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August 25, 2020

Dear Members of the Public Safety Review Committee (PSRC) and the Common Council Executive Committee (CCEC),

I am writing you today to strongly urge you to pass the legislation prepared by the Alder Workgroup (an ordinance, budget proposal, report, etc.) exactly as written, without amendment. For too long, the Madison Police Department has gone without any accountability measures in place, while the valorization of a police culture that finds any means to be acceptable has been allowed to continue. Indeed, as with Matt Kenny, who killed Tony Robinson, many suspect officers are allowed to continue as trainers to usher in each new cohort. This practice allows the use of excessive force, attitudes of entitlement on the part of police officers, and attitudes of white supremacy and ableism to proliferate unabated.

The Madison Police Department has a history of ignoring the concerns and needs of the communities they're most in contact with. The communities that are the most underserved and neglected by our government and society are those that are most overpoliced, it is absolutely essential that these communities be given a voice in police function and accountability. Otherwise, police are simply cleaning up the mess of a neglectful and dysfunctional society -- often wrongly and with too many mistakes, deaths and damage to the communities they are supposed to serve. It is to meet this need that the Police Auditor and Community Oversight Board were designed. Their design was based on the OIR review and several years of negotiation between representatives of our community and various members of the police department. Members of the police department were present and provided input at every single MPD Policy and Procedure Ad Hoc Committee meeting. The Alder Workgroup meetings that crafted the legislation also were inclusive and open to the public. Importantly, the negotiation process took into consideration the reasons oversight mechanisms have failed in other communities, and the primary reason for failure in other instances has been that the oversight function was entrusted to people representing the traditional power structures of our government and society, instead of the communities that most need to be heard and have input. Further, preservation of the power adjustment the Police Auditor position and Community Oversight Board represent is essential if

the other recommendations of MPD Policy and Procedure Ad Hoc Committee Report recommendations are to have any hope of succeeding.

Please count me among the Madison residents that are not comfortable with the unquestioned authority and qualified immunity police have been awarded in our society. Approve the Alder Workgroup's 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, all as it was written.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gisela F Wilson

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