

**Barb Haley**  
State Representative  
District 21A  
Goodhue and Wabasha Counties



# Minnesota House of Representatives

**COMMITTEES:**

Commerce  
Jobs and Economic Development Finance  
Health and Human Services Finance  
Water Division

February 17, 2021

Red Wing City Council  
315 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Red Wing, MN 55066

Dear Council Members,

I write today on behalf of my constituent and Red Wing Chief of Police Roger Pohlman. It is my understanding that the City Council conducted a closed door meeting last week resulting in the placement of Police Chief Roger Pohlman onto administrative leave.

While respecting that the Council has been elected to serve the citizens of Red Wing with decisions relating to city government, a number of citizens have contacted me with concerns about the lack of transparency by the City Council in both making this decision and the lack of clear explanation of why it was made. They now ask how the city council will prioritize public safety. A week has gone by and the citizens of Red Wing still have no more information on what exactly caused the City Council to make this decision and they are seeking answers. The public deserves a functioning and well-run police department, something Chief Pohlman had delivered.

In my work with Chief Pohlman as a State Legislator, I have relied on his expertise for the law enforcement implications on numerous policy issues. He has testified on legislation at the State Capitol and received accolades from my legislative colleagues with his collaborative work style – making sure all stakeholders have a voice. I believe that he has served our community well and I have found him to be a fair, honest, professional, and committed public servant.

I was in frequent contact with Chief Pohlman during the riots and violence in Minneapolis last summer. Red Wing also saw protests, and to my knowledge Chief Pohlman made it a point to reach out to these groups, supported their right to free speech while ensuring laws were being followed and protected the safety of our citizens and property.

It is my hope that our constituents will have the transparency and answers from our City Council. They deserve to know that the police in our community will have the resources and support from the City Council to keep residents, businesses and property safe, -- and for Police Chief Pohlman to receive due process.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara K. Haley".

Barb Haley  
State Representative, 21A

Cc: Mayor Mike Wilson  
Kay Kuhlmann

