

From: Ranisav Babic

Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 10:23 PM

Subject: Car Thefts

Car Thefts are out of control. I sent following to the Mayor of Milwaukee and with more of you that know maybe something could get done about this. Thank you. My name is Ranisav (Ron) Babic. I am a retired Juvenile Probation Officer for Milwaukee County. Started out as a juvenile correctional officer in detention, short time as child abuse investigator, then JPO and finished as Intake worker (person who receives arrested youth at DT from law enforcement, medically clears, reviews police reports, determine placement and sets up court hearing.) And only for credibility purposes, I was Employee Of The Year in 2003 as a Juvenile P. O. As you see I have worked within all facets of Juvenile Justice System.

Some things of interest you may or may not know. If a youth is on probation and steals a car, upon being brought to DT, they are to be released to Temp. shelter or home. Same for burglary and a host of other serious offenses. DT has a capacity of 120, single cell. We will never be able to double up b/c the late superintendent, Tom Wanta, had a say in the design. He had the cells specifically put at 67 sq. ft. Per WI. State Statute, 70 sq. ft. is required to double up. He told me directly that was his idea so as to never double up. The intake unit I was a part of was disbanded by upper management. It is now the duty of what is called the Head of Shift, the person who is in charge of the DT section. They are telling MPD they can not bring them to DT unless it is a detainable offense. They will deny it but it is true. This happened to me first hand after my retirement when I was working at a residential treatment center and called MPD for assault and other offenses. MPD called DT in my presence and the Head of Shift he would not accept the youth in question.

Other MPD officers have said to me this is the case. Unfortunately, some officers are letting some things go or writing municipal tickets for offenses that should be state offenses. The kids on the street know this and taking advantage of it. For the record, state statute is explicit that youth who are arrested can not be refused by Intake. Also, and this may seem minor, the probation officers can't even call themselves that. They are now human service workers. I believe this was done so as not to stigmatize or harm the child. If I was a kid, I'd take things more seriously from my PO as opposed to my HSW.

Anyway, I may have a solution and if this topic is of interest or relevant, call me at 414-507-8968. I would be glad to sit down with you to discuss what is going on. Maybe if the public knew, things could change. If not, thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Ranisav (Ron) Babic