

From: [Jim Young](#)
To: [#County Board Recipients](#)
Cc: [Parisi, Joseph](#)
Subject: County Budget
Date: Thursday, September 10, 2020 1:53:57 PM

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Hello Dane County Board Members,

I'm writing to encourage and ask you to amend the proposed county budget by shifting the +\$150 mil in funds designated for jail purposes to the county human services department for mental health and other community services options that take the place of incarceration. I request that you also remove any funds for the purchase of assault type weapons/armorments or the prosecution of minor drug possession offenses.

In a separate, but related consideration, I request that you make it county policy for the sheriff's department officers and district attorney's office to confront and dismantle any unlawful private militia presence as they assemble and when they assemble in Dane Co. The recent example from the City of Kenosha where they were allowed to assemble and assume the false posture of legal law enforcement officers, even being encouraged to do so by local police is a dangerous and disgusting precedent that should be proactively confronted in Dane Co.

Thank you for these considerations. Again, I ask you to move on budget and policy changes to pass these initiatives.

Best regards,

James G Young
201 Division St.
Madison WI 53704

From: [Linda Ketcham](#)
To: [#County Board Recipients](#); [Parisi, Joseph](#)
Subject: County Budget priorities
Date: Thursday, September 10, 2020 4:07:01 PM

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Dear County Executive Parisi and County Supervisors:

I am writing on behalf of JustDane to encourage you to invest in and expand community based crisis and mental health services in our community rather than in a new jail. As we have seen throughout the pandemic, we can safely reduce the number of people in our jail. We can invest in alternatives to incarceration, expanded mental health supports, job training programs and affordable housing, all much better strategies at reducing crime and incarceration than a new jail would be.

Our budgets reflect our values. True we must fix what needs fixing in the current jail to ensure the safety of the individuals incarcerated there. We can do that without building a new jail. We can do that rather than paying interest on money borrowed for a new jail, payments that will have to come out of the operating budget. We can invest in community services and support to keep people out of jail, to keep people housed, healthy, and connected to their families.

Dane County is at crossroads, significant reform proposals have been introduced. The new PP&J Fines and Fees Subcommittee has just started meeting. This is the time to step back from the new jail and to broaden our vision, to prioritize keeping people connected to the community, to their family, keeping people healthy, employed and housed. Those are the values we ask that you prioritize in your budget deliberations and decisions.

Sincerely,
Linda Ketcham
Executive Director
JustDane
2115 S. Park St.
Madison, WI 53713
608-256-0906
She, her, hers

"Compassion and justice are companions, not choices." Wm. Sloane Coffin

The 2020 Census is here. Complete your census form now at [my2020Census.gov](https://my2020census.gov)<<https://my2020census.gov>>.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and in an effort to protect the safety and health of our program participants and our staff JustDane reentry programs (Journey Home, Peer Support and Circles of Support) are primarily operating remotely(phone, Zoom, text and email). Our S. Park St. office is closed to the public but individuals may call to schedule an appointment with reentry staff. To make a referral or to contact a reentry staff person please call 608-256-0906 and someone will return your call. Our Circles of Support program is operating remotely with meetings happening primarily via zoom. Our Just Bakery program is open and operating in accordance with Public Health executive orders. Baked goods can be ordered for no contact pick up or delivery through the Just Bakery website. All Reading and Family Connections trips are suspended until the WI DOC reopens visits at the prisons. Mentoring Connections staff are working remotely, all in-person volunteer orientations and training is postponed, online training options are available to begin the process - to access those please contact us through our website: www.justdane.org. Delivery bakery orders are still in production through Just Bakery and we are working with area pantries to try to assist with any need for bread that they might have. Healing House is open and operating.

From: [lynn silverman](#)
To: [#County Board Recipients](#)
Subject: County Capital and Operating Budget
Date: Thursday, September 10, 2020 4:17:16 PM

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Dear County Board Supervisors,

I am writing this to express my opposition to the current jail expansion proposal in the budget.

I know that parts of the Dane County jail are dangerous and inhumane, but I would like us to fix those specific areas and put more money into alternatives to incarceration, such as community based crisis and mental health services and affordable and supportive housing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lynn Silverman

Madison

From: [Kimberly Wenzel](#)
To: [#County Board Recipients](#)
Subject: Department Budget Hearing
Date: Thursday, September 10, 2020 5:04:06 PM

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Dear Supervisors,

If there was ever a good time to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to cage human beings, now is certainly not that time. As our community has been rocked by the COVID pandemic, we have witnessed the fact that downsizing the population in our jails has had no ill effects on our community. There is no way that you can in good conscience vote anything but YES on the Doyle Resolution and stop the building of a new jail in our county. We understand the terrible condition the old jail is in, but we also understand that jail is inhumane, period. We cannot afford to spend this egregious sum to lock people up in slightly better conditions, especially when our communities need this money so much. If you believe that Black lives matter then I urge you to understand that we must center the voices of those most impacted by jails and see: an investment in incarceration is an investment in white supremacy. As your constituent, I will not stand for this and I will tell my friends, family, and neighbors to stand with me.

Thank you so much to everyone who is taking this stand, including the board supervisors who have done so. Together, we can and will beat white supremacy.

Sincerely,
Kimberly B. Wenzel

From: [Dean Loumos](#)
To: [#County Board Recipients](#)
Subject: budget recommendations
Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 1:17:10 PM
Attachments: [COBDrecomds.docx](#)

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Attached are recommendations I would like for you to consider in response to a housing crisis I believe is inevitable. Would be available for any follow-up questions.

Dean Loumos

September 9, 2020

TO: County Executive, Joe Parisi
County Board

FROM: Dean Loumos
2724 Milwaukee St
Madison, WI 53704

RE: Affordable Housing Trust Fund Program
CDBG HOME funds

I am writing in response to an upcoming housing crisis I see looming ahead of us that is unavoidable unless certain steps can be taken. I do not see any positive assistance coming from the State legislature or Federal Government that would be anywhere near timely or sufficient to hold off the increased number of people becoming homeless soon.

The recent eviction stay from the CDC until the end of 2020 will not prevent anyone from being evicted, but only forestall it. That is why I believe it is critical that Dane County take the following actions to help avoid some of the worst of the problems we will see. Please consider the following;

1. For this year only make all the funds from the Affordable Housing Trust Program available for eviction prevention and rent assistance. The details of this can be worked out and if you do pass this, I can make several recommendations as to how this can be formulated and quickly administered.
2. The County CDBG HOME funds are normally used for subsidizing new affordable housing development. This year only make the entire HOME funds allocation available for eviction prevention and rent assistance.

I believe that most of you are aware of the problems that will occur when we see a large increase in evictions and homelessness. I can provide you with a long list of associated problems that will spike if we do not hold off the coming eviction and homelessness increases we are bound to see. Along with associated costs that will make our efforts to improve our community be constantly reactive instead of proactive. Housing is the base for any stability we will see in all the issues we are confronted with.

Please take some positive proactive steps to hold off this crisis until such a time that State and Federal support are sufficient to pick up this burden and that can only happen when we have managed to get the Covid 19 pandemic under control which will not come until there is an effective vaccine and it is widely distributed.

We will also need a change in Federal and State elected officials, but we cannot wait until if/when that happens. Dane County must act proactively.

From: [Meagan Peoples](#)
To: [Menard, Lindsay](#); [#County Board Recipients](#)
Subject: 9/10 County budget meeting comment
Date: Thursday, September 10, 2020 8:56:47 PM

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Good evening,

After listening to the public comment from tonight's county budget hearing, I decided that I wanted to reach out with an additional comment.

As many folks said tonight - this is an important moment in the history of madison, the US and the world. The choices made in regards to the sheriff's budget will let the city know whether you are listening to the black and brown residents, the protestors who are in the streets every night fighting for equality and all the folks who offered public comment at tonight's budget meeting.

If members of board choose to defund the sheriff's department and defund Madison's carceral system, then they pave the way for that money to be reinvested in the community and be meaningfully used to reduce crime and poverty in our community.

In short- I am asking you all to cut the sheriff's departments budget. To make a prison sized hole, as some folks have said, and to keep cutting. Please show us that you are listening.

Best,
Meagan Peoples