

# JOE DAVIS, SR.

Alderman, 2nd District



## CHAIR

- Community and Economic Development Committee
- Convenient Lending Task Force
- Sister Cities Committee

## CO-CHAIR

- Fireworks Task Force

## VICE CHAIR

- National League of Cities' International Council

## MEMBER

- Judiciary and Legislation Committee
- Public Safety Committee
- Steering and Rules Committee
- Milwaukee Economic Development Corporation
- Main Street Milwaukee Partners Board

## HONORARY CONSUL

- Republic of South Africa – State of Wisconsin

# Innocent until proven guilty

## Statement of Alderman Joe Davis, Sr. January 16, 2013

As a member of the legislative branch of city government, I respect the other branches of government, and I would certainly hope that my Council colleagues would also share that same collegial respect. We must always be mindful that the executive and judicial branches have important functions and roles to play.

But many politicians, which I am one, seem to forget the due process aspect of the judicial branch of government (which has the famous term that we all know: “Innocent until PROVEN guilty”) which includes the law enforcement investigation in any criminal case. But time and time again, we (politicians) are willing to weigh in with our two-bit solutions and idiotic opinions before the facts are presented by the District Attorney based upon the evidence collected by law enforcement, which the last time I checked is the District Attorney’s responsibility.

Alderman Donovan has called for a mother (who has two other children at home – ages 5 and 4 years old) involved in the co-sleeping death of her baby boy to be put in jail without regard to what will happen to her young children. Now I'm all for people being held accountable for their actions, but these children had nothing to do with their mother's irresponsible decisions with regard to her deceased infant child.

If the mother is locked up, it is possible those young children will be – for all intents and purposes – put in jail as well! I'm speaking of the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare system that, in my opinion, will negatively impact these children forever.

So before we go shooting off our mouth, let's be consistent. If you didn't call for jail time in the John Spooner case, well then I rest my case.

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