

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Frey and Arradondo React to the Board of Peace Officers Standards and Trainings (POST) Vote

Mayor and Chief praise the new model policy and have already begun working to implement tailored policy for the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD); New policy will take into consideration POST Board and Attorney General taskforce recommendations

Frey and Arradondo have already created policies to comport with the Attorney General task force's recommendations on sexual assault investigations, including formalizing policies that protect survivors who report sexual assault from underage drinking charges and ensuring the MPD now takes sexual assault reports from other jurisdictions; MPD has also begun integrating new trauma-informed and victim-centered trainings

MINNEAPOLIS – Today, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey and Police Chief Medaria Arradondo issued the below statements regarding today's Board of Peace Officers Standards and Trainings (POST) on a draft sexual assault investigation policy for Minnesota police departments. Frey and Arradondo have begun working on a best practices policy that takes into consideration both the Attorney General taskforce's recommendations released last month along with the POST policy that can be used by law enforcement agencies across the state.

“Reporting sexual assault is an act of courage. Survivors experience unspeakable trauma, and honoring their bravery requires we make every effort to ensure investigations are handled with compassion and guided by the goal of delivering justice,” said Frey. **“More work must be done, but committing to create a new policy for sexual assault investigations, formalizing additional best practices, and refining our training all mark important steps toward creating a more just Minneapolis for survivors and their families.”**

“As Chief of the MPD we will continue to do all we can to keep our communities safe and free from harm,” said Arradondo. **“Survivors of sexual assault through their voices and determined actions to educate those of us in the criminal justice system, have lead the way in shaping important and needed changes in sexual assault cases in how they are initially responded to, investigated and ultimately prosecuted.**

“I laud the recent work of the Minnesota Post Board and their new model policy as well as the significant efforts and recommendations by the Attorney General's Taskforce.

“MPD's new best practice policies will be survivor centered and help guide us from response through investigation.”

Frey and Arradondo have moved swiftly to implement changes to the department’s sexual assault policy in accordance with recommendations from the task force convened by the Attorney General’s Office last year.

Earlier this month, Frey and Arradondo took steps to formalize task force recommendations to support survivors as MPD policy. Individuals who report a sexual assault to the MPD are protected from underage drinking and other minor charges. Additionally, the MPD accepts sexual assault reports from other jurisdictions and takes reports of incidents that occur outside of Minneapolis to send to the agency having jurisdiction.

Final language for each measure is included below.

Implementing these policy changes as well as adopting the POST model policy comes on the heels of other initiatives within the MPD.

Also in 2018:

- MPD hired a full-time sexual assault survivor advocate who works alongside investigators and assists survivors through investigation and legal process.
- The MPD’s sex crimes unit welcomed an embedded prosecutor from Hennepin County to assist with investigations of sexual assault in an effort to increase prosecutorial efficacy.
- In January and March of 2019 – with the assistance of the new sexual assault survivor advocate – all officers are receiving trauma-informed and victim-centered sexual assault investigation training to respond to sexual assault crimes.

NEW MPD POLICY:

1. The Minneapolis Police Department shall accept any report of sexual assault, regardless of when or where the offense occurred. If the incident occurred outside of Minneapolis but is being reported in Minneapolis, the officer receiving the information shall prepare a report. A copy of the report shall be sent to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction, as soon as practical.
2. Individuals reporting sexual assault will not be cited for underage consumption or other minor offenses occurring at the time of the report, whenever reasonable.

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