



## MENDOTA HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Date: January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Chair Moller and Members of the Public Safety Committee,

On behalf of the Mendota Heights Police Department (MHPD), I am writing in support of HF 55 to establish a Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls Office. The MHPD is committed to preserving the safety of everyone we serve and we understand that historically, the profession of policing has not dedicated equitable resources to ensure that missing and murdered Black women and girls get the protection and justice they deserve. This is evidenced by the fact that cases involving Black women and girls stay open longer than similarly situated cases.

Incidents of domestic and intimate partner violence are underreported for many reasons, not the least of which is a mistrust of law enforcement by some in our communities. Of the domestic violence crimes that are reported in Minnesota, Black women make up 40% of victims while representing seven percent of the population.

The Mendota Heights Police Department puts in work to try and ensure equality for all, but we don't always get it right. Having the Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls Office could greatly assist us and all law enforcement by serving as a resource to help make sure we are acting according to our mission and values. They could help us build the trust and legitimacy necessary to prevent these crimes and/or properly and effectively respond to victims.

Sincerely,

Kelly McCarthy  
Chief of Police