



Communities United Against Police Brutality™

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March 26, 2026

Minneapolis City Council
350 S Fifth Street, Room 307
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Sent via email to
councilcomment@minneapolismn.gov
and individual email addresses

Dear President Payne and Members:

You will soon be voting on funding for a new training facility for Minneapolis police. While we are not opposed to ensuring police have an adequate setting for training, we are opposed to the cost of the current proposal.

Much of the argument made to support transferring funds from other vital city services and amenities is that this facility is required by the consent decree. **THIS IS FALSE.** The controlling language is in pages 58-78 (Training) and 79-90 (Officer Support and Wellness):

- The Training section addresses the development of a training plan and assessment of its effectiveness, requirements for instructors, and outlines specific training topics. There is no requirement within this section specific to training facilities.
- The Officer Support and Wellness section requires the city to provide mental health supports and other services through an Employee Support Program, hire a health and wellness manager, develop an early intervention system, conduct an assessment of equipment and facilities and provide resources to implement a plan of improvement addressing outdated or broken equipment and refurbishing or addressing facilities as necessary. **THERE IS NO SPECIFIC REQUIREMENT TO BUILD A NEW FACILITY** in order to implement the plan.

The bottom line is that the MDHR consent decree does not require the city to build an expensive new structure to meet the terms of the agreement. This could be achieved by refurbishing existing space in either the new First Precinct building or in other available structures. There are several large unused or underused buildings in downtown and across the city that could fill this need at much less cost.

Even if the city elected to construct a new building, we question the \$38 million price tag. The St. Paul police department built a state-of-the-art training facility in 2017 for \$18 million, part of which was donated. While construction prices have increased since then, they haven't more than doubled.

There is an effort to justify the cost by proposing that response services outside of policing be colocated with police in the facility. However, colocating these response services with police is no longer considered a best practice. While law enforcement and other response services should engage in periodic mutual training, studies show that these services tend to be unduly influenced by law enforcement culture if they are colocated with law enforcement.

We urge you to reject the current overpriced proposal in favor of a more modest and reasonable proposal.

For justice,

s/Michelle Gross

Michelle Gross, President

From: [Dave Bucklin](#)
To: [Frey, Jacob](#); [Payne, Elliott](#); [Wonsley, Robin \(she/her/hers\)](#); [Rainville, Michael](#); [Vetaw, LaTrisha](#); [Warren, Pearl Y](#); [Osman, Jamal](#); [Shaffer, Elizabeth A](#); [Stevenson, Soren D](#); [Chavez, Jason](#); [Chughtai, Aisha](#); [Whiting, Jamison](#); [Chowdhury, Aurin](#); [Palmisano, Linea](#)
Cc: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO cop city in Minneapolis
Date: Thursday, May 21, 2026 12:37:04 PM

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Council Member Rainville and Mayor Frey,

My name is David Bucklin. I am a resident of Minneapolis in Ward 3. I'm calling on you to vote NO on the land purchase for cop city. We should not be spending money on perks for the police until they can begin to police effectively. Doing otherwise will only fuel the injustice and violence wrought upon Minnesotans by the police.

Sincerely,
David Bucklin

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