



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

June 4, 2026

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

SUBJECT: Nominating Kaela McConnon Diarra to the appointed position of Director of the Department of Civil Rights

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

With this letter, I am nominating Kaela McConnon Diarra to the appointed position of Director of the Department of Civil Rights.

Ms. McConnon Diarra brings a strong background of dedicated professional experience in civil rights advocacy, legal investigations, and equity focused public policy to the Civil Rights Department.

Over her decade-long tenure, Ms. McConnon Diarra has demonstrated passion, commitment and expertise to Civil Rights work in the City of Minneapolis. Most recently, Ms. McConnon Diarra served as the Interim Director of Civil Rights, Deputy Director of Civil Rights Department, and the Director of Complaint Investigations Division. In these roles, she has fostered a culture of continuous improvement, while overseeing department operations, investigations into discrimination complaints, and the expansion of protections of Minneapolis residents' human rights. Our Civil rights Department is well recognized for its excellence —whether it be in adding protected classes to our Civil Rights Ordinance, ensuring robust investigations, the promotion of justice and equity or its commitment to clearing investigative backlogs to provide timely accountability. In line with Settlement Agreement expectations, the department successfully cleared its portion of the 234-case OPCR historical backlog and advanced toward a sustainable 180-day investigative timeline by establishing a new structure to prevent future backlogs. Ms. McConnon Diarra's experience makes us well positioned to continue our outstanding operations.

Ms. McConnon Diarra has also spearheaded initiatives that demonstrate the leadership necessary to innovate in the field of Civil Rights. Her recent recognition with the City of Minneapolis North Star Award for leadership further underscores her commitment to the City's enterprise-wide values. Given our shared priorities in these areas, I believe that Ms. McConnon Diarra is the best candidate to elevate this work and see it through to its full implementation as she leads the department forward.

I request that the City Council forward her name as the person we are considering for appointment to the role of Director of the Department of Civil Rights and refer it to the proper Council Committee for a public hearing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JF", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Jacob Frey

CC: Casey Carl, City Clerk