



# CITY OF FARGO POLICE DEPARTMENT



Chief David B. Zibolski

March 3, 2021

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[www.fargopolice.com](http://www.fargopolice.com)

Senate Appropriations Committee  
Senator Ray Holmberg, Chair  
600 E Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Support of HB 1012 to fund the Cooper House in Fargo, North Dakota

Dear Chairman Holmberg and members of the Committee,

I am the Chief of Police in Fargo, North Dakota, and I am writing you today in strong support of HB 1012, which requests to provide \$570,000 in funding to support continued operations of the Cooper House. As you may be aware, the Cooper House has operated in Fargo for nearly ten years, focusing as a Housing First project. In doing so, they provide housing to 42 permanent residents, as well as provide 24/7 service that includes mental health, addiction, and chronic homelessness.

The Cooper House has not only provided housing for 42 individuals who would otherwise be homeless and on the streets of Fargo, but has been an excellent public safety partner for our department to work with in addressing these issues. Their existence and service provide needed options for our department members who encounter chronically homeless individuals, and as such, create a cost savings in both time and resource spending by our department. Their professional staff assist attendants with day-to-day needs, aids them in handling conflicts, and monitors the amount of alcohol brought into the facility, with the goals of acquiring sobriety and better day-to-day functioning. The facility is a joint effort with the Dakota Foundation, the Fargo Housing Authority, the Southeast Human Service Center, Family Health, and Cass County Social Services.

I personally spoke with several of our officers who have day-to-day engagement with the Cooper House and who express the importance of this funding appropriation to ensure its continued operations. The continued support of the Cooper House not only provides necessary and needed service to our homeless community, but also reduces the cost and personnel commitment of other law enforcement interventions, which are often times less effective.

The Fargo Police Department strongly supports the \$570,000 appropriation request in HB 1012 and I urge you to vote in favor of this bill. Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

David B. Zibolski  
Chief of Police

DBZ/pls

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