



May 13, 2021

Mayor Mike Elliot
Honorable City Council Members
6301 Shingle Creek Parkway
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

Dear Mayor Elliot and Council Members:

The undersigned submit this letter on behalf of the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA), Law Enforcement Labor Services, Inc. (LELS), and the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association. We have recently learned of The Daunte Wright and Kobe Dimock-Heisler Community Safety and Violence Prevention Resolution, which is on the Council's meeting agenda for Saturday, May 15, 2021. For the reasons stated below, we respectfully request that the Council vote 'no' to this resolution or table the vote until such time as the City has obtained additional and accurate State-wide law enforcement input, completed necessary studies, and fully developed an implementation plan for any changes to be made to the City's policing policies and procedures.

As representatives of the law enforcement community in the State of Minnesota, we are concerned that a vote on the proposed resolution would be considered without the necessary input and data from all affected parties—citizens, business owners, state and other representatives, law enforcement rank and file, supervisors, chiefs or sheriffs.

Initial review of the proposed resolution reveals several shortcomings and concerns. For instance, the resolution conflicts with numerous State statutes; including, without limitation, Minn. Stat. §629.72, Domestic Abuse; Harassment; Violation of Order for Protection or No Contact Order; Minn. Stat. §626.863, Unauthorized Practice; Minn. Stat. §169.98, Police, Patrol, or Security Guard Vehicle; Minn. Stat. §299C.10, Identification Data Required; and, Minn. Stat. § 609.066, Authorized Use of Deadly Force by Peace Officers. The doubtful legality of the provisions of the resolution authorizing non-licensed civilians to act in certain situations contrary to state law would heighten the threat to those individuals and the public. This in turn would have the unintended but likely consequence of offenders ignoring, fleeing or confronting the civilians thereby endangering others in the vicinity or on the roadway.

Similarly, the proposed resolution prohibiting custodial arrests or consent searches for non-felony offenses would prevent arrests for driving while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance and careless, reckless or other dangerous driving conduct. This is contrary to reason, state law and public safety. Likewise, officers called to a domestic assault are required by Minnesota law to arrest and detain the assailant. However, the resolution, as drafted, would conflict with state law and, importantly, increase the danger to the victim of that assault. Further, delegating responsibilities to committees comprised of individuals without experience concerning police process, procedure, response or collective bargaining issues and terms is problematic.

Important discussions must be had regarding law enforcement in our State, but those discussions must happen with the input from all stakeholders, including law enforcement officers and leadership. Changes in police operations must be methodical, well thought out, and researched before they are made into best practices. This can only be done by having all of the stakeholders at the table to make these decisions with everyone's input and best interests in mind. Rushing significant change will only result in the potential of significant failure.

The City's residents and its law enforcement officers deserve better from their City. The City's proposed drastic revamping of traffic and criminal laws and procedures in the midst of an increase in violent crime, is misguided. This makes officers and community members less safe.

We would welcome the opportunity to be a part of the discussions and process to answer any questions and to address the concerns of the residents of Brooklyn Center to ensure a fully informed decision and strategy is achieved. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Brian Peters
Executive Director
Minnesota Police and Peace Officers
Association

Jim Mortenson
Executive Director
Law Enforcement Labor Services

Bill Hutton
Executive Director
Minnesota Sheriffs' Association