

**From:** [I](#)  
**To:** [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward2](#)  
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**Subject:** Saint Paul City Council Hearing on Police Chief Qualifications  
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**Attachments:** [Testimony\\_Police Chief Qualifications\\_03082022.docx](#)

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My name is Arline Datu. I live in Ward 2, and I am a leader with ISAIAH.

We all deserve to be safe in our communities no matter whether we are white, black or brown. And we all deserve to have a say-so in shaping what public safety looks like and what the qualifications for our next new chief of police will be. This is such an important decision that will affect all of our lives and the progress we make on community public safety for years to come. I urge you to have intentional spaces in the next few months for us as a community to gather and give input rather than rush into the process.

I continue to support and believe strongly in the direction we are headed, following the work of the Community First Public Safety Commission last year. So, the qualifications for the next police chief suggested by the City Council are basic, but I feel there are some important elements that are missing from the list.

I believe the next chief of police for Saint Paul should also have these qualifications:

- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Having a background in mental health / social work.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Cultural competency in interacting with/collaborating with the many diverse ethnic and cultural communities that represent Saint Paul
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Proven success with program plans for de-escalating situations.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Success with implementing public safety plans that are broader than reduced crime levels, reduced disproportionate arrests of non-white people and are broader than cop-centric tactics.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Proven record of making this model be adopted as a department culture by officers and department employees.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Dedicated to changing a para-military structure that instills fear in intervening when a fellow officer is

endangering a citizen.

I believe that what keeps us safe is living in communities where we treat each other like neighbors and join together to push our government to provide the services and support we need to live healthy and fulfilling lives.

Thank you,

Arline Datu