

RAHMA WALI MOHAMED

DISTRICT 7 ALDER CANDIDATE

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Dear Council President Carter and Council Vice President Abbas,

I am pleased to submit myself as a candidate for Alder of District 7 in the city council of Madison, Wisconsin. Given my considerable background in advocacy as well as my undying commitment to community outreach, I believe that I am the ideal candidate who can promote effective change in the City of Madison.

From a young age, I have lived in the Madison community and in those years, this city and its members have had a profound impact on my life. I graduated from James Madison Memorial High School at the age of 16 with high honors and was subsequently accepted into the University of Wisconsin-Madison. During these critical years of my development, Madison has shaped me into an upstanding member of society and an advocate.

The most crucial characteristics of an advocate is being respectful, a listener, and a collaborator. I am an effective communicator and know when to listen and recognize my own biases or preconceived notions which has allowed me to work with colleagues with vastly different opinions. As I matured and became further aware of the issues plaguing American communities, I have always held these values at heart. In the wake of the horrific school shooting in Parkland, FL, I campaigned for common-sense gun control laws to prevent the senseless death of innocent souls while at the same time preserving the rights of all Americans granted under the Second Amendment. Along with my high school companions across 8+ high schools in the Madison area and nearby communities, I took on the role of organizing the March4OurLives gun control march in Madison which had a turnout of over 3,000 people. During this experience, I spoke and met with individuals from all walks of life, including counter-protesters carrying arms. I worked to persuade them on the importance of common-sense gun control and built a consensus on this hot button issue. This experience was the catalyst that led me to branch out on bringing positive change for my other passions.

Through networking, I continued to join forces with advocates in my community and around the world. I currently serve on the board of two nonprofits, Operation Period and United Against Hate. In these capacities, I work on a range of issues from women's rights and access to the menstrual supplies to combating as well as dismantling the institutions of hate, discrimination, and bigotry, respectively. I took my advocacy beyond the activism sector and into the entertainment industry where I served the State of Wisconsin at the state and national levels in the world's most prestigious pageant systems - the Miss Universe and Miss World organizations. Regardless of the spaces I have been in, I have always brought my fight for the greater good to the forefront. Coming from a black, immigrant, Muslim family, I provide a unique perspective of the social and political issues that plague our great nation. I hope to devote my career to public service and serving on the city council of Madison would provide me with further opportunities to fight for the change necessary to build a brighter future for all.

With the opportunity to serve as an Alder, my aim would be first and foremost, to represent the best interests of my constituents in District 7. The most daunting issue facing the United States, and more so particularly now in Wisconsin, is the coronavirus. By joining forces with the public health authority in Wisconsin, my main priority would be to promote proper social distancing and mask-wearing which will become especially important during the winter months when most people will be indoors. Another critical aspect of combating the coronavirus is getting as many people as possible to take the flu vaccine. Numerous health experts stress the importance of getting the flu vaccine now more so than ever before. These combined efforts would take the form of social media campaigns, public awareness videos in various languages, and press releases. These types of campaigns are areas in which I have the expertise due to my extensive presence on social media and experience collaborating with the press.

Moreover, another matter that hits close to home pertains to the current political climate. Issues of long-standing institutionalized racism have come to the forefront of the American psyche. Today Americans are more polarized than ever before. I, however, believe that there is more that unites us than separates us. It is important that we recognize and have purposeful conversations surrounding the struggles minorities continue to face. This can be done without violence or the unnecessary destruction of the property of hard-working Americans, most of whom support the underlying message. Two topics within this larger issue that distinctly affect my constituents is homeownership and higher education. According to the Washington Post, Wisconsin has the third-lowest black homeownership rates in the United States and in Madison specifically, the gap between white and black homeownership rates is the nation's worst. Furthermore, in Madison, 60% of white people have a bachelor's degree or higher while on the other hand about 20% of black people do. I plan to tackle these concerning statistics along with other council members and the associated state and local administrators. Amending these problems and the overarching inequality would go a long way in elevating the quality of life for all Madisonians and bringing about the prosperity everyone is striving for. To me, creating a meaningful and recognizable impact on the lives of everyday citizens will always have precedence above all else.

To be appointed as the Alder of District 7 would be a tremendous honor. My community means so much to me and I look forward to giving back as a public servant. I intend to serve my community during both this short, but crucial term and beyond as I prepare to announce my candidacy for this position in the Spring 2021 elections. With this cover letter, please find enclosed my resume. I would love the opportunity to further discuss my qualifications and how they would best serve on the city council of Madison. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rahma Mohamed". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Rahma Mohamed

Rahma Wali Mohamed

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Education

- University of Wisconsin- Madison** May 2023
- Bachelors of Science
 - Major: Mechanical Engineering
 - Minor: Aerospace Engineering and African Studies
- James Madison Memorial High School** 2015 - 2018
- High School Diploma
 - Advanced Placement Scholar for exemplary college-level achievement for scoring 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams
- American Heart Association** 2018 - 2020
- CPR/First Aid Certified
- Barbizon Academy** 2014 - 2015
- Modeling and Acting Graduate

Experience

- Agrace** June 2020 - Present
Home Health Aide
- Hired in order to better serve the Madison community during the pandemic by working with the most vulnerable populations including seniors residents, disabled individuals, and end of life patients.
 - Engage clients in day to day activities such as walking, talking, reading, playing games, and companionship
 - Assist clients in their homes with personal cares, activities of daily living, housekeeping, errands, meals, medication administration, and much more.
- HN Models** November 2019 - Present
Model and Actor
- Signed talent represented in the industry across the globe including in New York, Los Angeles, and Milan
 - Promote, advertise, and showcase clothing, footwear, accessories, and many other products for clients in commercials, advertisements, and fashion shows.
 - Work closely with photographers, fashion coordinators, directors, producers, stylists, make-up artists, other models/actors, and clients to produce the desired productions.
- Operation Period** November 2019 - Present
Director of International Affairs
- Coordinate all international initiatives and projects in over 10 countries around the world
 - Serve as a chief liaison by connecting and networking with other organizations with the goal of collaborating on outreach in addition to current and future projects
 - Work in conjunction with board members to address menstrual inequity by providing advocacy, education, and services to those in need
- We Are Many - United Against Hate** August 2019 - Present
Student Ambassador Board Member
- Serve as a lead board member with the aim of building and securing support for a national movement of seeking nonpartisan equal protection for all, united against hate, bigotry, and racism.
 - Facilitate interactions and collaborations with affiliate organizations to implement action towards change.
 - Represent the organization through public appearances and assist with community outreach initiatives

Community Outreach

Mercy Intercontinental

July 2018 - Present

Founder

- Founded this organization to develop underprivileged areas internationally
- Launch sustainable initiatives distinctly catered to the needs of the region of operation
- Initiate projects with a division of it directed at empowering women in those regions
- Collaborate with ministers, orphanages, farmers, institutes of education, and CEOs of large corporations, and other community leaders to expand the reach of projects

Madison Somali Community Center

July 2018 - Present

Volunteer

- Volunteer as a religious studies teacher, assisting a class of 25 students
- Help in planning picnics, field trips, and educational excursions for the students
- Work with board members in organizing the annual community celebration with over 100 attendees

Alpha Lambda Rho Sorority

May 2019 - Present

Founding Member

- Assisted in the formation of the founding principals of the first Muslim interest sorority at UW-Madison
- Developed outreach programs within the community for members to fulfill and surpass service marks
- Responsible for planning and organizing sorority events for over 20 attendees

Multicultural Showcase

May 2018

Executive Director

- Conducted the first multicultural showcase at Memorial High School with over 2,000 attendees
- Organized the exhibition of traditional objects, clothes, stories, dances of over 40 different cultures
- Created the event schedule and coordinated with multiple vendors (e.g., food, crafts, henna, and music)

Accolades

Pageantry

- *Miss Teen World America Wisconsin* Winner - Miss World Organization October 2019 - Present
- *Miss Teen World America* Semi-Finalist - Miss World Organization November 2019
- *Miss Wisconsin Teen USA* Semi-Finalist - Miss Universe Organization September 2019

New Leaders Award - Democratic Party of Dane County

May 2018

- Awarded for leadership qualities shown through activism in Madison, WI

Outstanding Young Person Award - Urban League of Madison

March 2018

- Awarded for academic excellence, leadership, and community service

Languages

- **English** (fluent)
- **Somali** (fluent)
- **Spanish** (proficient)
- **Arabic** (conversational)

Skills

Technical

- ✓ Google Suite
- ✓ Microsoft Office
- ✓ Photoshop
- ✓ Facebook
- ✓ Instagram
- ✓ Twitter

Interests

- ✓ Traveling
- ✓ Painting
- ✓ Pottery
- ✓ Photography
- ✓ Reading
- ✓ Creative Writing