

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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Public Safety Committee

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Anti-Graffiti Policy Committee  
Finance & Personnel Committee  
Steering & Rules Committee



**ROBERT G. DONOVAN**  
Alderman, 8th District

October 3, 2006

Mayor Tom Barrett  
City Hall, Room 200

Dear Mayor Barrett,

*Tom*

After yet another weekend of continued violence and disorder throughout Milwaukee, I arrived at City Hall on Monday to be inundated with complaint calls from constituents, all related to public safety.

- There was the 90-year old woman upset because someone torched a car in front of her house.
- Then I heard from about 30 constituents who woke up Sunday morning to discover all their car windows smashed out.
- And then from the woman who couldn't take it anymore, moved out of the City, and is unable to sell her Milwaukee home because it is continually vandalized.
- I'm sure you also heard about Prince of Peace church, vandalized to the tune of \$12,000 – the fourth time in as many months.
- Then I was told that a police officer couldn't accompany me on a neighborhood inspection because the officers were tied up in investigating what appeared to be yet another murder.

The sad reality, Tom, is that their complaints are not uncommon. They are fast becoming the norm.

After dealing with all of those issues, I read in your letter to me that you are declining my invitation to come before the Public Safety Committee to explain your rather strange and misleading statements regarding the anti-violence campaign in a recent Journal Sentinel article.

That in itself is disappointing enough but what truly saddens me is your apparent unwillingness to embrace this proposal, successful in other cities and widely supported here, while offering nothing as an alternative. Indeed, I was baffled at your comments to me and the entire Council that you signed the resolution but don't support it's main focus.

You signed it ...but you don't support it?

Which way are you going Tom? If you support it, embrace it. If you don't, then have the guts to stand up and be a leader. I know the concept may be foreign to you, but if you try it you might actually like it.

In discussing your bizarre response with others, the general consensus is that your pride will not allow you to fully support any initiative that's not your own. Pride, pride, Tom...pride goeth before the fall. Your pride is hurting the City of Milwaukee. And all this for an issue you have little to be proud about.

Perhaps, in retrospect, it is best that you not appear in front of my Committee. Your continued misstatements, your misplaced pride, your poor record on public safety, and your penchant for taking credit for the hard work of others could prove far too embarrassing not only to you but to the entire community.

Tom, the City of Milwaukee is facing a public safety crisis. Wake up! Take the blinders off and do something.

Your citizens demand it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob".

Bob Donovan  
Alderman, 8<sup>th</sup> District  
Chairman, Public Safety Committee