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**City of Duluth Communications Office**

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411 West First Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55802  
218-730-5230 | [www.duluthmn.gov](http://www.duluthmn.gov) | Don Ness, Mayor

For more information contact Pakou Ly, Public Information Coordinator 218-730-5309  
or Amy Norris, Public Information Coordinator 218-730-4312

**DATE: 10/01/2012**

**SUBJECT: Mayor Announces Appointment of Citizen Review Board Members**

**BY: Pakou Ly, Public Information Coordinator**

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## **Mayor Announces Appointment of Citizen Review Board Members**

[Duluth, MN] – Over the summer, the Duluth City Council approved the creation of the Duluth Citizen Review Board to act as an advisory board to the Police Department and City Council for the purpose of fostering relationships and strengthening trust and communication between the police department and citizens of Duluth.

After an extensive application and review process, Mayor Ness will present a list of appointees to the Duluth City Council for approval at their upcoming October 8th meeting.

“Both the number and the quality of people stepping forward exceeded my expectations. The choice was difficult because we had so many excellent applications,” said Mayor Don Ness. “I felt it was important that we found a good balance of perspectives, demographics, and professional backgrounds, and we have done that. More importantly, however, I believe that each and every one of these applicants will bring an even-handed approach to their duties.”

The following individuals have been nominated by the Mayor:

- **Blair Powless** works as the Director of Religious Education at the Unitarian Universalist Congregational Church in Duluth. His background is in education and communication.
- **Renee Kathy Van Nett** works as Services Coordinator at the American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO) Cabinoo'Igan Shelter in Duluth. She has previous experience on a City Commission having served on the Duluth Indian Commission from 2009-2010.
- **David Baker** has over twenty years of experience working with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and currently works as a Unit Manager in the Federal Prison Camp in Duluth.
- **Katherine Eagle** is the Staff Attorney at PAVSA. She is the first sexual assault advocate to ever be housed within the Duluth Police Department (DPD). She serves on the Board of Directors for Lifehouse and is Board Treasurer for Mending the Sacred Hoop.
- **Doug Bowen-Bailey** is a sign language interpreter, educator, and resource developer

who has served on the Duluth Task Force for Improved Community Police Accountability for the past five years, as well as serving on numerous committees and boards throughout the community.

- **Patricia Oakes** retired from the Duluth Police Department after 27 years of experience which included serving on the Lake Superior Gang and Drug Task Force and the Deputy Chiefs Board. She has also served on several community boards including the Salvation Army, Community Action Duluth, and Men as Peacemakers.
- **Gabriel Green** is the Lead Pastor at the Church of Restoration in Duluth. He serves on the Board of Directors of Youth in Duluth and is active in the Lincoln Park Improvement Project.

According to the ordinance passed by the City Council, the Board appointments shall endeavor to achieve a membership that is representative of the racial, cultural and geographic diversity of the city. To the extent possible, the Mayor and Council shall seek to appoint at least three people of color, two women and one person with law enforcement background to the board.

The Mayor's recommendations include four people of color, three women, and three people with a law enforcement or corrections background.

Initial appointments to the Citizen Review Board shall be as follows: two members for one year, two members for two years, and three members for three years.

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