

Polanco (Urtiz), Joanna

From: Bauman, Robert
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2025 4:05 PM
To: Polanco (Urtiz), Joanna
Subject: FW: Safety Concerns from Milwaukee Repertory Theater

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From: Chad Bauman <cbauman@MILWAUKEEREP.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2025 2:56 PM
To: Mayor <mayor@milwaukee.gov>; Bauman, Robert <rjbauma@milwaukee.gov>
Cc: Adam Peck <apeck@riverwaterllc.com>; Judy Hansen <hansenjudy1@aol.com>
Subject: Safety Concerns from Milwaukee Repertory Theater

July 31, 2025

Dear Mayor Johnson and Alderman Bauman,

I am writing on behalf of Milwaukee Repertory Theater to express growing concern over the recent uptick in violent crime in and around Water Street, an area just blocks from our new \$80 million state-of-the-art theater facility currently under construction. While we remain fully committed to investing in the cultural and economic vitality of downtown Milwaukee, this troubling trend in public safety poses a direct threat to the success of this transformational project and to the broader goal of championing Milwaukee's downtown.

Our patrons, donors, staff, and artists have increasingly voiced apprehension about coming downtown, particularly during evening hours, due to a perceived—and in some cases, very real—lack of safety. These concerns are not abstract: they impact attendance, community engagement, and the economic activity generated by the hundreds of thousands of people who visit us every year.

Milwaukee Rep has proudly served this city for decades, and our new facility represents one of the largest cultural investments in the region. But this effort must be met with an equal commitment to ensuring that downtown Milwaukee is a welcoming and secure place for all who live, work, and visit here.

We respectfully urge city leadership to take immediate and visible action to address the rise in violent incidents along Water Street and adjacent areas. This includes increased police presence, better coordination with local businesses and cultural institutions, and long-term strategies to make our downtown neighborhoods safer and more vibrant for everyone.

We are eager to be a partner in this effort and stand ready to work alongside your office, the Milwaukee Police Department, and other civic leaders to find effective, community-driven solutions.

Sincerely,

Chad Bauman
Ellen & Joe Checota Executive Director
Milwaukee Repertory Theater

CHAD BAUMAN

Ellen & Joe Checota Executive Director | **Milwaukee Repertory Theater**

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