
REPORT OF: Alder Workgroup to Develop the Logistical and Operational Details for MPD Independent Civilian Oversight

SUBMITTED BY: Alder Moreland (Chair), Alder Bidar, and Alder Kemble

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BACKGROUND

The Madison Police Department (MPD) Policy and Procedure Review Ad Hoc Committee met for over four years and submitted its [final report](#) containing 177 recommendations to the Madison Common Council in October 2019. Given the utmost importance of the recommendation to create an independent monitor and a civilian oversight board, the committee submitted these recommendations in advance of the full report in order to ensure the inclusion of funding for the independent monitor in the 2020 budget. On August 6, 2019, the Madison Common Council adopted [RES-19-00587](#) (legistar file#56679), accepting two recommendations by the Madison Police Department Policy and Procedure Review Ad Hoc Committee: 1) Civilian Oversight/Independent Monitor's Office, and 2) Comprehensive Internal Review and Root-Cause Analysis of Critical Incidents. In order to provide structure and guidance for the implementation of the recommendation to create a civilian oversight board and an independent monitor, on June 6, 2020, the Madison Common Council adopted [RES-20-00459](#) (legistar file # 60764) establishing the Alder Workgroup to Develop the Logistical and Operational Details for MPD Independent Civilian Oversight.

The charge of the Alder Workgroup to Develop the Logistical and Operational Details for MPD Independent Civilian Oversight was to accomplish the following by August 4, 2020:

1. Creating an ordinance to establish independent civilian oversight of MPD, including provisions for the Civilian Oversight Board and Independent Monitor
2. Identifying budget and other support needed to ensure effective functioning of the Civilian Oversight Board and Independent Monitor, including drafting budget amendments, proposed staff support, training needed
3. Identifying the community organizations who will nominate some of the Civilian Oversight Board members
4. Creating a timeline and process for recruitment of Civilian Oversight Board members and hiring of Independent Monitor

WORKGROUP ACTIVITIES

The Alder Workgroup to Develop the Logistical and Operational Details for MPD Independent Civilian Oversight met ten (10) times between June 25 and August 3, 2020. Over the course of this five week period, the Workgroup crafted an ordinance establishing the Civilian Oversight Board and Office of the Independent Monitor; a position description for the Independent Monitor; a resolution delineating the use of the \$200,000 allocated in the 2020 budget for the establishment of a Civilian Oversight Board, which will then hire the Independent Monitor; identified the inaugural designated set of community organizations who will nominate nine (9) members of the Civilian Oversight Board.

In order to provide outreach on the work of the committee to the public, the Workgroup reached out to over fifty (50) community organizations (see attached list) and created a webpage dedicated to the work of the Workgroup (<https://www.cityofmadison.com/Council/meetings/alder-workgroup-civilian-oversight.cfm>). Fellow alders and members of the public, including representatives of a range of community organizations, as well as former members of the MPD Ad Hoc committee, attended the meetings. Because the Workgroup voted to suspend the rules and allow audience members to dialogue with committee members, they were able to gain substantive input from members of the public beyond the formal public comment process.

In its deliberations, the Workgroup paid particular attention to a number of issues, including:

- fidelity to the wording of the MPD Ad Hoc Committee recommendations;
- the need for the Civilian Oversight Board and Independent Police Monitor to be independent from both the Madison Police Department, and City elected officials and staff;
- legal and procedural nuances to assure the ability of the Independent Monitor and Civilian Oversight Board to have unfettered access to the documents and individuals that they will need to be successful, including subpoena power;
- the importance of diversity and lived experience in the composition of the Civilian Oversight Board;
- assuring adequate funding and staffing for the Office of the Independent Monitor;
- the need for comprehensive training for the Civilian Oversight Board; and
- the need for in-depth input from community organizations and resident stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Alder Workgroup to Develop the Logistical and Operational Details for MPD Independent Civilian Oversight makes the following recommendations:

1. Adopt [legistar# 61593](#), the 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;
2. Adopt [legistar# 60617](#), the resolution that provides funding and positions for a new Office of the Independent Police Monitor, funding for a new Police Civilian Oversight Board, and funding for legal representation costs for individuals that bring complaints before the Police and Fire Commission;

3. Adopt [legistar# 61595](#), amending MGO 3.54(9)(b) to add the position of Independent Police Monitor as a Compensation Group 21 level employee
4. Direct City of Madison Human Resources to design a recruitment process and recruit the Independent Monitor using the [position description drafted by the committee](#), and provide City staff support to the Civilian Oversight Board to conduct an equity analysis of the position before recruitment for the Independent Monitor begins;
5. Establish an administrative support team of existing City staff, including the Common Council Office and the Mayor's Office, to support the process of recruiting and initially establishing the Civilian Oversight Board;
6. Ensure sufficient financial support for the Civilian Oversight Board and Office of the Independent Monitor in the 2021 budget and going forward.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

As per their charge, the Alder Workgroup remained faithful to the wording of the MPD Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations. **Thus, although the Alder Workgroup did not add this language to the ordinance, we would like to strongly recommend a specification be added by the Common Council: the Civilian Oversight Board shall be composed of at least 50% Black members.** The Alder Workgroup feels strongly that this recommendation comports with the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations. Additionally, members of the MPD Ad Hoc Committee were present at the Alder Workgroup meetings and expressed their support for this item.

The Workgroup is deeply thankful for the following City staff for their expertise, diligence and support, especial given the time pressure under which our work needed to be completed: Common Council Legislative Analyst Karen Kapusta-Pofahl; City Attorney Michael Hass; Assistant City Attorneys John Strange and Marci Paulsen; and Finance Director David Schmiedicke. Last, but certainly not least, our continued gratitude to the committed residents who served on the MPD Policy and Procedure Review Ad Hoc Committee.