

## **Statement of Ald. Mike McGee, Jr. September 11, 2006**

I'm pleased to announce that the reward fund for information on the suspects in the Labor Day sexual assault of the 11-year-old girl on N. 6<sup>th</sup> St. has reached \$4,000 as a result of a generous anonymous donor.

Many area residents have called with information regarding those who perpetuated this horrific crime. The problem has been coordinating with the Police Department. After talking with a representative from the Chief's office, the 5th District and Sensitive Crimes Unit, there seems to be a big disconnect inside the department as well as in their communications with myself and community members. The Rapid Response Team and concerned citizens are hot on the trail of the at-large perpetrators.

Today, I actually had one of the suspects in my vehicle. I talked him into turning himself in within the next 48 hours. I am trying to mediate, but because of slow police response, "Street Justice" may prevail. It is a common belief by area residents that at least two suspects went to Madison, and one fled to the Appleton area. It is very frustrating to rely on the Police Department to follow up on anonymous tips, when they don't respond with a sense of urgency.

Tomorrow, I will be accompanying the grandmother of the girl to speak with state authorities regarding her status. Also, the Journal Sentinel falsely reported that a family member abused the 11-year-old.

After speaking to the family, they were disappointed that this story made it appear as if a blood relative assaulted the girl. They would like the media and community to know that this is untrue. Also, on Saturday I visited the family and brought some gifts from the community to the girl. She appeared to be in better spirits and taking each day as it comes.

This weekend, Rapid Response will be patrolling the area, and residents will have a block get together to build on the momentum from last weekend's vigil for peace in the neighborhood. We are not going to give up on transforming this community back to what it was when everybody respected the neighborhood.

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