

Coalition for Safe Driving MKE

December 18, 2019

Re: Request for Convening a Gathering of Community-Wide Stakeholders

Dear Members of the City-County Carjacking and Reckless Driving Task Force:

A group of concerned citizens and community organizations have come together to address the significant dilemma of reckless driving in Milwaukee County. The coalition is an outgrowth of the Community Advisory Council that once served MPS Drive. The Coalition participants have been involved in discussing reckless driving and working with community groups; we would like to join the Task Force's efforts on finding solutions for this community-wide concern.

Many of us were present at the public hearings at South Division and Rufus King High Schools. The number of citizens that were in attendance was astounding. It is certainly a recognition that the issue is one that impacts many of us; people want to voice their concerns and make recommendations to promote safe driving. They want to feel that elected leaders in the community are taking seriously their concerns and that they are being protected from erratic and dangerous drivers.

Our request of the Task Force is to convene a gathering of the stakeholders to discuss this topic. We note that there are only two community members on the Task Force and there are important constituents who are not part of the discussion. In particular, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the State and County level of the Department of Public Works and many others with a vested interest in this problem were not included in the conversations. We assert that there are important participants who should be at the table as decisions are being made about traffic control in Milwaukee County.

In addition to the above noted offices, we urge a convening of the following groups to be a part of the discussion to ensure that all voices are heard and that the recommendations of the Task Force are comprehensive and inclusive. Some of the constituent groups we advocate to be more directly involved include:

- First Responders
- Hospitals
- Youth and young adults
- Youth-serving Organizations
- Users of the road – Bicyclists, pedestrians, truck drivers, bus drivers, motorists, etc.
- Milwaukee Public Schools
- Individuals who have had their driver's license suspended
- Individuals directly impacted by reckless driving (victims, family members, offenders, etc.)
- Insurance Companies
- Artists and creative artists – music, spoken word, etc.
- Media
- Potential funders
- Researchers

- Psychologists, Physicians
- Neighborhood Associations

The issue is complex and requires engagement on many fronts. The resolution can't and won't fully be solved by law enforcement and in the courts. We need new ideas and **creative measures** to offset what has become an epidemic and public health concern in our community.

We have begun to brainstorm amongst ourselves and have some ideas we'd like to share with you for consideration. They include:

- Adding content about safe driving to the middle and high school Health curriculum
- Providing more money to invest in Driver Education
- Educating the community on implications of understanding the rules of the road, holding a valid driver's license and related topics
- Improving police community relations, especially on the north side of Milwaukee
- Tutoring programs for driver's education for adults
- Creating amnesty opportunity for driver's license suspension for non-driving offenses
- Engineering – looking at implementation of Complete Streets
- Employing an intensive community campaign around safe driving
 - Education about safe driving and road etiquette
 - Flooding radio and television with public service announcements
 - Printed media
 - Social media
 - Canvassing neighborhoods and shopping areas/malls
 - Documentaries designed by youth to get the attention of their peers
 - Neighborhood meetings

Our community needs the collaboration of a multitude of voices to ensure we are being inclusive. And, we need to be willing to address the underlying reasons for this behavior as well as implement consequences for those who break the law.

We recognize that the Task Force has been working hard to address this issue. It is a huge undertaking. The outcry and attendance of citizens at Rufus King was a call for action: the community wants to be involved and contribute to making our streets safe. We all desire to be safe on the streets and want to be part of the process.

We appreciate all of the work done thus far and request that you respond to our letter at our email address – coalitionforsafedrivingmke@gmail.com by January 7, 2020. We look forward to hearing from you and working with the Task Force to address this very important issue.

Committed to safe driving in Milwaukee County,
The Coalition for Safe Driving MKE

cc – Mayor Thomas Barrett

Milwaukee Common Council Members:

- Ald. Ashanti Hamilton
- Ald. Cavalier Johnson
- Ald. Nicholas Kovac
- Ald. Robert Bauman

Ald. Nikiya Dodd
Ald. Milele Coggs
Ald. Khalif Rainey
Ald. Robert Donovan
Ald. Mark Borkowski
Ald. Jose Perez
Ald. Scott Spiker
Ald. Anthony Zielinski
Ald. Russell W. Stamper, II
Milwaukee Police Chief Alfonso Morales
Milwaukee County Sheriff Earnell Lucas
Joseph L. Davis, Wisconsin Department of Transportation Bureau of Transportation Safety
Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele