

TO: Supervisor Dana Pellebon
Chair, Community Justice Council Racial Disparities Subcommittee

FROM: Joe Parisi
Dane County Executive

DATE: January 24, 2023

RE: Office of Justice Reform and Equity

Per your request, I am providing the Community Justice Council Subcommittee on Racial Disparities with a brief update on the status of the recently created Office of Justice Reform and Equity.

The Office of Justice Reform and Equity (OJRE) was created in the 2023 Dane County Budget as an effort to elevate justice reform to a department/office level priority while affording policy makers with access to more resources and expertise to help study, coordinate and operationalize reform initiatives.

The new office will consist of a Director, a Community Court Coordinator, two existing staff (1.0 Research Analyst and 1.0 Criminal Date and Evaluation) who were housed in the office of the County Board and an administrative position. This new office adds capacity to our efforts to improve our justice system and will elevate the profile of our efforts in both in the local community and across the country.

The first order of business in creating a new office is the hiring of a director. Since the beginning of the year the Division of Employee Relations within the Department of Administration has been working with staff from my office, the County Board Office, the Community Justice Council and the Corporation Counsel's Office on a position description for the new director. Much progress has been made and a final position description should be available soon. It is my intention to move swiftly but deliberately with a job posting and recruitment effort once this position description is finalized. As with any hire it will be my directive that every reasonable effort be made to craft a recruitment and advertising effort that produces a high quality, diverse pool of qualified candidates.

The new director, once hired, will be charged with hiring the Community Court Coordinator and administrative position, setting up the office and integrating the current staff from the County Board office. The Department of Administration is confident that there are several suitable locations in county facilities to house the new office. My administration will work with the new

director on making that selection to ensure that it is convenient, accessible and suitable for the needs of the staff.

Like you, I am looking forward to the launch of this office. Once fully staffed I am confident that this new office will become an integral part of an effective justice system.