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Police Department

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August 12, 2021

Senator Roth & Members of the Wisconsin State Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

RE: Senate Bill 473- Support for Senate Bill 473 with an identical Amendment to Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Bill 335- Relating to grants to law enforcement agencies for body cameras

I am writing to respectfully request that the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety adopt an amendment to Senate Bill 473 identical to the language in Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Bill 335 to allow the Marquette University Police Department (MUPD) to be eligible for grants to law enforcement agencies for body cameras. We are grateful to Majority Leader Steineke and Representative Stubbs for introducing this amendment on behalf of MUPD which was adopted unanimously by the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety and the full State Assembly.

We are grateful to the Wisconsin Legislature and the State of Wisconsin for the statutory authority for the creation of the Marquette University Police Department under Wisconsin State Statutes 175.42. As written, Senate Bill 473, only allows law enforcement agencies to receive grant funding. The Marquette University Police Department is not included in the definition of a "law enforcement agency" as outlined in Wisconsin State Statute 165.83(1)(b).

The Marquette University Police Department (MUPD) was commissioned on May 1, 2015, after an agreement with the state of Wisconsin's Department of Justice and Attorney General's office. MUPD has more than 80 trained public safety professionals, including 44 sworn law enforcement officers, MUPD has an extensive safety infrastructure throughout campus and in the near-off-campus neighborhood, which includes more than 1,100 cameras and more than 450 Blue Light phones, a state-of-the-art command information center and the nationally recognized Department of Campus Safety.

A Marquette University police officer's primary role is to prevent crime and the breach of public order and is in-line with many of the responsibilities outlined under Senate Bill 473 for which grants for body cameras would be available. Primary responsibilities include protecting students, faculty, staff, campus visitors, property and facilities from accidents, bodily harm, fire, theft, vandalism and illegal entry; enforcing laws and traffic and parking regulations; apprehending violators; providing general information and assistance to the public; conducting criminal investigations; and participating in community-



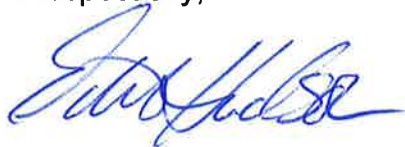
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oriented policing efforts. The MUPD patrol zone extends beyond Marquette University's campus and much of its work benefits community members who are not affiliated with Marquette University.

Marquette University Police Department also works in close partnership with other law enforcement agencies to protect the residents of Milwaukee and the citizens of Wisconsin.

Body camera equipment and the supporting systems are an expensive investment. Since the vast majority of MUPD police officers work is in the public right of way, we would respectfully request MUPD be an eligible entity. I would be happy to discuss this matter if you have any further questions. Please feel free to contact me at (414) 288-6800.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Edith Hudson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "H".

Edith Hudson
Chief of Police