



WHITEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT

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February 26th, 2021

Clerk of the Supreme Court
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701

Re: Petition 20-09

Dear Honorable Justices,

As a leader within our Wisconsin law enforcement community, I write to you in order to advocate for the adoption of Petition 20-09 which would allow for video conferencing technology for judicial hearings.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has left lasting negative impacts on our country. However, the innovation which ensued may have some positive benefits. I believe the following benefits related to video conferencing would be achieved:

- Attorneys and the courts would be able to participate in hearings more efficiently. Attorneys often times represent clients in different counties. The drive time to each hearing reduces their available time and how many clients they can serve.
- Witness availability; which includes police officers; will improve. This reduces the need to reschedule and/or postpone hearings. As an example, an officer that may have been unavailable to testify in person due to a training or other commitment would likely be able to testify remotely.
- A reduced cost for law enforcement within their respective communities. For the City of Whitewater, officers live both close and somewhat far from our two separate county courthouses. By allowing for video testimony, we would save up to an hour of overtime in drive time for each hearing. Other agencies in our State could also realize similar savings.
- An officer who is on duty would be able to testify locally, reducing the time away from their daily job duties. This efficiency would provide better law enforcement services to our community.

I believe the benefits of the petition are many and appreciate the Court's willingness to seriously consider this option. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this petition.

Sincerely,

Aaron M. Raap
Chief of Police
City of Whitewater Police Department