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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### CARPC – Dane County Budget Charge Arbitration Resolved

The Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC) is satisfied with the recent Arbitration Panel's decision on the reasonableness of the CARPC Budget.

The Commission believes the initial budget was necessary to sustain its important independent consensus building and community planning efforts.

The three-member arbitration panel determined the budget was reasonable, but ruled that the certified charge was unreasonable and reduced it by \$60,000, almost ten percent of the original amount.

The panel ruling affirms the status of CARPC as “an independent unit of government, deliberately created by the legislature to have autonomy and its own budget authority.” It further asserts that “(a)n independent regional planning commission performs, among other things, the very important function of coordinating in a neutral way the oftentimes competing interests of the various units of local government in the region. Independence is necessary for effective area-wide planning that is insulated, at least to a degree, from raw politics.”

“This reduction will be difficult to absorb and the Commission will need to review our work plan. We encourage everyone to share their thoughts with us,” said Commission Chair Larry Palm.

CARPC will continue to work with area communities and units of government to fulfill the mission of improving the quality of life in the region today, and for future generations.

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