

Dear Councilmembers:

I am writing to you about proposed Resolution 21-704 that you will consider on May 4, 2021 regarding a formal complain authorizing the MN POST Board to investigate the conduct of Sheriff Fletcher.

I am not a fan of the Sheriff's Live on Patrol, but that is not why I am urging you to oppose Resolution 21-704.

You should oppose this resolution for the following reason:

The POST Board does not have authority to address all complaints about peace officers and is limited to addressing officer behavior that violates the Standards of Conduct for peace officers in Minnesota Rules 6700.1600. There are 16 grounds enumerated in this rule that are grounds for disciplinary auction by the Post Board. Please carefully review these 16 standards of conduct as they are the most egregious form of conduct. I think you will discover that the POST Board has no jurisdiction over the Sheriff violating any Ramsey County Sheriff Office (RCSO) Policy regarding his livestream show.

You, or any citizen, can make an complaint to the RCSO Internal Affairs regarding the conduct of the Sheriff. See RCSO Policy 1021 "Personnel Complaints."

Also, any registered voter may petition the county auditor requesting a removal election of the Sheriff by setting forth facts which allege with specificity that the Sheriff has committed malfeasance or nonfeasance in the performance of official duties together with the requisite number of signatures from registered voters. Minn. Stat. 351.16.

Your process requesting an investigation by the POST Board is wrong. If you do pass the resolution, it is likely that the Board will immediately dismiss the complaint for lack of jurisdiction and forward the complaint to the RCSO. This process would be a waste of time and resources. If you think there is a violation of a RCSO Policy, you should forward a complaint directly to the RCSO Internal Affairs.

Another option is for the City Council to invite Sheriff Fletcher and Chief Axtell to an upcoming meeting and give them each five minutes to explain to you and the citizens of Saint Paul their vision of how the SPPS and RCSO can work cooperatively. While you cannot compel them to attend a meeting, I think it might be telling what we may learn from such a meeting.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Peter Hendricks
1362 Osceola Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55105

cc: County Commissioners