



Office of the Commissioner

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Dear Gov. Tim Walz, Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan and Minnesota Legislators:

The Department of Public Safety is pleased to submit the Missing and Murdered African American Women (MMAAW) report for your review. This report is compiled and published in accordance with Minnesota Session Laws First Spec. Sess., Chapter 11, Article 2, Section 50.

The Minnesota Legislature led by Rep. Ruth Richardson developed the MMAAW Task Force during the 2021 legislative session to examine and report on a number of issues, including:

- Systemic causes of violence against African American women and girls.
- Policies, practices and institutions that perpetuate this violence.
- Measures needed to address violence against African American women and girls.
- Measures needed to help victims, their families and their communities.
- Appropriate methods of tracking and collecting data.

The task force found that African American women and girls are subjected to high rates of kidnapping and abduction, sexual and domestic abuse, and sex trafficking due to a history of patriarchy and structural racism. African American women and girls are also almost three times more likely to be murdered than their white peers. Even though African American women and girls comprise only 7 percent of Minnesota's population, they represent 40 percent of domestic violence victims.

Minnesota has the opportunity to create a legacy of meaningful change for our African American women and girls. The task force's recommendations will serve as a starting point for that change, including:

- Funding housing and other spaces and resources to serve African American women and girls.
- Developing effective culturally appropriate trainings and professional education for professionals including peace officers, prosecutors and victim services representatives.
- Recruiting and hiring more African American staff including peace officers, prosecutors, and victim services representatives.
- Establishing an office to support missing and murdered African American women and girls.

With commitment and investment towards implementation of these and other task force recommendations, we can truly impact lives of African American women and girls for generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Harrington".

John Harrington
Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Public Safety