From: Jennifer Lanzel
To: Alder Work Group Creating MPD Independent Civilian Oversight
Subject: Comments regarding the civilian oversight board
Date: Friday, July 3, 2020 10:56:03 AM

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Hello Alders,

I am writing to express my support that the civilian oversight board be enacted exactly as written and outlined in the Ad Hoc committee recommendations.

On a specific note regarding the selection of board members, I want to strongly advocate that there be NO representation on the civilian oversight board with ties to any policing department (i.e., NO retired cops). We require strong police oversight, and particularly oversight that centers voices of people most impacted by policing (e.g., BIPOC, LGBTQIA community members).

It would be completely counterproductive to include anyone with allegiances, past or present, to the police department. The purpose of this committee is to help protect those most impacted by the police (including BIPOC and LGBTQIA) and to hold the police accountable. If police had already been holding each other accountable, we wouldn't be talking about this today. But they haven't done that. They don't hold each other accountable, they don't reprimand each other when at fault, and we cannot trust them to start doing so now on this board.

If other community members advocate for having retired police affiliates on this board, please scrutinize their requests. Who are they trying to protect and appease? The same people that have always had protection- police- not the people who are suffering. That is not what the Civilian Oversight board is for. This board is to hold the police accountable and offer transparency. We do not need or want any representation on this committee of a former or current police affiliate. We want for this committee to function as intended, which it will be able to do if it is formed exactly as outlined in the recommendations from the Ad Hoc committee.

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