

April 14, 2021

Plymouth Diversity Equity and Inclusion

In support of police reform bills: HF1104 (Thompson), HF640 (Gomez), HF1103 (Thompson), and HF TBD (Frazier/Moller) - Limiting the authority for peace officers to stop or detain drivers for certain motor vehicle equipment violations.

On behalf of 394 Plymouth residents who are members of Plymouth Diversity Equity and Inclusion, we strongly support the police reform bills listed above.

This is literally a matter of life and death. The unrestrained murder, assault and harassment of People of Color by the police are terrorizing and traumatizing an entire community. It is unthinkable that in the United States of America and here in Minnesota citizens live in fear for their lives and the lives of their loved ones.

For our members who are allies, they are at a loss, bewildered and shocked by those police who choose to assault and murder and those legislators who choose to do little about it. Are we to escort our Black and Brown neighbors every time they leave their homes? We already interrupt errands, go in late to work and miss appointments because we feel a call to duty to pull over and record all interactions between the police and people of color.

It is your duty, not ours, to protect us; all of us. You have taken an oath to do so and have no moral standing to do anything less.

Last year we were told there were "sweeping police reform laws." There were not. Instead, a few minor changes were put into law described as "a slap in the face" by the community of color. To most of us, we recognize it for what it is: a cover up to the fact that little was done, and nothing would change. The proof is before us today.

For those legislators who do not support these bills, you are breaking your oath of office. For those legislators who want to use property damage to distract from the cause and to turn attention away from police officers committing the unthinkable crimes, you are accomplices; you are creating a false equivalency between the loss of property and the loss of life. Of course, everyone is against property damage and theft but the solution is to stop police brutality, which will in turn uphold and support officers who can carry out their duty in commendably and free them from working alongside officers who do not.

We ask that you recognize the urgency of the situation and pass these bills immediately.

Sincerely,

Audrey Britton, chair, and 394 Plymouth residents

Plymouth Equity Inclusion and Diversity

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