

From: Grant Abbott
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2016 7:33 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4
Subject: Civilian Review Board

Russ,

Thank you again for your service.

I'm writing about the vote on the Civilian Review Board Wednesday. I'm very grateful for the work of the Saint Paul Police Department. I want them to know they have my support for the work we ask them to do. However, a Civilian Review Board should be just that--made up of civilians. The Board reports to the police chief, and the Board can request input from the department. So, I do not think active police officers need to be included on the Board.

Grant Abbott
651-338-6261

Sent: Monday, December 05, 2016 10:48 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4
Subject: The police must be held accountable

Dear Russ,

I feel very strongly that the police should not be on the Police Civilian Internal Affairs Review Commission. Having police officers on the Commission is a clear conflict of interest. We have clearly seen that police often get the benefit of the doubt; if police officers are on the commission and speak up in defense of an action, civilians may be swayed by their opinion instead of thinking critically about the facts.

We have so many problems with policing and racial disparities; please vote to remove the officers so that St. Paul can take a step towards improving relations.

Thank you,
Sofia Ali

From: Ann K Brady
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 9:08 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4
Subject: Please hold police officers accountable!

Council Member Stark,

Please vote to remove police officers from the Police Civilian Internal Affairs Review Commission. It creates a conflict of interest for police to be involved in reviewing the conduct of their fellow officers. Police officers should not be on the review commission.

I lived in Portland, Oregon in my early twenties. I was assaulted by a police officer late one night. When I brought my accusations before the review commission there, they were found to be untrue, in spite of medical records, witness reports, and other testimony because it was a police review board that was made up of officers, and my story differed from the officer's. Police officers are inclined to either believe in, or to cover up for, their colleagues. It is a conflict of interest and puts civilians at risk. I believe that the majority of police officers have integrity, but are put between a rock and a hard place when they are expected to judge their fellow officers. If a civil judge has ties to someone in a court case, he or she can recuse himself or herself in the interest of unbiased justice. I believe the police review commission should follow suit and be truly independent.

Please support Council Member Dai Thao in making the PCIARC fair and transparent.

Thank you,

Ann K. Brady

From: Alva Crom
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2016 9:12 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4
Subject: The police must be held accountable

Dear Council Member Stark

Please vote to remove police officers from the Police Civilian Internal Affairs Review Commission. It's a small step toward interrupting the disproportionate pattern of negative, at times fatal, interactions with people of color and Native Americans and police. This is a chance to take step that build greater public confidence in our police and city government, not give us cause to question whose interests they are really looking out for. We need strong police accountability and it can start here.

Thank you,
Alva Crom

From: Paris Dunning
Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2016 11:12 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4
Subject: Police Civilian Review Board

Good Morning Council President Stark,

I live on the West Side and my work is with businesses on the East Side of St. Paul. My children attend Highland Park Elementary School. I have been hearing a lot in the past few days about the Police Civilian Review Board. It has become clear to me that the strongest position for this board would be an all-citizen composition. I am writing to ask that police be removed from the Police Civilian Internal Review Board.

I have been hearing from East Side and West Side residents that in order to create trust in the commission you should give it the chance to be as independent as possible from the police department. This includes creating an all-citizen commission.

I have heard residents affirm that the commission should have access to police input and that they can do that through their process of review, which includes the presence of internal review members to answer questions, and their ability to call police officers to testify.

I have heard strong opposition to the notion that police as peers on the commission will offer a value that outweighs what it compromises. If police remain on the board, the commission itself will have less credibility with the public. And it will be less able to perform the role of providing a different perspective to the Police Chief. Police on the commission will always sway the discussion and hobble the process of independent and genuine citizen insight.

This review board is advisory. It is clearly a first step in the direction of building trust with the community on behalf of the police and the city. If the council wants to accomplish this trust building, it is clear that the community would like an entirely citizen body to have a place in the process. The Chief would benefit from an authentic citizen perspective to inform the process as well.

The organizations I have heard from are concerned about the kind of police force that cannot build trust. And though there are many opinions in the business community about this issue, I can assure you that every business wants a peaceful and orderly community in which to operate. Social unrest is not good for business. A police force and a council that cannot build trust with the community is not good for business.

Please take the steps necessary to demonstrate that our police under your leadership will create a place for independent review on an all-citizen commission.

Sincerely,

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Paris Dunning

From: Barry C
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 11:54 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4
Subject: Police Accountability and Civilian Review

Dear Russ,

It's my understanding that the Saint Paul City Council will be voting tomorrow on the composition of the Police Civilian Internal Affairs Review Commission. In my opinion for a body like this to hold officers accountable to the community, I encourage you to ensure its independence by having a Commission comprised solely of civilians with no police officers. Certainly the Commission can invite officers to hearings or consult with officers but having officers as voting members will undermine its authority, independence and credibility.

The Police Department I assume will continue to have its own internal affairs unit on which there are no civilians. We need an autonomous group of thoughtful citizens to make independent investigations, hold hearing and secure evidence that the police may ignore or claim is confidential and private to avoid public scrutiny of misconduct.

Please vote for a Commission comprised solely of civilians, allow it to do its work for a couple of years and then evaluate its strengths, weaknesses and accomplishments. Let's give it a try and see what it can do.

Sincerely,
Barry

Barry B. Cohen PhD

From: Paul Ford
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2016 9:52 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4
Subject: Reject the mayor's PCIARC proposal

I am writing to ask you to keep front line police officers on the PCIARC. I am a police officer and we have tough jobs and make tough life and death choices every day. We are well trained and well educated. We are also not above scrutiny or afraid of having our work product reviewed...by anyone. That being said you need to keep front line officers on the PCIARC. The average citizen, including civilian members needs them. Police officers provide perspective and answer questions why we do things the way we do. They also can more easily articulate why a police officer did something improperly or violated policy when others may not see it. They obviously can also explain when we are doing things properly even when it does not look that way. I know I always am asked by friends and family about things they see cops do on the news and they often do not understand what they see or read until I, a police officer, explains it.

Would you have a commission evaluating environmental issues without any environmentalists on it? How about a planning and economic development committee void of people with experience in that area? It would be foolish.

Every time law enforcement issues come up on the news and citizens are interviewed, they usually have completely unrealistic expectations of what cops can and cannot do. We do not need this on the PCIARC. Please reject the Mayor's proposal and keep front line cops on the PCIARC.

Thank You,

Paul Ford

From: Ganzel, Jessi W
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2016 11:13 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4
Subject: Please REJECT Mayor Coleman's Proposal

Dear Council Member Stark,

I am writing to ask you to REJECT Mayor Coleman's proposal to remove Police Officers from the Police-Civilian Internal Affairs Review Commission.

My husband is a St. Paul Police Officer. I thank God every day when he comes home. I thank God that he isn't one of the 133 Officers that have been killed in 2016 alone!! He proudly followed in his father's footsteps. He didn't get in to this field to harm people. He did it because he was proud of his father who served for 28 years and he wanted to help people, just as his father did.

In addition to being the proud wife of a St. Paul Police Officer, I am a 911 Operator for the Ramsey County Emergency Communications Center (ECC). Every day I take a plethora of calls from people who swear at me, scream at me, tell me how stupid I am, how worthless the police are...basically degrading me several times per day. When I hang up from my calls, I think to myself, "wow, now our Officers have to go deal with this incredibly disrespectful person face-to-face while I sit in my safe and secure building."

An Officer doesn't care how rude people are, how disrespectful they are, how **dangerous** they are. They go into every situation hoping to deescalate it and keep people safe. Only an Officer knows the dangers they face. Only an Officer is trained how to encounter dangerous situations and how to react when things get out of control. Only an Officer knows how to manage the intense impact this job has on their mind. Our Officers deal with Veterans daily. The men and women who fought selflessly for our Country, who suffer from PTSD and who may not be "right" in their heads because of the things they have seen and done. What about our Police Officers? What about what they see and do? Do civilians even possess the capability to understand this? Absolutely not! So how could Civilians be fair and knowledgeable on an IA Review Commission?

It is **imperative** that you keep Police Officers on the Commission. Can you imagine if we stopped protecting our Police Officers? Can you imagine if they quit caring about people? I can't.

Respectfully,

Jessi Ganzel

From: rrgoli@aol.com
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2016 1:56 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4
Subject: PCIARC Changes

Dear Councilmember Stark:

I am writing to request that you please vote to remove police officers from a **civilian** review board. A civilian board should be allowed to review and investigate complaints unencumbered by the burden of the presence of the very force they are asked to review. If police input is needed, it can be available at any time through 'expert testimony'. The police do not need to be nor should they be a constant presence on this committee.

Public trust in the police department is at a very low point. You/we need to restore faith in this department. Keeping police on a civilian review board creates further mistrust and doubt that fair and impartial investigations can occur. Please follow the lead of other major cities (Baltimore, St. Louis, Milwaukee, etc.) that do not include police officers on their civilian review boards.

In addition, this committee should be moved away from the SPPD and placed under the jurisdiction of the City's Office of Human Rights - for the same public trust issues mentioned above.

Saint Paul really needs your leadership on this issue, especially in light of all of the unrest that has occurred since the killing of Philando Castile.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachel Goligoski