

From: [Patrick DePula](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Resolution 90986 – Letter for Council Consideration
Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 4:52:02 PM
Attachments: [Patrick DePula Letter Resolution 90986.pdf](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from pdepula@ci.monona.wi.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear President and Members of the Madison Common Council,

Attached for your review is a letter outlining my concerns with Resolution File 90986.

I share the goal of effective, coordinated public safety across jurisdictions, but I believe the resolution, as written, relies on an inaccurate characterization of cited guidance and risks undermining the cooperative spirit that mutual aid depends upon. I respectfully ask that the Council consider the points raised in the attached letter before taking further action.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Patrick DePula
Alderman, Monona City Council
Chairperson, Monona Public Safety Committee
son, Monona Public Safety Committee

Patrick DePula
Alder
He/Him/his
City of Monona
[5211 Schluter Road](#)
[Monona, WI 53716](#)
Population: 8,624
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Patrick DePula

Alderperson, Monona City Council
Chairperson, Monona Public Safety Committee
City of Monona
5211 Schluter Road
Monona, WI 53716

January 13, 2026

Madison Common Council

City County Building
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Room 505
Madison, WI 53703

Dear President and Members of the Madison Common Council,

I write to express my opposition to **Resolution File 90986**. While I appreciate the desire to address extraordinary costs associated with public safety responses, this resolution raises serious policy concerns and relies on a misleading characterization of external guidance that should be corrected before further consideration.

The resolution asserts that Madison Police Department pursuit policy is “in alignment with national standards set by the Department of Justice,” and cites a link in support of that claim. However, the document linked contains an explicit disclaimer stating that it does not represent the views or opinions of the U.S. Department of Justice, and that responsibility for the content rests with the authors.

“This publication does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the U.S. Department of Justice. Responsibility for the information and views expressed herein lies entirely with the authors.”

(excerpted from the document cited in Resolution 90986)

Characterizing this material as DOJ-established national standards is inaccurate and materially misleading when used to justify legislative action or intergovernmental criticism.

This distinction matters because Resolution 90986 goes beyond internal policy alignment, and instead attempts to financially penalize neighboring municipalities, including Monona, through cost recovery tied to mutual aid responses, effectively using disputed policy interpretations as leverage over another jurisdiction’s law enforcement practices.

It is also important to acknowledge that mutual aid is not a one-way cost burden. The City of Monona routinely incurs significant, unreimbursed expenses on behalf of the City of Madison as a direct result of our own public safety policies. **Monona police officers are equipped with body-worn cameras as a matter of policy.** Madison, despite being the second-largest police department in the state, has chosen not to implement body-worn cameras.

When Monona officers respond to major incidents in Madison, including events such as the Abundant Life shooting, where Monona officers were among the first on scene and the first inside the building, Monona assumes substantial administrative and legal costs. These include responding to public records requests, reviewing footage, redacting sensitive material, and managing compliance with Wisconsin open records law. **Despite this, Monona has never sought to bill Madison for these costs**, nor suggested that Madison's policy choices should trigger financial liability during mutual aid responses.

The empirical record also demonstrates that Monona exercises restraint in its pursuit practices.

2024: 51 total pursuits, 41 percent voluntarily terminated, 11 involving outside agency assists
2025 (preliminary): 38 total pursuits, over 30 percent terminated, 8 involving outside agency assists

It is important to note that Monona employs a deliberately conservative reporting standard. Any initiated pursuit, even one lasting a half block before termination, is counted as a pursuit. Not all agencies use this methodology. **As a result, Monona's reported numbers reflect transparency and caution**, not aggressiveness, and should not be mischaracterized or used to justify punitive measures.

I would also like to note that the Madison Police Chief and the Monona Police Chief met this morning, and had a productive, constructive discussion. They are actively working together to address mutual concerns and improve coordination. **This is exactly how intergovernmental public safety issues should be handled**, through professional dialogue, collaboration, and shared problem solving.

For that reason, I am particularly concerned that Resolution 90986 risks creating a hostile or adversarial dynamic between neighboring municipalities at a time when our leadership teams are engaged in good faith cooperation. Mutual aid depends on trust. Policies that frame cooperation through a lens of punishment or financial retribution threaten to undermine that trust and weaken regional public safety outcomes.

For these reasons, I urge the Common Council to reconsider Resolution 90986 as written, correct the factual record regarding the cited national standards, and allow ongoing inter-agency collaboration to continue without the pressure of a resolution that risks doing more harm than good.

Respectfully,

Patrick DePula

Alderperson, Monona City Council

Chairperson, Monona Public Safety Committee

From: [Kim I. Richman](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Item #73 -- Legistar #90986
Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 7:43:36 PM

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Dear Alders,

I'm writing in opposition to item-73 -- Legistar #90986.

10 years ago, 2 Madison residents launched the Good Neighbor Project.

The project focuses on building relationships between neighbors and neighborhoods and bringing them together. I'm proud to be an administrator of one of the Good Neighbor Projects with over 1000 members.

Speaking of good neighbors, in the past year, Monona PD has assisted MPD on over 200 occasions. **I'm using Monona PD as an example, since they seemed to have raised the ire of 5 alders who are co-sponsoring this resolution, and I did some research.**

Assistance includes everything from K9 deployments and homicides to officers requesting emergency assistance, and significant calls such as the Abundant Life tragedy, **in which Monona PD was among the first on scene. At the request of MPD, Monona police, and other agencies provided coverage in Madison** while MPD was tied up for most of the day and beyond, after the tragedy.

Monona PD, along with agencies from all over the state, also responded to requests for emergency assistance from MPD during the 2020 riots.

To quote Monona Police Chief Brian Chaney in a WKOW article, **".... Monona PD spent hundreds of personal hours and thousands of dollars in resources, and in that time, the Monona Police Department has never submitted a bill for reimbursement."**

It makes me wonder what the communities around us are now thinking, and imagine if they would request reimbursement from the City of Madison for their assistance.

They haven't, because they're good neighbors. You see, the Capitol Area Police Mutual Aid Response system operates in all directions, and mutual aid embodies the essence of being a good neighbor.

Calling out ONE department for having, in your opinion, "....more aggressive policies which allow for far less restrictions and arguably encourage their officers to engage in pursuits...." is presumptuous, unneighborly, irresponsible, and uncalled for.

In a recent editorial in a Madison newspaper, Mr. Al Rickey wrote,

"This proposal reeks of arrogance and demonstrates a disconnect with the realities of policing and the inherent dangers involved. Policing can be a dynamic endeavor with split-second decisions. And threats imposed by a few out-of-touch Madison City Council members illustrate their collective ignorance.

Moreover, the proposal ignores the potential chilling effect on Madison's future mutual aid needs in the event of a critical incident such as a school shooting. Who will rush to help?"

It's OK to have differences in policies and operations, but perhaps a city that doesn't allow body-worn cameras on police, or School Resource Officers, and a few years ago tried to block funding for less-than-lethal options for the Madison

Police, should not be the ones who lecture others about modern policing practices.

Thank you,

Kim Richman
District 16

#

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

From: [Allen Rickey](#)
To: [Bonnie Roe](#); psrc@cityofmadison.com; [PD PSRC](#)
Cc: [All Alders](#); [Patterson, John](#); [Tye, Matthew](#)
Subject: Re: Resolution #90986
Date: Sunday, December 21, 2025 5:50:48 PM

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Thank you.

Al Rickey

On Sunday, December 21, 2025, 4:11 PM, Bonnie Roe <bonnie.roe@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Members of the PSRC,

In case you haven't seen it, I wanted to draw your attention to a letter to the editor by Al Rickey, retired MPD detective, which was published in today's Wisconsin State Journal regarding Legistar #90986, discussed at your last meeting.

Last Sunday's Wisconsin State Journal revisited the tragic school shooting that occurred last year at Abundant Life Christian School on Madison's East Side.

In one of the articles, "Aftermath about relationships, recovery," reporter Anna Hansen interviewed a Madison Police Department lieutenant who addressed the first-responder response, emphasizing that "interagency relationships were a massive part of the shooting response." According to the article, police and ambulances from across the state filled the school lot.

Ironically, a few Madison City Council members are proposing that, when outside agencies require mutual aid, the city of Madison will seek to recover any applicable expenses incurred in providing that aid. This is a vindictive response to the Monona Police Department's recent vehicle pursuit, where a Madison police officer suffered personal injury and wrecked a squad car while assisting.

This proposal reeks of arrogance and demonstrates a disconnect with the realities of policing and the inherent dangers involved. Policing can be a dynamic endeavor with split-second decisions. And threats imposed by a few out-of-touch Madison City Council members illustrate their collective ignorance.

Moreover, the proposal ignores the potential chilling effect on Madison's future mutual aid needs in the event of a critical incident such as a school shooting. Who will rush to help?

--Al Rickey, Madison

I hope you will take these concerns to heart as the resolution comes back to PSRC for a vote and that you will recommend that the Common Council vote no on this dangerous legislation which will likely have a chilling effect on our critical law enforcement partners. The City of Madison should stand behind our police officers and gratefully pay the expenses they incur in service to our community, wherever they occur. Policing is sometimes dangerous work and this is why the City has insurance.

Thank you,

Bonnie Roe
District 11

YOUR VIEWS

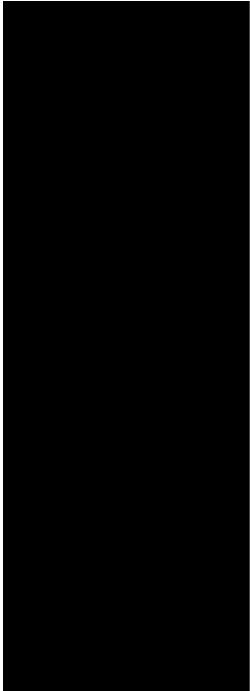
Mutual aid was key in response to shooting

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Al Rickey, Madison

From: [Bonnie Roe](#)
To: psrc@cityofmadison.com; [PD PSRC](#)
Cc: [All Alders](#); [Patterson, John](#); [Tye, Matthew](#)
Subject: Resolution #90986
Date: Sunday, December 21, 2025 4:11:29 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Members of the PSRC,

In case you haven't seen it, I wanted to draw your attention to a letter to the editor by Al Rickey, retired MPD detective, which was published in today's Wisconsin State Journal regarding Legistar #90986, discussed at your last meeting.

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--Al Rickey, Madison

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Thank you,

Bonnie Roe
District 11

YOUR VIEWS

Mutual aid was key in response to shooting

By Al Rickey, Madison

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Moreover, the proposal ignores the potential chilling effect on Madison's future mutual aid needs in the event of a critical incident such as a school shooting. Who will rush to help?

Al Rickey, Madison

From: [Bonnie Roe](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Legistar #90986
Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 7:24:59 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I'm writing in opposition to the proposed resolution (#90986) to recoup 'extraordinary expenses' from our neighboring jurisdictions during mutual aid calls. Please consider the long-term, structural damage this resolution could inflict on our regional safety."

"Mutual aid is built on a foundation of 'neighbor helping neighbor.' A reciprocal system, not a transactional one. Since Monona was called out in the ordinance, I'll just echo what the last speaker said. They've helped us out a lot and never asked for a bill. By formalizing a policy to invoice them for pursuit-related costs, we are fundamentally changing our relationship with our neighbors. We risk cheapening the excellent, free-will, generous response our neighboring agencies have with one another.

This resolution could introduce dangerous hesitation into split-second life-safety decisions. Our officers and supervisors may pause and wonder: 'Could this be an "extraordinary" expense? Will the City Attorney sue the neighbor if I get into a crash?' In law enforcement, hesitation kills. We cannot ask our officers to perform a fiscal risk-benefit analysis while their colleagues are in the middle of a high-speed emergency. Mutual aid must remain automatic and unquestioned to ensure that no officer is ever left without backup."

"Finally, this resolution attempts to use financial penalties to force our neighbor to adopt Madison's pursuit values. While I agree that Madison's policy is likely safer, and way more restrictive, Monona holds another important value. Madison prioritizes risk mitigation while Monona prioritizes deterrence. Monona's leaders argue that if criminals know the police won't chase them, it creates a "safe haven" for crime and encourages even more reckless driving. I know that I – and many fellow Madisonians – are thankful for the work the MOPD does to keep our streets safer. We have different, yet important, values and the City of Madison should not try to legislate the policies of another city through their checkbook.

The biggest problem I have with this moving forward tonight is that when it was referred to the PSRC, they wanted the language tightened up and some key words – like extraordinary – defined and the re-worked resolution brought back before the PSRC before it came here for a vote. That was the clear intent of the committee. I hope one of you Alders will move to re-refer this to the PSRC and that there will not be a vote tonight.

In closing, this resolution may save a few dollars in the short term, but the cost to our regional trust, officer safety, and collaborative spirit will be far higher. If you do vote on this tonight, I ask you to vote 'No' on this resolution and instead work out any bumps in regional policy alignment through partnership, not penalties.

Thank you,

Bonnie Roe

District 11

From: [Bonnie Roe](#)
To: [Figueroa Cole, Yannette](#)
Cc: [All Alders](#); [Patterson, John](#)
Subject: 90986
Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 8:17:44 PM

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Alder Figueroa-Cole,

As hopefully you were able to figure out via Attorney Haas, the ability to reimburse has been allowed for years through state statute. It didn't even have to be "extraordinary." Therefore this resolution is nothing but a slap in the face to our mutual aid partners, especially Monona, which was called out. It was a stick to apply pressure on Monona to change their pursuit policy (and that was acknowledged in tonight's meeting), which the City of Madison has no business doing.

Maybe MPD could say their officers cannot respond to mutual aid when it involves a pursuit instead of trying to manipulate a change of another municipality's policy. The policy has stood the test of time in Monona.

Law enforcement partners pay attention to these kinds of things done in bad faith and it has a harmful impact, whether you (and the Chief) ever understand that or not. But... *"The goal has been met."*

Bonnie