



**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS/MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT
COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE CALLS FOR POLICE SERVICE**

TO: SUPERINTENDENT WILLIAM ANDREKOPOULOS
POLICE CHIEF NANETTE HEGERTY

FROM: DEPUTY INSPECTOR RAYMOND SUCIK, DIRECTOR PETER POCHOWSKI

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS OF JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: MARCH 24, 2005

GENERAL: At a February 3, 2005, meeting at the Police Administration Building, Alderman Robert Donovan, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee of the Milwaukee Common Council, stated his concern that an unacceptable number of calls for police service originating at MPS schools were being made. As a result of this meeting, Superintendent William Andrekopoulos and Police Chief Nan Hegerty directed that a joint committee be established to review the issue as presented. The committee's purpose would be as follows: To address the number of calls for police service originating at Milwaukee Public Schools; to develop recommendations to reduce the number of calls, and; to make recommendations for both agencies that will assist in making the schools safer.

The committee was co-chaired by Deputy Inspector Raymond Sucik of the Administration Bureau of MPD, and Director Peter Pochowski of the Safety Division of MPS. Members included school principals, police captains, police officers, and safety assistants. Meetings were held on February 9, February 22, and March 4, 2005.

The committee recommendations are as follows:

#1 – Establish guidelines for MPS administrators to use when calling the Milwaukee Police Department for service.

- A. Whenever there is an obvious violation of the law (i.e. possession of drugs; carrying a weapon, etc.) in or around the school.
- B. Whenever there is a student or adult who has ignored repeated warnings to cease and desist the disruptive behavior or unsafe activity (i.e. loud profanity, etc.) in or around the school.
- C. Whenever a student exhibits the behavior that would lead to Action Levels 3 and 4 (pages 23 to 25 of the Parent/Student Handbook) that cannot be resolved by the school staff.
- D. Whenever an administrator determines that an incident in or around the school is beyond the scope of authority of school personnel to resolve.

#2 – Identify equipment, training, policies, and other resources that will enhance the ability of the Safety Division personnel to address non-criminal behavior that is “disruptive to the educational environment.”

- A. The committee unanimously endorses considering the use of flex cuffs, by safety assistants and other school personnel.
- B. The committee recommends pursuing the possibility of safety assistants having the authority to issue citations for loitering, truancy and possibly for illegal parking in school zones.

#3 – Identify measures the police can take to assist the Safety Division and administrators in maintaining a safe environment in MPS Schools.

- A. Issue or mail tickets/citations to appropriate violators.
- B. Respond to school calls as quickly as possible.

#4 – (This item was added as a result of the February 9 meeting). Identify measures the school staffs can take to assist the police in maintaining a safe environment in MPS schools and minimize officer “down time” in the schools.

A. Have victim and/or suspect demographics available when the police arrive. (Mr. Hughes George suggested that if an administrator is not sure of what information can be released, the administrator is to contact Mr. George).

- B. Provide all information needed to conduct a thorough investigation.
- C. Have witnesses readily available for the investigating officers.
- D. Know the exact date/time/location of the incident.
- E. Understand that it is likely that someone may have to appear in court as a witness.
- F. Inform officers of time periods when witnesses are unlikely to be readily available for court appearances, i.e., spring break, summer break, etc.

CONCLUSION: The committee understands that implementation of the recommendations will require addition work and all members are willing to contribute as deemed necessary/appropriate to achieve these goals. The committee also recommends a follow up meeting in the fall of the year to review the status of the recommendations.

Throughout the meetings, the members stressed the need for increased communication between operating levels of both agencies; chief and superintendent, captain and principal/safety supervisor, etc. While meeting frequency between the chief executives is not within the scope of the committee, it was strongly encouraged that the safety supervisors meet monthly with the district captains, and that captains meet each semester with all principal’s in his/her respective district.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond Sucik
Deputy Inspector of Police
Administration Bureau
Milwaukee Police Department

Peter Pochowski
Director
Division of Safety and Security
Milwaukee Public Schools