

http://host.madison.com/ct/news/local/govt-and-politics/madison-official-responds-to-criticism-over-audits-of-boys-and/article_64c5c3cd-bf3a-520e-ac78-cd3499402f2b.html

EDITOR'S PICK

Madison official responds to criticism over audits of Boys and Girls Club of Dane County

ABIGAIL BECKER | The Capital Times | abecker@madison.com | [@abecker_4](https://twitter.com/abecker_4) May 26, 2017



PHOTO BY MICHELLE STOCKER

[Buy Now](#)

The city is wrapping up 2016 audits of the Dane County Boys and Girls Club's Taft Street site and Allied Family Center. Community centers that receive federal funding are required to be audited.

A handful of community and neighborhood centers in Madison have been audited by the city because of requirements attached to their federal funding.

In 2015, the city's Community Development Division monitored Vera Court Neighborhood Center and Bridge Lake Point Waunona Neighborhood Center. The division is wrapping up 2016 audits of the Dane County Boys and Girls Club's Taft Street site and Allied Family Center and plan to take a look at Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center next, Community Development Division Director Jim O'Keefe said Friday.

"These more formal monitorings are really connected to the obligations that come with the use of federal dollars," O'Keefe said.

O'Keefe said due to staffing capacity issues, the division had fallen behind on monitoring the approximately 13 neighborhood centers that receive federal funding.

After the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development reviewed the CDD and determined the division was behind in its auditing, O'Keefe said the city made a goal of monitoring two to three centers each year.

"It's city staff within the division that determines who and when the schedule of those audits," O'Keefe said. "We started with (the centers) that received the largest share of federal funding."

HUD requires the city to audit the administrative procedures and the finances of the organizations. If problems are found, O'Keefe said the city would work with the organization to develop a plan of action.

Dane County Boys and Girls Club CEO Michael Johnson called attention to the audit in a Facebook post Friday morning, seeming to assert that Mayor Paul Soglin initiated the audit in response to critical remarks from Johnson.

"In my (eight) years at the Club, the Mayor's Office has never done a financial audit on our Club," Johnson said.

Last week, Johnson criticized Soglin for taking credit in deploying a "rapid response" team in the aftermath of an east side shooting and contested Soglin's role in dispatching the newly formed group. Johnson said that he and Anthony Cooper, Sr., director of reentry services for Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development and a member of the Focused Interruption Coalition, were already on their way to the incident.

Friday afternoon, Johnson said a statement from the mayor's office that said neighborhood centers are "routinely audited" by the city was misleading. He said the club is independently audited each year and has received the highest rating for fiscal management by Charity Navigator, an independent charity watchdog organization.

Share your opinion on this topic by sending a letter to the editor to tctvoice@madison.com. Include your full name, hometown and phone number. Your name and town will be published. The phone number is for verification purposes only. Please keep your letter to 250 words or less.



Update: Funding for Madison 'rapid response' after violent crimes generates heat among leaders



Johnson sharply criticizes Soglin for taking credit on 'rapid response team' deployment

Abigail Becker

Abigail Becker joined The Capital Times in 2016, where she primarily covers city and county government. She previously worked for the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism and the Wisconsin State Journal.



Get the Cap Times app for your smartphone

[Click here for the iPhone version](#)
[Click here for the Android version](#)

Get news delivered to your inbox.

- Cap Times Headlines** Sent each morning at 6
- Cap Times Opinion** Sent each morning at 11
- Cap Times Recap "In Case You Missed It"** Sent each afternoon at 5
- Madison.com Features** Sent each morning at 6
- Madison.com Food & Drink** Sent each Thursday morning at 11