

Good Afternoon,

My name is Jana Floyd and I live in Ward 5 in the North End neighborhood. I would like to express my desire to have my Councilmember to vote NO on Ordinance 21-6.

I support free speech and freedom of assembly in St. Paul, and I'm concerned that this ordinance would have a chilling effect on these First Amendment rights. This ordinance would give police far too much discretion to criminalize gatherings of Black and brown people and target Black and brown protesters. I also don't believe it would contribute to improving public safety and would actually make community members exercising their rights less safe, not more safe. It also has the potential to fray already strained relationships between city officials and Black and brown community members.

I also strongly urge Councilmember Brendmoen to support steps toward public safety for all and protection of civil rights in St. Paul by:

- Demanding that SPPD 1) investigate racism in the department and hold racist officers
- accountable and 2) implement stricter policies on use of force at protests and impose consequences on officers who attack protesters.
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- Eliminating the permit requirement for public protests, which imposes unfair burdens
- on protesters and stifles free speech and freedom of assembly.
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Thank you for your attention to this urgent issue.

Jana Floyd