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Ald. Jim Bohl
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“Punishment” Enabling More Crime?

Ald. Jim Bohl Says Too Many Recent Cases Have Teens Committing Serious Crimes Soon After Receiving Probation, Community Service for Prior Offenses

A 17-year-old is arrested for armed bank robbery less than a month after he was given probation -- instead of jail -- for three counts of robbery using threat of force.

Another teen with a lengthy record is arrested by Menomonee Falls police after being caught breaking into a home. Police believe the teen is likely responsible for several other break-ins and burglaries in the area.

Sound familiar?

Ald. Jim Bohl said he sure thinks so.

“We have a near epidemic in Milwaukee of teens constantly re-offending because there are no consequences,” the alderman said. “I believe we need to have a solution come from our prosecutors and our judges to address this very serious problem, because right now we have the community worried and wondering what’s going on.”

That worry on the part of residents is being expressed to Alderman Bohl and several of his colleagues, he said. “I’m receiving comments and calls from constituents who are wanting to know why the community isn’t being protected, especially when many of the teens are involved in violent crimes and very serious incidents,” he said.

“I’m not a criminal justice expert, but I’ve vowed to protect the health, safety and welfare of my constituents, and I’m raising the issue to spark a discussion that will hopefully lead our judges and our District Attorney’s office to a diligent effort to find a solution,” the alderman said. “I believe we deserve something more meaningful from our judges and our court system, and not just more of the same, which has been turning the other cheek and giving too many of these young offenders a tap on the wrist.”