

Statement of Ald. Bob Donovan
October 22, 2007

With five murders and about 10 shootings, it was yet another red-letter weekend for Milwaukee.

I'm not sure our city can withstand much more of this senseless violence, especially given the fact that our mayor still doesn't seem to have a plan to do something about it, other than perhaps offering yet another impotent response that amounts to giving a strip of Band-Aids to a cancer victim.

And, because we're on the eve of having a new state budget, I'm certain the governor and the Legislature are already considering new taxes for the next biennium. Might I humbly suggest the governor consider a tax every time the mayor proclaims "public safety is my highest priority." This might generate millions for the state.

The mayor needs to realize that words are no substitute for action. The sad reality is today there are more vacancies on the Milwaukee Police Department than when the mayor took office in 2004 (this despite all of the rhetoric that public safety is his number one priority!).

If pressure had not been placed on this administration, I'm convinced we would have had another summer of the Bookmobile as the answer to Milwaukee's public safety crisis. Why hasn't the mayor come up with a comprehensive public safety plan – one that engages all segments of the community and all levels of government, one that all citizens of Milwaukee can believe in? For that matter, where is the mayor's plan for education in Milwaukee? Where is his plan on economic development and jobs?

I'm told that Tom Barrett is a nice guy. I'm told he's learning the job and that he's really trying. But ask yourself; can Milwaukee really afford a mayor on a learning curve?

Wake up Milwaukee!

In my estimation Tom Barrett is a skilled and consummate politician but has not displayed the gutsy leadership this city is crying out for. This city is poised to follow sound and strong leadership, but it's up to the mayor to provide it. I know I speak for my colleagues when I say that we are willing to stand behind the mayor 100% in this critically important endeavor.

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