



Committee for Professional Policing

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MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

POLICE INSURANCE AMENDMENT: PETITION DRIVE CONTINUES

On June 2, 2016, the Committee for Professional Policing submitted 12,000 signatures to the Minneapolis City Clerk to get our Police Insurance Amendment on the November 2016 ballot. Of these, we identified 8,445 signatures as being of Minneapolis registered voters. This was 23% more than the 6,869 signatures required. The number of signatures shows the tremendous popularity of the Police Insurance Amendment, which will require Minneapolis police officers to carry professional liability insurance.

Earlier today, the Minneapolis City Clerk's office presented the results of their validation of the signatures submitted. They found that the number of valid signatures was 509 short. The Committee for Professional Policing has until July 5 to gather and submit additional signatures to make up this shortfall.

"While we don't agree with the criteria the city used to invalidate some of the signatures, we have continued to gather signatures to address this shortfall and are fully confident that we will gather far more than needed by July 5th," stated Dave Bicking, Campaign Chair.

The city has applied a novel interpretation of the state statute regarding valid signatures. While state law indicates that a person need only be a registered voter in Minneapolis, the city required that the signer's street address match the address on the registered voter roster—even if that person moved within Minneapolis since signing the petition. In our mobile society, this has the effect of disenfranchising voters who did not know the address that was on file for them.

We have reached out to the public to ask for assistance in gathering the additional signatures and will be out in force at Pride and other events over the next ten days to accomplish this goal.

Bicking added further, "despite this temporary setback, we fully expect to be on the ballot in November and we are looking forward to educating voters on the benefits of our Police Insurance Amendment."

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