



MINNESOTA CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

DEDICATED TO THE IDEALS OF PROFESSIONAL POLICING

November 25th, 2025

Public Comment Regarding Proposed Amendments to Sentencing Guidelines

To Whom it may concern:

On behalf of approximately 325 police chiefs and an additional 150 command staff members from police departments across Minnesota, the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) respectfully submits the following comments regarding the Proposed Amendments to the Sentencing Guidelines.

The MCPA **supports** the provisions outlined on Page 2, Paragraph B of the Notice of Hearing dated October 20, 2025. Specifically, we agree with the proposed adjustments to offense severity levels for the following crimes:

- Assault in the 2nd Degree
- Criminal Vehicular Operation
- Assault in the 3rd Degree / Domestic Strangulation
- Assault in the 4th Degree
- Criminal Vehicular Homicide
- Assault in the 1st Degree

We believe these changes appropriately reflect the seriousness of these offenses and better align sentencing with the harm inflicted on victims and communities.

However, the MCPA **does not support** other proposed changes, including:

- Reducing the decay period for prior felonies
- Converting custody status at the time of offense into a durational modifier
- Eliminating juvenile adjudications from criminal history calculations

Over the past several years, the MCPA has worked collaboratively with key stakeholders, legislators, and community partners to proactively address recidivism and ensure meaningful accountability for criminal behavior. While we appreciate the effort to modernize sentencing guidelines, we are concerned that these particular changes to criminal history calculations are **not victim-centered** and would ultimately **shorten**

sentences for serious and repeat offenders. Such changes risk undermining the progress we have made in promoting public safety, reducing violent crime, and building community trust.

We welcome continued dialogue on these critical issues and remain committed to working with the Sentencing Guidelines Commission and other partners to advance balanced, evidence-informed policies that protect victims, hold offenders accountable, and strengthen public safety across Minnesota.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jeff Potts", is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Jeff Potts
Executive Director
Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association