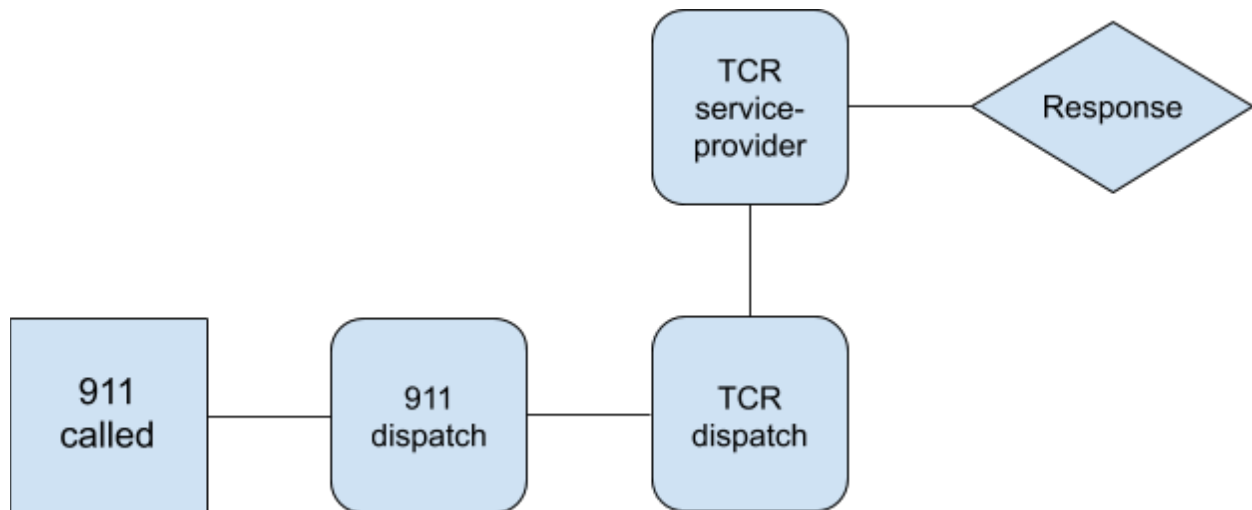


Synopsis:

A call comes into TCR dispatch. The dispatcher interfaces directly with the TCR service-provider to give instruction. The TCR service-provider sends its responders to the emergency.

APPENDIX A - Model Diagrams

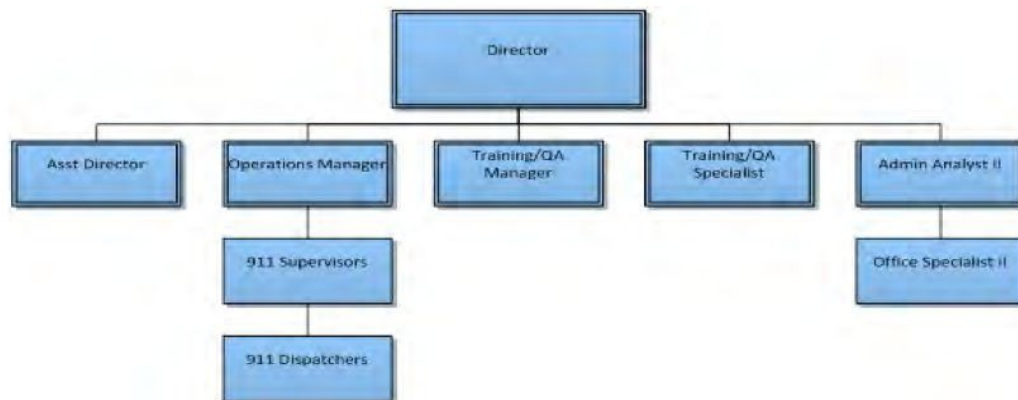
Integration:



Synopsis:

A call comes into 911 dispatch. The dispatcher interfaces directly with the TCR service-provider to give instruction. The TCR service-provider sends its responders to the emergency.

APPENDIX B - Minneapolis 911 Organization Chart



Taken from the 2020 Mayor's Recommended Budget under City of Minneapolis - Operating Departments - 911.

Wed 7/22/2020 9:58 AM

Minneapolis Charter Commissioners,

I support you moving the proposed amendment to the Minneapolis City Charter - to remove the MPD as a required City Department and establish a new Department of Public Safety and Violence Prevention - to a ballot vote in November. This amendment is a critical first step in designing new systems for community-led safety across our city. I live just a couple blocks from where George Floyd was murdered by the Minneapolis Police Department, and it has opened my eyes to the terror and trauma that many in our community experience at the hands of the police department. It has also emphasized to me that those of us who live in relative comfort in this city in relation to law enforcement can no longer be complicit in this system. We do not need a militarized police force in this city, we need a department focused on safety and crime prevention. I ask that you as the Charter Commission do your job and put this amendment on the November 2020 ballot so that we as residents of the City of Minneapolis can decide what the future of public safety should look like. Give the people of Minneapolis the space to craft something better than policing, we can do it, but the charter can't stand in the way. Thank you for your consideration.

Wed 7/22/2020 10:43 AM

I find it deeply undemocratic that the unelected, unrepresentative Charter Commission feels it has the mandate to substitute its judgement for that of the elected City Council and residents who've made their feelings on policing extremely clear. This is not for you to decide, it's for the residents of Minneapolis to decide. Let the council's amendment appear on this November's ballot, withdraw your substitute amendment, and let the voters decide. Our city should not be governed by an overwhelmingly white board of unelected commissioners, particularly when it comes to policing, an issue which disproportionately affects our BIPOC residents.

As I write this, the city is holding budget hearings, and because the council has so little control over the police department--something which their proposed amendment changes and yours does not--their proposed budget cuts to MPD are being thrown in their face by MPD as they pick and choose the transformative public safety pilots as the items to cut rather than sworn officers and weapons of war.

This is exactly why the more sweeping council proposal is necessary. Simply eliminating the funding requirement makes it impossible to truly transform public safety in Minneapolis. If the murder of George Floyd, and the countless acts of police brutality by MPD before and since, has taught us anything, it's that we need transformative change. The council amendment allows for that, and your substitute proposal does not.

Withdraw your amendment, forward the council amendment on with a recommendation one way or another, and let the residents of Minneapolis decide this November what they want.

Thank you

Wed 7/22/2020 10:46 AM

> The Charter Commission Has Purposefully Made It Difficult for many of us to be able to participate the meeting.

> Starting with publishing a bad, errant... Actually Wayward Phone Numbers To Insure 'they' get what they want..

> That was a stranger's random cell phone number

> The hearing was limited to 120 minutes, each participant was granted only 60 seconds to speak in a major, once cosmopolitan city of 425,000 people

> In the announcement, the advisement was, one minute to speak. A verb, minuets is a slow dance...

> We're people listening to a minute while on hold until the 120 minutes expired?

> We the citizens were not given the opportunity to express our concerns and we lost the rights to be able to participate as that is our right including my own right, the charter has failed to adhere ADA as well because there was no ASL interpreter and/or closed captioning since I am deaf and need those requirements to understand as I have the right as an Minnesotan to understand and speak for the charter.

> I am requesting another charter meeting as the charter commission did not adhere my rights to ASL interpreter and/or closed captioning. I was not given an opportunity to speak on my behalf. I have contacted Mayor Frey's office prior to the meeting that I need accommodation and Mr. Frey knows I am deaf and need assistance.

> Please let me know otherwise I am contacting department of human services for violation of ADA and discrimination suit on behalf of Minneapolis Charter Commission.

> Thank you very much

Wed 7/22/2020 10:46 AM

As I am thinking this, I am unable to understand the budget meeting that is taking place at the city charter office today without closed captioning and ASL interpreter. My rights as a minneapolis resident is being violated and it's unacceptable.

Wed 7/22/2020 11:21 AM

Good Morning,

I'm a resident of Minneapolis writing in support of allowing the City Council's proposed charter change to move forward to the ballot. The Council is responding to the situation on the ground in a responsible way, and as the elected representatives of our city, they are doing what is being asked of them by residents throughout our city.

The actions of the Minneapolis Police Department are what have brought us to this moment. For too long, they have violated the public trust and corrupted their responsibility to protect and serve our community, and the charter as currently constructed blocks the steps necessary to make this change.

The residents of Minneapolis deserve the opportunity to decide if this is the right approach, and the only way to do so is to allow this vote to proceed, with the proposal put forth by the Council. I encourage you to allow it to move forward.

Wed 7/22/2020 11:42 AM

Hello Charter Commissioner Barry Clegg,

I am a white professional who lives in North Minneapolis, 5th ward.

I've listened to the public call-in meetings the past two Tuesday evenings. I noticed, especially in the first meeting, almost all black & brown leaders and residents from North Minneapolis voices strong opposition to adding this amendment to this Nov ballot.

The Primary reason stated by my black friends and neighbors in North Minneapolis for disagreeing with the CC was because the council has no plan and are not listening to our boots on the ground leaders (Mad Dads, A Mother's Love, Nekima-Levy Armstrong and more). And the CC is NOT acting in real time to the uptake in gun violence the past several weeks over here. Jeremiah Ellison is my CC member, ward 5 and I use to respect him; however, he is not returning any of my FB messages, phone calls or emails. The CC seems to have dug their heels in with re-election as their motivation. **Make them put forth a plan before allowing this amendment to go on the ballot.**

Thank you

Wed 7/22/2020 12:07 PM

I am writing to comment on the Minneapolis proposed charter amendment that is before the Charter Commission for review. I am opposed to the charter amendment as written for the following reasons:

1. The draft amendment is being rushed through without adequate public input. The process for adopting a charter amendment usually takes approximately 9 months. During that time, the City Council would have a committee draft language, take public comment, perhaps hold a public hearing, and refine the language based on public comments. Then, the amendment would be sent to the Charter Commission for its approval or revisions, after which the City Council may make additional revisions. Instead, the City Council drafted the amendment and sent it to the Charter Commission for approval, while taking public comment at the same time as the Charter Commission is reviewing the amendment. The City Council is rushing this significant amendment through in a 3 month time frame rather than giving it the careful consideration and adequate prior public input that it deserves. The City's charter is its constitution that will bind the City and its citizens into the future. Any amendment to the charter deserves more public input and careful consideration.

2. The language of the amendment is vague and provides no guarantee that there will be any police officers. Vague language has no place in a charter amendment. The amendment says that the City "may" maintain law enforcement services with licensed peace officers. Because "may" is discretionary, rather than mandatory, the City Council may choose not to hire police officers. The City Council has stated that it will work out the details later by talking with citizens after the amendment is adopted. This is like saying - trust us, we'll do the right thing. That is not the function of a charter amendment, which should be concrete and specific because it is the City's governing document. The City's website describes the charter as "defining the powers the citizens agree to give their government and how the government is to be structured." In order to ensure that citizens know what powers they are granting to the city, the language of the amendment should be clear, and the discussion of the language and how it will work should happen before an amendment is proposed, not after it is adopted.

Instead of vague language, the amendment should contain specific language as to how many licensed peace officers are authorized. Police officers provide a necessary societal function. For example, we need police officers to show up and arrest people when women are being battered, instead of going back to the old model of separating the parties to let him cool off. Women fought too hard to get domestic abuse classified as a crime. We need police to show up when crimes are in progress, when houses are being broken into, when gangs wage wars on the street with innocent bystanders (and neighborhoods) as the victim. The recent increase in gun violence in Minneapolis is evidence that we need to ensure that Minneapolis continues to have licensed police officers.

It is also my understanding that only licensed police officers can make arrests, issue citations, obtain warrants, and investigate crimes. Who will do that without licensed police officers? Certainly, some services now being performed by police officers can and should be performed by others, such as social workers and mental health professionals. But all of those details should be worked out before an amendment is proposed and should be reflected in the language of the proposed amendment.

3. The amendment creates a system that may make the police department less accountable. Currently, the police department is under the supervision of the mayor. The proposed amendment removes the power of the mayor to oversee the police department and instead creates a new Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department within which may be established a division of law enforcement. Thus, under this scheme, any law enforcement division that is created would be under the supervision of the Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department that reports to a City Council committee, with ultimate action by 13 City Council members. This merely shifts power and provides less direct accountability, with more people involved with overseeing law enforcement. This reduces, rather than increases, police accountability.

In conclusion, the charter amendment process needs to be thoughtful and deliberate with adequate public input. That has not happened. There should not be a rush to put a flawed amendment on the ballot. Nothing prevents the City Council and the Mayor from beginning to make changes to the operation of the police department under existing authority while discussing an amendment to the city charter. I urge you to reject the proposed amendment as written, and to take the full amount of time that the Charter Commissioner has under statute to hear public comment so that the amendment does not go onto the ballot in November 2020.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Wed 7/22/2020 12:26 PM

I support the amendment the Charter Commission is considering advancing which would eliminate the need for a minimum staffing requirement. It seems perfectly reasonable that this decision should be delegated to the our elected officials. However I feel it would be irresponsible to vote on the other components of to City Council's proposal without having an outline of a comprehensive plan regarding how a new Department of Safety would function. The Council's position seems to be, for the plan they have in mind to be implemented they need these changes in the City Charter now. I think the responsible approach would be to present a plan and then if necessary ask electorate to vote on the changes that would be required so the plan could be implemented. Without a plan to help understand the purpose and benefit of the Charter Amendment we would be being ask to vote on changes with insufficient information and that could have unintended consequences.

Wed 7/22/2020 1:29 PM

I would Implore that the city council read this article from the New York Times before making decisions that will dramatically affect public safety.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/17/opinion/policing-crime-baltimore.html>

Thank you – [REDACTED] South Mpls, Bancroft Neighborhood

Wed 7/22/2020 1:45 PM

With the recent passage of the Minnesota Police Accountability Act, it is no longer necessary to amend the city charter in order to eventually disband the police department. The Act has 14 provisions that will reform the police department and avoid the toxic culture that has led to tragedy in our city.

Thank you

Wed 7/22/2020 2:28 PM

I want to add my voice in favor of adding the Charter Amendment with substitutions to the November ballot. I am in favor of what is written, and think the pilot project and a further, continued discussion is vital now in moving forward. Put it to the ballot and engage and evaluate the openness of the public to insuring a process for change is moved on now

Wed 7/22/2020 3:01 PM

Council Pres. Bender says, " As one of the authors of this amendment, I am hopeful that the Charter Commission will perform the task set before them in time for the 2020 election, which asks them to return to the City Council a recommendation for or against putting the amendment on the ballot or to provide a recommendation for substitute language. It is not the job of the Charter Commission to override a unanimous decision by the City Council to put a question directly to Minneapolis voters, and would be deeply undemocratic to do so."

The Charter Commission is supposed to provide the recommendations as you state. The Commission is established by and has defined statutory timelines for rendering said recommendations. Acting within statute is not an act to "override" the council and framing this in an adversarial manner is a detriment to the council and the city. If you take issue with established state law, this kind of note is not the appropriate remedy.

Wed 7/22/2020 3:15 PM

To the Minneapolis City Council and the Charter Commission,

Hi, my name is [REDACTED], and I have been a resident of Minneapolis for 6 years (currently living in Ward 6, previously in Ward 3). I'm writing to insist that you put the public safety charter amendment on the November 2020 ballot, so that Minneapolis citizens can vote on it.

If Minneapolis citizens are satisfied with the current charter and the current status of the Minneapolis Police Department, they will vote no on the amendment in November. If Minneapolis citizens want to change the charter so that we can begin imagining a new version of public safety, they will vote yes on the amendment. In my opinion, it would be unconscionable for the Charter Commission to not even give us the option of voting. Denying us the vote means that the commission will have voted FOR us. And because the commission is an unelected group of people, voting on our behalf is just inappropriate.

Whether or not the Minneapolis Police Department is a violent waste of city resources (it is) and whether or not our city would be better off without MPD (it would be) aren't even relevant yet at this point. We can't even begin to discuss the pros and cons and wants and needs of our city if the amendment isn't on the ballot.

Refusing to put the charter amendment on the ballot cuts off the *possibility* for change. Let the people of Minneapolis decide the future of our city. Let us vote.

Thank you

Wed 7/22/2020 3:51 PM

Rather than provide a list of everything I do not support in the latest proposed charter amendment, I'll instead just share that I am disappointed to see another amendment that is neither well thought out nor potentially necessary.

I feel it is time for our Council to stop and reflect, not dash forward and leave residents to clean up from the unintended consequences.

Wed 7/22/2020 4:10 PM

City Charter Committee,

This apparently pertains to deleting minimum funding for the police. Until we know how the public safety structure is articulated using the holistic approach described in the first proposal, it is not ripe to decide on minimum funding levels. If the police continue to be required to perform all of the tasks currently assigned to them, then the minimum funding should stay in place. If other professionals are identified to perform roles currently imposed on police officers, then minimum funding should be set for all professional groups that are part of the public safety structure.

Wed 7/22/2020 7:30 PM

Dear Councilmember Gordon,

I support the charter commission moving the current language of the amendment to a ballot vote in November. I believe the people of Minneapolis ought to have the opportunity to create something that serves our community better than policing. The charter was created to serve the people of Minneapolis, and this is one of those times where we owe it to ourselves to change it to serve us all better.

Wed 7/22/2020 9:05 PM

Hello Council members,

I am writing to weigh in that I support police reform not abolishment.

I am against this proposed amendment to remove the police department from the charter and adding a new Community Safety and Violence Prevention Department for the following reasons:

There is a lack of planning

It was announced prematurely (without clear planning as noted above) leaving our current state of the city vulnerable to more violence.

It does not address how this department interacts with other organizations doing similar services in Community Safety and Violence Prevention..

It is difficult to report to a Council and a Mayor. It should remain with the Mayor.

It does not address how current police who align with reform can participate.

Thu 7/23/2020 12:52 AM

Dear Commissioner Rubenstein,

I am writing to ask you to let the citizens of Minneapolis vote on amending the Minneapolis City Charter to remove the minimum funding requirements of the Police Force. This first critical step in re-imagining our public safety must be on the ballot in November 2020. Immediate action by you and the rest of the Charter Commission is required for this to happen.

Allowing us to vote will not erase the police department. Even passage of a ballot measure to remove the minimum funding requirements of the Police Force will not erase the police department. What it will do, however, is allow the citizens and the officials we elect to have a voice in what community safety and policing look like in our city.

The current national and worldwide uprising against systemic racism began in Minneapolis with the murder of George Floyd. You, as officials of the City of Minneapolis, can begin to make things right. In this historic moment, you have a role to play in giving the citizens of Minneapolis a voice in how we can transform our society for the better. We as voters want to dismantle our own piece of the racist system in which we live, and we need your help to do it. The world is watching you. Take action on July 27 and let us vote in November 2020.

Thu 7/23/2020 12:52 AM

Dear Andrea,

Please don't delay with reviewing the city council request to put the city charter amendment on the ballot this fall.

Thu 7/23/2020 7:48 AM

I am a citizen of Minneapolis, living in Steve Fletcher's 3rd ward.

Please don't take on the issue of changing the charter to eliminate the requirement of a police department. It will be unnecessary and divisive.

We need to change the role of the department significantly, including accountability. We also likely need to transfer funds away from police to other functions to take over some of what we lay on police today.

But I and most people believe we do need a police department. And a charter change seems to me to be the wrong move and no matter the result of formal consideration and possibly a vote, the act of considering be wasteful and divisive.

Please decline to consider this change if it is brought before you.

Thank you.

Thu 7/23/2020 7:49 AM

Dear Barry,

Please don't delay with reviewing the city council request to put the city charter amendments on the ballot this fall.

Thu 7/23/2020 7:49 AM

Dear Chairman Clegg,

I am writing to ask you to let the citizens of Minneapolis vote on amending the Minneapolis City Charter to remove the minimum funding requirements of the Police Force. This first critical step in re-imaging our public safety must be on the ballot in November 2020. Immediate action by you and the rest of the Charter Commission is required for this to happen.

Allowing us to vote will not erase the police department. Even passage of a ballot measure to remove the minimum funding requirements of the Police Force will not erase the police department. What it will do, however, is allow the citizens and the officials we elect to have a voice in what community safety and policing look like in our city.

The current national and worldwide uprising against systemic racism began in Minneapolis with the murder of George Floyd. You, as officials of the City of Minneapolis, can begin to make things right. In this historic moment, you have a role to play in giving the citizens of Minneapolis a voice in how we can transform our society for the better. We as voters want to dismantle our own piece of the racist system in which we live, and we need your help to do it. The world is watching you. Take action on July 27 and let us vote in November 2020.

Thu 7/23/2020 1:18 PM

You certainly have my condolences.

When I was Chair of the Charter Commission some 40 to 45 years ago (yes, way back in 1974 to 1982), we did not have the problem that you have, namely, of having some quite new council members who do not seem to understand that a Charter proposal should be specific and finalized BEFORE it is sent to be voted on, not AFTER it is sent to the ballot. I doubt there are now two council members that have in their minds the same idea of what "Defunding the Police" means, and I am certain the voters have even more variation in their interpretations. The Black community especially does not want the police force removed, just reined in.

I believe the killing of George Floyd has led to a moment that can turn around many long standing problems with our city police department. The just adopted legislative proposals address several of

these problems in a hopeful manner. It would be a big mistake to rush into this area with half baked ideas and mess up the opportunity to make lasting changes.

I suggest that this fall's city election charter question address only removal of the funding requirement of a certain minimum number of police persons per unit of city population. At this time, I feel much more public discussion is needed before any attempt to deal with other suggested changes. With the legislative changes just made, this can bring improvements and hope for the future.

Thu 7/23/2020 1:52 PM

This is really confusing though—can we please just have one? I support either one honestly let's get this done. If I had to state a preference it would be for the first one—eliminate the MPD.

Thu 7/23/2020 2:02 PM

Hi -

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Ward 11 resident of Minneapolis, living in the Diamond Lake neighborhood. I would like to submit a comment for the record for the public safety transformation amendment. I tried to submit on the website, but the form is down.

I'm writing to ask you to #LetUsVote on the amendment that would remove MPD from the City Charter and allow the City to move resources into other, much needed programs like housing, violence prevention, deescalation, harm reduction, and others.

The MPD has caused too much harm to the residents of our city, especially for our Black, Indigenous and people of color neighbors. The police department cannot be reformed because it enforces a racist system, one that does not protect or serve all of our communities here in Minneapolis. It's unacceptable.

There is a way forward without MPD, because organizers have been advocating to remove police from our city for years. There are other examples across our country and the globe, of cities who have removed their police force and replaced it with resources truly aimed at attacking the underlying problems people face, instead of just responding with force.

Our government was created to be ruled by the people and for the people. That is why the people of Minneapolis have the right to decide whether the MPD should or should not exist. Put this vote on the ballot, and give all power to the people, always.

Thu 7/23/2020 2:12 PM

https://www.startribune.com/minneapolis-city-council-drops-idea-of-using-police-money-for-citizen-patrols/571869321/?om_rid=2642217417&om_mid=941623753

If this doesn't tell the Charter committee that the City Council is clueless on this defunding, not sure what does! No, idea, no plan, no idea to have a plan, no plan to have an idea, When they can't even deal with a couple \$100K worth of pocket change, how the "H" are they going to deal with a couple \$100M. Can we quit wasting tax payer dollars on this pipe dream yet, or do we need to be stupider and throw in more tax \$ chasing this pipe dream to no-where? City council from this perspective every day you look more and more inept and "Trumpish" i.e. refuse to admit you made a mistake, and then just continue to double down on the mistake, you are BSing folks that didn't buy Trump's BS, why do you think we would buy yours?

Thu 7/23/2020 2:27 PM

Hello,

I am submitting my comment to the city council with regards to the Charter Amendment. I am in full support of the Charter Amendment proposed by Reclaim the Block and other black-led advocacy groups.

Because the charter commission is not an elected board of officials, and because this non-elected board of officials is mostly white, I do not believe it is equipped to make judgments about the amendment on its own. They must use their power to allow the people of Minneapolis to weigh in on and decide what happens with the amendment. The amendment should be put to vote in November and information about it should be made accessible to the public.

The police as an institution cannot be reformed and must be abolished in its entirety. Since Reconstruction, American policing has served to disenfranchise and criminalize the life of a the black American, to protect white property and interests of the state. Allowing this to continue in any way shape or form is to greenlight further racist violence and murder on our streets. This is unacceptable, and will not be accepted.

The community is here and willing to create a new way. You must use your power to give the people of Minneapolis control over how to build new systems for public safety and harm reduction. We do not need to be policed, we need to be supported. We need to be housed and fed. We need to be taken care of if we fall ill. These are fundamental human rights, but we have been tricked into believing them privileges. We must make them rights again.

Do all that is within your power to give the people of Minneapolis the necessary control over what becomes of the Charter Amendment. If you do not you will fail in your efforts to renew our city and will cede further power to institutions wishing it harm.

Thu 7/23/2020 2:58 PM

This message is in regards to the July 27 meeting regarding the proposed charter Amendment that will keep the requirement of a police force but remove the minimum police force required.

As a Minneapolis resident, I do not support this proposal going to vote. Until the city council has a plan in place that's a proven replacement, we should not touch the wording in the charter.

The city council has made it clear their goal is to defund and dismantle the police force. What good is a police force when in theory there could be one single cop? I do not believe the city council is doing what's best for the city, instead they are pushing their agenda that many residents do not support. This is our safety, we must require them to have a proven plan before we give them the keys to dismantle the only thing we have.

thank-you

Thu 7/23/2020 4:15 PM

Dear Mr. Clegg:

This email is to request, again, that you and your Charter Commission members accept the Minneapolis City Council's proposed amendment and let the voters of the City of Minneapolis decide on November 3, 2020.

While I understand that the Charter Commission is empowered to submit their own proposed amendments to voters, I question the motive and timing behind Mr. Giraud-Isaacson's proposal: why now? The proposal recommends a basic reform, which is not what the citizens of Minneapolis (through their council members) are demanding.

Additionally, public hearings are for those members of the public who show up/call in; Mr. Kozak's statement advocating "equal time to talk" is inappropriate and disingenuous.

Please do not continue to utilize these delay tactics. It is anathema to our democracy. Put the City Council's amendment on the ballot for the people of Minneapolis to decide.

Thu 7/23/2020 4:43 PM

Dear Mr. Clegg,

I urge you and the other Charter Commissioners to reject the Minneapolis City Council's proposal to change the charter which requires Minneapolis to have a Police Department, overseen by the Mayor.

As a 45 year resident of Minneapolis, I do not want to see the Police Department defunded and abolished and especially NOT answering to the City Council. I believe reform can happen with the involvement of civil rights leaders and others. In this time of COVID chaos, civil unrest and contentious political atmosphere, we do NOT need this on an election ballot. I do not want knee jerk and long lasting decisions pushed by 5 City Council members.

Thank you for your time.

Thu 7/23/2020 5:24 PM

This article ([Citizen patrols won't get city funds](#)) in today's Star Tribune is evidence why the City Charter amendment proposed by the Council should not be on the November ballot. Clearly a thoughtful, disciplined and participatory process was not used by the Council in developing these programs. Nor was one used in developing the proposed amendment. I hope the Charter Commission will not follow that example.

We need to have a reimagined public safety system. But it will take a lot of work to get there. When we have completed the process we may need a Charter Amendment. Please don't get pushed to quick decision by a contingent of loud voices. It could have significant negative unintended consequences. Show courage and leadership. Help us get to the right answer not the expeditious one.

Thu 7/23/2020 5:27 PM

Hello Charter members,

We would like to relay our opinion that we are not in favor of a 2020 charter to defund or abolish the Mpls Police department.

This process to propose and present a charter for something so significant to the city of Mpls requires extensive public input. The current conditions do not allow for this process.

If you have any input in this decision, please reject the proposal.

Thu 7/23/2020 6:18 PM

We cannot continue to fund or support the Minneapolis Police at the same level as we have previously. Far too many lives have been taken or destroyed by this corrupt, unjust, unconscionable system.

The people of Minneapolis deserve to vote on changing the charter. I support Reclaim the Block's proposed changes.

Thu 7/23/2020 6:21 PM

Hi - I was scheduled to speak on July 21 but was late in the schedule so didn't get a chance. Here is my comment.

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in the Kingfield neighborhood. I do not support the amendment as written. I 100% support defunding and community control efforts, but they will only work if the community most negatively impacted by police brutality is an integral part of the solutioning. The language as it stands now is vague and lacks input from BIPOC community leaders. Let's do the real work and research to understand what will work for everyone in our community and WE MUST get input from North side residents and community leaders, like Nekima Levy Armstrong and Raiesha Williams, who have repeatedly voiced their concern that decisions are being made about them, without them. Chief Arradondo is also an integral piece to this process and he deserves all of our respect and support to be included in solving the problem. If we want real change, we cannot rush the process.

Thank you.

Thu 7/23/2020 7:21 PM

Dear Commissioners,

Many people have commented that the Council's public safety Charter amendment proposal is too vague, and that they would like to know more specifics about what the Council has in mind for public safety in Minneapolis.

That may well be a legitimate argument, but, at the same time, the proposal is too specific. This is so in at least two respects.

First, models change over time. For example, models for the brain have changed from hydraulics to clocks to wires to computers. Sociological models are sometimes even more fleeting. Yet the Charter amendment proposal suggests the City's constitution should proclaim "public safety services prioritizing a holistic, public health-oriented approach." In ten or twenty years, the public health model might be considered obsolete. Maybe a Gaian or an organismic or an agentive model of public safety will then be fashionable. Will we then have to amend the Charter again to fit that time's preferred model?

Second, it seems strange to include a partial job description -- or at least some of the experiential qualifications -- for the director of the new department. The proposal describes eligibility criteria for the director of the Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention in this way: "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 Charter is not the place for that kind of specificity.

Just as you may ultimately propose as a Commission-initiated amendment the elimination from the Charter of minimum staffing levels for one and only one City department, the type of public safety model and the qualifications of the proposed department's director are equally inappropriate for a document defining the City's constitution.

Keep safe; stay healthy.

Thu 7/23/2020 8:24 PM

Spot on [REDACTED]. From the outside these folk look like a bunch of cats pretending they know how to herd.

Fri 7/24/2020 6:02 AM

Hello,

I'm warmly thinking of everyone who has the responsibility of making this city of Minneapolis the best in the nation, with special focus on the Minneapolis Police Department.

In follow up to my email of June 30, 2020, here are additional insights:

1) Meditation is a powerful tool in returning one to their more natural, kind, loving self. There are many forms of meditation and a sitting, close-eyed meditation is not for everyone. For some high energy police officers an active breathing meditation may be more suitable. Laird Hamilton is one expert in this area.

2) Stanford University is proving that Virtual Reality (VR) is an effective, fast tool in helping one feel empathy. For example, a white police officer could put on a VR headset and step into a black male body and feel what it's like for a black man to walk the streets of Minneapolis. Studies are showing that VR can help one feel empathy in as little as a four minute experience with proven brain response.

3) Energy weapons, taser smart weapons, are becoming better than some bullet weapons. We could very slowly transition some bullet weapons in the Minneapolis Police Department to energy weapons. Axon is one of the leading companies in this space as well as body worn cameras.

I think there are many experts who would be happy to collaborate with the city of Minneapolis and our police department because we are prominent on the global map right now. To get different results we have to do something different.

I believe we are all one. I felt the pain of being black when I heard this poem, "Afraid", by a successful, family loving, black man whose home is Minneapolis:

<https://www.facebook.com/sahr.brima/videos/10156967982046507/UzpfSTewMDAxNDkwNjQ2NjQwMT04OTMwOTk2Mjc4NjM1Nzg/>

Thank you for serving our community

Fri 7/24/2020 8:08 AM

The last 2 days have had great commentaries in the Star Tribune on why a charter amendment is not needed at this time. Specifically the articles written by Andrew Luger and the one by Jackie Cherryhomes, F. Clayton Tyler, Tim Baylor, Don Samuels, Sondra Samuels, Tom Hoch and Mark Addicks. Both commentaries are thoughtful explanations about why we are not ready to put the charter amendment to a vote at this time. Everyone is in agreement that change to the MPD is needed but it's important that there is a thoughtful, just and effective plan put together before the charter is amended. I hope the commission votes not to put this on the ballot. I appreciate the difficult position you are in.

Thank you

Fri 7/24/2020 8:41 AM

Hi - I'm a Minneapolis resident in ward 10.

I'm writing to express my support for the amendment to remove the police department as a charter department, a necessary step in creating a more equitable community.

Furthermore, there is no good argument that the people should not be able to vote on it. To not allow a vote would be undemocratic.

Thank you

Fri 7/24/2020 8:46 AM

Great statement from a police officer for Minneapolis.

I Was a Police Officer . . .

Today, I will not answer the radio call that your boyfriend has come home drunk and is beating you again.

Today, I will not answer the radio call that your 16 year-old daughter, who is very responsible, is four hours late coming home from school.

Today, I will not answer the radio call that your store has been robbed or your house has been burglarized.

Today, I will not stop a drunk driver from killing someone. I will not catch a rapist or a murderer or a car thief.

Today, I will not answer the radio call that a man has a gun or tried to abduct a child or that someone has been stabbed or has been in a terrible accident.

Today, I will not save your child that you locked in a car, or the child you were too busy to watch who went outside and fell into the swimming pool, but that I revived.

No, today I will not do that.

Why?

Today, I was suspended from duty for doing my job, because the media, leftists, community organizers, and a mayor who ran on an anti-police agenda — all who know nothing about policing — have vilified my profession.

Because . . .

Today, I was killed by a drunk driver while I was helping push a disabled car off the highway.

Today, I was shot and killed during a routine traffic stop to simply tell someone that they had a taillight out.

Today, I was killed in a traffic accident rushing to help a citizen.

Today, I was shot and killed serving a warrant on a known drug dealer.

Today, I was killed by a man when I came by to do a welfare check because his family was too busy.

Today, I was killed trying to stop a bank robbery or a grocery store robbery.

Today I was killed doing my job.

A chaplain and an officer will go to a house and tell a mom and dad or a wife or husband or a child that their son or daughter or husband or wife or father or mother won't be coming home today.

The flags at many police stations will be flown at half-mast today but most people won't know why.

There will be a funeral and my fellow officers will come, a 21-gun salute will be given, and taps and bagpipes will be played as I am laid to rest.

My name will be put on a plaque, on a wall, in a building, in a city somewhere.

A folded flag will be placed on a mantel or a bookcase in a home somewhere and a family will mourn.

There will be no cries for justice.

There will be no riots in the streets.

There will be no officers marching, screaming 'no justice, no peace'.

No citizens will scream that something must be done.

No windows will be smashed, no cars burned, no stones thrown, no names called.

Only someone crying themselves to sleep tonight will be the only sign that I was cared about.

I was a Police Officer.

Fri 7/24/2020 10:14 AM

Dear Charter Commissioners,

I previously wrote you in support of the Commission-initiated Charter amendment proposal authored by Commissioner Giraud-Isaacson, which would remove the MPD minimum staff levels from the Charter. Now that I have heard your initial discussions about this proposal at the July 20, 2020, special meeting of

the Charter Commission and the July 21, 2020, meeting of the Charter Commission's Public Safety Work Group, I have a few additional comments, some of which are in response to comments made by some of you in those meetings.

1. Is this too rushed? Yes, it is. And it should still be put on the November 2020 ballot. Why? Because, should you report back to the Council by August 5 on its proposed Charter amendment, the Council is clearly determined to put that proposal on the November 2020 ballot. The Commission proposal may simply provide a less drastic means of accomplishing all of the goals the Council hopes to achieve with the passage of its proposal. It would clearly give at least some added flexibility the Council says it needs in order to make transformational changes within the MPD.

Moreover, putting it on the ballot alongside the Council's proposal makes for greater democracy. A couple of the callers at your public hearings suggested that putting a "competitive" proposal on the ballot was undemocratic. Hardly. It's the opposite. Having only one proposal on the ballot is like having an election with only one candidate. With a single proposal, you can only vote it up or down. With more than one, you can consider different ways of achieving the same goal, even when -- or maybe, especially when -- one of the proposals is a lesser included option of the other proposal.

2. Could this result in just a handful of police officers? No. One commissioner suggested that if the Commission-initiated proposal passes, it could mean the Council could fund a police department with just five officers. I doubt it. Section 7.2(b) of the Charter reads:

Department organization. The ordinance establishing each department must provide for an officer or a board or commission as its head, for any other necessary officer, and for appropriate staff and other resources.

Surely "any other necessary officer" and "appropriate staff and resources" will be construed by the courts to mean necessary or appropriate to fulfilling the functions of that department. And while the police department's functions are not spelled out in the Charter, neither are those for Public Works, and no one would similarly suggest that the Council could appropriately staff that department with two administrators and a clerk sitting in an office somewhere.

Just as minimum staffing levels are not required in the Charter for any other department, we will have to rely on the common sense of the Council to staff the police department with enough employees and resources necessary and appropriate to the functions expected of that department.

3. Might this be too confusing to voters? Possibly. It depends on the ballot language of the two proposals. The Council has proposed this language for its proposal, under a title "Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department":

Shall the Minneapolis City Charter be amended to provide for the establishment of a new Community Safety & Violence Prevention Department and to remove the Police Department.

Should the Commission pass his amendment proposal, Commission Giraud-Isaacson has proposed this ballot language, under a title "Eliminating Minimum Funding of Police Force":

Shall the Minneapolis City Charter be amended to remove the minimum funding requirements of the Police Force.

While you have no role in coming up with the final ballot language, clearly this could be confusing. The title of the Council's proposal says nothing about removing the police department. Just looking at the

titles of the two proposals, the Giraud-Isaacson one seems to be far more drastic -- "eliminating minimum funding" versus simply creating a new department.

And from the proposed ballot language, with respect to the police department itself, they don't seem to be all that different: "...remove the Police Department," and "...remove the minimum funding...of the Police Force." But, of course, they are in fact very different.

If both appear on the same ballot, additional ballot language is surely necessary to make it clear to the voters what the proposal actually does. (The Council's proposed ballot language doesn't even mention the fact that it changes who has oversight power over the police, but that's another issue and beyond your purview.) If both proposals make it to the ballot, I would suggest that the Commission-initiated proposal should have ballot language something like this:

Shall the Minneapolis City Charter maintain the Police Department but be amended to remove the minimum funding requirements of the Police Force.

For clarity and to distinguish the two proposals, what is left in the Charter is just as important as what is removed.

One final note: There is a minor conflict between the Council proposal and the Giraud-Isaacson proposal. The Council's proposal would take effect on May 1, 2021; Giraud-Isaacson's proposal would take effect on January 1, 2021. If they both pass in November 2020, a portion of the Council proposal would presumably take effect before the rest of it would. It would be a lot simpler if both proposals took effect on the same date.

Stay safe and healthy.

Fri 7/24/2020 12:06 PM

Good Morning!

I am asking the Commission to let the citizens of Minneapolis vote on City Charter Amendments in November of 2020.

"Let us VOTE--let the people decide how to create safety in our communities."

"Justice can't wait another year!"

Thank You

Fri 7/24/2020 1:26 PM

Dear members of the Charter Commission,

I am a resident of Ward 12 and I support the city council's proposed charter amendment. Please move the amendment to a ballot vote.

Respectfully, you are an unelected body, unaccountable to the people, and you need to stand out of the way so the residents of Minneapolis and our elected officials can decide the future of our city, democratically. I don't know what you're afraid of - if the people truly don't want the charter to be changed, as you seem to believe, then the people won't vote for it.

Do your job and move the current language of the charter amendment - which was drafted by the individuals duly elected to represent the people - to a ballot vote in November.

Fri 7/24/2020 3:07 PM

Hi Al

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in East Harriet.

I know this must be very difficult times. I am very much in favor of having the opportunity to vote on the issue before the charter commission. I appreciate all of the work that you and the charter are doing but I also believe very much in the ability to allow people to vote on an issue of this nature. I never even knew that much of the charter commission before all of this and I find it a bit challenging that we have these systems in place that often feel like gate keeping to me. I get that you are not a part of the design of these systems. You do have a lot of power in this situation even if you had not asked for it. It makes me sad that we elect our city council members and a volunteer appointed body that no one had say in appointing from the community is who is making such a big decision. I have no idea what will happen and think it could easily get defeated but I believe deeply in allowing that to play out. I struggle with the reality that there are almost no members of the charter commission from marginalized communities which speaks even more to a gate keeping role than anything else. Ultimately I just believe the correct thing to do as commissioner would be to not block the ability to allow everyone the chance to decide not just the volunteer appointed commissioners.

Again I ask out of deep respect but I do ask that you support putting this on the ballot for the community to make the decision. Thanks and take care.

Fri 7/24/2020 3:58 PM

I am not in favor of this proposal, I feel it was submitted rashly and without a thoughtful and open process. I don't feel that the council asked or received enough community engagement. i.e. open meetings, etc. I especially do not support the section of the proposal that eliminated Chief Arradondo from a leadership role in our Police or Peace Officers department, I have immense respect for him and I believe he has the respect of many of the cities residents.

We do need change, systemic and real change in this department. I would suggest a change in the Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis, I would like to see Bob Kroll resign and that union reorganized. I would also like to see the Citizens Advisory Committee have real power again, which was taken away. We need more than just retraining, we need to address and eliminate the racism and warrior mentality of our Police Department.

I don't believe that this Council has shown enough Leadership ability to lead this department. They have had the power to manage this department and hold it accountable for the systemic racism all along and until now have not excised their power in any effective way.

Why has there been no effort to engage other community agencies, for example Mental health providers, prior to Mr Floyd's death, the Council had the power to do that but took no action.

It feels to me that this rashness was more about Politics than it was about righting and reshaping this department. When the Chief requested more officers to answer 911 calls, why didn't the idea to bring in Mental Health workers or other community agencies rise then, Instead they just said no.

I want more public meetings regarding the vital issue and more input from other Police departments across the Country who have made significant revisions and improvements on policy and training.

A very concerned and hopeful life long citizen of Minneapolis.

Fri 7/24/2020 4:20 PM

I am opposed to putting charter changes on the November ballot and opposed to making any charter changes at this time or in the near future as there has not been sufficient communication from and by the City Council to present any cohesive, thought-out plan for reorganizing the Police Department to date. This is too rapid a change without any discussion.

Sat 7/25/2020 12:31 PM

To Charter Commission Members:

We urge you to reject the City Council proposal to amend the Charter at this time, replacing the Police Department with a new ill defined entity. There are many reasons to reject this proposal, but we would like to cite a few of our primary concerns:

- 1). The proposed Charter Amendment would be rushed onto the Fall Ballot without even the benefit of thorough analysis regarding options and consequences that might result from study and public hearings.
- 2). The Amendment does not provide sufficient clarity of purpose or principles that would guide further work and discussion in the process of needed reform in public safety.
- 3). It would weaken the role of the Mayor and Chief of Police at the very time they are trying to implement essential reforms in public safety at the community and neighborhood levels.
- 4). The proposed amendment would greatly weaken accountability. Accountability depends upon clearer, not weaker connections between authority and responsibility of the Mayor. The amendment substitutes a chaotic governance structure of direct reports to at least 13 different individuals. It actually defeats or at least weakens the leadership roles that can insure greater accountability for just and effective practices in public safety.
- 5). The MPLS Communities need public safety practices that are clear, value-centered, fair, just, and more accountable. The MPLS Police is part of our vital network of first responders in emergencies--e.g., they with University Police Officers were the very first to respond to the I-35 Bridge collapse; they protect our vital neighborhoods, including ones that surround the U campus with 53,000 students and about 15,000 staff; they handle safety issues 24/7 for a complex community with millions of residents and visitors in venues throughout the year. We cannot pass an amendment without greater clarity regarding how these vital functions will be addressed in any new model.
- 6). The proposed amendment assumes that some policing functions will be replaced with more appropriate responders to mental health and other presenting issues. These are good ideas that are working elsewhere, but it does not take a Charter Amendment to accomplish these goals (see the recent column by Peter Hutchinson et al. in the ST). They can be addressed within the current Charter, a Charter that may be worth reviewing for future modifications with further study. It is also important to explore synergies with Hennepin County, a governance entity with considerable core strengths in many of the areas cited as concerns in the proposed amendment.

We need urgent reform in current policing practices. This amendment will most likely delay such needed reforms. We urge you to reject the proposal.

Sat 7/25/2020 9:56 PM

I support defunding the MPD but without requiring individuals' to buy their own insurance, there's no real solution here. The City's payouts to victims of police brutality exceeded \$25 million from 2003 to 2019. This is residents' money funneled to banks, to billionaires, leaving the poorer communities to suffer loss of resources. See [Bloomberg News article: https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-06-04/the-financial-toll-of-police-brutality-to-cities](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-06-04/the-financial-toll-of-police-brutality-to-cities)

Only with the advent of individual insurance policies will police, peace, and safety officers be truly held accountable.

Sun 7/26/2020 11:10 AM

Minneapolis city council,

I have lived and owned a home in the city for more than a decade. That will end if you make the incredibly rash and dangerous decision to remove the Minneapolis police department. And I'm certain I won't be alone in that sentiment. Businesses and homeowners alike will flee.

Increasingly over the years as the city council has become more and more homogenous and unchecked, the decision making has become downright scary. While you are tripping over each other to win the World's Most Woke Award, the rest of us outside of the bubble you reside in are left scratching our heads.

Removing the police department at a time of unparalleled global turmoil and skyrocketing crime rates is the biggest head scratcher of all. I suppose it's easy to ignore the crime from the luxury of your Linden Hills/Lynnhurst neighborhoods.

The groups who will be hurt most by the removal of the police department are the very groups you claim you are trying to protect. If you can't see that, there simply isn't hope for you. I can't wait for Election Day.

Sun 7/26/2020 5:18 PM

Lisa I am sure you have more than a dozen emails about people's opinion about the department of police ... all of us agree that the racism that exists and police culture needs to be erased... however I want chief arradondo to have a chance to put that in place ... I admire his courage and I think now is the time to have a black leader from our community that has faced racism in Minnesota and understands it to be given a chance to lead

Sun 7/26/2020 5:28 PM

Hi My man is [REDACTED]. I was born in Minneapolis and am writing today because I would like to comment on the July 27 5:00pm Charter Commission Hearing, particularly on the Community Safety Amendment. We all know that hundreds of thousands of people worldwide took to the streets to demand an end to policing. In a truly democratic society, this fact should matter and these voices should be heard. The future of the MPD should be up to the voters of Minneapolis, not unelected decision makers. Those who are and will be directly impacted by the MPD, namely black and brown communities, should be at the forefront of all decisions. We want a vote on the amendment to remove MPD from the charter and the creation of a new department of safety. Anything less would be an insult to black communities and cause further trauma and harm to Minneapolis. We won't settle for small reforms or a different amendment to the commission. We need and demand change that will last beyond one mayor or city council. The charter is the tool that will bring a lasting profound transformation in how Community safety is shaped. Put this power in the hands of the voters. Thank you.

Sun 7/26/2020 5:57 PM

Dear Commissioner Rubenstein,

I am writing to voice my strong support of ensuring all city charter amendments related to community safety and violence prevention, as [drafted by the Minneapolis City Council](#), appear on the ballot this November.

Body cameras, once lauded as the reform measure that would drive equity in policing, have had [celebrated usage rates](#). When my young daughter questioned why all officers don't wear body cameras, I was moved to the understanding that reform has not worked. As such, I feel strongly about having the opportunity to vote for more than just reform measures this November.

Allowing voters to weigh in on minimum funding provisions alone does allow voters a say in policing reform, but would leave voters without the option to support redefinition of public safety in Minneapolis.

In addition to scope of the amendment to be presented, the urgency of meeting deadlines for the November 2020 ballot cannot be underscored. This is critical timing not only due to the currently high level of public engagement in this topic, but, more importantly, to ensure further individuals are not negatively impacted by the systemically toxic culture of the MPD in the time that would be lost until the next ballot.

Please- afford Minneapolis residents the ability to vote on all aspects of this matter in November.

Sun 7/26/2020 9:09 PM

Please don't change the city charter this election cycle. Put the amendment on the ballot for 2021 so we can vote the city council members in or out of office at the same time. Thank you

Sun 7/26/2020 9:38 PM

As Minneapolis downtown residents, we appreciate the dedicated service and leadership provided by Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo.

Recently I had a civil conversation with a police officer while he was parked at 9th Street and Nicollet Mall. Our general discussion centered on the tragic events leading up to and after the death of George Floyd.

He stated that he had been on the force for a number of years and was of the opinion that he had been well trained for his duties and responsibilities. As a Minneapolis resident himself, he felt that efforts must be made to attract future officers from Minneapolis..

Reports I have seen seem to conclude that Individual arbitrators may have been biased in their judgment of investigations of officers whose actions were discriminatory and/or involved excessive force. This aspect of internal investigations that culminate in arbitration rulings needs to be reviewed in a manner that provides a broader level of citizen oversight. Such a reform can be implemented unilaterally through honest and truthful negotiation with all parties invited to the table. This reform does not require changes to the Minneapolis Charter. For the Minneapolis City Council to have acted to defund the Police Department without intelligent analysis of the overall responsibility to maintain public safety for the citizens of Minneapolis is a step backward.

Mon 7/27/2020 8:08 AM

Dear Charter Commissioner Giraud-Isaacson,

Please allow the residents of Minneapolis to vote to change the City Charter. **Residents deserve the right to decide** if we want our city council to have more public oversight and accountability with the Minneapolis Police Department.

My neighbors and I share a concern about racial violence and systemic racism. The status quo of police relations with residents, especially residents of color, is unacceptable. We are a group of mostly white, mostly homeowners in the neighborhood of Lake Nokomis and we want to vote on the City Charter.

We know that change is risky and that some people are nervous. But **even with the inevitable blind spots and missteps, we believe that courageous, systemic changes will be better than the status quo.**

The murder of George Floyd, and the naked racism of the President and his followers, has made it clear that if we want a future without racism, we must make the most of the opportunity before us to fight for change. Now.

You, Commissioner Giraud-Isaacson, are an important individual in the history of this moment. We are counting on you to lead. We are counting on you to let the people of Minneapolis decide our own future.

Please don't delay. Tell the city council that you will let us vote.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Mon 7/27/2020 9:08 AM

Dear Charter Commissioner Clegg,

Please allow the residents of Minneapolis to vote to change the City Charter. **Residents deserve the right to decide** if we want our city council to have more public oversight and accountability with the Minneapolis Police Department.

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Allowing voters to weigh in on minimum funding provisions alone does allow voters a say in policing reform, but would leave voters without the option to support redefinition of public safety in Minneapolis.

In addition to scope of the amendment to be presented, the urgency of meeting deadlines for the November 2020 ballot cannot be underscored. This is critical timing not only due to the currently high level of public engagement in this topic, but, more importantly, to ensure further individuals are not negatively impacted by the systemically toxic culture of the MPD in the time that would be lost until the next ballot.

Please- afford Minneapolis residents the ability to vote on all aspects of this matter in November.

Mon 7/27/2020 9:29 AM

Hello Commisioners,

I have been a homeowner in the North Loop (Ward 3) for the last 20 years.

I do not support the proposal to amend the Charter to eliminate minimum funding of the MPD.

Mon 7/27/2020 9:47 AM

Hello Mr. Clegg,

I have struggled with mental health issues all my life.

Those issues have impacted the life choices I've made and my interactions with the ones I love. But, as a white male from a financially and emotionally stable upbringing, I've been able to overcome those issues through community support, medical intervention and resources that I could easily afford.

But very often BIPOC aren't provided this same level of mental health support or understanding. And this leads to dangerous, and sometimes deadly, encounters with police. Per the National Alliance on Mental Illness*, "people of color, particularly African Americans, have reported disparate treatment when calling the police to assist in a mental health crisis." And according to a 2016 study**, it was estimated that 20 percent to 50 percent of fatal encounters with law enforcement involved someone with a mental illness.

As I witness the frequent police brutality and overall racial inequity in my community, I can't stay silent about my privilege any longer. These troubling times have forced me to reflect on the advantages that I've been given that others haven't been afforded. Many BIPOC don't have the mental health resources

that I've been given; often, their first mental health interactions begin (and tragically end) with the police.

As my representative, I ask that you **please vote to send the Giraud-Isaacson amendment to the November ballot**. This will pave the way towards **divesting funds from the Minneapolis police department in order to invest in mental health and social services as part of a new community safety agency**.

Obviously, improving the way our police department responds to mental health is only one of the many inequities that require immediate action, but I strongly believe that this shift can contribute to positive change for our BIPOC community members.

Mon 7/27/2020 11:40 AM

Members of the Charter Commission:

For too long the MPD has abused their power and we, the people, are done with this abuse. Over 60% of the people killed by MPD have been Black, but they only make up 6% of our population in the Twin Cities. How does this add up? How is this ok?

Please remember that the future of MPD should be up to us, the voters, and residents of Minneapolis, through a democratic process. NOT UNELECTED DECISIONMAKERS.

Thousands of us took to the streets to demand immediate change from the Minneapolis Police Department. This isn't happening fast enough. This MPD should have already been defunded.

I want to vote on the amendment to remove the MPD from the charter and create a new department of community safety (not just ex-cops, rebranded). We won't settle for smaller reforms OR a different amendment from the commission. These tactics are purposely slowing this process down.

I stand with my fellow citizen in demanding change that lasts beyond one term of a city council member or mayor. It's up to voters to shape the change we are asking for. The charter should transform how we do community safety.

The police budget in 2020 was \$189 million, let's spend this money on crisis counselors and medics trained in mental health disorders. Let's spend this money on children and their education, not on the school to prison pipeline. Let's spend this money on providing free housing for our houseless communities being terrorized by the park board and police. Let's spend this money to better improve people's ability to get a job out of high school and college. This is our money—the people who live here—and we don't want it spent on military-style police officers who don't even live in our city.

I've had many uncomfortable situations with the police most of my life. I would like a world where children don't fear the police. I would like a world where we can call a number and *actual* help comes to our community. MPD are terrorists and the leader of their police union is a white supremacist. How is this something that Minneapolis supports? Why is our tax money paying these racists? Why are unelected officials making the decisions about this charter?

Enough is enough. We want a safe Minneapolis. Let's dismantle white supremacy together. Let. Us. Vote.

Black lives matter!

Mon 7/27/2020 12:10 PM

Dear Charter Commissioner Rubenstein,

Please allow the residents of Minneapolis to vote to change the City Charter. **Residents deserve the right to decide** if we want our city council to have more public oversight and accountability with the Minneapolis Police Department.

My neighbors and I share a concern about racial violence and systemic racism. The status quo of police relations with residents, especially residents of color, is unacceptable. We are a group of mostly white, mostly homeowners in the neighborhood of Lake Nokomis and we want to vote on the City Charter.

We know that change is risky and that some people are nervous. But **even with the inevitable blind spots and missteps, we believe that courageous, systemic changes will be better than the status quo.**

The murder of George Floyd, and the naked racism of the President and his followers, has made it clear that if we want a future without racism, we must make the most of the opportunity before us to fight for change. Now.

You, Commissioner Rubenstein, are an important individual in the history of this moment. We are counting on you to lead. We are counting on you to let the people of Minneapolis decide our own future.

Please don't delay. Tell the city council that you will let us vote.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Mon 7/27/2020 12:46 PM

To the Charter Commission:

The Prospect Park Neighborhood Association voted in favor of asking the Charter for inclusion of the City Council's Public Safety amendment on 7/21/2020. As I was in attendance, I was sorely disappointed that NONE of the residents of the 184 units in Glendale Townhomes attended the meeting, or to my knowledge, the Zoom call, which had to have been a small contingent as there were at least 20+ people at the live meeting. In fact, the only person of color at the meeting was a caretaker for Glendale and after the vote, I believe was 23-5, made it known that they need to be included. It appears that much more needs to be done with educating people in regard to educating the people of Minneapolis about what the amendment is and what it isn't. The meeting also stated the need for having community engagement on safety. As of today, there has been no indication of any meetings to further educate the community on either the amendment nor on safety measures that we can take in our neighborhood. Many of these people are immigrants and are not college educated. Those are the people who have the most to lose if the changes to the city are not carefully considered. It seems that the safety of the citizens is of secondary importance right now. I have had to make the decision to not travel west of Prospect Park due to the rash of violence as I cannot and will not put my family in danger. I have had to move ongoing medical care from Children's Hospital of Minneapolis and Abbott to St. Paul for fear of being carjacked with an incapacitated person. Other people do not have that luxury. That puts our most vulnerable citizens at risk.

I can no longer patronize all of the Franklin and Lake Street businesses that need patronage now more than ever after the pandemic if they are to survive. My guess is that the suburban people who also have provided patronage to the stores, restaurants, etc. are not either. Which is also gravely needed to sustain these businesses when the GoFundMe and various donations dry up.

The City government's priority right now is the safety of the people. A rush job of an amendment that puts public safety in the hands of a few without a system of checks and balances is short-sighted at best. The long-term consequences must be considered. We need expert opinions, not a consultant who recommends a group of men (sexist by the way) to patrol the neighborhood. Is anyone with a criminal justice background actually assisting the city council? Having been a victim of domestic violence the ONLY thing that provided me with safety was the threat of law enforcement. I just read where the organizers of several crime-prevent groups cannot do street outreach due to the violence.

South Dakota is currently campaigning for companies to relocate. Do we really want our taxes that pay for EDUCATION to leave the state? Companies are already reducing their real estate footprints as a result of the pandemic. And what about programs for At Risk Youth? I've heard the cry for funding just to find property on the North side for that purpose. Why isn't the council helping with that instead of asking for \$150,000 for a Creative City Challenge (and what even is that?) I can get a similar sized house in Sioux Falls for half the price. I can work from home now, as can many people so leaving to relocate is easier than ever. What about traffic enforcement? Will we see an increase in DUI's? In texting and driving now that we have removed the consequences?

There is NOTHING that says you can't do police reform now instead of focusing on this vague amendment that many people don't understand and further dividing the city from what should be paramount. Citizen safety. Start working on laws for police reform and hold them accountable. Start reforming the Judicial system. Stop the relentless politicizing around you and find real solutions. Be transparent and let the citizens have say in what is happening instead of a minority of 3.

Thank you for your time.

Mon 7/27/2020 12:48 PM

Hello,

I support charter amendment proposal CH2020-00020. This amendment would preserve the one solid part of the amendment put forth by the City Council, which otherwise is a hastily- and poorly- written mess that would make Minneapolis peace officers less accountable and begs the question of who would be in charge of any new police department.

The citizens who are in favor of amending the charter are really in favor of redistributing the massive chunk of funding that the MPP currently receives and spending it elsewhere. CH2020-00020 does that without handing control of a new police force over to a group beneath a city council which has shown little action on realizing policies that hold police accountable (again, LESS accountability than we have now with the MPD answerable to the mayor).

Mon 7/27/2020 1:46 PM

Dear Mr Chegg, Let us vote. Amend City Charter Aug5

Mon 7/27/2020 2:10 PM

Dear Members,

Over the weekend, as I watched the very touching observances for John Lewis, I was particularly struck by a comment from Lewis's friend and House colleague, Rep. James Clyburn.

As Clyburn recounted, Lewis had told him he hoped the promise and potential of Black Lives Matter would not be derailed by a slogan like "Defund the Police", just as the promise of progress in the 1960s was derailed by "Burn Baby Burn".

I have already communicated to you my support for reforming how policing is carried out in Minneapolis, as well as my opposition to the City Council's ill-thought-out proposal to change the charter. The community leaders I respect most have also voiced their opposition, and I am sure you are listening.

John Lewis's warning resounds more strongly than ever. Please do not support a slogan.

Mon 7/27/2020 2:24 PM

Dear Charter Commissioners,

I sent the note below six days ago, and I stand by my statement. Please read it, and please do the right thing: allow us to vote in November on the amendment put forward by the *City Council* so that we at least have the chance of removing the MPD from the charter and creating a new Department of Community Safety. The future of the MPD should be up to the voters of Minneapolis. Let us vote. Let us decide.

Dear Charter Commissioners,

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a resident of Minneapolis. I also teach at the University of Minnesota and am very much invested in our community. I believe Minneapolis can be at the forefront of much-needed structural change. And you can help make that happen.

Please, I urge you to allow the amendment the City Council created to go on the ballot in November. Let the residents of our city vote on it so that we can decide how to better take care of each other, especially those among us who are Black, Indigenous, and of color. We have collectively failed them, over and over again. The time to act is now, not later.

Mon 7/27/2020 4:03 PM

Commissioners,

I do not believe that the Charter Commission's proposed amendment induces desired change to the extent that the city council's proposed amendment does. While eliminating staffing minimums is important, there is nothing that addresses the influence of the union on police governance, there is nothing that creates a focus on public health and wellbeing, and there is nothing that suggests a willingness to tackle the holistic problems presented by the continuous excesses of the MPD. I do not support this watered down amendment, and would request that more active steps are proposed through a revision to the city charter.

Mon 7/27/2020 4:04 PM

I am 100% OPPOSED to any amendment put forth to change the current Minneapolis Charter!

Mon 7/27/2020 4:09 PM

Attached here as well. My kids may prevent me from being on the call, but wanted to present my support for the City Council amendment.

Attachment:

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a resident of Minneapolis, an owner of two Minnesota businesses, a father, and an elected board member of the Lowry Hills East Neighborhood Association. I am not speaking on behalf of anyone other than myself here.

I am dismayed at the Charter Commission's counter-proposal. I do not find it productive or compelling, and I believe that any law enforcement body should be part of a larger holistic solution, an option that the City Council's proposal grants.

More than this, I find Commissioner Andrew Kozak's dismay at 'unequal time' to be ludicrous. I am strongly in favor in having the City Council, and only the City Council's, charter amendment on the ballot for voting on in 2020. A delay would be a dereliction.

Thank you

Mon 7/27/2020 4:24 PM

Dear Charter Commissioners,

I understand you're holding an additional hearing to discuss a proposed amendment of your own that waters down the one presented by our city council. I wonder why a group of unelected officials feels entitled to undermine the elected city council, whose proposed amendment is itself already a softened version of the demands of thousands of citizens who marched in the streets, braving brutal attacks from MPD for weeks. We want the police abolished.

The people of Minneapolis have paid for change with literal blood, sweat, and tears. A friend of mine who is a medic, and was clearly identified as such, was tear-gassed and charged by MPD while she attended to wounded patients -- and that's just one awful story of hundreds from the weeks of protesting. Your concessions to MPD, made from the comfort of your unelected seats, are a craven insult to the sacrifices so many have made to protect our neighbors from yet another year living in fear of state violence.

I really don't know what to think of your behavior, except that it perhaps expresses an abiding contempt for the people of this city. I hope I'm wrong about that. Let us vote.

Mon 7/27/2020 5:16 PM

Dear Charter Commission Members:

I urge you to not approve any Charter amendments regarding the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) until the City Council reveals their plan for the future of policing in Minneapolis.

Please don't propose removing funds for the MPD until we know what the Council will do.

Thank you for your work on this

Mon 7/27/2020 5:27 PM

Comments to Minneapolis Charter Commission

Charter Commission proposed amendment

[REDACTED], 11th Ward resident

Thanks for your work on this most important issue.

But urge you, both with respect to the proposal before you now and the proposal forwarded by the City Council, to **not** adopt the approach, “let’s change the charter now and hope for the best later”.

At this point there is no justification for an action as significant as a charter change. There is no specific approach to public safety on the table that necessitates a change. In fact, the focus on charter change for the sake of charter change has distracted us from fundamental first questions; what is the proper role of law enforcement in relation to other safety strategies, and how can we make the practice and culture of law enforcement more just and trusted.

We’re not even having the right conversation as a community at this point. If the Charter Commission takes the time you are able to take for continued, needed study, you can help create a “re-set” moment so we can go back to where we should have started talking in the first place.

Tue 7/28/2020 12:21 AM

This afternoon (July 27) I tuned online to the Mpls Charter Commission special mtg (public hearing) on the proposed charter amendment related to minimum police staffing levels.

More specifically, I listened to approximately 30 Mpls residents (pre-registered for the hearing) provide very brief (approx 1 minute each) comments on this proposed amendment via phone. These comments took up almost the entire time of this important mtg - which was much too short (1 hour).

Since I did not provide any comments via phone, the following are my written comments.

I echo almost the unanimous opinion that was expressed by those who gave their comments over the phone.

Namely, this whole process is extremely inadequate.

The proposed Charter amendment, if passed, would only eliminate one paragraph that stipulates the minimum police staffing level (0.0017 employee/resident).

So what? Yes, it could lead to allowing for fewer cops in the Mpls Police Dept - perhaps maybe a step in the direction

towards eliminating many police officer positions. Or maybe not.

If it is necessary to pass this charter amendment to move towards allowing the City Council to address the more substantive issues around redefining how safety and violence prevention is more humanely administered - then pass the amendment!

And then get out of the way. And let the City Council act on the original proposal of redirecting huge amounts of what is currently the humongous (almost \$200 million per year) police budget - toward programs that effectively maintain safety and promote nonviolence - while treating all Mpls citizens with respect and dignity.

I encourage all of the members of both the Charter commission and City Council to read through a June report entitled "What Will It Take to End Police Violence?" by the Communities United Against Police Brutality (CUAPB).

CUAPB's recommendations are thorough and based upon years of tracking police misconduct in the Twin Cities.

I believe that enacting many of these recs would go a long way towards achieving a safer, much less violent Mpls people with all citizens being treated with dignity and respect.

The weblink to this 24 page file is:

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/cuapb/pages/1/attachments/original/1591595256/WHAT_WILL_IT_TAKE_TO_END_POLICE_VIOLENCE_with_Appendices.pdf?1591595256

Tue 7/28/2020 6:46 AM

I am biased toward facts and empathy, writing to urge you to approve the proposed Amendments to the City Charter. The language of the Amendments is appropriate, and I believe pragmatic. This is your vote; not the politicians, not the developers and not the Police Federation. Your vote alone.

1. We need Detectives to actually solve rapes, murders, assaults and robberies
2. We need a society that does not use guns at traffic stops or when finding kids skipping school. Yes, we still need rapid response police officers for violent situations.
3. We need housing for the homeless, healthcare, social workers, drug addiction specialists and mental health professionals.
4. We need other solutions and to be bold. There are better ways.

The proposed Amendments are not an over-reaction to recent protests. Your approval allows the citizens to vote in proper Democratic fashion about how Minneapolis should be managed. We don't need a symbolic or token gesture. We need palpable change. This could be a real tipping point. Please vote to Amend the Charter.

Philosophically we are long past time for a moral correction. We need a culpable reckoning. Racism was not cured after the Civil Rights Movement and not even after having a Black President. Racists have only become more cunning through policy, laws and meanness. The small incremental changes made are simply not enough. We in the US must face this fact and build something better. Your decision will define the future. Please look at the big picture because the Constitution is only as good as what is in your hearts. Please vote in favor of the Amendments.

Tue 7/28/2020 8:59 AM

Chair Clegg,

Thank you for the work you're doing now and historically, for the City of Minneapolis.

Last night, I called to comment on the Charter Amendment proposed by Mr. Giraud-Issaacson. Unfortunately, when my line was activated, someone took themselves off of "mute" and I was flooded with background noise (as were those listening). While I hope that arrogance does not lead me to believe that my thoughts will sway you or the commission, I would like to humbly and formally offer my words for your consideration.

Following is the statement I delivered last night and edited for the 1 minute time limit; below that is my original, 2 minute prepared remarks.

Thank you and best wishes as you and the commission move forward.

1 minute Testimony (delivered to Charter Commission on 7/27/2020):

Thank you for the opportunity to speak and willingness to listen.

I am a lifelong Minneapolitan and current board chair for the largest public high school in our city while also working in commercial real estate as a fiduciary for employers, downtown.

As you know, building something takes a lot of time, research, funding, and coordination.

The city council established their original charter amendment which led to the one we discuss today. The inherent flaw in both, is rooted in an assumption that the City Council must control MPD and/or the entire MPD structure must be drastically defunded for impactful equity and change. The resulting problem is, we do not know if this is true.

At best, we face a dangerous outcome and at worst, a devastating blow to our most vulnerable communities and tax revenue, resulting from the fear and uncertainty accompanying NO PLAN or strategy, existing beyond a change to the charter.

I urge the Charter Commission to table any recommendation on amendments until the City Council offers an alternative to our safety and security apparatuses for you, and voters to consider.

Thank you.

2 Minute Testimony (Original prepared for consideration):

Thank you for the opportunity to speak and willingness to listen.

I am a lifelong Minneapolitan and current board chair for a non-profit associated with the largest public high school in our city while also working in commercial real estate as a fiduciary for employers, downtown.

I begin by drawing a parallel to my volunteer chairmanship. In addition to being one of the lowest funded high schools per student in the Minneapolis district, we are able to claim the highest percentage of all students, including BIPOC, enrolled in advanced courses-- last year, it was 96% of our juniors and seniors—the highest graduation percentage, and lowest dropout rate. We have essentially done what no other Minneapolis Public High School has, bridged the achievement gap.

The work has been intense and not without errors but, we have learned, evolved and succeeded in implementing our strategy while pushing beyond “standard MPS operations”. As many of you know, building something takes a lot of time, research, funding, and coordination.

It is my hope that our city government leaders are commended for their recognition that change in MPD is needed as everything begins with an idea, but are forced to propose a tangible strategy and budget before any amendments are passed for a vote.

The city council established their original charter amendment which led to the one we discuss today. The inherent flaw in both, is rooted in an assumption that the City Council must control MPD and/or the entire MPD structure must be drastically defunded for impactful equity and change. The resulting problem is, we do not know if this is true.

At best, we face a dangerous outcome and at worst, a devastating blow to our most vulnerable communities and tax revenue, resulting from the fear and uncertainty accompanying NO PLAN or strategy, existing beyond a change to the charter.

I urge the Charter Commission to table any recommendation on amendments until the City Council offers an alternative to our safety and security apparatuses for you, and voters to consider.

Thank you.

Tue 7/28/2020 10:27 AM

I do not support a change in the city charter.

What needs to be done can be done within the existing charter through contract renegotiation and other means which require change from within - and monitoring that change.

We need a police force, and anyone who believes that we don't is living in an alternate reality. It is already hard enough to find good applicants and good cops, nationwide. Sending the message of

“defunding” the police is a dangerous thing, and will result in lawlessness by emboldened criminals in light of the city’s kumbayah double-speak - and will exacerbate existing issues.

Your voting constituency is watching, and your decisions could have a cataclysmic effect on local home values, jobs, and the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of tax paying Citizens. People are already leaving the city in droves - don’t give us another reason by “abolishing” the cops though a charter change. The fact that three of your own members require armed guard protection should tell you all you need to inform this decision.

Our neighborhoods are talking about this, a lot, and it’s not the cops we’re worried about. It’s the council.

Tue 7/28/2020 11:13 AM

Dear Chairman Clegg,

I wish to clarify my previous email now that I have a better understanding of the various Charter Amendments that have been proposed. I want Minneapolis to be able to vote on the original Charter Amendments to Articles VII and VIII proposed by councilmembers Ellison, Cano, Gordon, Fletcher, and Bender, and NOT any of the amendments proposed by Charter Commission members. Please take action at your next meeting and let us vote in November 2020.

Tue 7/28/2020 11:24 AM

Dear Charter Committee,

As a resident of Minneapolis, I ask that you please allow Minneapolis residents to vote on the original proposed charter amendment written by our elected city council. I support this amendment and would like to vote on it.

As a resident of Minneapolis, moving towards justice cannot be done "too fast." I believe that this amendment would give the city council the power to study, work on, and eventually create a more just department of community safety.

Please approve the original proposed charter amendment quickly to allow voters and elected leaders to decide how to proceed.

Thank You

Tue 7/28/2020 11:36 AM

Gentlemen,

Please see the attached letter about my thoughts on the issue with the Minneapolis Police Department.

I am requesting that no response is made to this email. I am only requesting that it be read and my points be noted.

Attachment:

Andrew Johnson & Barry Clegg

Gentlemen, I would like to give you my opinion on the current issue of defunding or dismantling the Minneapolis Police Department. As a life long resident of Minneapolis and a 43 year homeowner in the city, I think I have that right.

First, I would tell you I am pro-police. I have a number of close friends and relatives that are either current or retired law enforcement. My last years in the U.S. Army were with the Army MP Brigade.

Second, I will tell you that I think the incidents that have caused the current debate are horrible and should never have happened. It does not matter who you are, where you come from or what color your skin, nobody deserves that kind of treatment. Those responsible, law enforcement or not, should be held accountable.

With that said, here is what I think.

I am sure we are only getting part of the information, but what I am hearing and/or reading is quite disturbing. I know there are going to be “bad” cops in any police department, Minneapolis included. The issue, as I see it, is not dismantling the police department. It is training and implementing a yearly review system similar to the military system that could weed out the bad ones. If a police officer is not following policy or committing an act that is against the law, they should be fired and held responsible for whatever they did.

It would be interesting to find the statistics for how many people of color have been shot, injured or killed by the Minneapolis Police Department in the last 5 years. Now, place that number against the number of people of color that have been shot, injured or killed by other people of color. And maybe someone can explain why when any minority person is shot, injured or killed by the police, it turns into a national outcry and protests & riots break out. Yet, when an officer in any city is shot, injured or killed, it is barely mentioned on the news, IF at all.

I have recently read in the StarTribune that the city council agreed to set aside \$100,000 to begin planning a memorial for Mr. Floyd. While this incident was very tragic and unnecessary, it brings up a couple of questions. #1 – Does the city council plan to spend taxpayer dollars on every tragic event that happens in the city? #2 – If the city council plans on spending taxpayer dollars on all tragic events, why has there been no effort or movement to plan a memorial for all the good police officers that have been killed while on duty in the city of Minneapolis? If the council wants the city to be run with equality, shouldn't both sides be equally represented?

What is most disturbing, however, is the councils wish to put it on the November ballot to

defund/dismantle the police. What I am reading or hearing on the news is that the council wants it put to a vote. A plan, we are told, will be developed in the next year. I think this is a bad idea. How can a reasonable person make an informed decision on such an important issue without knowing the details of the plan? I find the councils wish to put on the ballot to defund/dismantle the police department to be very irresponsible without a definite plan to propose to the residents of Minneapolis BEFORE it is put on the ballot for a vote. A plan after a vote to change seems backwards. I also think that having a police department answering to 13 people is a bad idea. The police department should only be responsible and answer to 1 person, the mayor, in this case. There should be a chain of command. The officers answer to the precinct captains, the precinct captains answer to the police chief & the police chief answers to the mayor. An organization, such as the police department, is taken in too many directions when lead “by committee”.

What I have heard is that you want to replace the police with more mental health experts and other non-law enforcement people. Maybe in some circumstances, this would be acceptable. However, would you send in unarmed mental health experts to a domestic abuse situation without knowing if either party is armed or otherwise dangerous? In the current state of conflict, would you want to send unarmed employees on a traffic stop in the middle of the night? With all the shootings that are being reported &

the number of guns on the street, I wouldn't want to be that person & I wouldn't want to be the one responsible for sending someone out on the street for that purpose. I am also reading that it is now the wish of some council members that the head of the "new" police department be a person with no law enforcement experience. This is just as ridiculous as having a fire chief not knowing how to fight a fire or a military General not knowing how to lead troops. As a side note, I feel that Chief Medaria Arradondo is doing as good a job as any chief could with his department. I would hope he would continue in his position.

With all the comments from the city council and other leaders, it seems that the "bad guys" feel they have the run of the city. I know that summer brings a little more activity, but it sure seems out of hand lately. It seems as if nobody cares to say "enough" and put some enforcement on the street for fear of infringing on someone's rights.

Does change need to be made to the Minneapolis Police Department? Absolutely! I believe it can be done with training, revised policy and a positive, defined method for enforcing those policies. This could be accomplished if more time was spent on this issue than how to put in more high density apartments in over crowded neighborhoods and bike lanes that are under utilized. While I believe everyone should be treated with the same respect & dignity, no matter who you are, there is one other factor to consider. Along with everyone being treated the same, I feel it is time for people to take some personal responsibility. Policing is a hard and thankless job. If you are doing something wrong or illegal and get caught, don't fight or complain your rights are being violated, unless you are being tortured. The point is that if you are not doing anything wrong, you should have nothing to worry about. There are a lot of good people in this city, just like there are a lot of good police.

Other than going downtown at night, I have always felt pretty safe in the city. If the policing changes as the city council has indicated it wants, I may have to consider moving from the city I have lived in most of my life to a city that actually values the work of a solid police department. I would not want to live in a city that does not make its citizens feel safe and able to call for police help when in need of police response.

Tue 7/28/2020 11:39 AM

Here are my comments.

Attachment:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Minneapolis Charter Commission

I speak in opposition to the Minneapolis City Council resolution being place on the 2020 November ballot. My reasons are three-fold. First let me be clear, I believe reform is required. The Police Chief need to be able to fire police officers that violate the public trust. We need to ban chokeholds and other military (war) tactics. We must expand our partnership with Hennepin County and community based human service professionals to address the needs of citizens experiencing mental illness, homelessness and chemical dependency. Our community safety net is failing our community and we have used the police and the criminal justice system to manage our social problem. We do NOT need to defund, dismantle or threaten to eliminate the police department to accomplish these NECESSARY changes.

1) The question of redesigning the police department is a major decision that requires broad input from Minneapolis taxpayers. Rather than shut out or shut down public input from city residents we should welcome it. Honoring a pledge must not come at the expense to citizen input. THE CITY COUNCIL HAS NOT HELD ONE PUBLIC HEARING.

2) The proposal politicizes the Minneapolis Department by making the City Council, Mayor and a Citizen leader responsible for policing in the city. I have been a city council member, Council President and the Mayor. No one can lead anything with 15 individual bosses. THE CITY COUNCIL HAS NOT PRESENTED A PLAN TO THE RESIDENTS OR PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE CITY.

3) This general outline of vision does not constitute a plan that is ready for a public vote. The Charter Commission has not been provided with sufficient information to determine if the matter should be presented for a public vote. THE MATTER SHOULD BE ON THE BALLOT NEXT YEAR DURING AN ELECTION CYCLE WHEN WE ARE FOCUSED ON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Minneapolis resident must have a role in developing the model before the question is on the ballot. The City Charter is an important tool that must be subject to the highest level of scrutiny.

All of our votes count not just the City Council that NEVER asked for public opinion.

Tue 7/28/2020 2:34 PM

Dear Al,

As a resident of Ward 10, I have read your proposed substitute amendment to article VII of the City Charter and find it fails to meet the moment at a time when change is so desperately needed.

It is unclear to me how a separate department of public safety would change the function of law enforcement duties at all, nor does your amendment seem to change how police are held accountable.

As such, your substitute amendment seems designed to undermine the original amendment put forward by Ellison, Cano, Gordon, Fletcher, and Bender (who are all elected, I might add).

I ask that you respect the will of the people, as well as their representatives, in deciding what is best for themselves.

Thank you

Tue 7/28/2020 1:36 PM

Share your opinion or problem with the Mayor

I want to make several points related to the City Council's efforts to send the City Charter and eliminate a minimum police requirement and/or a police department at all:

- I do not support this
- we are witnessing anarchy and violence crime everyday, and that is only with the force down ~150 cops - what happens when they execute much worse?
- it is unfair to ask the police to be stretched so thin and punish an entire force for the heinous acts of on on May 25th
- focus on the Police Federation, not the City Charter
- the public feedback in the public hearings are MONOPOLIZED by City Council sympathizers from Reclaim the Block and Black Visions Collective; the actual written comments in the public record now number in the thousands and it must be noted that the MAJORITY are against this city charter change
- small group, big voices are trying to intimidate the volunteer members of the City Charter Commission

- this is too rushed

- even as politically involved and tech savvy as I am - I can not participate in the complex process of finding the link to register for public comment/fill out the forms/figure out the dial in/write two separate comment forms for City Council vs Mayor/upload comments in advance, etc - this online forum creates a hardship to express opinions for most - only the most diehard activists are willing to jump thru the hoops

- I refuse to vote for any charter amendment endorsed by this City Council - the language is way too vague ("may" used indiscriminately) and they are feigning collecting public feedback with no path forward but their own plan - we have seen this play out before and they can not be trusted to amplify the real voices of Minneapolis

- if this goes thru, I will leave Minneapolis after 30 years of loving this city - our city government simply will not listen to us and they are taking us down a dangerous path to further erode what once was a first class place to live

- get ready for a mass exodus - between the Council, the Park Board and the severe decline in public schools, I see no reason to tough it out

Tue 7/28/2020 3:07 PM

Dear Charter Commissioner Clegg,

Please allow the residents of Minneapolis to vote to change the City Charter. **Residents deserve the right to decide** if we want our city council to have more public oversight and accountability with the Minneapolis Police Department.

I have been a resident of the Minnehaha neighborhood in Southeast Minneapolis for 6 years. My husband and I decided to purchase a home here and have since grown our family and have two young children ages 2 and 5. I want my children to grow up in a city they can be proud of, a city free of systemic racism. I also want my children to grow up in a community where resources and agencies are properly formed to better serve the needs of the community-not all emergent social needs require the response of an armed police officer. That is the space that the charter seeks to create. The status quo of police relations with residents, especially residents of color, is unacceptable.

In my neighborhood we are a group of mostly white, mostly homeowners in the neighborhood of Lake Nokomis and **we want to vote on the proposed amendment to the City Charter**. I am concerned that if we do not put this charter up for a public vote it will fail if we rely on the city council to pass it unanimously. Residents of the city should be given the opportunity to decide.

I also have concerns about how the proposed amendment has been promoted. I urge members of the charter to do a better job at educating the community so that they understand that abolishing the police DOES NOT mean eliminating an armed response by trained officers where it is appropriate, but rather is about diversifying and improving our city's response to issues that affect our society as a whole so that we have better outcomes-and that many times there is a much better response to a situation than sending an armed officer to a location. In fact, we have asked far too much of our police for far too long- it is impossible for one person to be properly trained to address every societal issue that presents itself and we can do better.

We know that change is risky and that some people are nervous. But **even with the inevitable blind spots and missteps, we believe that courageous, systemic change will be better than the status quo.**

The murder of George Floyd, and the naked racism of the President and his followers, has made it clear that if we want a future without racism, we must make the most of the opportunity before us to fight for change here-in our city. Change starts locally and change starts with us.

You, Commissioner Clegg, are an important individual in the history of this moment. We are counting on you to lead. We are counting on you to let the people of Minneapolis decide our own future.

Please don't delay. Please tell the city council that you will let the residents of Minneapolis vote!

Thank you for your service to our wonderful city, and your attention to this urgent matter.

Tue 7/28/2020 3:11 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

The people of Minneapolis are not well informed enough about the potential impacts of this charge to make an informed decision on its actual effects. I do not think it is appropriate to change the city charter on the whims and threats of activist groups, who may benefit from this change. The proposed changes are not well thought out and will have negative, unintended consequences. I also think it is unwise to move swiftly into actions until a clear plan for the future is created. We can all dream of a utopia where crime is a distant memory, but right now, in this city people are being murdered because the police are being harassed and assaulted in the course of carrying out their job. I fully understand the need for a more transparent, better trained, and more accountable police force, but this is the wrong way to accomplish that change. I think the city council would be wise to quit listening to a small majority of voices, who are preaching a critical justice theory approach to governance, and do what has been shown to work. Increase training, increase standards, increase accountability to the community. Destroying the charter and eliminating minimum police presence will open this city to a host of problems that will only make life worse for those already living in violence prone neighborhoods and lead to more suffering and death in those communities. Thank you for your time. Please consider the actual consequences of your actions.

A concerned citizen

Tue 7/28/2020 3:52 PM

Dear Charter Commissioners,

Oy! When will these emails ever end?!

As I'm sure you've heard, it's difficult to get everything you want to say in a one-minute comment. So here, in the form of a post I just posted, is an elaboration on my comment during yesterday's hearing on the Giraud-Isaacson proposal:

Many people supporting the Council's Charter amendment proposal showed their true colors yesterday when they said that putting the Commission-initiated Charter amendment proposal on the ballot would be anti-democratic.

The Council proposal, of course, would create a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention, with an optional law enforcement division within it. The Commission proposal would simply eliminate the minimum staffing requirement for the police force from the Charter, which is basically a subset of the Council proposal.

The claims of the supporters of the Council proposal mystify me. How is having more than one proposal on the ballot anti-democratic? Would it similarly be

more democratic to have only one candidate on the ballot? How can an up-or-down choice on a single proposal be more democratic than having more than one alternative on the ballot?

This Orwellian re-definition of "democratic" is disturbing, if not frightening. I'm not sure I'd want to be a part of this kind of "democracy."

And I would have included this rhetoric in my comment if I had had another few seconds:

The elected body had no discussion in public and no hearing on its proposal; the un-elected body has published thousands of comments it received, has held a public hearing, and will be discussing the proposal openly again on Wednesday. You tell me who is more accountable, and which process has been more democratic and more transparent.

Thank you all for the incredible amount of time you have been putting in as volunteers over the course of these past few weeks.

Keep safe; stay healthy.

Tue 7/28/2020 3:52 PM

Dear Charter Commissioners,

I feel I need to clarify my position on the Giraud-Isaacson Charter amendment proposal proposal. I had previously written that even though this was far too rushed, it ought to be on the ballot in November 2020 because the Council was determined to put its proposal on the ballot then too.

But my position is that if the Council's proposal will not be on the ballot in November, then you should slow down on the Giraud-Isaacson proposal. Even for those of you who see it as an almost-technical revision of the Charter, i.e., that minimum staff requirements for no departments should be in the Charter, I would say that since it arose in the context of a discussion about "defunding the police," it should in no way be rushed. So I only support the Giraud-Isaacson proposal going on the ballot in November if the Council's proposal is there too.

Unfortunately, because of different timelines, you have to decide on the Giraud-Isaacson proposal before you decide on the Council proposal. If you agree with my reasoning, I guess you'll just have to guess whether you think the Commission will vote to approve or reject the Council proposal at the August 5 Commission meeting.

Keep safe, stay healthy, and get some sleep.

Tue 7/28/2020 4:22 PM

Hello Commissioners,

I have been a homeowner in the North Loop (Ward 3) for the last 20 years.

I do not support the proposal to amend the City Charter to address the creation of a new Charter Department to provide for community safety and violence prevention, and the removal of the Police Department as a Charter Department.

I wrote to you last week with similar comments but am writing again because I still have not seen what I would consider reasonable action from the City Council.

I still have not seen a detailed plan from the City Council showing the in-depth analysis behind their proposal. Nor have I seen an impact study showing the full spectrum of potential effects that could be caused by the removal of the Minneapolis Police Department from the City Charter.

I do not believe that this proposal is ready for the ballot nor do I believe that it will be ready for the ballot until the City Council has done its due diligence which would include public hearings and conversations with many different types of Minneapolitians from all walks of life, with law enforcement, and with other experts.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Tue 7/28/2020 4:29 PM

To the Honorable Minneapolis Charter Commissioners:

I have been resident for the last 39 years of Minneapolis Ward 13 and I am writing to oppose the proposed Charter amendment CH2020-0014.

I have attended the two virtual public hearings that have been held to date on the Council's proposed Charter amendment described above and on the alternative proposed by one of your members. I think that the proposal submitted to the Commission by the City Council should be rejected because it is not sufficiently developed. In particular, the City Council's proposal does not allow voters to understand the implications of this sweeping change that eliminates the Police Department and substitutes a Department of Community Safety and Violence Prevention, the specific operations of which are insufficiently described in the proposed new Section 7.3 (a) and (b).

The alternative language proposed by a member of the Commission to eliminate Section 7.3 (c) describing required funding of the Police Department is less confusing, but is not ideal, given the City Council's apparent intent. It would be far preferable for the City Council to conduct whatever further proceedings it deems necessary to analyze this action, describe in detail its proposed changes and then review revised language with the Commission and put a revised proposal to a vote of the voters --- even though this likely means that any changes would be delayed beyond November 2020.

I noted when attending the virtual public hearings that many commenters were trying to convince the Commissioners that you are not authorized to act in any way other than to approve the City Council's language so that it can be considered by the voters in November. Such a restriction on the Commission's authority would make the Commission unable to perform its duty to oversee the Charter and any amendments, and thus make the Commission unnecessary.

Thank you for your work on this important matter and for the opportunity to comment.

Tue 7/28/2020 4:35 PM

Since previous commitments have kept me from making oral comments I am reducing to writing my thoughts regarding the proposed charter amendment.

I am unaware of any effort to review the extensive work including public hearings in 2008 and 2009 when along with my former colleagues Ralph Remington and Don Samuels I proposed a comprehensive amendment to the city's administrative structure. I had considered filing my entire file with all of you and thought the best of it. You all are aware of that work. It is of course disappointing that as far as I can tell it has been ignored in your current process.

The Mayor's specific role as it relates to the police department is an historical anachronism. The language dates back to a time literally BEFORE the City even had a police department. It dated back to a time when the Mayor literally hired each of the officers. It is frankly more than silly that in 2020 this conversation is taking place. Given civil service, the unionization of police and an extensive management structure that now determines hiring and firing of police officers why are Council Members putting so much stock into this outdated language?

The problem in Minneapolis is not that the City Council lacks the authority to address policing issues. If that were so then it would make sense to blame the last three mayors but no one to my knowledge is doing that either. The problem in Minneapolis is that there is simply no rational management system that ensures that discussions or actions at the Council level are ever implemented. I saw this firsthand. Literally I worked to gain unanimous votes for staff directions that simply never were followed.

Council Members have been speaking as though the police department is imposed on them and they have no power over it. That is patently untrue. The Council could have insisted that the work on the 2015 OJP audit was completed. The Council could have held public hearings and had public discussions regarding the death of Justine Damond but did not. The Council could have amended its use of force policy after Eric Garner's death in New York or certainly after public records from its own department showed 44 incidents of "unconscious neck restraint" prior to George Floyd.

The most charitable explanation for all of this is the City's antiquated management system in which it seems nearly impossible at times for anyone to hold anyone accountable. This is what I spent the last 18 months of my service to the City on the City Council trying to change. Council Members Goodman and Gordon, and many others, opposed or ultimately sidelined those efforts. The Charter Commission itself was uninterested when former Congressman Martin Sabo, Don Fraser and I appeared at your meeting in 2010 to ask you to further study the proposed changes as Council Member Goodman and Council President Johnson had suggested a year earlier. Former Mayor Rybak subsequently informed a member of our working group that he was "not interested in management." We were persistent but ultimately realistic. There was no political will.

Mostly my emotions are sadness not anger. Sadness for a city government manifestly unwilling to do what needs to be done to make our government work. Meanwhile this precious jewel of a city is suffering lasting damage. We can recover but only with leadership. And only by fixing a broken system of government can that occur.

The argument that the people should get to vote is specious. If the Charter Commission is simply to rubber stamp a poorly drafted and poorly devised amendment and send it to the voters there is no reason for the Charter Commission to exist. You are independent for a reason. You are not appointed to do the bidding of the elected officials. Quite the opposite. You are in your position to protect the citizens from charter amendments that are motivated by the convenience or politics of the moment.

I ask you to not just postpone the proposed amendments. I ask you to take the next year to conduct the comprehensive study of city government former Council President Johnson and Council Member Goodman promised in their letter to the commission in 2009. You may suspect, as I believe, that the letter was not a serious proposal but rather a cynical ploy to defeat our efforts. Nonetheless the need a decade later to finally take the time to develop a thoughtful reform of our government could not be clearer.

You have an opportunity to make a lasting difference in the life of our city. Please don't miss that chance.

Thank you for your service.