

JOE DAVIS, SR.

Alderman, 2nd District

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Thorough investigation promised in police-involved shooting

Statement of Alderman Joe Davis, Sr. January 30, 2014

While we are still waiting for additional details to emerge in the circumstances surrounding a police-involved shooting last night in the district that I represent, I have every reason to believe right now that the Milwaukee Police Department will be thorough and transparent in its investigation of the incident.

In the hours following the shooting, I was briefed on the early investigation, and told that it appeared as though the suspected robber had pulled a gun on an officer as that officer tried to bring the suspect into custody. I would like to thank the MPD administration for being forthcoming and cooperative with the preliminary circumstances surrounding this incident. They assure me that the investigation will be thorough and transparent, and I look forward to additional briefings as new information emerges about this tragedy.

I call it a tragedy because it is absolutely a tragedy whenever an officer is forced to take a life. Though we don't have more information about the suspect's identity, this sort of incident continues to reflect on the tragic, systemic problems of crime, poverty and poor decision-making that impact our neighborhoods.

No one signs up to be a police officer with the intent of taking a life. A nine-year veteran of the force was placed in danger last night, and his ultimate decision to use force may have saved his life.

To this officer: I acknowledge the burden that you will have to carry for the rest of your life. Thank you for your service. Please take advantage of the many resources that the City of Milwaukee has to offer as you go through this difficult time, and Godspeed.

To the family of the victim, I know this is a difficult time for you. But rest assured that all of your questions will be answered forthrightly and truthfully.

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