

From: Joe Duncan

Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 2:55 PM

To: Moore, Sharlen <Sharlen.Moore@milwaukee.gov>

Cc: Owczarski, Jim <jowcza@milwaukee.gov>

Subject: Re: Thank You for Supporting Smart Public Safety Investments File 241792

April 23, 2025

Dear Alderwoman Moore,

(City Clerk Jim Owczarski)

I want to extend my sincere thanks for your leadership during the March 21, 2025, Public Safety & Health Committee meeting and your strong support for using technology to modernize public safety in Milwaukee. Your remarks during that meeting—recognizing that “we are moving into a new era” of policing—demonstrated a clear understanding that we must find ways to do more with fewer employees across all city departments while still keeping our communities safe.

The Milwaukee Police Department is allocating \$1.17 million in federal asset forfeiture funds toward expanding and upgrading public safety tools. This includes \$250,000 for the purchase of 16 new drones and \$45,000 for drone training, as well as hundreds of thousands more for equipment and upgraded surveillance systems. These are strategic investments that directly support officer safety, emergency response, and neighborhood peace—without the overwhelming costs of traditional options.

Your support for these cost-conscious innovations stands in stark contrast to the multi-million-dollar Bell helicopters used by the Chicago Police Department. Helicopters are not only expensive to purchase, but costly to operate and maintain. Drones and remote monitoring systems give Milwaukee a smarter, more adaptable solution at a fraction of the cost—proof that we can increase safety without draining city resources.

Moreover, these tools serve as a force multiplier—helping to support the salaries and duties of on-the-ground personnel by extending their visibility and reducing the need for overtime or excessive deployment. In an era of staffing shortages, this kind of smart resource allocation is critical. Technology doesn’t replace people—it strengthens their reach, improves their safety, and makes sure our limited manpower goes further.

As Milwaukee continues to grow and welcomes thousands of residents and visitors during our signature community events, it's more important than ever that public safety keeps pace. As the "City of Festivals," we need thoughtful leadership that ensures both security and sustainability—and your efforts reflect exactly that.

Thank you for advocating for technology that protects lives, respects the budget, and meets the demands of a modern city. Your commitment to practical innovation is appreciated by residents like myself who care deeply about Milwaukee's future.

City Clerk Jim Owczarski, can you place this public comment into the appropriate file? Thank you!

Sincerely,

Joe Duncan