



**OFFICE OF THE HENNEPIN COUNTY ATTORNEY**  
**MARY F. MORIARTY COUNTY ATTORNEY**

April 23, 2026

Council President Elliott Payne  
Minneapolis City Council  
City Hall  
250 S. Fifth Street, Room 370  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear Council President Payne,

I write to express my strong support for the Care Over Criminalization Ordinance that is being considered by the Minneapolis City Council. Drug use is a public health issue, and decriminalizing the possession of drug paraphernalia is a critical step towards treating it as such. This Ordinance will also bring Minneapolis into alignment with Minnesota state law.

I understand that a question was raised at a previous hearing regarding whether drug paraphernalia charges were used as a negotiating tool on felony drug cases. As you know, my office prosecutes all felony drug cases in Hennepin County. I want to make clear that we do not use drug paraphernalia charges as a negotiating tool in our cases.

Thank you for prioritizing harm reduction and a public health approach as we work together to improve public safety in our community. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Mary F. Moriarty  
Hennepin County Attorney