

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

May 4, 2021

The Honorable Carlos Mariani
479 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Warren Limmer
3221 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Jamie Becker-Finn
559 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Andrew Mathews
2105 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Kelly Moller
569 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Mark Johnson
3111 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Cedrick Frazier
439 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Bill Ingebrigtsen
3207 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Tim Miller
329 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Ron Latz
2215 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Judiciary & Public Safety Conference Committee Members:

On behalf of all residents of Ramsey County we want to thank you for your efforts to create a judiciary and public safety system that works for all Minnesotans. We know that the work of a legislative session is never easy and this one has been particularly trying for a number of reasons. There is a lot to like in these bills and as you work together to craft the Judiciary and Public Safety Omnibus package we wanted to connect and share Ramsey County's thoughts on a few items.

In the area of Corrections, we strongly support additional funding for the Community Corrections Act formula. We particularly appreciate the Senate position that adds additional funding to the base going forward. We also strongly support the Healthy Start Act. Helping mothers establish parental bonds at the beginning and throughout their pregnancy is one of the best and most preventive steps we can take as a state and society, to ensure the health of mothers and their children.

In terms of the Courts, we want to thank the House for including HF 901 (Moller) which establishes prosecutor-initiated sentence adjustments. This effort has been a priority of the Ramsey County Attorney's Office and we are pleased to see this thoughtful and reasonable

initiative move ahead. We are also pleased by the efforts made to reduce or allow for a waiver of some of the fines and fees placed on individuals as they engage with the court system. As you know Ramsey County has been a leader in this area and we know that a common-sense approach is necessary to ensure that people are not punished based on an inability to pay.

Finally, we know that this year, more than ever, we need to take a serious and comprehensive look at our law enforcement system and consider possible reforms. We support transforming the criteria for traffic stops and setting standards for public assembly response. We also support the necessary and important changes to statutes regarding recognizing, reporting, and responding to crimes motivated by bias. In Ramsey County, nearly three of every 20 residents are Asian American – the second-largest racial or ethnic population in our county and by far the highest population among Minnesota counties. We have heard many stories from our API community detailing racism, both overt and subtle, which has increased dramatically since the outbreak of COVID-19 in Ramsey County a year ago.

Thank you again for your work in service to the State of Minnesota. In the days ahead please feel free to reach out to us with any questions you may have or to ask for any assistance you may need. Your work is critical to the well-being of all Minnesotans and we are proud to be your partner in these efforts.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Toni Carter".

Commissioner Toni Carter
Ramsey County Board Chair