

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

July 6, 2017

Mr. Tim Bildsoe
Chair
Minnesota Board for Peace Officer
Standards and Training
1600 University Ave., Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55104-3825

Mr. Nate Gove
Executive Director
Minnesota Board for Peace Officer
Standards and Training
1600 University Ave., Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55104-3825

Dear Mr. Bildsoe and Mr. Gove:

On July 6, 2016, Mr. Philando Castile's life was tragically cut short. A mother lost a son. A family lost a loving relative, and his community lost an educator and native son. In the following year, a great many Minnesotans have experienced many deep emotions. The tragedy has strained relations between some local law enforcement organizations and some racial communities, and it has increased the fear and distrust many of those citizens feel toward the very men and women, who are courageously risking their lives to protect them.

I believe it is imperative that the leaders in our state's ever-more-diverse communities and in their law enforcement organizations commit -- or recommit -- themselves to making changes together that will lead toward better relationships among law enforcement officers and members of those communities. One important step toward that goal was the Legislature's bi-partisan appropriation of \$12 million for additional Peace Officer training, to be administered by the POST Board.

At its last meeting, the Council on Law Enforcement and Community Relations, which I formed last year, overwhelmingly approved naming this training fund, "The Philando Castile Law Enforcement Training Fund." I join with the Council in requesting that the POST Board name this fund in honor of Mr. Castile.

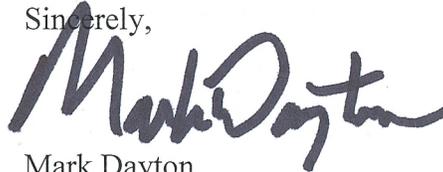
My hope is that the fund will provide training in the best practices to improve law enforcement's relationships with people in all Minnesota communities, and will also create partnerships, in which community and law enforcement leaders are together designing and delivering that training.

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During the past year, I have had many conversations about race relations in Minnesota. While they have not produced a consensus regarding what to do next, everyone has agreed that we must urgently take steps to make changes for the better. I ask the Minnesota Board for Peace Officer Standards and Training to increase its efforts to provide leadership in making those changes.

As an important step in that direction, I again respectfully ask the Board to name its Law Enforcement Training Fund in memory of Mr. Philando Castile.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Dayton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Dayton
Governor