



**WILLIE L. HINES, JR.**



**COMMON COUNCIL PRESIDENT**  
ALDERMAN, 15TH DISTRICT

April 12, 2007

Chief of Police, Nannette H. Hegerty  
951 North James Lovell Street, Room 705A  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Chief Hegerty:

I must admit, I was very surprised at your editorial as submitted in the Sunday, April 8, 2007, Crossroads edition entitled, "Ideas to fight city crime already being implemented." It appeared as though you sought to place the blame of rising crime at the feet of the Common Council. Your comments (complaints) were unfair and misplaced. Although you believed that the Council's "failure" to provide "appropriate" resources has led to increased crime, it has been quite the contrary. The Council has not only given you what you wanted, but we have also provided you with *Community Service Officers* to free up sworn personnel to address more serious crimes.

In 2005, you asked the Council to allow for additional officers. We complied by moving up the dates for the recruit class, only to have the Mayor veto the action. Then again in 2006, you looked to the Council, twice, for additional dollars for police overtime and 40 supplemental police officers. We obliged with **two** separate allocations of \$750K. Chief, you have exceeded your tax levy supported overtime budget every year of your tenure, yet our city's crime numbers have disproportionately increased over time. It could be said that we are awaiting a more sound return on our increasingly costly investment.

Although the Council recognizes the importance of public safety, we value other city services, as well. The Council works to ensure that all departments receive appropriate financial support. We have asked other departments to be more fiscally mindful and creative, and deliver services with the available allocated resources. Surprisingly, while other city departments have done more with less, the Police Department continues to receive more money yet crime continues to rise. Let's focus on some facts and figures, rather than placing blame or comparing résumés.

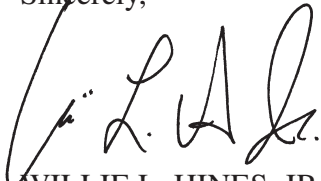
- Currently, the police department's budget is **\$214,065,388**.
- The adopted property tax levy for all of the City of Milwaukee is **\$220,078,948**.
- Your budget is **97.3%** of the entire city's tax levy – which is the total amount of taxes collected from every residential home and/or dwelling, apartment complex, condominium, for-profit downtown building, corporate headquarters, industrial site, and any and every other taxable building within the City of Milwaukee.

- That means, only **2.7%** of the tax levy goes toward all other city services.
- The City of Milwaukee has one of the highest police per capita ratios in the country.
- We have more officers than cities **2 to 3** times our size – including Los Angeles, and our officers receive higher salaries than those of the New York City Police Department.
- The Police Department's **overtime budget alone** is \$12,004,000. That's greater than the combined budgets of the City Attorney's Office, the Department of City Development, and the Mayor's Office.

I trust you can see that the problems are not merely fiscal. Finding the solution to effective policing cannot solely be found in more money. What we need is proper accountability and resourcefulness. My request to you is, throughout the balance of your tenure; to better collaborate with the Council to deliver 21st century police services on a different level. Focusing on creative options, such as the expanded use of cameras and more-defined grassroots, constituent interaction, will allow for a more efficient use of our \$300+ million that the police department currently receives.

Finally, let us not lay the blame of the increasing crime rates at any one entity's feet other than those who justly deserve it – the criminals. It is they who control the real effect on the numbers. It is we who must unify our mindsets and efforts to combat crime. The precedent setters, the policy makers, and the law enforcers should be working together. It is when we have reached one accord and stand on a combined front that we will effectuate the changes our citizenry deserves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. L. Hines, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

WILLIE L. HINES, JR.  
Common Council President  
Alderman, 15th District

WLH:kk

CC: Mayor Tom Barrett  
Common Council