



Badger State Sheriffs' Association, Inc.

An Association of Wisconsin Sheriffs

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President Sheriff Nate Dreckman
1st Vice President Sheriff Dale Schmidt
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July 11, 2022

Madison Police Department - Attn: Assistant Chief Paige Valenta
211 S. Carroll St.
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Proposed Ordinance

Dear Assistant Chief Valenta,

The Badger State Sheriffs' Association, comprised of all 72 Sheriffs in Wisconsin, received a request from Wisconsin Deputy Emergency Management Director Dallas Neville regarding feedback on a proposed ordinance the Common Council of the City of Madison may put forth. I have submitted the request to our membership and have received information from many Sheriffs.

Sheriffs in Wisconsin are committed to serving all citizens in Wisconsin to the best of their ability. We value our law enforcement partnerships throughout the state and are willing to offer resources to other agencies in times of need. This proposed ordinance has been shared with all Wisconsin Sheriffs and it is clear from the responses I've received that this ordinance would change how Sheriffs would respond to the City of Madison to assist with any kind of emergency incident. The responses have been unanimous that if this ordinance were implemented, Sheriffs would not send personnel to assist. I am sure you are well aware of the challenges this type of ordinance puts on law enforcement, but more importantly, the danger it places on the citizens and property within your city. Sheriffs are responsible for the safety of their deputies, and they will not send them into harm's way without the necessary tools they need to keep the community and law enforcement safe from harm.

A lesson learned over the last couple of years is the need to have clear rules of engagement before requesting assistance from other law enforcement agencies. Law enforcement executives must have this information before making a decision to assist. Police Chiefs and Sheriffs need to decide whether the rules of engagement from the requesting agency fit within their policies, procedures, and capabilities. If the ordinance is enacted, the rules of engagement will be expected to accompany any request for assistance. I reiterate, however, that with it in place, the Madison Police Department will get limited if any additional law enforcement assistance from the Sheriffs.

We hope that the Common Council sees that enacting this ordinance will have detrimental effects on their citizens and property, and it will hamper the ability of the Madison Police Department to request assistance from law enforcement in Wisconsin.

Respectfully,

Sheriff Nate Dreckman – Grant County
President Badger State Sheriffs' Association