
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

December 14, 2019

Ald. Michael J. Murphy
(414) 286-3763

Council approves Carjacking and Reckless Driving Task Force

The Common Council today unanimously approved legislation creating the **City-County Carjacking and Reckless Driving Task Force**.

The measure – authored by **Alderman Michael J. Murphy** and recommended for approval by the Public Safety and Health Committee on January 4 – will appoint a mix of city and county officials, including representatives from law enforcement, health and the criminal justice system to address the issues.

Alderman Murphy said the task force will take a multipronged approach to address the carjacking/reckless driving epidemic. “Reckless driving and carjackings are very close to being the top issues Council members hear about from their constituents – these are problems that have spiraled out of control,” he said.

“The Milwaukee Police Department has made significant improvements from 2017 to 2018 but we all know that this is a crisis in the community that cannot be solved by law enforcement actions alone,” Alderman Murphy said. “The task force will work to find solutions from all sectors and all parts of the community.”

The Milwaukee Police Department reported that 410 carjackings occurred in the city in 2017, and 334 carjackings were recorded in 2018 (as of late in the year).

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New task force/ADD ONE

According to the legislation, from 2014 to 2017, there were 1,353 felony traffic and other offense cases filed in the Milwaukee County Circuit Court Criminal Division, as well as 532 felony cases filed for operating motor vehicles without owners' consent and 101 misdemeanor cases filed for operating vehicles without owners' consent. From 2014 to the present, there have been 229,823 traffic offense cases, many of which would be considered reckless driving on city streets.

The task force will be composed of 13 members, including:

- Mayor or the Mayor's designee.
- Two Common Council members appointed by the Common Council President.
- The Police Chief or the Chief's designee.
- The District Attorney or the District Attorney's designee.
- One representative from the Health Department appointed by the Health Commissioner.
- Two community members appointed by the Common Council President.
- One representative from the Milwaukee Municipal Court.
- One representative from the Milwaukee County Circuit Court.
- The Milwaukee County Sheriff or the Sheriff's designee.
- One Youth Council member appointed by the Common Council President.
- One representative from the Safety and Civic Commission.

The legislation was co-sponsored by **Alderman Milele A. Coggs** and **Alderman Chantia Lewis**.