

**From:** [jhirsch@chorus.net](mailto:jhirsch@chorus.net)  
**To:** [Common Council Executive Committee](#); [Mayor](#); [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** CCEC Item 6-MPD Report on Tear Gas  
**Date:** Monday, February 22, 2021 2:42:15 PM

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CCEC, Mayor, and Alders:

RE:  
CCEC Meeting February 23, 2021  
Item #6-63561 MPD Report on the Use of Tear Gas.

I have read the Inter-departmental Correspondence from MPD dated January 4, 2021.

I thank Assistant Chief Wahl for the thoroughness of the report. The details provide all of us with a complete understanding of the current and historical use of tear gas by MPD and others.

Based on the information provided in the document, I urge you to **ACCEPT the report**.

I **SUPPORT the policies** currently in place for the use of "tear gas" and the continuation of "The Madison Method" that is used for crowd control.

Thank you.

Janet Hirsch  
Madison Resident

Veldran, Lisa

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**From:** Owen Szulgit <zugglit921@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2021 11:59 AM  
**To:** Common Council Executive Committee  
**Subject:** Keep Tear Gas

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Good AM,

It has come to my attention that an online group, called the "Community Response Team" is attempting to flood the CCEC with messages and comments hoping to ban the use of tear gas.

This is a TERRIBLE idea.

As a pattern of protests turning violent and rioting continues across the US, the police are struggling to mitigate the negative externalities of these activities.

Without adequate non-lethal means to disperse violent groups, the police will not be able to control the situation. Property damage and deaths will result.

This is not theoretical, we have seen it in Ferguson, Minneapolis, even recently in DC.

Without non-lethal means to control the situation, police will be forced to defend themselves with lethal force.

I have provided a link to the aforementioned group below that will attempt to interfere with fair ruling on tear gas use.

Best regards,  
Owen

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1709951672589807/permalink/2754676134784017/>

Veldran, Lisa

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**From:** Lisa Hansen <laax86@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2021 10:43 AM  
**To:** Common Council Executive Committee  
**Subject:** Tear Gas Use by MPD

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Dear Alders,

I'm writing in strong opposition to continued use of tear gas by MPD.

How is it okay to continue to use tear gas on citizens exercising their first amendment right to fight for civil rights and justice for all people, to fight for basic human decency?

How is it okay to continue to use tear gas on citizens when it is illegal to use in warfare?

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/06/06/fact-check-its-true-tear-gas-chemical-weapon-banned-war/3156448001/>

How is it okay to continue to use tear gas on citizens when medical professionals have clearly stated the negative health effects, especially as we deal with a pandemic?

<https://www.thoracic.org/about/newsroom/press-releases/journal/2020/tear-gas-use-during-covid-19-pandemic-irresponsible-moratorium-needed,-says-american-thoracic-society.php?fbclid=IwAR0KJnycQkvyYOjEviLWqzdJhDPRQH7r3clMMrYINw6tcIH2qltmNgWM-58>

<https://emergency.cdc.gov/agent/riotcontrol/factsheet.asp>

<https://thelensnola.org/2020/06/07/open-letter-healthcare-professionals-against-the-use-or-tear-gas-by-nopd-on-protesters/>

<https://multco.us/commissioner-meieran/joint-statement-physicians-including-commissioner-meieran-regarding-use-teargas>

<https://apnews.com/article/charlotte-ap-top-news-police-race-and-ethnicity-health-c814cc7b873ccaf60b95b10e96ecfc12>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5096012/>

What does it say about those of you who continue to support this harmful response? What does it say that you place more trust in MPD's recommendation than healthcare professionals?

When are we going to start listening to our communities, especially BIPOC communities, with compassion, care and kindness? When are we going to take strong action to implement policies and spending that support and lift up our communities, again especially BIPOC communities? I say we do it now! And I know I'm not alone in that!

I'm sharing a letter from a community member that I fully support regarding this issue. He has done his due diligence and thoroughly researched this topic.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16QIMxgsM8nrY8rnzL3fm0qbfyp4TZCFN/view?fbclid=IwAR3gm7R48DrgimnaCX0PHyZrxDECOSXiqSP9KTO9QFAowk2Pm2teh9Tqv-E>

Thank you,  
Lisa Hansen

Veldran, Lisa

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**From:** Drew Lehmann <drew.lehmann90@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2021 7:53 AM  
**To:** Common Council Executive Committee  
**Subject:** I oppose police use of tear gas

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear CCEC members,

I urge you to follow the recommendations of the PSRC by placing the police report on file and banning the use of tear gas (CS) by Madison police.

It should be reason enough that the American Thoracic Society recommends stopping the use of tear gas because of short and long term damage to those exposed. The new research even puts into question whether tear gas is appropriately defined as a "riot control agent" because it does not create "irritation or disabling physical effects which disappear within a short time following termination of exposure." The effects of tear gas may be permanent on those exposed.

If that's not enough, please consider the innocent bystanders who can be harmed by exposure. I have a friend who was in her apartment when tear gas was deployed nearby. She put towels under her doors and over her windows but still ended up feeling the effects of the gas. All because her apartment happened to be in the wrong place.

Please, please, please consider whether using tear gas is REALLY the only option police have. Ban its use, and make Madison safer for all those who breathe.

Thanks for your time,

Drew Lehmann  
4139 S Sunset Ct  
Madison, WI 53705

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Sent from Gmail Mobile

Veldran, Lisa

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**From:** Nicholas Davies <nbdavies@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2021 11:27 PM  
**To:** Common Council Executive Committee  
**Subject:** 63561: Place on file and call for a tear gas ban

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Dear Executive Committee members,

I urge you to join PSRC in recommending that item 63561 be placed on file with impunity, and call for a tear gas ban.

The Common Council asked MPD for a report on tear gas usage and alternatives. I didn't have high hopes in their ability to complete the task impartially, but I'm disappointed in what they produced. MPD had an opportunity to actually consider the wide-ranging impacts of these weapons. They had an opportunity to weigh the pros and cons, help the Council with the decision before you. They failed to do that. This report is pure "CYA" work.

Instead, we have a report that lists past usages of tear gas. It expects you to accept that these instances were all justified and necessary, simply because MPD deemed them so at the time, and (allegedly) wouldn't have used tear gas otherwise.

We have a report that, just like officers' individual Use of Force reports, fails to even account for who the victims of these uses of force are. They don't care who might have suffered respiratory distress, or corneal damage, or vomiting, or nonconsensual abortions, because of their usage of these weapons.

We have a report that perpetuates the false claim that tear gas plays any role in deescalating a situation, or coercing people into cooperating. Time and again, we've seen protests turn more aggravated when these chemical agents are used. Even in the barricaded situations, according to MPD's own accounts, tear gas was ineffective 2/3rds of the time at convincing the subject to come out.

It's flat-out irresponsible for MPD to put its officers at greater risk by using tear gas, just so they can inflict greater violence on civilians. If they won't show some common sense and put a stop to this practice, the city must.

In addition to concurring with PSRC's recommendations, the committee could also consider introducing a resolution banning tear gas for immediate consideration.

Thank you,

Nick Davies  
3717 Richard St

Veldran, Lisa

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**From:** Melanie Sard <mnsard@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2021 9:05 PM  
**To:** Common Council Executive Committee  
**Subject:** tear gas

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Hello,

I am writing to voice my strong support for a tear gas ban, rather than just a report. As a resident of Madison, I would like the CCEC to follow the lead of the Public Safety Review Committee (which voted to place the MPD tear gas report on file, rejecting the tear gas report as written and reiterating support for a ban on tear gas). I believe that our police department is fully capable of doing their jobs without needlessly escalating situations and endangering the health of our citizens through the use of tear gas, and that current evidence supports this.

Sincerely,

Melanie Sard

4029 Rockwell Dr.



Veldran, Lisa

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**From:** GISELA F WILSON <gfwilson@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2021 4:30 PM  
**To:** All Alders  
**Subject:** Common Council Executive Committee Agenda Item:663561 MPD Report on Tear Gas

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February 23, 2021

Dear Alders,

I am strongly opposed to the use of Tear Gas as a crowd control measure. It is known to cause medical harm. Further, tear gas is so diffuse that it causes chaos even for 100 percent peaceful protests. It therefore escalates rather than de-escalates the situation.

Since my computer's WiFi has burnt out, I can not easily write a longer letter. Please accept this email and accept that I co-sign Greg Gelembiuk's letter.

Sincerely,

Gisela Wilson, PhD  
1244 Morrison Ct  
Madison, WI 53703