
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Bob Donovan
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MEDIA ADVISORY

Taxpayer Dollars Better Spent, Violence At MPS Schools Better Addressed By Hiring Police Officers

It's time for Milwaukee taxpayers to stop paying millions of dollars each year to hire MPS security guards who have no real authority and who usually end up calling Milwaukee police for help, **Ald. Bob Donovan** said today.

In a letter (see attached) sent today to Milwaukee Public Schools Superintendent William Andrekopoulos regarding the superintendent's plan to spend an additional \$1 million on more school security staffing, Ald. Donovan takes issue with the plan, noting that city resources would be better spent hiring additional Milwaukee police officers and assigning them to deal specifically with school matters. "We need trained police officers to help handle some very serious incidents in our schools that many times include violence," the alderman said. "I just seriously question the wisdom of spending another \$1 million on security aides who have no weapons or arrest powers, and who usually end up calling police anyway. In essence, right now our taxpayers are paying twice for the same service."

Ald. Donovan, chair of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee, said additional police officers could be used for regular patrol duty during the summer, when police resources are vitally needed to fight crime and violence on Milwaukee's streets. "The MPS security aides are on vacation during the summer, adding nothing to the security of our neighborhoods and business districts," he said.

Ald. Donovan said he will be looking at ways to reallocate the "millions of dollars" being used for MPS security to hire additional sworn MPD officers. He said he also will be requesting MPS security administrators to appear before the Public Safety Committee in the near future to discuss the issue.

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