

Veldran, Lisa

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**From:** Harrington-McKinney, Barbara  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 12:07 AM  
**To:** Veldran, Lisa; Obeng, Kwasi  
**Subject:** For Legistar

Please see that this is added to Legistar. Thank you.

TO: MAYOR & ALL ALDERS  
FROM: ALDER HARRINGTON-MCKINNEY  
RESOLUTION #61015 – As Amended  
July 14, 2020

Many of you have seen the movement welling up all over the City. Anger, frustration, resolve and determination and demand for change. These demonstrations not only in Madison, but mobilized reactions across the country at the killing of George Floyd. The night that Tony Robinson was killed, I had just returned from St. Louis, specifically revisiting Ferguson, MO at the very spot where he was killed. What happened after Ferguson, the City of Ferguson elected the first woman and the first African American as Mayor.

Regardless of the negative picture that has been painted of me, I have and will always stand up for issues that are important and the Restorative practices of how do we hear all voices and repair the harm..

I will also always challenge systems that keep in place the inequities that have been voiced by so many. I have no personal agenda. I acknowledge that the root causes of injustices live. There is unsettling tension, but I am willing to sit with the tension, and be willing to have any difficult conversations.

The Resolution #61015 was not intended to undermine the Civilian Oversight initiative. That is an untruth of the Resolution's intent or design.

This Resolution is not intended to dilute or disrupt the work of the Alder Workgroup in any way. That is also an untruth.

This Resolution as intended "is convening of Black organizations and leaders to come together to promote Black issues and to discuss matters that affect the Black Community".

The Task force is an intentional Forum where the opportunity and the agenda is undiluted, and unapologetically provides the opportunity to express Black voices collectively when there is a need to move issues forward or speak out against or stop initiatives that negatively impact the Black Community. The intent of the President's Task Force is to bring together the Black Leadership, convene Black organizations and leaders of the Black community. There is a Black Chamber of Commerce. There is a Latino Chamber of Commerce. There is a Madison Chamber of Commerce.

We acknowledge the inequities that persist in Dane County at Alarming Rates. In 2018, the United Way released a new five-year plan. While Dane County is often cited as one of the nation's best places to live, it is well documented that significant socioeconomic inequities exist in almost every indicator of well-being for people of color. From the United Way report "throughout history, public policies have disadvantaged communities of color across multiple generations". The Task Force will make clear that the road to reducing racial and structural inequities in Dane County requires policy actions and systems change that disaggregates and targets the root causes of the underlying drivers of community conditions in which people are born, grow, live work and age.

The Policy Priorities set out by United Way of Dane County for 2020 were: Education, Financial Stability, Health and Nonprofit and Community Strengthening. Disaggregate means to divide into constituent parts. To break up or to break

apart. The intent of the President's Task Force on Critical Issues that Impact African Americans is to intentionally breakup and analytically disassemble all categories which have been aggregated or lumped together by many good intentioned fokes that spoke against the Resolution.

The many untruths that have been generated and by the intensive noise around this Resolution is intended to cloud one truth: Had Sheri Carter not been elected president, this tremendous body of work that was shifted under the 3 member Alder Workgroup would have been under the Common Council Executive Committee, two of the supporting Alders are on the Executive Committee. This body of work again would have been under the President's Workgroup. I strongly believe had another Alder been elected President of the Madison Common Council and thus President of the Common Council Executive Committee or President Carter and Vice President Abbas had selected different Alders to the Executive Committee, we would not be at this divisive place. I want to call out that the noise was created as a cover-up of the underlying issue here. It is an untruth that I am not against needed reform. It is an untruth that I have not supported the work of the OIR Report, the Ad Hoc Committee or the recommendations and work thereof. Because I have challenged the lack of transparency as it relates to processes surrounding this work we have been maligned. I have the right to have questions asked and answered. Why must there be untrue attacks leveled against the intent of the Resolution? Does racial equity exist only as long as one is in agreement with the majority? Does police reform need to happen, of course it does. Are ALL police of the ilk of the officers in George Floyd's death? One officer had more than 13 complaints; one with 7 complaints? Do I support defunding the police and take the police budget down to "0"? I cannot support that. Do we need to redirect City dollars to provide community resources where all citizens are able to thrive, of course we do. The President's Task Force on Critical Issues that Impact the Black Community is absolutely necessary.

The noise generated by the false narrative that we are not supportive of a new Madison where all thrive is a lie. It shadows the question: Why do we decide it is ok to change the playing field when there is black leadership? I have seen the members of the Executive Committee body come together in collaborative support when there was a less effective Alder in the role of president. However, that has not been the case. The President has the authority to form the President's Task Force on Critical Issues that Impact the Black Community and I support the formation of the Task Force. It will be led by the Black Community and Chaired by Black Community Leaders. Many of the emails and public comments challenging our integrity have been fed untruths. We are not against the important work of the Alder Workgroup. We are against the way by which that body was formed and the lack of support afforded to President Alder Carter.

The Alder Committee is formed, let it do its work, and I respect its work. But allow a community that has long taken a back seat to generously accept what is left over have a voice to create their own table as well. Define their own agenda and has the freedom to set a table that looks like them. It is very difficult for well-meaning fokes to step back and allow a community that is most impacted by the policies and procedures voted on their behalf have a say. The President's Task Force on Critical Issues that Impact the Black Community should have a "Say in the Matter". Please support the adoption of Resolution #61015 as amended.

Barbara Harrington-McKinney  
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