
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

May 13, 2015

Ald. Bob Donovan
(414) 708-9417

Alderman Donovan calls for DOJ audit of Milwaukee Police Department IT

Alderman says video data snafu part of a “pattern” of issues

Alderman Bob Donovan wants the state Department of Justice to conduct an audit of the Milwaukee Police Department’s information technology and data operations.

Alderman Donovan, a member of the Common Council’s Public Safety Committee, said the MediaSolv video evidence “catastrophe” is part of “a disturbing pattern” of MPD IT difficulties that affect public safety and warrant a deeper review. “I am sending a letter today to the DOJ asking that an intensive audit be conducted, looking at the police department’s IT and data practices,” he said.

“There have been a variety of problems with the department’s systems, and we have an obligation to our citizens to find out the truth to ensure that these problems do not continue or happen again,” Alderman Donovan said.

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. The hardware was sent to a vendor, who is working to recover the lost data.

Alderman Donovan said sources have indicated that in December 2014, someone hacked into the MPD web site – a disturbing development that he believes is not connected to the video evidence crisis. “But the bottom line is that these problems seem to keep happening, and we need independent eyes on the MPD’s systems to tell us how the issues can be avoided in the future,” he said.

-30-

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

MEMBER

- Public Safety Committee
- Public Works Committee
- Anti-Graffiti Policy Committee



ROBERT G. DONOVAN

Alderman, 8th District

May 13, 2015

Mr. Brad D. Schimel
Attorney General
c/o Wisconsin Department of Justice
P.O. Box 7857
Madison, WI 53707-7857

Dear Mr. Schimel,

The recently-revealed failure of the video storage system used by the Milwaukee Police Department to store suspect interrogations and other information has caused many within the community to question the oversight and integrity of the information technology processes of this Department.

I need not tell you of the importance of maintaining the chain of custody with respect to evidence and the consequences that result when it cannot be assured. It is already known that cases before the office of the Milwaukee County District Attorney have been delayed as a result of this technological break-down and, as I write this, even the Department's own website indicates that only a portion of the affected data has been recovered. There is, moreover, the question of whether proper oversight of both this system and the process that resulted from its failure was maintained.

In the interest of restoring the public trust and ensuring that future disruptions of this type do not occur, I would respectfully request that your office conduct an investigation of this matter to determine what occurred, what damage was done, and what lessons the City might learn going forward.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Robert G. Donovan'.

Robert G. Donovan
Alderman, 8th District
(414) 531-2096