



# NEWS



## Minnesota police conduct standards tighten

JEN KOCHAVER, STAFF WRITER

**M**innesota Police have raised their conduct standards for the first time since 1995. As of Jan. 25, police officers in the state of Minnesota will face a state licensing hearing if convicted for fifth-degree assault, fourth-degree drunk driving and domestic assault misdemeanors.

Previously, there have been no job-related consequences in the case of any of these violations for Minnesota Police Officers. This decision was made via unanimous vote by the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), a committee which oversees and licenses all Minnesota police departments and our approximately 10,075 police officers. The state of Minnesota already issues automatic revocation for felonies and theft charges; all of the new additions are misdemeanors.

This change will

not be enforced retroactively, meaning all police officers who have been convicted of these crimes in the past will not be subject to a licensing hearing. Proponents of the change find it insignificant. In the scope of reform they feel is necessary in order to address police brutality and misconduct in the United States. They also feel that the rules in place previous to this change were hardly enforced.

"So, adding three new things that you look at and never discipline on are simply window dressing, and not what people have been asking of the POST Board," said Dave Bicking, member of the group "Communities United Against Police Brutality" for KSTP 5 Eyewitness News.

Supporters find this to be an obvious and needed change to keep expectations for officers in our state consistent. The changes will be imple-

mented throughout the next 18 months.

Before this decision, being charged with any of these three specific misdemeanors made one ineligible to become a police officer in Minnesota. But the misdemeanors had no effect on employment if an individual was already a licensed police officer previous to the offense.

Currently, as a state, we have one of the lowest police license revocation rates in the country. This change marks the first in police conduct standards in over two decades, and many believe that the need for reform was largely brought to light through the reporting of the "Star Tribune" which ran a series in Oct. 2017 exposing a number of instances in which Minnesota police officers had been charged with violent assault yet remained in their roles as law enforcement.

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## Super Bowl reshapes city life

SOPHIE KEEFE, NEWS EDITOR

Over the course of a week, downtown Minneapolis transformed. Nicollet Mall, which recently reopened in mid-November following a lengthy renovation, closed for a fan festival called Super Bowl Live. A concert stage overtook 8th Street; at Nicollet Mall, 9th Street cut down to two lanes, making room for a portable skiing overpass brought in from Wisconsin. According to the "Min-

nesota Post," hotel occupancy soared, with 86% of properties offering no availabilities. Usually, hotel occupancy runs at about 55% during the winter-time.

Anyone could have looked around and guessed that the cost of hosting such an iconic event would be monumental. However, economists say that the Super Bowl Host Committee usually tends to estimate

much higher than the final cost. The projected cost for Super Bowl LII is \$338.4 million.

A significant portion of the cost went towards security. According to boston.com, this year's Super Bowl had the largest deployment of federal resources yet. Minneapolis has a relatively small police department and needed to compensate with

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