
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

April 25, 2018

Ald. Bob Donovan
(414) 531-2096
Ald. Mark Borkowski
(414) 286-3768

MEDIA ADVISORY

Aldermen ask Mayor Barrett to step down if he enters race for Governor

In a letter (**attached**) sent today to Mayor Tom Barrett, **Alderman Bob Donovan** and **Alderman Mark A. Borkowski** are asking the mayor to step down if he decides to enter the race for Wisconsin Governor.

Alderman Donovan, chair of the Public Safety and Health Committee, said the “right choice” for the mayor would be to step aside should he enter the race for Governor. “Given our many challenges and issues here in Milwaukee, we need a full-time mayor managing the city’s affairs all day and every day,” he said. “What we don’t need is a distracted mayor who is in constant campaign mode.”

In part the letter states: “Too many agencies of this City’s government have been roiled by scandal and mismanagement in recent months for this community to be able to afford a mayor with his mind and energy divided between the duties of his office and what promises to be a bruising political campaign.”

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CITY OF MILWAUKEE

City Hall, 200 E. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202 • www.city.milwaukee.gov

April 25, 2018

The Honorable,
Mayor Tom Barrett
City Hall

Dear Mayor Barrett,

We have watched with interest and concern your open deliberation of another run for the office of governor. It is not our intent to opine on the wisdom of such an attempt.

However, we believe very strongly that, should you decide to run for governor, you should at the same time step down as mayor.

Too many agencies of this City's government have been roiled by scandal and mismanagement in recent months for this community to be able to afford a mayor with his mind and energy divided between the duties of his office and what promises to be a bruising political campaign.

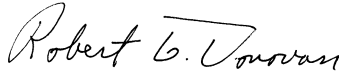
The Milwaukee Health Department has only begun to pick up the pieces of a shattered lead program that, at a minimum, failed to notify dozens of young people and their families that they had been exposed to dangerous levels of lead. The Department of Employee Relations and our own staff have yet to complete their investigations into how great the problem is and how it occurred. Responding to their findings will demand time and attention.

Your defense of former Chief of Police Edward Flynn and many of his ill-considered policies has left the Milwaukee Police Department in disorder. We are hopeful that Chief Morales can set matters to right, but your recent decision to fire Ms. MaryNell Regan even as she was working with the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners to improve transparency and accountability does not inspire confidence.

Despite repeated urgings, you have proven singularly unable to improve relations with the current administration in Madison and the leadership of the state legislature. This even as the City finds itself in desperate need of new tools and approaches to deal with its financial challenges. A gubernatorial candidacy would certainly make matters no better.

During the best of times, this City needs and deserves a full-time mayor all of the time. In these more difficult days, should you choose to run for governor, we ask respectfully that you step down.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Donovan
Alderman, 8th District

Sincerely,



Mark Borkowski
11th District Alderman