

Dear Neighbors,

The leaves are starting to turn, the days are getting shorter, and the nights are getting cooler - it must be fall and budget time in the City of Madison. There's been a lot of talk about public safety recently, so it will be no surprise to you that public safety is a major focus of the Mayor's budget this year. Some highlights of the Executive Budget include:

- \$3 million for the Police Department, including 30 new officers
- \$59,000 more for graffiti removal
- \$183,000 more for building inspection
- \$85,000 more for youth programming to provide positive alternatives
- Stable funding for the Office of Community Services and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program
- Full funding for Metro with no cuts in service or fare increases

I'm pleased that the Mayor has invested in the prevention side of public safety and not just the enforcement side, which has dominated so much of the discussion about safety so far. We should be able to look at the City's budget and see a reflection of the community's values; this budget appears to be an excellent starting point for representing what the entire city needs and wants. By the time you read this, the Council will have voted on the budget, so I'll simply encourage you to let me know your budget priorities throughout the year.

Another issue for our neighborhood is the potential development at 1902-1910 E. Washington Avenue (at the corner of First Street and E. Washington Avenue). The initial proposal was for a four-story, mixed-use (retail/housing) building. By the time you read this, we'll have had at least three meetings on the proposal. At our first meeting, we identified a number of concerns, to which the owner and architect are trying to respond. I encourage you to let me know what you think of this proposal and to check my Council Website (<http://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district12/>), where I will be posting more information about the project.

Finally, I want to congratulate the Eken Park and Emerson East Neighborhood Associations on the first (of many, I hope) very successful EEEP!Fest block party. It was a great event with live music, food, games and lots of neighbors. Thanks to all the individuals, groups and neighborhood businesses that participated and/or donated time and money to make this the great day it was.

As always, feel free to contact me with questions or thoughts about city issues.

Satya