

Dear Mayor and Members of the Common Council,

Tonight is the night many of us have been waiting for, for a long, long time.

As a refresher:

- the Ad Hoc Committee (commissioned by this body with creating a comprehensive review of the Madison Police Department) recommended a body camera pilot back in October of 2019.

(<https://www.cityofmadison.com/news/oir-report>)

- The Quattrone Center Review (commissioned to review MPD's response to sentinel protest events during the summer of 2020) also recommended body-worn cameras for a more effective and coordinated response.

(<https://www.cityofmadison.com/police/documents/SentinelReport20211116.pdf>)

- The Office of the City Attorney recommends body-worn cameras due to city liability and risk management.

(<https://www.cityofmadison.com/news/oir-report>, pg 61)

- The Police Body-Worn Camera Feasibility Review Committee (commissioned by this body to determine whether or not to implement a Body-Worn Camera Pilot Program) voted to recommend them in a 5-1 vote in 2021.

(<https://www.nbc15.com/2021/12/09/police-body-camera-pilot-program-resolution-heads-madison-committee/>)

- The Common Council voted on April 19, 2021 to implement a Body-Worn Camera Pilot Program (a 3-month pilot with 48 cameras) in the North District with conditions that the policy comply as much as possible with the model policy established by the Body-Worn Camera Feasibility Review Committee.

(<https://spectrumnews1.com/wi/milwaukee/news/2022/04/20/madison-body-cameras-pilot-program>).

- Funds in the amount of \$83,000 were allocated to cover the costs of the Body-Worn Camera Pilot in your 2023 capital budget.

(<https://www.cityofmadison.com/finance/documents/budget/2023/operating/adopted/Adopted2023.pdf>)

- Chief Barnes, an expert in policing, who has implemented body-worn cameras many years ago, and whom you hired as our Chief of Police, drafted a policy he says is as close as possible to the recommended model policy.

(https://www.wkow.com/news/madisons-police-chief-pushes-for-body-camera-pilot-program-ahead-of-common-council-vote/article_000cd542-301b-11ee-ab36-0f291b75f940.html)

- After watching Chief Barnes' presentation on the BWC policy, the city's Public Safety Review Committee (traditionally opposed to body-worn cameras) voted 5-1 to recommend that Common Council implement the pilot. (You can watch that presentation and meeting here, It starts 22 minutes into the Public Safety Review Committee's July 12, 2023 meeting.

(<https://media.cityofmadison.com/mediasite/Showcase/madison-city-channel/Presentation/0e67282bfff54fc3877c1342b3f3bded1d>)

- Last night (7/31/23) the Police Civilian Oversight Board had their discussion on the policy and voted 6-2 to recommend that Common Council implement the pilot. Robert Copley, the Independent Monitor, spoke (and voted) in support. You can watch that short meeting here:

<https://media.cityofmadison.com/mediasite/Showcase/madison-city-channel/Presentation/abfb56ae6f894bb3b306dc2ac7e5d08d1d/Channel/116f3360e12344b797d6309a40ca443c5f>

(https://www.channel3000.com/news/madison-common-council-set-to-vote-on-authorizing-mpd-body-camera-pilot-program-tuesday/article_343a50c8-3012-11ee-82eb-f323d8215571.html)

- Every one of the 79 U.S. cities larger than Madison has already implemented body cameras. Every other capital city uses them. All the smaller cities, suburbs, towns and villages right around us— every single other department in Dane County— is equipped with body-worn cameras.

Is it finally our turn? It's a 30-day Pilot.

Tonight you will vote on whether or not to authorize the implementation of a 3-month Body-Worn Camera Pilot. Are you listening to all the community feedback given through many city committees? Have you read the recommendations of reports that you, as a body, have commissioned? Do you care about 20th century police reforms in the wake of George Floyd and countless other Black men? Are you listening to your own Police

Chief and city-employed police officers who need these tools in order to comply with the demand for transparency and accountability placed on them in the 21st century?

Have you read the report of President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing?
(https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/taskforce_finalreport.pdf)

Do you realize that studies across the board consistently show extremely high public support for body cameras, 88-93% overall and the percentage is consistently highest among Black Americans?

Are you listening to all this community input? If you plan to vote no, who are you listening to? And why?

If the local time spent discussing, studying, and debating this topic was measured minute-by-minute, it would far surpass the 3-month time frame for this small pilot. All of this for a 90-day pilot.

It's time. Please vote yes.

Thank you,
Bonnie Roe
District 11