From: Tyson Vitale
To: Alder Work Group Creating MPD Independent Civilian Oversight
Subject: Outreach Inc
Date: Monday, August 3, 2020 4:19:04 PM

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OutReach Inc - Police History

Main points:
OutReach's relationship with the MPD has a complicated history.
There is a general history in Madison of lesbian and gay people being welcomed by and working with the MPD.
Until 2018 LGBTQ+ police officers would regularly attend events and ask for LGBTQ+ training from OutReach.
The first pride parade that OutReach hosted was met with resistance from the MPD. OutReach was required to have an absurd amount of officers. No incidents.
In 2016 the issue of police in pride was first mentioned, as it had gained recognition in the greater LGBTQ+ community worldwide. Police presence had dropped considerably since 2014 due to an absence of incidents.
In 2017 the conversation became more intense as more police were required to be security at the parade due to what happened in Charlottesville.
Between 2017 and 2018 the Board met with the MPD, UWPD, stakeholders and community members to try to understand the issue of police in pride. There was a drastic divide between the community, the police, and stakeholders.
Initially, OutReach decided to include the police, but were exploring options to minimize the presence of police by using unmarked cars in security and having officers who are marching be off-duty, in plain clothes, and unarmed.
Koval would not allow officers to march as a police contingent unarmed and in plain clothes.
A few weeks before the parade the OutReach Board reversed their decision to include armed, uniformed, police contingents in OutReach's 2018 Pride Parade.
The backlash for this decision was swift and vitriolic.
Sponsors pulled their funding and people made threats to the organization, staff, and Board.
OutReach held a listening session with the police shortly after the decision was reversed, where the community continued to discuss the topic of police in pride. It was a tense and traumatic meeting with several community members recounting their personal experiences being victimized by the police.
The 2018 Pride parade went off without incident, aside from a wheelchair user reportedly being harassed by the Capitol Police.

Immediately following the pride parade OutReach continued conversations with the community and stakeholders.
After months of education and meetings OutReach decided to end their participation in organizing the pride parade and switch to a community focused, grassroots oriented event. Thus OutReach's Magic Festival was born.
The first OutReach Magic Festival featured private security from the community and did not require police.
Armed, uniformed police were not present at the event in any form.
The event was thought through extensively so that the event was safe, accessible, and open to all of those in the community.
A focal point of the event was a QTPOC community centered space.
It was community focused and attended by estimates of 5000 people.
There were no incidents.

OutReach has also been in an organizational transformation since 2018.
OutReach has been intentional about striving to recognize the barriers to access due to systemic oppression that

the LGBTQ+ community experiences, through an intersectional lens that recognizes the profound impact that race has on access within an already marginalized community.

Our Lives Articles:

https://ourlivesmadison.com/outreach-board-votes-to-withdraw-pride-parade-applications-by-madison-area-law-enforcement-groups/

https://ourlivesmadison.com/madison-police-express-support-for-outreach-in-wake-of-pride-parade-decision/

https://ourlivesmadison.com/article/pride-debrief-update/

https://ourlivesmadison.com/outreach-will-not-hold-pride-parade-in-2019-focus-is-on-festival-instead/

https://ourlivesmadison.com/article/whats-up-with-madison-pride/

Additional context to consider:

- Board President Jill Nagler completed the 9 week MPD Community Academy in 2018 to better understand the policies and procedures put into place by the MPD
- Board Director Dana Pellebon has a long history of interacting with the MPD in a professional capacity given her work with Porchlight, RCC, and DAIS
- Board Vice President Tyson Vitale is a strong supporter of the Civilian Oversight Committee

OutReach Mission Statement:

A commitment to equity and quality of life for all LGBTQ+ people through community building, health and human services, and economic, social and racial justice advocacy.

OutReach Press Releases (reverse chronological order):

https://www.outreachmadisonlgbt.org/post/outreach-statement-in-support-of-2020-res-145
https://www.outreachmadisonlgbt.org/post/outreach-statement-in-support-of-blm-protests
https://www.outreachmadisonlgbt.org/post/outreach-magic-festival-planning
https://www.outreachmadisonlgbt.org/post/pride-2019
https://www.outreachmadisonlgbt.org/post/police-pride-qtpoc
https://www.outreachmadisonlgbt.org/post/police-at-pride

Document: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eXyAohJZh4C7i2IJRD1dNUc3Or0lctZSdWb5kVyJcg8/edit?usp=sharing

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