

Statement of Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs
September 30, 2009

My prayers and well wishes go out to the Milwaukee police officer shot this morning while trying to serve a search warrant near 12th and Burleigh. I'm glad to hear he'll be OK, and I pray that he makes a speedy recovery.

I join in the Mayor's call for getting illegal guns off our streets. It is indeed troubling to know that central city neighborhoods are, in some cases, flush with firearms, and too often we hear gunshots at night, and sometimes – like today – during the daylight hours. The bullets not only cause physical damage and death, but they also sew fear and terror in the minds of good, law-abiding citizens.

But I believe we truly need those good citizens if we're to make an impact on this problem. We need their help, and we need an overall greater community collaboration and involvement with police and other law enforcement agencies if we hope to have a better chance at getting the guns off our streets. The people in our neighborhoods know where the guns are, but they are scared (and rightfully so) and they will need to gain trust and confidence in law enforcement before they will be willing to come forward and share information.

As a city we need to thank the men and women who risk their lives each day as Milwaukee police officers. And, as leaders we need to encourage and support efforts to get more neighborhood and community involvement and collaboration with law enforcement, and we must also find ways of keeping illegal guns off our streets and of seizing guns from criminals who might use them.

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