

Hello, my name is Police Officer Daniel ROUFUS with the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD), Neighborhood Task Force (NTF) bicycle unit, early power shift. I am requesting consideration for the open position of Law Enforcement Safety Professional chair on the Pedestrian/Bicycle Task Force for the City of Milwaukee. The current committee chair is filled by P.O. Mark Beutow who will be retiring in 2018.

I am in my 13th year with the MPD, recruit class of 1-05. My current position for MPD is the Officer in charge of the Milwaukee Police Bicycle Unit which has about 128 Sergeants and Officers in seven districts and NTF. Some of the areas of responsibility for this position include training new and current riders, managing the yearly bicycle budget, fleet maintenance, planning and execution of special events/protests, Research & Developing, etc...

I have served on the bicycle unit for about ten years, patrolling the district 7 area from 2008-2012, and then promoted to the NTF Street Crimes unit from 2012 to 2015 which led into my current position at NTF.

Since the time I came onto the bicycle unit I have always tried to help out the unit in any way possible. As a result, I began as an assistant helping out during the new rider bicycle training in 2010 and since have become an International Police Mount Bike Association (IPMBA) Instructor as of 2013. I am now also certified as a Fleet/Maintenance Instructor, and Bicycle Rapid Response Team (BBRT) Instructor. With these certifications under my belt I was asked to become a State certified Instructor also. So in late 2013 I took my Instructor Development Course and am now a State Instructor for Basic/In-Service, Vehicle Contacts, and Scenarios.

Do to my previous job as a fourth generation Union Steel Worker with Milwaukee Forge (MF) for 12 years, I became a union steward and trustee before taking a position as the 3rd shift Superintendent and Press Shop Foreman for my last two years with MF. Shortly after being hired with MPD it was discovered I had union representation experience. I was then asked to serve as an alternate Union Steward for the Milwaukee Police Association (MPA) in 2007. Eventually I became the Union Steward for D7 early shift, then NTF early shift, and currently for NTF early power shift.

In my personal life, I have been happily married for 19 years to my amazing wife. Together we have two wonderful boys 11 and 13, and five beautiful God kids ranging from 17-22 years old. Both my wife and I were raised in the Milwaukee area and together we have lived in many areas of Milwaukee both good and bad. We currently live in the City of Milwaukee's Southside. In our free time my boys and I are avid all-season outdoorsmen. We are very active in the Boy Scouts of America in both Pack 535 and Troop 595 and have had many great explorations. As a family we enjoy riding our bicycles as a group and other outdoor activities. Personally, I have always had a passion for bicycling which has carried over into adulthood starting with BMX as a young teen and now riding both trail and downhill MTB. I also enjoy commuting to and from work whenever possible, schedule permitting.

As a Police Officer, I feel we have laws for a reason and that they should be abided by. However I do understand the difference between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law, which allows a common sense approach to policing to prevail. Milwaukee has a fantastic infrastructure to be a "bicycle city". We still have pocket communities which allow the citizen easy access for walking or riding just about anywhere for basic goods. Currently most of our roads are only structured for safe movement of automobiles and in many areas are poorly signed or painted (As was seen in the last meeting). The roadways are not the most difficult trouble with our city though in my opinion. We have a MAJOR disconnect with automobile/motorcycle operators and bicyclists/pedestrians when it comes to rules of the road and right a ways. I believe we (as a society) need more education on both ends which can be done with the collaboration of many entities which are present in this committee. I would like to be a part of this solution as a member of the Safety Task Force to help reduce and possibly eliminate pedestrian and bicyclist injuries and deaths completely.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

P.O. Dan ROUFUS