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Subject: Police Chief Selection
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Dear Members of the Police and Fire Commission,

Thank you for once again going through the process to select our next Police Chief. This is a critical role and one I know you take seriously.

The Mayor herself has weighed in and says, “As Madison moves forward, we must prioritize stability, public trust, and a commitment to data-driven policing. Our next Chief should be someone who understands the needs of both our officers and the community they serve, and values accountability, equity, and evidence-based strategies to enhance safety. They must be able to balance strong internal leadership with meaningful community engagement and guide the department with a clear, data-informed vision that fosters intergovernmental collaboration and thoughtful reform.”

I agree with those sentiments and believe the candidate who meets all of these criteria, and more, is Interim Chief John Patterson. He knows his department and our community inside and out. He rose up through the ranks of MPD and knows every level of the organization. He was the right hand man to at least two chiefs, leading well through the challenges of 2020 and covid and all that period encompassed. And he has done an exemplary job in huge incidents since, like leading the department through the aftermath of the tragic school shooting at ALCS.

John Patterson is well respected inside the department and outside. He engages with community members and groups of all stripes. He has a strong commitment to public service that has been demonstrated over decades. He is a bridge-builder, a networker, and a befriender of people. He is professional, competent, and has a strong moral compass. He values data and analysis and makes decisions that make sense. And he is a progressive Team City player who values collaboration, unity, and shared leadership.

MPD employees at every level respect and follow his leadership.

And he has made Madison his priority for many years. He is committed to our community and will retire from this department.

As a resident of Madison for the last 25 years, I fully support Interim Chief John Patterson for the role of Police Chief. He is tested, tried, and true.

Thank you,

Bonnie Roe
District 11

