



Alderman Robert W. Puente
9th District

Vice Chair
• Public Safety Committee

Member
• Public Works Committee
• Housing Authority of the
City of Milwaukee (HACM)

Keeping gun as evidence in Aldi store case is standard and appropriate

**Statement of Alderman Robert W. Puente
March 8, 2012**

During the past few days I have received inquiries about the fact that the Milwaukee Police Department confiscated the handgun used by a citizen who shot an armed robbery suspect at the Aldi store at 7601 W. Fond du Lac Ave. on January 30th.

Even in a case that appears as clear cut as this one, the chain of custody of the evidence is critical to the successful prosecution of the suspect in this case. The handgun and the bullet it fired that was removed from the suspect are absolutely essential to proving the case and ensuring that the robbery suspect is prosecuted to the fullest extent possible. As a retired Captain and 27-year veteran of the MPD, I can say with certainty that there is simply no alternative for maintaining the evidence in this case other than for police to keep the handgun as evidence.

The case is pending, and the question of whether the gun will ever be returned to the owner cannot be answered until the case is adjudicated.

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