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CHANTIA LEWIS
ALDERWOMAN, 9TH DISTRICT

Neighborhood grateful for quick action by police in last night's hold-up

Statement of Alderwoman Chantia Lewis May 6, 2016

One police officer was shot and wounded last night when a suspect in the armed robbery of an auto parts store at N. 76th Street and W. Mill Road opened fire on responding officers. The shooting took place after a brief foot chase that ended about a block to the east. But the officer's body armor prevented serious injuries, and the masked suspect was killed in the exchange of gunfire that resulted.

The authorities are interviewing witnesses to learn more about what happened.

On behalf of the neighborhood that I have been elected to represent on Milwaukee's Common Council, I commend these officers for their quick response to a robbery in progress and thank them for their courage in the line of fire. When he started shooting, the suspect showed a blatant disregard for the safety of innocent bystanders going about their business on this busy street corner, and these officers put their lives on the line to prevent any innocent loss of life. My thoughts and prayers are especially with the officer who was wounded, and I'm grateful to hear that he is expected to make a full recovery.

As we roll up our sleeves to address the core issues of systemic poverty and joblessness that plague our city, incidents like this one are a sad indication of the hard work that we have ahead of us—but an important reminder of the critical role that cooperation will play in that process.

Everyone has a part to play in making our city a better place to live. As neighbors, our vigilance and collaboration with police, business owners and my Aldermanic office at City Hall are the most effective tools we have at our disposal. I am hopeful that, as a community working together, we can prevent some of these issues in the future and ensure neighborhood safety.

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