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Two cops dead and homicides, shootings, violence and disorder continue – where's the plan, Tom?

Statement from Alderman Bob Donovan
August 6, 2018

It was most somber last Wednesday at the funeral services for Milwaukee Police Officer Michael Michalski, killed by an individual who – in my opinion – should have never been on the street in the first place (but that is a whole different topic and not to be addressed here).

Officer Michalski's death in the line of duty came on the heels of another death in the line of duty, that of Police Officer Charles Irvine, Jr.

Sadly we continue to see senseless violence throughout Milwaukee – shootings and homicides. Gun violence even visited Washington Park over the weekend as a car pulled up and someone fired multiple shots at boys and young men playing basketball, just feet away from citizens taking part in a church picnic.

How sad and shameful!

Some of us have been made aware of the incredibly violent weekend that just ended in Chicago, where there were 44 shootings in 14 hours.

So is this level of violence in Chicago what the citizens of Milwaukee can expect down the road?

Is it unreasonable for Milwaukee citizens to expect some relief from this onslaught? Is it too much to ask Mayor Barrett for some semblance of a plan and direction to move us forward out of this deadly violence?

Two years ago the Common Council came forward with a proactive plan for public safety – a very good plan that I back 100% to this day (**please go to <https://bit.ly/2MrNO8s> to read the plan**). The plan contains common sense but also some inconvenient truths that so many politicians just don't want to hear.

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The Council's public safety plan also showed leadership – something we haven't seen from this administration. But that plan gathers dust on many shelves at City Hall, and it's a shame.

I know the people of Milwaukee are expecting more from our elected leaders, but Mayor Barrett is apparently offering nothing, zero, zilch.

By offering nothing it seems he is saying it is acceptable to live with the violence and disorder. I'm tired of his rhetoric and his dancing around the issues. His overall timidity in dealing with these very real issues is beyond disappointing.

The problems in Milwaukee neighborhoods are not going to be solved by a downtown streetcar system! As a city there is much more to Milwaukee than just our downtown, yet the mayor only pays lip service to other neighborhoods when he's chauffeured in and out.

Last, I'd like to add one more disappointment to the list: While the funeral of Officer Michalski was attended by a few members of the Council, I'm very disappointed in my colleagues who did not show up for this important service and procession.

Just one more in a long line of disappointments by our so-called city leaders.

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