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Alderman, 2nd District

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Ferguson tragedy reveals shortcomings in Milwaukee justice

Statement of Alderman Joe Davis, Sr. August 25, 2014

It's frustrating to see the City of Milwaukee slipping back to the days of old in some areas. My discussions with the State of Wisconsin's Department of Criminal Investigation and the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office regarding the police-involved death of Dontre Hamilton reveal the same sources of frustration that resulted in local demonstrations over Michael Brown's death at the hands of police in Ferguson, Mo.

But do we really get it? Here are the critical points to consider:

1. Officials identified the officer involved in the Ferguson shooting of Michael Brown. We still are waiting for that information in the Dontre Hamilton case.
2. A Grand Jury is already hearing the case in Ferguson. We are still waiting for the decision from the Milwaukee County District Attorney, even though the DCI completed their investigation weeks ago and submitted a report to the DA.
3. The Mayor of Ferguson is front-and-center, responding to questions about his city and his law enforcement agency. Mayor Barrett refused to make a public comment in a recent Journal Sentinel article and has gone silent, hoping this too shall pass.
4. Both shooting victims were African American males.

Now that the public has raised the stakes in the Dontre Hamilton case with demonstrations and sit-ins (and rightfully so), all eyes are on Milwaukee, and this young generation demands answers. So let's remember the laws of justice—do not spread false reports and do not help a guilty person by being a malicious witness.

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