From:	Hannah Eldridge
To:	Equal Opportunities Commission
Subject:	Creating Ordinances 5.19 and 5.20: Independent Police Monitor and Civilian Oversight Board
Date:	Monday, August 10, 2020 8:06:50 AM

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Dear Members of the Equal Opportunities Committee,
I write to urge you to recognize the Alder Work Group's incredible efforts 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.

The Alder Work Group has managed the herculean task of fleshing the civilian oversight board implementation process on a nearly impossible timeline –and they did it with this ordinance, with ultimate grace, transparency, inclusivity and efficiency. Their process has been a model for community-guided government.
https://madison.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4604565&GUID=D161367D-BE17-4259-8BA4-10CE8986BFCD&FullText=1

Their work followed a 5-year process of the Ad Hoc Committee, which reported that:
--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 is in line with critical findings from other city police accountability studies, including the Chicago Police Accountability Task Force report, which found 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.

While there have been complaints voiced about the lack of police involvement in this process, 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 reason they have survived fear-mongering attacks based on misinformation. Transparent and inclusive government is strong government!

We have a chance here in Madison to bring the community into policing and integrate the police fully with the communities they serve. 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.

Sincerely,
Hannah V. Eldridge
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