

# Application for 7th Aldermanic District Vacancy

---

**Name:** Joseph ("Joe") Balles  
**Address:** 7130 Lindfield Road, Madison  
**Cell Phone:** 608-516-4420  
**Email:** [joseph.balles@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.balles@gmail.com)

**Date:** October 21, 2020  
**To:** Sheri Carter, Council President  
Kwasi Obeng, Council Chief of Staff  
**From:** Joe Balles  
**Subject:** 7<sup>th</sup> Aldermanic District Vacancy

Please accept this correspondence as my official interest in filling the vacancy for the 7<sup>th</sup> Aldermanic District position created when Donna Moreland notified Council Leadership of her resignation from the position effective September 30, 2020. It is my understanding Council Leadership seeks to fill this position very quickly as there is much work to do reviewing and approving the Mayor's 2021 Executive Budget over the next month. Per your request, attached is my resume which I will elaborate on in my response to the additional questions you have requested interested applicants respond.

## **Statement on why the applicant wishes to serve**

There are three main reasons why I "wish to serve" as the 7<sup>th</sup> Aldermanic District representative:

1. After serving on the Madison Police Department for 32 ½ years, I see this as a truly unique opportunity to serve and represent the residents of the 7<sup>th</sup> Aldermanic District in an entirely new and different way.
2. My love, passion and appreciation for the beauty, vibrancy and opportunities provided by this community to my family and me and for over almost 40 years.
3. To utilize and leverage many years of community volunteerism and service with a number of different civic organizations (United Way, Madison South Rotary, etc.) to the benefit of the residents in the 7<sup>th</sup> Aldermanic District.

**Additional Background Information:** I am obviously very familiar with the City of Madison having had the privilege and honor to serve on the Madison Police Department (MPD). In my final seven years with MPD, I served as the South District captain where I worked very closely with four different Madison aldermanic districts and several neighborhood associations. Included amongst this list of distinguished alders I have worked and collaborated with over the years are current and past Council Presidents. From January 2009 to January 2016, as the South District captain, I worked closely with alders addressing numerous critical incidents which impacted our community. I also worked closely to resolve neighborhood issues whether they be simple speeding and traffic related concerns or more complex chronic nuisance abatement issues such as the Expo Inn, problematic licensed establishments or large apartment complexes. Without doubt my long history serving the City of Madison while with MPD, and my

## Application for 7th Aldermanic District Vacancy

---

understanding of both the capital and operating budget processes will certainly assist me, if chosen, to serve as the 7<sup>th</sup> District alder.

Besides my MPD work history, there are many other reasons why I wish to serve as the 7<sup>th</sup> District alder. First and foremost is simply my love for this beautiful place we call Madison, and that I have called “home” for many years now. Early on in my MPD career, I made a decision to always be a “City of Madison” resident while working for MPD. In the 1980’s, I watched as the entire City employee residency issue unfolded. By the end of the 80’s, the City’s residency requirements for most labor organizations were largely overturned. Nonetheless, I believed if you have the privilege of serving in the role of police officer for a community, and that community is paying you to serve and protect, it is not asking much too be a resident of the community and participate in the civic life of that community. To me, being a City of Madison police officer was much, much more than just a “job.” It was the greatest opportunity, honor and privilege in my life. For over 30 years, I am proud to say, I have made that trip back and forth to “my job” from my home in Madison’s 7<sup>th</sup> Aldermanic District.

So where exactly is my City of Madison home? Well there have not been many. During the early and mid-1980’s, at the beginning of my MPD career while working night shift patrol downtown and attending graduate school at the UW during the day, I was living in a small duplex with my wife at the time at the end of Frisch Road just off Raymond. In the mid 1980’s, the entire area behind Channel 3 (WISC-TV) and Muirfield Road (now the 7<sup>th</sup> District) was just being developed. In early 1987, at a much younger 26 years old, I attended a Midland Builders (now Veridan) home buying seminar at the former Park Bank building at Raymond and McKenna Blvd. A few days later once approved by Valley Bank for a mortgage, I signed a contract to build a “spec home” on a cul-de-sac called “Lindfield Road” just west of Muirfield. I moved into that house in August 1987, which has now been my home for 33 years now. You might even call me a “7<sup>th</sup> District Settler.” Having lived in the 7<sup>th</sup> District and the far SW side of Madison for over three decades, I am knowledgeable of both the history of our neighborhood and the daily concerns expressed by neighbors (e.g. traffic safety, gun violence, juvenile crime or just basic City of Madison services). In fact just a few weeks ago an MPD officer showed up one morning at our front door with some personal property belonging to my wife which happened to be stolen from her car the night before when she had left her car unlocked. Sound familiar?

In closing my response to this question, I simply want to say a few words about my long history of volunteerism and civic engagement here in Madison. Many of these are listed on my resume, but I would like to highlight a few below:

- United Way of Dane County Vision Council and Allocation Volunteer: In the early 1990’s while serving a four year stint as the MPD Broadway-Simpson Neighborhood Officer, I was recruited by Kathy Hubbard and the United Way to serve as an allocation volunteer. This grew into a multi-year volunteer on the United Way’s Vision Council which is responsible for reviewing nearly \$8,000,000 in grants every year to non-profit organizations across Dane County.

## Application for 7th Aldermanic District Vacancy

---

- Madison South Rotary Club: Also while serving as the Broadway-Simpson Neighborhood Officer, a South District co-worker (Detective George Croal), connected me with the Madison South Rotary Club who would provide me with a \$500 grant to collect and repair old bikes for youth in the neighborhood once school released for the summer. This project paid huge dividends in creating “trust based relationships” with families and youth in the neighborhood. When I was promoted to Sergeant in 1993, I became a member of the Madison South Rotary Club and continue to be an active member today. I am a Past President and have served, off and on, as the Chair of the Madison South Rotary Foundation for many years.
- Madison Community Policing Foundation, Inc.(MCPF): Upon my retirement from MPD in January 2016, I sought out four other recent MPD retirees all of whom were amongst some of the original “Neighborhood Police Officers.” As a group, we incorporated and created a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, (MCPF), to accomplish three objectives:
  - Support both financially and with volunteers any community policing activities or events which bring police officers, youth, adults and elderly together.
  - Honor those men and women police officers working in our communities today, and those who served our communities in the past.
  - Grow the relationship between local police and our communities.Over the past five years, MCPF has raised over \$200,000 which has been used to support the community policing mission and activities of the Madison Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies in Dane County.
- Dane County Community Restorative Court: In the last 1 ½ years of my MPD service, I had another great opportunity and privilege to work with Dane County Human Services Administrator, Ron Chance, in creating Dane County’s first Community Restorative Court (CRC) in the South Police District. The CRC was based on a model of community based-restorative justice we were able to visit and see first-hand in New York City. Today, the CRC model has been expanded to many other communities in Dane County serving 17-25 year old adults who are facing possible criminal charges by law enforcement. The CRC use the principals of restorative justice, seeks to repair the harm caused by the act to the victim and community, and most importantly support the offender in understanding how to avoid similar behavior or contact with law enforcement in the future. Upon my retirement from MPD in January 2016, I also became a trained “Peacemaker” and have served on CRC panels in South Madison.

### Statement on what the applicant wants to accomplish

In terms of what I would like to accomplish, my response is fairly short and straightforward and summarized below:

1. To represent the interests and concerns of 7<sup>th</sup> District residents as the Council begins discussion and debate on the Mayor’s 2021 Executive Budget. 2020 has been a very difficult year given the COVID 19 pandemic and racial justice issues in our community. There are significant fiscal decisions which the Council will be striving to reach

## Application for 7th Aldermanic District Vacancy

---

consensus on. I believe I can assist the Council in these discussions and also represent the voices of 7<sup>th</sup> District residents in those discussions as well.

2. To obtain a better understanding as to what it's like to serve as an elected official and representative. While I've worked closely with dozens of City of Madison alders over the years, I never thought that I might one day actually serve in such a role. If chosen by the Council to serve in this interim position, I look forward to learning more about the position and building mentor-mentee relationships with other alders currently on the Council.
3. If appointed, I would love to meet with former 7<sup>th</sup> District Alder Donna Moreland and learn from her how she communicated with the residents of this area. We have some neighborhood associations in the 7<sup>th</sup> District. Some are very active; others not so much. I would really like to get some idea from Donna as to what the baseline is for civic engagement amongst 7<sup>th</sup> District residents, and to whatever extent I can seek to grow the relationship between alder and 7<sup>th</sup> District residents to whatever extent I can.

### **Statement on whether the applicant plans to run for alderperson in the spring 2021 election**

In regards to my interest in filing nomination papers to run for 7<sup>th</sup> District Aldermanic representative in the spring 2021 election, I have not made a decision at this time. In short, I cannot commit at this time, but would certainly not rule out such a possibility. I really see the interim appointment as of most importance right now as there are significant Council issues to discuss and resolve as they relate to the Mayor's 2021 Executive Budget. Once the budget is passed, and I see what the Council calendar looks like heading into 2021, my wife Therese and I will give this topic the proper thought and discussion it deserves. I see that nomination papers can be circulated in December, and are due to the City Clerk's Office in early January.

Respectfully submitted,



Joe Balles,  
Applicant for 7<sup>th</sup> Aldermanic District Vacancy

# Joseph Balles

Captain of Police, (Retired) - JB Public Safety Consulting LLC

608 516 4420 | [joseph.balles@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.balles@gmail.com) | 7130 Lindfield Road, Madison, WI 53719



## Summary

Senior police executive with three decades of progressive policing experience looking to share, expand and grow the ideas, core values and principles of police professionalism, procedural justice, community policing and problem solving.

## Experience

JB Public Safety Consulting LLC ( <i>contract references available upon request</i> ).	2017 - Present
City of Madison, WI Police Department	
Captain of Police	2009 - 2016
Lieutenant of Police	2000 - 2008
Sergeant of Police	1993 - 1999
Police Officer	1983 - 1992

## Education

FBI National Academy, Session #227, Quantico, VA	2006
Masters of Science Degree, LaFollette Institute of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison	1988
Bachelors of Science Degree, Criminal Justice, University of Wisconsin-Platteville	1983
Aquin Central Catholic High School, Freeport, IL	1979

## Affiliations

Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association, Affiliate Member	2016 - Present
FBI National Academy Associates - Wisconsin Chapter, Member	2006 - Present
Police Executive Research Forum, Member	2009 - Present
International Association of Chiefs of Police, Member	1993 - Present

## Community Service

Madison Community Policing Foundation, Inc., Chair	2016 - Present
Dane County Community Restorative Court Advisory Committee, Member	2014 - Present
Rotary Club of Madison South, Past President & Long Time Member	1993 - Present
First Tee of South Central Wisconsin, Vice Chair and Board of Directors	2009 - 2017
Simpson Street Free Press, Inc., Board of Directors	2012 - 2016
United Way of Dane County, Vision Council Member & Long Time Volunteer	1994 - 2017



## **Biographical Statement Captain Joe Balles (Retired)**

In January 2016, Captain Joe Balles retired from the City of Madison, WI Police Department after completing a thirty two plus year career. Captain Balles earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville (1983), and a Master's Degree in Public Affairs from the La Follette Institute of Public Policy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1988). Captain Balles is also a graduate of the prestigious F.B.I. National Academy (2006).

Captain Balles served in a variety of "operational" and "support" roles during his years of service with the Madison Police Department. In his last seven years with MPD, he served as commander for the MPD's South Police District overseeing 50 plus officers, detectives, supervisors and command staff. The MPD's South District is located in one of the most demographically diverse areas in Madison, yet has a reputation of being one of MPD's police districts with the strongest connections to the community and neighborhoods throughout the district. (For more information see: [http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/crime-and-courts/capt-joe-balles-retiring-after-decades-with-madison-police/article\\_20f7c8c6-33b1-57e5-956b-4cdb44f87306.html](http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/crime-and-courts/capt-joe-balles-retiring-after-decades-with-madison-police/article_20f7c8c6-33b1-57e5-956b-4cdb44f87306.html))

Creating and maintaining safe neighborhoods and schools is a constant challenge for police departments across the United States. The Madison Police Department has a long history and progressive culture of police leadership and community policing. The MPD has often been at the forefront nationally in developing innovative, community based strategies for addressing crime, fear and disorder. Captain Balles has been a long time community policing leader within the MPD especially in the areas of "problem oriented policing" and "restorative justice." Captain Balles has also maintained, for many years, a long history of community involvement with organizations like the United Way of Dane County, Madison South Rotary, the Simpson Street Free Press, The First Tee of South Central Wisconsin, and more recently as a community "peacemaker" for the South Madison Community Restorative Court.

Since his retirement in January 2016, Captain Balles brought together a small group of MPD retirees and together they created the *Madison Community Policing Foundation, Inc.* This tax exempt, charitable non-profit organization seeks to SUPPORT, HONOR and GROW the community policing efforts of police departments in the Madison area (For more information see: [www.madisoncommunitypolicingfoundation.org](http://www.madisoncommunitypolicingfoundation.org)). Captain Balles has also been busy in retirement providing safety and security related technical assistance to various police departments and the Madison Metropolitan School District. In March 2017, Captain Balles and Safe Communities of Madison-Dane County were selected by the City of Madison as the vendor to provide project coordinator services for the MPD's *Madison Area Recovery Initiative (or MARI)*. This new and innovative approach to addiction seeks to build a system whereby MPD police officers are able to facilitate direct assessment and treatment referrals for opiate and heroine addicted individuals they encounter on calls for service or through investigation.