



Minnesota Business
Coalition for
Racial Equity

May 13, 2022

Minnesota House of Representatives
Chair Mariani
Vice Chair Frazier
Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Chair Mariani, Vice Chair Frazier and Committee Members,

The Minnesota Business Coalition for Racial Equity (MBCRE) is comprised of more than 70 businesses that have come together to build a just and prosperous state with and for Black Minnesotans. Our goal is to eliminate the systemic barriers that prevent positive economic outcomes for Black Minnesotans. Public safety is foundational to our work because the lives of all Minnesotans depend on the safety of our communities.

Building safe, vibrant communities is of the utmost importance to MBCRE and our members because safe communities are critical to retaining employees, attracting talent, and the overall economic vitality of our state. One of the pathways to safe communities is an adequately staffed and diverse police/peace officer population. Therefore, we strongly support increased funding to recruit and retain police officers to fill high vacancies and increase diversity to build agencies that are reflective of the communities that they serve. But, the work does not stop there.

After the deaths of several Black men at the hands of police and the recent findings of the MN Department of Human Rights report on the Minneapolis Police Department, we must acknowledge the opportunity for greater law enforcement accountability. To increase accountability for police/peace officers, we support:

- Funding for body-worn cameras and other technology used for training purposes along with capacity for data storage for police departments across the state
- In instances of excessive or deadly force, the body-worn camera footage should be shared with the family and next of kin as soon as possible and in advance of release to the public
- Enhancing intervention efforts including but not limited to licensure suspension or revocation by the POST Board when there is a pattern of complaint and/or misconduct to achieve consistency with the process of other professional licensure boards

In addition to advancing more just and transparent policing practices, MBCRE urges you to invest in our communities to help reduce police encounters through crime prevention and youth intervention programs. These programs are essential to resolving the present problems our youth may be facing and preventing the occurrence of the problems in the future.

Another investment in our communities is through the expanded use and funding of co-responder models, which allows embedded social workers or mobile crisis teams who work with law enforcement agencies to respond to non-violent, non-emergency calls like those related to welfare checks, curfews or persons in crisis. These programs can help de-escalate police encounters and contribute to a higher level of trust between community members and law enforcement.

We urge you to continue the important work of promoting public safety measures that include the adoption of police reforms that advance accountability and transparency, increase officer well-being and crime prevention measures to build safe communities for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tiffani Daniels".

Tiffani Daniels
Managing Director
Minnesota Business Coalition for Racial Equity



Minnesota Business
Coalition for
Racial Equity

Minnesota Business Coalition for Racial Equity Member List

3M
Accenture
Allianz Life
Allina Health
Andersen Corporation
APi Group
Apogee Enterprises, Inc.
Bank of America
Best Buy
Be the Match
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Minnesota
Boston Scientific
Bremer Bank
C.H. Robinson
Cargill
Caribou Coffee
Carlson
Center for Economic Inclusion
Children's Minnesota
CHS
Comcast
Cummins Inc.
Delta Air Lines
Delta Dental of Minnesota

Ecolab
Element Fleet Management
Fairview Health Services
General Mills
Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare
Great Clips
Greater Twin Cities United Way
GREATER MSP
Greenlight Fund Twin Cities
Hope Community
JPMorgan Chase
Land O'Lakes
Medtronic Foundation
Minnesota Business Partnership
Minnesota Twins
Mortenson
nVent
The Opus Group

PNC Bank
Polaris

Post
Red Wing Shoe Company
Ryan Companies
Sankore Consulting
Science Museum of Minnesota
Securian
Sleep Number
Target
The Toro Company
Thomson Reuters
Thrivent
Travelers
Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity
Twin Metals
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