

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

### **CHAIR**

- Public Safety and Health

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- Public Works
- Steering and Rules
- Anti-Graffiti Policy



**ROBERT G. DONOVAN**  
ALDERMAN, 8TH DISTRICT

## **Letter from friend of Officer Irvine's family ought to be a wake-up call for all of us**

**Statement from Alderman Bob Donovan  
June 18, 2018**

The **attached letter** from a friend of the family of fallen Milwaukee Police Officer Charles Irvine, Jr. is heartfelt and pulls no punches in seeking to hold certain public officials accountable for the current state of public safety and criminal justice in Milwaukee.

It was posted on social media and I am sharing it because I think it is important for every citizen to read. As you will see it speaks for itself in calling out public officials who have truly and completely lost touch with what is happening on our streets. With the poor decision-making and ineptitude we are seeing on the part of some of our so-called leaders, the real problems we face in Milwaukee are not being addressed and in some ways are being made worse.

I want to again offer my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Officer Irvine. They are devastated by the tragedy and my heart goes out to them. As the parent of a Milwaukee police officer I know how deep the hurt must be and I know well that we lost an outstanding member of the MPD family.

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Laural L. Cobus  
3025 N. 61st Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53210

June 15, 2018

U.S. Congresswoman Gwen Moore  
316 N Milwaukee Street, Suite 406  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Court Commissioner Barry Phillips  
Criminal Justice Facility  
949 N. 9th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425

Court Commissioner Grace Flynn  
Criminal Justice Facility  
949 N. 9th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425

RE: An Open Letter to Congresswoman Gwen Moore,  
Court Commissioner Barry Phillips, and  
Court Commissioner Grace Flynn

I have been a life-long resident of the City of Milwaukee. I would like to preface my comments by stating that I have never written a letter to any politician. However, I cannot remain silent after the tragic events occurring in Milwaukee on June 7, 2018. I am, of course, referring to Officer Charles Irvine, Jr. who died in the line of duty. Tomorrow my husband and I will stand with our best friends, Glenn and Christy Bachmann while they bury Chuckie. I am heartbroken. I am angry. But, my emotions pale in comparison to what Glenn and Christy are going through.

As we are all aware, the policy of the Milwaukee Police Department in pursuing/not pursuing vehicles has changed over the last several years. When the policy was rescinded, as expected criminals became emboldened by knowing that laws could be broken and there would be no consequences when fleeing an officer. An environment has developed which I can only compare to the wild wild west. As a citizen it is nothing less than terrifying at times to simply drive our city streets -- and this is an understatement. This criminal mentality has prevailed in our city and it is more widespread than the comment made by Ladell Harrison, 'I thought you guys couldn't pursue vehicles.' It has become a common theme that laws mean nothing and can be blatantly and regularly ignored with absolutely no consequence.

Commissioners Flynn and Phillips: You could have prevented this. You should have prevented this. You failed miserably. You need to answer to Officer Irvine's parents. You need to answer to the City of Milwaukee. You are supposed to be upholding the law. That was your job. If it was within my power, you would be terminated from your positions immediately.

Congresswoman Moore: I find it absolutely ludicrous for you to imply that "no one is worth chasing" and that "the danger that police officers and civilians are put in should really give us pause." What about the danger that law abiding citizens of Milwaukee are put in because of the criminal acts of others? I'm not sure how much time you actually spend in Milwaukee, but it can't be anything substantial based on your comment. You need to support law enforcement and promote protecting the citizens of this community. Your statement proves how out of touch you are and that you have no respect for the law abiding citizens. You are in a position to change laws. You could and should have said that laws need to be changed so that there are harsher penalties for criminals who flee law enforcement. You could and should have said that the justice system should do more to impose harsh penalties against those who choose to break the law. You have failed as an elected official. You owe an apology to the parents of Officer Irvine and to the entire community. You need to retract your statement and take your job seriously or resign your position.

On a positive note, to Chief Alfonso Morales: Your words of condolence were heartfelt. Your words of encouragement to the community did not fall on deaf ears. Your leadership through these most difficult days has been an inspiration. I know you will not let Officer Irvine's death be in vain. I trust you to continue to help our community heal.



cc: Glenn and Christy Bachmann  
Chief Alfonso Morales  
Mayor Tom Barrett  
Governor Scott Walker  
Fox 6 News  
Today's TMJ 4  
Channel 12 Milwaukee