

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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### MEMBER

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



**ROBERT G. DONOVAN**

Alderman, 8th District

# **Public Safety in Milwaukee approaching free-fall**

*Continued deadly violence and other challenges affecting quality of life*

**Statement from Alderman Bob Donovan**

**March 20, 2015**

In Milwaukee we tallied another two homicides last night, bringing the year-to-date total to 30 homicides, and that's just for the first 11 weeks of 2015 (just 41 more weeks to go this year!).

Even more troubling to me, is that I am hearing that criminals are traveling from other parts of Milwaukee to the south side to commit crimes. The criminals have started to refer to the south side as "the sweet spot" – a place where they believe they can steal cars, commit robberies, and pull off carjackings at will.

And all our administration can tell us is to make sure we don't leave our keys in the car? Is that all they've got?!

For God's sake, it's absurd that we have to live like prisoners in our own homes, while the thugs control the streets!

It was six months ago that our former executive director of the Fire and Police Commission – Michael Tobin – left rather abruptly for a similar job in Washington, D.C. Yet, there is no hint of anyone under consideration to take that job (a pretty important position given everything our city is going through!). Is that hiring not a high priority, Mr. Mayor?

In the same vein, yesterday we (Public Safety Committee) interviewed a good candidate for the Fire and Police Commission (Rev. Crouther), but we learned that the FPC hadn't conducted a standard, necessary background check on him. In my opinion, this is a clear sign that there's no one running the ship at the FPC, including the 'interim director,' Steve Fronk, who almost seems like he's not exactly thrilled to be the one supposedly holding down the fort.

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If this administration would be paying as much attention to public safety as it has been to advancing the streetcar, we'd be in much better shape. Sadly, that's not the case.

Also, I want to emphasize strongly that the rank and file officers of the Milwaukee Police Department have absolutely no blame in this latest uptick of deadly violence and shootings; they are doing the very best job possible with the resources they have.

If people don't agree with me on this statement, well then they simply must subscribe to different standards, and if our standards have been lowered so much and people are accepting of this garbage (killings, shootings, etc.), then apparently we are in much worse shape than I imagined.

Last, just please keep this in mind, folks: the best part of Detroit is its downtown.

What about our **neighborhoods**?!

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