



League of Women Voters Minneapolis
PO Box 7570
Minneapolis, MN 55407

June 24, 2024

All City Council Members
350 S. Fifth St., Room 307
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Subj: Vote YES to approve the Minneapolis Police Federation Contract

Dear Councilmember [individual],

The Minneapolis League of Women Voters has studied Public Safety since 1971. Our most recent study was published in 2021. The goal with our studies, consistent with the mission of the League, is to take a non-partisan research approach and develop aligned positions across our organization so we could educate voters and advocate for change. This letter is representing our advocacy role.

We are asking the members of the city council to please vote YES to approve the police contract.

We applaud the changes focused on accountability

- keeping the disciplinary matrix outside the contract and NOT based on past practices,
- enabling the retention of investigative records in personnel records (even if no discipline results),
- enabling citizens to request an officer's personnel data anonymously

We support the changes that increase the accountability of leadership:

- giving the Chief the flexibility to assign and reassign, transfer staff as needed
- enabling the ability to hire civilian investigators
- and the pay raise to enable retention and recruiting

We know that some groups, whose work in public safety we greatly respect, are against the pay increase, citing that it's excessive and that we have already overpaid in misconduct lawsuits. We propose that we are paying for our future police force, not our past police force. These changes give the Chief the flexibility and authority to build that police force. The best way to change culture is to remove the barriers to change and hold the leadership accountable. Let the Chief lead.

We also support the transparency and clarity that Article 34 brings by putting all historical letter agreements into the contract.

Although we ask that you sign this contract, we also ask that you prioritize four things for the next contract:

1. Eliminate the 2-day waiting period officers are given AFTER they get a written summary of a critical incident. This clause means that if another Derek Chauvin-like event happened and fellow-officers responded better by reporting it, they would get all those write-ups and then have 48-hours to respond.
2. Eliminate the ability of arbitrators to overturn the disciplinary decisions of the Chief (unless 'arbitrary and capricious'), which undermines a leader's ability to drive culture change.
3. Eliminate any notification of request for public records. Public records are public.
4. Again, petition the Bureau of Mediation Services to separate supervisors (lieutenants and sergeants) from the same bargaining unit as officers they oversee. This is a conflict of interest.

Thanks for your consideration to vote YES for this contract. It's not a perfect contract, but it's an important step and enables us to move forward to solve our serious problems.

Respectfully,



League of Women Voters Minneapolis
Reimagining Public Safety Committee

Jane Lansing, Chair
Karlynn Fronek
Susan Gray
Mary Katherine Johnson
Polly Keppel
Robin King-Cooper
Susan Reinhart
Catherine Shreves
Chris Sigurdson
Ellen van Iwaarden

cc: Mayor Jacob Frey
Commissioner Todd Barnette
COO Margaret Anderson Kelliher
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