

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Madison is embarking on a bold new experiment in police relations, with its new civilian oversight mechanisms and a full agenda of recommended reforms. The question before this Committee, and ultimately the Common Council, Mayor, and MPD, is whether BWCs should be a part of that experiment.

For those who believe that, whatever the potential outcomes of a BWC experiment, the money is better spent elsewhere, the answer is no. For those who believe that the research is clear enough already that BWCs cannot deliver on their promises, regardless of conditions and policies in Madison, then the answer is no. For those who believe that we should not give police another tool, one in particular that can be misused for mass surveillance and oppression, and who do not trust the policies designed to prevent that, then the answer is no.

Alternatively, for those who believe that BWCs might be useful in advancing Madison's reform agenda and facilitating the new civilian oversight mechanisms, the answer might be yes. For those who believe that the social science research, as mixed as it is, suggests at least the possibility that employing BWCs in Madison under the restrictive policies proposed here, and as part of a larger package of reforms, might have more beneficial effects and fewer negative effects here than elsewhere, then the answer might be yes. For those who believe that experience and circumstances demand giving a tool like BWCs a try, because we cannot tolerate the costs of not trying, then the answer is yes.

In the end, the Committee was not unanimous in its answer to these questions, and hence in its recommendation on BWCs. But a majority of the Committee voted [no, concluding that the risks, uncertainties, costs, and potential negative impacts outweigh the potential benefits, and hence the City should not move forward with a BWC pilot project.] or [yes, concluding that in the unique environment and under the carefully crafted policies set forth in this Report and Model Policy, it is worth at least experimenting with BWCs, to assess whether as applied here BWCs can on balance be sufficiently beneficial to justify their cost. The Committee therefore recommends starting with a rigorous pilot project, and then fully assessing the impact of BWCs in practice here in Madison before moving on to full department-wide implementation. But the Committee again reiterates, this yes vote is conditioned upon implementing the prerequisites and policies set forth in this Report and Model Policy, and upon an independent assessment by the Common Council, Mayor, and MPD that employing BWCs fits within the City's and the MPD's other budget demands and priorities.]