



# MINNESOTA POLICE AND PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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April 26, 2022

Sent via email

Representative John Thompson  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Thompson:

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) is the largest public safety association representing police and peace officers in the State of Minnesota.

**We are writing to urge your immediate action to make public the body worn camera video from the St. Paul traffic stop incident that took place on Sunday, April 24, 2022.**

In your statement today, April 26, 2022, you wrote, *“As an elected official I certainly would not attempt to misuse, intimidate or bully police officers with my official position.”*

**This description is directly contrary to the formal account and statement** by St. Paul Police Chief Todd Axtell, *“While the officer was attempting to get the driver—whose license was suspended and who was driving with tabs that had been expired for two years—to cooperate and other officers backed her up, the driver’s father pulled up in another vehicle, jumped out and immediately began interfering by yelling and questioning the traffic stop and identifying himself as State Representative John Thompson.*

*It’s an absolute shame—that an elected official would attempt to intimidate and bully police officers, that he would misuse his official position, that officers doing their jobs should have to endure illegitimate claims of racism, that John Thompson is still serving in the Legislature.”*

As a state representative, you have also led efforts, as Chief Author of House File 1103, to make recordings from peace officer’s portable recording system available for viewing no later than 48 hours after use of specific types of force.

**Current state law allows the body worn camera footage of your incident to be made public with your agreement. We urge you to release the body worn camera footage immediately to collaborate your position and explanation. Another benefit would be to highlight the effectiveness of St. Paul’s police officers in de-escalation in a mental health situation, as you also noted in your statement.**

As a known proponent of this type of transparency, we urge your action on this immediately. To make the body worn camera footage public, it can be easily done by contacting the St. Paul Police Department’s Chief of Police Todd Axtell, [todd.d.axtell@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:todd.d.axtell@ci.stpaul.mn.us) or by calling 651.291.1111.

Sincerely,

Brian Peters  
Executive Director, Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association