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MICHAEL J. MURPHY
ALDERMAN, 10TH DISTRICT

May 18, 2022

Kirsten Johnson
Commissioner, Milwaukee Health Department
Zeidler Municipal Building
841 N. Broadway, 3rd Floor
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Commissioner Johnson,

On March 15, 2022 I sent a letter to Office of Violence Prevention Director Arnitta Holliman regarding a status update on the following items:

1. OVP's relationship with the juvenile justice system, including the court.
2. Obtaining information relating to, and conducting outreach to, juveniles involved with reckless driving and stolen vehicles.
3. The number of juveniles involved in reckless driving and stolen vehicles, including the number of juveniles contacted by OVP.

In Director Holliman's response, she indicated that OVP does not provide direct programming to Milwaukee's youth, nor do they have a data sharing agreement with the juvenile justice system or courts.

As you know, reckless driving and car theft are top issues plaguing our city. The courts have seen over a 100% increase in juvenile offenders stealing cars in the last year. Reports show that in 2021 nearly 600 cases in children's court were related to stolen vehicles, up from 266 in 2020. This growing crisis is endangering the lives of these children and innocent bystanders.

Can you please elaborate on why OVP does not currently engage in direct programming for youth and if there is capacity to expand current programming? Also, what steps are necessary to build out OVP's current infrastructure to include the ability to track youth involved in reckless driving and/or car theft?

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Murphy
Alderman, 10th District

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