



**BE A FORCE**

**Milwaukee Police Department**  
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**Edward A. Flynn**  
Chief of Police

(414) 935-7200

October 12, 2015

Alderman Nik Kovac  
Chair, Finance and Personnel Committee  
200 East Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Chairman Kovac,

This letter is written to briefly summarize and memorialize our discussion about file 150707 during the regular Finance and Personnel Committee hearing held on October 7<sup>th</sup>. This file is a substitute resolution authorizing the acceptance and expenditure of federally forfeited tangible property or cash under the Equitable Sharing Program, commonly referred to as Asset Forfeiture. The Milwaukee Police Department has been effectively and appropriately administering this program for many years, allowing us to make purchases without adding additional demands to our operating, equipment or capital budgets. We look forward to continuing to operate under this program and we appreciate the committee's interest and support in our ongoing utilization of these federally-controlled funds.

During our conversation last week, I detailed the process by which we receive requests and make allocation decisions. Specifically, each executive commander (i.e., assistant chiefs and inspectors of police) are asked to work with their respective command staff to develop a list of potential expenditures. These requests typically include operational and administrative expenses, training-related expenses, equipment, and computer hardware and software. Once we receive the requests, the executive staff makes preliminary allocations based on departmental need and priority. We then confirm that the recommended expenditures are in compliance with current Department of Justice program guidelines before submitting a resolution to the Common Council.

It was clear during our meeting last week that there is an interest in ensuring that our commanders and their subordinate members actively take into consideration the interests and suggestions of residents in the development of their asset forfeiture requests. In response to

**IN SOME JOBS, SUCCESS IS MEASURED BY WHAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.**

this concern, I committed to altering our request process to ensure that each commander solicit feedback and suggestions prior to submitting their requests. As we discussed, this solicitation will necessarily involve the Community Liaison Officers, Community Prosecution Team, and other members who have routine and direct contact with residents as part of their daily work.

An illustrative concern discussed last week was illegal dumping; specifically, the issues surrounding chronic illegal dumping on vacant lots. I followed up with the Department of Public Works and the Department of Neighborhood Services to ensure that we are collectively identifying and addressing locations that are suffering from chronic illegal dumping. The notion of using asset forfeiture funds to potentially purchase cameras that might be helpful in surveilling chronic illegal dumping locations was discussed. While the current allocation of asset forfeiture funds does not include any additional cameras, the Department is committed to using our existing camera and surveillance equipment – in conjunction with our partners in the Departments of Public Works and Neighborhood Services – to enhance our investigative focus and produce evidence to successfully prosecute those who engage in illegal dumping. I look forward to making a presentation to this committee, or a sister committee, in the coming months.

Sincerely,

EDWARD A. FLYNN  
CHIEF OF POLICE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Plant', written over the typed name of Joel Plant.

JOEL PLANT  
CHIEF OF STAFF

C: Assistant Chiefs, Inspectors, Dan Rotar