Alderman Davis plans discussion on process that follows police-involved deaths

Sensing growing discontent with the investigation into the police-involved shooting of a mentally ill man in Red Arrow Park, Milwaukee Alderman Joe Davis, Sr. said he will host a discussion with prominent law enforcement officials over how such investigations work under a new state law, and the need for better mental health services in Milwaukee.

Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm and U.S. Attorney James Santelle will take part in the discussion at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 29 at the Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin James O. Wright Center, 6055 N. 91st St., in the John Miller room. Khalil Coleman from Occupy the Hood Milwaukee will also participate, explaining the need for a community board to address ongoing mental health issues.

“The tragedy of this young man’s death in Red Arrow Park remains painfully fresh,” Alderman Davis said. “But now that his family has had a chance to grieve their loss, we must begin the work of understanding what happens next and how we can prevent this sort of thing from happening to another victim of mental illness.”

Alderman Davis said that as the first police-involved death since state legislation took effect that requires external investigations into such incidents, there is particular interest in how the investigation process will work and what sort of timeline is involved. State officials can make the most of these circumstances, Alderman Davis said, and use them to better inform the public on how this and future investigations will be carried out.

“I don’t think the community understands the process yet,” Alderman Davis said. “It was certainly a victory in getting this additional oversight for police-involved death investigations, but until there is more understanding about how the new process works, misinformation will prevail.”

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