



Madison Police Department

Noble Wray, Chief of Police

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DATE: February 27, 2007

TO: Members of the Common Council
FROM: Noble Wray Chief of Police
RE: Sensitive Crimes Interview Procedures

Per Common Council request, I have completed the attached report in regard to the interviewing of victims of sensitive crimes. The information contained within this report is a result of discussion with experienced and veteran MPD detectives and input from other community providers. The issue of interviewing techniques and false confessions is quite contemporary. I believe our Department is progressive and fair to all those victims, witnesses, and suspects we serve within this community. I also believe this offers us an opportunity to educate the Council in regard to the type of training currently conducted for both our newest and veteran employees. Further, I would offer an opportunity for Council members to attend the Investigative or Recruit Academy classes that are devoted to the investigation of sensitive crimes.

There are several points I would like to point out in regard to this document and the discussion that has followed with its creation:

- In the report I briefly highlight the training our officers receive prior to investigating sensitive and other types of crimes.
- A draft policy regarding electronic recording suspect interviews as mandated by statute is included within this document. The policy remains in a draft form and needs review by the Management Team prior to incorporation.
- We have begun internal discussion regarding the type of outside or external training we believe is valuable and appropriate. The training we provide internally, and will continue to foster, emphasizes our own Departmental values.
- We have created a set of guidelines entitled, "Guiding Principles for Conducting Interviews of Crime Victims." These principles will apply to all Madison Police Department personnel when conducting investigations that involve the interviewing of crime victims.

These principles were in part based upon the MPD Mission Statement, which reads: "We the members of the Madison Police Department are committed to providing high quality police services that are accessible to all members of the community. We believe in the dignity of all people and respect individual and constitutional rights in fulfilling this mission." These guidelines will become a part of the Madison Police Policy Manual.

I suspect that many people would be surprised at the level of collaboration that takes place on a daily basis between the MPD and other advocate and community based agencies and programs in regard to these often difficult and sensitive cases. My hope is that this report will provide information to help to educate the Common Council in regard to the way the Madison Police Department investigates sensitive crimes, as well as ways in which we hope to improve our own process.