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ROBERT G. DONOVAN
ALDERMAN, 8TH DISTRICT

This afternoon the City of Milwaukee just got less safe

Statement from Alderman Bob Donovan November 8, 2019

Today the Common Council failed to restore the Mayor's budget cut that will reduce the Milwaukee Police Department by 60 police officers. This is bad news for the entire city going into 2020.

In fact, my warning stands: If you live in an area of the city already hit too frequently by crime and disorder, prepare yourself because it's only going to get worse. And if you live in an area that's just been a little challenged by criminal activities, I can tell you – sadly – that it's only going to get worse.

Over the past 10 years we've reduced the Milwaukee Police Department by a few hundred cops. This means going into this budget we were already behind the eight ball – and by a wide margin.

Let's face it: When there are reckless drivers bringing mayhem, damage and injury (and death) to our streets, or shootings or carjackings or robberies – no one calls the Office of Violence Prevention. No one calls their local organizer or the Health Department.

They call the police.

My fear is that we are falling deeper and deeper into a hole when it comes to adequate police staffing and coverage. We also have a severe shortage of detectives, and that means fewer crimes are being solved across the city.

We must start seeing police officers for what they bring to our neighborhoods and to our city. They are not a luxury item and they ARE a resource for safety and prosperity.

They are a crucial necessity and we better start treating them that way.

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