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KHALIF J. RAINEY
ALDERMAN, 7TH DISTRICT



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Proud and determined Milwaukee marchers make it to Washington, D.C.

Statement of Alderman Khalif J. Rainey August 28, 2020

Dozens of fearless marchers who embarked on a 750-mile journey from Milwaukee to our nation's capital were rewarded by being a part of today's event marking the anniversary of the historic 1963 March on Washington.

The group made the incredible journey after weeks of marching across Milwaukee and the metro area in the wake of the heinous acts of police brutality that have been committed against the Black Community.

Led by Frank "Nitty" Sensabaugh and Tory Lowe, the group of 20-30 protestors began their march on August 4, in hopes of arriving in time for the "Get Off Our Necks Commitment" that is occurring today, August 28, in Washington, D.C. Marching for nearly a month, Sensabaugh and his fellow marchers experienced both adversity and support. People paid for hotel rooms and cheered them on. Supporters also donated food, clothes and shoes, as well as other items to marchers who were in desperate need of supplies amidst their journey.

However, they were also met with opposition in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana, as they encountered people who disagreed with the reasons behind their peaceful protest. Despite getting arrested and even shot at, this brave group of Milwaukee marchers stopped at nothing to reach their destination. Many described the experience as incredible and enlightening, and I am truly proud of each of them for their commitment and dedication. Seeing the support shown to these marchers proves that we are not alone in our mission to generate change, but the opposition also shows us that we have a long way to go and many obstacles to overcome. Being willing to walk for nearly a month to protest against injustice and police brutality is a level of passion few people even remotely possess, and for that I offer my highest praise and admiration for their courage.

When they began their march, the brutal police shooting against Jacob Blake had not yet been committed, but now the significance of their march has taken on a new meaning. "We're not going to stop until we get change," Sensabaugh said. "We're not going to have our kids marching. This is it." Now is the time for change. We cannot tolerate any more police violence against our communities.

Unless we can incite reform, we will continue living in a country where Black lives are not respected by the police. This is not an option. We have endured too much for too long, and it is finally time for change to happen. I stand with the brave marchers like Frank Sensabaugh, Tory Lowe, Sandy Soloman, and all of the marchers who walked together for something bigger than themselves.

Together we can make a difference, but we cannot delay any further, because the time for change is now.

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