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February 18, 2026

Minneapolis City Council
City Hall – Room 370
350 South 5th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55414

SUBJECT: Nominating Toddrick Barnette to the appointed position of Community Safety Commissioner

Dear Council President Payne, Council Vice President Osman, and Council Members:

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

Over his tenure, Mr. Barnette has led through crisis with steadiness and skill, particularly as Minneapolis high profile emergencies in the tragedy at Annunciation Catholic School and throughout Operation Metro Surge. Mr. Barnette has tackled the difficult work of building a comprehensive public safety system that can meet the needs of Minneapolis residents. Under his leadership, Minneapolis has made progress implementing the terms of both the MDHR settlement agreement and federal Consent Decree. In partnership with Chief O'Hara, Mr. Barnette has overseen renewed recruitment efforts for the Minneapolis Police Department, rebuilding the ranks of MPD to numbers we have not seen in years. Perhaps most consequentially, Mr. Barnette has overseen the transformation of Emergency Management, bringing on Director Rachel Sayre, and been diligent in ensuring Minneapolis is doing the work to prepare for any type of disaster.

Mr. Barnette's time as Community Safety Commissioner has been marked by milestones that build trust in our safety systems, whether it's bringing 911 back to full staffing, MPD and MFD recruit classes that reflect the diversity of Minneapolis, establishing internal controls to ensure resources are being allocated wisely, and establishing Minneapolis as a model for emergency response. He is the uniquely suited build on his deep relationships with community and other jurisdictional partners to continue that momentum.

I request that the City Council forward his name as the person we are considering 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