

John O. Norquist

Mayor

City of Milwaukee

December 8, 1999

Mr. Lawrence W. Mueller, Chairman  
Milwaukee Safety Commission  
4272 S. Taylor Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

Thank you for meeting with me last week to discuss your concerns about the Milwaukee Safety Commission. I have also talked with a few other Commission members on this matter. I am impressed with the dedication, hard work and in many cases, the long-term commitment of Commission members.

Your concerns break down into two broad areas:

- a) replacement of the Commission Executive Director who is retiring; and
- b) relationship with the Milwaukee Police Department .

The Safety Commission provides a vital service to our community, and should be proud of its role in reducing deaths through safety education. The mission of the Safety Commission is intertwined with, and augments the mission of the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD). The Milwaukee Safety Commission is currently operating as a commission within the MPD. Because the missions are so inter-related and because the commission is currently located within the MPD structure, it seems most prudent that this relationship remain unchanged. Any working relationship can be improved upon, and I encourage you to further open up lines of communication with the Chief of Police. I believe that direct communication between the chair of the Safety Commission and the MPD Chief can only serve to improve both bodies and enhance the effectiveness of the commission.

You correctly note that the Mayor is charged with appointing the Executive Director of the Milwaukee Safety Commission. For this position which is soon to be vacant, the mayor will consult with both the MPD Chief of Police and the commission on candidate selection.

Again, I want to thank you and all members of the Safety Commission for your diligence in carrying out your charge.

If you need further information on this matter, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards,



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