From: Stacey Williams
To: Alder Work Group Creating MPD Independent Civilian Oversight
Subject: Meeting Friday July 3
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 3:30:41 PM

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Hello, all -
For the alder workgroup meeting on Friday, July 3 to discuss civilian police oversight, I would like to reiterate that we need the recommendations of the Ad Hoc committee to be implemented as stated in their report.
There are local rumors of former police department employees speaking up during this process - possibly during this very meeting - in an attempt to influence the makeup of the oversight structure and make it friendlier to our existing law enforcement organizations and staff. This is the OPPOSITE of what we need. While it will of course be necessary to seek out information from those familiar with the system as it exists now, we all know that the system of entrenched police violence and white supremacy will do almost anything to protect itself, up to and including the targeting of influential protestors and activists. If MPD veterans and sympathizers are allowed to exert control over the formation and function of the oversight apparatus designed to keep the police accountable, that accountability will be compromised, at best, and such a compromise puts lives - predominantly Black lives - at risk.
Please be very careful about who is allowed to map out the shape of our police oversight mechanisms. The Black community organizers in our city have been very clear about what is needed, and it's time to listen to them, not to the law enforcement establishment that disproportionately harms their communities and makes their organizing necessary in the first place.
Thank you,
Stacey Williams
Madison resident - Emerson East