

PO Box 44246  
Madison, WI 53744



608.516.4420  
mcpf2016@gmail.com

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madisoncommunitypolicingfoundation.org

March 21, 2023

Dear potential MPD “Bridge Builder,”

In October 2022, the Madison Police Department (MPD) received a Federal grant from the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). The purpose of the grant is to grow **trust and legitimacy** between the community and MPD in neighborhoods throughout Madison; (particularly “at risk” or “underserved” neighborhoods). The MPD COPS grant award provides funding to establish “**Community Policing Advisory Boards**” (**CPABs**) in each of MPD’s six police districts (e.g., West, South, Midtown, Central, North & East). In 2017, a pilot test of this CPAB model was implemented under a similar grant in the South Police District. In order to create the pilot CPAB at that time, South District reached out to local non-profits based in the South District (Nehemiah, Centro Hispano, Bayview) to serve as “Bridge Builders” and help identify residents from diverse backgrounds to serve on the South District CPAB for the duration of the grant. This initial pilot project while successful, was discontinued as funding was not available to continue the program. ([See attached article or click this link](#) for more information on the pilot project).

You are receiving this letter today because you or your organization has been identified as a potential, “Bridge Builder” for the current CPAB initiative. In January 2023, the Madison Community Policing Foundation (MCPF) was contracted with by MPD to serve as the fiscal agent and provide overall project coordination to this new CPAB initiative. MCPF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) created and operated by retired MPD officers. Our mission is to grow the relationship between police and community. MCPF is now looking to connect with persons/organizations like yourselves to help with two tasks:

1. **To assist MPD and MCPF in identifying “Advisors” for each CPAB.** Each police district CPAB will have 5 “Advisors” who will meet with MPD officers from their district throughout the duration of the grant award (e.g., approximately 10 meetings total). CPAB Advisors will be hired as consultants or independent contractors by MCPF and compensated at \$25 per hour (e.g., 40 hours max or \$1,000). Advisors will be compensated 3 hours for attending each of the 10 district CPAB meetings (e.g., 30 hours). Advisors will also be compensated for attending CPAB sponsored community events and activities that bring together MPD officers and community residents. The recruitment process for CPAB advisors will occur in April and May 2023. Our goal is to have all CPAB Advisors identified and selected by early June. Federal grant funding for all MPD CPABs is expected to be available through September 2024. See the attached CPAB position description for further information.

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2. **Promote, assist and support CPAB community policing events & activities:** We anticipate each MPD police district based CPAB will eventually want to organize, sponsor or promote events and activities which bring together police and community. To whatever extent possible, we would greatly appreciate having you or your organization assist MCPF and the MPD CPABs with these events (e.g., promoting, providing volunteers, etc.).

MCPF does have some funding available to compensate you or your organization for serving as a “Bridge Builder” for this CPAB initiative. If you choose, you or your organization could serve as a consultant or independent contractor to MCPF, (similar to the CPAB Advisors) at a rate of \$25 per hour. You or your organization can also support this initiative and not accept compensation. If you elect to accept compensation, MCPF will require documentation from you for Federal grant reporting purposes. Either way, **if you or your organization is interested in serving as a “Bridge Builder,” we would ask that you reach out to us (MCPF) between now and Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>** by phone or email:

By phone: Please contact MCPF CPAB Project Coordinator Liz Merfeld at 608-335-2363

By email: [mcpf-cpab@madisoncommunitypolicingfoundation.org](mailto:mcpf-cpab@madisoncommunitypolicingfoundation.org)

We anticipate some type of MPD media release occurring the week of April 10<sup>th</sup> officially launching the MPD CPAB initiative. At this time, a website link will be activated and shared so interested Madison community members can complete a “Statement of Interest” for the district CPAB they wish to serve as an “Advisor.” Paper copies of the “Statement of Interest” form will also be available at each MPD police district in English, Spanish and Hmong. Thank you for considering our request and for everything you and your organization does to help make Madison the vibrant, multicultural community it is today. While the current Federal grant for this project will likely conclude in September 2024, it is our hope we can create a community building platform here that is sustainable and worthy of funding well into the future.

Sincerely,

Joe Balles, Chair

Madison Community Policing Foundation, Inc.

c) 608-516-4420

[joseph.balles@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.balles@gmail.com)