

**From:** Deb Wynne <debragwynne@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 2, 2021 1:29 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** BODY CAMERAS for MPD!

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Dear Alders,

Can Madison *get with the program*?! For those of you against body cameras, I encourage you to reconsider! Those for them, I thank you!

Please read the article below posted in the Cap Times....it says it all. Say YES! to the pilot program! As Alders, don't you want the best for our city's police department?!

~Debra Wynne~

*It's hard to believe this decision is mired in politics and controversy. Over half of all law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin equip their officers with body cameras. Madison is the second largest city in the state. More than 65% of police departments our size (mid-to-large) equip their officers with body cameras, and it's growing by the day. Soon the state of Wisconsin will likely mandate body cameras, and then we'll have missed out on our opportunity to learn from our own pilot. The Madison Police Department welcomes body cameras as a 21st century policing tool; they have nothing to hide. It is way past time to make this investment in our community. Body-worn cameras have overwhelming public support nationwide, around 90%, depending on the study. Black Americans favor body cameras over white Americans by a factor of over 20%.*

*The Green Bay Packers paid for body-worn cameras for Green Bay's first year as part of its equity initiatives.*

*It's time to gather our own data for our uniquely well-positioned situation by proceeding with a pilot program in the North District, already appropriated in this year's budget. It is way past time to make this investment in our community.*

*ta for our uniquely well-positioned situation by proceeding with a pilot program in the North District, already appropriated in this year's budget. It is way past time to make this investment in our community.*

[https://madison.com/ct/opinion/mailbag/bonnie-roe-its-time-for-madison-to-finally-adopt-police-body-cameras/article\\_e3712b9c-d8bo-5a0e-8e33-651c023dae33.html](https://madison.com/ct/opinion/mailbag/bonnie-roe-its-time-for-madison-to-finally-adopt-police-body-cameras/article_e3712b9c-d8bo-5a0e-8e33-651c023dae33.html)

**From:** Elizabeth Falkos <bdjfalkos@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, July 2, 2021 3:39 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Furman, Keith <district19@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** July 6 Council Meeting

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Good day, Mayor Rhodes-Conway and Alders:

I am frustrated by the delay in implementing the trial of body worn cameras for the MPD. I urge you to accept the report and get the funds allocated for the trial to begin. You asked for the report. You got it. Please follow the recommendations and allow the trial. I am in support of the MPD using the cameras. I am in support of item #80 (63932) on your July 6 agenda.

I am also frustrated by the lack of services for people experiencing homelessness and the crime and death at Reindahl Park. I support rule enforcement in the park, which would preclude camping there. (Item 66239 on the July 6 agenda.)

Respectfully,

Beth Falkos  
District 19 resident

From: fortunately@juno.com <fortunately@juno.com>  
Sent: Saturday, July 3, 2021 8:54 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Cc: 4tunevera@gmail.com  
Subject: Body cams

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Just do it! Get those body cams for our cops!!!  
Sent from my iPad

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After Impasse With Cops, Heavily Armed Men Vanish Into Woods

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Surfside Crews Plan Demolition for Sunday

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Ransomware Attack Spreads to Hundreds of Companies

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**From:** Suzanne Pope <suziempope@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 3, 2021 10:22 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Body cameras

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Stop letting you politics get in the way and do the right thing--vote to equip our police with body cameras NOW.

From: Michael Batuzich <mbatuzich@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Sunday, July 4, 2021 6:17 AM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Body Cameras

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I support the transparency and accountability that body cameras provide. Besides cost, I see no negatives.

Michael Batuzich  
1217 Drake St

**From:** B L <bllaufenberg@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, July 4, 2021 6:52 AM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Madison police SHOULD have body cams!

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Hello Mayor Rhodes-Conway and city council alders,

It's beyond time for the Madison Police Department to be wearing body cams. This should be supported by all members of the community to bring accountability and professionalism to the Madison Police Department.

**SUPPORT BODY CAMS, PLEASE!**

Thank you,

Brandon Laufenberg  
West Madison

From: james mankopf <jmankopf@icloud.com>  
Sent: Sunday, July 4, 2021 10:33 AM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Police body cameras

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I was appalled recently to learn that Madison police officers do not wear body cameras . Why is Madison behind other cities in adopting this procedure ? Body cameras not only offer some citizen protection from the occasional mistreatment that occurs , but they also protect officers from unjust complaints. Most officers do an excellent job of enforcing the law, but certainly recent well known incidents have depicted that there are some bad actors . Body cameras will also provide some credibility and instill public trust in our police among populations who have historically suffered from a lack of good relationships and in some cases prejudicial policing practices. Come on Madison , let's make a decision now, procrastination in this matter is not advantageous to either the police department or our citizens.

Jim Mankopf , 5431 Lake Mendota Dr . Madison WI



**From:** Mary Roche <mroche5@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 4, 2021 1:27 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Police body cameras

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please support the use of body cameras for our officers and community. I believe there is overwhelming support from the community to do so. Please represent...

**From:** Ann Louise Tetreault <2014altrn@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, July 4, 2021 11:20 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Body worn cameras.

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Dear alders,

I appreciate your due diligence in reviewing this issue. This would go a long way to make Madison policing more transparent for our sisters and brothers of color. We already have the dubious recognition of being one of the worst counties for African American males. Let's do the right thing!

Thanks for all you do for us.

Ann Louise Tetreault RN

**From:** Steve Verburg <stverburg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 5, 2021 5:08 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** reject BWC report

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Members of the Madison Common Council:

I'm writing to urge you to reject the Final Report and Model Policy from the Body-Worn Camera Feasibility Review Committee.

Two years ago I saw Body-Worn Cameras as Mr. Findley apparently does, as a tool for justice. However, the more I read about the technology, the more I realized it is a tool under the control of police departments whose practices are driving vast racial disparities in citations, arrests and prosecutions -- the building blocks for maintaining racial inequality and injustice.

You have probably noticed in news reports that it is almost routine for the cameras to malfunction or simply not be switched on unless the footage supports arrest and prosecution.

More recently I've observed some of the BWC Feasibility Review Committee's proceedings. You are no doubt aware that a committee member with outstanding credentials as an analyst of scientific and statistical research -- Mr. Gelumbiuk -- produced quite a bit of persuasive evidence showing that BWC technology is a costly tool that tends to exacerbate the markedly racist tendencies of the police/prosecution apparatus.

The committee chairman, Mr. Findley, in his June 15, 2021, repeats several unsupported claims in his campaign to salvage the committee's recommendations in favor of BWC use by the Madison Police Department.

Mr. Findley asks, why not try BWC? He suggests that maybe, just maybe, the byzantine wordsmithing of the committee's report will somehow outflank the well-documented imperatives of the police/prosecution apparatus. He suggests that perhaps for the first time police will be given a costly "tool" and they will NOT use it to worsen racial disparities. Is Mr. Findley's question -- "Why not give it a try?" -- really meant to suggest that failure will not result in further cruel consequences for Madison residents already besieged by over-policing? It's the epitome of out-of-touch privilege to suggest we ignore the clear risks of intensified racial disparities because "it might work" and Madison might prove to be the exceptional child who suddenly overcomes its longstanding and worsening record of racial injustice. What have "we" got to lose, right?

Mr. Findley suggests that BWC technology might not worsen Madison's racial disparities. Why not? Because so many things in Madison and the world have gotten so much better for Black people. However, the things he cites haven't happened. They are glimmers in an attorney's eye. "...(P)erhaps a new era of (police) accountability might be emerging..." Here's the problem

with that: If you look back over the years since white people in Madison were first shocked to learn about the multi-faceted abuse of Black people here, you'll see there have always been bright new initiatives that were certainly going to change things for the better. The only problem has been, things just kept getting worse. Untested developments such as Madison's civilian oversight board can't be relied upon to prevent harm until they have proven that they can prevent harm. As of yet, they haven't. Yes, many of us are hopeful. But the forces of local and state politics seem determined to prevent any progress from taking place.

In another passage of his June 15 letter, Mr. Findley cites committee recommendation that "a firm commitment be obtained from the DA" to "mitigate the increase in (racist) charging." He cites a second recommendation that "a commitment be obtained from the DA to take measures to counteract any increases in low-level offense charging caused by BWCs..." This would be laughable if the consequences of believing it weren't so serious.

No such meaningful commitments will be "obtained" from a Dane County District Attorney who is legally and politically answerable to an electorate and a power elite that have been tolerating (if not cheering on) racial injustice for decades.

The notion that the Feasibility Committee Report will bend District Attorney Ozanne to its will is even more outlandish if you remember that DA Ozanne has repeatedly vowed to do something about our embarrassing racial disparities in criminal justice -- to no good effect.

If you need a refresher on DA Ozanne's record, please reread Katelyn Ferral's well-reported Aug. 19, 2020, piece in The Capital Times. ( [https://madison.com/ct/news/local/govt-and-politics/sustained-objection-dane-county-da-ismael-ozanne-faces-criticism-over-racial-disparities/article\\_c1ed2a89-df07-5242-92de-d96c89c72669.html](https://madison.com/ct/news/local/govt-and-politics/sustained-objection-dane-county-da-ismael-ozanne-faces-criticism-over-racial-disparities/article_c1ed2a89-df07-5242-92de-d96c89c72669.html) ) As the article reports in great detail, District Attorney Ozanne has been firmly committed to alleviating racial disparities for quite some time. The article clearly describes the actions the DA could have taken to fulfill his commitment, but he hasn't taken those actions. And the disparities keep getting worse.

According to Mr. Finley's June 15 letter, "... adoption of BWCs in Madison offers our community a rare opportunity to leverage the adoption of BWCs to influence charging decisions in the Dane County DA's office in a way that reflects our community's values, and to change the nature of policing in Madison so that police serve both sides in the criminal justice system more evenly, and not predominantly prosecutorial interests."

You show me the instrument that would be used to "leverage" the DA to take actions that his own repeated promises to voters have not produced. There is no such instrument.

Reject this BWC report. Then please get on with the urgent business of righting the wrongs that are compounded every day by the "criminal justice" apparatus, including, chiefly, the Madison Police Department you fund.

You may believe that your constituents want you to continue to operate a Madison Police Department that jails a whole room full of Black people because they think one or two might commit a crime. You may be wrong in your belief. Here's just one recent indication: "By an +18

point margin, voters support changes to policing that shift all public safety functions related to traffic enforcement, homelessness, mental health, minor crime, & substance abuse to unarmed civil officers, social workers, & EMTs."

<https://www.filesforprogress.org/datasets/2021/6/dfp-rethinking-police-departments-tabs.pdf>

The time is long overdue. There's got to be a way to dispatch with these constant distractions -- eight-hour meetings on trivia like BWC -- and do the work that needs to be done.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Steve Verburg  
Wendy Lane, Madison, Wisconsin  
608-212-9726

**From:** Bonnie Roe <bonnie.roe@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 5, 2021 8:48 AM

**To:** Rhodes-Conway, Satya V. <SRhodes-Conway@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Bottari, Mary <MBottari@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Kapusta-Pofahl, Karen <KKapusta-Pofahl@cityofmadison.com>

**Cc:** Barnes, Shon F <SBarnes@cityofmadison.com>; Keith Findley <keithfindley.cob@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Vital Vote on Body-Worn Cameras

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Mayor, Mayor's Chief of Staff, Alders, and Members of the Police Civilian Oversight Board,

As one who attended every meeting of the Police Body-Worn Camera Feasibility Review Committee as the report was being written and edited, I have a thorough understanding of it, the issues, the key players, and the history of this committee. I can vouch for the hard work and due diligence that went into that Report and Policy (even if I do think it's unreasonably strict, in some cases).

It's time for Madison Police officers to wear body cameras. Did you know that Madison is one of few cities our size that does not equip our police officers with body-worn cameras? All the departments right around us, though smaller, wear them. I hope this is on the verge of changing.

Hopefully you know that a pilot program, which would equip North District officers with body-worn cameras, will allow us to study the effectiveness of this tool in our own, unique situation. As you know, community oversight of our police department rivals anywhere else in the country. We have the Police Civilian Oversight Board, the soon-to-be Office of the Independent Monitor, the Public Safety Review Committee, the 177 recommendations of the ad hoc committee (not so many recommendations left on that) and of course the Mayor's Office and the Common Council. I would think the Common Council would want our officers equipped with body cameras for all the evidence it will yield for these oversight groups, especially the IM and their ability to conduct independent investigations.

The Body-Worn Camera Feasibility Review Committee submitted its very thorough report, and Tuesday you will likely decide its fate. It would sure be nice if the vote could be delayed to see what the new IM's opinion would be on having all that first-hand evidence, or not.

There has been a concerted effort by a former committee member, who was against body-worn cameras from the outset, to discredit this report and thereby scuttle this whole program. Which is possible, because although the funds for this pilot were included in the 2021 budget, the Common Council needs to vote to approve this allocation before it's a done deal. This member's submissions, additions, sources and edits are still reflected all over this report he tries to discredit.

In my opinion, body-worn cameras are an important tool of transparency and accountability for both our residents and law enforcement. I'm not alone, public support for body cameras nationwide are consistently 85-92%. Black Americans favor them by a factor of more than 20% over white Americans. Many individuals and groups working with marginalized and underserved

communities are in support of body-worn cameras, as you can read in the report. Local underserved youth, ages 16-24, say they are more likely to call the police when trouble arises if they are wearing body cameras. DA Ismael Ozanne is in favor of them, Chief Barnes welcomes them as a 21st century policing tool; MPD has nothing to hide. President Biden recommends them, as did President Obama (allocating \$20 million for police body-worn cameras after the killing of Michael Brown) and our own recommendations made by the ad hoc committee and the OIR Report recommend them.

The DA in the officer-involved shooting of Jacob Blake mentioned many times in his press conference and report that he wished Kenosha would have outfitted its police department with body-worn cameras, that footage would have been instrumental in that investigation. Although Kenosha voted to equip their officers with body-worn cameras in 2017, they were put on hold due to funding concerns.

Body cam footage was instrumental in the conviction of Derek Chauvin for George Floyd's brutal murder and in other officer-involved shootings in recent months.

Had Officer Kenny been wearing a body camera, we would not be left with guesses based on one person's account, we would know what happened in that stairwell with Tony Robinson. We could see it.

Green Bay recently made a decision to equip their department with cameras and funding for the first year was provided by the Green Bay Packers as a way to show solidarity with their marginalized communities.

More than 65% of police departments our size (medium-large) in the United States are already equipped with body cameras.

Undoubtedly the issue of expense will come up. Body cameras are expensive. Not nearly as expensive as Dr. Gelembiuk makes them out to be (even he himself guesstimated their cost at \$11 million, but it has grown to \$23 million by this point), but they are expensive. Just like good police departments are expensive. But you know what's even more expensive? Bad police departments.

Implementing body cameras could likely save the City money in the long run. Studies across the board show there are far fewer claims against officers who wear body cams. Studies also uniformly show a significant decrease in trial times when body cam footage is used. And because of the evidence they collect, settlements paid out by the City are often reduced or eliminated when body cam footage is available.

Please vote to accept the Final Report on Tuesday and let our City finally join the 21st century and all the departments right around us who already are equipped with body cameras. Give the public what we want, a police department where officers wear body cameras, for the benefit of the whole City.

If you haven't already, you can read the Final Report and Model Policy of the local Police Body-Worn Camera Feasibility Review Committee here:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:f9ab8e8a-0541-4f0a-aad3-2177b025cf88>

Finally, I really hope that as this moves forward, you will work together with MPD and the District Attorney's Office to finalize a policy we can all live with. This is certainly a time for unified and collaborative leadership!

Thank you for your consideration and feel free to call or reply with any questions or if you would take the time to dialogue about this. I'd be happy to.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Roe  
District 10  
608-239-1748



**From:** Scott Varney <colscott@att.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 5, 2021 10:54 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** BWC

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I am totally in favor of Body Worn Cameras!

Everyone has a cell phone with a camera.

Why not allow the Madison Police to have a camera also?

The cameras would document events as they happen.

I am also not happy, at all, with the city allowing a fireworks show at Breeze Stevens field!!!

This is a RESIDENTIAL area!!! Many resident have small children and pets that do not do well with the noise!

The city has MUCH better areas to stage a fireworks show!

Sincerely,

Van Scott Varney  
207 N. Livingston Street

Please stop the fireworks at Breeze Stevens!!

**From:** jhirsch@chorus.net <jhirsch@chorus.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 5, 2021 11:46 AM  
**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** #80 ACCEPT Body Worn Cameras Report

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Mayor and Alders:

Agenda Item #80...63932...Accepting the Final Report and Model Policy from the Body-Worn Camera Feasibility Review Committee  
*I urge you to **ACCEPT the Committee Report.***

The members of the committee researched, studied and debated the pros and cons of the BWC issue. Their findings are thoughtfully detailed in the 57 pages of the report.

Will this solve all police/community issues? No, but it is a tool that the City should have available. Let's accept the report and consider body-worn cameras as an investment in building trust.

I also ask the Council to take one more step and approve the 2021 expenditure for the pilot program.

Thank you for your vote to accept this report.

Janet Hirsch  
Madison Resident

**From:** Robert Hall <tartanmarine@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 5, 2021 12:11 PM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** My wife and I support police body cameras.

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Robert & Bonnie Hall  
709 Harington Dive  
Madison, Wi 53718

**From:** Lee Remus <lremus@ameritech.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 5, 2021 1:13 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Body Cameras

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I support the use of the cameras for police officers

**From:** wreichel@charter.net <wreichel@charter.net>

**Sent:** Monday, July 5, 2021 3:37 PM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Please Adopt Agenda Item 80

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Mayor and Alders,

Please vote to accept the report from the Body-worn Camera Feasibility Review Committee (Agenda #80).

The City of Madison can continue to stall on implementing police body cameras, but it will be to our detriment when they are mandated at the state or federal level and we haven't even had the opportunity to test how a program could be rolled out at our own police department.

Let's figure this out on our own city-of-Madison terms before they are dictated to us by the Wisconsin State Legislature.

Thank you!

Wendy Reichel

From: Marge <chuckmargebils@msn.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 8:58 AM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Police cameras

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please support the alders who want police body cameras. These alders are listening to their constituents who want body cameras. Vote yes to the proposal to provide these body cameras. These cameras will enhance the transparency many people demand. Also they will provide objective data that can be reviewed.  
Thank you Marge Bils

**From:** Mike Thomsen <mikethomsenorna@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 6, 2021 9:58 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Agenda it 80: Support accepting the Body Worn Camera Report

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I support Body Worn Cameras for our police officers. We need to accurately document their interactions with the public. BWCs will do that in a neutral, modern way. Chief Barnes supports BWCs and I support him. If he believes they are needed, then we need to provide them for him.

Thus, please accept this report and implement body worn cameras as quickly as possible. We need to get into the 21st century.

Sincerely,  
Mike Thomsen

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Mike Thomsen, President  
Orchard Ridge Neighborhood Association

From: John F Dongarra <johnfdude@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 11:21 AM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Body Cameras for Madison Police

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I was shocked to find out that Madison Police do not wear body cameras. In this day and age of transparency and the vast amount of mistrust and misinformation circulating body cameras for all police officers should be an automatic requirement. Please do whatever is necessary to see that the police have and use these as mandatory items.

Thanks, John Dongarra



**From:** judybl@tds.net <judybl@tds.net>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 6, 2021 12:05 PM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Please Support Agenda #80

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Please vote to accept the report of the Body-Worn Camera Feasibility Review Committee.

Thank you,  
Judy Bluel, District 9  
26 Oak Creek Trl

**From:** Mara Eisch <dreisch1028@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 6, 2021 12:24 PM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Figueroa Cole, Yannette <district10@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Common Council Agenda Item #80

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Mayor and Alders,

I am writing about Common Council Item #80 for tonight's agenda. We have been debating Body Worn Cameras for years. Yes there is conflicting evidence. But this pilot study is an opportunity to gather evidence related specifically to Madison. The Report which I am asking you to accept provides specific guidelines for conducting the pilot so we have statistically significant data. THEN we can make a decision about whether or not to implement the program. Yes there are many other needs in the city, and we are investing a great deal of money and time into these other issues. This issue needs our attention also and serves to meet the needs of MANY residents, not just a few.

Thank You  
Mara Eisch  
District 10

**From:** Joseph Keyes <jkeyes1a1@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 6, 2021 1:54 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Support Agenda Item # 80 Body-Worn Camera Final Report and Model Policy

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Dear Alders,

I urge you to support agenda item # 80 Body-Worn Camera Final Report and Model Policy. The objection to body cameras is stated that the video would be somehow biased. In all of the recent police shootings there has been a cry for police body camera video to be released. The video has been used in courts of law. The Obama Justice Department awarded over 23 million in body camera grants. There has not been a substantiated claim of bias. I urge you to support agenda item #80 so Madison can deal with the reality of a police shooting.

Joseph Keyes

District 11

**From:** Gisela Wilson <giselawilson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 6, 2021 3:14 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Council Agenda Item #80 - Body Worn Camera Report

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July 6, 2021

Re: Council Agenda Item #80 - Body Worn Camera Report

Dear Alders and Mayor,

I'm writing today to urge all Council members to reject the Body Worn Camera Feasibility Committee's Report. **The primary reasons to reject the Report are:**

(a) The vote of Committee members in favor of a pilot program to test Body Camera Use; and  
(b) Several factual errors in the interpretation of evidence concerning their use. Both Greg and Matthew resigned from the committee and Greg's letter details those errors. (Greg's letter is included as part of the documentation accompanying the Report).

As someone who attended several Body Camera Feasibility Committee meetings in an attempt to correct the obvious biases of its members, let me speak to those.

1. **The benefits of police body cams are a myth.** Implementation of body worn cameras (BWCs) has been tried in numerous cities. Those programs have failed to improve officer accountability. The predominant reasons being: (a) BWC footage is from the wrong perspective — it doesn't show what officers are doing, which undermines the logic of officer accountability; (b) due to officer movement the footage is very wobbly creating an impression of resistance even when the person or suspect is stationary and accommodating; (c) BWCs can be turned off, or worse incidents staged; (d) it can take years for departments to release BWC footage and often they don't release all of it; (e) BWCs will generate a preponderance of evidence from officer's perspective and for accountability that's not the perspective we need.
2. Keith and others on the Committee have considered the above flaws and suggested corrective policy. The truth, however, is that **there is no guarantee that the policy correctives would be implemented** — (a) I would like to remind Council members that *use-of-force policy correctives* were in place in Minneapolis when George Floyd was murdered and Officer Derek Chauvin was only convicted due bystander video — namely, video from the correct perspective, video filmed using a steady hand that being a bystander (as opposed to an officer on the move) allows; (b) There was one meeting where Tom Brown made an impassioned plea for BWCs based on the number of times he had witnessed officers beat up innocent civilians — a cruel optimistic hope I actually can psychologically relate to on the basis of having witnessed and been subjected to the slow erosion of the good intentions of academia under the pressures of a neoliberal economy. **I respectfully ask all Council members to step back and take a moment to comprehend that both Keith's and Tom's logics are tacit admissions of the cruelty inherent in policing culture:** Not even the very best policy for the use of BWCs will change policing culture — policy adjustments have been an historic failure.

3. **Implementation of BWC programs is terribly expensive.** In contrast to the estimates included in the Report which come from vendors hoping to sell their products and reel police departments and cities in, cities implementing BWCs have documented the cost to be 8-10% of the annual police budget. Given the high expense, several cities are shutting their BWC programs down. Rather than wanting to be “in style” by implementing BWCs, Madison should be heeding these newer trends if it wants to be at the forefront.
4. **There is ample evidence that primary effect of BWCs is to increase the number of arrests for petty crimes.** Something that has been omitted from the estimates of the cost of a BWC program is the cost of housing additional defendants prior to cases going to trial, a process that can take years.
5. **The benefits of policing, itself, are a myth.** Policing is an institution that has been under reform almost since this country’s inception. Policing is an excuse not to listen to and heed the needs of those that aren’t part of the white upper classes, which violence of the policing serves to protect.

In summary, throwing good money after bad by investing in the pipe dream that BWCs will improve officer accountability is irresponsible, especially at a time when so many communities are in crisis.

Sincerely,

Gisela F Wilson, PhD  
1244 Morrison  
Madison, WI 53703  
District 6