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**Statement of Alderman Michael J. Murphy
August 5, 2011**

I'm shocked and saddened to hear that a long-standing summer tradition for Milwaukeeans—the Wisconsin State Fair—has made headlines; not for the numerous reasons to attend and enjoy the Fair, but to report an incident of mob brutality that is an affront to all law-abiding citizens throughout this great state. The message should be perfectly clear: This behavior will not be tolerated and every attempt will be made to bring all of the actors in this incident to justice.

As a representative of a number of neighbors that live just outside the Fair grounds, it is my top priority to ensure the safety of the neighbors and fair-goers alike. As such, I am working closely with the Director of the Fair, as well as the MPD and the Mayor's Office, to increase patrols and surveillance and to initiate changes to the structure of the Fair that will benefit those in attendance. The unique quality of the Wisconsin State Fair Park is that it spans three police jurisdictions: Milwaukee, Wisconsin State Fair and West Allis. Our public safety force must act in unison, sharing resources and purpose to keep safe those who want to honor a tradition that celebrates Wisconsin's history and heritage.

The first step in ensuring safety in the coming days of the fair is to apprehend those who committed the crimes so that the community can move forward and work together to reinstate the safe space that is the State Fair.

I plan on being at the fair this weekend with my wife and daughter and have great confidence in the safety of the fair's weekend activities and know the Milwaukee Police Department will be out in force, protecting the public.

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