

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR

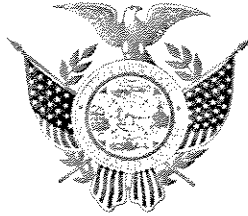
Public Safety Committee

MEMBER

Anti-Graffiti Policy Committee

Finance & Personnel Committee

Steering & Rules Committee



ROBERT G. DONOVAN

Alderman, 8th District

February 13, 2007

Mayor Tom Barrett
City Hall, Room 200

Dear Mayor Barrett,

Allow me to put into perspective some recent developments all related to public safety.

First, the Milwaukee Police Department is experiencing a higher than expected retirement rate. This necessitates the need to move up the scheduled two recruit classes to earlier this year.

Secondly, given the dangerously high vacancy rate within the department, several Aldermen are proposing that a third class be added yet this year. This item will be heard at Thursday's Public Safety Committee meeting.

Thirdly, the Governor recently announced his intention to provide for additional police officers with \$1.5 million in State funds. You, yourself, have called for additional officers in your State of the City address.

I applaud all of these steps. Indeed, in my opinion, they are long overdue. However, recently information I've been given may quite possibly jeopardize all these efforts.

It came to my attention that the Fire and Police Commission has been negligent in their responsibility to provide the Police Department with an adequate number of recruits for our upcoming training classes. In fact, there are not even enough recruits for the scheduled class in June, let alone the classes scheduled for later this year.

Given the dire needs within the department to fill these vacancies, along with your persistent statements that public safety is your number one priority, how could this happen under your watch? Just what is going on with the Fire and Police commission? These are the same people charged with the selection of our next Police Chief.

And while I'm at it, just what is the status of the Fire Chief? When will we see some closure on that issue?

Please advise me as to the above – in particular, the steps that are being taken to rectify the recruit shortage fiasco. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob".

Bob Donovan
Alderman, 8th District

Cc: Members of the Common Council
Members of the Fire & Police Commission
Chief Nannette Hegerty