



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS County of Dane

ROOM 362, CITY-COUNTY BUILDING  
210 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BOULEVARD  
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703-3342  
608/266-5758 • WI RELAY 7-1-1



Date: May 2, 2024

To: Sheriff Calvin Barrett

From: Heidi Wegleitner (Supervisor, District 2); Jay Brower (Supervisor, District 13)

RE: UW-Madison Pro-Palestinian Encampment

Dear Sheriff Barrett,

We are writing this open letter as Dane County Board Supervisors to express our disappointment regarding UW-Madison's coordination with the Dane County Sheriff's Office and resources to break up the peaceful Pro-Palestinian Encampment at UW-Madison.

University campuses maintain a special status in society where First Amendment rights, and their extension into academic freedom, must be zealously preserved. UW-Madison maintains a robust history of free expression, which has helped shape the university into a world-class institution that substantially contributes to the vibrancy of our Dane County communities.

The ongoing war in Gaza has surfaced many strong feelings, which will continue to build pressure around the demonstration. As public officials, acting in the public's interest, we must not succumb to any impulse for action that will silence activists working to shape public discourse through peaceful means.

To these ends, we do not approve of the use of any county resource, law enforcement or otherwise, to remove anyone from the current encampment or any other future demonstrations who is acting in a peaceful manner for the primary purpose of engaging in protected First Amendment activities. The utilization of county resources in support of any such action constitutes a failure of our leadership and is an inappropriate use of public monies. We are hopeful for your cooperation as we evaluate the role of your office in responding to political demonstrations and requests for mutual aid from other law enforcement agencies.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Heidi Wegleitner, District 2  
Supervisor Jay Brower, District 13  
Supervisor April Kigeya, District 15  
Supervisor Kierstin Huelsemann, District 27  
Supervisor Henry Fries, District 5  
Supervisor Tommy Rylander, District 12  
Supervisor Rick Rose, District 16  
Supervisor Yogesh Chawla, District 6  
Supervisor Michele Doolan, District 28