



CITY OF MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT



INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: February 4, 2026

TO: Police and Fire Commission
FROM: Stephanie Drescher, Captain of Police
SUBJECT: **Re-hiring Process – Fabiola Ortiz**

Fabiola Ortiz competed in the hiring process for the academy class of 2019. She was approved for hiring by the Police and Fire Commission (PFC) at that time. Ortiz was initially hired by the Madison Police Department (MPD) with a start date of May 19, 2019. Ortiz completed MPD's 720-hour pre-service academy, completed all field training and began solo patrol in February of 2020. Ortiz was employed by the City and MPD as a commissioned officer until November 20, 2025. During her tenure at MPD, Ortiz completed all required trainings and was up to date on all certifications. Ortiz voluntarily left MPD and moved out of state. From her time of departure at MPD, Ortiz was not employed at any other police agency.

In January of 2026, Ortiz contacted the Chief's office requesting to return to MPD. Chief John Patterson authorized her return at that time, and she returned to employed status in the City on January 18, 2026. The training team was notified of her return and was asked to coordinate with her district command on return to duty needs. Since her return to MPD, Ortiz has been on special duty, not serving in a patrol capacity. She completed a medical clearance per the standard hiring process as well as a handgun and rifle qualification. A III background check was completed with no results. A State of Wisconsin Law Enforcement Standards Board (LESB) was contacted and a DJ-LE-303, Verification of Employment for Law Enforcement, was completed and approved by the Board authorizing Ortiz's employment through the State of Wisconsin. Ortiz left MPD at the rank of officer and is returning at the same rank. A point of discussion is whether or not Ortiz will have to serve any type of probationary period as PFC rules indicate the need for such only upon "initial appointment" or "promotion."

City Attorney Andrew Schauer was consulted and advised that there are no City APM's that would play a part in the re-hiring of Ortiz. An MOU was signed by Chief Patterson, Ortiz, Labor Relations Kurt Rose and Madison Professional Police Officer's Association President Kelly Powers outline Ortiz's seniority. Currently, Ortiz is slated to return to patrol operations on 3rd detail in the South district. Another point of discussion is whether or not Ortiz will need to be sworn in again and who can complete the swearing in. The LESB is honoring Ortiz's initial swearing in date of May 28, 2019.