

From: [e blessing](#)
To: [Police Civilian Oversight Board](#)
Cc: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Public comment for 2/19 PCOB meeting
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 2:06:23 PM

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Hello to members of the Police Civilian Oversight Board and Common Council,

I am writing with concerns about the amendment written by Attorney Andy Schauer and sponsored by Alder Yanette Figueroa-Cole. This is not a critique of Alder Figueroa-Cole, who has a commendable history of advocating for the needs of Madison's community members. I trust that she had only good intentions when agreeing to sponsor the amendment.

Unfortunately, amending the PCOB ordinance with Attorney Schauer's suggestions would threaten the independence of the oversight board which is central to its function. This amendment would negatively impact community representation on the board and contradicts the ACLU's recommendations for police oversight.

The administrative issue this amendment was written to address was resolved when the OIM hired Chioma Njoku, who is implementing a system to facilitate timely nominations from community-based organizations. The ordinance currently outlining the PCOB's composition and function needs no further amendments at this time. In addition, any efforts to exert political influence over members of the PCOB or its processes violate the current ordinance.

Ensuring the independence of the oversight board is of the utmost importance. Please maintain the integrity of this tool for police oversight by voting against this amendment.

Thank you,
Jamie Blessing
District 6
Madison, WI

From: [PJ Chamberlain](#)
To: [Police Civilian Oversight Board](#)
Cc: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Opposing the proposed PCOB change
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2025 8:02:30 AM

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Hello,

In August of last year, my friend Kevin Price was killed by a Fitchburg police officer in his own home. He was shot 3 times in the chest in August 12th, and died alone in the hospital 3 days later. No one contacted his family until after it was too late.

When they told the public about Kevin, Fitchburg Police lied, omitted, and chose to hide a staggering amount of information. We are still trying to uncover what really happened.

They withheld that Kevin was the one that called 911. They withheld that Kevin wasn't engaging with officers until they forced him to at gunpoint, despite having a number of other options. They told the public that he was in stable condition, despite his description at the scene clearly showing otherwise.

The groups who have been designated and entrusted with selecting candidates for the board were given their roles for a reason. They know the direct impact police violence has on families and on our communities. Just last week, my friend Kevin's brother Alex died of a heart attack at age 29. He was devastated and heartbroken over what happened to his brother.

The negligence of the police officer involved in Kevin's shooting has indirectly caused the death of one of their own, as Alex was a corrections officer. Despite Kevin being in such a close proximity to be a threat, the officer who shot him missed, and a fourth bullet was never recovered from the scene. Well, the bullet may have taken its time, but six months later it struck Alex right in the heart. Their family devastated, to say the least, and the impact of Kevin's shooting has grown exponentially.

It would be a total violation of this board's mission to open membership up to those who would push their own outside agenda. Keeping the groups designated to nominate representatives is one of the few ways to ensure that the mission of the board stays true.

It is clear this is why a former lawyer for a police union would push this resolution to change the nomination process so strongly. Outside influence would weaken the board's ability to cohesively come together as an informed community to evaluate police actions. Bringing in an agitating influence is a long standing tactic to disrupt an organization's agenda.

As someone whose life has been impacted greatly by police violence, I implore you to keep the protection of the nomination process in place. This board is a critical component of the community, and opening it up to disruption and dissolution would be a horrible mistake at a vital juncture in local, state, and national politics. A board like this may be one of the last protections people in the community have from the corruption threatening our livelihoods.

Thank you,

PJ Chamberlain
On behalf of the family of
Kevin Price and Alex Mork

From: [Esty Dinur](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Police Civilian Oversight Board](#)
Subject: PCOB & OIM
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 12:59:55 PM

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Dear alders,

The PCOB and OIM's role is to independently look at honest data and conduct unbiased investigations. With the Schauer/Figueroa ordinance, members and former members of the police force are sure to be included in the PCOB. In turn, that assures severely biased investigations. This must not happen.

I urge you to vote against this change. I am a Madison resident but will be out of town when this is debated. Hence, this plea by email for you to do what's right.

Thank you,

Esty Dinur

...for, truly, I am not a website and my name is not Etsy.

From: [Larissa Duncan](#)
To: [Police Civilian Oversight Board](#)
Cc: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Re: Police Civilian Oversight Board (PCOB) and Office of the Independent Monitor (OIM)
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 5:51:24 PM

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Dear PCOB members and Alders,

As a resident and voter in the City of Madison I am writing to urge you to please leave the Police Civilian Oversight Board (PCOB) ordinance as it is. Please do not adopt Andy Schauer and Alder Figueroa-Cole's ordinance. The administrative problem was fixed when the Office of the Independent Monitor hired an excellent administrator. The changes in this new ordinance will take the power and representation away from the community and open the PCOB up to political corruption.

Thank you,

Larissa Duncan

41 Farwell St.

Madison, WI 53704

From: [Shel Gross](#)
To: [Police Civilian Oversight Board](#)
Cc: [All Alders](#)
Subject: PCOB Item on Tonight's Public Comment Agenda
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 9:51:19 AM

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I am writing in opposition to the change to the PCOB appointment process proposed by Ald. Figueroa-Cole. The original appointment process was designed, based on recommendations from the ACLU, to maximize the political independence of the Board. Giving the Mayor broad authority to appoint members will make the PCOB dependent upon and beholden to the Mayor. My understanding is that the "problem" this proposal was designed to address, that PCOB members are appointed on time, has been addressed administratively. I also understand that there was no discussion with the PCOB Chair to discuss any concerns prior to putting this amendment forward.

I urge you to reject this proposed amendment and support discussion directly with the PCOB to address any concerns that may exist.

Thank you.

Shel Gross
145 Jackson St.
Madison WI

From: [Sam Hamer](#)
To: [Police Civilian Oversight Board](#)
Cc: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Agenda Item #1
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 2:40:57 PM

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Dear board members,

The administrative issue of concern (agenda item #1) has been solved and the ordinance needs to be left as is.

Politicians who meddle with the PCOB for political currency or attempt to exert their political influence over members or the processes are violating the current ordinance which is grounds for an ethics complaint. Please uphold the ordinance and resist.

Please, I am urging you all to NOT adopt Andy Schauer and Alder Figueroa-Cole's ordinance and to leave the PCOB ordinance as is. The administrative problem was fixed when the OIM hired an excellent administrator.

The changes in this new ordinance will take the power and representation away from the community and open the PCOB up to political corruption by whomever the mayor or alders might be any given term.

Please. Do the right thing. The impacts of changing this ordinance would be extremely harmful and would create direct harm to many people and families.

Thank you for your time,
Sam

From: [Barbie Jackson](#)
To: [Police Civilian Oversight Board](#)
Cc: [All Alders](#); [Barbie Jackson](#)
Subject: 2/19 PCOB Virtual Meeting - Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 5:08:46 PM

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Dear PCOB:

I am writing to express my strong urging that you do not adopt Andy Schauer's and Alder Figueroa-Cole's ordinance, which would change the process and source of populating the PCOB and to urge you to **leave the PCOB ordinance as is**.

Currently, most PCOB seats are held by representatives of nine designated community organizations (Urban Triage, Nehemiah, Outreach LGBTQ Center, NAMI Dane County, Community Response Team, UNIDOS, Freedom Inc., Just Dane, and YWCA). Tonight's proposed measure seeks to do away with the community organization-based step in the process of seating the PCOB and to have all PCOB applicants apply directly to the city, with the Mayor then appointing choices out of that single pool. This would do away with the structural independence of the PCOB and would go directly against the recommendations of the ACLU, the Council on Criminal Justice Task Force on Policing, and the Ad Hoc Committee, which spent four long years developing the recommendations that resulted in the formation of the PCOB.

Please vote to support the representation on the PCOB according to the recommendations that formed this committee.

Thank you for your consideration.
Barbie Jackson, Madison resident since 1967
6441 Dylun Drive
Madison, WI 53719
barbie.g.jackson@gmail.com
608-234-8118

From: [Norm Littlejohn](#)
To: [Police Civilian Oversight Board; All Alders](#)
Subject: NO on agenda item #1
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 7:44:26 AM

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Hello, I'm writing to urge you to reject the amendment to the PCOB ordinance proposed to "solve" an administrative problem which has already been solved. The amendment would weaken the independence and effectiveness of the PCOB, and should be rejected.

Thank you.

Norm Littlejohn
225 E. Lakelawn Pl. #405
Madison 53703

From: [Connie Shaw](#)
To: [Police Civilian Oversight Board; All Alders](#)
Subject: pcob virtual meeting
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 5:09:56 PM

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Hello, all,

It seems to me that there is a definite structural conflict of interest for elected officials to have unconstrained power of selection of PCOB members. That makes NO sense!! NONE! They should have NOTHING to do with that process, being that elected officials may depend on the support of the police, their unions, and also members of the public affiliated with police for re-election. These elected officials are always so afraid they'll look bad if a police oversight body exposes wrongdoing in their police department. So naturally, out of fear, they would tend to try and appoint "police friendly" members, so as to not make any waves. That is the EXACT OPPOSITE of what the core mission of the PCOB calls for, which is holding the police accountable for their actions, and promoting reform in the face of resistance. Let the PCOB do their job!! STOP TRYING TO INTERFERE!!

Connie Shaw
1954 E. Washington Ave. #25
Madison, WI 53704

From: [Erin Skarivoda](#)
To: [Police Civilian Oversight Board; All Alders](#)
Subject: Do not change the PCOB ordinance
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 12:08:36 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from erin.skarivoda@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello all,

I am writing about the Police Civilian Oversight Board (PCOB), which is an important part of our justice system. An amendment to the ordinance had been proposed to change the process for nominating members to the PCOB; please uphold that ordinance as it exists and resist any changes to the ordinance.

During the last PCOB term, the foundational term during which the office and mechanism were built, there was no plan yet in place to contact the community groups that nominate new members for a new term. The fact is, the PCOB and OIM didn't have enough help. This was an administrative problem that has since been solved with the hiring of administrator, Chioma Njoku who now has a system for outreach and prepping community groups to nominate PCOB applicants on time. Problem solved.

When this problem was still a problem, it appears that former police union attorney/now city attorney, Andy Schauer, decided to use it as an opportunity to give some control of the PCOB to the police union by way of the Mayor. Currently, most PCOB seats are held by representatives of nine designated community organizations (Urban Triage, Nehemiah, Outreach LGBTQ Center, NAMI Dane County, Community Response Team, UNIDOS, Freedom Inc., Just Dane, and YWCA). He sought to do away with the community organization-based nature of the PCOB and to have all PCOB applicants apply directly to the city, with the Mayor then appointing choices out of that single pool. That means, people who wish to be on the PCOB but who are against police oversight and wish to see the PCOB weakened or fail would have a much easier time getting appointed. **It would do away with the structural independence of the PCOB and would go directly against the recommendations of the ACLU, the Council on Criminal Justice Task Force on Policing, and the Ad Hoc Committee.**

Andy and two members of the public asked Alder Yannette Figueroa-Cole to sponsor this amendment under the guise that it was to ensure PCOB members are appointed on time. That administrative problem was solved but they persist because the reason given was only a vehicle for Andy's intent to strip power from the community and while Alder Figueroa-Cole's intent might have been good in the beginning, the impact of her amendment is pure harm.

Please leave the ordinance as is. Politicians who meddle with the PCOB for political

currency or attempt to exert their political influence over members or the processes are violating the current ordinance, which is grounds for an ethics complaint.

Please do right by Madison and uphold that ordinance as it exists.

Best,
Erin

Erin Skarivoda

she/her

1252 Spaight St. #2

Madison, WI 53703

email: erin.skarivoda@gmail.com

phone: 920-606-1849

From: [Lisa Zwart](#)
To: [Police Civilian Oversight Board](#)
Cc: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Leave the PCOB as it is
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 5:06:46 PM

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Changing it's structure would be a complete conflict of interest. Elected officials should not have unconstrained power of selection of PCOB members, as they would under the Figueroa Cole amendment. Elected officials rely on police, police unions and police-affiliated people for election (or at least they depend on an absence of opposition from them). And elected officials are afraid of looking bad if problems in the police department are exposed. So allowing elected officials unconstrained selection power fundamentally undermines the mission of the PCOB, which requires holding police accountable and pushing police reform against resistance. In general, unconstrained selection by elected officials leads to ineffective police friendly oversight boards.

Kind regards,
Lisa Zwart