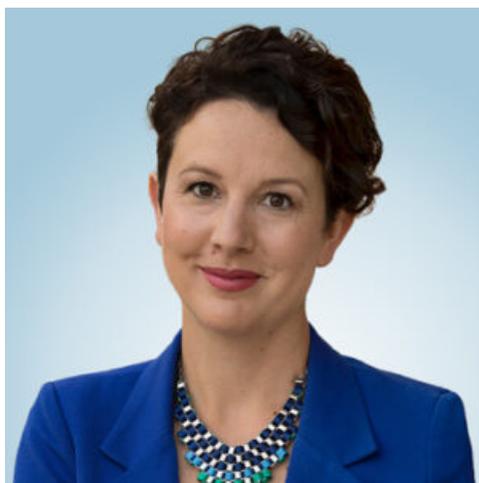


Viewpoints: Broader conversation on public safety needed now

By Milele Coggs - Dec 17, 2020 1:40 pm



Ald. Milele Coggs



Ald. Marina Dimitrijevic

Editor's note: The Milwaukee **Common Council this week voted** to reject a \$9.7 million federal grant to pay for 30 additional police officers, covering all costs related to the officers for three years but requiring the city to keep the positions for a four year. The following is a joint statement issued by Ald. Milele Coggs and Ald. Marina Dimitrijevic, following the council vote to

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

25%
OFF

You have only a few hours to become a BizTimes Insider at our best rate of the year. Click here to learn more ... don't miss out.

the majority of the Milwaukee Common Council
ion of expanding the police department budget

with federal funding from the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grant. While



ic is ongoing, it represents a change in the conversation our city needs.

After pursuit of changes to improve public safety for all with requests of major policing reform in the police department were met with resistance, the Council chose to continue its work to address the current police structure in Milwaukee. With a new Executive Director of the Fire and Police Commission receiving unanimous support and a new Police Chief set to begin work in 2021, now is the time to collectively, along with the community, reimagine what policing and public safety look like in our city and create an environment where everyone feels safe and peace is increased.

As mothers, we want our young children, and all children of Milwaukee, to feel safe, be safe and have positive experiences with calls for service and law enforcement. We can and must do better.

Systemic change is never easy. It takes forethought, intentionality, empathy and understanding. To broaden the conversation we must be aware of what our end goal is in terms of public safety before we can take the needed steps to get there. Namely we must consider – What do we want public safety to look like long term? What should the role of police officers be within the community? What is it that will make people feel safe and secure in their neighborhoods?

These discussions may be difficult, take time and require different, outside the box thinking, but are necessary to push Milwaukee forward. Let's start moving in that direction together.

***Ald. Milele Coggs** represents the city's 6th aldermanic district and **Ald. Marina Dimitrijevic** represents the city's 14th aldermanic district.*

Milele Coggs

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

**25%
OFF**

You have only a few hours to become a BizTimes Insider at our best rate of the year. [Click here to learn more ...](#) don't miss out.

