

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

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**ROBERT G. DONOVAN**

Alderman, 8th District

July 15, 2009

Tom Barrett, Mayor  
City Hall, Room 201  
200 E. Wells St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Tom,

It's come to my attention that your re-election campaign has scheduled a July 21 fundraiser at the Italian Community Center suggesting a \$400 per person donation for those planning to attend. What troubles me about the fundraiser is that it appears you are using Police Chief Edward Flynn as your main draw. I'll be honest, Tom, this whole thing just doesn't smell right to me.

Milwaukee has had a long history of at least trying to limit any apparent conflicts between policing and politics. Throughout our city's history police chiefs and top command officers have been kept away from politics so they can just do their jobs, and for the most part this practice has worked pretty well for the better part of 100 years now.

But your plan to have Chief Flynn as a participant at your fundraiser veers away from that practice, and, in fact, it may well set a precedent. While we are facing extremely difficult budget times at City Hall – even talking about possible cuts to public safety (police and fire) – you'll be busy collecting campaign cash with the help of the Chief!

However, Tom, I think I may have the perfect solution to your ethical dilemma: Donate the money you rake in to Operation Impact (on the near south side) and an equally worthy program on the north side. Think about it – your support for Operation Impact (and the Chief's as well) has been well documented and is much appreciated. In the past I've held fundraisers for Operation Impact and now you too can give a generous donation to a worthwhile public safety effort that will benefit the citizens of Milwaukee and not your 2012 campaign.

I think this would be a “win-win-win” for everyone involved:

- Operation Impact, a successful south side community public safety program (as well as a selected worthy north side initiative) would receive much needed financial support.
- Chief Flynn would avoid the appearance of cronyism.
- And you, Tom, would win for putting Milwaukee first over your personal political ambitions!

I look forward to you deciding to turn this potentially damaging situation into something positive for our community.

Warmest Regards,

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

Robert G. Donovan  
Alderman, 8<sup>th</sup> District