

From: jmurcko@gmail.com
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: [All Alders] Ordinance 5.17
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 4:03:12 PM

Recipient: All Alders

Name: Jason Murcko
Address: 601 Wingra St., Madison, WI 53715
Phone: 608-957-2337
Email: jmurcko@gmail.com

Would you like us to contact you? No, do not contact me

Message:

Dear Alders,

I'm writing to ask you to support agenda item 42 at tonight's Common Council meeting Ordinance 5.17, banning the Madison police from using chemical munitions.

First off, I fundamentally do not believe that police should be in the business of oppositional "crowd control". From what I've heard and read, having a police presence at protests tends to escalate these situations, at times even creating the very conditions that are then used to justify police brutality and other repressive actions.

A straightforward step in this direction is to remove the ability of the police to use things like tear gas and mace. These are chemical weapons. And we shouldn't be afraid to use that language, rather than the somewhat Orwellian "less-lethal weapons" that obscures the real harm that they cause. The city should not use chemical weapons on anyone.

I also want to highlight something from the Dane County Chiefs of Police Association statement on this matter. The statement says, in part, "Can you imagine violent protests occurring in Madison with no source of support for Madison Police, and the protesters involved knowing your officers' response capabilities and restrictions in advance?" It's deeply troubling to me that police seem to see virtually any restrictions on what they are allowed to do as a profound threat. A decent and humane government should be characterized by well-known and well-respected limits on what the government can do to the people it serves. If the police feel they cannot function without the ability to enact brutality with impunity, that speaks volumes about their vision of society. I would urge you to reject that vision in the strongest terms.

Sincerely,
Jason Murcko

From: [Bill Bock](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Keep Tear Gas as an Option
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 5:19:38 PM

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

Hello,

In the upcoming vote, please keep options open for the MPD to use tear gas as they determine appropriate. Afterall, they are the ones trained and responding in the field. This city does not need the council to be a Monday morning quarterback.

Thank you.

Bill Bock
2142 Keyes Ave
Madison, WI 53711

From: [Brian Lavendel](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Reporting Requirement Following Use of Tear Gas for Crowd Control
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:37:38 PM

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Dear Alders,

I am writing in support of the proposed "Reporting Requirement Following Use of Tear Gas for Crowd Control."

We have recently witnessed inappropriate use of tear gas during what were originally peaceful protests in Madison. The use of tear gas, which by its nature is indiscriminate, in fact escalates an already tense and challenging situation. Such scattershot responses are antithetical to crowd control and in fact represent a violent response to citizens expressing their civil rights through protest. When there are violent infiltrators in a peaceful protest, as happens from time to time, police should use other means of identifying and apprehending the suspects. Gassing a group of citizens marching in the streets to express their views is an authoritarian and violent action. It puts law-abiding citizens at risk and limits freedom of assembly and freedom of free expression.

I support the proposal that the Independent Police Monitor complete an after-action review within 30 days of any use of tear gas by the Madison Police Department for crowd control.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Brian Lavendel

Brian Lavendel PhD • He pronouns • +1-608-301-5060 • 2302 Center Avenue • Madison, Wisconsin, USA • 53704 • *Teejop* (Four Lakes), ancestral land of the Ho-Chunk Nation
[World's richest 1% cause double CO2 emissions of poorest 50%. says Oxfam. 21 September 2020](#)
[The richest 1% of Americans own roughly 16 times more wealth than the bottom 50% according to Federal Reserve data for the first quarter of 2021](#)

From: [Sheila Martin](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Voting tonight
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 7:41:21 PM

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I urge you to very carefully consider the likely negative repercussions of the vote you under take tonight. Hamstringing our MPD officers from being able to keep a rioting crowd under control because they have no tools is an egregious thing to do. You will be denying them the support of colleagues who will not “come to the rescue” in times of need as we saw in 2020. Having lessor force options available is what should be keeping lethal force in check, as the very, very last option. Without other tools in the toolbox, I am confident we will see recruitment to MPD suffer, as great officers opt for depts where they can keep citizens, colleagues, and themselves better protected from out of control situations.

I urge you to vote NO on proposal 42 as put forward originally.

Sincerely,
Sheila Martin

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Megan Spielbauer Sandate](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Support Tear Gas Ban - Agenda Item #42 - 9/20
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 4:31:48 PM

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Hello again,

I am emailing again because I am sitting in an airport thinking about tonight's meeting and whether I can do more. I know I will miss the meeting tonight due to my flight, so here I am writing.

This past week, I was in Zion National Park, and one night, I was stargazing with my friends on a designated pull off point. A large truck came around a corner and honked at us then raced around the canyon road.

I was terrified that they were going to come back and try to hit us. I couldn't enjoy myself anymore because I was on guard, waiting for a car to hit us. For a few moments, I was back on I-35 in May of 2020 when a semi truck ran into a crowd of protesters. I am telling you this because I found out after that police officers pepper sprayed some protesters. People who had almost just died being pepper sprayed because they were rightfully scared and angry at what just happened as well as the murder of George Floyd and so many other Black folks by police.

The memory of that day spiraled into a memory of being tear gassed in Brooklyn Center. I wear glasses, and I have bad night vision. With COVID, wearing a mask can make seeing at night even harder due to glasses fog. With tear gas and impact projectiles in the air, I am lucky to be able to see 5 feet in front of me.

At one moment, I was crouched, and the next I was trying to get in a fetal position as I was being trampled. I was trying to protect my head and body, realizing that I could die. The steps stopped, and I was lucky to walk away with only a bruise on my ear/head.

Now, you might say that this was in Minnesota. This wasn't Madison Police Department. They didn't do this to you or the other people you mention.

But, while I have been lucky to avoid extreme tear gas in Madison, my friends haven't. They have been gassed and pepper sprayed. Hit with rubber bullets. Ignored and harassed by MPD when they have been hit by cars. So, it's not hard to know that Madison Police Department doesn't care about me and would do the same to me.

I apologize for dumping this all on to you. But, I need you all to understand that people have real trauma and scars around tear gas and pepper spray and "crowd control". It's not something that just goes away - it rears its ugly head when you're on vacation with your friends. When a car backfires. When people set off fireworks. It's debilitating.

My story isn't nearly as bad as those of others in Madison. People, Black and Brown folks especially, have experienced real hell from Madison Police Department. There's people who have experienced serious physical and emotional harm from the use of tear gas and other forms of "crowd control".

Please support the ban on tear gas. We as a city can move past using dangerous and harmful methods in our response to protests. Madison Police Department has always protected its own over this city - Matt Kenny is the most blatant example.

Stop the use of tear gas. Stop trusting an agency that has caused so much harm, murdered Tony Robinson and covered it up, and continues to harass folks.

Megan

From: [Luis Yudice](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Rickey, Al](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Proposed ban of tear gas, CS and less lethal weapons for Madison Police
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 6:19:39 PM

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Dear Mayor and City Alders: I'm writing in opposition to this measure and I strongly encourage you to not support it.

The Madison Police Department has a proven history of supporting peaceful protests and of protecting the First Amendment rights of our community. As a reminder, many off-duty officers marched alongside teachers and labor leaders to protest the passing of Act 10 under Governor Walker. Others joined the peaceful protests inside the Capitol.

The legacy of respecting free speech and of protecting people's right to assemble and demonstrate was established under Chief David Couper and it continues to this day. However, not all gatherings are peaceful. When individuals become violent and destructive, and when the community's safety is jeopardized, officers need the appropriate tools to manage and minimize the harm.

Keep in mind what happened on January 6th in Washington, and the fact that the KKK has held rallies on the state Capitol grounds in Madison. Future events could involve extremist political groups. How would you see officers responding to these events?

If you approve of this ban, officers will have the following choices when faced with similar situations: respond with batons and engage physically with those involved in violence, or stand back and do nothing. I believe Madison residents would not support a "do nothing" approach nor would they want to see officers or citizens injured as a result of decisions made by public officials to prevent officers from using all the less lethal tools available.

Please consider the outcomes and vote in opposition to this measure.

Thank you,

Luis Yúdice
Assistant Chief, Ret.

From: [Steve Verburg](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Support #42 -ban police munitions attacks
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 3:39:43 PM

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Madison Common Council:

to “control crowds.”

To quote a police union leader: “... the use of crowd control munitions of the type contemplated in this proposed ordinance can undoubtedly cause injury and controversy, and we respect the public’s right to scrutinize their deployment. Nonetheless, death and serious harm associated with the use of crowd control munitions is rare....”

You know, if I suffered lung damage, increased susceptibility to deadly contagions, or loss of an eye while exercising my First Amendment rights, it would be no consolation that a police union spokesman considered my injury or death “rare.”

Ban the use of crowd control munitions.

Thanks for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Steve Verburg
Madison, Wisconsin