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ROBERT G. DONOVAN
ALDERMAN, 8TH DISTRICT

Mayor's involvement in incident with Bucks player disturbing

Statement from Alderman Bob Donovan January 30, 2018

At approximately 2 a.m. last Friday (January 26) police arrested Milwaukee Bucks player Sterling Brown after a struggle outside the Walgreens near S. 27th (Layton Blvd.) and W. National Ave. Milwaukee Police were ticketing Mr. Brown's vehicle, which was reportedly parked across two handicap parking spots in the store's lot, when Mr. Brown became combative and had to be tased by officers.

Because the incident occurred in my aldermanic district, I feel obligated to comment about what occurred.

The store is located in an area that has been challenged by a variety of criminal activity for years. That Walgreens location has been the victim of numerous armed robberies over the course of many, many years. As a result I have repeatedly asked the MPD to be more proactive and to increase their presence at the store and in the area surrounding it.

I'm appreciative of the response by the officers to this suspicious situation last Friday, as the vehicle could have possibly be seen as a getaway vehicle parked for a swift exit. At best, Mr. Brown could have just received a ticket from the officers and everyone goes on their merry way.

It is unfortunate that things escalated, somehow, and that Mr. Brown was tased in the course of being arrested. That said, I fully expect our officers to enforce the law – all laws – equally and without prejudice.

Now this is where things get strange.

Sources tell me that Mayor Barrett – as early as Friday morning – asked to review the body camera footage of the incident, and then ordered that Mr. Brown not be charged. If this is true, it is direct political interference in police work and is incredibly disturbing!

This interference -- coming from a mayor who publicly claims he never sticks his nose into police matters -- is laughable. It also begs the question: How many other times has this mayor interfered with police investigations, active cases or similar scenarios?

The sheer hypocrisy concerns me and should concern every citizen in Milwaukee.

Be careful Tom, this hypocrisy just might tarnish your good guy image.

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