
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

November 17, 2016

Bill Arnold
(414) 286-3285

Council members call on Chief to boost South Side officer staffing

Members seek MPD officer increases in Police Districts Two and Six

A majority of Common Council members representing Milwaukee's South Side aldermanic districts today sent a **joint letter (attached)** to Police Chief Edward Flynn, requesting that he assign additional officers to MPD's District Two and District Six.

Signed by **Alderman Bob Donovan**, chair of the Public Safety Committee, Public Safety Vice Chair **Alderman Mark Borkowski**, **Alderman Tony Zielinski** and **Alderman José G. Pérez**, the letter to Chief Flynn cites chronic long response times and other factors in seeking additional officers for the south side.

The letter states, in part: "The five aldermanic districts on the City's south side are home to approximately 220,000 residents. Were the south side set on its own, it would be the third-largest municipality in the state of Wisconsin. The 215 officers assigned (131 in District 2 and 84 in District 6) to protect them cannot be taken as sufficient.

We all have for quite some time experienced unacceptable increases in response time, lack of patrol officers, and, worst of all, too many instances in which we have been informed that no officer was available to provide a timely response to a call for help. We have been regularly told by officers at community meetings that their resources are stretched and special enforcement is next to impossible.

We do not believe we are asking for a disproportionate response but only for our residents' fair share of police resources. Our constituents are hard-working tax-payers like any others and deserve better. These residents pride themselves on keeping their neighborhoods and our City strong, but they cannot without the support of the police."



CITY OF MILWAUKEE

City Hall, 200 E. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202 • www.city.milwaukee.gov

November 17, 2016

Chief Edward Flynn
Milwaukee Police Department
749 W. State St.
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Chief Flynn,

We, the undersigned, write to ask that you alter the deployment of your officers to the City's south side to redress the evident inadequacy of police presence in Districts 2 and 6.

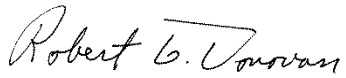
The five aldermanic districts on the City's south side are home to approximately 220,000 residents. Were the south side set on its own, it would be the third-largest municipality in the state of Wisconsin. The 215 officers assigned (131 in District 2 and 84 in District 6) to protect them cannot be taken as sufficient. And, we would note, this level of staffing is not an aberration, but the planned deployment to this area selected by you for us.

The bitter fruit of this level of police presence is evident. We all have for quite some time experienced unacceptable increases in response time, lack of patrol officers, and, worst of all, too many instances in which we have been informed that no officer was available to provide a timely response to a call for help. We have been regularly told by officers at community meetings that their resources are stretched and special enforcement is next to impossible.

Please know that we understand the challenges of policing in the modern era. Please also know that we have consistently defended the hard work and best efforts of your officers and other staff. We do not believe we are asking for a disproportionate response but only for our residents' fair share of police resources. Our constituents are hard-working tax-payers like any others and deserve better. These residents pride themselves on keeping their neighborhoods and our City strong, but they cannot without the support of the police.

We look forward to your response and to working with you to resolving this matter in the near future.

Sincerely,



Ald. Robert G. Donovan



Ald. Mark A. Borkowski



Ald. Tony Zielinski



Ald. José G. Pérez