

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR

Public Safety Committee

MEMBER

Anti-Graffiti Policy Committee
Finance & Personnel Committee
Steering & Rules Committee



ROBERT G. DONOVAN
Alderman, 8th District

Alderman Bob Donovan
Phone: (414) 708-2096

Bradley Tech: Guns, Gangs and Public Kept in the Dark

Statement of Alderman Bob Donovan December 7, 2010

Last week, Milwaukee police arrested nearly 20 people and seized a rifle and a fake handgun at Bradley Tech High School. On Tuesday, November 30, no fewer than **39 squad cars** responded to the school between 2:15 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, December 1, **29 squads** were assigned to patrol near Bradley Tech between 9 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., and on December 2, 14 MPD squads were assigned to patrol outside the school during periods covering the beginning and end of the school day.

The trouble apparently all started with a fight involving rival gang members. The information I'm relaying to the public was not – to my knowledge – reported by the news media, nor am I aware of any information about the incidents being shared with parents of Bradley Tech students.

It is unconscionable to me that the citizens of Milwaukee haven't been made aware of this situation at the school, and it's an insult to all Bradley Tech parents and students that this matter has been kept under wraps. It's also an insult to the decent teachers and staff at the school, who must work in chaotic and sometimes violent conditions.

In my opinion, what was once a proud Milwaukee high school is now sadly but simply an MPS dumping ground that is tarnishing the fine Bradley family name and legacy that helped build such a fine new, modern school facility.

I believe that it borders on criminal behavior for MPS officials not to have notified public officials about the incidents at Bradley Tech. The residents in the neighborhood have surely been appreciating the stepped up police presence, but they had no idea why it was happening. This is unforgivable, but not surprising to me.

-More-

The OpenSky police radio system has essentially eliminated the police transmissions that were once broadcast on scanners. The scanners – once a key tool for news operations to monitor situations and to send reporters and photographers to scenes – have gone silent in Milwaukee. In my opinion, this is keeping a lid on the media’s ability to cover news in the public domain. This is not good, and it’s not the way our free and democratic society should work.

As for the school, I believe it should be treated as a nuisance property, with MPS picking up the tab for the ridiculous level of police presence and babysitting that is going on.

I have a plan for restructuring MPS that is about two years old, and I’ve shared it publicly more than once. But where is the mayor on this issue? Where’s the leadership on this, a top issue for our city that affects the future of our children, of our economy, and the very fabric of our community?

What’s more, we really need to be asking why more than 80 MPD squads are needed at one of our public institutions of learning. Makes me wonder what those students are really learning there.