

Dear Transportation Commission and Public Safety Review Committee,

We the undersigned Parking Enforcement Officers oppose the move to Parking Utility for the following reasons: (The following concerns are not truly addressed in the study.)

A Parking Enforcement Officer's (PEO's) job is significantly different than any other city worker who interacts with the public directly. PEO's assist in car crashes, homeless issues, traffic control, amber and silver alerts, missing persons alerts, locating and finding stolen vehicles, alerting dispatch and officers to wanted persons. Solid measures to keep PEO's safe have not been fully addressed. Parking Enforcement Officers will lose uniforms and a direct working relationship with Police Officers, NCIC, dispatchers, and having access to all Police channels are essential for PEO's safety and public safety. This connection is important because we are regularly verbally attacked and frequently attacked physically. Working as citizens to enforce State Statutes and City Ordinances goes hand-in-hand with Police Officer duties. Police Officers are our lifeline while on the streets enforcing State Statutes and City Ordinances.

The Financial cost of moving Parking Enforcement Officers to Parking Utility seems wildly unnecessary during city-wide financial concerns and forced furloughs during a pandemic. The financial cost will directly impact The City of Madison, City Employees, Parking Utility, and taxpayers. Forcing these entities into a future financial catastrophe seems unnecessary.

Parking Enforcements loss of MPD benefits, job security, and stability after the move to Parking Utility includes, but is not limited to: Access to physical equipment and protections to keep us healthy and well, mental and emotional health wellness especially after a critical incident, access and immediate support to MPD diversity groups, and enjoying a culture of diversity in the workplace. MPD provides focused trainings on how to better serve our neighborhoods and citizens. MPD provides leadership groups and a strong chain of command to problem solve to better serve the public. PEO's will lose enforcement discretion which will directly impact our city and what citizens expect from Parking Enforcement. The loss of these benefits to Parking Enforcement Officers and the Public is unfair, detrimental to our health and wellbeing, and unaccounted for in the study.

It is unclear why this move needs to happen, but moving Parking Enforcement Employees does not seem to satisfy the Defund the Police movement in both functionality and politically. The move of Parking Enforcement Officers to Parking Utility seems illogical and unsatisfying.

This plan to move Parking Enforcement Officers to Parking Utility seems rushed and not well thought out. There are too many unknown variables such as Safety issues for the public, safety issues for PEO's, the financial cost to everyone involved within the City of Madison. We the undersigned, which is, comprised of the vast majority of the Parking Enforcement Unit, wish to publicly make known that we believe this move would vastly and devastatingly degrade both our quality of work and quality of life which will impact our City.



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