



MINNESOTA CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

DEDICATED TO THE IDEALS OF PROFESSIONAL POLICING

John Choi
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Mike Freeman
Hennepin County Attorney
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Minneapolis, MN 55487

December 28, 2021

Dear Mr. Choi and Mr. Freeman:

We are writing this letter on behalf of more than 300 current police chiefs in Minnesota who believe it's imperative you are aware of the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association's 2022 Legislative Agenda, specifically the push for greater prosecutorial transparency in charging decisions.

For background on our organization's legislative process, the MCPA's Annual Legislative Agenda is developed with direct input from our members who bring forward ideas that will address public safety challenges in their communities. The ideas are vetted and voted on by our Legislative Committee members, who represent a diverse cross-section of police chiefs from across Minnesota. The Legislative Committee ultimately recommends a list of items for our Board of Directors to approve. The approved list of items results in the MCPA's Annual Legislative Agenda.

This year, the stark realities of violent crime sweeping across the state was one of the top priorities for our members, who are looking for a legislative solution to combat the violence as other means are failing. Many Minnesota communities large and small have experienced increases in homicides, shootings, carjackings, auto theft, burglaries, theft-from-vehicles, street racing, and vehicles fleeing from the police. We are deeply concerned how these trends have impacted crime victims, brought a reduced sense of safety and are eroding the quality of life in our communities.

As law enforcement leaders, we are especially concerned that at a time of unprecedented increasing crime rates, prosecutorial policies are failing to hold criminals accountable for their actions. In some cases where the


County Attorney is unwilling to pursue felony cases, law enforcement has been forced to turn to city prosecutors to charge offenders with lesser crimes in pursuit of some form of justice.

To address this troubling trend, the MCPA is supporting the Transparency in Charging Act. We are actively seeking legislative authors who will craft the bill requiring County Attorneys to provide data to the legislature about felony level offenses that go uncharged. As the Chief Law Enforcement Officers (CLEOs) of the municipalities across the state, we can't sit idly by as serious offenders who should have been in jail are able to commit additional crimes.

Lastly, we understand you represent only two of 87 counties in Minnesota. However, we also know that your decisions can impact the prosecutorial strategies of your peers and does affect public safety in communities across our state. We ask that you work with us— rather than against us – as we try to solve the complex crime problems now facing all of Minnesota.



Jeff Potts, Executive Director
Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association



Eric T. Werner, President
Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association
Chief of Police, City of Maple Grove