

From: Gregory Gelembiuk [mailto:gwgelemb@wisc.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2016 1:23 PM
To: Veldran, Lisa
Subject: Comments for 10/6/16 CCOC Subcommittee on Police/Community Relations Meeting

Dear Members of the CCOC Subcommittee on Police & Community Relations,

This is a short e-mail on a topic I plan to briefly address during the public comment period at Thursday's meeting.

As I'd mentioned in a prior e-mail (written on 9/25, to all alders), I have some concerns about the body cameras pilot program specified in the 2017 Capital Budget. My understanding is that Alder Eskrich plans to introduce an amendment, when the Capital Budget comes before the Council, to remove funding for this item.

If a pilot program is initiated this year, I believe it's critical that the framework, including the policies governing use of the cameras, be developed by an appropriate civilian oversight body (with a clear commitment from MPD to strict enforcement of the policies). That's important for multiple reasons, both practical and political.

I've been in communication with Adler McKinney about a potential amendment to the Capital Budget (specifically to the project narrative for the body camera item), and she's interested in sponsoring such an amendment.

Here is some potential language, which I shared with her, for the amendment (the added verbiage is underlined).

Agency: Police Department
Project: Police Body Cameras

Amendment:

Amend the final sentence to the project narrative to read:

The pilot program will take place in the North Police District upon development of a framework for the pilot, including but not limited to policies and practices, by the Madison Police Department Policy & Procedure Review Ad Hoc Committee, and adoption of a resolution by Common Council to proceed.

Discussion:

Part of the charge of the Community Policing and Body Camera Ad Hoc Committee was to develop policies for a body worn video pilot. This task was not completed, given a decision that, before body worn video implementation, measures to address community distrust of the police needed to be pursued. This led to the creation of the Madison Police Department Policy & Procedure Review Ad Hoc Committee. Members of the Community Policing and Body Camera Ad Hoc Committee, including the Chair and Vice Chair, were merged into the Madison Police Department Policy & Procedure Review Ad Hoc Committee when it was created. The task of developing body worn video policies for a pilot should now be completed by the merged committee. Given the complexity and sensitivity of the policy issues involved, including issues of civil rights and privacy, it is desirable that the framework be developed by a body representing the community and including representatives of vulnerable and marginalized communities.

Annual Impact:

The proposed amendment will have no impact on the operating budget.

Alder McKinney indicated that it may be desirable to include a role for the Public Safety Review Committee. Here is an alternate that seeks to accommodate that:

Amendment:

Amend the final sentence to the project narrative to read:

The pilot program will take place in the North Police District upon development of a framework for the pilot, including but not limited to policies and practices, by the Madison Police Department Policy & Procedure Review Ad Hoc Committee in consultation with the Public Safety Review Committee, and adoption of a resolution by Common Council to proceed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gregory Gelembiuk