

City of Madison Police Officer Jamar Gary Comments on Affirmative Action
Presented to the State of Wisconsin Legislative Council:
Special Committee on Affirmative Action
December 19, 2006

Good evening, distinguished members of the Special Committee on Affirmative Action, media and the public.

Thank you for allowing me to place the following comments with regard to Affirmative Action on the record. I have been asked by Christie Hill of the City of Madison Department of Civil Rights Affirmative Action Division to provide a brief statement about my experience with the Affirmative Action Student Professionals in Residence program (AASPIRE).

Remarks

In May of 2001 I graduated from UW Stevens Point with a degree in Business Administration. Prior to graduation I applied to several companies without success. The most common comment I heard from recruiters was that I did not have pertinent work experience.

I applied for the AASPIRE internship out of college hoping that it would give me the work experience that I needed to secure professional employment. I was able to work in the budget office of the City of Madison Police Department. Coincidentally the budget analyst for the department resigned shortly before I began the internship.

The internship provided me with an opportunity to assist with the forecast of the 2002 budget for the department. I was able to attend executive committee meetings within the department as well as citywide agency meetings. I worked closely with then Assistant Chief Noble Wray who acted as a mentor for me.

Through the internship I was able to showcase my work ethic and create professional relationships. By the end of the internship then Chief Richard Williams encouraged me to apply for the position of police officer. I applied and I was hired in May of 2002. Since becoming a police officer I have completed my Master's of Business Administration. The AASPIRE internship played an integral role in my ability to become employed by the City of Madison.

Jamar Gary
Police Officer
City of Madison
19 December 2006