
Common Council President



1st District Alderman

Ashanti Hamilton
City of Milwaukee Common Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2019

Jointly signed letter to the Mayor from Common Council President Hamilton

The **attached letter** from Common Council **President Ashanti Hamilton** – signed by **10** other members of the Common Council – was sent today to Mayor Barrett.

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CITY OF MILWAUKEE

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

February 18, 2019

The Honorable,
Mayor Tom Barrett
City Hall

Dear Mayor Barrett,

Last fall, the Common Council issued a communication to your office expressing concern and disappointment over your administration's failure to appear before the Council and its committees when asked. At that time, we were concerned about your absence from important discussions surrounding the safety of City officials and staff in the event of emergency incidents, such as the receipt of a suspicious substance by your office in September. Our understanding was that this would be the last time we would need to address this particular issue. Unfortunately, we find ourselves here again.

Over the last four weeks, the Common Council has made a number of attempts to facilitate communication between your administration and the public to address the City's lack of responsiveness and transparency over lead lateral remediation plans. The rising concern and calls for your administration to respond by community advocacy groups led the Council to offer a public airing of these grievances at the February 14th, 2019, Steering and Rules Committee meeting. Representatives from the Health Department, the Department of Public Works, and the Water Works were all asked to attend to respond to questions raised by new information presented by the Get the Lead Out Coalition and the Freshwater for Life Action Coalition.

The failure, once again, by your administration to act in the interest of open communication and transparency leaves the Council in the all-too-familiar position of addressing critical matters that affect our City without any communication from its Mayor. The absences of these department heads – all of whom you appoint – was keenly felt and their collective failure to send even a representative was disappointing, especially when the leadership of some of these departments could be clearly seen sitting across from us earlier in the same Committee meeting.

Mayor Barrett
February 18, 2019

It is our sincere hope that when the public conversation on this matter continues on March 7th, you will honor our request for members of your administration to be present and engage with the community on this serious issue. We must work together if we want to move the City forward.

Respectfully,



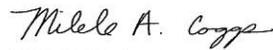
Ald. Ashanti Hamilton
1st District



Ald. Cavalier Johnson
2nd District



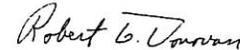
Ald. Robert J. Bauman
4th District



Ald. Milele A. Coggs
6th District



Ald. Khalif J. Rainey
7th District



Ald. Robert G. Donovan
8th District



Ald. Chantia Lewis
9th District



Ald. Mark A. Borkowski
11th District



Ald. Terry L. Witkowski
13th District



Ald. Tony Zielinski
14th District



Ald. Russell W. Stamper, II
15th District

Attachment

cc: Alexis Peterson
Oscar Tovar



CITY OF MILWAUKEE

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

October 26, 2018

The Honorable,
Mayor Tom Barrett
City Hall

Mayor Barrett,

At yesterday's meeting of the Public Safety and Health Committee, a communication was heard regarding the City's response to a suspicious substance incident in your office that took place on the afternoon of September 28, 2018. Many City employees, citizens, and council members viewed the response to that incident as chaotic and plagued by questionable procedures and poor communication. It was hoped that yesterday's meeting would be the first step in understanding what happened, what was done well, what was done badly, and what could be done in the future to ensure a proper response to incidents of this type.

It is troubling to all of us that no representatives of the Milwaukee Police Department, the Milwaukee Fire Department, or anyone from your administration responsible for emergency preparedness appeared at this meeting. It suggests a lack of concern for the safety of the public, City employees, and, frankly, your own staff who were those directly affected by this incident.

Their absence also left us and the public to wonder why you have done nothing to nominate a new emergency management coordinator as required by statute. One of the many issues the September 28 incident made plain was the lack of coordination in the emergency response which could present far greater problems should we ever be confronted with something other than a false alarm.

Mayor Barrett

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Yesterday's communication was held to the call of the chair and will be scheduled at a later date. You will receive a personal notice of this hearing. We would ask that you respect this request and ensure that the appropriate individuals from your staff attend. And in general, we would ask that you direct your staff to attend those Common Council hearings at which their presence is requested. This will do much to ensure the proper oversight of City operations of which the Council is a vital part.

Respectfully,



Ald. Ashanti Hamilton
1st District



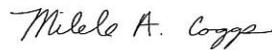
Ald. Cavalier Johnson
2nd District



Ald. NiK Kovac
3rd District



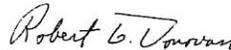
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Ald. Robert G. Donovan
8th District



Ald. Chantia Lewis
9th District



Ald. Mark A. Borkowski
11th District



Ald. José G. Pérez
12th District



Ald. Russell W. Stamper, II
15th District

cc: Alexis Peterson
Oscar Tovar