

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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- Community and Economic Development Committee
- Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee

### MEMBER

- Public Safety and Health Committee



**JOSÉ G. PÉREZ**  
ALDERMAN, 12TH DISTRICT

### BOARD MEMBER

- Hispanic Elected Local Officials

### MEMBER

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- Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District Commission
- National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials
- National League of Cities
- Walker's Point Association
- Walker Square Neighborhood Association

# Gun discharge inside school could have been tragedy

## Statement of Alderman José G. Pérez April 24, 2019

It is very fortunate that the accidental weapon discharge at the St. Josaphat School on April 5 resulted only in a minor injury to one of the students in the school's care. It could have been far worse.

I cannot speak to whatever it is that would cause an employee of an elementary school to bring a handgun to work. I cannot imagine what it is that would cause him to do something that would cause the gun to discharge. I can, however, express my strong disapproval for the very poor decision of the school's principal to conceal the incident from authorities for as long as she did. I have contacted St. Josaphat's pastor directly to ask what procedures were in place for incidents of this kind; why these procedures, if they existed, were not followed; and what is being done to assure students, parents, and the community that something like this does not happen again.

I look forward to his responses. In the meanwhile, I am informed that the employee in question has been discharged, arrested, and is currently having his case reviewed by the office of the District Attorney. I will continue to watch this situation closely to make certain that all those responsible are held appropriately accountable.

Also, the City, through the Milwaukee Health Department's office of Violence Prevention, has made a significant commitment to providing trauma-informed care to individuals who have been the victims of or witnesses to violence of this type. I would urge any individuals in need of these services as the result of this or any other incident to call the trauma response hotline at (414)-257-7621.

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