

May 5, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am honored to offer this letter of support for Acting Chief John Patterson to be named the permanent Chief of Police for the City of Madison. As someone who grew up in Madison and spent over two decades serving this community—including my current role as Superintendent of the Madison Metropolitan School District—I understand the critical importance of a strong, trust-based relationship between our school district and the Madison Police Department. That partnership is foundational to the well-being and safety of our entire city.

During my time as a school and district administrator in MMSD from 2003 to 2013, I had the opportunity to work closely with John Patterson and witness his steady, community-focused leadership firsthand. From our early collaboration on school safety initiatives and youth engagement efforts to his current role as Interim Chief, John has demonstrated consistent professionalism, deep integrity, and a thoughtful, solutions-oriented approach to public service. His leadership has been grounded in trust, accountability, and a genuine commitment to community policing.

I first met John through our joint work on the Dane County Gang Task Force. Even then, he brought clarity, compassion, and skill to addressing complex challenges affecting our youth and neighborhoods. His ability to lead with humility, to listen deeply, and to build bridges across communities was clear from the beginning—and it has only grown stronger over time.

Throughout my years in school and district leadership, I've seen how John's leadership has strengthened the partnership between our schools and law enforcement. Whether through his proactive engagement with families, his support of restorative practices, or his emphasis on equity and dignity in policing, John has shown a deep understanding that public safety and public education must work hand in hand.

As Madison looks to the future, we need a Chief of Police who shares a bold, inclusive vision for community well-being—one rooted in transparency, collaboration, and justice. John Patterson has lived that vision for more than two decades. His calm, steady leadership and deep commitment to our city make him uniquely qualified to lead the Madison Police Department into its next chapter.

I strongly and unequivocally support John Patterson's appointment as our next permanent Chief of Police. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide further insight into his qualifications, leadership, or impact.

Sincerely,



Joe Gothard, Ed.D.

