

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

*Minnesota Student Association
Undergraduate Student Government*

*Suite 202 Coffman Memorial Union
300 Washington Avenue S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455
msa@umn.edu*

Dear President Gabel and SVP Frans,

In his 5 ½ years as Chief of Police at the University of Minnesota, Matt Clark has repeatedly and unequivocally disregarded student demands, failed to increase campus wellness and safety for students of color, and has allowed the utilization of UMPD as a physical arm of the oppressive state to subjugate and silence community members both on and off campus. In his 29 years of police experience, none of his projects, aspirations, or accomplishments have aligned with the advancement of underrepresented communities or police reform¹. He in no way, shape, or form aligns with the goals of the University of Minnesota community, especially in regards to the advancement of students of color.

The Minneapolis-Saint Paul metropolitan area has been roiled by the murders of Jamar Clark, Philando Castile, George Floyd, and now Daunte Wright in the past 5 ½ years. Along with those names, there have been many more victims of police brutality and some have had their lives taken. UMPD Chief Matthew Clark was given his job on May 26th, 2015 which was prior to these police killings that shocked the entire world. He served as Assistant Police Chief for the City of Minneapolis prior to this appointment, and was an officer at MPD since 1993. The culture in Minneapolis Police has led to the traumatization we see in our local marginalized communities, and having a police chief that hails from that department is only making our community less safe and inclusive.

Most importantly, in his time as Chief of UMPD, Matt Clark has overseen and failed to act on the countless accusations of discrimination such as the incident this semester at Hanson Hall and has approved UMPD's utilization in the Brooklyn Center and Minneapolis protests in the wake of the murders of George Floyd and Daunte Wright. He has shown multiple times his commitment to the "blue wall of silence" and lack thereof to the students he is sworn to protect and serve.

Given Matt Clark's continued refusal to reform UMPD, communicate with student leaders, and allowance of our tuition dollars to fund the oppression and traumatization of protestors, we present the following list of demands to Chief Matthew Clark as well as university administrators.

1

<https://www.linkedin.com/public-profile/in/matt-clark-b9287a62?challengeId=AQFEnj6HkRSSfVAAAAXjjWQdrF2ZgOxqfbl87zrWzaKOGMfsPFxJRuo74uxlwf4Nv1R-QWUXpMe5AueoWicyK7CF1taf8i8n29g&submissionId=bcec9841-0bdb-7616-b6fd-3160dfdf9665>

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

*Minnesota Student Association
Undergraduate Student Government*

*Suite 202 Coffman Memorial Union
300 Washington Avenue S.E
Minneapolis, MN 55455
msa@umn.edu*

1. We demand the immediate resignation of Matthew Clark as the chief of University of Minnesota Police Department;
2. We demand that the interim chief who takes Matthew Clark's place during the hiring process be a candidate committed to diversity and inclusion, community control of policing, demilitarization of UMPD, and the importance of uplifting BIPOC and disabled students' voices in determining the best course of actions for campus policing through continued and frequent communication with student leaders;
3. We demand that student governmental organizations (MSA, PSG, COGS, Student Senate) be involved in appointing the interim chief during the hiring process after extensive consultation with minority led student groups;
4. We demand that the new Chief of UMPD be hired in accordance with the aforementioned principles;
5. We demand that the hiring process be heavily consulted with student leaders, including interviews by the entire MSA, PSG, COGS, and Student Senate voting bodies of the top 3 candidates and $\frac{2}{3}$ majority approval of the new Chief before the instillation in their new role after extensive consultation with minority led student organizations;
6. We demand solidarity and commitment from the University of Minnesota administration in our initiatives and demands in relation to campus policing.

MSA is instructed to deliver this statement immediately after passage to the recipients, and we expect administrative response in less than two business days. If our demands are not met, we will accept this as a failure of the administration to properly serve the student body and will begin planning direct actions to not only ensure the resignation of Matt Clark but the transformation of UMPD.

Respectfully,

The Minnesota Student Association and [co-sponsors of this statement](#)

Sign on as a co-sponsor here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd9BZT5rC-epcutDHwJqA-ZvJw9c0PNpg8o53MX-rwRxCFGLA/viewform?usp=sf_link