



MINNESOTA POLICE AND PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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October 23, 2020

Sent via email

Governor Tim Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz,

The purpose of this letter is to respectfully ask that those in your administration, as well as yourself, refrain from making statements specific to pending litigation, particularly those involving police officers, until the facts of the investigation are known, and trial is complete.

First, your statements about the officers charged in the criminal case involving George Floyd make it very difficult, if not impossible, for those officers to receive a fair trial through the justice process, which does not serve the public good. The goal should be to ensure a complete and fair trial that examines all evidence. Weighing in from your position has potential to both taint a jury pool and deny justice to those involved.

Second, your comments have fueled anger and hostility towards police and public safety officials. Your many previous remarks and statements, including those made in-person and on social media (such as one made yesterday on Twitter) are premature, judgmental, inflammatory, and only add to the anger and divisiveness of an already dangerous situation.

A continued pattern of statements based on opinion and unsubstantiated claims puts people's lives at risk and could fuel additional violence and riots. And these are not peaceful protests. There have already been many, many injuries to people and property, with neighborhoods and livelihoods destroyed.

We will continue to speak up and advocate for the respect and safety of all law enforcement and public safety officials in the state.

Sincerely,

Brian Peters
Executive Director, Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association

James Mortenson, Executive Director, Law Enforcement Labor Services

Paul Kuntz, President, St. Paul Police Federation

Bob Kroll

Bob Kroll, President, Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis



Tim Chmielewski, President, Hennepin County Sheriff's Deputies Association



Michael Gallagher, President, Bloomington Police Officer's Federation

Marc Olson

Marc Olson, President, Woodbury Police Officers Association



Dan Boese, President, Duluth Police Union

Matthew Hagen

Matthew Hagen, State President, Minnesota Fraternal Order of Police