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Office of Mayor Jacob Frey  
350 S. Fifth St. - Room  
331  
Minneapolis, MN 55415  
TEL 612.673.2100

August 20, 2021

Minneapolis City Council  
Lisa Bender, President  
350 South Fifth Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Council President Bender, Council Vice President Jenkins, and Members of the City Council:

This letter is to inform you that I have vetoed Resolution No. 2021R-254, included in Legislative File No. 2021-00578.

Minneapolis voters deserve essential information regarding the consequences of their decisions at the ballot box. Denying our residents this basic measure of transparency is an affront to good governance. Regardless of where you stand on the substance of this proposal, these statements should not be controversial.

The Court has made clear, more than once, that our local government has the right to include explanatory language or "explanatory notes" in the ballot language that will come before voters this November. There is no good reason to hide the real-world impact of this charter change from the very people being asked to weigh in on it.

The petitioners themselves make clear in their proposal that this change would remove the chief of police from the Minneapolis charter, shift oversight of the department's operations from the Mayor's office to shared oversight with the City Council, and eliminate the sworn officer staffing requirements for the department.

While I am vetoing this ballot language you voted to advance earlier today, I have put forward language that would have unpacked the substance of these critical issues. I am urging you to come to the table and work collaboratively to incorporate this essential information and do right by the people we represent with a transparent and honest ballot question.

I look forward to working with you to meet our statutory requirement to submit language that accurately and fairly reflects both what the petitioners submitted and what voters will need to consider when it comes to the future of public safety in Minneapolis.

Time is of the essence. Let's get this done.

Yours Truly,

Jacob Frey