



Legislation Text

File #: RES 21-704, **Version:** 1

Requesting the State of Minnesota Peace Officers Standards and Training Board, in response to community concerns, to evaluate Ramsey County Sheriff Fletcher's livestream video production to determine if it violates Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Policy and the MN police code of conduct.

WHEREAS the current Ramsey County Sheriff (Sheriff) has been, without invitation, personally patrolling the streets of Saint Paul, and

WHEREAS since mid-year 2020, the Sheriff has been using a social media platform to broadcast dash-camera style videos of his "tours" to curate a crudely-produced reality show called "LIVE On-Patrol" (livestream show), and

WHEREAS numerous community members have reached out to Saint Paul and Ramsey County staff and elected officials with concerns about the legal parameters and implications of the Sheriff's livestream show, and

WHEREAS the Sheriff's livestream show has recorded his patrol decisions and actions which have been characterized as both reckless and in specific violation of both the Saint Paul Police and Ramsey County Sheriff Departments' official policy and protocol, and as such have raised the ire of community members and elected officials, and

WHEREAS seen in the livestream video and also reported in the Pioneer Press, the Sheriff has violated pursuit protocols, has driven dangerously and erratically, and has dismissed requests to call off pursuit, and

WHEREAS seen in the livestream video and also reported in the Pioneer Press on November 20, 2020, one of the Sheriff's broadcasts recorded him instructing his assistant to withhold damning information while he was driving the wrong way up a one-way street, saying, "Keep that off, OK? The wrong way part," and

WHEREAS seen in the livestream video and also reported in the Pioneer Press, the Sheriff is often patrolling in uniform but not wearing the body camera that both the police and sheriff's department require as part of patrol uniform, and

WHEREAS seen in the livestream video and also reported in the Pioneer Press, the Sheriff intervened in a domestic violence action without backup support and without body camera, and the Sheriff was injured in the altercation, and

WHEREAS in 2020, Paramount Network (COPS) and A&E Network (LIVE PD) made a decision to cancel similar livestream programs amid nationwide protests against police brutality and stated that they will seek "ways to better tell the stories of the community and police officers," and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul City Council requests the State of Minnesota Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Board take appropriate action to determine if the Sheriff's patrol

and pursuits are in violation of Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Policy and the MN police code of conduct, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Saint Paul City Council requests the POST Board employ an independent industry expert to evaluate the publicly available dash-camera footage of the livestream show as well as the narrative of the Sheriff and the part-time employee who rides in his passenger seat to determine if the Sheriff's patrol and pursuits are in violation of Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Policy and the MN peace officers' code of conduct, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that for the purposes of the Minnesota Peace Officers Bill of rights, this resolution is acting as a signed formal complaint authorizing the POST Board to investigate the conduct of Sheriff Fletcher, and those employees acting at his direction, into their behavior as it relates to violations of department and state policy.