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JAMES A. BOHL, JR.

Alderman, 5th District

Alderman Bohl offers condolences to latest accident victim and calls for action

Statement by Alderman James A. Bohl, Jr.

October 5, 2017

I am pained to learn of yet another fatal hit-and-run car accident in our great city. In this case, the driver ran a red light, and then crashed into the victim's car on the 7600 block of W. Appleton Avenue, killing the passenger. I offer my deepest condolences to the family and friends of this victim. This case is sadly one of a growing number of accidents that have taken the lives of innocent drivers, who were simply trying to get to their destination. I was most disturbed to learn, that the Milwaukee Police Department wasn't doing more to police our roadways.

Recently, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Safety and the Milwaukee Police Department released some alarming traffic data which shows our roads are truly a safety hazard. Between 2008 and 2016 Milwaukee has seen a 73% increase in traffic fatalities, and during that same period, traffic citations have decreased 60%. This is a 'new normal' I am not willing to accept.

We have to take action to make our roadways safe again, and we can't do that if Milwaukee's Police Chief isn't urging officers to punish reckless drivers for their irresponsible behavior behind the wheel. In 2008, we had 33 traffic fatalities in Milwaukee, that has steadily increased, and as of last year we had 57 traffic deaths. To make matters worse, our number of traffic citations actually went down, from 109,903 in 2008 to just a mere 44,178 last year. We need to show drivers that we will not tolerate reckless driving.

We need Milwaukee's Police Chief Ed Flynn to step up in a major way. If we can't even make our roads safe for families to drive on, then we need to look at what the police force is focused on. I am calling on the police force to prioritize citations for reckless driving.