

From: [Scott Morrison Melman](#)
To: [Equal Opportunities Commission](#)
Subject: Fwd: Pass the ordinances establishing the Office of the Independent Police Monitor and the Police Civilian Oversight Board!
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 11:31:53 PM

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Dear Members of the Equal Opportunities Committee,

I am writing to ask that you pass the Alder Work Group's [ordinance](#) creating Sections 5.19 and 5.20 of the Madison General Ordinances establishing the Office of the Independent Police Monitor and the Police Civilian Oversight Board. In spite of having very little time, the Alder Work Group has produced an effective and historic ordinance through a transparent, inclusive process, building off of 5 years of work by the Ad Hoc Committee. It reflects the input and needs of the community *as written* and ought to be passed *as written*.

Many residents of Madison, and communities of color in particular, have clearly and repeatedly expressed that they do not feel protected by our police department. Like most others in our country, the department's insular, self-interested, and militarized model is not only insensitive to the needs of those people it is sworn to serve, but actually designed to protect established power structures rooted in white supremacy and colonial capitalism. Even the best-intentioned officers cannot truly serve the community until they answer to the community. We need real civilian oversight of policing in Madison; the proposed ordinance will implement that. It's a necessary step to begin building trust and efficacy in the MPD, and in local government.

Scott Morrison Melman,

Concerned resident of Madison