From: Amy Owen
To: Body-Worn Camera Feasibility Review Committee
Subject: Please decline body worn cameras: Documentation is not Justice
Date: Thursday, December 3, 2020 5:31:09 PM

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

Dear Committee,
I am writing to request that you choose to recommend that the city of Madison not adopt the usage of body worn cameras among law enforcement. In addition to adding a needless additional city expense on a tremendously strained budget during an unprecedented time of income loss and housing insecurity, I do not believe that this investment would create greater safety for residents or accountability to the community in cases of excessive force. Specifically, I do not believe that we can "policy" our way out of the flaws that body warn cameras have created in other cities, such as increased low-level charges for people of color, and a lack of national and state justice statutes on consequences for police brutality. We have seen too many times a video of brutality and no consequences for those that did the harm. Documentation is not justice. If someone needs to be filmed while doing their job in order to ensure they will perform their duties without harming those they are intended
to prote
ct, that individual absolutely does not belong in that job, period. Body-worn-cameras are not a protective practice for the public. I also have concerns about the potential of increasing the lack of safety a person who has just experienced a crime may already be experiencing, and filming them could make them feel even more vulnerable and add an additional layer of trauma to their experience. Please choose not to add body worn cameras to MPD, and shift any good intentions and understandable desires for transparency and accountability of law enforcement to state and local legislative paths.
Thank you,
Amy Owen
3129 Buena Vista Street
Madison, WI 53704