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ROBERT G. DONOVAN

Alderman, 8th District

August 5, 2013

Governor Scott Walker
115 East Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker:

Today marks the one-year anniversary of the Sikh Temple massacre in Oak Creek. As tragic as that day was, there is an even greater incidence of violence and death in Wisconsin, one that is ongoing and escalating. Of course, I am referring to the chronic violent crime problem that is found in large areas of Milwaukee and is spreading to previously peaceful neighborhoods.

Milwaukee has, indeed, become a "tale of two cities." On the one hand, the city's beautiful lakefront and RiverWalk, world-class museums and cultural attractions, and prosperous East Side and near-downtown neighborhoods are the envy of any city, capable of impressing governors from across the nation. But just beyond those sites, attractions and neighborhoods lies a completely different Milwaukee, a broad and expanding swath of neighborhoods that are crime-ridden, dysfunctional and a serious burden on the city as a whole.

This past weekend, there were 14 shootings in Milwaukee, including two fatalities. The previous weekend was almost as violent. This simply cannot continue. The decent, hardworking citizens of Milwaukee deserve better: to be able to live and work in neighborhoods where it is safe to open their windows and doors, relax on their porches or in their yards, and walk to nearby stores, schools, parks, etc. – things that most Wisconsinites take for granted, but which have become almost unthinkable for these Milwaukee residents who fear for their lives. Enclosed is a copy of a statement I released last week that summarizes the frustration currently felt by too many Milwaukeeans.

With this in mind, I am asking for your help. Clearly, the Barrett administration is impotent when it comes to addressing Milwaukee's extreme violence. The Milwaukee Police Department is doing the best that it can, but is simply understaffed and overworked; it just cannot keep up with the crime wave that is now sweeping the city's neighborhoods.



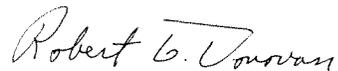
Beginning last summer, I and others began discussing with State officials a possible State/City partnership to bring about serious public safety improvements for Milwaukee. There were several meetings and even some proposed State budget amendments that would have provided funding for this initiative, but, ultimately, nothing came to fruition. I am requesting that we restart these discussions.

I'm sure you realize the critical role Milwaukee plays in the health and success of Wisconsin as a whole. A high level of public safety, both real and perceived, is essential for Milwaukee to thrive. But the current pattern of chronic crime and violence is pulling the city in the opposite direction and keeping it from attaining its full potential.

I am requesting a meeting to discuss creation of a State/City public safety partnership for Milwaukee. I will be contacting your office within the next week to arrange a meeting to discuss this possibility.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to working with you to ensure that all of Milwaukee and Wisconsin are safe and thriving.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert G. Donovan".

Robert G. Donovan
Alderman, 8th District