



209 Page Street West | Saint Paul, MN 55107
(651) 293-1708
www.WSCO.org

WHEREAS the Saint Paul District Council system has long taken an interest in public safety, including supporting a healthy relationship between community members and police;

WHEREAS the system recently restructured its funding to prioritize community organizing as a key mechanism to create resilient communities that discourage criminal activity;

WHEREAS there is much good that the Saint Paul Police Department does, day in and day out, that is not broadly recognized;

WHEREAS the people of the Twin Cities, including Saint Paul residents and police officers, have been working to collectively come to terms with concerning and tragic incidents of civilian death at the hand of law enforcement, including the death of Saint Paul Public Schools employee Philando Castile at the hands of Saint Anthony Officer Jeronimo Yanez just outside Saint Paul;

WHEREAS Officer Yanez was trained to approach possible conflict by shooting earlier than many law enforcement professionals would by a training entitled “Bulletproof Warrior”, as documented by the Star Tribune in August 2016;

WHEREAS police officers must aspire to be peace officers, and not most definitely not warriors;

WHEREAS the “Bulletproof Warrior” training Officer Yanez took was hosted by the Saint Paul Police Department’s Professional Development Institute which provides training to Saint Paul officers as well as other departments in the region;

WHEREAS the institutional decision to host such a training is startling, and a violation of the trust the residents of Saint Paul place in their Police Department as an institution;

WHEREAS the community recognizes Chief Axtell, new to his role, responded quickly by ending this kind training, but the community is still very appropriately left with deep questions around the general standards and values that inform the curriculum of the Professional Development Institute;



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WHEREAS the Professional Development Institute is the beneficiary of an \$18 million investment in a new Police Training Facility due to open this fall, with much of that investment coming from Saint Paul taxpayers;

WHEREAS the City of Saint Paul has elevated racial equity as a priority lens through which to view all city activities, and the Police Department plays an especially important role in this work;

WHEREAS in light of the recent community focus on policing, and the opening of the new Police Training Facility, now is an especially appropriate time for the Saint Paul Police Department to ask important questions about its overall training curriculum and course offerings;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the West Side Community Organization calls on the Saint Paul Police Chief and Police Department to formally review the full range of offerings of the Professional Development Institute, and make sure the following values are embedded throughout the curriculum, and day-to-day culture and operations of the Department:

- A focus on the methods for successful deescalation and means of diffusing potential conflict;
- A focus on recognizing implicit bias, and providing officers the strategies and tools to successfully overcome the implicit bias we all carry with us;
- A focus on dealing with special populations, including those with mental illness, and those with specific mental or physical disabilities;
- A focus on recognizing the stages of youth development, and appropriate responses to those stages of development; and
- A focus on appropriate response to domestic violence and abuse, including ensuring potential victims of such abuse are connected with appropriate support and resources.

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the West Side Community Organization would welcome continued discussion and engagement with the Saint Paul Police Department and Police Civilian Internal Affairs Review Commission as appropriate on this and related topics.