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**NAACP**  
Dane County Branch #36AB

January 3, 2022

To: Madison Common Council

Subject: Dane County Statement on Madison Police Body Worn Cameras Pilot

Dear Council Members,

The Dane County NAACP supports the body worn camera pilot outlined by the Madison Police Department and recommends immediate approval and implementation of the pilot. Moreover, the Dane County NAACP requests the Madison Common Council to quickly approve body worn cameras for the entire department.

Body Worn Cameras:

- Can increase transparency and accountability and thus may improve law enforcement legitimacy in communities of color. There is a lack of trust and confidence in law enforcement.
- Can increase civility, i.e., higher rates of citizen compliance to officer commands during encounters and fewer complaints lodged against law enforcement.
- Can lead to a faster resolution of citizen complaints and lawsuits that allege excessive use of force and other forms of officer misconduct.

Whether they're worn by an officer or mounted on police equipment, cameras can provide first-hand evidence of public interactions.

To help ensure that police-operated cameras are used to enhance civil rights, departments must follow the following guiding principles:

- A. Develop camera policies in public with the input of civil rights advocates and the local community.
- B. Commit to a set of narrow and well-defined purposes for which cameras and their footage may be used, particularly in facial recognition applications which could exacerbate existing disparities in law enforcement practices across communities.
- C. Specify clear operational policies for recording, retention, and access. Enforce strict disciplinary protocols for policy violations.
- D. Make footage available to promote accountability with appropriate privacy safeguards in place.

Decades of distrust between communities of color and law enforcement have been magnified by the recent rash of police violence perpetrated against unarmed African Americans. We encourage the Madison Common Council to approve the pilot project and seek to implement body worn cameras departmentwide.

Submitted by

Greg Jones, President