



May 12, 2015

Ald. Joe Davis, Sr.
(414) 286-3787

Alderman Davis asks for investigation into MPD records failure

Alderman Joe Davis, Sr. on Tuesday sent a letter (attached) to Public Safety Committee chair **Terry L. Witkowski** urging the chair to launch an investigation into whether administration officials were aware of the catastrophic failure of the Milwaukee Police Department's video recording system.

"There is mounting evidence that the Chief of Police, the Mayor and other public officials may have been aware of this failure for some time and did nothing to apprise the Common Council or the public," Alderman Davis said. "If true, this is intolerable."

With the letter, Alderman Davis made formal his request for Alderman Witkowski to use his subpoena power as committee chair to compel administration officials to testify in the matter.

In January, a hardware malfunction caused data stored on the Milwaukee Police Department's MediaSolv system to become inaccessible, including the video recordings of suspect interviews in high-profile criminal cases. Alderman Davis said that he and other members of the public should have been notified immediately when this happened.

"This malfunction could affect the prosecution of serious criminal cases and have far-reaching impacts on public safety in the City of Milwaukee," Alderman Davis said. "There are serious questions about why we were not informed, and I hope Alderman Witkowski will use his authority as Public Safety Committee chair to seek answers."

JOE DAVIS, SR.

Alderman, 2nd District

CHAIR

- Community and Economic Development Committee
- Sister Cities Committee

VICE CHAIR

- National League of Cities' International Council

CO-CHAIR

- Black Male Achievement Advisory Council (BMAAC)



MEMBER

- Public Safety Committee
- Public Works Committee
- Steering and Rules Committee
- Deferred Compensation Board
- Milwaukee Economic Development Corporation
- National League of Cities' Board of Directors
- National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials Board of Directors

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May 12, 2015

Ald. Terry Witkowski
Chair, Public Safety Committee

Ald. Witkowski:

By now I am sure you are aware of the growing scandal surrounding the massive technology failure in one of the Milwaukee Police Department's video recording systems. The failure itself is a serious problem, particularly given the role that these systems play in creating a criminal justice process that is both transparent and fair to all involved. Given our current political environment and the demands of the community that police officers be held accountable to those they serve, having a system of this type fail for an extended period of time is no small matter.

What is worse, however, is the mounting evidence that the Chief of Police, the Mayor, and other public officials may have been aware of this failure for some time and did nothing to apprise the Common Council or the public. If true, this is intolerable.

I would therefore ask that you move immediately to conduct a formal investigation of this matter before the Public Safety Committee, invoking the full subpoena power that an investigation would confer on you as chair. While I appreciate the willingness of others to search for answers in this matter in a less formal way, I believe the seriousness of the situation demands that individuals be brought to testify under oath as to their own knowledge of the matter, their roles within it, and how to find a way forward.

Should you have any questions of me, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Davis, Sr.", written over a faint background of the Milwaukee City Hall building.

Alderman. Joe Davis, Sr.
Second District Alderman