

WARD 2
ORD 21-6

My name is Skyla and I'm a resident of St. Paul. I'm emailing you to discuss my concern with the recent proposals the council has been discussing in regards to putting restrictions on protests. I have read through the list of items that are being considered to become "prohibited" and I'm left with one big question. Where is the list of prohibited items and actions for the police?

Most of the items listed are literal protective gear which are actually put to use when the police department decides to injure and maim us with absolutely no provocation. Shields have been present at many actions since the summer of 2020 and, contrary to what law enforcement seems to think, are solely there for personal protection and defense. There is no reasonable answer to explain why these restrictions are being imposed that doesn't ignore the safety of the protestors. This is very blatant movement repression and to sugar coat it in any other way is to put your constituents' lives in danger. Your constituents are the ones standing up for human rights against a violent and murderous system (who already has literally every resource at their disposal).

I'm extremely disturbed by the ordinance amendment being put forward by the council and will organize with my community to protest against this amendment. Simply put, it's placing protestors in an even more vulnerable position while they continue to stand up against the police state who repeatedly brutalizes them. I'm asking you to table this ordinance and instead focus your energy on putting restrictions in place for the police. The police are the ones who incite violence. Don't empower their abuse.

Thank you,

Skyla

As a constituent in the West 7th neighborhood, I'm writing to implore you to vote no on Ordinance 21-6. The people have a constitutional right to assembly and protest, and requiring permits for any group exceeding 5 persons would essentially nullify that. What recourse, then, would we the people have to demand better of our elected officials? The ballot box is not even halfway sufficient.

Why is this ordinance even being introduced? It seems to be a reactionary overreach to problems that have been caused by the police themselves. They have been the ones escalating violence time and again, and this ordinance strips people of the right to defend themselves against said violence. The police need to stop showing up at protests with mace, tear gas, water cannons, etc in full riot gear. We've all seen the videos where they pepper spray and tear gas and tase and beat people completely unprovoked. This continues to be unacceptable. Is it any wonder people want to be behind shields at protests, when this is how they are treated for exercising their constitutional rights?

This ordinance also continues to give police too much power to act with violent impunity with inadequate to no oversight or consequences. This is the exact opposite of what the city needs to do right now, which is defund the police and hold them accountable for their racist violence. After police murdered George Floyd, the SPCC pledged to do just this, and has no business even entertaining such anti-community, unconstitutional, pro-police legislation.

Please do better, SPCC. The city needs bold, progressive leaders willing to stand up to the police unions and blue lives matter assholes, and this ain't it.

Please do not publish my last name or email address in relation to this.

Sincerely,
Jessica

As your constituent and a resident of district Ward 2, I would like to express my strong opposition to the passage of Ordinance 21-6 as currently proposed. Unless this legislation makes carry of firearms illegal, this change of law will not increase public safety.

I urge you to vote against ordinance 21-6.

Thank you for your attention and concern to this issue.

Bob H.

As your constituent and a resident of district Ward 2, I would like to express my strong opposition to the passage of Ordinance 21-6. Unless this legislation makes carry of firearms illegal, this change of law will not increase public safety.

Again, I urge you to vote against ordinance 21-6.

Thank you for your attention and concern to this issue.

Tod H.

Dear Councilmember Noecker,

As we approach the Derek Chauvin trial, I am incredibly concerned about our community, as I'm sure you are as well. What happened last summer is still cemented in my mind, and as a result, I am very concerned about the approach the Twin Cities are taking in preparation for the upcoming months. I will start by saying my approach and feeling toward this is we should operate from a people over profit mindset, and I know the Cities are operating from a profit over people mindset as they continue to protect businesses first. I also know that the trial is happening in Minneapolis, and there is only so much that can be done on the St. Paul and Ramsey County side. Although many officials, including Mayor Frey, have said they are not aiming to silence protesters, I cannot help but feel that the actions they are taking are doing just that. From my perspective of how last summer went, it truly felt like war between the people and the State (including MPD, SPPD, and the National Guard). I am having a hard time envisioning it looking different this time, despite everyone saying that this preparation will truly make a difference.

I am urging you to vote NO on Ordinance 21-6. Our community needs as much freedom to express the pain and trauma that has been caused by this murder, as well as the compounding impact of the pandemic. We need our Cities and the State to listen to community members and to do more to honor

their demands and requests. We continue to think increasing police presence, the national guard, and this cracking down on crime approach is going to solve all of our problems, when we continue to see that it only makes things worse. Instead, we need to continue to invest in community resources, such as housing, food, health, and transportation.

I am also urging you to continue investigating SPPD and holding racist officers accountable. We know Derek Chauvin had previous offenses. He was never held accountable and it led to the murder of George Floyd. We need to continue doing everything we can to prevent this from happening again.

I am also urging you to implement stricter policies on use of force at protests, and impose consequences on officers who attack protesters without provocation. I am still traumatized by witnessing the use of force this summer and leading up to the November election. We cannot let that be the norm.

Thank you for supporting the St. Paul and Twin Cities community by advocating for the people.

Sincerely,
Ashley G.

Councilmember Noecker,

As your constituent and a resident of district Ward 2, I would like to express my strong opposition to the passage of Ordinance 21-6 as currently proposed.

Unless this legislation makes carry of firearms illegal, this change of law will not increase public safety.

I urge you to vote against ordinance 21-6.

Thank you for your attention and concern to this issue.

-Kyle H.

Hello, my name is James Marty and I live in Ward 2 in the West 7th neighborhood. I urge Councilmember Noecker 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 public assemblies 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 demand Councilmember Noecker vote no on Ordinance 21-6.

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

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- 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.

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Jimmy Marty, M.S.
Environmental Scientist