

Press Conference 12/10/2012

Statement of Alderman Joe Davis, Sr.

Today, I am requesting that the Fire & Police Commission and the District Attorney's office investigate the possible issuance of a Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 51 concern to Officer Richard Schoen by the Milwaukee Police Department. This is the policy of the State of Wisconsin to assure the provision of a full range of treatment and rehabilitation services in the state for all mental disorders and developmental disabilities and for mental illness, alcoholism and other drug abuse. There shall be a unified system of prevention of such conditions and provision of services which will assure all people in need of care access to the least restrictive treatment alternative appropriate to their needs, and movement through all treatment components to assure continuity of care, within the limits of available state and federal funds and of county funds required to be appropriated to match state funds.

Now the issuance of a Chapter 51 by a superior or Commanding Officer of the Milwaukee Police Department raises concerns that are directly related to a person's mental stability. Standard Operating Procedure #160 purpose states: "Officers shall use this policy to identify and provide the most effective and understanding response possible to police situations involving people experiencing a mental health crisis".

I am also requesting the following regarding the investigation of the issuance of a Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 51 concern and SOP # 160:

1. Were there any concerns with Officer Schoen's mental health status by any Officer or Commander of the Milwaukee Police Department after the internal investigation concluded and Chief Flynn gave the order to fire Officer Schoen and thereafter?
2. If there were mental health concerns of Officer Schoen, was an order given by any Command Staff of the Milwaukee Police Department regarding Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 51 and was Form PP-42 completed by MPD personnel that handled the process?
3. If a Chapter 51 was issued, or SOP #160 was followed and instituted regarding Officer Schoen by the Command Staff, what was the evidence the Milwaukee Police Department discovered to come to its conclusion; whether oral testimony or written documentation by Officer Schoen?
4. I'm requesting all Command Staff at District # 7 be interviewed to give testimony under oath regarding this matter during the timeframe of concern.
5. Was the Professional Performance Division of the Milwaukee Police Department notified if there were the issuance of a Chapter 51 situation regarding Officer Schoen?
6. My request is to have the investigation completed no later than December 24, 2012.