



Willie L. Hines, Jr.
City of Milwaukee Common Council

Fire and Police Commission's reversal sends hope throughout the community

Statement of Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr. December 11, 2012

I join citizens throughout the city today in celebrating the Fire and Police Commission's choice to reverse course and terminate Officer Richard Schoen. The committee's decision to reconsider its initial disciplinary finding, a 60-day suspension, is not only just, but it is the most appropriate thing to do.

We all recognize the difficult job with which Milwaukee police officers are tasked. The City of Milwaukee spends significant taxpayer resources on ensuring the department can deliver quality, professional services. When officers get it right, we must applaud them. When officers exercise the kind of brutal disregard for regulations and human well-being displayed by Officer Schoen, we must hold them accountable. This ensures the protection of our citizens' most basic rights, as well as the ability of the rule-abiding, vast majority of police officers to ensure residents' safety.

The Fire and Police Commission's action today not only holds Officer Schoen accountable, but gives the community something to hope for. It's my sincere hope that this is only the beginning of a bigger movement toward accountability and transparency in our Milwaukee Police Department.