



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Walz

Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

June 10, 2020

Via email

Representative Melissa Hortman
Speaker of the House
463 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Kurt Daudt
Minority Leader
267 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Paul Gazelka
Majority Leader
3113 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Susan Kent
Minority Leader
2227 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Special Session for Police Accountability and Reform, COVID-19 Response, and Building a Stronger and More Equitable Economy

Speaker Hortman, Majority Leader Gazelka, Minority Leader Kent, and Minority Leader Daudt:

The tragic and unnecessary death of George Floyd has laid bare the urgent and existential need for systemic police accountability and reform in Minnesota. As we prepare to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of another tragic extrajudicial killing—the lynchings that occurred in Duluth on June 15, 1920—the time to act is now, before another life is needlessly lost. In addition, both the COVID-19 pandemic and recent civil unrest have caused economic damage to local communities, leaving Minnesota in need of a stronger and more equitable economy. The Constitution allows me to call a special session of the Legislature on extraordinary occasions such as these, and I intend to do so.

Moreover, on March 13, 2020, in Executive Order 20-01, I declared a peacetime emergency to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. That declaration was extended by the Executive Council on March 16, 2020. After notifying you of my intentions, on April 13, 2020 and again on May 13, 2020, I extended the peacetime emergency until June 12, 2020. As predicted by public health experts, COVID-19 deaths have continued to increase in Minnesota, with fatalities exceeding 1,000 before the end of May. We have continued to implement policies and exercise emergency powers to protect the health and safety of all Minnesotans.

Over the past month, we have begun gradually re-opening sectors of our economy that present a higher risk of COVID-19 transmission. In consultation with public health and occupational safety experts, we have navigated a course to implement this re-opening safely. Nonetheless, the science tells us that increased social interaction will lead to increased prevalence of the virus in our communities and increased demands on our health care system. The State Emergency Operations Center continues to provide support and coordination to local governments across the state and, as the appropriation of state and federal funds plainly show,

local resources continue to be inadequate to address the burden imposed by this global pandemic. Our emergency efforts must also continue. As a result, I have determined that there is a need to extend the peacetime emergency on June 12, 2020 for an additional 30 days, until July 13, 2020. Although I am not expressly required to do so, I plan to seek the Executive Council's approval of this extension and any future extensions.

Minnesota law provides that the Legislature may terminate a peacetime emergency that extends beyond 30 days by a majority vote of each house of the Legislature. Minnesota law also provides that, if I determine a need to extend a peacetime emergency beyond 30 days, and the Legislature is not sitting in session, I must issue a call immediately convening both houses of the Legislature.

The Legislature adjourned its regular session on May 17, 2020 and is not currently sitting in session. We must act swiftly to ensure police accountability and reform and to build a stronger and more equitable economy. I am also obliged to provide you with the opportunity to end the COVID-19 peacetime emergency if you so choose. For these reasons, today I am issuing a proclamation calling the Legislature into a special session beginning on June 12, 2020.

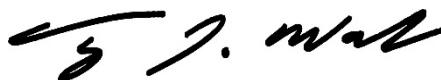
As I have explained in previous letters, although Minnesota law is largely silent as to the procedure for extending peacetime emergencies beyond 30 days, I have concluded that the following procedure, which draws on elements of Minnesota Statutes 2019, section 12.31, subdivision 2, is prudent:

- I will continue to extend the peacetime emergency in 30-day increments, calculated in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2019, section 645.15.
- I will seek the Executive Council's approval of each extension.
- If the Legislature is not currently sitting in session on the day of the extension, I will call the Legislature into special session.

If a further extension of the peacetime emergency is needed beyond July 13, 2020, I will follow the above steps and call the Legislature into a special session on or before July 13, 2020.

I look forward to working with you to ensure real and meaningful police accountability and reform and to build a stronger and more equitable economy. Our State's future depends on your commitment to both.

Sincerely,



Tim Walz
Governor