Kenneth Brown, Chair Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights,

Task force member under Councilman's Glidden's Amendment

Chair Benson and other City Council members

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this afternoon. In my position as the Chair of the Commission I present the following recommendations on behalf of the Commission.

- 1. The CIU not be cut from the Department
- 2. The CIU improve its processes to shorten the length of time cases are open by communicating with the Commission and being more accountable to the public.

As a task force member I totally oppose the document that Director Jordan presents to you.

I wish to remove my name and the Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights on legal, ethical, and moral grounds from being connected to that document in any way shape or form.

Director Jordan's document was not derived at in a democratic way. There was never a majority vote of members of the task force, so there could not have been a minority dissent as he suggest.

There has not been any deliberation by the task force members. The task force members were not presented with data to the questions asked in many instances to assist them in forming fair and equitable decisions. The task force has not had the time to fully vet the requirements placed in the amendment offered by Councilman Glidden.

Not one discussion was had about the CIU, CCU or the CRA. We were given basic orientations to each unit but analysis of the information was not done by the group. Some of us may have reached the same conclusions on our own, but not as a collective. I believe we could have done a much better job, by providing clear concise recommendations with supporting documentation if given the time and autonomy to do so.

To Support my position I have with me this shoulder bag that is full of some of the documentation that could have been used and analyzed by the task force, but again we were not given the time or autonomy to do so. I have a folder on each unit of the department, the State Human Rights Department, The police Department, the Department of Justice Study [Avoiding Racial Conflict], and reports made by task forces assigned to the Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights Commissioners over the past several months.

I clearly recall on more than one occasion the Director stating in no uncertain terms: "He will do what his Boss tells him to do." The directive from his boss puts him in direct opposition to the amendment. For him to have lead and controlled the process leads us to this time and place. He has also stated "Leave Civil Rights to the professionals." If all of you are "the professionals" he speaks of, then hopefully you choose to keep the CIU with improvements and find the dollars to cut in another way. I could make recommendations to this effect, but that would place me in the same light as the Director.

In closing I want to remind all of us that without the Civil Rights movement, which was and remains a movement of the people; many of you and your staff would not have the jobs that you have. Discrimination in this city continues as we stand here today. I know we cannot legislate human behavior, but we should remain true to our founding heritage of equality for all.