



**Willie L. Hines, Jr.**  
*City of Milwaukee Common Council*

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## **President Hines Reaches Out to County Board Chair on Bus Security**

Today City of Milwaukee **Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr.** sent a letter (**attached**) to Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway, seeking a cooperative city-county effort to improve security on Milwaukee County Transit System buses.

President Hines is encouraging Chairman Holloway to immediately end the contract the county currently has with a private firm to provide security on county buses. In the letter, President Hines suggests a city-county memorandum of understanding whereby Milwaukee police officers could help ensure security on county buses. It is possible such an agreement could involve compensation to the city -- much like city agreements authorizing MPD officers to provide security at Miller Park and during events at the Bradley Center.

President Hines said he is hopeful Chairman Holloway will be willing to explore such an arrangement. "When it comes to ensuring the safety and security of our residents, I believe jurisdictional and municipal boundaries are irrelevant," he said.

"In my opinion, I do not believe that taxpayers are necessarily concerned about where funding for bus security comes from, only that those funds be spent wisely and with the best outcome in mind," he said. "I believe that Milwaukee police officers would step up quickly and restore safety and security on our buses."

A recent rash of assaults on bus riders and violent incidents toward drivers in recent years has prompted Milwaukee Police Chief Edward Flynn to assign police officers to ride county buses. The incidents have also exposed the ineffective work of the private firm hired by the county to provide security on buses.