

## **Statement From Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr.**

The hospital room photographs of a battered Frank Jude, Jr. speak volumes about the brutally heinous acts of violence that occurred at a party in Bay View involving off-duty Milwaukee Police officers on October 24, 2004. The cowardly beating and public disrobing of Mr. Jude is very disturbing. Equally as troubling has been the poor display of professionalism and unwillingness of the officers reportedly involved to cooperate in the investigation. I fully understand there is a legal process involved that includes the officers' access to counsel and advice from counsel, but the officers also took an oath to serve and protect the citizens of Milwaukee – and to uphold the laws of the city – and it is my opinion that their handling of this inquiry has violated that oath and seriously damaged, at least for the time being, the important relationship the community shares with its police officers.

The officers' actions are a disgrace to the community as a whole and also to every honorable, hard-working man and woman serving the Milwaukee Police Department. Each day citizens are asked to risk life and property to provide information to police officers to help solve crimes and bring criminals to justice. But when asked to provide information to solve a heinous beating that took place in their presence, the officers involved reportedly aren't reciprocating, in an effort to protect themselves and other colleagues who were involved. Such a response by the officers does irreparable damage – especially in the African-American community – to the fragile relationship that exists between residents and the MPD, and the incident and its aftermath makes citizens truly question whether or not police officers are really working to “serve and protect.”

I have contacted District Attorney E. Michael McCann and I've strongly urged him to hold accountable those officers who took part in the beating of Mr. Jude, as well as anyone who sought to obstruct justice in this matter. I hope he does this in an expedient manner, so that we as a community can move forward, and so that justice can prevail. Also, I have spoken with Police Chief Nan Hegerty, and I have faith that she will continue to do whatever it takes to resolve this matter.

Lastly, I will be working to do all I can to seek justice in this matter and to ensure that it does not divide our city. The racial aspect to this incident is evident and obvious, yet we must remain focused on justice in this case if we are to truly move forward and grow as a city.

End