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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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October 27, 2017

Ald. Khalif J. Rainey  
414-286-3764

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Alderman Rainey questions access afforded BBC documentary film crew**

In a letter (**attached**) sent **today** to Chief Edward Flynn, **Alderman Khalif J. Rainey** seeks clarification about intimate crime scene access allowed by Milwaukee Police for crew members during the filming of Louis Theroux's *Dark States: Murder in Milwaukee*.

Alderman Rainey said he recently watched the documentary, which was first aired by the BBC2, and does not doubt many of the feelings expressed in the piece.

But in the letter to Chief Flynn Alderman Rainey states: "I do, however, think that this presentation presents a distorted view of the community which, as a whole, has done much to struggle and build in the midst of adverse circumstances. It gives too little credit to the honest laborers hoping to frame a better future for themselves and their children.

With this in mind, I was left to wonder about the role of your department in the creation of this program. The production team seemed to have a very high level of intimate access to crime scenes – access denied to myself and the general public. It seemed to have a great deal of access to your department and information relating to criminal investigations; and all this as council members and residents are asking for better communication with you and your officers."

Alderman Rainey said he hopes to get answers from Milwaukee Police by sponsoring a communication file before the Public Safety and Health Committee.

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## **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

### **VICE CHAIR**

• Zoning, Neighborhoods, and Development

### **MEMBER**

• Community and Economic Development  
• Licenses



**KHALIF J. RAINEY**  
ALDERMAN, 7TH DISTRICT

October 27, 2017

Chief Edward A. Flynn  
749 West State Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Chief Flynn,

Only a few days ago I joined with many of my constituents in watching, frankly in horror, Louis Theroux's *Dark States: Murder in Milwaukee* aired first by the BBC2. I have always wanted this City to be a national model to be emulated and admired. I have never once thought it could be painted in colors this dark in the presence of a world-wide audience. For myself, I do not dispute that there are areas of crime and deadly violence throughout the City – and throughout the whole of our gun-mad society. I do not doubt the feelings of despair expressed in this piece, some of which, it must be said, are caused by the present poor state of police-community relations.

I do, however, think that this presentation presents a distorted view of the community which, as a whole, has done much to struggle and build in the midst of adverse circumstances. It gives too little credit to the honest laborers hoping to frame a better future for themselves and their children.

With this in mind, I was left to wonder about the role of your department in the creation of this program. The production team seemed to have a very high level of intimate access to crime scenes – access denied to myself and the general public. It seemed to have a great deal of access to your department and information relating to criminal investigations; and all this as council members and residents are asking for better communication with you and your officers.

Therefore, I ask: was your department approached by the producers or anyone associated with this program for a grant of access? If so, why did you grant it and under what terms and conditions? Was any thought given to the purpose of this program and the narrative it would create? If they did not request and were not given this access, why, then were they able to work in the middle of crime scenes? Surely this is, at a minimum, a hazard to the process of conducting an investigation?

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I have asked the Chair of the Public Safety and Health Committee to schedule a communication on this matter. The responses of your office to these questions at that time would be appreciated.

Should you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Khalif J. Rainey,  
Alderman, 7<sup>th</sup> District