



Alcohol
and Gambling
Enforcement

Bureau of
Criminal
Apprehension

Driver
and Vehicle
Services

Emergency
Communication
Networks

Homeland
Security and
Emergency
Management

Minnesota
State Patrol

Office of
Communications

Office of
Justice Programs

Office of
Traffic Safety

State Fire
Marshal

Office of the Commissioner

445 Minnesota Street • Suite 1000 • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-5100
Phone: 651.201-7160 • Fax: 651.297.5728 • TTY: 651.282.6555
www.dps.state.mn.us

April 7th, 2021

RE: Juvenile Justice

The importance of making an investment in creating a Juvenile Unit at the Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs cannot be understated and is a top priority for the administration as it is a key component in our One Minnesota plan. This request not only helps Minnesota meet the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJJPA) requirements by ensuring protections for youth, but it also dedicates resources to reducing ethnic and racial disparities in Minnesota's Juvenile Justice System.

Minnesota Statute 299A.72 establishes the Department of Public Safety as the sole agency responsible for implementing the state plan for juvenile justice required under the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJJPA). This state plan requires adherence to not only protections for youth in the juvenile justice system, but also reducing ethnic and racial disparities in the current system. Currently, Minnesota relies on limited federal funds to meet these requirements and provide grants to organizations dedicated to working with youth and reducing disparities, this investment adds positions directly dedicated to compliance with the act.

The Governor's proposal expands the capacity of the current Minnesota Juvenile Justice Specialist to ensure robust compliance and dedicated resources to reducing ethnic and racial disparities in the juvenile justice system. This budget request increases funding for grants available for community organizations and programs across Minnesota that support youth. This would allow Minnesota to employ a team approach to ensuring compliance with the JJJPA, dedicate a meaningful allocation of funds to delinquency prevention, and launch a cross-jurisdictional approach to reducing ethnic and racial disparities.

Minnesota must make this issue a priority by focusing on areas of the system where widespread disparate treatment occurs. We must get into alignment with most other states' disparities-reduction protocol - employing a team approach, addressing the areas where the largest disproportionality exists, and creating collaborative solutions that result in lasting change for Minnesota's youth of color.

With this state investment, not only will Minnesota be coming into line with other state investments and staff allocation, but this investment will expand the work and scope of the current multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency collaborations operating through Minnesota's Juvenile Justice Advisory Group that includes the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Minnesota Department of Corrections, Minnesota Department of Human Services, Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC), Minnesota Corrections

Juvenile Justice

April 7, 2021

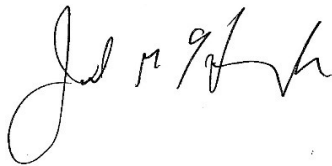
Page 2

Association (MCA), Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers (MACPO), Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), Minnesota Juvenile Detention Association (MNJDA), Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), and National Alliance on Mental Illness-MN (NAMI), and others.

Not one approach is going to change the trajectory of this growth in disparities within Minnesota. This investment will continue to develop innovative, geographic, and intentional interventions and programs across the state.

No other program or proposal provides the depth of collaboration, community voice, cross-jurisdictional representation, and youth voice. This is a critical investment that will result in reductions in disparities and protections for youth by using input and experience from those most impacted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Harrington". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "H".

John M. Harrington
Commissioner- Department of Public Safety