

City of Minneapolis

Request for Committee Action

RCA #: RCA-2026-00596

TO COMMITTEE(S):

#	Committee Name	Meeting Date	Submission Deadline
1	Public Health, Safety & Equity	Jun 3, 2026	May 14, 2026

FROM: City Council

LEAD STAFF: Ivonne Hernandez, Ward 9

PRESENTED BY: Council Member Chavez, Council Member Chowdhury, Council Member Chughtai, and Council Vice-President Osman

SUBJECT:

Law enforcement agency agreements ordinance

ACTION ITEM(S)

#	File Type	Subcategory	Item Description	Public Hearing
1	Ordinance	Code Amendment	Passage of Ordinance amending Title 2, Chapter 18 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Administration: Purchasing, adding a new section 18.210 relating to law enforcement	Yes

#	File Type	Subcategory	Item Description	Public Hearing
			agency agreements; concealment of identity.	

WARD / NEIGHBORHOOD /ADDRESS

#	Ward	Neighborhood	Address
1.	All Wards		

BACKGROUND ANALYSIS

When law enforcement agencies allow officers to obscure their identities, it erodes the trust that is necessary for effective law enforcement, and it harms the general welfare of the residents of the city. Across the country, law enforcement officers respond to calls in full uniform, including calls to dangerous situations, or situations that may threaten their well-being, and do so without relying on a facial covering to obscure their identity. Masked law enforcement makes accountability nearly impossible when misconduct occurs and creates dangerous confusion. This ordinance is needed to build trust.

This ordinance prohibits the city from entering or amending any law enforcement joint powers agreement (under Minn. Stat. § 471.59) with any agency unless that agency’s officers are prohibited from concealing their identity while performing activities under the agreement within the city of Minneapolis. The prohibition applies regardless of dollar amount. The prohibition may contain the following exceptions or similar exceptions permitting facial coverings when an officer is:

- Actively engaged in and performing their responsibilities in furtherance of an undercover assignment.
- Wearing a shield or eye protection that does not conceal the officer’s face to protect the officer’s face or eyes from harm.
- Wearing a medical grade mask or respirator designed to prevent the transmission of disease and has obtained a statement from a licensed physician that the mask or respirator is necessary to protect the health of the officer or the general public.

- Wearing air-purifying respirators, self-contained breathing apparatus, or other facial protection to protect themselves against exposure to any toxin, gas, smoke, or any other hazardous or harmful environmental condition, or other recognized physical hazard.
- Wearing a helmet that covers the face when operating a motorcycle or other vehicle that requires a helmet for safe operation; or
- Assigned to Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team units, or agency equivalent, while actively performing their SWAT responsibilities and where protective gear is used for physical safety.

The ordinance also requires that a request for approval of a joint powers agreement with a law enforcement agency that has independent jurisdiction within the city, to disclose whether the agency has a policy that meets the criteria in the ordinance and whether the agency will apply that policy when it is operating within the city of Minneapolis regardless of whether the agency is operating under the terms of the proposed joint powers agreement.

Racial Equity Impact Analysis (REIA)

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

DOES THIS IMPACT ONE OF THE CITY'S GOAL AREAS?

Policy Goals

- PUBLIC SAFETY

Operational Goals

- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

DESCRIBE THE IMPACT ON SELECTED GOAL AREAS.

Public Safety: This ordinance advances public safety by ensuring that residents can identify law enforcement officers interacting with them in Minneapolis under city-authorized agreements. Visible officer identity reduces the risk of impersonation, supports de-escalation, and enables residents to report misconduct or unprofessional conduct when it occurs.

Community Engagement: This ordinance strengthens community trust by holding external law enforcement agencies to the same transparency expectations Minneapolis residents have of their own police department. When officers are identifiable, communities are better able to engage with, report on, and seek accountability from those exercising law enforcement authority in their neighborhoods.

WHO PARTICIPATED IN COMPLETING THIS ANALYSIS?

Ward 9 Office

SECTION 2: DATA

LIST THE SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIES THAT WILL BE IMPACTED AND THE RACIAL DEMOGRAPHICS OF CONSTITUENTS IN THOSE AREAS:

This ordinance applies citywide across all 13 wards of Minneapolis. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, approximately 42 percent of Minneapolis residents identify as people of color, including Black or African American (18.9%), Hispanic or Latino (10.4%), Asian (5.8%), American Indian and Alaska Native (1.2%), and multiracial residents (5.2%).

WHAT DOES AVAILABLE DATA TELL YOU ABOUT HOW CONSTITUENTS FROM BIPOC COMMUNITIES CURRENTLY RELATE TO THE DESIRED OUTCOME COMPARED TO WHITE CONSTITUENTS?

Research and community feedback consistently show that BIPOC residents experience higher rates of contact with law enforcement and are more likely to experience or witness interactions where officer accountability is difficult to establish. When officers are masked or otherwise unidentifiable, the burden falls disproportionately on those communities, as they face greater barriers to filing complaints, identifying officers involved in misconduct, and seeking redress.

WHAT DATA IS UNAVAILABLE OR MISSING? HOW CAN YOU OBTAIN ADDITIONAL DATA?

N/A

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

USING THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (IAP2) [PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SPECTRUM](#), WHICH PARTICIPATION STRATEGY(S) WAS USED WHEN ENGAGING THOSE WHO WOULD BE MOST IMPACTED?

- INFORM
- CONSULT

DESCRIBE THE ENGAGEMENT AND WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED?

During the strengthened separation ordinance process, which included explicit language opposing masked and unidentified law enforcement, provided an additional engagement touchpoint that surfaced strong constituent support for officer identification requirements. Community members and advocacy organizations expressed that accountability is impossible when officers cannot be identified.

SECTION 4: ANALYSIS

HOW DOES THE OUTCOME FOR THIS ORDINANCE, AMENDMENT, OR POLICY HELP THE CITY ACHIEVE RACIAL EQUITY?

Unidentifiable law enforcement officers create conditions that disproportionately harm BIPOC residents, who experience higher rates of law enforcement contact and face greater structural barriers to seeking accountability when misconduct occurs. When an officer's identity is concealed, the ability to file a complaint, pursue an investigation, or seek legal remedy is severely diminished, and that diminishment falls hardest on communities that most need those accountability mechanisms to function. This ordinance advances racial equity by closing a gap in the city's transparency framework that external law enforcement agencies have been able to operate outside of.

SECTION 5: EVALUATION

HOW WILL IMPACTS BE MEASURED? WHAT ARE THE SUCCESS INDICATORS AND PROCESS BENCHMARKS?

Law enforcement agencies adopting policies in Minneapolis.

HOW WILL THOSE WHO ARE IMPACTED BE INFORMED OF PROGRESS OVER TIME?

The Public Health, Safety, and Equity Committee will monitor this work and the compliance of JPA's.