

**From:** Paul <[paulmozina@wi.rr.com](mailto:paulmozina@wi.rr.com)>

**Subject:** HIDTA grant bypassing review by Finance Committee

**Date:** April 11, 2019 at 9:40:45 AM CDT

**To:** "Coggs, Milele" <[mcoggs@milwaukee.gov](mailto:mcoggs@milwaukee.gov)>, Chantia Lewis <[Chantia.Lewis@milwaukee.gov](mailto:Chantia.Lewis@milwaukee.gov)>, [twitko@milwaukee.gov](mailto:twitko@milwaukee.gov), "Murphy Michael (Alderman)" <[mmurph@milwaukee.gov](mailto:mmurph@milwaukee.gov)>, Russell Stamper II <[russell.stamperii@milwaukee.gov](mailto:russell.stamperii@milwaukee.gov)>, "Dodd, Nikiya" <[nikiya.dodd@milwaukee.gov](mailto:nikiya.dodd@milwaukee.gov)>, "Donovan, Robert" <[rdonov@milwaukee.gov](mailto:rdonov@milwaukee.gov)>, "Bauman, Robert" <[rjbauma@milwaukee.gov](mailto:rjbauma@milwaukee.gov)>, [nkovac@milwaukee.gov](mailto:nkovac@milwaukee.gov), [Cavalier.Johnson2@milwaukee.gov](mailto:Cavalier.Johnson2@milwaukee.gov), Mark Borkowski <[Mark.Borkowski@milwaukee.gov](mailto:Mark.Borkowski@milwaukee.gov)>, "Rainey, Khalif" <[Khalif.Rainey@milwaukee.gov](mailto:Khalif.Rainey@milwaukee.gov)>, perez Jose <[JoseG.Perez@milwaukee.gov](mailto:JoseG.Perez@milwaukee.gov)>, [tzieli@milwaukee.gov](mailto:tzieli@milwaukee.gov), [ahamil@milwaukee.gov](mailto:ahamil@milwaukee.gov)

Dear Alders,

Item 61. 181792: Resolution relative to acceptance and funding of the 2019 High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area project awards, will be before the full Common Council at your meeting on April 16 and it has not been reviewed by the Finance Committee.

In 2018 this item was heard by both the Public Safety and Health and Finance and Personnel Committees before it went to the full Common Council and I had the opportunity to speak against the item at both meetings.

**I am asking you to send this item back to the Finance Committee for review (as was done last year) before considering it in the full Common Council.**

When CC File no. 181792 was heard at the Public Safety and Health Committee meeting on April 5, the testimony of Captain Johnny Sgrignouli, the new MPD point person for HIDTA was telling. He professed to know nothing about the previous efforts of HIDTA since he is new to the position. This is was not questioned by the PS&H Committee. The idea that no institutional knowledge of HIDTA was communicated to Captain Sgrignouli and that he apparently made no effort to acquire such knowledge is frankly appalling.

And what Captain Sgrignouli did say was equally alarming. He said that although progress had been made reducing the supply of heroin and opioids, the supplies of methamphetamines and cocaine were rising to fill the void. He pointed out that this was a disturbing trend because use of a narcotic, which tends to incapacitate the user, is being replaced by the use of a stimulant, which could lead to more aggressive behaviors. And we know that fentanyl is finding its way into the cocaine supply, which makes procuring this substance on the street even more dangerous.

The HIDTA program is a total failure as is the War on Drugs in general.

"Human nature – the way it is – if you don't have one addictive substance you'll figure out another way, and, of course, someone will figure out a way to supply you with it.",  
Ald. Murphy July 21, 2017 CCHOC Task Force meeting.

"I Feel the fentanyl issue is truly driving the epidemic we have right now and the stats definitely prove that. If you look at it, if you go through year to year, it's doubled, quadrupled, and I hate to say it, but if we could get back to the heroin status it would be success. But really that's kind of where it's at really when we're talking about fentanyl."

Lieutenant Shaun Doyne, MPD Narcotics Division – HIDTA, December 1, 2017 CCHCO Task Force Meeting.

Three MPD members, literally soldiers in the Drug War, have died in the last 10 months directly as a result of attempting to enforce drug prohibition.

There were 13 (15.1%) drug-related homicides in 2014, 25 (17.2%) in 2015, and 15 (10.8%) in 2016. There were 60 (10.3%) drug-related shootings in 2014, 68 (10.7%) in 2015, and 36 (6.4) in 2016. (2017 Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission Report has not been released yet)

How long will the City continue to fund an operation that is utterly failing to keep drugs off the street and is in fact contributing significantly to the violence, trauma, crime and overdoses that plague the City?

Sincerely yours,

Paul Mozina

p.s. I know y'all are hard pressed for time but this article: "The Harmful Side Effects of Drug Prohibition" by Randy Barnett is the best summary I have seen.

<https://scholarship.law.georgetown.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1837&context=facpub>