

June 16, 2020

BY EMAIL: responsibleauthority@minneapolismn.gov

Records Management
350 South 5th Street
Room 300M
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Re: Request for Records Under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13

Dear Sir/Madam:

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (“CREW”) makes this request for records pursuant to the Government Data Practices Act, Chapter 13 of the Minnesota Statutes.

Specifically, CREW requests:

1. All communications from June 16, 2015 to the present between the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) concerning Lieutenant Robert Kroll’s political activity, involvement in MPD’s response to any protest activity (including without limitation protests sparked by George Floyd’s death), all complaints submitted against Lt. Kroll for official misconduct, any investigation of Lt. Kroll for potential misconduct, and any disciplinary action taken against Lt. Kroll.
2. All records from May 25, 2020 to the present relating to any involvement of the Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis in responding to protest activity sparked by George Floyd’s death, including without limitation any such communications between representatives of the City of Minneapolis and representatives of the Minneapolis Police Department or the Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis.

Please search for responsive records regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. We seek records of any kind, including paper records, electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, photographs, data, and graphical material. Our request includes without limitation all correspondence, letters, emails, text messages, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. Our request also includes any attachments to emails and other records, as well as those who were cc’ed or bcc’ed on any emails.

If it is your position any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure, Section 13.03, Subdivision 3(f) requires you to disclose which exemption permits the withholding. CREW requests that you state in writing and with particularity the reasons for any conclusion that a record is exempt or confidential. If some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, you are required to redact those portions and produce the remainder of the requested records.

Lt. Kroll occupies a prominent and powerful position as President of the Minneapolis Police Union. He may influence MPD culture and norms even more than the Chief.¹ Despite his esteemed organizational role, Lt. Kroll has a history of potential legal and department policy violations as well as alleged misconduct.² CREW seeks to investigate if Lt. Kroll has transparently promoted public safety, departmental ethics, and accountability throughout his tenure, and, specifically, during the recent protests in Minneapolis.

The release of these records will shed further light to the public on the MPD culture and norms shaped by the union and Lt. Kroll. The MPD and the union hold immense power in their local community; and at this unique political moment, each is also a model for the rest of the country. The release of these records is relevant to the public interest both locally and nationally. It is therefore imperative that the public have access to records that, if they exist, would shed further light on the Minneapolis Police Department.

CREW is a non-profit corporation, organized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. CREW is committed to protecting the public's right to be aware of the activities of government officials, to ensuring the integrity of those officials, and to highlighting and reducing the influence of money on politics. CREW intends to analyze the information responsive to this request and to share its analysis with the public. The release of information obtained through this request is not in CREW's financial interest.

If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform CREW if the cost will exceed \$100. However, CREW also requests a waiver of all fees because the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest. The public is entitled to the information requested above concerning Lt. Kroll's MPD records and involvement in the Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis. Further, this information is not being sought for commercial purposes. Please advise us if the costs associated with processing this request will exceed \$100.00.

If you have any questions about this request or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records, please contact me at eraskin@citizensforethics.org. Where possible, please produce records in electronic format. Please send the requested records to me in electronic form at eraskin@citizensforethics.org. If it's not possible to produce them electronically, please contact me at that email, and I will provide a mailing address. Thank you for your assistance.

¹Allana Akhtar, [The battle between the Minneapolis chief of police — who once sued the department for racial discrimination — and the city's bombastic union leader is a showcase in how cops resist reform](https://www.businessinsider.com/minneapolis-police-union-department-reform-kroll-arradondo-george-floyd-blm-2020-6), *Business Insider*, June 10th, 2020, available at <https://www.businessinsider.com/minneapolis-police-union-department-reform-kroll-arradondo-george-floyd-blm-2020-6>

²Samantha Michaels, [Minneapolis Police Union President Allegedly Wore a “White Power Patch” and Made Racist Remarks](https://www.motherjones.com/crime-justice/2020/05/minneapolis-police-union-president-kroll-george-floyd-racism/), *Mother Jones*, June 10th, 2020, available at <https://www.motherjones.com/crime-justice/2020/05/minneapolis-police-union-president-kroll-george-floyd-racism/>

CREW | citizens for responsibility
and ethics in washington

Sincerely,

Elliot J. Raskin