



PROGRESSIVE DANE

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September 27, 2007

Mayor Dave Cieslewicz
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Room 403
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Dear Mayor Cieslewicz:

As you know, we believe that the Madison city budget is the most concrete expression of our values as a city government. Accordingly, we write to you to express some of the values we would like to see represented in the 2008 budget, and to make some suggestions about how those values should be expressed.

First, we want to thank you for your strong stance on improving public safety in our community. It is clear that Madison's next budget will help to ensure that Madison's residents feel safe in their own homes and in their neighborhoods. We, like you, have heard from our constituents on this issue. Specifically, we have heard the strong desire to feel safer in Madison's neighborhoods, to deal with problem landlords, to receive better and more consistent customer service from the police, to address traffic safety and pedestrian safety problems, and to address "quality of life" crimes that often are not on the top of the list for police response.

We realize you have made a commitment to add a significant number of new police officers in the 2008 budget, and to put them on the street as soon as possible. We hope that along with receiving this unprecedented increase in resources, the police department will receive benchmarks as well. We were heartened to hear Chief Wray ask for performance measures and welcome accountability to your office, the common council, and the citizens of Madison. We suggest the following benchmarks:

1. Ensure that the police department has a practical & measurable plan in place to guarantee that every Madison resident who calls the police gets a timely response from the police department. This should include measuring the number of calls for service not responded to and working to reduce this number to zero. All calls for service should be acted on in some way - even if it's just a call back the next day. Track calls by type of response as well - was an officer sent? When was the follow up call made?
2. Ensure that every neighborhood in Madison has a community officer contact, and provide all Alders with a list of these contacts.
3. Community policing teams will expand on the "community officer" concept and establish a procedure to ensure that they are communicating with the community and working on the issues that the community identifies as priorities. It is clear to us from the listening

sessions around the city that we have not been addressing the issues that concern citizens most. The police department should develop a plan for this necessary communication & prioritization and the plan should be brought to the council for approval and public input.

4. Clear guidelines should be established for determining which neighborhoods will receive neighborhood officers, as well as evaluation mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of these officers and clear criteria for removal of neighborhood officers. These guidelines, evaluation techniques & criteria should be developed by the police department and brought to the council for approval and public input.
5. Ask the police department to work with your office and other city departments to develop a mechanism for measuring quality of life issues in Madison and for determining progress or decline on these issues - for example, tallying building inspection orders to remove graffiti and litter.
6. Measure the number of patrols conducted on foot and bike.
7. Track the percentage of time spent policing proactively and coactively vs. reactively.

In addition, we ask you to consider the following public safety initiatives:

- Expand the highly successful youth court program to more neighborhoods, with a goal of one youth court operating in each police district (with the exception of the central district, which can share resources with west & east). This could be a cooperative venture between CPTs, neighborhood officers and Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin and/or the Dane County Timebank.
- Work with the County to get an improved response from dispatch, both with respect to customer service and data quality.
- Conduct a pilot program where some of the new police officers are not issued new squad cars but are instead paired with existing officers in already-funded vehicles. This could reduce the need to call for back up in some cases and save on fuel and equipment costs. The police department should objectively assess the efficacy of this pilot program and report back to the council.
- Include funding in your budget for initiatives led by the Department of Civil Rights to conduct public education, listening sessions, and development of policy solutions to address race-related issues involved in local policing. Fund two additional building inspectors to ensure the success of the recently passed Chronic Nuisance Abatement Ordinance and to ensure that Madison's landlords are providing safe, habitable, rental housing.
- Expand the homeless outreach worker program beyond State St. by adding two outreach worker positions responsible for working in our parks and with car campers.

Finally, we urge you to craft an operating budget that not only preserves our sense of safety, but that enhances and ensures the economic success and well-being of our workforce. Such an investment in our community will reap not only economic dividends, but also improve the safety of our neighborhoods in the long term. We were pleased to see the announcement that you will be restoring the 3% cuts to Madison Metro. We hope, however, that you will also take

seriously need to make Metro a true workforce transportation system and make it possible to provide better service to the portion of the workforce that is transit dependant and/or works second and third shift.

To truly meet the needs of Madison's workforce, we also urge you to propose an operating budget that:

- Restores the 3% cuts to the Office of Community Services (OCS) and that eliminates the waiting list for Madison's childcare assistance program;
- Restores the 3% cuts to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs and provides additional funding for job training and skill enhancement programs that have proven track records of connecting low-wage workers to career pathways;
- Pays special attention to afterschool options for young people that provide them with educational and recreational activities.
- Pilots a program to connect high school students and recent graduates to good jobs.

As always, we recognize the need to be fiscally responsible, and will work with you to find cuts in expenditures and additional sources of revenue. We anticipate sending you a similar letter with proposal once we've had a chance to examine both your capital and operating budgets.

We look forward to discussing these issues and working with you as the budget process continues.

Sincerely,

Brenda Konkel, District 2
Mike Verveer, Council President, District 4
Robbie Webber, District 5
Marsha Rummel, District 6
Tim Gruber, District 11
Satya Rhodes-Conway, District 12