



## **Ald. Yannette Figueroa Cole**

### **District 10**

City-County Building, Room 417  
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53703  
Phone: (608) 266-4071 | Fax: (608) 267-8669  
[district10@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district10@cityofmadison.com)  
[cityofmadison.com/council/district10](http://cityofmadison.com/council/district10)

April 19, 2023

To Alder Grant Foster, District 15 – City of Madison

When Alder Foster asked me to speak on his behalf, I genuinely felt honored to have been asked. Like many of us who started in Council in 2021, I met Grant during the campaign.

I had already met Keith and Patrick; each shared their expertise; Keith helped me prepare for debates and, later on, went over the budget proceedings, which helped me immensely get up to speed as a member of the Finance Committee. Patrick, the zoning king, broke down for me at primary school level the complexity of zoning. What a relief it was to be able to climb the zoning mountain with such ease. Thanks Alder Heck and Alder Furman for your support and service!

Grant eased my fears of being able to understand the long agenda and how to dig for information to prepare for meetings. After getting to know Alder Foster better, I realized that one of his superpowers was transportation. Grant is an avid biker; the guy bikes everywhere! I was invited to brunch at a farm during my first year. I set the GPS, and off I went. I don't know where I was going, but it was a drive to get there! I passed two bikers on this country road and missed the last turn into the farm.

I proceeded to look for a place to turn around, did a u-turn and as I got closer to turn into the farm driveway I realized one of those bikers was Grant. Did I roll my eyes? Yes! I did! It was a drive to get there! But the guy lives by example when biking and protecting the environment. He and his family bike everywhere. His passion for transportation is contagious.

Grant is also a nerd. His knowledge of the municipal code is incredible. Yes, I could and have spent hours searching keywords to find an ordinance, or I can ask Grant if there is an ordinance for whatever topic I am interested in. For English as a Second Language people like me, MuniCode can be a nightmare. And it is not only the ordinance's legal content that is difficult to read at times, but understanding the intent can also be complicated. Some ordinances reflect the city's culture and perceptions at a given time in history. It takes hard work to understand the content, to research to understand its origin, and to piece together what was happening decades ago when an ordinance was established. It takes courage to say this ordinance doesn't align with today's city's values. It takes determination and passion for fighting the uphill battle to produce and pass the changes. Grant has shown to possess those qualities over and over again.

What makes Grant someone I trust and admire is his work ethic; he puts in the time to do this job well. His stands on issues are backed with research and data, not feelings! I also love his sense of humor, which not everyone sometimes gets.

We share a lot in common; I, too, like to do my research. This task was no different. Here is what others have to say about Grant:

*“Alder Foster is extremely knowledgeable about transportation issues, and I have appreciated the thoughtful and well-defined feedback we have received from him at the Transportation Commission. I*

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*worked with Alder Foster on the Joint TC and TPPB Traffic Calming Subcommittee, and his input was critical in helping create the Safe Streets Madison program."*

Ann E. Kovich, Chair of Transportation Commission

*"Please express gratitude to Alder Foster for his service on the Sustainable Madison Committee from staff and his fellow committee members. We are especially thankful for his support for the Building Energy Savings Program from ideation to adoption. His commitment to the environment and his community always shines through. "*

Jessica Price, Sustainability Committee City Staff

*"Grant Foster's time as an alderperson is a wonderful example of what it means to serve. Grant's tireless efforts on behalf of the people of Madison and the thoughtful way in which he approaches every task, no matter how small, are inspiring and will be felt long after he departs from office. I consider it an honor to call Grant a friend, and I look forward to what comes next for him."*

Tom Wilson, TPPB Committee, Community member

*"Appreciate his efforts to make the Council a better functioning space."*

Regina Vidaver, District 5 Alder

*"Alder Foster was a tireless advocate for progressive transportation (who also made everyone else tired ;) He was a key supporter of Bus Rapid Transit, the Transit Network Redesign, Complete Green Streets, Vision Zero, and Safe Streets Madison. His impact on Madison transportation will be felt for decades."*

Thomas Lynch, Transportation Director

*"Alder Foster is a tireless advocate for improving transportation infrastructure and network, with an eye on bicycling, and as a full-time bicycle commuter. He also dug in to address some of the aging policies on books. He has a knack for understanding the often complicated policy issues behind our regulations, and in turn led the effort to modernize our regulations to today's community standards. He strives to "cut the red tape" of bureaucracy to help his colleagues and the public truly understand the intent and purpose of certain regulations. He worked on many efforts to this end, often things that were not glamorous or exciting, but nonetheless were appropriate to modernize. He put in significant time into these efforts, and was always open to hearing opinions of all stakeholders. As a staff, he often brought us new information or perspectives, simply by connecting us to stakeholders in the community he knows, to help us craft policy. Many of Madison's current and future residents, businesses, and visitors will benefit from his work. We didn't always agree, but I appreciate his deep understanding of the work we do and enjoyed working with him. I'm not sure the City could handle a council full of alders as driven as Grant, but he definitely defined (or some may say redefined) the title "policy maker" during his tenure on the council."*

Matt Tucker, Zoning Director

It goes without saying, Grant, you will be greatly missed by many. Thank you for your resilience and the passion you have demonstrated to push the city of Madison towards reaching its maximum potential.

Thank you for your service to District 15 and the City of Madison!!

Sincerely,

Yannette

Alder Yannette Figueroa Cole (she/her/hers)

District 10 - Madison Common Council