



Committee for Professional Policing

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MEDIA RELEASE

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POLICE INSURANCE AMENDMENT PROPONENTS DISPUTE RULING, PLAN APPEAL

Hennepin County District Court Judge Susan Robiner issued decisions on two proposed Minneapolis City Charter amendments today. She ruled that the 15NOW amendment should be on the November ballot because “to reject this proposal based on its content somehow being improper, which the City urges, amounts to passing judgment on the quality of the proposal, which is not the province of the court.” Nevertheless, Judge Robiner did exactly that when she ruled that the Police Insurance Amendment should be kept off the November ballot.

“City Council Members Alondra Cano, Cam Gordon and Andrew Johnson concluded that this measure should go on the ballot. The other ten Council Members want to take away our democracy,” said Dave Bicking, Chair of the Committee for Professional Policing (CfPP), the group behind the Police Insurance Amendment effort. “Today the judge backed them up, but Judge Robiner doesn’t get the final say on this matter. We owe it to the thousands of Minneapolis voters that signed the petition to take it to a higher court, and we will.”

Michelle Gross, long-time police accountability activist and CfPP Board Member notes, “While City Attorney Susan Segal and Police Union boss Bob Kroll sip champagne and celebrate their ‘victory’ over the wishes of the voters, our community suffers under the weight of unchecked police brutality.”

On June 2, the Committee for Professional Policing submitted over 15,000 signatures to the Minneapolis City Clerk to get the Police Insurance Amendment on the November 2016 ballot. The amendment will require Minneapolis police officers to carry professional liability insurance.

After a Minneapolis City Council voted to block the amendment from the ballot, CfPP sued the city for emergency injunctive relief two weeks ago. Now CfPP will file an expedited appeal.

The Minneapolis Police Federation knows the only way to defeat this measure is to keep it off the ballot. We will fight to get this measure on the ballot because we know that once people get to vote on the Police Insurance Amendment, it will pass by a landslide.”

“Minneapolis city officials care only about maintaining the status quo when it comes to policing,” states Bicking. He adds, “They do all they can to avoid holding police accountable.”

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