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May 14, 2026

Minneapolis City Council  
350 South 5th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Council President Payne, Council Vice President Osman, and Members of the City Council:

This letter is to inform you that I have vetoed Council Action No. 2026A-0328. I am disappointed that the posturing has continued despite assurances from Council leadership that there is opportunity and desire to work together.

Based on the Council President's own remarks during the May 7, 2026, Council meeting, it appeared that we could pursue a collaborative path forward. A working group could be formed to collect any unanswered Council member questions for Commissioner Barnette. We could then have serious conversations about his accomplishments to date, and his plans for the Office of Community Safety and the departments he oversees. This process would take place before a new vote on his appointment would be taken up.

To my surprise and disappointment, none of that occurred, and the Council took yet another vote on Commissioner Barnette's appointment without informing me or the Commissioner himself. This is not how we should treat any public servant, let alone an accomplished leader like Commissioner Barnette. Therefore, I am vetoing this action with the sincere hope that the promises made by Council leadership come to pass before this appointment is taken up again by Council.

Yours Truly,

Mayor Jacob Frey  
City of Minneapolis