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July 26, 2021

Chief of Police Todd Axtell  
367 Grove Street  
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Senior Commander Joshua Lego  
389 N. Hamline Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55104

Councilmember Mitra Jalali  
310-D City Hall  
15 Kellogg Blvd., West  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Councilmember Chris Tolbert  
310-C City Hall  
15 Kellogg Blvd., West  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

VIA EMAIL

**Re: Pre-Textual and Other Traffic Stops in St. Paul**

To Whom It May Concern:

On July 8, 2021, the Board of Directors of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council ("MGCC") considered a recommendation from its standing Transportation Committee. The following resolution was passed 14-0 with 1 abstention:

***Whereas, the practice of pre-textual and other traffic stops is documentably enacted in a racially inequitable manner in Saint Paul.***

***Whereas, the practice of pre-textual and other traffic stops is unsafe for St Paul's citizens and police officers.***

***RESOLVED, except for flagrant and dangerous moving violations such as,***  
*o Amber Alerts*  
*o Unsafe speed*  
*o DWI*  
*o Hit and Run*  
*o Reckless Driving*

*The Board of Directors of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council requests the City of Saint Paul to cease pre-textual and other traffic stops. This should last until the City completes the updates recommended by the Saint Paul Community-First Public Safety Commission and the St Paul Police department can demonstrate a more equitable policing practice.*

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexa Golemo".

Alexa Golemo  
Executive Director  
Macalester-Groveland Community Council

Alexa,

Thank you for your thoughtful feedback.

The Saint Paul Police Department initiated a **Traffic Stop Workgroup** in May 2021 to address concerns from the community around traffic stops and seek their feedback. The initial workgroup ran for eight weeks, and focused on overall traffic safety as it relates to traffic enforcement, with an emphasis on vehicle, bike, and pedestrian safety. The group also participated in a number of anonymous surveys to determine what aspects of traffic safety and traffic stops is most important to our community members.

The Traffic Stop Workgroup is comprised of members from the following groups:

- St. Paul City Attorney's Office
- St. Paul Police Department
- St. Paul HREEO
- Black Ministerial Alliance
- Move MN
- MADD MN
- African American Leadership Council
- NAACP
- MNDOT
- Community members from each St. Paul Police district

The group is currently reviewing survey results from the previous meetings, holding one-on-one meetings, and reviewing research. They will use all information gathered as well as input from the group to prepare information and recommendations around traffic stops in Saint Paul.

A final report, including recommendations, will be presented to me in September.

Again, I thank you for writing and I look forward to collaboration with you on this and other important topics.

Respectfully,

Todd Axtell