

## Kuether-Steele, Molly

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**From:** Bauman, Robert  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2018 11:55 PM  
**To:** Kuether-Steele, Molly  
**Subject:** Fwd: Downtown Crime/Intermodal Station Break-Ins

Please add to parking lot file

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** John Peters <[jpeters12@wi.rr.com](mailto:jpeters12@wi.rr.com)>  
**Date:** January 3, 2018 at 11:54:05 AM CST  
**To:** "Bauman, Robert" <[rjbauma@milwaukee.gov](mailto:rjbauma@milwaukee.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Rowe, Diana" <[DROWE@milwaukee.gov](mailto:DROWE@milwaukee.gov)>, "Harpole, James" <[JHARPO@milwaukee.gov](mailto:JHARPO@milwaukee.gov)>  
**Subject: Re: Downtown Crime/Intermodal Station Break-Ins**

Alderman Bauman, I want to first thank you for your prompt response to my initial note a month ago. I have intended to get back to you, but it seems like with every passing week, there continues to be even more crime incidents happening in my neighborhood and in the general downtown area. I just saw last night on the news about the couple who had their car stolen from the Brewhouse Inn on New Year's Day morning. Interestingly, I was informed that we had two car break-ins right in front of our building (418 N. 3rd St) also on New Year's Day morning, right in broad daylight. In talking with others in my building and living downtown, the # of cars being broken into seems to be getting worse and worse. The icing on the cake for me was having to pay an almost \$8,000 property tax bill last week, yet I don't dare park my car anywhere near downtown (fortunately I have underground parking), and for the first time in 17 years I cancelled an annual holiday party I have had at my condo due to concerns both I and potential guests had in parking in this neighborhood.

I don't want to be one of those residents who is a constant complainer (you have been my alderperson for years and these past couple of months are the first time I have ever bothered you!), but something has to change and I am desperately reaching out to you and Captain Rowe for suggestions on how change can occur and what I can do as a resident. I have lived in downtown Milwaukee since the mid 1990's, and there have been more problems I am aware in my neighborhood just in the past year than all those previous years cumulatively. I am seriously considering selling my condo and moving to the suburbs, and am also looking into getting a concealed carry permit (and I have never shot a gun in my life). I am sorry to say this, but I feel strongly (and many others I know have shared the same sentiments) that the City has shown very little leadership and public reinforcement that it is going to get tough on crime and those committing crimes.

I look forward to your response and suggestions. If easier to discuss in person, I would be more than happy to meet you at your office or do by phone (414-531-5364).

Sincerely,

John Peters

**From:** [Bauman, Robert](#)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 04, 2017 10:14 AM  
**To:** [John Peters](#)  
**Cc:** [Rowe, Diana](#) ; [Harpole, James](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Downtown Crime/Intermodal Station Break-Ins

I am very sorry this is happening. I have asked for additional patrols and MPD tells me they have assigned additional patrols.

As far as the Amtrak station, this is privately operated parking lot under lease from the private company that holds the master lease for the entire Intermodal Station. I have asked this parking operator to increase their own security measures since they are collecting revenue to store these vehicles for the public. MPD can increase patrols but 24/7 security by MPD of this lot is not feasible. One or more parking attendants at this lot would go a long way to deterring car break-ins. I have seen other parking lots in other cities install small towers from which parking attendants can see the entire lot. When mixed with good lighting this can be a significant deterrent.

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**From:** John Peters [<mailto:jpeters12@wi.rr.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 04, 2017 9:30 AM  
**To:** Bauman, Robert  
**Subject:** Downtown Crime/Intermodal Station Break-Ins

Alderman Bauman – I just got off the phone with Jensen from your office (was actually the second time in a week I have had to call your office). I also spoke with you briefly at the most recent DNA meeting held at the Milwaukee Public Market. I was the person who had my Audi being broken into twice, once on the east side (in August), and once in the 3rd Ward (in October). I also live just a couple blocks east of the Intermodal Station. I am sure you are aware that the lots near the station have now been hit TWICE within two weeks with a rash of car break-ins. During the Thanksgiving weekend wave, we also had three break-ins here at 418 N. 3rd St. (one right in front of the building, and two residents in parking lots adjacent to the building). We were fortunately spared this past weekend, but the concerns we have with the tremendous amount of crime happening downtown and in our neighborhood needs to be addressed. I was SHOCKED to hear this happened again just 7 days after what happened Thanksgiving weekend.

I walked over there yesterday when I got the news alert of what happened and talked to several people who were just discovering their cars had been broken into as they arrived on the Amtrak. While they were personally safe, their impressions of Milwaukee were extremely negative. One older woman from Green Bay was clearly distraught figuring out how she was going to drive the entire way back home with her windows gone. Families with children were trying their best to calm them down as they dealt with glass everywhere and belongings strewn about. I could go on and on. The bottom line is that of the six different parties I talked to, all said this was the last straw and cemented their impressions of Milwaukee as being an unsafe place to come to and they would do their best to avoid coming here in the future and they would spread that message on to others.

I myself have already received four messages in the last 24 hours from people wanting to know if I would suggest they take the Amtrak from downtown for day trips to Chicago, and another person has tickets to the Nutcracker that she wanted to bring her kids to. She wanted to know if she should cancel. I have been telling everyone that if they don't have to come to downtown Milwaukee for urgent reasons, they should indeed avoid coming down here and to take the Amtrak from either the airport or Sturtevant. I have lived in downtown Milwaukee almost 30 years and have been a cheerleader for the downtown area. Not anymore. I will continue to discourage my friends and colleagues to come anywhere downtown, especially during the holiday season, unless there are clear and immediate steps taken and communicated broadly to send the message to these thugs, who have obviously outwitted the police, judicial system and city leadership.

With all the development going on and momentum the city has had in the downtown area, it is tragic that this may all go down the drain because of the city's lack in being tough on crime. Adding to my frustration is the anticipation of a property tax bill in the next couple of weeks, which I am sure will exceed \$7000. Am I going to get a reduction to cover the \$750 I had to pay to get my two windows on my Audi replaced, or the gas I am using to drive the the suburbs to go shopping at because I don't feel safe parking at the Metro Market just a few blocks from where I live?

I would greatly appreciate hearing what steps are going to occur to help turn things around and what the city is going to do to reverse the growing negative hit the city reputation is taking.

Sincerely,

John Peters

cell: 414-531-5364

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