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Blame the state, pass the buck, mission accomplished

Statement from Alderman Bob Donovan August 7, 2013

You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time. These are wise words that have been around for a long time, but it seems to be a concept that Mayor Barrett has yet to wrap his head around.

Monday morning after I released a letter requesting a meeting with the Governor to discuss my concerns for the public safety of Milwaukee residents, Mayor Barrett and Chief Flynn held a press conference addressing the issues. For a brief moment, I was even optimistic that the Mayor and the Chief finally had a plan to help the beleaguered citizens of Milwaukee stem the growing tide of violence in our city.

But their press conference focused heavily on this concept of mandatory sentencing, as if not having that is what's keeping them from protecting Milwaukee's citizens!

If the Mayor wants mandatory sentencing, I don't know what he's making such a fuss for. It's only a phone call away! **Does anyone remember Operation Cease Fire?** The billboards? "Do the crime, serve the time"? Ring a bell?

This joint local-state-federal enforcement program has been around for years, since the days of Mayor Norquist, and allows for violent criminals to be federally prosecuted and **face mandatory sentences!**

The tools are right there under your own nose, Mr. Mayor! They have been this whole time! Stop blaming the state, pick up your phone and ask the District Attorney and the feds to use them!

While I'm certainly in support of stricter sentences and laws to hold criminals accountable for their wrongdoing, the real question on my mind is whether the Mayor was even aware that he had these tools at his disposal already. If so, **why in the world is he trying to mislead the public into thinking that changes in state law are needed to hold criminals accountable?**

-More-

Blame the state/ADD ONE

Violent crime isn't anything new to the City of Milwaukee, although judging by the Mayor's reaction, all of these shootings just popped up last week. So where was the Mayor as other leaders and I raised the alarm for years? Where was the Mayor as other leaders and I tried to enact commonsense policies to curb this violence? Where was the Mayor as other leaders and I tried to fill mounting police vacancies?

I'll tell you where he was. He was fighting us at every turn. And now we're supposed to believe that he's found religion? Well Hallelujah, Mr. Mayor!

A little advice, though—quit trying to fool people, quit trying to blame the state and start taking responsibility for what's happened under your watch.

Finally, by way of some summer reading, Mr. Mayor, why don't you pick up a biography of President Harry S. Truman? Remember him?

He's the one who said, "The buck stops here."