

From: Patty Jerving <patty_jerving@wi.rr.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2026 9:37:43 AM
To: Spiker, Scott <Scott.Spiker@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: FPC police policy

Dear Alderman Spiker:

A crisis of reckless driving has been occurring in my community within the city of Milwaukee. The crime trend of reckless driving has been going on for far too long. Reckless driving impacts everyone on the streets of our city. These reckless pursuits have become common and shake people's confidence and sense of safety for all who live here. But the Fire and Police Commission is recommending that the fault lies with the police officers who chase these reckless drivers. Please do not let anyone put this criminality solely upon the Milwaukee Police Department! The crime of reckless driving lies completely upon the criminals who will not stop for traffic stops. Drivers on the streets of the city of Milwaukee should not live in fear that they could suffer injury, pain or even death because of these reckless criminals.

Our streets are not safe, and lenience have not worked to stop such reckless drivers. Delaying accountability only increases the likelihood of potentially dangerous activity later. My late son, Milwaukee Police Officer Peter Jerving, once said, "Dismissing charges in court deters officers from being proactive and discourages them from going above and beyond to catch criminals". The teenager who killed my son had felony charges dropped against him a mere day before which then caused him to be free to go out, get a gun he modified, and to steal a car. Reckless drivers who cannot be stopped by the police also become embolden and potentially will commit some greater crime.

Pueblo, Colorado Police Department Chief Chris Noeller said, "When we refuse as a state to hold low-level criminals accountable, they become emboldened. If they (the community) truly cared about our officers and citizens, they would demand that CRIMINALS be held accountable! The broken windows theory of law enforcement worked in New York; it worked in Boston; it worked in LA, and many other communities". Jerving's killer became embolden to commit greater crimes due to those felony charges being dismissed because a court official did not want the teen to bear the label of felon for the rest of his life, a life that lasted only a few hours. That court decision also cost the life of a dedicated police officer.

If reckless drivers see that they only have to speed off from a traffic stop and no one will hold them for whatever offense they committed that cause an officer to stop them, then who will be responsible for their further criminality? Are you willing to take that risk?

I care about the police officers who put their lives on the line in attempts to arrest these reckless drivers who endanger citizens. These men and women of law enforcement only want to protect innocent bystanders who can get hurt or even killed by reckless drivers. It is not the police who smash into other cars while recklessly speeding through the streets of Milwaukee!! As CO Police Chief Noeller said, if you really care about our officers and citizens, you will make criminals accountable. Please do not accept the FPC's recommendations to hinder and/or restrict the Milwaukee Police from arresting reckless drivers who endanger us all.

Patty Jerving, mother of fallen Milwaukee P.O. Peter Jerving, End of Watch 02/07/23