

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR

- Public Safety Committee

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- Anti-Graffiti Policy Committee
- Public Works Committee
- Judiciary & Legislation Committee
- Steering & Rules Committee



ROBERT G. DONOVAN

Alderman, 8th District

January 28, 2011

Hon. Bevan K. Baker, FACHE
Commissioner of Health
Milwaukee Health Department
Zeidler Municipal Building
841 N. Broadway, 3rd Floor

Re: Common Council Communication File # 101244

Dear Commissioner Baker:

The 2010 City of Milwaukee Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Report released this past week raises significant concerns about the relatively high rate of infant and fetal mortality in the City of Milwaukee compared to other cities and nations. The disparities among ethnic and racial groups are striking.

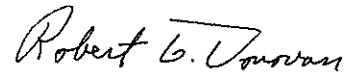
The Department's 2011 Budget Plan includes figures showing a continuing pattern from year-to-year of high infant mortality rates and disparities of 2 ½ to 3 times the rates for Black infant deaths compared to White infant deaths over nearly 2 decades. Since 1994 the Department's Budget Plans have emphasized programming to reduce infant mortality, but mortality rate reduction goals have been unmet.

I share the deep concerns of all of my colleagues on the Common Council and the citizens of Milwaukee that the challenge of infant mortality be successfully addressed. I am therefore pleased that the Mayor has expressed a commitment to meet this challenge and that you, as Commissioner of Health, have placed infant mortality at the top of the City's health agenda.

I have directed the Clerk to open a Communication File (# 101244) and I am requesting that you and appropriate members of your staff appear before the Public Safety Committee to provide details about future efforts by the Department and its community partners to fulfill a heightened commitment to infant mortality reduction. It will be helpful for committee members to hear your assessment of what has worked and not worked in the past and to hear specific plans about what can be done differently and more productively in the future.

Thank you for your time and for your assistance to the Committee and the Council in understanding the scope of this public health problem and the solutions in which we can all participate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert G. Donovan".

Robert G. Donovan, Chair
Public Safety Committee

Cc: Hon. Tom Barrett, Mayor
Raquel Filmanowicz, Health Department
Anna Benton, Health Department
Common Council Members
Ron Leonhardt, City Clerk
Jim Owczarski, Deputy City Clerk