

Dear Council President Elliott Payne and Mayor Jacob Frey,

I am writing on behalf of the Minneapolis NAACP regarding the reported consideration to remove Justin Baylor, the only African American member currently serving on the Minnesota Ballpark Authority Board.

We hope this report is based on a misunderstanding. Mr. Baylor's presence on the board brings valuable diversity, lived experience, and perspective to the decision-making process. His continued service strengthens the Board's ability to represent the full range of Minneapolis residents, particularly communities that have historically been underrepresented in major public infrastructure and development decisions.

As an organization committed to advancing racial equity and justice, the Minneapolis NAACP was encouraged by the City of Minneapolis's stated support for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion principles. Retaining Mr. Baylor, who has served since 2022 and whose current term ended on December 31, 2025, would demonstrate that commitment in practice. We respectfully urge you to extend his appointment so that he may continue contributing his important perspective.

The Ballpark Authority oversees significant public resources and contracts that directly impact neighborhoods across Minneapolis. When major decisions are made regarding contracts, development, or changes at our ballparks and surrounding public spaces, our community strongly desires a consistent and representative voice at the table. Ensuring diverse representation helps prevent the exclusion of communities of color and guarantees that opportunities for economic participation, community benefits, and equitable outcomes are actively considered.

We believe that maintaining diverse leadership on this board is not only good public policy but also essential for building trust between City leadership and the residents we all serve. We kindly request that you take all necessary steps to retain Mr. Justin Baylor on the Minnesota Ballpark Authority Board.

Thank you for your time and continued leadership on this important matter. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and are available at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Thomas Berry Vice President Minneapolis NAACP