



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

**JOHN COOPER
MAYOR**

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Dear Chairperson Davis and Director Fitchard,

Last week, I pledged that Nashville would act on President Obama's challenge to address police use of force policies. In keeping with President Obama's suggestion, I will assemble a committee to review community experiences with police use of force and develop recommendations to improve use of force policies. The commission will then present draft recommendations to the public for feedback, before sharing final recommendations with me, the Metro Council, the Metropolitan Nashville Community Oversight Board, and the Chief of Police.

As part of this process, I would like to ask the Metro Nashville Community Oversight Board to review the Metro Nashville Police Department's use of force policies and national best practices. I have asked Eric Brown and John Buntin to support the work of the commission and to work with you and your staff.

Finally, I wanted to inform you of another change to MNPDP policy. We have responded to concerns expressed by thousands of Nashvillians about 8cantwait in general, and particularly policies around chokeholds and duty to intervene. At my direction, MNPDP has amended its policy manual to include an explicit ban on chokeholds and to strengthen and clarify officers' duty to intervene if they observe any MNPDP member engaged in an improper or unlawful act, including excessive force, abuses of process, abuses of authority, or violations of department policies. This announcement in no way precludes additional changes in the future. Rather, it reflects my commitment to move quickly to improve policies and procedures where there are opportunities to do so. The Mayor's Office and MNPDP will provide additional details on those changes later today.

Thank you for your assistance with this urgent undertaking.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Cooper".

John Cooper
Mayor
Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County