

**From:** [Wodajo, Jeremy J.](#)  
**To:** [CSC](#)  
**Cc:** [Rebecca Hildebrandt](#)  
**Subject:** Support of City of Madison Funding for Maydm Internship Program  
**Date:** Saturday, November 19, 2022 12:09:42 PM

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Dear Community Services Committee members:

I am writing to each of you and your fellow Committee members in support of Maydm and in particular, in support of Maydm's proposed funding request for next year, which I understand is currently under consideration by your Committee. As a private sector employee working within the City of Madison in a profession that severely lacks diversity in general, especially people of color and women, I greatly appreciate what Maydm has done and is continuing to accomplish within our Madison community by providing girls and youth of color with the tools, skills, experiences and connections to pursue careers in and change the face of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

The City of Madison's funding support is integral to Maydm's internship program and more importantly, the girls and youth of color who participate, who very likely would not otherwise have this type of opportunity at this stage in their lives. Given that this type of curriculum and exposure to STEM that Maydm provides is not necessarily available to each student as part of his or her classroom experience at school, Maydm serves a fundamental role in turning the STEM industry on its head from a diversity and inclusion standpoint, while also providing a service to the City of Madison and surrounding areas by empowering youth of color and girls who will one day develop into professionals (likely in STEM due to this experience Maydm is providing) that contribute, directly or indirectly, to the public or private sector and overall well-being of the City of Madison and its surrounding area.

I have the privilege of serving on Maydm's board of directors and have served for almost three years. In that capacity, I have had the privilege of experiencing both the internal and external developments and accomplishments of Maydm. My experiences with Maydm's developments and accomplishments are both in terms of being a witness to and involved in conversations surrounding Maydm continuing to find innovative ways to engage in outreach and impact youth of color and girls interested in STEM. These experiences also include witnessing the development of those youths who have worked their way through the Maydm program and are now carrying over their interests and experiences in STEM into a four-year education or a professional opportunity/internship, all of which are a direct result of Maydm's efforts.

Finally, Maydm's makeup includes a one-of-a-kind, caring staff whose value is immeasurable to Maydm and the students that it serves. Maydm's staff truly represents the backbone of the organization. I truly believe Maydm is the type of organization that the City of Madison is looking for in terms of supporting an organization that has and will continue to create pathways to employment and also serve as one approach to addressing racial and economic disparities, juvenile delinquency, and neighborhood violence, among the other value adds that

are underscored by the existence and presence of Maydm in the City of Madison community, both now and well into the future.

Therefore, it is my sincere belief that Maydm is very deserving of this proposed funding support from the City of Madison.

Thanks and best,

Jeremy



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