

Statement to Madison Police and Fire Commission regarding Police Chief Candidates
December 18, 2020

My name is Barbie Jackson, a member of MOSES speaking to you as an individual. I previously read into your record MOSES official mission and vision statements and the purpose and vision of its Public Safety task force. Today I expand on these by telling you that, although we may be new to you, you will be hearing from us from now on.

MOSES is well known in Dane County government and at the State level through WISDOM, our statewide network. We advocate tirelessly for reform of the carceral system in our courts, jails and prisons. We have strong relationships with the county board, and we regularly testify with significant influence at their Criminal Justice Council, the Public Protection and Judiciary Committee, and elsewhere.

We have long held a broader set of concerns for the racial disparities in our law enforcement practices and for the well-being of our children, particularly our Black and Brown children and those living in poverty. Our new task forces address these concerns directly. Also, as a result of NAMI's nomination, MOSES President serves on the Civilian Oversight Board. You will continue to hear from us long after a decision has been made about Madison's New Police Chief.

- We are committed to seeking justice by raising the voices of those who are most negatively impacted by structural racism and often not heard.
- We recognize that racial inequities and racial disparities in policing, court representation, sentencing, and bail have led to disproportionately high rates of imprisonment of people of color. We advocate for policies that address the root causes of these inequities.
- We, as participants in the historic struggle to overcome white supremacy and systemic racism, seek to dismantle this unjust and unsustainable system. We believe that effective reforms will ultimately allow a reallocation of public resources for the well-being of communities and families and will lead to a beloved community where all can thrive.

Public Safety requires the protection of all community members from dangers to their lives, homes, physical security, and mental health. "We're all safer when the larger community is fairer and safer."

Certain people are entrusted to be agents of public safety, commissioned to protect and support all members of society, especially those who are vulnerable or less powerful. This includes:

- traditional first responders and lawmakers;
- mental health workers, AODA counselors, peer support specialists, medical providers, social workers, teachers and other school personnel;
- neighborhood associations, "violence interrupters," restorative justice programs, churches, literacy and mentoring programs, community resource centers, promoters of economic opportunity and racial justice; and
- artists and cultural workers with public projects.

We demand that the Madison's New Police Chief be selected to hold the values we have stated and to have a proven track record to work cooperatively with the people in our community who are entrusted to be agents of public safety.

Thank you.