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PRESS RELEASE

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AEIRAMIQUE GLASS INTERIM INDEPENDENT POLICE MONITOR

STATEMENT ON THE ONGOING INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION INTO THE POLICE KILLING OF COREY RUIZ ON JULY 22, 2026

This office has an open and active independent investigation into the killing of Corey Ruiz by a City of Madison police officer. I will not share details of that investigation here, and nothing in this statement should be read as a finding or a conclusion about what happened on July 22, 2026. But this statement speaks to something broader than that single investigation, and it stands regardless of what that investigation ultimately finds.

Whenever a life is lost, and especially a life lost at the hands of those who took an oath to protect and serve, we must take a deep look at every measure that could have prevented it. Every life has value. But being Black, being unsheltered, and living with mental and behavioral health needs add additional vulnerability and additional risk, in this city, in this state, and in this country. My heart breaks for the family of Corey Ruiz. The killing of another son, father, brother, friend, regardless of any challenges he faced, he is loved and missed.

My heart breaks for a community, a city grieving and navigating the trauma of watching Corey be killed in person and on camera. What can't be denied is that this is a horrific thing to watch, and a horrific thing to feel.

Before Corey Ruiz was killed, I had already raised high urgency and concern for the harm and trauma that people of color and our most vulnerable residents were enduring in this city and this state, harm that is proven in Madison's police department's own data, proven in the experiences of this community, and upheld by systems that work together to protect themselves rather than the people they serve.

On my first day in this role, December 8, 2025, I sat down with Chief Patterson and told him I was shocked that this department did not have body-worn cameras. I wrote an open letter to the Mayor and to this city saying the same thing. I said it to nearly every alder one on one. I said it during a Common Council meeting. I said it was not necessarily a preventive measure. It was an immediate need for accountability, for transparency, and for a record that cannot be rewritten after the fact, a tool needed in investigations. I said it needed strong policy and oversight so it cannot be used as a tool to cause harm.

During our monthly check-ins, I told Chief Patterson repeatedly that the patterns I was seeing, in complaints, in policy, in practice, in MPD culture, in the total absence of procedural justice, de-escalation, and early intervention, meant we were one arrest, one situation, away from someone being killed. When I closed cases and released statements, I was called harsh for saying it out loud. The police union tried to sow doubt about it. The District Attorney kept protecting the officers instead of hearing it. Now there is a body, and a family, and a city in the street, so if speaking truth is harsh, I'll be harsh. I have had police coming to me, trusting me with the

truth and waiting for change, not just members of the public. I have defense attorneys, mental health workers, community based orgs, bystanders, and the list goes on, bringing these issues to this office. Instead of confronting the warning signs coming out of their own police department, city officials have poured their energy into undermining, manipulating, and working around this office, our mandate, our authority, and our work. This office has been starved of funding. Even understaffed, even under-resourced, we have kept conducting independent investigations and releasing our findings, and every single time, we have been met with pushback and with our own findings leaked to the District Attorney and the Medical Examiner in an effort to make our conclusions look illegitimate before the public ever sees them.

The pattern is not subtle and it is not new. When this office clears an officer, exonerates them, finds an allegation not sustained, MPD leadership, the police union, and the City Attorney have never once challenged that finding. When this office finds that an officer caused harm or caused a death, they fight it with everything they have and run covert campaigns to discredit this office instead. Accountability is only a problem for them when it points at their misconduct or their need for change.

Look at the Richard Lee Johnson case if you want proof this pattern is real. I personally briefed Chief Patterson on this office's independent findings and told him directly that the DCI investigation omitted key pieces of evidence, that Internal Affairs omitted key findings on video, and that the District Attorney, who was personally present for the officer interviews DCI conducted, still made his charging decision knowing that key facts, facts sitting in plain sight on the department's own dashcam, had been left out of the record he claims to have fully reviewed.

The District Attorney wants to talk about racism in this community in his recent statement. He is one of the most significant forces upholding it in action. He works hand in hand with officers across multiple law enforcement departments in this county, not just MPD. He has protected and justified their misconduct instead of holding it accountable. I do not have faith that a man who depends on these departments to prosecute the majority of his caseload can fairly investigate and judge any of them when one kills someone. Wisconsin incarcerates Black residents at one of the highest rates in this country, and he is a major feeder into that machine.

At a meeting at the Capitol on Friday, July 31st, at 2:00 PM, with the City Attorney, the Attorney General's office, DOJ/DCI, and the District Attorney, I asked the District Attorney directly what the process was for his recusal. I asked the question because I believe he should. He has been one of the most destructive forces in this county around police reform and transformation and the criminal justice system as a whole. I have watched how far he will go to protect his officers, and I say his officers because I have watched him defend them, cover for them, and retaliate through politically motivated decisions again and again. I understand it is hard to prosecute officers in departments you depend on to build your convictions. That difficulty is not an excuse. It is the entire problem.

On July 27th, OIPM issued a subpoena, and as of today, MPD has still not turned over a single piece of evidence in response to that subpoena. Not the dashcam, not the audio, not the CAD dispatch records, not any transcripts, all of it already sitting in MPD's own possession because it was already provided to DCI. I was first told MPD did not have anything to provide me. Then I was told it was state law. I asked what law. I have never received an answer, because the law does not exist. MPD has not even given me the names of the officers involved or the responding officers. This is obstruction, and it is a direct violation of this office's ordinance mandate.

The City Attorney's office is not a neutral party in any of this. They represent MPD, the Mayor, and the Common Council, using that position to make up memos as they go and to misapply and twist laws, over and

over, to reach whatever outcome protects the City from liability and the police department from accountability. At every turn, the City Attorney's office has attempted to delay, reframe, or bury this office's lawful demands by framing our authority under a records request. A City Attorney's office that is not counsel to this office, and will not act or present itself as counsel to this office, does not get to keep acting as its gatekeeper, a professional obstructionist.

The Mayor and the Chief have invoked this office's name during their press conference. Yet MPD has not cooperated. A subpoena was issued and has not been fulfilled. Other mandates have gone unmet, hindering my ability to fully do my job and fulfill my mandate. Our attorney, William Sulton, is now taking next steps to ensure MPD and the City comply with the authority of the ordinance.

I have put it on the record: MPD is obstructing this office. The Mayor's office and the City Attorney's office are upholding that obstruction. The District Attorney is shielding it. The Common Council, minus the handful of alders who have proven they can think for themselves, has taken its cues from the Mayor, her direct reports, and a City Attorney's office she appointed. And at every turn, I have worked in good faith, until now, where all faith is lost and unrecoverable in this city's leadership. That's why I am putting the truth where the public can see it.

The Office of the Independent Police Monitor is the only one in the state of Wisconsin. This office carries one of the strongest and most comprehensive oversight mandates in this country. I have a duty to protect everyone who does this work with me, my staff, our contractors, our outside medical, legal, and other consultants. I also have a duty to protect officers who come forward, witnesses, community members, families, and complainants, because retaliation against the people who tell the truth in this city is real, and I have seen it, and that is why OIPM's independence is so important.

To Chief Patterson directly: whatever the findings of any investigation turn out to be, you have already seen the pain that has been caused. You have already heard and seen the harm some of your officers have done, and the culture that shields them no matter what. You do not need someone else to be harmed or die, and you do not need another investigative report, to say clearly that you will not tolerate a policing culture that upholds systemic racism, and that you will not be a vehicle for politically motivated decisions justifying what you have seen with your own eyes and already know, in your own heart, needs to change. Death, protest, and community outrage should not be the only motivating factors. You don't bleed blue, you bleed blood, like Corey and so many before him, you are human first, and I know the human being you are. I know you are being pulled in every direction, but you don't have to take the harmful advice this city is giving you, and you don't need to take a side. You need to do what's just and right. No matter who or what is pulling at you, how you meet this moment is your legacy.

I have one of the hardest parts of any job in this city: watching the same video, seen nationally, of Corey Ruiz being killed, over and over, still looking for more, still learning what happened before, during, and after, holding the civil, the criminal, the policy, and the moral questions all at once. Within minutes of Corey being killed, I was called, and this office was on scene, taking eyewitness statements, people crying in my arms. I have an obligation to the public to find all the truth and tell a full and complete story of Corey's death, no matter what.

To get to peace, you have to go through justice first. To get to justice, you have to go through transparency and accountability. There is no shortcut around that, no matter how badly this city's leadership wants one. This office tells the full story, with policy, with equity, with a racial and social justice lens, with care for all involved. Officers inside the department have trusted this office enough to come forward and name the culture they work inside. I protect them too. Community members have come to trust a community-centered, trauma-informed, independent agency, and I am grateful for that trust, because I know exactly what it costs someone to speak against a system built to cover its own failures.

If the Mayor, her administration, and some on the Common Council had spent half their energy focused on fixing the police department instead of trying to undermine and dismantle" this office, a man might still be alive.

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City of Madison, Wisconsin