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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Ashanti Hamilton  
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## **Jude Beating Case Should Be Turned Over To State Attorney General, Alderman Says**

*Community Lacks Faith In District Attorney's Investigation, Objective  
Review From MPD, Ald. Ashanti Hamilton Says*

The sluggish pace of the investigation into the brutal beating of Frank Jude, Jr. – as well as the traditionally cozy relationship between local prosecutors and law enforcement – has significantly dampened the confidence of a large segment of the Milwaukee community in the ability of local authorities to bring true, objective justice in the case, Ald. Ashanti Hamilton said today.

Ald. Hamilton, an attorney who represents the 1<sup>st</sup> Aldermanic District and serves as vice chair of the Common Council's Judiciary & Legislation Committee, said he is joining Milwaukee state Rep. Leon Young in calling for the Jude beating investigation to be taken over by state Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager's office. "It's clear that public confidence in the investigation is on life support, at best, especially in the African American community," said Ald. Hamilton.

"Today I am joining the call for this case to be taken from the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office and turned over immediately to the state Attorney General," Ald. Hamilton said.

Jude was beaten severely – reportedly by a group of off-duty Milwaukee police officers – outside a party in Bay View in October 2004. The case has lingered for months as investigators and prosecutors have attempted to accumulate enough evidence to bring charges. Jude, who is part African American, was beaten by a group of white men who identified themselves as Milwaukee police officers, according to Jude's attorney and witnesses.

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## **Call For AG To Take Over Jude Case/ADD ONE**

Ald. Hamilton said he does not doubt the ability of Milwaukee County District Attorney E. Michael McCann's office to build a successful case against those involved in the incident. However, he said he strongly believes that even the appearance of a possible conflict of interest in the case will sour the public's perception of the case. "It's no secret that prosecutors and the district attorney work closely with police and law enforcement every day – that's part of their work and it's what they do," said Ald. Hamilton. "People naturally and appropriately question whether this case can be objectively brought forward because of that natural and close working relationship. For that reason alone the investigation should be turned over to the Attorney General."

The very same reasoning should also apply to an internal investigation to be conducted by MPD, the alderman said. "The officers who will be investigating the officers involved in Frank Jude, Jr.'s beating wear the same uniforms and likely have many common acquaintances and natural familiarities," said Ald. Hamilton. "Therefore it is human nature, I believe, to question the objectivity and vigor of that internal investigation. For that reasoning and that appearance alone I believe the MPD's internal investigation needs to be turned over to a neutral agency – hopefully one from outside the metro Milwaukee area."

In a statement released yesterday, Rep. Young called for the Jude investigation to be turned over to Attorney General Lautenschlager's office. In the statement Rep. Young said he believes many Milwaukeeans "are on the verge of losing their confidence in the process" and that any further delays in the investigation "could tip the scale the wrong way."