



January 11, 2021

The League of Women Voters of Dane County has supported the concept of a City of Madison police Civilian Oversight Board ever since the Ad Hoc Committee was first proposed. Our focus has been on ensuring a fair, inclusive, and transparent process, and we have advocated over the last five years for adequate funding and support for police oversight. We also made suggestions to the Ad Hoc Committee on their internal processes, in order to ensure the best possible result.

Madison General Ordinances, ch. 33.01(9)(b), allows City of Madison boards, committees, and commissions to set their own rules of procedure, subject to any restrictions found in the City Council rules or ordinances.

The League would like to make a few suggestions concerning rules for the COB meetings, in order to ensure that you move forward expeditiously to accomplish the Board's critical tasks while allowing adequate time for member and community input.

The League suggests the following be included in the Special Rules for the Police Civilian Oversight Board Meetings (item 3 on your agenda for Jan. 14):

After questions of staff and invited presenters concerning an agenda item are concluded, discussion of a motion should be subject to some limitations, for example:

- The City Council rules allow a member to speak only twice on a motion, which permits all members to present their arguments for or against passage.
- Member input on any motion should be time-limited. Members of the public are expected to make their points within a 3 minute limit; perhaps that would be a reasonable time limit for each separate comment by a member on a motion.

If there are agenda items for discussion only, the Board may want to limit member participation in a manner similar to the rules for motions, in order to allow all members to present their issues and concerns.

Members of the public should be recognized to speak only if they have submitted a registration form for that meeting. Registration is not a meaningless bureaucratic barrier to public participation. Registration provides the Board members with meaningful information, such as whether the speaker is a resident of the City of Madison and whether the speaker is representing an organization, and if so whether the person is being paid for that representation.