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COALITION PREPARES TO FILE PATTERNS AND PRACTICES COMPLAINT ABOUT MINNEAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Federal Mediation Now has taken preliminary steps toward filing a patterns and practices complaint about the repeated misconduct of the Minneapolis Police, lack of policies and training, and failure of the MPD to properly discipline its force.

The Coalition wants the City to know that if it does not move soon to approve Federal mediation, it will ask the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice to sue the City on behalf of the federal government.

It will be important for the federal government to review the files and records of the Civilian Review Authority. "There have been problems with 'missing' records in the past. With the Civilian Review Authority being merged into the Civil Rights Department, we want the city to make special efforts to protect and preserve documents related to all CRA complaints and cases," stated Waite. She added, "If we learn that any records are missing, we will consider that evidence of a conspiracy to cover up police misconduct."

The City Council is expected to vote tomorrow on federal mediation. Federal Mediation Now member organizations requested Federal mediation in late August, after a series of shootings and other incidents caused a marked increase in community tensions and deteriorated police-community relations.

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FEDERAL MEDIATION NOW is a grassroots organization of individuals and organizations, including: **Somali Justice Advocacy Center, Somali Student Union, Eritrean Community, Ethiopian Community Center, Confederation of Somali Communities, Somali Community of Minnesota, Oromo Community Center, Community Collaborative, Communities United Against Police Brutality, North Country Co-op, Anti-War Committee, Minnesota Coalition for Black Civic Participation.**