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CAVALIER JOHNSON
COMMON COUNCIL PRESIDENT
ALDERMAN, 2ND DISTRICT

Chief Norman – The Right Man for the Job

Statement of Common Council President Cavalier Johnson November 15, 2021

It was a tremendous honor to help officially welcome Chief Jeffrey Norman the job of Chief of Police. This is a proud moment for all of Milwaukee.

Like me, Chief Norman is a Milwaukee native and a graduate of Milwaukee Public Schools. And like me, he's lived the life of a Black man in Milwaukee, and in Wisconsin, with all the opportunities and the challenges that come with that.

With this appointment, we turn the corner. The city is turning the corner on the dysfunction at the Fire & Police Commission with new leadership and new members. We turn the corner on the strife within the department, by promoting one of the department's own, someone who understands that we have new challenges in this new century, and that the old way of doing business just isn't going to cut it.

And together, we are going to turn the corner on the crime affecting every neighborhood in our community. Together, we are going to make the needed investments to stabilize the department and make sure citizens who want and need a police response, get it. We are going to take these issues of car thefts, reckless driving, and more and more shootings head on, and we are going to make Milwaukee safer.

But also, together, we are going to reform and modernize the police department. We are going to address the cultural issues that arise with a department that has too few Milwaukee residents and too few officers of color. We are going to move those functions that don't need to rest on the shoulders of sworn officers so we can prioritize public safety, and do it more efficiently.

With Chief Norman, we have a truly forward-thinking leader. We have someone who will listen to anyone — whether offering praise or criticism. We have someone who will make tough decisions. And we have someone who will deliver a safer Milwaukee for all – for his family, for my family, for your family, for all of us.

Congratulations, Chief Norman, and Godspeed.

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