



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 18, 2021
Contact: Media@LELS.com

Local University of Minnesota unions represented by AFSCME advocates to disarm police - but also startlingly represents many other police unions throughout the state

(St. Paul, Minn.) – Negotiations started this month between the University of Minnesota management team and four local unions (AFSCME Locals 3800, 3801, 3937, & 3260). Opening proposals for 2021-2023 collective bargaining agreements [can be found here](#) and include requests to circumvent local UMPD, disarm UMPD, and create a civilian oversight council that discludes any connections to law enforcement.

[AFSCME also represents at least 35 local police unions across Minnesota.](#)

Law Enforcement Labor Services Executive Director Jim Mortenson said, “**It is absolutely mindboggling to me why AFSCME would allow their membership to put items like this in a bargaining proposal to the employer, which would not only endanger the staff of the University of MN, but also the students on campus. It’s beyond hypocritical of AFSCME bargaining units to both represent police organizations and advocate for such anti-police requests with other bargaining units.**”

AFSCME’s local unions are requesting that the University:

1. Circumvent its local UMPD to provide training for dangerous situations while advocating for no increased funding for its local police force. Citation:

*18. The University shall provide annual extensive training with safety and procedures/drills to ensure employees are sufficiently trained to respond/react if an immediate and imminent danger presents, **to be provided by an entity outside of UMPD (e.g. the Aurora Center), and not to be used as a justification for increasing the number of officers or funding to UMPD.***

2. Disarm the UMPD and create a civilian oversight council. Citation:

*19. **The University shall disarm the UMPD. The University shall create a [Civilian Police Accountability Council](#) (z.umn.edu/CPAC) with a seat at the table with oversight /decision-making authority for union representatives.***

In addition, in the proposal regarding the creation of CPAC, it [lists eligibility for the council](#), which also states:

An individual shall NOT be eligible to run in any election for CPAC if the individual:

- 1. Has ever served as a law enforcement officer or had a family member, including the spouse, domestic partner, partner to a civil union or any of the following, whether by blood, marriage or adoption; parent, son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, half-sister, or first cousin, who has ever served as a law enforcement officer;*

###

Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS) is Minnesota's largest public safety labor union (6,400+ members) specializing in representing law enforcement, fire, dispatch, corrections, and public safety support staff throughout the state. LELS represents the police officers of the University of Minnesota Police Department.