Yesterday afternoon, around the 4400 block of W. North Ave., two uniformed officers from the Milwaukee Police Department stopped a suspicious vehicle. One officer went to the driver’s side of the car and questioned the driver. The driver became combative and pushed the accelerator, dragging the officer 40 to 60 feet. When the officer’s partner saw what was occurring, he discharged his weapon. Thankfully, the officer was able to free himself. Though he was injured in the line of duty, the officer has been released from the hospital at this time. The driver, who was arrested, was not injured. Police have impounded the vehicle as evidence.

“I want to commend both officers – one of whom clearly risked his life in the line of duty – for working to keep our neighborhoods safe,” says Common Council President Hines, who happens to live two blocks from where the incident occurred. “I spoke to a number of residents who witnessed what happened, and they reported to me that the driver had illegal drugs in his possession, which he threw out the window while fleeing police. Residents must obey police. It is never acceptable for individuals to flee officers when they are pulled over, regardless of their guilt or innocence.”

Alderman Bob Donovan, chair of the Common Council’s Public Safety Committee, said the officers deserve thanks for their work. “Clearly the officers were doing what they were trained to do in that situation,” Alderman Donovan said. “And it shows people just how dangerous the job of a police officer can be. One minute you’re conducting a traffic stop and the next you’re literally fighting for your life. And our officers do this day in and day out, all in an effort to keep our streets and neighborhoods safe. They truly deserve our support and our thanks.”

Alderman Hines and Alderman Donovan continually work with MPD and residents to keep communication lines open for productive collaboration that leads to safer neighborhoods for everyone. For Milwaukee residents and business owners who desire to work in better partnership with police, Hines and Donovan ask that you contact your community liaison officer at the police district nearest you.