

**Larsen, Laura**

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**From:** Jack Ringhand <jackringhand@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 20, 2020 5:07 PM  
**To:** Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Opposition to Items #17 and #18

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Hello Finance Committee,

My name is Jack Ringhand. I would like to make my opposition to Items #17 and #18 of tonight's agenda known to you all. I firmly believe that we should NOT use public funds to bail out private businesses or property. I recognize that private businesses are in crisis, yet we need to first recognize and funnel public funds to public spaces, resources, and issues that too are in crisis. Please vote to oppose the above agenda items.

Thank you.  
Jack Ringhand

## Larsen, Laura

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**From:** Amy Owen <amydownen@hushmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 20, 2020 4:36 PM  
**To:** Finance Committee  
**Subject:** 7/20 meeting: please oppose items 17 & 18, support items 20 & 21

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Dear Finance Committee,

I am writing to request the following actions for your meeting tonight, 7/20/2020.

1) OPPOSE Item #18, resolution 61060 - Amending the 2020 Adopted Capital Budget to appropriate \$250,000 for the Downtown Recovery Program and \$250,000 for the Downtown Equity Program by appropriating \$105,000 from the Capital Revolving Loan Fund and transferring \$395,000 in GO Borrowing from various capital projects.

(2) OPPOSE Item #17, resolution 60995 - Creating Section 4.33 of the Madison General Ordinances to establish a Downtown Recovery Program Ordinance.

(3) SUPPORT Item #20, resolution 61252 - to "prohibit MPD from obtaining any property from the Defense Logistics Agency under the 1033 Program"

I may have registered as opposed to this item in error on the website. To clarify, I support this and am asking you to support this.

(4) SUPPORT Item #21, resolution 61137 - Authorizing the termination of the contract with the Madison Metropolitan School District to provide School Resource Officers for the four MMSD high schools.

Thank you,  
Amy Owen  
3129 Buena Vista St  
Madison, WI 53704

## Larsen, Laura

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**From:** Nicholas Davies <nbdavies@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 20, 2020 4:30 PM  
**To:** Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Police reform measures 61252 and 61137

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Dear Finance Committee members,

Before you this afternoon, you have two items that will help our city achieve immediate action and progress in the aftermath of the police murder of George Floyd and the nationwide wave of police violence since then.

Here in Madison, we saw our own department respond to a protest of police brutality with yet more police brutality. Our officers marched through the city in armor, and assaulted our friends and neighbors with chemical and ballistic weapons. They targeted bystanders, street musicians, journalists, elected officials like yourselves, among many others. The overpoliced communities in our city might be more familiar with the ugly side of the department, but I was appalled.

I urge you two pass:

61252 - This would bar Madison PD from wasteful spending on militarization. For instance, through the DOD program, Madison PD has bought a mine resistant vehicle for about \$700K. Rather than pay an officer's salary for 10 years or more, they bought a vehicle they have no legitimate need for.

61137 - We need to end this program that only seems to give young people of color an early taste of the overpolicing they'll face as adults. The mayor supports ending it, the school board supports ending it, the students support ending it.

Thank you!  
Nick Davies  
640 W Wilson St 409

## Larsen, Laura

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**From:** JACK K PHILLIPS <jack.phillips@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 20, 2020 4:26 PM  
**To:** Finance Committee; Moreland, Donna; Verveer, Michael; Foster, Grant; Kemble, Rebecca; Furman, Keith; Mayor; Harrington-McKinney, Barbara; Evers, Tag  
**Subject:** Oppose 17, 18, Support 20, 21; 7/20/2020 4:30PM

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

Dearest Finance Committee (and my own esteemed Alder Evers),

I'm writing today to oppose attempts to defund \$500,000 from the library LED upgrade and Horizon List programs like the Equity Business Initiative, safer intersections, electric busses, new libraries, expanded parks, and the renovation and reconstruction of Fire Stations 6 and 10. I especially oppose these programs being defunded for the purpose of funneling money from community neighborhoods to Madison's wealthiest commercial district, State Street. These are public programs funded by taxpayers, and agenda items 17 (Res 60995) and 18 (Res 61060) on the finance committee meeting about to take place will give those public funds to private businesses. I do not fundamentally oppose handouts to State Street, however. The MPD budget is 85 MILLION dollars, and the proposed funding represents a fraction of one percent of their budget.

Further, I support agenda items 20 (Res 61252) and 21 (Res 61137), aimed at prohibiting MPD from obtaining military grade gear to further wage war on Madison's residents, and at authorizing the termination of their contract with MMSD, which has already been approved by the school board. Perhaps the savings from these resolutions can provide welfare to the wealthy on State Street.

Thank you for your consideration,

-Jack

Jack K. Phillips  
They/Them  
PhD Student, Biomedical Engineering  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

## Larsen, Laura

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**From:** Jennifer Bastian <jenniferhbastian@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 20, 2020 3:19 PM  
**To:** Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Comments in Opposition to 61060 and 60995

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

To the Finance Committee:

I am writing **in opposition to the approval of 61060**, which would appropriate \$500,000 from public services and use it for private businesses.

The \$500,000 for the Downtown Recovery Program would be pulling funds away from uses for Engineering, the Library, and unrestricted funds for the city. It is morally unethical, especially during a global pandemic, to reallocate funds from public infrastructure and programming towards the benefit of private property.

City departments across the board are already facing a 5% budget cut. Just last week on July 9, 2020, the Madison Public Library Board met to review options to eliminate staff positions and community programming in order to meet a budget cut of \$900,000. The Downtown Recovery Program is using \$120,000 from the Library-Neighborhood LED Upgrade that could have been reallocated to prevent some of those cuts. The Downtown Recovery Program is further using \$275,000 from Engineering-Facilities Horizon List Planning at a time when the Streets Division is facing a \$1.4 million cut and the Parks Division is facing an \$800,000 cut.

The crux of this issue remains the subsidizing of private property ownership with public tax dollars. The Downtown Recovery Program aims to support small downtown business owners, with 41 business owners indicating that they will have difficulty reopening and may close permanently. But there is at best flimsy evidence that providing public tax dollars to repair buildings would help any of these 41 State Street businesses survive the pandemic. For all we know, we are only helping to repair the buildings, with no guarantee of security and longevity to the business owners, but a guaranteed benefit to the owners of those commercial properties.

Furthermore, I wish to call out the change in the agenda from last Monday to Tuesday. On Monday, the Economic Development Committee listed 61060 as the appropriation of \$500,000 for the Downtown Recovery Program. As of Tuesday, 61060 is now described as \$250,000 for the Downtown Recovery Program and \$250,000 for the Downtown Equity Program. However, both agendas link to the same supporting document for the Downtown Recovery Program. Item 60995, which describes the use of funds from 61060, also makes no mention of the Downtown Equity Program. And again, the crux of this issue remains the pulling of funds from public infrastructure and programming and using it to subsidize private property.

In conclusion, I am here today in opposition to 61060 and the misuse of public tax dollars for private properties' benefit.

**I am also writing in opposition to 60995**, which outlines the use of public tax dollars for repairs on commercial structures housing State Street businesses. 60995 accompanies 61060.

During the pandemic, small businesses have been able to apply for various business grants and loans such as SBA EIDL, PPP, We're All In This Together, the Ethnic Minorities Grant, and Dane Buy Local. While these

grants help small businesses hobble along, the reality is that none of this money gets to the heart of the issue.

For the most part, business grants and loans like PPP only help to subsidize business owners' rent or offset costs so business owners can pay their rent. Rent is one of the highest costs for most businesses. Yet very few property owners have offered rent abatements or forgiveness during the pandemic. Rent on State Street and in downtown Madison is exorbitantly high, and private property owners continue to profit even when their tenants are incapacitated. Whereas loans like PPP direct public tax dollars towards rental costs, the Downtown Recovery Program now seeks to further help private property owners by allocating public tax dollars to those properties. This is happening simultaneously with an affordable housing crisis and the crisis of gentrification in our city. We cannot continue allocating money to the benefit of private property over people.

If we actually want to help businesses, then we need to ask why so many of them are compelled to stay open during a global pandemic when we have yet to flatten the curve. We need to ask what measures should we be taking so that businesses can fully shut down and people can stay safe. Is our answer to this problem really to continue subsidizing private property's profits?

Instead, we should be looking at examples of other governmental bodies that centered the needs of people during the pandemic. We need to look at examples of governments that gave money directly to people and proposals for rent forgiveness. We need to look at successful measures of implementing rent control and regulation on real estate. These are things that could alleviate the current burdens on people and small businesses.

In conclusion, I am opposed to 60995, and increasing regulation of the funds in this article will not diminish my opposition.

Best,

Jennifer Bastian  
538 W Lakeside St  
Madison, WI 53715

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Jennifer Bastian  
Director and Arts Manager  
[Communication](#)  
2645 Milwaukee Street  
Madison, WI 53703  
414.748.8127  
<http://jenniferbastian.com>  
Pronouns: she, her, hers

## Larsen, Laura

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**From:** John Hutchinson <jhutch@fontanasports.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 20, 2020 3:15 PM  
**To:** Finance Committee  
**Subject:** File #61060 Downtown Recovery Program

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

I am John Hutchinson from Fontana Sports and I support File #61060, the Downtown Recovery Program. I have had a business on State Street for 48 years and have never seen State Street in such disarray. No one knows what the future will bring to downtown and I for one am not encouraged by what I see at this time. Many businesses, including mine, are wondering what is going to happen in the future. The street is full of panhandlers', vagrants and unsavory characters. We have all had major disruptions that have cost us a substantial amount of money that we are unable to recoup at this time even with insurance. All the business owners I have talked to are in the same situation. Our businesses have been devastated by Coronavirus and with the protesting it has only gotten worse. As business and property owners we are the only group that has paid additional maintenance fees over the years to the city of Madison. I would like to see the city help out these people so we can get back to business. I am fearful that many of the businesses will not have the funds to re-open again.

Please support file #61060.

Sincerely,

John B. Hutchinson  
Co-owner  
Fontana Sports  
216 North Henry Street.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

## Larsen, Laura

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**From:** Sheila Miller <sheila.miller@tds.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 20, 2020 1:04 PM  
**To:** Finance Committee  
**Subject:** I oppose #18

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Dear Finance Committee:

I demand that you oppose #18 today and provide details on the allocation for the \$250,000.

Sent from my iPhone



## Larsen, Laura

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**From:** william dye <dyewilliam@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 19, 2020 5:03 PM  
**To:** Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Downtown Recovery & Equity Program

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

It has come to my attention there is a blessing from our city possibly not come true. Please help by supporting the two part proposal our Mayor and Alder Verveer proposed as Legislative File #61060.

It had also come to my attention their is public out cry calling the owners on State St. privileged and other wrongful labels. Maybe the property owners fall under these labels however many of us business owners bpay rent, property taxes and the owners insurance...triple net. There are 152 businesses on State Street. 79% are locally owned. 122 reported impacts from the May 30 and beyond riots. 72% are women or minority business owners. 40%+ will not reopen. Plus no one will be able to afford the triple net after they leave.

Please support our future.

State Street is the economic engine for our community. Everyone loves State St. Especially visitors and parents of college students. 10% of property taxes for the whole city come from the downtown. These taxes pay for all the services our beautiful city provides.

I have worked at the Irish Pub on State St. for 26 years. It was one of the best things i could have helped my wife do in her life...the next step in her life...owning her own restaurant/pub after severing the people of downtown delicious food for 22 years. It has been tough, to tears many days and night, since the acquisition last April 2019. The Pub and States Street are the most socially and racially diverse area's in the City.

Now with the increased fear placed down town from anarchist, looters, criminals and protester violence many people, include my family and friends, do not want to come see us at the Irish Pub and our friends on State St. Even fellow owners are scared to email you because of shaming and backlash from extreme storyteller dissimulators. Facts are facts...that is why at a minimum we need proof of everything that is occurring downtown. The Police, businesses, residents, works and visitors need to know there are cameras on all the sidewalks and streets. At a minimum please add cameras and fix the ones that are broken...PLEASE.

Travelers and tourists identify State Street as the most unique and most interesting place to visit. Convention organizers love the walkability, bicycling and arts of the downtown. Students and parents pick UW because of State Street. I have worked hard to make our business a success on State Street.

Again, I beg you to support our Mayor and Alder Verveer proposed Legislative File #61060

Respectfully,

Cheers,

Pat Dye



## Larsen, Laura

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**From:** Charles Bauer <ctbauer@tds.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 19, 2020 2:44 PM  
**To:** Finance Committee  
**Cc:** All Alders  
**Subject:** I am writing in support of the Downtown Recovery Program.

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> On Jul 19, 2020, at 12:36 PM, Charles Bauer <ctbauer@tds.net> wrote:  
>  
> Dear Members of the Finance Committee, and Members of the Common  
> Council,  
>  
> I am writing in support of the Downtown Recovery Program.  
>  
> Our downtown is a robust financial engine that consistently  
> contributes more than it consumes year after year - decade after decade.  
>  
> Extraordinary circumstances have now conspired to temporarily  
> interrupt this long term dynamic.  
>  
> At this time it is only fair that the public sector step in to provide  
> necessary help. Not only is it fair and neighborly, it is practical,  
> too, for over time everything spent will return, steadily enriching  
> the public good many times over, just as innumerable past investments,  
> public and private, have steadily generated much more than they consumed.  
>  
> To select only one small example, is there any other place in Madison,  
> perhaps in all of Wisconsin, where our \$1,200 investment, in 1972,  
> would have been the acorn that became the oak now called an anchor business for downtown: The Soap Opera?  
>  
> With every good wish,  
>  
> Chuck Bauer, co-founder, 1972, The Soap Opera

cc:MAYOR  
>  
> 1833 Van Hise  
> Madison, Wisconsin 53726  
> 608-233-3839  
> ctbauer@tds.net  
> www.ctbauer.com  
>

## Larsen, Laura

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**From:** Stacey Scannell <stacey@thesoapopera.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 17, 2020 2:16 PM  
**To:** Finance Committee; All Alders  
**Subject:** Legislative File #61060

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Hello,

I would like to voice my **support for the Downtown recovery program**. I know people are sending emails in opposition of this, but I feel like they don't have all the facts. One post I saw in opposition to the program had several people trying to get more information, and asking good questions about it. However, the publisher of the post basically said " I don't know all that, just write them immediately and paste this message about why it is a bad idea". That just goes to show they don't even understand how the funds will be distributed or what the program is about. With that being said I feel like several of your emails in opposition of this program are not coming from a place of education on the program but more feeling forced to send an email, otherwise they don't support BLM. Which is silly because every single business owner I've talked to down here (including myself) supports BLM and wants to have even more diversity on our street, even though we are already the **MOST** socially and facilly diverse street in our city already.

Here are some important things about downtown:

- Here are some thoughts in support of the program
  - There are 152 businesses on State Street
    - 79% are locally owned
    - 122 reported impacts from the May 30 and beyond riots
    - 72% are women or minority business owners
  - State Street is the economic engine for our community.
  - 10% of property taxes for the whole city come from the BID district. These taxes pay for all the services ALL over the city.
  - Think about how much income tax, while only .5 of 1%, comes from your sales to the County for services.
  - Private citizens donated almost \$200K to support the downtown. This money has been distributed to 56 businesses.
    - Just over 1/3<sup>rd</sup> got help.
    - These businesses had only early understandings of what insurance would or would not cover and total damages.
    - Help is still needed.
  - This is the **MOST** socially and racially diverse street in the City.
  - Travelers and tourists identify State Street as the most unique and most interesting place to visit.
  - Convention organizers love the walkability of the downtown.

- Students and parents pick UW because of State Street.
- You have worked hard to make your business a success on State Street

**Take Care,**  
***Stacey Scannell***  
***Owner - The Soap Opera***  
**319 State St.**  
**Madison, WI 53703**  
**Business:608.251.4051**  
**[Stacey@thesoapopera.com](mailto:Stacey@thesoapopera.com)**  
**[www.thesoapopera.com](http://www.thesoapopera.com)**