

WHEREAS, Dane County Wisconsin has one of the highest racial incarceration disparities in the United States, and

WHEREAS, in September 2009, the Dane County Task Force on Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System issued a report outlining over eighty recommendations to reduce racial disparities at the various decision points in Dane County's criminal justice system, and

WHEREAS, the Task Force Final Report reflects the views of community advocates, law enforcement, social service providers, members of the judiciary, educators, and the legal community, and

WHEREAS, Madison and Dane County pride themselves on being exceptional places to live, enjoying a rich history of creating an environment that welcomes people of different backgrounds and lifestyles,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Madison Common Council hereby fully and strongly supports the adoption of the Final Report of the Task Force on Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System and its recommendations by the Dane County Board of Supervisors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Madison will work cooperatively with Dane County and its Criminal Justice Implementation Team to implement the recommendations contained in the report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Madison Police Department and Department of Civil Rights will both be fully engaged in this process, ensuring that Madison plays a strong and active role in reducing and, ideally, eliminating the disparity that exists in our County.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Madison Common Council strongly urges the County Criminal Justice Implementation Team to provide regular reports to the Madison Department of Civil Rights detailing priorities, activities and accomplishments, and making recommendations regarding next steps.