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6701 Seybold Road, Madison, WI 53719 (608) 209-5114

**February 11, 2021**

**Dear Criminal Justice Center,**

The Families back to the table community-based organization had a discussion with people of the Madison community about having a criminal justice center. When asking many in the community how they felt about a justice center coming to the neighborhood there was so much feed both negative and positive. There were negatives because many thought if this comes to the neighborhood will it benefit my family or will it just be taking up space where something else could have went.

When speaking to them I explained the pros of having the center such as giving those who are just getting out of jail a place to go to get assistance with getting back on their feet, to find a job and a safe place where many can feel safe to talk to someone when they are feeling down about starting over.

The center is a place where many may feel that they cannot trust someone but it's about having an open line of communication without judgement because everybody has to start over at some point, everyone started at the bottom.

Many in the community are scared of another program coming to the neighborhood and being overlooked because they do not bring the same attention that others do. They do not want another program that they put their trust into and are always being turned away and feeling like they are not good enough to get help! This center will be the best thing for the community, it's a place where all are accepted and those who are having a hard time do not have to be ashamed of asking for help when they need it the most. This center is where we go from the bottom in our life to the best we could possibly be. The center is a steppingstone to feeling valued and heard in the community.



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Please feel free to contact me directly at 608-209-5114 or via email at [Lburrell140@gmail.com](mailto:Lburrell140@gmail.com). I look forward to our on-going communication.

**Sincerely,**

**Lisa Burrell**