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May 13, 2008

Assistant Chief Matt Bostrom
St. Paul Police Department
367 Grove Street
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Dear Matt:

Today, I am writing to follow up on the letter I sent you on April 28, 2008 regarding my concerns about blockades impacting the RNC security and transportation plan. In accordance with your March 31st statement that the Transportation Sub-Committee would have responsibility for staffing and securing the routes, I forwarded a copy of my April 28th letter (and related intelligence) to Senior Commander Greg Pye, who is Co-Chair of the Transportation Sub-Committee. In addition, I directed Undersheriff George Altendorfer, our representative to the Transportation Sub-Committee, to forward our intelligence report regarding blockades to the Transportation Sub-Committee for discussion as to how they were planning to address the blockade issue.

Undersheriff George Altendorfer attended the Transportation Sub-Committee on April 29th. At that meeting, he was informed by Senior Commander Pye that the Transportation Sub-Committee would not be responsible for securing the downtown corridors beforehand and that the Mobile Field Force teams would be responsible for addressing problems if they arose. In Undersheriff Altendorfer's memo regarding the meeting, he states:

"There was no expectation that this committee would provide physical security for the transportation routes of the buses. Pye said that the Mobile Field Forces are responsible for that task. There are no plans to pre-stage law enforcement personnel along any roadway to maintain an open and secured route. If buses are confronted by protestors, the Mobile Field Forces will be directed to address any disruptions to the traffic routes."

On May 8th I attended the RNC Steering Committee. The meeting included briefings from both the Intelligence Sub-Committee and the Transportation Sub-Committee. Both presentations were very informative. The intelligence presented by Commander Dave Korus was consistent with the intelligence that the Sheriff's Office had provided you and Chief Harrington in April. His report indicated a "most likely course of action" that the anarchists/protest groups were likely to use. Those tactics include blocked streets/freeways/skyways/entrances to buildings; interference with emergency responders; false reports of crimes/alarms; phony 911 calls; fires;

interference with infrastructure; staged accidents; human wave attacks; banner drops; critical mass rides; and intentional interference with police services by physically surrounding officers to delay police response.

FBI analyst Lance Ronstadt then stated that the FBI has increased their estimates of the number of anarchist-affiliated protestors from 1,500 to 3,000 or more. I believe you received a more detailed briefing on April 28th.

Senior Commander Pye also made an excellent presentation regarding the Transportation Sub-Committee plans. This plan is comprehensive and well designed. It will, however, require clear transportation corridors to the perimeter of the Xcel Energy Center venue.

If the intelligence regarding blockades materializes, and our experts believe that it will, the transportation of delegates will be extremely difficult unless the security plan includes control of the bus transportation corridors immediately around the venue area. The best strategy is to "own" this real estate before the blockades are attempted. It is our belief that this effort will require approximately 500 officers in semi-soft attire that are not in the current plan. The immobile field forces will be far more successful if a preventative corridor force slows the establishment of blockades while they are summoning the MFF. This will also provide for an initial soft/intermediate policing response before the use of perceived serious force.

I am forwarding these concerns to the Civil Disturbance Sub-Committee since, at this time, the blockade problem appears to have landed in their lap by default. In addition, I am requesting the next table top exercise to include the "most likely course of action" scenario presented by the Intelligence Sub-Committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would appreciate a response to the issues raised in this and my previous two letters (dated April 28th and April 8th) to you.

Sincerely,



Bob Fletcher
Ramsey County Sheriff

Cc: Chief John Harrington
Senior Commander Joe Neuberger
Senior Commander John Vomastek, Co-Chair, Venue Sub-Committee
Senior Commander Greg Pye, Co-Chair Transportation Sub-Committee
Commander Todd Axtell, Co-Chair Civil Disturbance Sub-Committee
Dennis Flaherty, Ramsey County Sheriff's Office RNC Planning Director
Undersheriff George Altendorfer, Transportation Committee

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