

Victor Wahl
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May 7, 2025

Members of the Madison Police & Fire Commission,

I am pleased to offer my recommendation that John Patterson be selected to serve as Madison's permanent Chief of Police. His professionalism, integrity, and commitment to public service make him exceptionally well-suited to lead the department.

Over the course of his career, John has served in a wide variety of ranks and assignments, providing him with broad experience and deep expertise. He is keenly aware of best practices in modern policing, and in many instances has been instrumental in the development of programs or initiatives that serve as models for other police agencies, both locally and nationally. John is committed to community policing and to serving the public in a transparent manner.

John also possesses exceptional judgment and interpersonal skills. He is able to communicate effectively – even under the most challenging circumstances – and develop ongoing relationships with members of the department and public alike. John has earned the respect of rank-and-file officers, department leadership, and countless community members through his ability to engage in a respectful and meaningful way.

In addition to his many skills and abilities, John is a person of exceptionally strong character. I know John to hold himself – and those around him – to the highest ethical standards. He will serve MPD and the Madison community not only with great competence, but with great integrity as well.

I believe my recommendation carries a unique perspective; I have served in the position John seeks (I had the privilege of serving as MPD's Acting Chief from October of 2019 through February of 2021) and have had the benefit of working closely with him during our years together on the department. I've worked with John in every kind of situation, from routine operations to the most high-pressure incidents imaginable. His judgment, dedication, and leadership ability have never failed to impress me. I am absolutely confident that John possesses all the qualities necessary to lead the department with distinction.

While the selection process calls on candidates to persuade the Commission of their ability to lead the department, John has demonstrated it over the course of his more than two decades with MPD. John's leadership has positively impacted every unit or section he has been assigned to, and the entire department is currently benefiting from his service as Acting Chief. I enthusiastically encourage the Commission to select John as Madison's next Chief of Police.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victor Wahl', written in a cursive style.

Victor Wahl
Madison Police Department (1991-2022)