



MINNESOTA POLICE AND PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

525 Park Street, Suite 250 St. Paul, MN 55103-2145
Phone: 651-291-1119 Website: www.mppoa.com

June 12, 2020

Representative Carlos Mariani
Chair, Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy Division
Minnesota House of Representatives
381 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sent via email

Dear Chairman Mariani,

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) has represented Minnesota's public safety officers for nearly 100 years and currently has 10,000+ members who hold active law enforcement licenses in the state of Minnesota. Our members include municipal police officers, county deputy sheriffs, correctional officers, and other public safety professionals. The MPPOA is the largest association representing public safety professionals in the State of Minnesota.

We have worked for generations to ensure our police forces are trained to the highest standards and have been part of nation-leading efforts to improve public safety. We share the goal of safer communities where the public has faith and trust in law enforcement and that law enforcement has the guidance and training they need to do their job successfully.

Public safety is a bedrock principle for a strong community and the work done by peace officers throughout the state has contributed to Minnesota's thriving standard of living and places it consistently among the safest places in the country to raise a family.

The trust of the community is a critical component of any law enforcement agency. Communities of color are hurting, they're angry, and their rights to protect peacefully must be protected. Ending racism among all members of law enforcement, as well as officer bias toward communities of color, demands our full attention.

MPPOA is committed to doing our part to enhance trust and stands ready to help build policies to make policing reflect the needs of each community. We ask that rank and file members of law enforcement be included in the discussions at the legislature, and we have deliberate conversations, together.

These important conversations can't happen in just a few days. These conversations should be thoughtful, deliberate, and include many stakeholders, including rank and file members of law enforcement. The recommendations of the "Working Group on Police-Involved Deadly Force Encounters" are a good place to start.



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While many new proposals have been released this week, the MPPOA has not had adequate time to review them and cannot specifically comment. Our members have been on the front line of the responses and we would like to be involved in shaping these reforms.

There are many across the country who are grappling with the right approach to improving law enforcement and Minnesota can lead the way by including representatives of all interested parties, including law enforcement.

Thank you for your commitment and service to making Minnesota a safe community for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Brian Peters
Executive Director
Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association



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