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April 15, 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-0236.

Confirmation appointments should be made based on qualifications and record. I am vetoing this Council action because the decision to reject Toddrick Barnette as Community Safety Commissioner was not based on his robust qualifications, but instead in political gamesmanship and horse trading, or even worse, using the confirmation process as a “blunt tool” to force me to adopt unrelated Council policy positions. Toddrick’s illustrious career -- from his time as Chief Judge of the Hennepin County Courts to his work solidifying and operationalizing a new Office of Community Safety -- speaks to his deep experience. His leadership through crisis, along with his behind the scenes work to strengthen emergency management, reflects a proven record of results.

Political disagreements with me should be just that. Our government structure was determined by the voters and it’s our job to enact it. All fourteen elected officials -- thirteen Council Members and the Mayor - - earned their election certificates. The people of Minneapolis now expect us to work together to achieve success and deliver results.

I want the Council to succeed. Even more so, I want Minneapolis to succeed. That success depends on talented individuals in our cabinet willing to serve – often at personal cost -- to do the work of good governance. It’s hindered when those same talented individuals think twice about taking on these honorable jobs out of concern for unfair or dishonorable attacks.

The City Clerk and City Attorney will be laying out the next steps following my veto. In the meantime, I have one ask of each of you: Work with me to find solutions. We will collaborate to address your concerns, and we will work tirelessly to serve our shared constituents. I know how much you care for this city. We will be reaching out soon about next steps, and I look forward to working together.

Yours Truly,



Mayor Jacob Frey
City of Minneapolis