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ALDERMAN, 8TH DISTRICT

Shame on Judge Milton Childs Crime Cannot Be Deterred Without Consequences

**Statement from Alderman Bob Donovan
January 9, 2020**

Second degree recklessly endangering safety

Fleeing and eluding the police

Felon in possession of a firearm

Possession of THC with intent to deliver

These are only recent highlights from the list of offenses committed by Mr. Imari Brown, a 27-year-old man who, by his record, has brought a great deal of harm to this community. Most recently he was arrested after driving down Hampton Avenue at speeds approaching 80 miles per hour, occasionally on the wrong side of the road. He struck multiple vehicles before abandoning his car in which was later found drugs, a digital scale, and a firearm.

The good news is that he didn't escape the police. He was arrested and charged for his offenses. Here was a case where the Milwaukee Police Department was able to bring to account an individual perpetrating the very crimes about which we as a community spend so much time beating our collective breasts and wondering how we will ever get them to stop. Honestly, how many times have we held press conferences, convened task forces, and mourned our dead and injured because of reckless driving and gun violence alone? Here was a chance to reduce the incidence of criminal behavior in our City by at least one offender.

And this was no first-time offender. Mr. Brown has a list of crimes and resulting incarcerations dating back to his undiscoverable juvenile years. Most of his crimes involve the same sorts of activity for which he was most recently arrested.

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But Judge Milton Childs, a recent appointee of Gov. Tony Evers, somehow saw things differently. He handed down to Mr. Brown a stayed sentence and three years' probation. This wouldn't be plausible if it were fiction.

What deterrence is this? What nonsense is this? What message does this send to this City about how serious we really are in our promises to do whatever we can to keep our residents safe? I want to commend WISN radio hosts Dan O'Donnell and Mark Belling for doing the digging on this and making it public.

I sincerely hope that Mr. Brown does not offend again. If, however, he does, and the consequences are tragic, we will no longer be free to wonder how such a thing could have happened. We will know those responsible and Mr. Brown will only be one of them.

And, Judge Childs, you owe this community an explanation.

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