From:	Gisela Wilson
To:	All Alders; Finance Committee; Veldran, Lisa; PD PSRC; Rhodes-Conway, Satya V.; Equal Opportunities Commission
Subject:	Ordinance creating Sections 5.19 and 5.20 of the Madison General Ordinances establishing the Office of the Independent Police Monitor and the Police Civilian Oversight Board
Date:	Monday, August 10, 2020 11:21:39 AM

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August 10, 2020

Dear Madison Alders, Mayor Rhodes-Conway, and members of the Finance Committee, Equal Opportunities Committee, Public Safety Review Committee and Common Council Executive Committee,

I am writing to strongly urge that all Committees and Common Council pass the ordinance creating Sections 5.19 and 5.20 of the Madison General Ordinances establishing the Office of the Independent Police Monitor and the Police Civilian Oversight Board as it was developed and written by the MPD Policy and Procedure Ad Hoc Committee and Alder Work Group.

I also want to thank Alders Moreland, Bider, and Kemble of the Alder Work Group for their attention to detail and their obvious dedicated and diligent efforts. Work Group meetings were an open, inclusive and transparent process in which appropriate expertise and key community organizations were contacted, and to which the public had the chance to contribute if desired.

The ordinance creating Sections 5.19 and 5.20 of the Madison General Ordinances establishing the Office of the Independent Police Monitor and the Police Civilian Oversight Board is the culmination of more than five years of effort and painstaking negotiations with representatives of MPD during the OIR and Ad Hoc Committee Review process. As a reminder, the Ad Hoc Committee was co-Chaired by retired MPD Assistant Chief, Luis Yudice and members of the MPD, in particular Interim Chief Wahl, were welcome to participate at every single meeting, as were other members of the public.

The Ad Hoc Committee report echoes a critical finding from Chicago Police Accountability Task Force report, that “real and lasting change is possible only when the people most affected by policing have a voice.” The proposed ordinance accomplishes this absolutely essential function. For the well-being of Madison residents and officers alike, I strongly urge you to support this historical measure.

Sincerely,

Gisela Wilson, PhD
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