Police-involved shooting discussion will be a forum for community concerns

Alderman Joe Davis, Sr. will host a public forum tomorrow for members of the community to express their concerns and learn about the new state-mandated process for investigating incidents like the police-involved shooting of a mentally ill man in Red Arrow Park last month.

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 in the community.

On May 22, the Milwaukee Police Department and the Fire and Police Commission briefed the Public Safety Committee of the Milwaukee Common Council on the ongoing review of the case. “But members of the community still have concerns and questions,” Alderman Davis said. “This forum is a chance for them to raise those questions directly with the leaders who will play a direct role in enforcing laws and shaping public policy.”

As the first police-involved death since state legislation took effect that requires external investigations into police-involved deaths, Alderman Davis said there is particular interest in how the investigation process will work and what sort of timeline is involved.

“Every single resident of Milwaukee has a stake in public safety policy and procedures,” Alderman Davis said. “Especially with the recent changes to state law, there is a danger that misinformation will overwhelm people’s understanding of the new process—unless both leaders and residents make understanding this process a priority.”

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