

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Statement from the Milwaukee Health Department

Recently, a number of incidents have occurred that have caused the Milwaukee Health Department (“MHD”) to become increasingly concerned about the safety and wellbeing of its employees. Specifically, MHD staff have received death threats, have actively had their identity circulated over social media in posts or comments promoting aggressive acts, and had two individuals appear at an MHD location requesting access to such MHD staff.

The safety and wellbeing of our employees is of utmost importance. Threats of violence and aggressive posturing will absolutely not be tolerated against any City of Milwaukee employee, and MHD staff will work with the Milwaukee Police Department on reporting and investigating these threats.

MHD is also informing individuals requesting records under Wisconsin’s public records law that it will more proactively be taking the safety of its employees into account when responding to public records requests. The public policy in Wisconsin is that the public is entitled to the greatest amount of access to public records as possible. Notwithstanding the presumption of openness, however, the public’s right to access to public records is not absolute. Statutes, common law, and public policies can restrict access to information in public records. To the maximum extent that these laws or policies allow, it is MHD’s intent to protect any information that, if disclosed, could jeopardize any individual’s safety.

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