From:	Kim Richman
To:	Equal Opportunities Commission
Subject:	Body Worn Cameras
Date:	Monday, February 8, 2021 1:24:00 PM

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Dear committee members;

First of all, as a 64 year resident of Madison's East Side, I am PRO body worn cameras for MPD and have respectfully made my points at several committee and council meetings. I request that you accept the thorough report from the BWCFRC so the North District pilot program may begin. The funding was included in the 2021 Capital Budget, so everything is in place.
Transparency, accountability, and trust will be a result of BWCs.

In 2014, President Obama requested $263 million to fund body camera programs and police training. As a result, between 2015 and 2019 this program has given over 493 awards, over a collective $70 million, to law enforcement agencies in 47 states and DC.

In Miami, researchers found a 19% reduction in police officers using physical force against citizen resistance. Civil cases against the police department for use of force dropped 74%.

In Phoenix, complaints against officers wearing cameras DECREASED 23%, while complaints against officers NOT wearing cameras INCREASED 11%.The cameras also protect police officers and the public against false accusations of misconduct.

Body-cams are a good police reform tool, and have STRONG support from the public. According to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, *"Body-cams offer transparency and accountability to the public, which is an attempt to mend the frayed relationship between the police and the community".*

A June 2020 Reuters poll found 92% of Americans wanted federal police officers to wear body cams.

A July 2020 University of Maryland School of Public Policy survey, found almost 90% support for ALL police officers being required to wear body cameras including; 85% of republicans, 94% of democrats, and 86% of independents.

I did my own poll on a neighborhood social media page. In 12 hours it was 75-1 IN FAVOR of BWCs.

I recently made a few phone calls and I have 2 questions;
1 - What do the following 14 towns, villages and cities in and around Madison have in common? Cottage Grove, Deforest, Fitchburg, Madison TOWNSHIP, Maple Bluff, McFarland, Middleton, Oregon, Shorewood Hills, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, U.W. Police Department, Verona, Waunakee.

Answer; All of these police departments utilize body worn cameras.
In addition, Cross Plains PD has a new chief who wants them and is going forward to introduce them.

2 - So who does that leave out? The City of Madison & The Dane County Sheriff's Office. That's it. Why? Pure & simple it's politics. For ONCE in Madison, I urge you to put politics aside in lieu of accountability, transparency and, safety. The status quo is ridiculous.

I have questioned those in opposition, why they DEMANDED body-cams a few years ago, but not today. What has changed? Data and polling have not. There are arguments fueled by ONE person being used against BWCs simply as stall tactics. Let's go forward with this beyond the pilot program and get it done. Listen to the people of Madison. Enough putting up with stalling tactics.

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