



**Scott Resnick’s Campus and Downtown Safety Plan: Short-term and Long-term Strategies**

**Narrative:**

Campus safety is the single most important issue in this city council race. Campus safety impacts more than the residents – it affects the entire general perception of Madison. It impacts how successfully the University can attract undergraduate and graduate students. It affects the growth and success of our downtown businesses and local economy and how we interact within our community. If we do not feel safe in our own apartments or walking down State Street, our own perception of the community deteriorates.

Public safety is an intricate issue to tackle. As President of the State-Langdon Neighborhood Association, I have met with many of the downtown stakeholders, including law enforcement agents, our former district police captain, University officials, the director of the Rape Crisis Center, and numerous students. Each party presents a different approach to campus safety and weighs issues of realism, personal freedom, effectiveness, and funding. In this paper I will propose realistic and cost effective measures to maintain and improve our public safety. These will be both immediate and long-term strategies to specifically maintain the level of safety that we have become accustomed to on campus and in Madison. Necessarily, this remains a working document.

There is no one strategy to address campus safety. Safety is a complex issue, and even defining the term can become troublesome. As I will discuss in this paper, the conversation of campus safety has shifted radically in the past six years. I will propose a myriad of strategies to



maintain our current level of safety on campus, and hopefully continue to make incremental improvements to our daily lives. Not everyone will agree these are the correct strategies, or even – given the current economic climate – agree that changes are necessary given our relatively safe community. Before moving forward I want to stress how safe I think Madison is for a mid-sized American city; we are not in a crime-ridden community. However, students and downtown residents have a right to feel secure, and safety is the number one issue voters have brought up with me on the campaign trail. Like my previous paper on alcohol policy, these strategies should be used as a conversation piece to discuss the possible areas where safety can be improved on campus.

**Personal Experience:**

I have lived in the campus area for six years and the district for five years. During this time the conversation of “campus safety” has drastically changed. When I first arrived in Madison, off-campus crimes were increasing across many larger campuses in the Midwest.<sup>1</sup> The University of Wisconsin Police Department (UWPD) would frequently send campus-wide emails discussing how to drink responsibly and walk in groups. Conversations about reporting sexual assaults were frequent in the student newspapers. These conversations took a very serious shift in April of 2008 after the murder of a UW Junior. Campus safety was front-and-center and on the minds of many undergraduates, graduates, parents, and UW administrators.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://badgerherald.com/news/2006/09/26/uw\\_not\\_alone\\_in\\_incr.php](http://badgerherald.com/news/2006/09/26/uw_not_alone_in_incr.php)



Since that time we have seen a shift in the conversation. As a campus we feel safer and the discussion of crime has decreased, yet we are in many ways no safer now than we were in 2008. According to the UW Campus Safety Guide , crimes have *increased* on campus in terms of burglaries (66 to 94), sex offenses (18 to 26), and weapon charges (2 to 10). In my opinion, however, students on campus tend to be more comfortable in their environment and less concerned with their safety. Administrators at the UW and members in city hall have privately made this same observation. In November of 2010, the Madison Police Department released a survey of Central District residents that reaffirmed these trends: 89.9% responded assault and battery were not a significant problem; 90.0% did not find sexual assaults a problem; 97.6% responded gun crimes were not a problem.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, there is greater confidence in our public safety, exemplified by more students feeling comfortable running at night and being home alone.<sup>3</sup> No one has provided a perfect explanation for the shift but there are a few plausible reasons:

1. There have been fewer high-profile crimes in the past two years (there have been no murders on campus for several years)
2. UW administrators and police officers are doing a better job responding to incidences on campus
3. Our campus safety plan has improved and WiscAlerts have provided students with a greater level of security

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.cityofmadison.com/Police/central/newsletters/documents/2010-10CPDNewsletter.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.cityofmadison.com/Police/central/newsletters/documents/2010-10CPDNewsletter.pdf>



4. There have been fewer national incidents of violence on college campuses (i.e. Northern Illinois and Virginia Tech)
5. Sexual assault awareness and prevention has improved on campus
6. The UW and city have taken proactive measures to improve lighting and the campus atmosphere
7. Although the number of arrests has increased, the actual number of incidences could be down<sup>4</sup>
8. Overall crime rates decreased because of a decrease in property crimes, which account for a majority of crimes on the UW campus. This counteracts the slight increase in violent crimes<sup>5</sup>

Thankfully, I would agree students feel safer on campus, although that same survey indicated there were still issues on campus. Burglaries and break-ins are still an issue; 32.3% responded that it was one of the most pertinent issues. Judging by both the statistics and past history with safety on campus, it would be imprudent to not focus on the issue with the District 8 aldermanic race. There is still crime on campus, and preventative measures can have a major impact. A campus alder should always be concerned with safety, even when crime is not the focal point of an election. After understanding why campus safety is traditionally a large part of the District 8 race, it is important to discuss methods we can effectively improve our community even under difficult financial hardships.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.cityofmadison.com/Police/central/newsletters/documents/2009-12CPDNewsletter.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> [http://badgerherald.com/news/2010/09/01/overall\\_crime\\_rate\\_o.php](http://badgerherald.com/news/2010/09/01/overall_crime_rate_o.php)



**Why is campus safety such a large part of the District 8 race?**

There are two reasons campus safety traditionally places a large role in District 8 races: city council establishes laws surrounding public safety and city council determines the amount of funding the Madison Police Department receives.

Chapter 23-26 and 38 of the city municipal code establishes several hundred acts that violate city law. These laws range from underage drinking to banning the sale of certain turtles.<sup>6</sup> Focusing on campus safety, many of these laws directly relate to bans on particular malt liquors, habitually intoxicated persons, noise violations and loitering laws. These laws were created by the City Council to be enforced by the Madison Police Department.

Furthermore, a significant amount of the city budget goes to the police department. From our city's 247 million dollar budget, 59.7 million dollars are allocated to the police department. At, 24% of our city budget, the Madison Police Department is by far the single largest expense for the City of Madison. Since a high percentage of those dollars are allocated to resources downtown and campus, the District 8 aldermanic seat often focuses on questions relating to campus safety.

Needless to say, it is also important to note that alders do not control the strategy used by law enforcement agents. Although alders can effectively control the purse strings, there is a balance of power between the law enforcement agents that carry out the laws and the government body that creates them. Moreover, the city council and Madison Police Department

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<sup>6</sup> 23.50 Why is the 6 note on this page?



must also abide by county, state, and federal law. For example, while the City of Madison does not have ordinances relating to marijuana usage, it's superseded by state and federal laws. Both these distinctions are necessary in order to determine the limitations of the city council.

**Where can we still improve?**

I recognize that the UW-Madison is a relatively safe community. In a recent episode of *Office Hours*, host Ken Goldstein interviewed UW-Police Chief Sue Riseling to discuss the differences between a college campus and other metropolitan areas. Chief Riseling explains that while the campus is relatively free of violent crimes, she still has a major concern with the number of burglaries; the excessive use of alcohol relating to robberies, assaults, and sexual crimes, and harassment on campus.<sup>7</sup> Now, I do not have all the answers. I admit my conclusions are not based on formal police experience or knowledge of criminology. Rather, my conclusions are drawn from my experiences living on campus for six years and being aware of my personal safety. They also come from the numerous stakeholders with whom I consulted during the construction of this safety plan and before I announced my campaign.

Again, I must reemphasize these are practical suggestions. Many suggestions were purposefully excluded from this document either due to economic realities, violation of personal freedoms, or feasibility. Also, it is unrealistic to suggest ideas that are not within the jurisdiction of the Madison City Council to attempt to please constituents or raise my profile. That would

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<sup>7</sup> <http://officehours.polisci.wisc.edu/episodes/season3/E11.php>



draw away from the merit of this paper and the overall objective of improving campus safety.

Thus, I propose:

**1. Require landlords to change passwords on all electronic exterior doors and enforce existing lock policies when new tenants move-in**

Do you ever wonder who lived in your apartment before you? Last year, a graduate student discovered this answer in an unfortunate way. The previous male resident stumbled home from a night of drinking, unlocked the door of his former apartment, and attempted to climb into bed with the new resident. While this story has become a humorous anecdote about a wild first night in Madison, the reality is that landlords need to be held responsible for who has access to an apartment.

City law requires that all apartments must maintain both a primary and secondary locking device.<sup>8</sup> Common areas such as an apartment entrance must also maintain a lock to provide a higher level of security.<sup>9</sup> City code outlines monetary penalties for an offending landlord, ranging from a 5-20% abatement of rent.<sup>10</sup> Unfortunately, some rental units fail to meet the minimum-security requirements for exterior and common locks.

In my experiences, landlords rarely account for all the keys for an individual apartment—particularly in houses. While the remedy for the landlord is to charge for missing keys on

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<sup>8</sup> 22.27.05(2)(h)(3)

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.cityofmadison.com/BI/36696sub2.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> 27.05(2)(h)



security deposits, the locking mechanism is almost never replaced. “Missing keys” jeopardize the security of students, and new locks should be installed any time a key is unaccounted for.

Common doors provide an equally threatening problem. Dial tone security doors are a safe and modern measure for security—except when everyone knows the password. Residents in the Spring Street neighborhood commented that their password had remained the same for three years. This only changed when an unwanted resident began habitually sleeping in the hallways. Changing the password on dial tone security doors is a preventive security measure that requires almost no time or cost to a landlord.

As your city council representative, I will enforce current ordinances that require new locks if the security of a tenant is jeopardized. To better enforce the current ordinances, I will require landlords to notify students when their locks were last changed and verify that all keys have collected from a prior year. If a prior key is used to enter an apartment, that lock will be replaced by the landlord at no cost to the tenant. Lastly, I will require that landlords change dial tone security codes once per year.

**2. Increase lighting on Langdon Street and the Spring Street neighborhood**

One vast improvement to Langdon Street over the past four years has been the increased lighting. In 2009, Alder Eli Judge spearheaded the *Downtown Residential Lighting Initiative* (DRLI), which provided \$50,000 in funding for additional lighting in heavy pedestrian areas



including State, Langdon, and Mifflin Street.<sup>11</sup> In conversations that span several years with residents and the Greek community, this program was highly successful. In 2011, Alder Bryon Eagon helped secured additional lighting for the Langdon community. Announced at the Joint-Southeast Campus Area Committee, over the summer new pedestrian lighting will added to Langdon, Frances, and Lake Street, as well as Mendota Court. These fixtures will improve visibility, and be aesthetically pleasing, in the neighborhood community.

Yet, many of the casual walking paths in the Langdon community remain under-lit. These paths include the Langdon Street walking path that winds behind several of the fraternity houses and the path adjacent to the Lowell Center. After talking with city staff, these paths are under-lit not because of financial resources; rather, the city does not have the easement rights to install lights. As State-Langdon Neighborhood Association President I was able to help address part of this problem. During our neighborhood meeting regarding the new high-rise development at 622 Mendota Court, I spoke to the property owner about installing new lights. I continued these discussions during the Planning Commission meeting, and he was more than willing to highlight the new lighting (and security cameras) along the Lowell Center path. This will be a vast improvement initiated by understanding the city process and communicating with the developer. On the council, I will work with new developers throughout the city to consider better lighting options. With existing property managers, I will work to gain access to these easements and partner with the city to provide adequate lighting.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.dailycardinal.com/bus-fare-hike-lighting-initiative-pass-in-budget-1.773747>



In the Spring Street community, the lighting along College Court, Brooks Street, and along many side streets is significantly worse than Langdon Street. This is the number one complaint I hear while meeting with constituents in that area. Students should feel safe walking at night from Witte Hall to the Shell; right now, that is not the case. Even under the current economic hardships, I will work to secure funding for new lights to be strategically placed within the neighborhood through the standard budget process. I will also work with new developers, similar to 622 Mendota Court, so any new development provides better lighting for the surrounding neighbors.

Lighting is not the only solution to a safer campus. Crime will still occur at night; however, improved visibility is a major step forward and a realistic improvement that can be made at the city council level. In fact, when researching the *Downtown Residential Lighting Initiative* in 2007, Eli Judge was told by the Madison Police (according to their internal research) that campus-area lighting was the number one way to improve safety in the area.

### **3. Provide better lighting and signals on our bike paths, including the intersection on Charter Street**

On the topic of lighting, the city council should also focus on the bike path that runs alongside Spring Street. Many pedestrians use the bike path on campus at all hours of the night. While lighting is sufficient, there are areas that follow the railroad track that need improvement. Many areas of the path rely on neighboring residents, and could be improved by the city and



funded through the DRLI. Another consideration should be a signal for the intersection of the bike path and Charter Street. That street in particular receives a high amount of traffic from the University and is a delivery route for many buildings. Adding a traffic or pedestrian sign would improve flow at that intersection.

**4. Develop neighborhood sidewalk strategies before approving new development projects**

Before applying for a new development permit, developers must submit a project plan that includes street closings and safety concerns. At this stage the city will approve street and sidewalk closings, as well as other safety specifications that must be adhered to throughout the project. I will admit, staging a construction project is not my specialty, and I will often defer to city staff that has years of experience and proper education. Currently, however, I am dissatisfied with the City’s approved staging of 237 Langdon Street.

First, I am in full support of the new construction project, although the staging by this particular developer has been detrimental to the community and residents of Langdon Street. For several months the sidewalk on Langdon Street has been closed. Throughout the winter, foot traffic created its own path through the snow and over a chain link barrier. Snow would pile around project fence, causing pedestrians to enter into the middle of the street. Walking home at night, this is a dangerous spot because of the construction. Furthermore, I have not been satisfied with the amount of soil erosion coming from the project site. Considering the beauty design of this project, the developer should work to improve conditions at their construction site. Before



approving any new development I will make sure their project proposal does not jeopardize the safety of current constituents of District 8 or residents of Madison for future residents.

**5. Continue to support our neighborhood watch programs**

As Alder, I will continue to promote and provide necessary resources to neighborhood watch programs, such as the *Langdon Watch Street Program* and *Badger Watch*. In response to high amounts of crime on Langdon, two UW Seniors revived the 2006 *Langdon Watch Street Program*. Alongside support from the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council, each fraternity and sorority patrols the neighborhood one night a semester from 10 pm to 2:30 am.<sup>12</sup> Students involved do not arrest or get involved in stopping criminal activity, rather report it to the police. Similarly, *Badger Watch* is organized by the UW-Police department and includes UWPD community officers, students, faculty, and alumni. In fact, the *Badger Watch* program was named 2010's Best Neighborhood Watch Program by the National Sheriff's Association.<sup>13</sup> These programs provide law enforcement with another set of eyes and ears on nights with statistically higher level of crime.

Programs such as these require little funding from the city and provide constituents with a better level of involvement with their own personal safety. While these types of programs will not eliminate crime entirely, members involved can have a positive community experience. In my experiences, residents who are proactive in their community are more likely to defend it from

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<sup>12</sup> [http://badgerherald.com/news/2010/11/03/greeks\\_to\\_start\\_patr.php](http://badgerherald.com/news/2010/11/03/greeks_to_start_patr.php)

<sup>13</sup> [http://badgerherald.com/news/2010/09/01/overall\\_crime\\_rate\\_o.php](http://badgerherald.com/news/2010/09/01/overall_crime_rate_o.php)



vandalism. I will continue to support programs such as the *Langdon Watch Street Program* with resources such as funding, supplies, and training. I will also look to go towards the community and seek partnerships from local businesses to help encourage participation and obtain funding.

## **6. End funding for bar raids**

Bar raids are used by the police department to discourage underage drinking inside bars. The mentality behind bar raids is part enforcement, part psychological deterrence. More times than not, illegal patrons in campus bars are usually students and relatively well behaved. Students infrequently cause alcohol-related disturbances such as burglaries, battery charges and assaults. Bar raids are expensive to conduct and shift limited police resources away from the streets. To avoid the threat of bar raids, students will find alternative and less-safe environments to drink, particularly large house parties or remote locations on campus, creating a host of new problems. Bar raids fail to increase downtown safety, and I applaud Alder Mike Vermeer's efforts to eliminate funding for raids at every possible opportunity.<sup>14</sup> According to these trends, bar raids reduce safety and I will continue to oppose them on the council.

It terms of campus safety, excess consumption of alcohol does put students at risk. Director of University Health Services Dr. Sarah Van Orman and UW Police Chief Sue Riseling have discussed these challenges during numerous forums and public engagements.<sup>15</sup> I do not disagree with the increased vulnerabilities. However, outside of underage drinking citations,

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<sup>14</sup> <http://www.isthmus.com/isthmus/article.php?article=27274>

<sup>15</sup> <http://officehours.polisci.wisc.edu/episodes/season3/E11.php>



many crimes on campus that involve alcohol do not involve students. After reading numerous incident reports available in the Central District newsletter, very few violent and aggressive incidents involve college-aged students. You are more likely to read a report of an assault committed by a 30-year-old than a 20-year-old at a campus bar. Nevertheless, campus police officers and city policy tend to focus on college students.

I believe it is better for law enforcement agents to focus attention on the *environment* where students are drinking, rather than on alcohol itself or the location. If students are responsibly drinking at a house party, they should not become a target for police officers. Through education programs, students should be aware of safe practices this, however requires an understanding with law enforcement agents. While the city council does not have a direct role in determining police practices and state laws allow police officers to check the identification of anyone who drinks, funding should be allocated to promote this strategy whenever possible.

## **7. Use “problem-oriented” pilot programs to deter crime**

In May of 2008, the UWPD began experiencing with an innovative program to deter bicycle thieves on campus called “Bait Bike.” From January 2007 to May of 2008, 100 bicycles were reported stolen on campus (although from personal experience I’d assume a majority of incidents are unreported). Through citizen donations and a partnership with Budget Bicycles, bikes with GPS chips are strategically place around campus. Police are notified when a bike has been stolen and officers are dispatched. Moreover, the UWPD has marketed this program



through pamphlets and bike stickers reading: “This could be a bait bike,” featuring Bucky in uniform.<sup>16</sup> Although we do not know the exact number of bicycle thieves the program has deterred, the general notion among officers, UW officials, and students is that the program has been a success.<sup>17</sup>

Innovative strategies such as this require community partnerships, a positive relationship with relationship among community officers, and a legislative body willing to explore new ideas. Another example of community partnerships working together to develop a “problem-oriented” strategy occurred during the construction of Peace Park during the summer of 2010. An influx of transient community members started loitering between Towers and Statesider. Incidents of vandalism, drug trafficking, and public disturbances drastically increased. Two neighboring hotels saw a notable drop in business, and surrounding shops were negatively affected. Spearheaded by Alder Eagon, business leaders, city officials, and the Madison Police Department gathered to discuss innovative strategies to improve the Concrete Park. In addition to increasing bike patrols, two very cost effective changes made a significant difference: removing a park bench and adding a garbage can. Within days these changes made a big improvement. The habitual offenders that were occupying the location did not have a place to sleep. Officers were able to better patrol the area with bicycles, silently observing the area from Langdon Street, and officers could enforce littering policies. Although I do not have an exact dollar amount for these changes, I’d assume the changes cost the city under \$200 and the effects were noticeable.

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<sup>16</sup> <http://www.uwupd.wisc.edu/crime-prevention-bait-bike-program.htm>

<sup>17</sup> [http://badgerherald.com/news/2010/09/01/overall\\_crime\\_rate\\_o.php](http://badgerherald.com/news/2010/09/01/overall_crime_rate_o.php)



When your alder develops a strong relationship with community leaders, these forums provide innovative strategies for promoting community safety. Through my current position as neighborhood president and my attendance at city committees, I already have a good working relationship with leaders in the law enforcement community and University. I hope to employ similar strategies throughout my term to proactively address campus safety needs.

## **8. Continue to advocate for neighborhood officers**

Another success of the Central District precinct is the neighborhood officer program. Neighborhood officers implement strategies of community policing that includes interacting with residents, meeting business owners, and forward outreach. A neighborhood officer has a different responsibility compared to other officers inside the police department, and holds specific office hours and lead units. These units survey neighborhoods and attempt to address problems at the community-level. Officers from neighborhood programs have received accommodations recently for improving inappropriate behavior (prostitution) at Olin Park and child-predator stings.<sup>18</sup>

However, the city council does not determine the number of neighborhood officers, rather that strategy is determined by the police department. There are usually one or two neighborhood officers assigned to each precinct or several precincts. Funding is not necessarily an issue, rather it is the overall responsibility of the officer. I completely support the role of

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[http://www.nbc15.com/newsyoucanuse/headlines/Madison\\_South\\_District\\_Community\\_Police\\_Team\\_Honored\\_114214999.html](http://www.nbc15.com/newsyoucanuse/headlines/Madison_South_District_Community_Police_Team_Honored_114214999.html)



neighborhood officers and believe their strategy is important to maintaining relative levels of safety. I'll continue to work with the State Street/Downtown neighborhood officer, and if the police department feels it's necessary, expand funding for additional officers.

### **9. Amnesty for alcohol related incidents**

Another idea that I support surrounds the topic of Alcohol Amnesty. Among other things, Alcohol Amnesty would protect an individual who sought medical attention for a peer after a night of drinking from getting punished for underage drinking themselves. I value strategies that focus on keeping students safe over opportunities to punish underage drinking. If elected to the City Council I would continue to talk with police on this issue while keeping both state and federal regulations in mind.

### **Cost Conclusions of Short-term Solutions**

Compared to many metropolitan communities our campus is a relatively safe place, however, considering our current economic shortfalls we need to look at cost-effective measures and realistic improvements that can be accomplished within our district. The price tag for all nine ideas is under \$50,000. These are realistic solutions that do not impede our personal freedoms and make campus a safer place. As we struggle to balance our budget (particularly with the proposed cuts to shared revenue from the State), we need to aggressively look for community partnerships and publicly available technologies that make our campus and city safe. These include public crime maps, websites that promote personal safety, business security cameras, and



rapid-response communications systems. We need to view campus safety as a community issue where residents, business owners, and law enforcement all have an active role.

### **How do we address long-term strategies off campus and throughout Madison?**

While the previous section focused on short-term solutions to creating a safer campus, addressing long-term problems of poverty and mental-health are also necessary for our community. These issues manifest themselves with Madison's habitual offenders and chronic issues of poverty that do not necessarily link to crime. I am not an expert on social welfare or poverty reform, and I welcome new ideas. I am merely identifying some of these problems and opening the conversation on how to address them. I will first address habitual offenders, followed by areas where we can improve the overall economic conditions for Madison's most vulnerable residents.

### **Chronic offenders on State Street**

In 2008, the Madison Police Department and UW Law School reviewed five months of incidence reports in an attempt to determine the worse nuisance offenders. These are individuals who require the most police attention for incidences of public drunken, disorderly conduct, illegal panhandling, and shoplifting. The study concluded that 98 offenders were responsible for nearly 800 police contacts downtown. The top 24 offenders were responsible for almost all of these contacts—at a cost of \$875,000 to the Madison taxpayers ANNUALLY. This includes



visits to detox, the hospital, and the county jail; it does not include the salaries of responding officers. We need to continue to look for methods to curbe these behaviors while respecting the personal freedoms of these individuals.<sup>19</sup>

As a city, we need to look at collective measures beyond policy ordinances to address these issues. The problems associated with these individuals are not new to arresting officers: alcoholism, drug problems, mental illness, economic woes, and homelessness. However, it is often up to the individual whether or not to receive treatment. Community leaders and professionals within the mental health community need to be able to work in collaboration with law enforcement to identify and educate habitual offenders of the resources available throughout the city and county. If someone wants to seek treatment, he or she should be fully aware of the avenues inside Madison and Dane County.

The city and county have a network of social services to provide emergency shelter, alcohol and drug treatment, mental illness management and assistance with job placement. Located inside District 8, Porchlight provides emergency shelter, food, employment services, and housing for men and women suffering from serious mental illness. According to their website, “Every year Porchlight provides over 350 women, men and children with over 100,000 nights of shelters.”<sup>20</sup> Other programs include (but are not limited to): *The Skills Training and Barrier Limiting Education Program (STABLE)* to provide primary housing to women with mental health issues, *Sobriety Training Orientation Program (STOP)* to provide primary housing for men with alcohol issues resulting in homelessness, and *Sobriety Training After Recovery*

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<sup>19</sup> <http://www.thedaily.page.com/isthmus/article.php?article=24564>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.porchlightinc.org/index.html>



*Treatment Program* (START) to provide housing and resources for individuals recovering from addiction. As a city, we need to support these services and work towards correcting the source of chronic issues.

Porchlight is only one example in Madison. There are hundreds of support services throughout our community that addresses debilitating hardships within our community such as: hunger, poverty, affordable housing, sexual assault, and criminal victimization. At the neighborhood level, the city organizes efforts through *Neighborhood Resource Teams* (NRTs). These teams are lead by a city staff person from major agencies and boundaries are established inside five city regions. Essentially, these teams help coordinate resources and provide targeted strategies to improve each region of the city.

Even amidst budget cuts, the city must prioritize services that directly curve poverty and future problems in Madison. It is unacceptable for the city to be reactive to address chronic issues. We must use our financial resources to address long-term solutions as to correct issues of poverty and other hardships.

**What programs do we fund? How do we determine how much?**

Lastly, it is important to recognize most city council members are not heartless. Social services are high on the agenda for almost all members servicing on the council; however, determining how much money service *x* receives verse service *y* is a major point of contention. Due to my background with researching and interning for the State Public Defenders, my priority



of rehabilitating chronic offenders many not be the same as another councilmember. Similarly, my value of youth sports and summer recreation programs for at-risk may be different than someone who'd like to focus on creative programs for at-risk youth. Both our values may be noble, but we simply cannot afford to fund everything.

The City Council has developed a zero-based funding approach to all non-profit funding decisions. Essentially, the City Council only determines the amount of money to allocate for services. Then, the Council determines the priorities for the city and allocates a dollar amount to general purposes: youth, domestic violence and assault, access to resources, adult workforce preparedness & employment, neighborhoods, children and families, and seniors. At this point, non-profit organizations request funding through grant applications, which are reviewed by the Community Services Committee. Each grant is ranked on a 60-point scale, and through a complex process between the committee and city hall, assigned a dollar value.<sup>21</sup> Thus, individual city council members have no role in determining the exact programs or dollar amount for a particular organization.

This system of funding is relatively new, and after discussions with applicants, improvements can be made. Grant rankings are not always proportional to the funding allocated. Furthermore, at times the Committee was not specific about the exact amount being approved: the funding would reflect a lump sum, not the line item contract signed with the city. While improvements can be made to the process, I do believe in the overall framework. Social services

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<sup>21</sup> <http://www.cityofmadison.com/cdbg/documents/ProposalReviewCriteria.pdf>



funding can be responsibly and efficiently distributed among different areas without the politicizing the process.

While budgetary sessions are always difficult, I will ensure that we continue to fund social services. The social services that are provided in Madison are one of the differences between our community and others in Wisconsin; we focus on addressing vulnerabilities within our community and I will continue to uphold that tradition.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, this is the beginning of a conversation on campus safety. We must look for feasible and realistic solutions for addressing preventative strategies to make our campus a safer place. While the short-term campus solutions are reflective of our relatively safe campus environment, our long-term solutions will require an entire community effort. These problems will not be resolved overnight, however, I am eager to be part of the solution.