Statement to Common Council concerning the final report of the Madison Police Department Policy and Procedure Review Ad Hoc Committee
October 30, 2018

I am Kathleen Fullin, speaking tonight on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Dane County.

The original resolution establishing the committee and providing funding noted that “the City of Madison is committed to involving the community in advising and making recommendations to the Mayor, the Common Council, the Police and Fire Commission and the Madison Police Chief on matters of setting policies and procedures that reflect our city’s longstanding tradition of community policing.”

The resolution further said “the City of Madison is committed to transparency of policies, procedures, culture and training within the Madison Police Department.”

The League of Women Voters has been observing the committee’s deliberations for the last three years. Our focus has been on the process rather than on specific recommendations.

Our goal is 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 committee has painstakingly reviewed each of the 146 recommendations of the OIR consultants. They have determined their position on almost all of them, with a few requiring further discussion.

The committee has also discussed the items referred to them by the President’s Work Group on Police and Community Relations, and has determined their responses.

However, there is no draft report which documents all the decisions made so far. If any member of the public, or member of the committee, wants to know what decisions have been made by the committee, they must compare the recommendations to the minutes of each meeting, a daunting task.

It is imperative that a report be compiled quickly, so that the committee members themselves, the public, the Common Council, and the Mayor’s Office have an understandable, readable, accurate report of the Committee’s decisions.

The League urges you to support the service contract to write the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee, in order to provide clarity and public transparency to the process.