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Council members say revised pursuit policy a step in the right direction

Alderman Bob Donovan and **Alderman Mark A. Borkowski** say the Fire and Police Commission deserves a hearty “Thank You” from the public for securing a more proactive vehicle pursuit policy from the Milwaukee Police Department.

Alderman Donovan, chair of the Public Safety and Health Committee, said the MPD’s revised policy – formally approved last night by the FPC – is a “positive step in the right direction.”

“The revised policy won’t instantly restore order to our streets, but it will put people on notice that our officers are back in the business of fully pursuing and apprehending fleeing suspects,” Alderman Donovan said. “More importantly, I want to thank the members of the Fire and Police Commission for listening to citizens and directing the Chief to change the policy. It was the right move.”

The revised policy was drafted in response to the FPC’s July extension that directed Police Chief Edward Flynn to submit a revised pursuit policy to allow officers to pursue more vehicles involved in violations of the law. The multifaceted revised policy will now allow officers to pursue vehicles involved in reckless driving and suspected mobile drug trafficking.

“I have newfound respect for the Fire and Police Commission, which has staunchly stepped up to fulfill its appropriate oversight role,” said Alderman Borkowski, vice chair of the Public Safety and Health Committee.

“I truly thought the Commission was a paper tiger but the pursuit policy directive to the Chief proved that to be untrue. The Commission did the right thing and deserves a tip of the hat from the Council and from residents,” Alderman Borkowski said.