



CITY OF MILWAUKEE

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Six Months Later: Silence is NOT an Acceptable Response

**Statement from Alderwoman Larresa Taylor, Alderman José G. Pérez,
Alderman Robert Bauman, Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs, and Alderman
Scott Spiker**

Our hearts are heavy. Our hearts are burdened.

We are deeply troubled by the thought that we have become so complacent as a society when it comes to sexual assault and sexual violence that we somehow believe that, if we allow enough time to pass, these horrific acts can simply be swept under the rug.

That somehow, silence will make the problem disappear. That somehow, the passage of time will lessen our responsibility to respond.

But time does not erase trauma. Silence does not bring healing. And ignoring a problem does not make it go away.

On April 9, 2026, a woman was sexually assaulted at the Milwaukee Intermodal Station, a major transportation hub where residents, families, and visitors enter and exit our great city every single day.

Since that incident, the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault has been diligent and persistent in its efforts to advocate for improved safety measures at this facility.

We have not asked for major renovations. We have not asked for costly construction projects or unreasonable expenditures.

We have simply asked for basic, relatively low-cost safety improvements: additional mirrors, improved lighting, increased signage, additional security personnel, and more strategic placement of security officers throughout the facility.

These are reasonable requests. These are achievable requests. And most importantly, these are requests that could help prevent someone else from becoming a victim.

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Yet, six months later, we are still waiting for meaningful action.

Six months.

To some, six months may seem like a relatively short period of time. To others, it may seem like enough time has passed that we should simply move on.

But to a victim of sexual assault, six months can feel like an eternity.

For a survivor, life may never be quite the same.

The emotional scars, psychological trauma, and physical suffering do not simply disappear with the passing of time. The fear, anxiety, and uncertainty can linger for years. Some survivors must rely on the support of family, friends, counselors, and other professionals just to navigate the challenges of everyday life.

And while the rest of the world continues moving forward, many survivors are still struggling to regain the sense of safety, security, and peace that was taken from them.

So we ask: How can we, as a community, simply move on when the lives of those who have been victimized may be forever changed?

The Commission has reached out to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the Department of Administration, Titan Security, and Milwaukee Intermodal Station partners.

We have sought communication, cooperation, and collaboration.

Yet, despite our continued efforts, we have not received the consistent, substantive communication or meaningful response that this serious matter deserves.

We have also sought the support of those who recognize the importance of maintaining a safe and welcoming downtown Milwaukee, including Alderman Bauman, the Downtown Business Improvement District, the Wisconsin Center District, and VISIT Milwaukee.

We have even elevated our concerns to the federal Department of Transportation.

Our Commission, which brings together representatives from multiple agencies and organizations, understands that addressing sexual violence and public safety requires a collective effort.

We recognize that no single agency can accomplish this work alone.

That is precisely why we continue to extend our hands in partnership.

We are not looking to point fingers. We are looking for solutions.

We remain willing to walk through the Intermodal Station with the appropriate stakeholders, identify areas of concern, and work collaboratively to implement practical safety improvements.

We are asking for a seat at the table, open communication, and a genuine commitment to making our transportation facilities safer for everyone.

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Our residents deserve that. Our visitors deserve that. Our families deserve that.

And most importantly, **the victims and survivors of sexual violence deserve to know that their pain has not gone unnoticed and that their voices have not gone unheard.**

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

It is a time when we come together to raise awareness, support survivors, and reaffirm our commitment to preventing violence.

But awareness without action is simply not enough.

We cannot wear purple ribbons, attend awareness events, speak passionately about protecting victims, and then turn a blind eye when there is an opportunity to make meaningful change.

Our commitment to victims must extend beyond the words we speak. It must be reflected in the actions we take.

We believe we have an obligation to continue this work, regardless of how much time has passed.

Because for those who have experienced sexual violence, the impact does not end when the headlines disappear.

Their struggles do not end when the public conversation grows quiet.

And our responsibility to advocate for their safety and well-being should not end simply because six months have passed.

Let us be very clear:

We are not asking for perfection. We are asking for progress.

We are not asking for promises. We are asking for action.

And we are not asking that anyone carry this responsibility alone. We are asking that everyone who has the authority and ability to make a difference come together and do their part.

We need meaningful communication. We need accountability. We need a plan of action. And we need a commitment to implementing reasonable safety improvements.

As elected officials, and as individuals who believe deeply in the dignity and worth of every human being, we cannot accept that silence and inaction should be the final response to an incident of this magnitude.

Six months may have passed, but our responsibility has not.

And while some may believe that enough time has passed and that we should simply move on, we say this:

We cannot move on from our responsibility to protect others.

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We cannot move on from our obligation to stand with survivors.

And we cannot move on from the pursuit of justice, dignity, and safety for those whose voices have too often gone unheard.

As we recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month, let us remember that our responsibility is not merely to acknowledge the suffering of victims but to take meaningful steps to prevent others from suffering that same pain.

Because every person deserves to feel safe.

Every survivor deserves to be heard.

And every victim deserves to know that their life matters.

Six months of silence is six months too long.

The time for acknowledgment has passed. The time for meaningful action is now.

And until we see that action, we will continue to raise our voices, advocate for change, and stand firmly in support of those who need us most.