

From: Aileen Seymour <aileen-seymour@sbcglobal.net>

Date: March 8, 2021 at 9:50:25 AM CST

To: transportationcommission@cityofmadison.com

Subject: Oppose move of Parking enforcement from Police to Parking Utility

Dear Public Safety Commission and Transportation Commission,

My name is Aileen Seymour and I strongly oppose the move of Parking Enforcement from the Police Dept. Although I appreciate all the hard work that the Alders and committees do, I do not appreciate that 2 meetings are scheduled at the same time. Many of us that are affected by decisions being made are not able to attend both and express our ideas. I am a 10 year Parking Enforcement officer, who has worked for the City for approximately 25 years; Police Dept(21 yrs)Parking Utility (1 yr)& Water Utility(3 yrs).

I am expressing my feelings only because there has been an idea to move our unit from the place we all chose to work for, without any reasons given by the Mayor that would make us be more efficient, or more responsive to the community or more cost effective. Those of us that do the job clearly see that the opposite will occur if we are moved from the Police Dept to Parking Utility. It seems we are being moved just to be moved to somehow "shake things up", which will be very expensive to the City& cause a whole host of problems.

Parking Enforcement does generate a lot of money for the City general fund through ticketing of meters, traffic hazards and issues with private property when invited onto that property. By working for the Police Dept however, we are trained and encouraged to Enforce when Necessary But Educate when Able!!!

We are not pushed to make the budget- but more so to try and be reasonable with people when able so as to avoid problems or fix an issue if able, not just punish someone with a ticket. I do have concerns about the lack of discretion if moved to the Utility. I was not allowed to "void" tickets when I enforced ramps at Parking Utility. I have been in contact with Utility workers in recent years who still are not trained to be able to void tickets if they see the need. This can cause undo stress and bad interactions with the public. The financial impact of moving this unit is great. The cost of making such a move is outrageous. At a time when the City is in such need for money, it makes no sense to cause great expense to the Utility-who cannot afford it. The Utility runs off of revenues rather than tax payer money- which has taken a huge hit with this pandemic and people not driving down town at this time. The Utility ends up getting money from the City when their funds are depleted, as has happened in the past when ramps have been needed, etc. It seems that this move is being made to look like a "taking away from the Police"...Parking Enforcement Officers are Civilians- not Commissioned Police Officers! To move us so that the numbers will somehow show a defund of the police- is trickery to the public. Costs are being hidden from the public- because the tax payers will end up having to pay a lot of money while they are being deceived in reality. We are Civilians- not Police Officers... We are already doing a job so that Police do not have to!

Because we work in the Police Dept, we share facilities, which naturally gives us easy access to each other allowing us to create relationships that otherwise would not happen. Police have access to share with us the community & citizen parking concerns that are shared with them- for us to take care of. We can share criminal or safety concerns that are brought to our attention by property owners or pedestrians or citizens for them to take care of. This ability to have a great rapport with each other will be negatively impacted with a move. Since communication is so important between departments like Parking Utility, Traffic Engineering, Streets and Parking Enforcement, Interdepartmental communications can be better with some planned trainings done together each year. Now that we have learned that so much can be done via zoom or video training, it doesn't have to cost a lot of money to have some time set aside for employees to learn a little from the other departments that they are affected by, but do not work for. The proposed move of the Parking Enforcement Employees will in the end be detrimental to the citizens, property owners, workers within the City and the Employees that are directly targeted.

Please be open to seeing that by uprooting 30 plus employees from the department that they worked hard to get into is down right wrong for so many reasons. Thank you for your ongoing dedication to the City of Madison. Parking Enforcers have always been dedicated to so many aspects of our job, the most enjoyable part is being able to help the citizens as they see us out and about.

Sincerely,

Aileen Seymour- Parking Enforcement Officer, City of Madison, Madison Police Department

Sent from my iPhone