

To: The Board of the Fire and Police Commission and the Executive Director
Re: Suggestions for unifying and empowering the Fire and Police Commission
From: Paul Mozina

With a newly re-elected Board Chair, a newly confirmed Executive Director, the departure of the Operations Manager and the Report next week from the Crime and Justice Institute, the FPC should review its core mission and rededicate itself to that purpose.

What is the Fire and Police Commission?

Under Wisconsin law and the Milwaukee City Charter, the Fire and Police Commission **oversees all aspects of Fire Department and Police Department operations.** The Commission sets overall policy while the chief of each department manages daily operations and implements the Commission's policy direction and goals. Specific Commission functions also include:

- establishing recruitment and testing standards for positions in the Fire and Police Departments,
- hearing appeals by members of either department who have been disciplined by their Chief,
- independently investigating and monitoring citizen complaints, and
- disciplining employees for misconduct.

Please review exactly what you are authorized and mandated to do according to Wisconsin law, the Milwaukee City Charter and the FPC Rules. The recent case of SOP 120 – Operating While Intoxicated, is an example where the Board chose not to discuss the use of Drug Recognition Experts because it was considered part of MPD's operations. In that case, the MPD was seeking to codify into Policy its longstanding practice of using Drug Recognition Experts and extend that usage into the schools. There is no "Chinese Wall" between Operations and Policies – both are under the purview of the FPC– and the use of Drug Recognition Experts should have been researched and discussed at that time prior to the approval of SOP 120.

Please Commissioners, get on the same page regarding the FPC's mandate to **oversee all aspects of the Fire and Police Department operations.** Yes, the Chiefs *manage* the execution of daily operations, but the Board, by monitoring MFD and MPD Operations and setting Policies, governs what those operations are and how they are to be accomplished.

Wisconsin law, the Milwaukee City Charter and the FPC Rules declare that the Board of the Fire and Police Commission, under the leadership of the Chair, is unequivocally the governing body of the FPC. The Executive Director is the executive secretary and principal staff of the Board. This is a critically important time for the Board of the FPC and the new Executive Director to re-establish a correct, effective and efficient partnership. The people you serve are counting on the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners to lead and direct the Executive Director and FPC Staff in the execution of your core mission, which is the oversight of the Operations and Policies of the Fire and Police Departments.