

From: [Carrie Pomeroy](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Anti-protest ordinance
Date: Saturday, February 27, 2021 3:26:29 PM

Dear City Councilmembers,

When white supremacists attacked the U.S. Capitol in January, I was afraid officials would end up passing draconian measures aimed at stopping that kind of thing that would only backfire on Black and brown protesters. I just wasn't expecting that kind of measure to come so fast here in St. Paul.

I urge you to vote no on this ordinance to restrict protest and instead urge you to look at the people who've had a demonstrated violent impact on protesters: police. To create trust with the community and create more safety for all, the SPPD must investigate white supremacy in its own ranks and hold officers accountable and institute and enforce stricter policies on use of force and crowd control measures at protests. I also support lifting the requirement for protesters to obtain a permit. This requirement is biased in favor of white people and people with money and puts up an unnecessary and unfair barrier for people seeking to exercise their rights to free speech and assembly.

I don't think it can be underestimated how dangerous it is to give police more latitude to racially profile and criminalize gatherings of Black and brown people. It also is incredibly irresponsible and callous to ask protesters to come to protests without the option to bring a shield without asking police to curtail their use of weapons like rubber bullets and batons, given that at least two people that I know of have lost their eyes to police attacks in the last year.

To get ready for the Chauvin trial, city government could have instituted proactive healing programs and places for people to talk to their neighbors and get prepared. You could have invested in proactive conflict de-escalation training, reached out to key organizers to ask what they need to keep people on the ground safe, funded mental health outreach. You could have spent time acting on holding police accountable in the substantive ways that protesters demanded last summer and for generations before that. Instead, the city council is putting forward a proposal to build barriers against people seeking to make this city livable for everyone. It's shameful, and I am disgusted. I hope you can repair some of the damage done by this proposal by voting no and acting on the other demands brought forward by community.

Sincerely,
Carrie Pomeroy
1687 Minnehaha Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55104

Sent from my iPad