



# THE DANE COUNTY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION TASK FORCE ON RACIAL DISPARITIES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

## Written Comments—Sun Prairie

Tammy Florek:

As an educator: Tiered system of educating about behavior. As a parent: adoption, State of Wisconsin

## Written Comments—Catholic Multicultural Center

Dan Chitek: “Disparity is a problem. Four steps to problem solving: 1. What is the problem, 2. What are the causes, 3. What are the possible solutions 4) What possible solution is best/What are we going to act on. For years the State has studied disparity and has made like a study is the solution. IT’S NOT. It’s only a possible solution to public outrage to disparity”.

American

Barbara McKinney: “I was concerned by the lack of representation of Afr Am/Black at this hearing especially as it addresses racial disparities. So I was very pleased at the announcement of a public hearing in the Allied Area. Please get the word out –mailings are ok, yes, but may not satisfactorily turn out the target groups! Very powerful stories tonight! “

African American/Black

Nino Rodriguez: “I currently volunteer with the Youth Peer Court Program at Youth Services of South Wisconsin; before moving to Madison in 2006, I was a criminal justice researcher in New York; interested in having an impact on racial disparities locally.”

White/Hispanic/Latino

Shawn P Henrikson: “A sex offender has it far worse than any other type of crime committed, we are being revoked for minor violation, discriminated for jobs, housing and in public in general. A sex offender is more feared than a terrorist so how can we overcome this type of discrimination?”

White

Kenneth McFadden: “I wish to learn what the public/comities interests are. How do they respond to people that have been in prison. How easy it is to be sent back. Does anyone realize how easy it is to be sent back?”

Bi-racial

Jose Luis Bedolla: “Mi comentario es sobre la discriminacion sobre los latinos sobre el coso del los policies racistas en Madison que solo por el color de piel. paran alas personas muchas veces sin motivo...”

Crista Lebens: “I am concerned about racial disparities in Dane County. I am happy to see a plan for addressing this.”

White

Marlene Hardick: “1. Many tickets are issued. People can’t pay and don’t understand the consequences, there is no way to get info about the ticket process. They get arrested or bad credit. 2. Persons with addictions is arrested and given bail, but there is a long wait for treatment. He uses weed, fails drug test, bail is revoked, charge is bail jumping.”

White

Vandora Jackson-Middle Passage II-Re-entry: “I would like to become part of the Task Force. Please contact me at [info@middlepassageii.com](mailto:info@middlepassageii.com).”

Afr. Amer/Black

Robert Wynn: “1. Shorten time of incarceration prior to find other penalties for rule violations probation and parole revocation hearings. 2. Promote felony expungment legislation. 3. Tie this issue to education and economic development. 4) Aggressively diversify upper management of the criminal justice system. 5. Establish a prosecutorial discretion monitoring committee. 6. Community education on “incident avoidance” (i.e., escalated domestic disputes) and “ how to conduct yourself when stopped”. 7. Connect community to Planned Parenthood. 8. Shorten probation for good behavior.”

Afr.Am/Black

## **Warner Park**

Joe Maldonado

I teach a class at MATC South Madison Campus and a majority of my students are incarcerated at the Ferris Center on release through Huber.

Hispanic/Latino

William Harden Jr.

What, if anything, can we do as citizens to ensure that employers are not using CCAP and information on that to use as a tool or reason not to hire someone!!!!

African American

Juanita Villalobos

What is happening to the Hispanic community regarding the language barrier? What is the percentage of Hispanics young men in the department of corrections?

Hispanic/Latino

Tiffany Keogh

I believe a lot of youth are suffering from undiagnosed mental health illness.

African American

William P Rowe

Wish to advocate for public information regarding arrest/resisting arrest.

Pat Steele

I wish that there were more training for police departments to have better communication/education with our young people. Kids are going to do wrong, but before hauling them to jail and spend time dealing with paperwork, why not use that time to educate the young people; would be nice for our young kids to look up to the police and not look at the police as enemies or as people they cannot trust. I know that police are busy dealing with crimes, but when they have a minute cruising through a neighborhood; they should be more relationship building with the people in the community. I believe that if police have positive communication/relationships with kids while they are young it would benefit the police in the long run. I know some police officers are doing that but we really need to see more. Thank you for your time.

### **Allied Drive—No Written Comments**

#### **Other Written Comments:**

Lanier White:

I truly believe that African Americans are being targeted by the entire system. Need to stop racial profiling. Drivers giving tickets and in traffic.

African American

Catherine Mason

Why have a lots of criminals have getaway with murders, like killing their entire family or abusing kids, tell us why? We are nephews of Miss Mason who's all been locked up for years. Nieces also. What's the matter you all seem as you hate African

Americans/Blacks.

I really think the Law, Truth and Sentence should be changed or dropped out concerning the laws that the Governor Doyle has. I think that's not right too put the inmates that are locked up in prison. (I think it's unfair). Dane County is over crowded with Blacks—too many Afro-Americans are locked up here.

A.W.

The racial disparities in the conviction rates because police wont investigate alleged crimes before locking people up. DA should investigate too. They need to investigate cases more, not just go on hearsay before convictions or plea bargins.

Probation and parole agents seem cruel, unfair, unconcerned when it comes to Blacks. Unfair in decision-making. More clients then agents, they should use group settings with clients, instead of one on one. People feel more free to express problems and feelings if they know that it's okay to express it. Use more eyewitnesses not just police accounts. They should do more research on clients. A person life is not based on their criminal history, but also learn the person's mentality. Can they read, write, count and comprehend. In all actuality this is where the system fails. Proper assessments could solve a lot of the world problems. You know the way they study serial killers.

Velda Richmond

I have been arrested for not (they also lied on the police report and that is not right) cooperating with arrest. I feel that was wrong because I was trying to get my coat of the way so that they could put the handcuffs on, but they said that I was trying to fight and not put the handcuffs on. I think they should not put the handcuffs on until they know the person is going to run away from the crime scene or are not cooperating.

African American

Michael D. Mason

I think its very, very wrong for myself and other inmates shouldn't stay in prison so long for things that they didn't do. When you all let the Mexicans and whites been gone earlier or be let out on signature bond (like Weber).

I'm still in prison –locked up for 8 years when will I be released, huh?

African American

April Whigham

Concern of people with mild/moderate/severe mental problem imprisoned at disparate rate. They need better mental care not prison to further ruin them. Their state of mind needs changing.

Anthony C. Chancy, Sr.

Excerpts from a letter...”My previous drug use: crack cocaine and alcohol was completely recreational among just a few friends. Then in Oct of 2006, matters got worst; I was introduced to Heroin for the first time ever. And within a short period of time my heroin use unexpectedly turned to a need, d by the time I tried to overcome the addiction, there was absolutely nothing I could do about it, but use more. I found myself

captured by the powerful significance of the drug and each dosage took me further and further from reality. And although I knew I had a lot to live for, family, children, job, other responsibilities. However, heroin made me feel as though nothing else mattered.”  
(Currently serving time, letter avail in entirety.)