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Court Rules in Favor of MN Police in Lawsuit Against National Football League

Hennepin County District Court issues a ruling in favor of a declaratory judgment for the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association and the Police Federation of Minneapolis

(St. Paul, MN) Earlier today, the Hennepin County District Court issued a ruling granting a declaratory judgment sought by the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association and the Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis against the National Football League, the Minnesota Vikings and University of Minnesota.

The police organizations sought to establish that the NFL Firearms and Weapons Policy which prevents armed police officers from attending games as well as the University of Minnesota's policies are unenforceable against active licensed peace officers who may attend Vikings football games.

"Our position from the start has been that policies of the National Football League can never trump state law and we are delighted that the Judge has agreed. Clearly the public's interests cannot be well served by disarming their police," said Dennis Flaherty the head of the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association and whose organization brought the action. They were joined by the Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis.

"Minnesota's police officers need to carry their weapon inside stadiums used by the NFL and the public will be safer because of it. Police officers are always willing and ready to protect the public at a moment's notice and the ability given to them by state law to keep possession of their weapon gives them personal protection against any potential threat," said John Delmonico, President of the Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis.

The court rejected the National Football League's argument that property ownership and the limitations referenced on the event ticket allow them to supersede state law. The court ruled that Minnesota law (Minn. Stat. 624.714) precludes the NFL, or others from preventing an active off-duty officer from entering because they are armed.

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