



CITY OF MILWAUKEE

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Last week, we learned that Chief Edward Flynn has retained outside counsel, at his own expense, to help him respond to a recent directive from the Fire and Police Commission.

On Monday morning, City Attorney Grant Langley informed the Judiciary and Legislation Committee that Mayor Tom Barrett had contacted him and asked for his advice in this same matter.

On Tuesday afternoon, Chief Flynn not only requested an extension of the deadline established by the directive, but he, under separate cover, asked the office of the City Attorney some very specific questions about the directive. It's worth noting that he nowhere questioned the Commission's authority to issue it, but he is clearly trying to undo it in its details.

In all this, we must ask, who is representing the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners? Which lawyer is representing the agency charged by the statutes of the state of Wisconsin with oversight of the Milwaukee Police Department? Does our City Attorney represent the civilian body that has the unique role of speaking for the entire community in its dealings with law enforcement?

Who in all of this is the client of the office of the City Attorney? Is it Chief Flynn? Is it the Mayor? Or is it the public who exercises oversight of the police department via the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners? If this is unclear, is it a result of a conflict and, if so, what is the nature of that conflict?

What is certain is that the Board is entitled to legal representation and we stand ready to do what is necessary, including providing resources to secure outside counsel, to ensure that it has it. The Commission acted boldly and, in our judgment, correctly when it issued its directive to Chief Flynn. In the name of the community the Commission represents, the FPC's actions should be defended.



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2nd District



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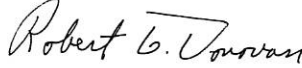
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