

From: Bwthjennissen@hotmail.com
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: [All Alders] Police Oversight Board
Date: Saturday, August 29, 2020 7:11:46 AM

Recipient: All Alders

Name: Beth Jennissen
Address: 6626 Carlton Dr, Madison, Wi 53718
Email: Bwthjennissen@hotmail.com

Would you like us to contact you? Yes, by email

Message:

Dear Alders

Please represent ME! I am against the police oversight board being filled with known anti police supporters. This board is supposed to be non biased. One that looks at all the facts and then makes a decision. My suggestion for all of the city council and anyone who would be apart of this board is that regular police ride alongs be a requirement for this position. That way you can see what officers are doing on each and every call. How can you make judgements on a job you don't understand or have never had to do?!? Educate yourself on the job before you make broad generalizations.

Thank you! My guess is you will be enlightened by how amazing our MPD is and that they aren't evil racists without a heart.

Thank you!

Beth Jennissen

From: [Grace Van Berkel](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Rhodes-Conway, Satya V.](#)
Subject: Civilian Oversight Board and Independent Monitor
Date: Saturday, August 29, 2020 8:37:02 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Members of the Common Council and Mayor Rhodes-Conway,

I am writing in support of the proposals for an Independent Monitor and Civilian Oversight Board. Below is language that I've borrowed from community organizers, but I agree with the below statement.

These proposals for Civilian Oversight and Independent Monitor are the product of five years of hard work, first by the Ad Hoc Committee and then by the Alder Workgroup. They reflect an incredible amount of research, expert input from NACOLE and others, and careful deliberation and vetting, all done in an inclusive and fully transparent process. Please pass these proposals as written. Do not weaken them. Especially at this juncture in history, it's clear that this is the morally right thing to do.

As the Ad Hoc Committee report notes: "Other communities have attempted civilian oversight of police with notably mixed results. The Ad Hoc Committee very carefully researched those other examples and created a detailed blueprint for an Independent Monitor and Board in Madison designed to overcome the problems that have plagued some other cities' oversight structures and to take advantage of those features that have helped auditors in other cities succeed."

One crucial aspect is the composition of the Civilian Oversight Board. The design of the board for Madison follows recommendations from the ACLU and others. As the Chicago Police Accountability Task Force report noted, "real and lasting change is possible only when the people most affected by policing have a voice." Right now they have no voice whatsoever. The chosen nominating organizations represent a diversity of groups working on civil rights, immigrant rights, disability rights/mental health, racial equity, and social justice. Moreover, two of the groups specifically work with domestic abuse and sexual assault victims. In addition, the Ad Hoc Committee report and ordinance specify very extensive training of the Board members, to ensure very well-qualified decision-making without imposing criteria on Board membership that would exclude community members from marginalized communities and those with lived experience.

Another crucial aspect is adequate empowerment. In the US, most auditor-type oversight agencies are empowered to initiate and conduct independent investigations and that is complementary to the auditing function. Moreover as NACOLE advises: "If you are able include subpoena power in the agency's enabling legislation, by all means, include it." Also, extensive reporting and outreach, by the Board and Monitor, is written into the proposal, providing accountability to the community. And as NACOLE representatives have pointed out, adequate funding is essential.

One of the most critical factors for success is full independence. In "Overview of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement in the United States", authors Barbara Attard and Kathryn Olson of NACOLE note that "in order to succeed", the oversight body must be independent

from not just the police, but also “elected and other government officials”. Likewise, the ACLU recommends an oversight body that is “independent not only from the police department, but also from politics”, with a board membership that is majority nominated by civic and community organizations. In Madison, an existing body that doesn’t report to an elected official is the Police & Fire Commission - an arrangement designed to maintain independence for the same reason. It is also important to avoid regulatory capture. Thus, Madison’s proposed Board would not include current or former police officers and their family members, as is recommended by Campaign Zero, a prominent police reform organization. Moreover, this reflects existing practice in various other cities nationally.

Denver provides one example of what happens when you don’t have full independence. In the midst of a scandal involving the Police Chief, the Denver Mayor decided to shield the Chief and abruptly barred the Independent Monitor from participating in cases involving the Chief, contrary to prior practice. The community was outraged and experts agreed that this subverted the role of the Independent Monitor. That’s the kind of situation you want to avoid in Madison.

Under the proposed Madison ordinance, the Independent Monitor reports to the Civilian Oversight Board, with day to day supervision by a three person Executive Subcommittee. They’d also be supported by departments such as Human Resources and each meeting would be staffed by the City Attorney’s Office and MPD. Other cities, such as Syracuse and Oakland, have a similar arrangements of an auditor reporting to a Board and not elected officials. This is a tried and true model and provides real independence.

There is now a severe loss of legitimacy and trust in policing, especially in Madison’s marginalized communities. This is resulting in serious noncooperation with police, including from crime victims. Many people have lost faith that acting through the system can bring useful change, which is yielding rioting. The Independent Monitor and Civilian Oversight Board, if properly set up and empowered, provide a key means of rectifying that.

Sincerely,
Grace Van Berkel
Constituent (53703)

From: [DJH Photo](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Rhodes-Conway, Satya V.](#)
Subject: Independent Monitor and Civilian Oversight Board
Date: Saturday, August 29, 2020 10:00:19 PM
Importance: High

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Dear Members of the Common Council and Mayor Rhodes-Conway,

I am writing in support of the proposals for an Independent Monitor and Civilian Oversight Board. These proposals are the product of five years of hard work, first by the Ad Hoc Committee and then by the Alder Workgroup. They reflect an incredible amount of research, expert input from NACOLE and others, and careful deliberation and vetting, all done in an inclusive and fully transparent process. Please pass these proposals as written. Do not weaken them. Especially at this juncture in history, it's clear that this is the morally right thing to do.

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Sincerely,

DJ Haugen
111 W. Wilson St. #204
Madison, WI 53703
djhphoto@hotmail.com

From: [Emily Weiss](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Rhodes-Conway, Satya V.](#)
Subject: Independent Monitor and Civilian Oversight Board
Date: Saturday, August 29, 2020 9:01:15 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Members of the Common Council and Mayor Rhodes-Conway,

My name is Emily Weiss, and I live at 18 Harding Street in Madison. I am writing in support of the proposals for an Independent Monitor and Civilian Oversight Board. Please pass these proposals as written. Do not weaken them. Especially at this juncture in history, it's clear that this is the morally right thing to do.

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Sincerely,

Emily Weiss

From: [theresa mcneil](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Date: Saturday, August 29, 2020 9:37:46 PM

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Sincerely,
Theresa mcNeil

From: [Claudia Korcarz](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Rhodes-Conway, Satya V.](#)
Subject: Support to Civilian Oversight Board and Independent Monitor
Date: Saturday, August 29, 2020 8:50:32 PM

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Dear Members of the Common Council and Mayor Rhodes-Conway,

I am writing in support of the proposals for an Independent Monitor and Civilian Oversight Board. I lived in Madison for the last 17 years and this is the first time that I felt compelled to write to you and implore that you support these proposals. These changes are necessary NOW.

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From: [Rachel Perry](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Rhodes-Conway, Satya V.](#)
Subject: Vote in SUPPORT of Items 84, 85, 86, & 87 on 9/1/20
Date: Saturday, August 29, 2020 11:50:42 PM

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Dear Members of the Common Council and Mayor Rhodes-Conway,

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Sincerely,
Rachel M. Perry
101 N. Blount St, Madison