

**From:** [SUSAN WILLIAMS](#)  
**To:** [City of Madison Police and Fire Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Recommendation for Acting Police Chief John Patterson  
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Dear Madison Police and Fire Commission,

I am writing on behalf of Acting Chief John Patterson, a candidate for the permanent position of Chief of Police. I have had the privilege of knowing John for over 20 years, and during that time, I have watched him grow from a dedicated officer into the natural leader he is today.

John is compassionate, understanding, and caring—qualities that define his interactions with both the public and his colleagues. At the same time, he possesses the confidence and decisiveness necessary to take control of critical situations. The Madison Police Department has been fortunate to have someone of his caliber within its ranks throughout his career.

I had the honor of working alongside John during my final year as Assistant Chief of Support Services, as he had been selected to succeed me upon my retirement. He proved to be a quick study, someone who builds strong relationships and represents the department with professionalism and integrity.

I personally witnessed John's ability to build bridges with communities of color, aided not only by his genuine empathy but also by his ability to speak Spanish. I observed how skillfully he navigated the complex political environment, maintaining strong working relationships with city council members, the mayor, and her staff. Most importantly, I saw how he motivated and led officers and civilian staff with fairness and consistency.

Now more than ever, the Madison Police Department needs a leader who is trusted, respected, and capable of moving the department forward in a positive and inclusive direction. John Patterson is that leader. He is not only well-liked and trusted by the community, but also by the officers and civilian employees of the department.

I strongly support his appointment as Chief of Police and have full confidence in his ability to continue leading the department with integrity, vision, and compassion.

Respectfully submitted,

Retired Assistant Chief Sue Williams

Sent from my iPhone