



MINNESOTA CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

DEDICATED TO THE IDEALS OF PROFESSIONAL POLICING

803 Old Highway 8 NW * Suite 1 * New Brighton, MN 55112 * 651.457.0677 * 800.377.4058 * www.mnchiefs.org

June 11, 2020

Re: Proposed Police Reform Measures

Dear Legislators :

On behalf of more than 300 police chiefs and another nearly 200 deputy chiefs and command staff across our state, the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) is renewing its calls for legislative action on key police reform measures. As many of you know, our organization has long been a strong advocate for several of the proposals being discussed both locally and nationally, and we will continue to be a loud voice for meaningful changes to the profession.

Following the brutal death of George Floyd that horrified, saddened and appalled our members, we pledge to continue our commitment to working with lawmakers, community groups and stakeholders to reform policing practices. We must make real changes to ensure that officers receive the training necessary to prevent biased policing and inappropriate use of force and are held accountable when they happen.

During the special session, we urge you to pass the reforms below. Our organization has fought for many of these measures, some of which are derived from a February 2020 report by the state's Working Group on Police-Involved Deadly Force Encounters.

The Working Group, composed of law enforcement, mental health experts and community leaders, spent nine months conducting hearings and taking testimony from the public. It was co-chaired by Attorney General Keith Ellison and Department of Public Safety Commissioner John Harrington. The Working Group's report should serve as a roadmap going forward.

Recommendations

Change laws governing collective bargaining agreements that impede discipline of officers who seriously betray the public trust

Empower the Police Officers Standards and Training (POST) Board, at the request of a chief or sheriff, to review and revoke the professional license of an officer who shows a pattern of failing to follow public policy

Encourage all police agencies to adopt use-of-force policies that make sanctity of life a core organizational value
Create an independent and specialized investigation unit within the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) with the authority to investigate all officer-involved shootings and uses of force that result in death or severe bodily injury

Assist law enforcement agencies to implement an Early Intervention Program (EIP) for officers and dispatchers that is designed to identify problem behaviors at the earliest possible stage so that intervention and support can be offered in a non-disciplinary manner

Expand resources and increase statewide awareness of existing resources, to improve the mental health and wellness of first responders and dispatchers

Require law enforcement agencies to adopt data practices that promote transparency, openness, and accountability

Ensure that all law enforcement agencies are trained in cultural competency, implicit bias, de-escalation tactics and skills in order to reduce use-of-force, especially when responding to persons in crisis.

As community leaders, we look forward to working with lawmakers, citizens, stakeholders and Governor Walz to improve officer accountability, and trust in the policing profession and public safety services in communities across our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AS', with several horizontal strokes extending to the right.

Andy Skoogman
Executive Director
Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association