September 15, 2021

The League of Women Voters of Dane County has followed with interest the training offered to the members of the Police Citizen Oversight Board, including that presented on September 2 by the Local Voices Network. We think that inviting focus group members to describe their own negative and positive experiences with law enforcement will help them to formulate their own thoughts and to reflect on others’ possibly different experiences.

For the purposes of the PCOB, we thought the last question developed by Board members was most pertinent and would help community members consider how to turn their lived experiences into policy recommendations to benefit the entire community: "What would you identify as the priority for how the Office of Independent Monitor should engage with the members of our community?"

We think this last question highlights the purpose of the Office and will help community members in the focus groups articulate their expectations for the services the Office will provide. The answers Board members gave were diverse and worthy of more reflection in the future.

The League appreciates the time and thought the Board members put into developing the questions about both the OIM and the PCOB for the community conversations. We applaud the Chair for insisting that this question be part of the conversation on Sept. 2.

For any future conversations with community members, the League of Women Voters urges that both the question about the OIM and the one developed by the Board members about the PCOB be included.

Christine Clements
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