



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

September 11, 2023

Minneapolis City Council
City Hall – Room 307
350 South 5th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55414

SUBJECT: Nominating Hennepin County Chief Judge Toddrick Barnette to the appointed position of Community Safety Commissioner

Dear Council President Jenkins, Council Vice President Palmisano, and Council Members:

With this letter, I am nominating Hennepin County Chief Judge Toddrick Barnette to the four-year appointed term of Community Safety Commissioner.

Over the last three decades, Chief Judge Barnette has established himself as a leading voice in Minnesota's public safety and criminal justice communities. As a former public defender, former prosecutor, and as a judge he has built trust with residents, safety officials, reform experts, and elected leaders. He is a rare talent, capable of understanding the full scope of a strong community safety system.

Chief Judge Barnette's reputation as a public servant committed to justice and fairness is well-earned. He brings to the table a proven track record of having managed a heavy caseload and staff to ensure the judicial process operates smoothly. With his broad and diverse experience, Chief Judge Barnette has worked directly with victims and offenders of crime, bringing a fully informed perspective on the criminal justice system.

As Chief Judge for the State's largest Court District, he has successfully overseen high-profile cases and managed 63 State judges while helping support over 550 employees. Recently, he oversaw the transition from in-person to remote trial work and led an innovative approach to ensuring the administration of justice amid the COVID-19 pandemic. He has represented the 4th District Judiciary as an observer and participant in community safety around topics of critical interests facing the City of Minneapolis

With the Office of Community Safety having been officially incorporated in the City's new government structure just a year ago, there has been significant progress made in integrating our core safety services. With renowned legal expertise, a strong managerial pedigree, and deep working relationships across the County and State, Chief Judge Barnette will take the good work underway further.

He is uniquely suited to leverage and deepen partnerships within and beyond the walls of City Hall and lead the next chapter of Minneapolis' Community Safety work. I request that the City Council forward his name as the person I am nominating for appointment to the role of Community Safety Commissioner and refer it to the proper Council Committee for a public hearing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mayor Jacob Frey
Cc: Casey Carl, City Clerk