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President Hines: Allegations in latest MPD officer probe are “horrible”

During the past 24 hours we have learned of an investigation by the Milwaukee Police Department into possible policy violations by several officers and one supervisor in District Five. Although we must wait until this most recent officer conduct investigation is completed by MPD to learn more about the truth of what happened, the mention in news reports about possible sexual assaults and civil rights violations by officers is simply horrible.

Despite the fact that the alleged violations apparently only involve a small number of MPD officers, the allegations are a stain against the entire department. The allegations and the investigation also hurt the credibility of the department, and threaten to seriously damage the level of trust between the MPD and a large segment of the community.

Officers and public servants are held to a higher standard. When the public learns that instead of protecting citizens, some officers are accused of sexually assaulting and violating citizens’ civil rights, that path to trust seems almost like an impossible journey.

No one’s civil rights should be violated – ever – by anyone. No one should be sexually assaulted – ever – by anyone. And those dehumanizing transgressions should especially NEVER be committed by those who have taken a sworn oath to protect and serve our citizens and our city.