
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Community Event Set for June 20th to Thank Milwaukee Police Officers

Event Will be near Spot Where Two Officers Were Shot Earlier This Week; Alderman Urges City to Unite behind Police Department

Citizens will have the chance to come together to thank the men and women of the Milwaukee Police Department during a special event on Saturday, June 20, 2009 at S. 2nd St. and W. National Ave. in Walker's Point, according to **Alderman Bob Donovan**.

Alderman Donovan said the free community event is being held to thank and recognize the MPD and its dedicated officers. "There maybe things that keep (Milwaukee residents) apart, but this shouldn't be one of them," he said, referring to the event's basic message of gratitude to the men and women sworn to protect and serve.

"It's high time we stood up as a community and said to them, 'Thank you,'" said Alderman Donovan, chair of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee.

A website for the event (www.tympd.com) has been set up to feature the day's activities and to allow visitors to make contributions to benefit officers in need.

The real potential for danger and deadly violence MPD officers face each day hit home especially hard on Tuesday (June 9), when Officer Graham M. Kunisch and Officer Bryan J. Norberg were shot by a man they stopped to question along S. 2nd St. near W. National. The officers were each shot multiple times, and each sustained wounds to the head. An 18-year-old suspect was arrested shortly after the shootings when he was found hiding in the basement of a nearby home.

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Free Thank You MPD Event/ADD ONE

The shootings came nearly two months to the day that Police Officer Vidal Colon was shot multiple times during an April 11 investigation of an armed suspect near S. 36th and W. Scott streets. Officer Colon is recovering; a 45-year-old suspect wounded during that incident is in custody.

The Thank You MPD event will feature a blue plate breakfast at 9 a.m., and the remainder of the day will be filled with family friendly activities, T-shirts, live music and food and beverages. There will also be demonstrations and displays by the Milwaukee Fire Department and Bell Ambulance, and the MPD's vehicle and mounted (horse) units will also be on hand.

All proceeds from the event will go to the **Police Officer Support Team Officers Fund (501-C-3 certified)**. **Contributions can also be sent to TYMPD.COM, C/O Bell Ambulance, P.O. Box 070550, Milwaukee, WI 53207-0550.**

Alderman Donovan said the event is being made possible by the generous support of the primary sponsors – Steny's, Bell Ambulance, Budweiser, WKLH-FM, and the Milwaukee Police Department. "I must single out Annie Schwartz (MPD spokesperson) and Jim Lombardo of Bell Ambulance for their hard work and coordination of the event – the community should also be thanking them," he said.

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