



CITY OF MILWAUKEE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Milwaukee's gun violence is far from a joking matter

Council members introducing communication file to discuss rules for "not getting shot in Milwaukee"

Today the community will lay to rest nine-year-old Za'layia Jenkins, who is sadly now on the growing list of Milwaukee's innocent victims of gun violence. The story of children being caught in the crossfire is becoming far too common in Milwaukee. While the community searches for answers and resolution, community leadership should be assisting in those efforts, and not oversimplifying or making light of the problem of gun violence in this city. As we work collaboratively to decrease violent crime, we must first acknowledge the seriousness of the state of affairs in our community and begin to look at both the causal and risk factors, so that throughout our efforts we are not only looking at how to impact today, but how to stop the continuance of the violence tomorrow.

Our top law enforcement officer, Chief Flynn, is a tone-setter for all MPD officers, and he should have known better than to suggest "four ways of not getting shot in Milwaukee," as he did recently at the Mayor's Ceasefire Sabbath kick-off breakfast.

Those of us who have accepted the responsibility of serving this community must do so with professionalism and empathy, in all of our works and our words, during every minute of every day. We need to work toward solutions to our gun violence problem, but it is difficult for us to do that collectively when some are not taking it seriously. In the end, we simply cannot afford missed opportunities to protect our citizens and to prevent these devastating crimes from happening.

We understand that a lot of people are demanding an apology from the Chief, but we are not ones who believe in demanding someone to apologize. A sincere apology does not require a demand, but derives from one's own conscience, and is based on regret.

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What we do demand is accountability, and if these “rules” are truly a recommendation for reducing violence, they need to be explained along with other causal and risk factors. With that in mind, this week we have introduced a communication file to discuss these rules and to require accountability from the Chief and his department.

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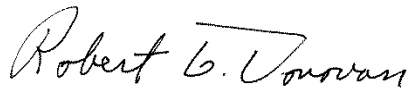
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