

Statement to Madison Police and Fire Commission regarding Police Chief Candidates
December 9, 2020

My name is Barbie Jackson. I am a member of MOSES, a founding member of MOSES Public Safety task force, and co-chair of MOSES Racial Justice for All Children task force.

MOSES mission is to build collective power to dismantle the systems of mass incarceration and mass supervision and to eradicate the racial disparities in our community that contribute to them.

We envision:

- an end to the systems of mass incarceration and mass supervision;
- an end to systemic racism;
- a reallocation of resources to create racial and economic equity; and
- a just society without discrimination in which all people thrive.

The purpose of our **Public Safety** task force is to improve public safety in Dane County and its municipalities and schools.

We envision:

- Reformation of public safety practices in Dane County.

The purpose of our **Racial Justice for All Children** task force is to eradicate the childhood to school to prison pipeline via strategic supports to reduce the generational deprivation experienced by children of color and children in poverty due to systemic racism.

We envision:

- Racial justice for all children, families and schools

On July 22nd of this year I submitted written and oral recommendations on behalf of MOSES regarding our expectations that a new Police Chief will reduce Madison law enforcement practices that have a negative effect on racial disparities, behavioral health, and mass incarceration, and that will expand measures to demilitarize the police and changes in police culture. MOSES' full recommendation is included in your materials.

The demonstrations in the wake of the murder of George Floyd reveal the depth of demand for change across this country, including in Madison. We seek a new Chief who both understands the work that is required and who has the skills and willpower to undertake that work.

Evaluation and award of the position to a new Police Chief with the vision and skills required to lead the cultural change in the Madison Police Department are critical to the Madison community. Although we are disappointed that the community was not engaged in your screening and selection of final candidates, we applaud inclusion of at least one person of color among the finalists.

It is imperative that the final offer be to a person with a demonstrated skill to turn an agency around and to put an end to a culture of racism and the inappropriate use of force. It is especially important that the person selected have a demonstrated history and commitment to avoidance of the use of lethal force in all settings, whether involving a mental health crisis, a substance use crisis, or any of the wide array of crises that may be encountered in police calls.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of MOSES.