



Office of Mayor Jacob Frey
350 S. Fifth St. - Room 330
Minneapolis, MN 55415
TEL 612.673.2100

www.minneapolismn.gov

Minneapolis City Council
350 South 5th Street, Room 370
Minneapolis, MN 55415

May 14, 2026

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

With this letter, I am nominating Rachel Sayre to the appointed position of the City's Emergency Management Department Director.

Since her initial appointment in 2024, Ms. Sayre has demonstrated incredible leadership in both proactive and reactive emergency management during some of the city's most harrowing moments. From the citywide response to the tragic Annunciation School shooting, to the months-long response to Operation Metro Surge, Ms. Sayre led the City's coordinated response with professionalism, poise and resolve. I can say with certainty that the City of Minneapolis was able to effectively manage these crises because she was at the helm of our incident response training in the years leading to each event and put the City in a position of readiness we have not seen before. We owe her and her team a debt of gratitude and are lucky to have her leadership here at City Hall.

While her body of work to date is impressive, it is also not a surprise. During her tenure with the federal government, Ms. Sayre was the incident commander during several high-profile disasters, including the humanitarian crises in Haiti in 2023 and she served as the Deputy Incident Commander for Ukraine in 2022. Her experience in these roles underscores her ability to manage complex emergencies, coordinate multi-agency responses, and make critical decisions under pressure.

Throughout her career, Ms. Sayre has demonstrated a strong commitment to public service during difficult situations, while successfully leading teams to meet their goals. Upon joining the City, Ms. Sayre hit the ground running and took over the City's efforts to evolve and perfect the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) protocols. While this work continues, the strides we have made as an organization are in no small part due to her expertise and leadership.

Her exceptional credentials and body of work to date for the City of Minneapolis make Ms. Sayre the obvious choice to continue leading the City's Emergency Management Department and captain the City's preparedness efforts.

For these reasons I am requesting that the City Council forward Ms. Sayre's name as the person we are considering for appointment to the role of Director of the Emergency Management Department and refer it to the proper Council Committee for a public hearing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Jacob Frey
Mayor of Minneapolis