

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Common Council Organizational Committee  
Michael P. May, City Attorney  
FROM: Heather Allen, Legislative Analyst  
DATE: October 1, 2015  
RE: Update on Legislative Analyst Projects

### **Morgridge Center Students**

Through a partnership with the Kathy Cramer, Director of the Morgridge Center for Service, Alders Bidar-Sielaff, Cheeks, Eskrich, Kemble, and Woods, as well as the Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative and the Department of Finance are hosting college freshmen interns. The interns will work closely with the staff and alders for the fall semester to complete a community service or legislative project. Many interns had their first meetings at the city last week and are already working on projects in districts throughout Madison. Thank you to all who have volunteered to work directly with students.

### **Common Council Policy Intern**

Jenna Roberg, a graduate student in the School of Social Work, has been working with the Legislative Analyst for nearly one month and will be available two days a week through the academic year. She is already an asset to the Council providing extra support for research and editing policy memos. Most recently she managed the Americorps members working at Wisconsin Easter Seals. She has coordinated a mentorship program for youth with incarcerated parents and will be focusing research on youth and gun violence for the Common Council as well as Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative projects.

### **Development of a Council Strategic Plan**

The Council met on August 27, 2015 to discuss priorities and goals. Participants learned about outcomes based budgeting from Laura Larsen and Dave Schmiedicke in the Department of Finance and about the process to update the City of Madison Comprehensive Plan from Natalie Erdman, Director of the Department of Planning, Community & Economic Development. At the meeting the Council discussed goals for their own districts as well as goals for other districts less familiar to them. Through a voting process the Council selected 6 priority areas racial equity, affordable housing, big picture planning/integrated housing, economic development, sustainability, and transportation. The Common Council Organizational Committee will discuss next steps at the October 6, 2015 meeting.

### **Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative (RESJI)**

RESJI has completed training for over 100 city staff members and has just hired the new Equity coordinator. The new Equity Coordinator will be working closely with Gloria Reyes during her first few weeks in the position and will have office space in the Department of Civil Rights. The staff team is looking forward to the additional support to administer the very active work of the RESJI. Over 12 pilot projects have been completed and request from staff and Department and Division Heads continue to swamp the interagency initiative. Recently RESJI team filmed an update video intended to be a tool to share the details of recent accomplishments toward racial equity with the Common Council.

## **Data RESJI**

The Equity Data Coordinator joined the City in July of 2015 and has initiated several new efforts to help enhance data for tracking equity, budget outcomes and unifying data management, and retrieval across the city. The Data Team is developing a data handbook with guidelines to help staff in all city departments respond to data requests, track and manage data and communicate data more effectively. The Data Team is starting at the very beginning seeking to define basic data terminology for all city users. The Data Team is also tackling an assessment of the recent change in the Livability.com ranking of cities.

## **My Brother's Keeper**

The Madison My Brother's Keeper (MBK) initiative continues to make headway toward the goals of all students graduating from high school and young people staying safe from violence and receiving second chances. Focused on these goals, the [MBK report](#) recommended two focused actions: 1) the expansion of restorative justice options and 2) the implementation of full service community schools.

City of Madison staff have met and consulted with the Dane County Restorative Justice Coalition to explore opportunities for an appropriate local group to now take the lead on the restorative justice component of the Madison MBK initiative. City staff are working to clarify goals and next steps for this work.

The Madison Metropolitan School District has made significant advances toward planning implementation of full service community schools. The full service community schools strategy is a different approach to serving the needs of the community through schools by providing dedicated staff and a supportive structure to allow for academic goals and community goals to be fully achieved. MMSD has hired a full service school planner and has established a cross agency short-term advisory group to examine best practices of full service schools and the needs for a resource coordinator. City of Madison staff and partners Laura Noel, Nancy Saiz, Monica Host, and Mary Michaud are part of that cross agency advisory group. In addition, Jennifer Lord represents the Madison Out-of-School Time Coalition on the advisory group.

Superintendent Cheatham will be presenting an update on full service community schools to the Education Committee in October. In November 2015, MMSD hopes to present its plan to the school board and the goal is to have a full service community school with a few of the most needed programs operating in August 2016, with program opportunities to grow significantly after establishment. MMSD has expressed appreciation for the support of the Common Council and City of Madison to enrich opportunities for students, families and the communities with the implementation of full service community schools.

Finally, the Madison MBK website continues to grow with a resources page [and a growing number of individuals and organizations who have pledged](#) to be My Brother's Keeper. Please do [sign the pledge](#).

## **Recently Completed Projects**

- Operating budget comparison from 2000-2015 for fire, police, public health, information technology and finance (available on Council Intranet)
- Research on Deputy Mayor Positions in other cities nationwide and Wisconsin

- Municipal Authority to regulate firearms (available on Council Intranet)

**On-going Projects**

- Map of supportive housing
- Map of registered sex offender residences
- Research on gun violence among young people (causes, consequences, best practices, gun buy-back programs and on-going work in Madison)
- Exploration of racial impacts of drivers license suspensions