

From: Vivian Ihekoronye [<mailto:campaigns@good.do>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2016 12:11 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5
Subject: No police on the civilian review board

I am writing to ask you to vote to remove police officers from the civilian review board to make sure we are holding police officers to the highest standards.

As your constituent, I am painfully aware that the current board is not enforcing an adequate standard of accountability. It is critical that the Civilian Review Board be civilian-only in order to be independent and as impartial as possible. The point of the civilian review board is for civilians to review the police, not the police to police themselves. In addition, the presence of police officers on the board makes it difficult for civilians on the board to feel comfortable and capable of doing their job of reviewing policing conduct to the best of their abilities. This certainly is not in the best interest of your constituents.

This board is incredibly important and the city council has the opportunity to be a better model for police accountability and restore residents' confidence in the board.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely, Vivian Ihekoronye

From: Nate Solas [<mailto:homebrewer@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2016 12:36 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5
Subject: Police-Civilian Internal Affairs Commission makeup

Hello -

I live on the north end of Como Park in Ward 5 and have enjoyed getting to vote for you and follow you on twitter since we moved here in July 2015 -- your politics align well with mine and I appreciate your voice on the Council.

That said, it is my understanding that you're considered a "swing vote" regarding the makeup of the St. Paul PCIARC, and the ongoing debate on whether it is appropriate to include police officers on the commission. To me it seems redundant and a clear conflict of interest: the police department already has an internal affairs unit. The intention of this Commission should be a true civilian voice to add a check and balance to their work.

The National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE / <http://www.nacole.org>), of which the PCIARC is a member, works "to enhance accountability and transparency in policing and build community trust through civilian oversight." It is this true *civilian* oversight that actually builds community, trust, and accountability. Without a civilian committee I feel the oversight of the SPPD is incomplete and even suspect.

Thanks very much for your hard work on our behalf. I appreciate the chance to share my views on this matter and I hope I can count on your voice to advocate for a true Civilian Internal Affairs Commission.

Thank you,
Nate Solas

From: Kahlil Brewington
Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2016 12:55 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5
Subject: No police on the civilian review board

Amy,

I am writing to ask you to vote to remove police officers from the civilian review board.

As your constituent, I am painfully aware that the current board is not enforcing an adequate standard of accountability. It is critical that the Civilian Review Board be civilian-only in order to be independent and as impartial as possible. The point of the civilian review board is for civilians to review the police, not the police to police themselves. In addition, the presence of police officers on the board makes it difficult for civilians on the board to feel comfortable and capable of doing their job of reviewing policing conduct to the best of their abilities. This certainly is not in the best interest of your constituents.

This board is incredibly important, and the city council has the opportunity to be a better model for police accountability and restore residents' confidence in the board.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely, Kahlil Brewington Concerned resident and voter

From: Mary Petrie
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2016 11:23 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7
Cc: Harr, Stephanie (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Police Officers on Police Civilian Internal Affairs Review Commission

Hi Jane and Stephanie –

I'm writing to urge Jane to reconsider her position on continuing to keep Police Officers on the Commission. Pretty much everything I know about the state, violence, and penal system—as a Gender and Women's Studies scholar and a citizen—tells me that such representation is misguided and unduly advantages the police. Additionally, I think that every other city with a similar panel or commission doesn't include police officers. I know this might not be a popular position, but it's the right one and this is a new dangerous political landscape that is going to require making just these kind of decisions, speaking truth to power. We have progressed in many important ways in the past two decades since the committee was established. There's no reason to disregard those advances and keep the outdated structure. Again, we must do everything we can to secure racial and social justice at this anxious—and even dangerous—time.

Thanks for considering this, Jane—and I'd be happy to talk to you more about the issue if we run into each other before December 7.

All best,

Mary Petrie, Ph.D.

A Ward 3 constituent called and said citizens should have a place to think about things without police present, and she supports having Councilmember Tolbert move from his current position of wanting police on the PCIARC.

Phone caller stated she would like the PCIARC to be overseen by HREEO, be an all-citizen board, and have demographics make-up that tracks the community.

From:

Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 5:19 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7

Subject: NO to changes in Police Civilian Internal Affairs Commission

Councilmember Prince,

On 12/7/2016 please do not vote to eliminate the police representation from the Police Civilian Internal Affairs Commission.

I believe it is imperative that the police are properly represented through this review board that has functioned well over the last 20 years.

Unnecessary changes to this board create a contentious relationship between the police and civilians when the police feel they don't have the backing of their local government.

The Minneapolis City Council made similar changes in their city and violent crime has skyrocketed; please don't let that happen here.

Respectfully,

Nicholas Gisi
19xx Minnehaha Ave East
Saint Paul, MN

From: Heather Soucheray

Sent: Monday, December 05, 2016 6:31 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7

Subject:

What do you suppose teacher's boards are made up of? What do you suppose medical review boards are made of? What are safety review boards at constructions sites made up of? What about legal review boards? Run review boards for paramedics? If you said anything other than those professions you would be wrong!! Would you want a plumber reviewing the surgery of your loved one?! Would you want a teacher investigating safety violations at your construction site?! Of course not! That sounds absurd!

Why on earth would citizens of this great city want a review board for police officers that isn't made up of police officers....let alone a board that doesn't even allow ONE SINGLE member of that profession on the board.

Even with the distrust of police in this day and age, we still need that perspective on the board. That is how we can come to reasonable and responsible decisions for our police force.

I don't want to live in a city where the police are afraid to do their job and I think it's irresponsible and reckless for people to think any other option is acceptable. Officers still need to be on the board!!!!

-A concerned citizen

From: Laura Jones

Sent: Monday, December 05, 2016 1:39 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7

Subject: Support an independent all-civilian police review commission

Dear Councilmember Prince,

I'm a Saint Paul resident, with family in Ward 7 who will be attending the meeting tonight. I am writing to encourage you to support an all-civilian police internal affairs review board, as outlined in two separate audits and modeled in countless other cities throughout the country. While I appreciate some of the reforms that have been proposed, keeping police on the commission in nonvoting capacity does nothing to address concerns about the impact on the board's independence and ability to render unbiased judgments.

Our region is suffering from strained relationships between law enforcement and communities. Shootings death by police hit a record high this year in Minnesota. There is widespread perception that policing procedures are rigged against communities, and set up to allow departments to "protect their own" at the expense of citizens who may have rightful complaints. Following the lead of other commissions and the two audits, an independent civilian review board could be an important step in building trust.

The department has sufficient opportunity for input into the commission, and commissioners are trained and develop expertise and experience over time. Police participation in the commission, even in a nonvoting role, does not add to commissioners' ability to weigh and deliberate cases, and instead jeopardizes the legitimacy and independence of the process. Our city, communities, and police department will benefit from a fully independent citizen review board, that can provide the thoughtful analysis and reflection of the dedicated laypeople who serve on the commission.

I have read both the U of M report and Berkshire reports carefully, which compellingly argue for an independent process due to the risk of influence and bias. Police officers do important and difficult work, and the investigation should reflect department policies and other relevant information. But having police participate in the commission's deliberations makes no more sense than allowing a member of the prosecution or defense team to participate in the deliberations of a jury.

The jury process works when jurors are truly independent and each can participate in the dialogue on an equal footing. Police department staff who participate in the commission can never be truly independent, nor will they be on equal footing with other commission members because they have and are seen to have special expertise. I share the belief, with many other residents and voters, that police do not belong on a civilian review board.

I ask for your support for an independent and all-civilian review board. Our residents need to trust in the integrity and impartiality of the process.

It has also come to my attention that Councilmember Thao will be out of town on Wednesday. For the purpose of good process and in recognition of the years of work that have happened around reforming the commission, I hope you will support laying over the vote on the PCIRAC reform until a time when all councilmembers can be present.

I would be happy to speak with you further about my concerns with this issue.

Thank you for your public service, and consideration of this issue.

Laura Jones
14xx Van Buren Ave

From: Aiden Yano
Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2016 1:46 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward6
Subject: No Police On Civilian Review Board

Dear Dan Bostrom,

I am writing to ask you to vote to remove police officers from the civilian review board.

As your constituent, I am painfully aware that the current board is not enforcing an adequate standard of accountability. It is critical that the Civilian Review Board be civilian-only in order to be independent and as impartial as possible. The point of the civilian review board is for civilians to review the police, not the police to police themselves. In addition, the presence of police officers on the board makes it difficult for civilians on the board to feel comfortable and capable of doing their job of reviewing policing conduct to the best of their abilities. This certainly is not in the best interest of your constituents.

One example that comes to mind is the placement of SRO's within Saint Paul Public Schools. I went to Central High School where there was a SRO named Officer Kraus was present every day and while I was painfully unaware of it while I was in school, I soon became aware of the unjust lack of accountability and bias that this SRO held towards students of color. For example, there were multiple complaints made by students citing racial insensitivity and unjust use of force upon students by him and despite the influx of complaints, the administration made no effort to store and file these complaints. One instance was videotaped and garnered large amounts of attention and disgust from local members who voiced their concern and disdain for his actions. He has exhibited culturally insensitivity towards students, particularly those of the muslim community in an environment that is supposed to be welcoming and nurturing. It is my belief that this lack of accountability both by the school and the police department resulted in his belief that he could use excessive force on students and get away with it. This is just a personal example, I have heard of multiple instances of local police having zero accountability for their actions from trusted friends and family members as well, purely because they are being examined by other police.

This board is incredibly important, and the city council has the opportunity to be a better model for police accountability and restore residents' confidence in the board.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely, Aiden Yano

From: Feven Gerezgiher
Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2016 2:06 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5
Subject: No police on the civilian review board

Dear Councilwoman Brendmoen,

I am writing to ask you to vote to remove police officers from the civilian review board.

I have yet to have a negative encounter with SPPD. On the contrary, a cop pulled me over a few months ago as I turned onto my street to give me a polite head's up, sans ticket, that one of my back lights was out. I appreciated that friendliness. But I know this is not the experience all people of color in the Twin Cities have. And I was only able to appreciate that kindness once my heart had stopped pounding an hour later. Those red and blue lights, especially under the cover of night, trigger an incredible fear in me. I do not know whether I will be running into a good cop or a bad cop-does he hate my race? does he hate my liberal ideology? will I be alive at the end? This fear is not born from my experiences, but from a rather painful understanding that the system was not built for me.

As your constituent, I am aware that the current board is not enforcing an adequate standard of accountability. It is critical that the Civilian Review Board be civilian-only in order to be independent and as impartial as possible. The point of the civilian review board is for civilians to review the police, not the police to police themselves. In addition, the presence of police officers on the board makes it difficult for civilians on the board to feel comfortable and capable of doing their job of reviewing policing conduct to the best of their abilities. This certainly is not in the best interest of your constituents.

This board is incredibly important, and the city council has the opportunity to be a better model for police accountability and restore residents' confidence in the board.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Feven Gerezgiher

From: Charolet Titus
Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2016 2:33 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5
Subject: No police on the civilian review board

I am writing to ask you to vote to remove police officers from the civilian review board.

As your constituent, I am painfully aware that the current board is not enforcing an adequate standard of accountability. It is critical that the Civilian Review Board be civilian-only in order to be independent and as impartial as possible. The point of the civilian review board is for civilians to review the police, not the police to police themselves. In addition, the presence of police officers on the board makes it difficult for civilians on the board to feel comfortable and capable of doing their job of reviewing policing conduct to the best of their abilities. This certainly is not in the best interest of your constituents.

This board is incredibly important, and the city council has the opportunity to be a better model for police accountability and restore residents' confidence in the board. I ask that you listen to and try to understand the concerns of your constituents.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Charolet Titus