From:	ANNE P SLEDD
To:	All Alders; Finance Committee; Veldran, Lisa; PD PSRC; Rhodes-Conway, Satya V.; Equal Opportunities Commission
Subject:	city of Madison: alder work group's ordinance on policing
Date:	Monday, August 10, 2020 11:14:42 AM

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Dear Members of the Common Council, Finance Committee, Equal Opportunities Committee, Public Safety Review Committee and Common Council Executive Committee,

The Alder Work Group was given a task to flesh out the civilian oversight board implementation process on a timeline that was nearly impossible to achieve and they just achieved it with this ordinance, with ultimate grace, transparency, inclusivity and efficiency.

https://madison.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4604565&GUID=D161367D-BE17-4259-8BA4-10CE8986BFCD&FullText=1

This ordinance was created by the Alder Work Group in an open, inclusive and public process on the tails of a similar 5 year process carried out by the Ad Hoc Committee.

As the Ad Hoc Committee report stated:

We have observed that some of Madison's many diverse communities perceive Madison's police department as insular and unresponsive to their needs, and, therefore, fail to invest their trust in its officers.

Formalized civilian oversight is the most direct way the City can confront this challenge, ensure that the MPD is responsive to the needs and concerns of all segments of the community, and thereby build trust.

It is our belief that, in a free and democratic society, the policing function must be controlled directly by the people themselves as much as possible.

To the extent that the community yields some of its freedoms to the authority of a police force in the interest of public safety and harmony, it must have tools to directly oversee the exercise of that police authority; the community must have a strong voice in deciding how it wants to be policed.

We see almost all of our other recommendations as contingent or dependent on the establishment of a civilian police review body.

In order to keep the process and the promise of reform ongoing, it is essential that the MPD continue to receive input from those outside the Department, including the public it serves and to which it is ultimately responsible.

The Ad Hoc Committee report echoes a critical finding from Chicago Police Accountability Task Force report, that "real and lasting change is possible only when the people most affected by policing have a voice." The proposed ordinance accomplishes this absolutely essential function.

The proposed oversight structure has been carefully crafted to provide what promises to be one of the most effective and progressive civilian police oversight agencies in the nation, helping fulfill a vision of true community control of policing.

While there have been complaints voiced about the lack of police involvement in this process, the fact remains that the Ad Hoc Committee was co-Chaired by retired MPD Assistant Chief, Luis Yudice who is a strong and devout lobbyist for MPD. MPD executives

were present and welcome to participate at every single meeting. Every single MPD officer could have attended at least one meeting and had 5 years to do so. These consecutive processes by the Ad Hoc Committee and Alder Workgroup define inclusivity and transparency which is one big reason why they have survived countless fear-mongering attacks fueled by ego, emotion and misinformation.

I urge you all to continue to be a positive part of this historic effort and to 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 as it was written in an open, inclusive and transparent process by the Alder Workgroup to Develop Logistics and Operational Details for MPD Independent Civilian Oversight.

All the best,
Anne Sledd