

From: Sabrina Madison
To: [Caruthers, Deon](#); [Salz, Nancy](#); [Stolbet, Jennifer](#)
Subject: Fwd: Letter to CDD in support of funding Progress Center for Black Women
Date: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 3:21:32 PM

See below.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sabrina Madison** <sabrina@heymissprogress.com>
Date: Wed, Aug 22, 2018 at 3:19 PM
Subject: Fwd: Letter to CDD in support of funding Progress Center for Black Women
To: hello@centerforblackwomen.org <hello@centerforblackwomen.org>

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From: **Linda Jameson** <ljameson1@mac.com>
Date: Wed, Aug 22, 2018 at 3:15 PM
Subject: Letter to CDD in support of funding Progress Center for Black Women
To: <sabrina@heymissprogress.com>

TO: Members of the City of Madison, CDD, Community Services Committee

My name is Linda Jameson, I am a Madison resident since 1974; I've been working in community development on opportunity and justice issues since 1979 including service to United Neighborhood Centers, United Way Executive Training, WORT-FM Community Radio, the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups, Vietnam Veterans Against the War among others. I have worked for or been a consultant to the Community Action, the Biodiversity Project, WEAC, the Wisconsin Senate and the Wisconsin Governor's Office. Most of my career focused on UW Madison Outreach in professional development and public education in communication skills and nonprofit management. I later developed and directed Outreach for the UW Medical School in Women's Health on a US Public Health Service contract specifically targeting medically underserved populations. In semi-retirement, I am an active health advocate and a volunteer working on opioid addiction with the county-wide Parent Addiction Network, a working group within Safer Communities of Dane County.

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I am writing today in support of the funding proposal by The Progress Center for Black Women, Institute on Transformative Community engagement before you this evening.

I have been watching appreciatively from the sidelines as Ms. Madison has developed the Progress Center for Black Women here in Madison. The center's work is innovative and effectively draws together Black women (and the larger community) in interesting ways. I attended a Black Friday Black-owned Business Expo last holiday season and met Ms. Madison and shopped the entrepreneurs' booths. The event reflected the center's stance as open, encouraging; it anticipates and addresses the visible and often invisible barriers to involvement in a way which is not always common in our community. The women's conferences she has developed and successfully presented again bring diverse women together across the Black community toward shared goals. You do not have to have an advanced degree, head an agency or be an already successful business person to feel included, as I see it.

I've watched Ms. Madison and the center leverage support and mentoring from grassroots leaders and reach out with great skill using social media to attract many of us and build a brand for the center that is honest and powerful. Those who follow her on Facebook, for example, will get insight into the journey of HOW a grassroots organization is built despite challenges. The center's recent move to a bricks and mortar space is a tangible example to others who wish to develop their social or business entrepreneurial skills or just make change in our community. The center's direction is positive. It is not a deficit-oriented organization. Ms. Madison and the center exemplify the adage "Don't tell someone how to do something, show them." Lead by example.

The same can be said for how the center has worked across social lines- racial, generational, class, community, neighborhood, etc. When you are real, you are not stuck on saying the "right" thing, you live it.

I hope you will fund this collective impact program which promises to be original and powerful, building on a recognized track record of the Progress Center for Black Women and Ms. Madison.

Thank you.

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Sent from my iPhone.
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Sabrina "[Heymiss Progress](#)" Madison
Founder & Director, Progress Center for Black Women
Award Winning Motivational Speaker & Entrepreneur
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