



CITY OF MILWAUKEE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Chief Flynn should provide answers in public forum**

**Joint Statement from Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs, Alderman Ashanti Hamilton, and Alderman José G. Pérez**

In the wake of last night's public meeting at Rufus King High School about the Milwaukee Police Department's handling of the Darius Simmons homicide investigation, we are calling on Chief Flynn to appear before the Equal Rights Commission to answer questions publicly about the case.

We were in attendance at last night's meeting, and it was very disappointing to have Chief Flynn suddenly announce that he had to leave to attend another event – right at the time when members of the community were preparing to ask the Chief questions about the Simmons case. The meeting at Rufus King had been planned weeks in advance, and it seems quite clear to us that the Chief decided he wanted to duck out without facing the people who wanted to ask him questions.

As public servants we know that opportunities for communication and information exchange with residents are critically important, because they offer the chance for healing and understanding on sensitive issues. In this instance, we think a very real opportunity at fostering communication and understanding – and perhaps, healing – was lost.