
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

August 18, 2015

Ald. Tony Zielinski
(414) 286-3769

Resolution urges no police furlough days in 2016 budget

Common Council legislation being drafted at the request of **Alderman Tony Zielinski** urges Mayor Tom Barrett to spare Milwaukee police officers from mandatory furlough days in the upcoming 2016 city budget.

Alderman Zielinski, chair of the Common Council's Licenses Committee, said he firmly believes the mayor's mandatory three furlough days per year for police officers in recent city budgets have "been a disaster for public safety in the City of Milwaukee."

"I was one of the Council members who voted against these cuts because they cause a significant reduction in officer hours on the street, as they are clearly needed on patrol in neighborhoods where crime is rampant," Alderman Zielinski said. "Our high crime rate is due, I believe, in part because of the softer officer coverage on the streets as officers are furloughed in and out of service."

Alderman Zielinski said the ability of some motorcyclists participating earlier this month in the "Miltown Throwdown" event to race in and out of traffic (including operating on sidewalks, in some areas) in Milwaukee helps drive home his point. "The video (of the motorcyclists) doesn't lie, and it shows why we need those officers on the street and what can happen in a community without sufficient police coverage," he said.

-More-

Officer furloughs/ADD ONE

“My resolution will put the Council on record asking the mayor to NOT put forward a 2016 budget that includes furlough days for our officers,” he said. “And I ask all of my constituents and city residents to contact the Mayor’s Office at **414-286-2200** and urge him NOT to include the police officer furloughs in his 2016 budget.”

Alderman Zielinski said he believes the resolution will be ready for review next month by the Council’s Finance and Personnel Committee.

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