

Local #21 IUPA-AFL-CIO

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City of Milwaukee
Common Council/
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

October 5, 2015

RE: Budget/2016

Dear Sirs/ Ma'am,

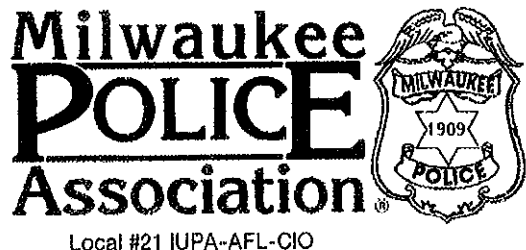
On Monday, October 12th, 2015 the Finance & Personnel Committee will review the MPD Budget 2016. On behalf of the Milwaukee Police Association membership [1, 575] I respectfully request your support and draw your attention to the following critical concerns.

In 2008 the budget funded/grant funded staffing for the *rank-&-file* was 1, 847; today it is 1, 639 with a mere 1, 575 positions actually filled. While the *rank-&-file* struggle with a 15% reduction from what once they should have been at, the **supervisor ranks** have actually **increased**; placing them at a 1% increase.

A further analysis of the numbers would reveal that the MPA promotable ranks have been slashed by 25%. The **MPA represents the members of the police force most likely to be injured, and/or killed in the line of duty.** They [MPA] are *in-fact* the force which actually provides the protective element to the community.

Furloughs and *Civilianization* of the force further exasperate the likelihood of harm to our membership. While certainly there may be positions which could be civilianized, the issue of funding and an understaffed force remains. To explain: if we are hiring *police-like* individuals at 75% scale and not filling the sworn positions we've done nothing to enhance the safety of our officers – the bottom line is, the positions have the potential [reality] to preclude the hiring of needed officers.

The MPD currently does not react with earnest relative to the current threats to harm officers. Clearly around the nation and locally there have been very specific threats to harm officers – in some cases the specificity of the threats directly stated officers would be shot when they are alone. *Police-like* positions do nothing to secure our communities and certainly do not bolster the safety of our officers – our officers deserve and need to have a partner; their family has the right and expectation to believe the City cares enough to enhance the likelihood of a successful tour of duty.



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Currently the City of Milwaukee is policed by a fractured force. The morale of the officers is at low never before experienced by this department – understandably so. Our overworked and stressed officers rarely are able to get a much needed day off, or work under the security of having a partner. These officers patrol on the edge every day, while they know that the current tour could be their last. Is it too much to ask of civic leadership: recognize, care, and act in every way possible to mitigate the likelihood of harm to these fine men and women –**and**– to demonstrate appreciation through meaningful/respectful contract negotiations?

We are all fortunate that the members of the MPA are of such high character - true professionals all; regardless of the continual underappreciation.

October 12th, 2015 represents the *one-thousand-fourteenth* {1, 014} day since last the members of the MPA had a current contract.

I am asking each member of the Finance & Personnel Committee, [and *every* council member] to recognize the worth of these public servants. In doing so, (1) certainly an absolute **denouncement** of future **furloughs** should be stated – (2) a true focus to **rebuilding** the force through increased sworn **staffing** – (3) demand for **labor** peace and *officer appreciation* through true focus on funding a new and reasonable **contract** for the members of the MPA.

Respectfully,

Michael V. Crivello, President, Milwaukee Police Association

Cc: Fire & Police Commission; Mayor; Chief of Police