

Ward 5 #6

Yang, Ger

From: Jeff Washburne <jeff@clclt.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 6:31 AM
To: Goodman, Lisa R.; Palmisano, Linea; Reich, Kevin A.; Hodges, Betsy A.; Gordon, Cam A.; Johnson, Barbara A. - City Council; Frey, Jacob; blong.yang@minneapolis; Warsame, Abdi; Glidden, Elizabeth A.; Cano, Alondra; Bender, Lisa; Quincy, John; Johnson, Andrew; Yang, Blong
Subject: Thought on how we might be able to incent police officers to live in Minneapolis

Dear Mayor Hodges and Minneapolis Council Members,

I heard a brief comment on MPR yesterday mentioning that the city was looking at potential ways to incent more Minneapolis Police to live in the community they serve. I think there might be a solution in providing a "community land trust - like" solution to make this work. What if the city provided a \$50,000 (or other figure) "grant" to incent officers to purchase homes in Minneapolis (for this purpose we could figure out a way to adjust/eliminate income restrictions that the CLCLT uses). The "grant" would be tied to the title of the land and stay with the property. Additionally, the amount of the grant could provide more/less dependent on which neighborhoods we are working to incent homeownership. If/when the officer decides to sell, we could keep the investment (grant) in the property and make it available to another officer. It could be started as a pilot for 10 officers and work toward providing an additional 10 grants a year moving forward until we hit some goal. This would allow us to essentially create and ensure a growing number of ownership units in the city. It also will ensure that police officers will be able to purchase in the city when values go up and it becomes more cost prohibitive for them to live here in the future.

This idea was discussed with a few council members many years ago (included teachers, fire fighters, other city employees), but think the timing might be better now to actually see if we could make this work on the police officer front. As always - I would be more than willing to pencil this out deeper with any of you. I believe an approach like this provides a proactive social, fiscally conservative approach to a real challenge we are facing. I also get the sense there would be some community buy-in from across the city.

Have a great thanksgiving.

Jeff
(612-619-9647 - cell)

Jeff Washburne
Executive Director
City of Lakes Community Land Trust
1930 Glenwood Avenue, Mpls. 55405
612-594-7147 (direct)

www.clclt.org

Yang, Ger

From: Chriss Garlick Reichow <chriss@reichow.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2015 9:29 PM
To: Yang, Blong
Cc: Brian Reichow
Subject: Occupation of the 4th Precinct

Blong,

I've heard from 2 different neighbors tonight that you're looking for input regarding concerns about the occupation of the 4th Precinct. Neither of us are able to take time away from work tomorrow to speak in front of the City Council. Yet we have many concerns with this occupation style protest.

We are concerned about everyone's safety - the safety of the neighbors, precinct and city employees and the protesters. There has already been a shooting, luckily no one was killed but people were injured. We are aware of the throwing of rocks, molotov cocktails and bottles. The fires in the street are not safe. Emergency vehicles cannot pass. Traffic has increased on the adjoining residential streets, including a noticeable increase in wrong way drivers on one way streets. It seems only a matter of time before there is another incident as serious as the shootings. This is our biggest concern.

The occupation is affecting our work lives. The helicopter noise at night prevents getting to sleep or repeatedly wakes us. These flight paths are sometimes so low that our house actually vibrates. In the early days of the occupation, we went several nights in a row without sleeping, affecting our ability to perform at work. We don't expect silence in the city but hours of noise at night is unacceptable.

On the evening of the shooting, we had a reason to go to the grocery store. The normal route from our house to Cub on West Broadway is down Plymouth Avenue. Because of the occupation, we detoured down 14th only to find the street blocked off due to that shooting. The anxiety this caused was only compounded when we discovered the shooters were still at large. Yet another sleepless night.

The area looks and feels like a war zone. We do not feel safe crossing to the east side of Penn. This is unacceptable. We have never felt unsafe driving any where in North Minneapolis before now. The protesters have created an environment of intimidation.

While the sleepless nights have caused a negative effect in our lives, our main concern remains safety for everyone. This occupation invites trouble.

We support the efforts to disband this occupation.

Thank you,

Chriss & Brian Reichow

WAP 5

Yang, Ger

From: michelle <vegnation@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2015 9:35 PM
To: Yang, Blong
Subject: Impact statement--4th precinct shutdown

Dear CM Yang:

Thank you for your courage in standing up to represent your Northside constituents. I am writing to share some of the ways the encampment in front of the 4th precinct is affecting me personally. I live six blocks away from the protest site.

Aspects of the encampment that are becoming more and more of a burden:

1. being kept awake by helicopters, and protesters shouting through a megaphone so that it sounds like people arguing under my window late into the night.
2. the bus being on detour, and, consequently on an erratic schedule so that in addition to having to leave the house for work earlier and getting home later, I have to spend more time waiting at bus stops in the cold.
3. having to find rides to conduct business with people in other parts of the city, rather than drawing them into the middle of the violence that surrounds the encampment.

Aspects that are intolerable:

1. strategizing with my loved ones every night about which is the least risky way to get to my house from downtown on that day-- rocks being thrown at cars on Olson Memorial, shots fired almost every night in the blocks north and south of Plymouth, the potential for getting caught up in a riot if this thing suddenly erupts into mob violence as it has in other cities.
2. wondering if police or ambulance will be able to respond when people need them, because of the protesters blocking their access and apparently deluging 911 with false reports in order to prevent people on the neighborhood from getting help.
3. I have asthma, which is triggered by the heavy blanket of woodsmoke covering the area. see point 2 above regarding interference with emergency services.
4. watching the people we all (even the protesters) depend on in an emergency stoically endure the harassment, threats of violence, and taunts of the protesters, and knowing that every council member except the two northside council members has abandoned them, and us. the city council and the mayor are the MPD's bosses. if they were leaders, they would acknowledge that the buck stops with them, not with the 4th precinct officers whom they have thrown under the bus. any failure of the MPD is first and foremost the failure of the city council and the mayor. it is becoming increasingly clear that many of them will gleefully watch from the sidelines as north Minneapolis burns, rather than accept their own responsibility.

Thank you,

Michelle
Northside resident

WARD 5

Yang, Ger

From: Jeanne, FGC <jeanne@fishsongraphics.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2015 10:51 PM
To: Yang, Blong
Subject: Impact Statement/4th Precinct Protesting

Importance: High

Hi Blong,

I am not a constituent of your's as I live in the Folwell neighborhood. I've seen images of the hobo-ville that Plymouth Avenue has become and am not sure why this has been allowed to continue as long as it has. We need the police from the 4th Precinct to be able to do their jobs and understand that they are appreciated for the difficult job that they do - day in and day out.

While I agree with what the sentiments of the protesters, I firmly believe that it is past time for them to stop the encampment at the precinct itself. If anything, they should be occupying City Hall as that's where the real solutions are to be had.

Kind regards,

Jeanne Fish

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Yang, Ger

From: Amanda Furth <amanda.furth@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2015 9:50 AM
To: Yang, Blong
Subject: Thank you re: 4th Precinct Occupation

Hi Blong,

I wanted to take a minute to thank you for your leadership of our ward and for your opinions on the 4th precinct occupation. You are in a "no win" situation and I want you to know that some of us within the ward recognize that and appreciate your stance.

I'm tired of the eyesore of the shantytown camp and having to drive around the protests to get to work, to get to the highway, to get to see my friends, or to go out in the city. But if I thought that this occupation of the 4th precinct was going to "solve" anything, I'd gladly deal with the inconvenience. Me driving around the block and looking at piles of trash multiple times daily pales in comparison to the need to solve the racial inequalities in our city. However, the problems that we have in our city run much deeper than an occupation of our police department is going to solve. And I know that you recognize that.

I'm disappointed that the non-northside city councilmembers don't recognize what we're going through on the northside. They stand with the protesters for "show" instead of supporting our city and our officers. But, I guess I shouldn't be surprised. It's one thing for some of them to show up for a few hours at a protest, but it's quite another for them to spend any amount of time at northside community events, frequenting our restaurants, hanging out at our parks, supporting our northside schools, etc. Bottom line is that they don't "get it." They'd rather ignore us than deal with us.

My main concern with the 4th precinct occupation at this point, however, is the amount of resources that it's draining from the city. In addition to the cost to the city of cleaning up the trash, repairing the retaining wall and physical damage to the lawn, cleaning the graffiti and the amount of overtime we're paying to have extra officers on duty, people in the 4th precinct region cannot get the emergency resources that they desperately need. Recently, a 16 year old female friend of a friend was involved in a car accident on the northside. When she called 911, she was told by the dispatcher that she could wait, but that unless it was a life or death emergency, the police wouldn't be responding. That the officers were being tied up with the protests. A scared 16 year old girl waited for 2 hours and no officer ever showed up. We already don't have enough officers on the northside. Even prior to the occupation, I waited 21 minutes for an officer to respond on a Tuesday night at 4am when a man on drugs was actively trying to get in my home. Again, here I was, a single female home alone for 21 minutes while a strange drugged out man was trying to bash in my door. I shudder to think about what the response time would be if that happened now.

I deserve to feel safe in my home, in my neighborhood, and in my city. And while the mission of the folks occupying the 4th precinct to eliminate the racial discrepancies that exist within the city of Minneapolis is one I can get behind, the methods that they're using are putting all of us in the neighborhood at risk.

In gratitude for your leadership,

Amanda Furth
1722 Upton Ave N

WARD 5

Yang, Ger

From: Natonia Johnson <toniajohnsontj@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2015 1:16 PM
To: Yang, Ger
Subject: RE: Today's Public Safety Committee Meeting

Good afternoon, Council member Yang!

I am contacting your office because I live near the 4th precinct and use Plymouth Avenue to get to and from work. As you know, Plymouth Avenue is one of our main thoroughfares and the road connects to other main thoroughfares.

However, driving down Plymouth and doing business on the avenue has been greatly hindered and in some cases blocked because we, residents, can't access the road due to the various groups camping out in front of the Mpls 4th Precinct protesting.

While I'm all for and in support of the protesters exercising their Constitutional right, I am not for this lengthy occupation of the 4th precinct, which includes Plymouth Avenue. I also am not in favor of shutting our 4th precinct down!

I'm concerned about various safety issues this group brings with it, like the camp fires and tents. I'm also concerned about the air quality as a result of these fires. I'm also concerned about the potential for a race riot worse than the shooting of the five African American protesters.

I walked down Plymouth Avenue early this morning and I saw more homeless people than protesters and the blockades are still up, after I was told by several of the protesting groups that the avenue is open in the morning. Well, that wasn't the case this morning. This is not a safe situation for anyone, including the protesters.

I ask that you and Council President, Barb Johnson, do something to have the protesters moved to another area that is safer than where they are currently at.

Thank you for your time!

Natonia Johnson
North Minneapolis Resident

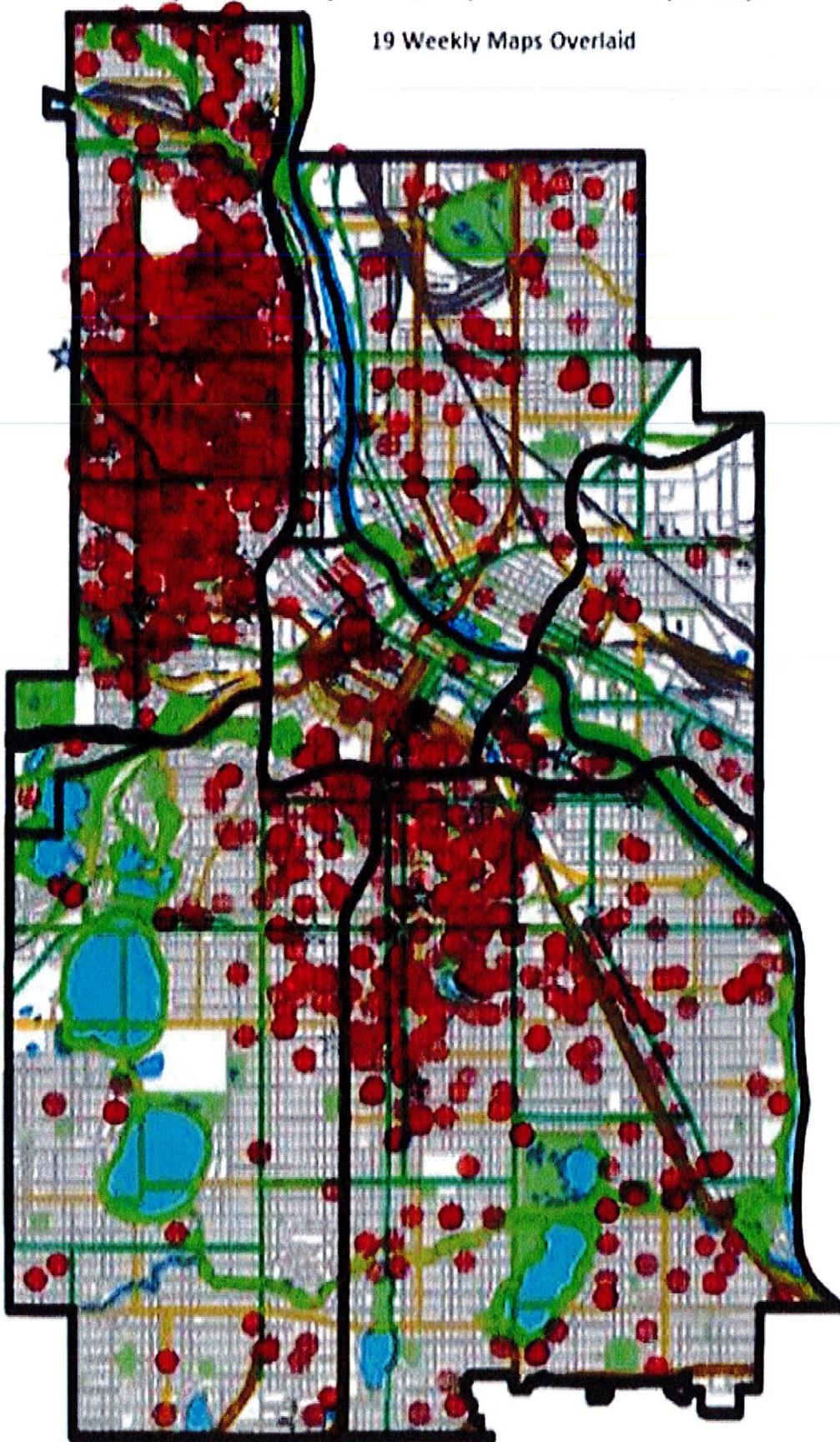
Sent from my iPad

Name	Address	Comments
<p>WARD 5 Jeff Nelson</p>	<p>1314 Russell Ave N</p>	<p>Mr Yang: Hey buddy! I wouldn't want your job for all the money in the world. As a 15 year resident on the North Side, I can't even begin to express to you the disappointment and frustration I feel with the city allowing BLM to 'occupy' the 4th precinct. I live only 3 blocks away the 4th. From the helicopters, to the rerouting of traffic, to the sense that myself and my wife feel held hostage in our own home - like we can't go outside for a neighborhood walk without being harassed or in contact with people loitering around the fringes of the demonstration. We feel like we are on constant display for the world's amusement. Neither my wife nor I signed up for this. We are private people who just go to work and pay our taxes. My home is supposed to be a place of solace. Instead the neighborhood surrounding it has become a source of stress and constant anxiety. I feel no rest in my home or my neighborhood with the occupation going on down the street, nor the anxiety associated with the constant speculation of what sort of scenario will be created when, and if, the city finally, forcefully, ends the occupation. This has got to end. Without action after yesterday's press conference, you look weak and certainly not in control the longer this goes on. If I can't turn to my city representatives for leadership, who do I turn to? You have my support, Jeff</p>
<p>J Meyer</p>	<p>Minneapolis</p>	<p>Blong, The police union is brutalizing Mpls because officers can't be fired due to the egregious union contract the city council has signed with the union. It takes 8 major infractions and years to fire brutal officers. You need to negotiate a new contract with the right to hire and fire at will. Do you agree? What is your plan?</p>
<p>Laurie Eibensteiner</p>	<p>Minneapolis</p>	<p>Hello, I am not in your precinct but read your reasoned comments re: the insanity of demands Black Lives Matter and APPLAUD you for having the courage to stand against them, in favor of your constituents. PLEASE stand firm against these ridiculous demands!</p>

From: Corbin Connell

Minneapolis ShotsSpotter / Reports of Shots 7/1 - 11/9

19 Weekly Maps Overlaid



Kasper, Irene M.

From: Dave Bicking <davebicking@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2015 8:02 AM
To: Council Comment
Cc: Hodges, Betsy A.
Subject: Comments on Jamar Clark shooting
Attachments: Attachment information; CUAPB Jamar Clark letter to Council 12-2-15.docx

Please distribute the attached to all City Council members.

Thank you,

Dave Bicking
Ward 8
4200 Cedar Ave S #1
Minneapolis, MN 55407
612-600-4121



Communities United Against Police Brutality™

**4200 Cedar Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407
612-874-STOP
www.CUAPB.org**

December 2, 2015

To the City Council:

The leadership of the City of Minneapolis is at a crossroads in its relationship with the community after the death of Jamar Clark at the hands of a Minneapolis policeman. Public outrage has spilled over into the streets and brought about an occupation outside the 4th precinct police station. The City Council needs to understand the depth of the anger and the sources of that anger. The City Council must listen, and that information must lead to action. Frankly, the ongoing mishandling of the Jamar Clark case by police and city officials is inflaming an already tense situation as the world watches.

Last week members of Communities United Against Police Brutality came to City Hall to "Change the Agenda". We called for the pre-emption of the City Council agenda to allow community members to talk about their concerns with the Jamar Clark case and the behavior of police at the 4th precinct. Three of us attempted to speak but were removed from the Council chambers. Most unfortunate is that other people who came seeking a chance to speak were denied that opportunity. A City Council member made a motion to suspend the agenda to accommodate the speakers but it was voted down. CUAPB thanks the three Council members who voted for the motion.

We are attaching the statements that the three of us were prevented from saying.

CUAPB now requests that the Public Safety Committee finds the time to talk publicly about what is going on regarding the homicide of Jamar Clark. The public is hearing from officials about the "occupation" of the 4th precinct as a public safety problem. We would like to hear that discussion since it involves our community. We find it curious that the first Public Safety Committee meeting after the death of Jamar Clark was adjourned after just one minute and fifty seconds, whereas a shooting downtown provoked a lengthy discussion at the September 16 Public Safety Committee meeting.

We also ask that the Public Safety Committee set up public hearings at times convenient for the community to come and be heard. Without public input - and real action in implementing the well thought out and absolutely achievable ideas that will come forth - our city will continue to decline in quality of life for all.

Sincerely,

Janet Nye

Jan Nye, CUAPB Board member

CHANGE THE AGENDA

The City Council refuses to listen and refuses to act after the murder of Jamar Clark

Communities United Against Police Brutality organized people to attend the Friday, November 20, 2015 meeting of the Minneapolis City Council, to speak out against the murder of Jamar Clark and to address the City Council about their role in this tragedy. The Council normally allows no public comment at its full council meetings. We demanded that they acknowledge the urgency of the situation and the pain and anger of the community, by changing their agenda. A motion to suspend the agenda was voted down by a large majority, and we were gavelled out of order. As we one by one spoke out in defiance, we were removed from the Council chamber. The statements below are what we would have said. It is unfortunate that the Council silenced other members of the community who had come to speak.

Michelle Gross: Members of the city council, we recognize that you have important business to conduct for the city and you will be given that opportunity soon but at this time we will be changing the agenda. As of right now, we are holding a listening session for members of the community to speak to our elected officials about pressing matters of grave concern.

My name is Michelle Gross. I am president of the Minneapolis-based volunteer organization Communities United Against Police Brutality. Our organization has been in existence for 15 years and I have personally worked on the issue of police accountability for over 25 years. Responsibility for the death of Jamar Clark and the resulting turmoil in our community are the DIRECT RESULT of this city's failure to hold police accountable in any meaningful way.

From the time I was awakened in the early hours of Sunday morning with the news of another death at the hands of the Minneapolis police, I have talked to hundreds of members of the community including family members and many witnesses. Not only are they outraged that police would shoot a man in his head who was already subdued on the ground but they are further outraged at the treatment of witnesses after the shooting. I share their outrage. Some 30-40 squad cars showed up on the scene, an army of cops pointing guns and Tasers and pepper spraying witnesses on both sides of the street. Two witnesses told me how police held guns to their heads and told them "you had better not tell anyone what you saw or you'll end up like that kid" as they stole their cell phones. These people will NEVER come forward. In short, police conduct after this shooting amounts to rank intimidation of witnesses, a crime in and of itself. Yet there hasn't been one word from the city about investigating this crime, which has tainted any hope of a legitimate investigation.

So while Chief Harteau has said nothing about the illegal harassment and intimidation of witnesses by her employees, instead she spent her time ordering a SWAT TEAM to remove a handful of peaceful protesters, ostensibly because they were becoming "too comfortable" on public property that the community has paid for. This was a clear effort on the part of the city to incite the community and to turn Minneapolis into Ferguson north. When three of you city council members came out to the scene to interact with their constituents—and I laud you for that—I saw something that I did not think I would ever see in a US city—members of one branch of government literally holding guns on members of another branch of government. If you don't think we're living in a police state now, I don't know what qualifies.

In short, this community is in crisis right now and since the city created the conditions that led to this crisis, it is your responsibility to address it. And I don't mean with phony programs like the National Initiative for Trust and Justice or the ridiculous and self-congratulatory recommendations by the Office of Justice Programs. I mean with a real, independent investigation, restoration of a real accountability mechanism, and a culture of policing that respects the community and that holds police to standards set by the community. Until we have these things, real peace will not return to the streets of Minneapolis.

Dave Bicking: Everyone has acknowledged that there is no credible local alternative for investigating the actual shooting of Jamar Clark. If the city were to yield to our demand to also investigate the aftermath – the witness intimidation and the use of force against people at the scene and at the 4th Precinct protests – how would it even do that in a credible fashion?

Police spokesperson John Elder says that people should take their complaints to the OPCR (Office of Police Conduct Review) or Internal Affairs. What a sick joke! We know that nothing will happen there, and we have the statistics to prove it. Those offices have received over 1,000 civilian complaints since the OPCR was formed 3 years ago. Only one officer has been disciplined in that time in response to a civilian complaint! And that discipline was just two weeks unpaid suspension. Don't you dare tell us that is the way to get justice!

This is why the officers in this case know they can act with total impunity. This is why the Northside and other areas of the city have been experiencing abuses every day. This is why there is so little trust of the police. Most people may not know these statistics, but they do know that officers are out of control.

But you, the City Council, know these statistics. We have been telling you for over a year. But you have done nothing! At the one year review of the new OPCR, you saw the headline in the Star Tribune: 437 Complaints, NO Discipline! Your response was to wait and see. And for these last two years, you ignored this problem and the obvious implications. You might have prevented this tragedy. You need to act now to prevent the next one. The OPCR must be scrapped. NOW. We need a strong civilian review mechanism, independent of the police, with real power. Now is the time to work with the community to create that.

There is much more to be done. You often excuse the lack of discipline by blaming the union and the union contract. Yet every three years you approve the same contract provisions. The new contract is currently being negotiated. Make it clear that you will only approve a contract that gives the city the same control over the police as it has over other city employees.

Over a year ago, CUAPB gave you a list of 31 actions that the city council and/or the mayor could do to improve the Minneapolis police. These were realistic steps to take, steps that are within your power. We appreciate that you have, with community pressure, acted on a few of these. But the major steps, ones that could make a major difference, have been ignored, not even discussed. This is the time for action. The community demands it; the situation is urgent. With some courage and good intentions, you can do it. NOW.

Jan Nye: It is time for true accountability for the police. Minneapolis has had enough of false fixes that don't address the problem of irresponsible policing in any meaningful way. Officers know that they can do whatever they want, including murder, without consequences. There are officers working on the street with multiple complaints and payouts of our tax money to victims, and none of this knowledge translates to discipline of any kind.

The Committee for Professional Policing has a fair and straightforward way to handle police who continuously act outside the Police Code of Conduct. We will amend the City Charter by collecting enough signatures of Minneapolis voters to put our measure on the ballot – the requirement that police carry individual professional liability insurance, making officers responsible for their own acts. Liability insurance for police would function like car insurance – a record of bad conduct would result in a higher premium. The insurance company has the motivation to dispassionately assess the risk of having the officer on the street. Too many instances would make an officer uninsurable, thus disqualifying that officer from working for the MPD. This plan would benefit good officers and weed out the brutal and incompetent ones.

Beneath all this is the glaring truth that the US economy is based on inequality. We have the largest prison population per capita in the world. A high percentage of the incarcerated are black. In Minneapolis, we lead the country in inequality based on incarceration rates, education and joblessness of people of color. Injustice means unequal opportunity and it will be reflected finally in a reduced quality of life for all.

Minneapolis has an opportunity to lead the way to accountability for police at a time when our city is under intense scrutiny. We thank the Council members who have already signed our petition, which will allow Minneapolis voters to choose a just and fair way to deal with officers who brutalize and kill. We invite those who have not signed to sign now. With or without your signatures, however, we will forge ahead and bring about a victory for the people, and pave a new way on the arduous road to true justice.

Thank you for your time. *[Well, I would have thanked you if you had you allowed us to speak...]*

Kasper, Irene M.

From: Karen <karsmu@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2015 7:41 AM
To: Council Comment
Subject: December 2nd Meeting

To the Committee Council members:

As a citizen of Minneapolis I am disgusted by the Public Safety, Civil Rights, and Emergency Management Committee's sham "open for public comment" period added at the last minute to the December 2nd meeting. This was obviously a ploy to give the Committee's handpicked voices the opportunity to express their views before the Committee without inviting all community members to speak. This is particularly egregious given that a request a week ago for a genuine public comments period was unequivocally denied.

It's clear that the whole point was to justify the subsequent police action to remove the protesters from in front of the Fourth Precinct. By not giving prior announcement of this open comments period, you denied other community members an equal chance to offer opposing views to those invited by the Committee, thus depriving them of their equal rights to be heard by their elected officials.

If you cannot represent all City residents equally and fairly, then you don't deserve to serve on the Council.

Karen Smudski
Minneapolis, MN