From:	Veronica Sustic
To:	Alder Work Group Creating MPD Independent Civilian Oversight
Subject:	Form the Civilian Oversight Board exactly as written and outlined in the Ad Hoc Committee"s recommendations
Date:	Thursday, July 2, 2020 11:12:55 PM

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Dear Alders,

As one of your constituents, I write to urge you to form the Civilian Oversight Board exactly as written and outlined in the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations.

Specifically, regarding the selection of board members, there should be NO members of the Board with policing ties (e.g., NO retired officers). Madison wants and needs strong oversight of MPD, and particularly oversight that centers the voices of people most impacted by policing (e.g., BIPOC, LGBTQIA community members).

It would be absolutely counterproductive to include anyone with allegiances -- past or present -- to a police department. The purpose of the Board is to help protect those most impacted by the police (including BIPOC and LGBTQIA people) and to hold police accountable for misconduct. If police had already been holding each other accountable, we wouldn't need the Board. But they haven't done that. We cannot trust them to start doing so now as Board members.

If other Madisonians advocate for having people with police ties on the Board, please scrutinize their requests. Who are they trying to protect? The answer is it's same people who have always had protection -- police and the privileged majority who manage to largely avoid police encounters.

But that is not what the Civilian Oversight Board is for. The Board is intended to hold police accountable and offer transparency. We do not need or want any members of the Board with former or current police affiliations. We want for this committee to function as intended, as it will be able to do if it is formed exactly as outlined in the recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee.

Thank you,

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