

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

### **CHAIR**

Public Safety Committee

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



**ROBERT G. DONOVAN**  
Alderman, 8th District

June 8, 2010

Patrick Curley, Chief of Staff  
Office of the Mayor  
City Hall, Room 201

Dear Pat:

Once again, I want to thank you for attending last week's meeting with Chief Flynn, other command staff officers, business owner Omar Hamden, Alderman Kovac and myself to discuss the vital issue of public safety in our city. As you requested, and as I promised, the following is my proposal to begin to expand Operation Impact city-wide and, in the process, create and build up Partners in Public Safety (a network of private businesses and foundations engaged in providing financial support for enhanced public safety in Milwaukee). As Chief Flynn has noted on many occasions, public safety is not a spectator sport. This proposal represents our effort to take this philosophy to the next level.

### Operation Impact

Briefly, Operation Impact is an existing, multi-faceted public/private partnership designed to enhance public safety within a defined area on Milwaukee's South Side. This initiative consists of several different components, the most significant being the deployment of additional foot and bicycle patrol officers and the installation of surveillance cameras and additional street/alley lighting. With the exception of a small amount of Community Development Block Grant funding, this effort has been paid for entirely by the private sector (businesses and foundations). The most visible aspect of Operation Impact is the additional beat patrol officers patrolling the target area. Given the success of this initiative and the need to address public safety concerns throughout the city, I propose that we expand Operation Impact, beginning with the deployment of beat patrol officers citywide.

### Current Summer Safety Initiative

The current Summer Safety Initiative, launched Memorial Day weekend, includes the assignment of 50 beat patrol officers to several neighborhoods throughout Milwaukee. This effort is expected to run through mid- or late-October. The total cost of the 50 officers – about \$650,000 – is being funded through the Police Department’s overtime budget.

### New Proposal:

#### Expansion of Operation Impact City-Wide, Beginning with Beat Patrol Officers

To replicate the success of Operation Impact and to address the public safety concerns of all Milwaukeeans (including the 500-plus business owners who recently petitioned the Mayor for action on this matter), I propose that an additional 80 beat patrol officers be deployed, bringing the total number – including those engaged in the current initiative – to 130 officers. These additional officers would be on the beat four days per week for four-hour blocks of time, beginning the weekend of July 4 and lasting through mid-October (approximately 15 weeks). Ideally, these officers would be deployed between the hours of noon and 10 p.m., with an emphasis on the 3-7 p.m. or 4-8 p.m. time slot.

The mission of the beat patrol officers would be to emphasize the maintenance of order, provide a high level of police visibility, enforce quality-of-life ordinances, reach out to residents and businesses, and gather information on nuisance properties and criminal activity. The total cost of implementing this proposal would be about \$850,000: 80 officers, 16 hours each per week for approximately 15 weeks (realizing it may not be possible to fill all slots every day).

Obviously, the deployment of these 80 additional officers for beat patrols is completely within the purview of Chief Flynn. However, I cannot emphasize enough the impact of having a beat-patrol presence in each of Milwaukee’s police districts. The visibility of police officers on the street is also tantamount to alleviating the business community’s concerns conveyed in their petition.

### Possible Funding Sources

I propose that the following funding sources be used to pay for this expansion of Operation Impact:

1. Private sector \$200,000  
(businesses and currently-supporting foundations)  
Note: I believe strongly that if we can get the Mayor and Common Council to unite in support of this initiative, we can raise even more private-sector funding.
  
2. Alderman Davis’s Initiative to patrol vacant/foreclosed homes \$200,000 or more  
(which is funded through federal stimulus dollars)  
(Police officers on overtime would patrol foreclosed properties from July through October. While the purpose of this initiative is to check the status of foreclosed homes, officers assigned to the initiative would, in effect, be performing beat patrols of the surrounding neighborhoods.)
  
3. Business improvement districts \$50,000?

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| 4. Wis. Attorney General or Office of Justice Assistance  | \$150,000? |
| 5. State of Wisconsin (other grants)  | \$200,000? |
| 6. Other area foundations<br>(not currently funding Operation Impact)<br>Note: Several major foundations, including Potawatomi, Bradley, Betty Brinn and M&I already support Operation Impact; if the Mayor and Common Council stand united on this issue, I believe we could get other foundations (e.g., Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Northwestern Mutual Foundation, Bader Foundation, the Zilber Foundation, etc.) to participate. | \$100,000? |
| 7. Common Council Contingent Fund<br>(as a last resort, but may indeed be necessary)  | \$150,000  |
| 8. Other sources of funds –<br>Pat, you and others are far more knowledgeable than I am of other funding sources that may be available to support this valuable public-safety initiative and help attain the goal of \$850,000.   | ?          |

Conclusion

I need not point out the incredibly positive impact beat patrol officers can have on a neighborhood. Nor can I downplay the desire of decent Milwaukee citizens and businesses to have City leaders move this initiative forward. However, I would be remiss if I didn't mention that the businesses which support this initiative would also like to see the beat-patrol effort extended beyond this summer and fall, into the months and years to come. I can assure you that these businesses will, in the future, advocate for the filling of the ever-increasing number of vacant MPD positions.

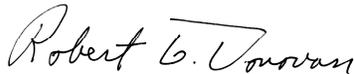
I should also highlight the urgency of demonstrating to these businesses that the City will meet them "3/4 of the way" in terms of funding the expansion of Operation Impact. Only when the City shows this level of commitment can I begin the process of requesting and obtaining the financial support of the business community. I have several meetings with potential funders scheduled for the next two weeks. Therefore, it is critical that you advise me no later than Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, of the intentions of the Mayor's Office, one way or the other.

Final Comments

Pat, I cannot emphasize enough what a golden opportunity the current circumstances are for the City of Milwaukee. We have the chance to take a potentially serious negative (business's public safety petition) and transform it into something truly positive (a significant and lasting reduction in all types of crime and disorder in all parts of the city and in addition creating our partners in public safety). The time is now for the Mayor, the Common Council, the Police Chief, local businesses and community organizations to stand united for an ever-safer Milwaukee.

I have tried my best to engage everyone in this effort. However, if -- for whatever reason -- this initiative does not move forward, I will simply continue to support my crime – reduction efforts on the South Side, most notably Operation Impact. I suspect Omar Hamden and the hundreds of other business owners who signed the petition will pursue other options.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Mayor Tom Barrett  
Common Council members  
Police Chief Edward Flynn  
Assistant Chief Gregory Habeck  
Assistant Chief Edward Liebrecht  
Chief of Staff Captain Gary Gacek  
Omar Hamden  
All business owners who signed petition to Mayor Barrett