

ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC RACISM IN THE DANE COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AND INESTING IN ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION OUT OUTSIDE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Dane County has the opportunity to challenge the systemic racism and racial disparities in our criminal justice system and in our community. Currently, the County has plans to spend \$148 million on new jail facilities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic Dane County has shown that it can substantially lower the jail population.

Many previous recommendations for reforming the criminal justice system remain to be implemented.

Violence against people of color by law enforcement both locally and nationally has brought a change in priorities for the community and Dane County Government, and

The United States incarcerates more people, most of whom are people of color, than any other nation. Both the United States and Dane County have expanded the scope and role of law enforcement over the years. Dane County has followed the national trend to allow the militarization of law enforcement changing the relationship between police and the community.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Dane County will immediately halt all planning, design, architecture, and construction of a new jail facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that preliminary plans be developed to use the office space in the Public Safety Building for additional jail beds and assessment of remote hospital sites and community based recovery sites to handle mental health needs of residents take place to address inhumane conditions in the current facility, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Dane County will review and implement recommendations to lower the jail population and minimize the role of law enforcement, including but not limited to:

- 1) ~~Add representatives of communities of color to~~ The Criminal Justice Council. be renamed The Community Justice Council, and it and its subcommittees shall include community representatives, including representatives of color;
- 2) Implement virtual weekend court to lower jail population and prevent unnecessary incarceration of lower income residents;
- 3) Eliminate the Huber program and transfer treatment and monitoring functions to the Dane County Human Services Department, as is done in La Crosse County;

- 48 4) The Criminal Justice Council ~~Develop~~ sentences sentencing guidelines that limit
49 incarceration and instead focus on restorative justice that help victims and the
50 community;
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- 52 5) Dramatically reduce the use of the Dane County jail for the housing of probation
53 and parole holds and urge the state to speed up their own adjudication and
54 eliminate jail time for minor probation and parole offenses;
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- 56 6) Review charging and sentencing decisions against leading practices nationally in
57 order to reduce the amount of jail time recommended;
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- 59 7) Lower the Average Length of Stay (ALS) and enforce time standards on in
60 custody cases;
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- 62 8) The Criminal Justice Council discourage local law enforcement agencies from
63 arresting and bringing people ~~Prioritize the writing of tickets instead of to jail for~~
64 minor offenses ~~by local law enforcement~~ and encourage issuing warnings or
65 citations;
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- 67 9) ~~Create~~ Publish inventory of local law enforcement use of force policies
68 throughout the County;
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- 70 10) Change the incentive system in the criminal justice system from punitive to
71 restorative by providing transparency in the criminal justice system. Publish racial
72 disparity and incarceration statistics on the Dane County website for all actors in
73 the criminal justice system. Begin by publishing incarceration statistics including
74 racial disparity statistics for all Dane County judges;
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- 76 11) Continue to increase the use of electronic monitoring beyond the current
77 number;
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- 79 12) Increase the use of restorative courts and implement a mental health court to
80 divert mental health cases.
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