



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

September 29, 2006

Robert G. Donovan
Milwaukee Alderman, Eighth District
Rm. 205, City Hall
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Dear Alderman Donovan:

Thank you for your September 28, 2006 letter. As always, I appreciate hearing from you.

In your letter, you are mistaken in stating that my quote was an indication that 'the antiviolence initiative recently passed by the Common Council is already in existence.' My comment, that the police are already doing what the resolution asks, was in reference to MPD coordination with other law enforcement agencies in targeting the criminals.

As you may be aware, I did sign Council File 060643. I did so because I support improving cooperation and resource sharing among law enforcement agencies.

I strongly disagree with you, however, that our focus should be on the availability of positive and constructive opportunities for those 150 individuals who are believed to be responsible for the initiation and continuation of violent crime in Milwaukee. As I stated in my letter to the Council, individuals who repeatedly terrorize families and threaten our neighborhoods should be taken off the streets and locked up.

We obviously have a fundamental disagreement on this issue.

You would like law enforcement agencies to target individuals who are responsible for the initiation and continuation of violent crimes and, if those individuals promise never to commit another crime, give them a job. I prefer that law enforcement agencies continue their work in

Alderman Robert G. Donovan
Page 2
September 29, 2006

targeting offenders and arresting them. Your letter incorrectly assumes that I support your position. I don't.

I have a very real concern about violent offenders released back into Milwaukee and picking up where they left off. A week ago, I met with State Department of Corrections officials and Chief Hegerty to address several issues. I want more Correction agents assigned to police district stations. I want reentry information sent to our Police Department prior to individuals being released. I want more home visits to be conducted by Correction agents and Milwaukee Police officers.

I have met, and will continue to meet with law enforcement officials from the various local, state and federal agencies. I can assure you that the targeting of violent offenders, getting illegal guns of our streets and improving cooperative efforts are issues that are on everybody's agenda.

I want the police to be proactive in fighting crime. Cracking down on cruising and curfew violators, conducting truancy sweeps, prostitution stings and targeting problem taverns are examples of what the Chief and her team have undertaken. The more proactive the police are the better.

In order to step up proactive policing, I want more police officers on the streets. And, I'm willing to pay for them. You too want more police officers on the streets. But, last November, when I pushed for adding additional officers and identified the revenue sources to pay for them, you voted no.

I want the City to continue to be aggressive in creating job opportunities for our residents. That means investing in companies that get people into the workforce as well as companies that employ highly skilled and professional employees. You chased BuySeasons out of the Valley.

I will continue to work with individuals and organizations, businesses and individuals who are dedicated to investing in our young people. From expanding the summer youth employment program to launching the Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative to securing funds for coordinating law enforcement activities with neighborhood organizations, I will do everything I can to get and keep our kids on the right track.

Alderman Robert G. Donovan

Page 3

September 29, 2006

Bob, my goals are clear: more police officers, improved coordination of resources between law enforcement agencies; more jobs and enhanced workforce development; and, investment in our young people.

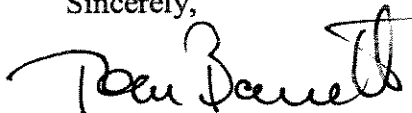
I respectfully decline your invitation to appear before your committee.

I'd like to suggest that you invite representatives from the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission to your next Public Safety Committee meeting. Mallory O'Brien and Deputy Chief Brian O'Keefe are willing to come and provide an update to the Committee on their work thus far. I believe that the information provided would be of great interest to you and the Committee members.

My office would be happy to assist in the scheduling.

Thanks again for your letter, Bob.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Barrett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Barrett
Mayor

cc: Council File 060785