

Statement of Ald. Bob Donovan
September 7, 2006

First, I agree wholeheartedly with Chief Hegerty that we are facing a “societal crisis” in Milwaukee – all the more reason for us to pursue a comprehensive strategy and plan to combat crime and its causes – as I suggested in strong terms during a news conference last week.

Second, I have worked hard to nurture a good working relationship with Chief Hegerty and members of the Milwaukee Police Department to fight crime and bolster public safety in the City of Milwaukee. The relationships with the Chief, members of the command staff, and rank-and-file officers have come naturally to me, perhaps in large part because of my position as chairman of the Common Council’s Public Safety Committee and because I support and deeply respect the very difficult work they do for our city.

But the bottom line is that despite the hard work and best efforts of the Milwaukee Police Department, we are still experiencing rampant crime and violence in our city on a daily basis. Many neighborhoods in our city are simply out of control, with gunfire and shootings happening on a daily basis, the bullets maiming and killing children and innocent bystanders. As a result, people and businesses are moving out of the city.

To me one thing remains certain: until the Mayor steps up to the plate and takes strong, decisive action, this crisis will continue and our problems will only worsen. The Mayor needs to put together a plan that goes beyond policing. We need the involvement of the courts, the District Attorney’s Office, the Department of Corrections, the school system and all levels of government, and the Mayor of Milwaukee is the person who should bring all of the players together to come up with a comprehensive plan to combat crime, violence and disorder. It is, I believe, incumbent upon him to do this, and he should do it without further delay.

Enough is enough Tom, do something!

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