June 19, 2019

Mayor Tom Barrett and Members of the City of Milwaukee Common Council:

Carjacking and reckless driving are issues that affect both public officials and our constituents every day. All of us see firsthand the grave danger posed by illegal driving behaviors, whether through our work, the media, or tragedies touching our own lives. In order to address the needs of our city, I introduced legislation to create a City-County Carjacking and Reckless Driving Taskforce which was recommended for approval by the Public Safety and Health Committee and approved with a unanimous vote by the Common Council on December 14, 2018.

The City-County Carjacking and Reckless Driving Taskforce brings together representatives from law enforcement, health services, and the criminal justice system to take a regional and multidisciplinary approach towards changing illegal and reckless driving behavior. We have broken up the taskforce into three subcommittees: Engineering Solutions chaired by myself, Accountability and Enforcement chaired by Assistant District Attorney Joy Hammond, and Prevention and Education chaired by Alderwoman Chantia Lewis. The taskforce first convened as a whole in April and has since convened all three subcommittees. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, June 24, 2019 at 12:00 pm in City Hall, Room 301-B.

I invite all of my colleagues in the Common Council and the Mayor’s office to join me at this meeting to engage in a discussion around regional and multidisciplinary policy solutions to carjacking and reckless driving. I believe that our city is strongest when our elected bodies collaborate around solving the issues at hand, rather than dividing ourselves by blaming each other. I am confident that the policy solutions generated through the convening of key stakeholders in our region will be a critical first step in making our streets and communities safer. I think we can all agree there is an immediacy and urgency to reduce the tragedies we see on our streets, and I look forward to all of us working together to see results.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Murphy
Alderman, 10th District