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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-262, included in Legislative File No. 2021-00578.

Earlier today, I rejected Resolution No. 2021R-254. That resolution failed to meet the most basic standards of transparency. That veto was sustained and the City Council has now passed lightly revised ballot language. Still, this language fails to convey baseline information about the impacts this change to our city's charter would have on public safety and the way our local government serves Minneapolis residents.

A few short weeks ago, the City Council approved a point-by-point explanatory note showing what this amendment actually does. In the intervening weeks, all specificity has been removed from the ballot language. Again, the Council has refused to include any of the most important provisions included in the petitioners' own language: the position of the chief of police would be eliminated; the funding requirements for the police department would be removed; and the city council would have greater authority over the police department. By failing to include any of the most significant impacts of this change, you are failing the most basic test of transparent and honest governance.

I worked in good faith with my council colleagues to find a compromise, but this is no compromise.

I am appalled by the lack of transparency in this approach. The ballot language leaves voters in the dark and our residents without essential information at the ballot box.

I cannot in good conscience move this language forward. We should not be afraid to tell the people we represent the truth about the choices before them. I am urging you to reconsider and provide the facts of what this would do.

Yours Truly,

Jacob Frey