Statement to Madison Police Department
Policy and Procedure Review Ad Hoc Committee
July 26, 2018

The League of Women Voters of Dane County supported the original resolution establishing this committee. We also testified to the Common Council in June 2016 in support of increasing the appropriation for the Request for Proposal from $50,000 to $400,000.

In October of 2016, we contacted Council members to urge them to approve the Committee’s recommendation to select OIR to review the Madison Police Department.

The League has worked to ensure that the concerns and insights of communities that are particularly affected by the criminal justice system, including people of color and people with mental health issues, are considered seriously, as the city reviews the policies and procedures of its police department.

The League’s focus has been on the process, and we have not so far asked this committee to support or oppose specific proposals.

Tonight we are urging you to improve the process you are using to develop your report to the City Council. The green/red color coded chart has been very useful as an internal working document.

However, there is no draft report which documents all your decisions so far concerning the OIR recommendations. You have modified some recommendations rather than adopting them as worded. You have adopted some recommendations during meetings this summer.

Anyone who wants to know exactly what you have done must rely on their personal notes, or painstakingly compare the chart to the minutes of specific meetings.

If any member of the committee or the public wanted to know what decisions had been made as this committee was developing the RFP, that information was available for each meeting. The draft RFP was updated prior to each meeting to reflect the committee decisions.

Lara Mainella from the City Attorney’s Office was instrumental in documenting your decisions on the RFP, and is familiar with this committee’s mission and working procedures.

The League encourages you to request staff assistance immediately to compile your report to the Common Council. The League believes such assistance is essential to provide clarity and public transparency to the process.