

City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.



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May 24, 2018

## Latest video presents an opportunity to make long overdue changes

**Joint statement from President Ashanti Hamilton, Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs, Alderman Jim Bohl, Alderman Michael Murphy, Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II, Alderman Khalif J. Rainey, Alderwoman Chantia Lewis, Alderman Nicholas Kovac, Alderman José G. Pérez, Alderman Robert Bauman and Alderman Cavalier Johnson**

The recent release of bodycam footage from the Sterling Brown tasing and arrest is yet another example of the opportunity and need for a paradigm shift in how police engage with the community.

While the footage was disturbing and represented an excessive police response to an admittedly minor situation, this is just one incident that was captured on film.

This is an issue that is not unique to Milwaukee but a national crisis that must be addressed systemically.

The focus has to be placed on the culture and systematically enforced behavior that currently exists and must change. No human being should ever have to fear for their lives or safety while interacting with the public servants that are charged to protect and serve them.

Ultimately, Milwaukee has all the ingredients to be a great city, but each time a incident like this occurs we are reminded of how much work we still have to do.

We have introduced a file to discuss and evaluate the current police policy and training as it relates to de-escalation, along with implicit and cultural bias. We are prepared to work with the Community, Fire & Police Commission and MPD toward desired change.

Council members will hold a press conference immediately following the Common Council meeting

- What: Common Council press conference on Sterling Brown
- Where: Common Council Chamber Foyer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.
- When: Immediately following the Common Council meeting which is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. today