

## Heintz, Polly (CI-StPaul)

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**To:** Bobbie Scott  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed protest ordinance

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From: Bobbie Scott <bgscott1993@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 3:58 PM  
To: Councilmember Jane Prince <councilmemberjaneprience@public.govdelivery.com>  
Subject: Proposed protest ordinance

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Jane—

I've just read the proposed ordinance about public protests in St Paul and I'm pretty shocked that anyone at the city is trying to stifle our right to freely protest in public. I understand the police desire that people not have any of the many kinds of potential weapons that we all saw used during the insurrection on January 6. However, requiring a permit for a group of 5 or more is ludicrous.

Having to apply for a permit will add barriers to people's ability to express themselves through peaceful protest. I find the idea that the city wants to clamp down on our freedom in this way chilling.

There are many practical objections as well. What is the cost of such a permit? Who won't be able to afford one and therefore loses their right to protest in public? Who gets to decide who is eligible? How quickly would permits be granted? What is the penalty for not having a permit? How much discretion do the police have? What will the police do to people who don't have a permit? Will they harass peaceful groups simply for not having a permit? What about spontaneous demonstrations? It will become difficult to respond to current events in a timely manner with such burdensome regulations.

We have seen over and over again that the police tend to target Black and brown people more than white people. After last summer, this is exactly the opposite of what should be happening. This is not the way to built support for the police. Not to mention that very often when violence has broken out at protests around the country, it turns out that the police escalated the situation, not the protesters.

I hope you and every other member of the city council will vote against this authoritarian proposal.

Thank you.

Bobbie Scott