

From: [Lisa Whalen](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#); [#CI-StPaul Ward4](#)
Cc: Bob.Fletcher@co.ramsey.mn.us; [Axtell, Todd D \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Live on Patrol
Date: Friday, April 30, 2021 10:03:55 AM

Dear St. Paul City Council,

I'm writing to ask that you stop the attack on Ramsey County Sheriff Bob Fletcher's Live on Patrol broadcasts as proposed by Amy Brendmoen, Mitra Jalali, and Rebecca Noecker.

Politicians at every level of government nationwide, including you, have demanded more transparency in policing—a demand I support. Yet now that Bob Fletcher is providing transparency in ways that Ramsey County/St. Paul residents applaud, you are attempting to shut it down without making an announcement or offering a reasonable opportunity for public input. Live on Patrol does exactly what you claim to want: educate, build trust, and increase accountability, so hearing that you're working behind the scenes to end the broadcasts makes me question your motives. The Council's Live on Patrol proposal seems like an attempt to grab power that doesn't and *shouldn't* belong to it.

The Sheriff is an elected official, and we voters, *not* politicians, hold him accountable by casting our ballots. When we have concerns about the way he carries out his duties, we voice them, and Fletcher responds. The City Council has no authority to interfere with that communication and should ***not* infringe on our right to elect and oversee the Sherriff's office as we see fit.**

City Council members are charged with representing constituents' views—not catering to a select group of radical activists. Your job is to make St. Paul a safer and more prosperous city for residents. I have been disappointed to see the opposite. I and many, many other residents have contacted you repeatedly, asking that you address the drastic spike in violent crime after the rioting, looting, and arson that followed George Floyd's death. Not only have you refused to act on those requests or support St. Paul Police and Ramsey County deputies in their efforts to do so, *you have repeatedly refused to acknowledge or even reply*. In contrast, Bob Fletcher partnered with other law enforcement agencies and dramatically reduced carjackings within weeks. Still, you work against Fletcher and SPPD at every step, including this latest proposal.

Fletcher's broadcasts have increased positive interactions among law enforcement officers (LEO) and community members. They address issues that are important to citizens: negative perceptions of LEO, juvenile crime, street racing, and judges' refusal to hold repeat offenders responsible for their crimes, among other problems that make St. Paul unsafe.

I watch Live on Patrol because I want to be an informed citizen and help solve my city's problems. I also watch because I want to become a better person by following Fletcher's and Pat Scott's example. They demonstrate patience, compassion, and composure even when threatened—exactly the kind of policing I want and you *claim* to want. Having observed their work, I trust no one more to improve St. Paul, especially not Monday-morning quarterbacks with no law enforcement experience who dissect their every word.

Too many of us residents feel unheard by the people who represent us and disenfranchised

from government; we need to be reminded that we have a voice and it matters. Live on Patrol does that. If the Council interferes with our voice or rights related to the Sheriff's office, we voters will show our disapproval during the next election for your positions.

Sincerely,

Lisa Whalen

24-year resident of the Hamline-Midway neighborhood in St. Paul (55104)