Alderman Witkowski congratulates new interim police chief

Statement of Alderman Terry L. Witkowski
February 16, 2018

As a member of the Public Safety, Finance, and Judiciary/Legislation Committees, I want to offer my congratulations to interim Police Chief Alfonso Morales on his selection to this role. I look forward to working cooperatively to reduce crime and improve traffic safety in the city. As he goes about seeking ways to make this a safe city and decide on the allocation of resources, I would stress that it is important to dedicate resources to healthy, low-crime areas of the city to keep them that way, too.

Interim Chief Morales comes in at the time of the year when the city begins to formulate a 2019 budget that promises certainly to be another tough one, with continuing rising costs and diminishing resources. With the Police Department being the city’s largest cost by far, new ways of delivering police service and innovative thinking will be required.

The city has faced lawsuits from police actions that further strapped city finances and alienated parts of the community. Continued efforts are needed to reduce these incidents through the review and implementation of policies, procedures and training.

The challenges to this city and the Milwaukee Police Department are many, and I welcome interim Chief Morales to the team of leaders whose role it is to address them. I also commend Inspector Brunson and Assistant Chief Harpole for being part of the team to get us this far.

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