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Ald. Tony Zielinski
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Alderman Finds New Finances For Police

*Burglar Alarm Companies and Milwaukee Police Department Can
Be Beneficial Match*

Ald. Tony Zielinski (District 14) is requesting that the incoming police chief send officers to respond to residential and commercial burglary alarms. The alarms, currently managed by private burglar alarm companies, could be serviced by the Milwaukee Police Department. Ald. Zielinski said, "Private security contractors don't carry guns and often residents and businesses call the cops anyway for additional support when alarm bells sound."

Under Police Chief Hegerty, police were not directed to respond to alarm calls. Ald. Zielinski is introducing legislation to the Common Council officially requesting that the new police chief allow for officers to be the primary response to such alarms, at the consumer's cost. "If those who contract for security alarms want police response, we can do that. They can pay for the service, which creates a pool of funds to support the additional staff necessary to make alarm responses a police duty." Ald. Zielinski said.

The plan ideally cuts into police department overtime and the stress of overwork the officers feel. Revenue from supporting alarm system calls can put more sworn police officers on the street for the city with no added property owner cost. Ald. Zielinski said, "Funding more police positions with private sector money is a win-win. It puts more sworn officers on the street, protects homes and businesses who have invested in alarm systems and it does not add any further burden to the tax levy."

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