

From: [Steve Verburg](#)
To: [City of Madison Police and Fire Commission](#)
Subject: new fire chief
Date: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 10:17:27 PM

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Members of the Madison Police and Fire Commission:

I'm writing to again urge you to hire a chief for the Madison Fire Department with experience overseeing a program such as CARES -- Community Alternative Response Emergency Services -- and other similar programs in other communities.

The CARES program has great potential to chip away at the city's embarrassing worst-in-the-nation racial disparities.

We need a new fire chief who is committed to the success and rapid expansion of CARES, which is designed to send medical personnel instead of armed police officers to handle medical emergencies.

The current CARES pilot appears to have gotten off to a slow start because the 911 center wasn't referring calls. For this program to reach its potential as soon as possible, we need leaders who will insist that all community partners work hard to ensure its success.

It's not entirely clear to me whether CARES currently is driving forward as vigorously as it could, or if it is a bit adrift.

We need a chief who has experience and demonstrated commitment to emergency medical services like CARES.

Sincerely,

Steve Verburg
Madison, Wisconsin