

Good morning University of Minnesota President Gabel,

My name is Brian Peck and I'm a 1994 Carlson School undergraduate alum and a 2005 Carlson School MBA alum. My wife also graduated from the University of Minnesota, my oldest son will be a senior at the Carlson School next fall and my youngest son will be a freshman at the CLA next fall. My daughter is the outlier at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln where she'll start her sophomore year in the fall. I am currently the CFO at a privately held apparel design and manufacturing company located in downtown Minneapolis.

I am reaching out to you to see how we can help ensure the safety of my two boys, and all the students, while attending the university as the all out gun rampage that just happened last week was behind my son's fraternity house at Pike. He was very shook up about it and after talking with him about it over the weekend, he shared that his anxiety is at an all time high because he is afraid for his life every single day he is at the U. Just think about that and let that soak in. He is afraid for his life every single day while attending the University of Minnesota. He now lives at the Marshall in Dinkytown where shootings have become a daily occurrence, as I know you are aware. He knows of people shot right outside his apartment. He knows of many people who were carjacked. He knows of many people who were jumped and mugged. He knows of people sitting out having a nice pizza lunch in Dinkytown who were shot but luckily survived. This isn't Detroit, Philadelphia, Kuwait, Ukraine, or any other war torn area we're talking about. This is the University of Minnesota. Again, let that sink in.

In my role as a business leader, I always tell people if they bring me a problem, please also come with a solution. I'm using the same approach here with you.

As I've outlined, I have a lot vested in the Minneapolis and surrounding area at the university and I am frankly sickened by what is happening before our eyes and it needs to stop. It feels like we are watching news from a third world country instead of what used to be a safe and inviting community. I am considering pulling my youngest son out of the university before he even starts this fall as my wife and I honestly feel like we are sending him to a war zone if we let him start there in the fall. I know I am not alone as many other parents are having similar conversations with us.

It would be very helpful if an all out safety campaign were started this summer in preparation for the next school year. I would love to hear what the university is doing to ensure the safety of our students. The police are our friends. We need police. We need law and order restored. It would be great to see a campaign that says, "WE WANT PEACE, FUND THE POLICE". Or something of that nature. If we need a police officer on every single corner, then that is what should happen. Installing cameras and hiring social workers was not the answer. There are no consequences and therefore no fear of breaking the law and therefore the continued lawlessness will not change. Why would it?

How can we help? I would love to be part of the solution but I first need to hear what the current plan is to restore law and order and ensure the safety of our students. I don't recall getting any updates from the U about the ongoing safety issues and more importantly, any updates on what is being done. Why is that? Why is this not the number one priority for you and every single person at the U. It's a simple business equation. If you don't have a safe environment you don't have students. If you don't have students you don't have any revenue. If you don't have revenue, you go out of business.

I look forward to hearing from you and would love the opportunity to sit down and brainstorm ideas ASAP so we can all feel confident that if we do send our children to the University of Minnesota, we can do so knowing we are not sending them into a war zone.

Thank you for your time,
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cc: Kare 11 News, KSTP News, WCCO News, Fox 9 News, Governor Walz, Mayor Frey