

[Rough transcript.]

I want to make some remarks. I woke up about 4:30 in the morning, and had some time to think about this. And I really want to explain myself and my position on this.

I really have thought very carefully about this, the concerns that have been raised about getting people into the criminal justice system, and what challenges that provides for them for the rest of their lives.

I want to acknowledge Council Member Yang for having this for two cycles in [the] Public Safety [Committee.] I listened to both public hearings. I did listen to both. I also looked through the lurking arrests that were made in Minneapolis, the Police reports that were available to the public in 2014. In North Minneapolis, there were only three arrests for lurking, and two were in my ward, and one was in Council Member Yang's ward.

In the Public Safety Committee meeting, reading through the police reports, this issue of intent which seems so unclear to people, although intent was decided all the time, it was pretty clear for the two that happened in my ward, including someone hanging out by a garage that had an underground entrance, hiding out in the bushes with a mask on his face in the middle of summer.

The other one was one in the middle of winter, a man who walked up to a business in the middle of the night, tried the front door, and then left the yard.

I feel like the police had very concrete reasons to charge people with lurking. It's a tool that isn't used very much. It was recently used to charge people with burglary. In one night, seven garages were burgled in a 2 block radius. I am concerned with taking this tool off the table.

I want to acknowledge the people too that have contacted me to support my position or criticize my position. I appreciate anybody that takes the time to write, email, or call and tell me what they think.

I've had some valuable conversations with constituents of mine, and some of the most valuable conversations I've had are constituents of color, that I've known for years, that have called me with concerns about, not lurking, but treatment of people with Police contact. And I found that listening to the public hearing too, people's concerns are more about their everyday encounters with the police department, and how they feel like they're singled out for added scrutiny for talk to the police officers when they're people of color.

This is an issue that we have to address for people in our city, and I think our Police Department is on the right track. We as councilmembers, I'm glad you [referring to the full Council] reminded me about the charge, and the bond, and the pact that we

have with citizens about representing people. It is important in my mind to remember the people that we represent.

I do represent people that are very challenged with crime, I just saw a statistic that said that North Minneapolis has twice the rate of violent crime as the rest of Minneapolis. So we do have people that are concerned about crime in their alleys. We have people who are sometimes carjacked in their alleys in our neighborhoods.

People are concerned about their property. Every week I get emails from people who routinely, if they leave their car in the driveway, they come out in the morning and their car has been gone through.

The joke of it is that everybody always says, "and they didn't take my CDs, haha," because the music tastes are different.

This is something that is concerning of people. They also leave their car unlocked, so that they don't break their windows.

All of us deserve respectful treatment from our police department. I've represented the city in many conferences, many circumstances where the actions of the departments have been challenged. We have more than one million contacts every year between citizens and the police department, and some of them will be under unpleasant circumstances. Most of them are under unpleasant circumstances. When somebody calls the police they have an urgent situation. It's a challenge. It's up to us on the council to provide the training for police, to assist them in unbiased police work, to support citizen's right to report, and offer assistance, to redress bad police conduct, and to support the police chief when she disciplines officers.

I really am concerned, however, that this is a first step. And as I listen to the discussion, and listen to the press conference, it's clear this is a first step.

I'm just going to point out that this is clearly step one, and I'm curious about what other ordinances people want to dismantle. I'm reading in the press that there are other ideas, and I think the public would like to know what people are proposing. When we go down this path, what's the next step? Is it disorderly conduct? Is it curfew?

I hope that if we do do these things, that are perhaps a more common charge, or arrests made in this city, that we involve more people than this. We have 380 thousand people that live in this city, so I want to hear their voices too. And we will. We will.

If you're a homeowner who has to deal with suspicious behavior in your back alley, or if your car is hit by an unlicensed, uninsured driver, you know these are real problems. They probably don't feel like 'low-level' crimes to you.

Those are the kind of things that these low-level crimes that we're talking about. Those are the charges that people use to try and deal with some of

these issues that, in a civilized society, in challenged neighborhoods are things that people want to see dealt with.

I want to encourage people to please tone down the rhetoric around this issue. I think it is really unhelpful to talk about Minneapolis being potentially the next Ferguson. It's really irresponsible, it's inflammatory, and that's really unfortunate. That's really unfortunate. I won't accept that kind of discussion. It's not appropriate in a civilized city.