

Statement to Dane County Board: Public Protection and Judiciary Committee
September 20, 2020 Budget Hearing

Hello. My name is Barbie Jackson. I am a member of MOSES and a peacemaker. I am speaking in support of budget measures to expand the Community Restorative Court throughout Dane County.

I want to begin by thanking you. MOSES wholeheartedly supports the outstanding outcome realized by the Dane County Board's adoption of Resolution 180 on October 15th and we thank you for your effort to adopt this sweeping resolution for change.

On July 25, 2020 by unanimous approval of the MOSES Leadership Board, MOSES adopted an Official Position Statement on Resolution 180, which states:

MOSES officially supports the full Criminal Justice Reform Package recently announced by the County Board Leadership under the authorship of Dane County Board Chair Analiese Eicher and Supervisor Shelia Stubbs. The topics and actions included in the package are consistent with MOSES past and ongoing positions on criminal justice reform.

My particular area of focus within Resolution 180 pertains to its support for expansion of the Dane County Community Restorative Court. That component of the resolution supports:

expanding the use of the Community Restorative Court (CRC), both in terms of the age of individuals referred, the scope of charges, and the communities participating.

This program is an outstanding example of investing in the community and working cooperatively with law enforcement. The CRC is a humane way to repair harm to victims while creating new opportunities for respondents to be positive contributors in our shared community. Now, especially because of the budget impacts of COVID-19, expansion of the CRC presents a more cost-effective approach than incarceration for a wide range of charges and ages. The CRC needs additional funding and professional staff to accomplish this expansion.

It is important for this program to be budgeted to the greatest extent possible to accomplish the expansion envisioned by Resolution 180. Please support a budget increase, including staff positions, to support expansion of this highly successful program.

Thank you.