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ROBERT G. DONOVAN
Alderman, 8th District

October 26, 2006

Milwaukee Public Schools
William Andrekopoulos, Superintendent
5225 W. Vliet Street
Milwaukee, WI 53208

Dear Superintendent Andrekopoulos,

I felt compelled to comment on the recent decision by MPS to spend \$1 million on additional school security. This solution to the problem of increased violence in schools is shortsighted and an inefficient use of tax dollars.

As the article in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel states, the police don't work in the schools but they "are called frequently to high schools and middle schools." The article further states that "MPS security aides are not sworn officers and do not carry weapons or have arrest authority." Yet all of the incidents used to justify spending another million on school security point to situations where a student was so violent that the police had to come and make an arrest.

Therefore I must question the wisdom of spending another \$1 million on security aides, who have no weapons or arrest powers, when those security aides will just end up calling the police anyway. In essence, taxpayers are paying twice for the same service.

I feel it would be more prudent to spend that \$1 million, or even half that much, on hiring more police officers. Those officers could be assigned to deal specifically with school issues. When school is off for the summer, those officers would be freed up to respond to calls throughout the City at the time of year when we tend to have more need for police service.

The Milwaukee Police Department already spends an inordinate amount of time and money serving MPS calls for service. Why not hire additional police, assigned to MPS, and avoid the extra cost to taxpayers for security guards who possess no real authority?

It is important that all levels of government use tax dollars in the most efficient way possible. Spending \$1 million on security aides doesn't fit the bill. I urge you to rethink this plan. In the near future, I will also be asking that you appear before the Public Safety Committee to discuss this plan, better coordination with MPD, and other ways to improve school safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Bob'.

Bob Donovan
Alderman, 8th District

Cc: Members of the Common Council
Peter Pachowski, MPS Security
MPS School Board Members
Mayor Tom Barrett
Chief Nan Hegerty, MPD