

Common Council Chief of Staff Updates
8/24/18

- As many of you may know, HR has posted the position of Legislative Analyst and the application deadline is September 7. I will be soliciting Alders to review applications with writing samples once I get a sense of how many applications we receive.
- I met with Peng Her of the Hmong Institute to discuss concerns and outreach within the Hmong community. Concerns raised included:
 - The closure of the Kajsiab House due to Journey Healthcare not applying for a grant. There are concerns among the community about transportation and continuation of services.
 - The need for community center to host activities and Funeral homes willing to accommodate Hmong burial rites.
 - Parks with adjacent grills to accommodate large Hmong family gatherings
 - Increase in Hmong working in city government as the benefits have been seen in MPD.
 - Outreach and familiarity with clan culture and elders to change perception of government not caring about their needs and not being welcoming, particularly in the context of coming from a place where the government is oppressive.
 - Services such as community liaisons to address generational PTSD within the refugee community that include alcoholism and domestic violence and homelessness, most of which is not reported due to cultural norms.
- I represented the Council at the ground breaking of the Exact Sciences project at the Research Park and offered congratulations to Kevin Conroy on the Council's behalf. (See pictures attached).
- I attended the presentation by the Community Safety Intervention Team to the Council Leadership. Alder Harrington-McKinney was in attendance as well. The team comprised of representatives from Dane County, Public Health, MPD, Focus Interrupted among others. They discussed their efforts to reduce violent crime in the City and coordinating efforts and tracking data and plan to have a presentation to the full Council in the near future (Please see attachment).
- I attended a presentation by Jennifer Cheatham, MMSD Superintendent, to the RESJI team addressing their strategic initiatives. I have included copies of their literature in the Alder Common Room.
- I sat in on a presentation yesterday that the mayor wanted his staff to have. Zen City, a company based out of Israel gave the mayor a presentation and he asked them to reach out to IT and there was a presentation to IT and the public information officers. Zen City does not do surveys but they search open source platforms like twitter and Facebook to provide information on what is trending in the city they work with. City staff is still discussing if this will be of value. This is their link in case you are curious. <https://zencity.io/product/>
- I held individual meetings with Tim Gruber and Warren Onken to discuss my role as Chief of Staff, their time as alders and how I can continue to best serve the Common council with respect to the orientation for new Alders, streamlining requests and liaising with department heads and city staff.

- Ken Moen from IT has established an email account for us to receive Alder requests and a SharePoint site for the office to assign and track projects. The email to submit all alder requests is CouncilRequests@cityofmadison.com All Council staff have access to the email account. Requests include scheduling community meetings, inquiries to departments, other meeting requests, research requests, creating resolutions etc.
- I received an email from Celeste Flynn, Director of Government Affairs with Charter Communications. She wanted Alders to know that Charter Communications /Spectrum recently launched residential Internet GIG service in Madison ahead of schedule. (Please find a copy of the press release attached.)
- At my recommendation, HR has studied the position of Secretary 1 (CG17, R10), currently occupied by Debbie Fields and drafted a memo recommending that position be recreated as a Program Assistant 2 in CG17, R12 and that Debbie be reallocated to this new position. It will be introduced at Council and referred to the Personnel Board.