

**From:** [D. G. Fitch](#)  
**To:** [City of Madison Police and Fire Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Madison police search comments  
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Hi folks, longtime Madison resident here with a few thoughts on the police chief search.

I would love for us to hire a police chief who understands that relying on police to solve every problem in our community is not sensible, fiscally sound, or really even possible at all. I would love for a police chief to not be power-hungry and instead find ways to redistribute and delegate responsibilities. For example, in my neighborhood there was a fire recently. All the fire and police support was great, but the traffic directors in these situations simply DO NOT need deadly weapons.

I would love for us to hire a police chief who would push for a way for people in our community to call the CARES program directly, without possibly sending armed law enforcement to escalate situations with violence.

I would love for us to hire a police chief who wants to work with restorative justice experts to change our long-standing extremely racist bias in arrests. We over-police poor people instead of giving them the support they need, and it's clear from my past 25 years of living here that using the police and our jail as a way to solve mental health, addiction, and housing problems is a non-starter. But police don't have to prove they improve our community; we live under property-centric capitalism, so we let the rich people throw money at police and prisons to "solve" problems like mental health and addiction by hiding them behind concrete walls and cages. That's NOT a real solution, y'all. It's making our world steadily worse. Punishment is not the solution to crime. We need someone capable of stepping back and looking at how to truly solve the root causes.

I would love for us to hire a police chief who understands that the militarization of police forces has sent us on a dangerous road toward authoritarian, white supremacist fascism in this country. Which is honestly pretty scary right now. Look around. We are seeing people kidnapped by unmarked, anonymous law enforcement goons wearing balaclavas. Those are secret police. Extremely not good.

I would love for our next police chief to fight against all those trends toward punishment and violence, but it feels like a distant, unlikely dream.

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