



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Tim Walz

75 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. ♦ Suite 130 ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

January 14, 2021

*Via Email*

House Speaker Melissa Hortman  
463 State Office Building

Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka  
3113 Minnesota Senate Building

House Minority Leader Kurt Daudt  
267 State Office Building

Senate Minority Leader Susan Kent  
2221 Minnesota Senate Building

Dear Legislative Leaders,

Thank you for your attention to recent security matters on the Capitol Area Complex. We know you share our concerns regarding the safety of the elected and appointed officials who work on the Complex, their staff, the press, and Minnesotans who visit the People's House. There is no doubt that the hateful rhetoric, calls to incite violence, and threats to life and property have significantly changed the way we will conduct business at the Capitol.

As we contemplate short- and long-term solutions for Capitol Security, we call on legislators—particularly those serving on the Advisory Committee on Capitol Area Security—to bring forward ideas and suggestions for enhancing safety on the Capitol Complex. We all occupy these spaces, and we are all responsible for making the Capitol a safe place to do our work, hear from our constituents, and accommodate visitors.

Making improvements to ensure safety on our Capitol Complex is of paramount importance, and that's why when I release my proposed budget later this month, I will be including funding for Capitol Area Security. I ask the legislature to take swift action to support this funding and pass these measures early in the session, as opposed to waiting until the end of session.

Additionally, as you know, Lieutenant Governor Flanagan as chair of the Advisory Committee on Capitol Area Security, intends to call a meeting before the end of January. She has asked the Department of Administration and the Department of Public Safety to develop options for the Advisory Committee to consider, including both budget and policy measures that can enhance safety and security. I hope that the Advisory Committee has productive conversations and look forward to seeing the outcomes from those discussions.

As we look to the Inauguration of President-Elect Biden in Washington, D.C., we know there will be a number of planned demonstrations and occasions of peaceful assembly. At the same time, given the events at the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, and knowing that there are armed protests planned in Minnesota and across the country in the coming days, I have taken measures to enhance Capitol Security on the complex, in consultation with Commissioner Harrington and his team at the Department of Public Safety. You will notice an increased presence of officers—both State Patrol and local law enforcement—on the Capitol Complex around the clock to protect the first amendment rights of those who wish to peacefully

assemble, to ensure the safety of your members, staff, and the public to enhance safety and minimize the risk of property damage.

Finally, I have issued EO 21-05, which will allow Adjutant General Shawn Manke of the flexibility to deploy members of the Minnesota National Guard to support local law enforcement in ensuring the safety of all Minnesotans in the days surrounding the Inauguration of President-Elect Biden.

I look forward to continuing the conversation with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. J. Walz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "J".

Tim Walz  
Governor