



## **CITY COUNTY HOMELESS ISSUES COMMITTEE**

Linda Ketcham & Ulysses Williams, Co-Chairs



December 27, 2019

Dear Honorable Senators Baldwin and Johnson,

We are the Co-Chairs of the City of Madison and Dane County Homeless Issues Committee. Our committee is an advisory body that focuses on issues related to homelessness and housing in Dane County and provides policy recommendations to the elected officials of Madison and Dane County.

Homelessness and housing instability are significant issues in Dane County. 3,681 people accessed the community's homeless services in 2018, and many more were unstably housed. According to the 2019 City of Madison's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, approximately 55% of the City of Madison renters are cost burdened and people of color, people with disabilities, low-income households experience significant barriers to fair housing choice.

At our most recent meeting, the committee members present voted to voice our opposition to placing F-35 fighter jets at Truax Field. Our position is informed by a number of concerns and include the following:

- Significant and disparate impact on persons of color: Nearly every impacted area belongs to a census tract with rates of persons of color well above the city- and county-wide average. The block group with the largest expansion of the impacted area (Carpenter Ridgeway) is comprised of 43.9% persons of color.
- High number of low-income housing units in the area: Nearly 800 subsidized low-income housing units are located within 1,500 feet of the 65 dB DNL contour. These include the CDA Truax housing, CDA Webb-Rethke townhomes, and Rethke Terrace. Rethke Terrace is a 60 unit permanent supportive housing building that are homes to formerly homeless veterans and chronically homeless individuals with disabilities.
- Lack of noise mitigation options available for mobile home residents: There are over 300 units of mobile homes in the impacted area. FAA rules restrict funding for sound mitigation to permanent structures and likely exclude mobile homes from receiving mitigation assistance.
- Potential long-term health impact on vulnerable populations: Long term exposure to noise levels similar to those expected from the F-35s include sleep disturbance, increased level of stress, hearing impairments, hypertension, and heart disease. Many vulnerable

residents in the surrounding area, including formerly chronically homeless individuals with disabilities, elderly and children, will have to bear the health consequences with lack of housing choices available to them.

The committee opposes the proposal that will likely result in increased housing instability and inequities among vulnerable populations. We urge you to advocate against the placement of F-35 jets at Truax Field.

Sincerely,

Linda Ketcham & Ulysses Williams, Co-Chairs

cc: Madison Common Council, Dane County Board of Supervisors, Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, Dane County Executive Joe Parisi, Governor Tony Evers, Representative Mark Pocan, Dane County Homeless Services Consortium Board of Directors, Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett, Under Secretary of the Air Force Matthew Donovan