
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

April 9, 2015

Ald. Bob Donovan
(414) 708-9417

MEDIA ADVISORY

Milwaukee's murder rate six times that of New York City

In a letter (**attached**) sent to Mayor Barrett earlier today, **Alderman Bob Donovan** is asking for a plan to help bring down the city's skyrocketing 2015 homicide rate, which now is six times higher than New York City's 2015 homicide rate.

About the letter, Alderman Donovan said: "The news media doesn't seem to want to bother him with questions about our obscene murder rate, but I'll ask our mayor a few questions about it. The mayor seems perfectly content to have citizens fixate about things like the downtown streetcar – all while we have an ongoing, deadly scourge of violence that is literally and figuratively draining the life out of our city."

"I'm asking the mayor where the buck stops, because to me it sure doesn't look like it stops at his desk," Alderman Donovan said.

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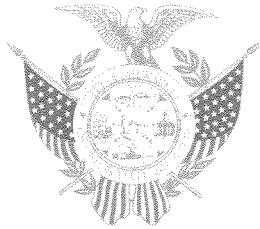
COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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- Judiciary and Legislation Committee



ROBERT G. DONOVAN

Alderman, 8th District

April 9, 2015

Mayor Tom Barrett
Milwaukee City Hall
200 E. Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Mayor,

I am writing today on behalf of the beleaguered citizens of Milwaukee who are wondering how their city can change direction in ways that can reduce the number of almost daily homicides and shootings. And, because you never seem to miss an opportunity to trot out Chief Flynn to give you cover – and the Chief being a man who apparently never met a statistic he didn't like (or couldn't manipulate) – I thought I'd share a statistic that no one seems to be talking about – **Milwaukee's murder rate, which is now SIX TIMES that of New York City.**

Let me say that again: Milwaukee's murder rate is six times higher than New York City's. Shocking.

I remember a Milwaukee where year in and year out we were ranked as one of America's safest big cities. Mayor, what has happened under your watch?

On behalf of the citizens of Milwaukee, we're begging for you to do something about it. Where is the light at the end of the tunnel? With few exceptions, the media seems unwilling to ask the tough, pointed questions when it comes to public safety; but I am not. **What is your plan** to turn this abysmal statistic around? What steps are you taking **now** to address this so that these numbers don't skyrocket once the weather gets hot? Should we just accept a murder rate that is eight or 10 times that of NYC by mid-August?! Sadly, it appears that that's where we're headed.

Other Cities facing challenges similar to ours have restructured their budgets and priorities from the ground up. With the escalating murder rate in this city along with other violent crime, zero other priorities should be considered until public safety can be restored. Businesses don't move to unstable, dangerous neighborhoods. Yet I'm sure you'll be taking bows this summer when the 60 police recruits graduate from the academy. No need to mention the reality – that we really need 260 new officers!



In addition, I was not at all surprised the other day when I legitimately raised concerns over the current police non-pursuit policy and the response from Chief Flynn was to suggest another meeting with the Public Safety Committee. These ongoing challenges will not be addressed through additional meetings or additional summits or more hand-holding. **Wake up Tom -- we need leadership, we need action, and we need it now!**

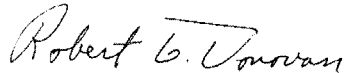
I could go on and on about the deteriorating quality of life in many Milwaukee neighborhoods, including areas so dangerous that seniors are afraid to go outside even during the day. Many have given up even calling the police anymore after experiencing the abysmal response time again and again. Even basic traffic enforcement is now non-existent in Milwaukee. Talk about a need to drive defensively while in Milwaukee!

Oh, I almost forgot to ask: Does the buck really stop at your desk, Tom?

I have one final question – has the position of Mayor deteriorated to the point that it is nothing more than a repository for power, money and influence to be doled out to friends and exploited by special interests?

Or, does it still have the potential to be a catalyst, a springboard to spur bold, gutsy decisive leadership? Only you can answer that question Tom, and the clock is ticking.

Most Sincerely,



Robert G. Donovan
Alderman, 8th District

P.S. – You may want to suggest to Chief Flynn that he engage someone a little more competent than Pat Curley to write his material. On second thought, forget it, it's at least been entertaining!