



Michael J. Murphy
City of Milwaukee Common Council

February 12, 2014

Name, Title
Department
Street Address
City, State, ZIP

Dear _____:

As you may be well aware, Milwaukee-area communities are being ravaged by problems related to the illegal sale, use and abuse of heroin. These problems include heroin addiction, drug-related crime and fatal overdoses. For example, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported that Waukesha County had 21 heroin-related fatal overdoses in 2012 (40 if also including opiates such as Oxycontin) and is on pace to match this total in 2013.

Unfortunately, the heroin trade and its devastating consequences do not recognize municipal boundaries. A suburban resident may come to Milwaukee to purchase heroin and return home to fatally overdose on the drug or vice versa. Robberies, assaults and other crimes related to the buying and selling of heroin often occur in Milwaukee but can and do occur in suburban municipalities as well.

Because of the seriousness of the heroin epidemic, and the fact that its harmful effects are now experienced throughout the Milwaukee area, we believe that all communities in the region need to unite to tackle the problem together. It's laudable that residents, law enforcement officials and drug treatment professionals in various communities are gathering for summits on the topic of heroin addiction; we wholeheartedly support such efforts. However, it is essential that we collaborate and look at this problem from a regional perspective. Law enforcement, public health and drug treatment professionals from throughout the region need to cooperate as much as possible in the areas of drug abuse prevention, drug trade interdiction, criminal intelligence and so forth.

To be frank, we may disagree on many issues, but when it comes to this devastating epidemic which is taking the lives and futures of so many of our talented young people we should come together to find ways to stem its deadly push.

We call upon you and your office to take whatever steps are necessary to make this collaborative effort a reality. If you're interested in attending a regional summit on this issue or something we

feel would be most beneficial ó please contact Ms. La-Wanda Fletcher, phone number 414-286-8661 and we will arrange such a meeting. Working together, we can make meaningful progress in confronting and reducing the heroin epidemic in our communities.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Murphy
Common Council President
Alderman, 10th District



Milele A. Coggs
Alderwoman, 6th District



Terry L. Witkowski
Alderman, 13th District



Ashanti Hamilton
Alderman, 1st District



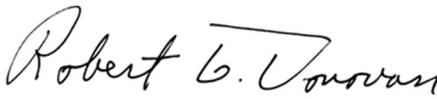
Willie C. Wade
Alderman, 7th District



Tony Zielinski
Alderman, 14th District



Joe Davis, Sr.
Alderman, 2nd District



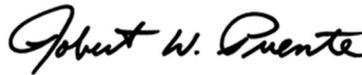
Robert G. Donovan
Alderman, 8th District



Joseph A. Dudzik
Alderman, 11th District



Nik Kovac
Alderman, 3rd District



Robert W. Puente
Alderman, 9th District



Jose G. Perez
Alderman, 12th District



Robert Bauman
Alderman, 4th District



James A. Bohl, Jr.
Alderman, 5th District

cc: Mayor Tom Barrett
Chief Edward A. Flynn, Milwaukee Police Department