From: Joseph Keyes
To: PD PSRC; All Alders; Mayor; Equal Opportunities Commission; Common Council Executive Committee
Subject: Support of Police Body-worn Cameras
Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 6:36:13 PM

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Dear Alders, Mayor and Committee Members:

The police body-worn camera program and pilot project need to move forward and be implemented. The body-worn camera program will bring clarity and transparency to police/public interactions. We do not have that clarity today but, once implemented, it will rightfully identify any police misdeeds. This will help build trust with the Madison community. Many Wisconsin police departments have already implemented this technology. Also, body-worn cameras have been positively vetted by various city committees over the last several years with the most recent committee, the Body-worn Camera Feasibility Review Committee, giving its approval with its final report. There has been a question as to the cost of the program. Reliable cost estimates were gathered by the Body-worn Camera Feasibility Review Committee from the manufacturer and those Wisconsin police departments which have deployed them. This is not the only cost to be considered. What cannot be overlooked is the cost of civil liability when the city cannot substantiate the circumstances of a police encounter. Approving the body-worn camera program is the right thing to do. It is the right action to take now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joseph Keyes
District 11