



Communities United Against Police Brutality™

**4200 Cedar Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407
612-874-STOP
www.CUAPB.org**

January 7, 2023

Rep. Kelly Moller, Chair
Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
509 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Moller and Committee Members:

Thank you for accepting this written testimony related to a presentation on Tuesday, January 10 by the Minnesota Board of Private Detective and Protective Agent Services.

The Minnesota Board of Private Detective and Protective Agent Services provides a crucial function in ensuring individuals providing investigative and security services are properly background checked, qualified and trained and that the organizations employing them meet statutory requirements.

We became interested in the work of this agency when we began to receive reports of unlicensed security guards at grocery stores and other public facilities violating people's rights through physical violence and other illegal acts. When we requested information from the Board about filing complaints, we were told that the Board can only act on complaints against licensed individuals and organizations. This is despite MN Stat. 326.3311, Subd. 4, which empowers the Board to "enforce all laws and rules governing private detectives and protective agents." Thus, individuals and organizations who wish to skirt state statutes can simply fail to become licensed and the Board will do nothing to hold them accountable to these statutes or professional standards.

As law enforcement agencies face shortages, businesses increasingly rely on private security services, some of which lack the accountability and quality controls required by state statute. It is clear to us that the Minnesota Board of Private Detective and Protective Agent Services must be empowered with rules changes or resources to address the burgeoning number of unlicensed individuals and organizations providing security services.

We urge you to address this issue by requiring the Board to fulfill their duty as outlined in MN Stat. 326.3311, Subd. 4, providing any needed resources to ensure their ability to do so.

We would be happy to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

s/ Michelle F. Gross
Michelle Gross, President