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ALDERMAN, 8TH DISTRICT

Governing Milwaukee is a two-way street

Statement from Alderman Bob Donovan September 24, 2018

Other than Common Council President Hamilton and Finance and Personnel Committee Chair Alderwoman Cogg (and I'm told only after they insisted late last week) no members of the Common Council were briefed by Mayor Barrett on his proposed 2019 city budget.

Of course the mayor did his usual pre-budget address sit down with the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (an article appeared in Sunday's paper) but again, he provided no briefing to me or other Council members and only provided one to the Council's top leaders after they insisted. It appears the mayor holds the *Journal Sentinel* in higher regard than he does the Council!

Most engaged citizens in our city recognize that Milwaukee is governed by a mayor *and* a Common Council. Apparently this important fact is not something the mayor embraces or believes important.

At first I thought it must just be me because of all of my criticisms directed at the mayor and his administration over the years. But I wasn't alone – no one was getting a briefing – no way, no how.

This lack of respect for the Council by our mayor disturbs me and it ought to disturb our citizens. It's always best when the mayor and the Council work together for the best interests of the City of Milwaukee. Too often the mayor has decided to go it alone, but I'd argue that approach has not gone so well for him.

Going it alone has not been too productive for the mayor and has left us with a Health Department that's in shambles. And now we are seeing desperate budget efforts to play catch up!

The citizens of Milwaukee deserve an effective and coherent city government that's firing on all cylinders.

Time for the mayor to recognize that effective governing of our great city is a two-way street.

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