

**Kyle Mirehouse Statement before the Public Safety and Health Committee of the
Milwaukee Common Council**

Thursday, October 24, 2019

Thank you and good morning Chairman Donovan and distinguished members of the Public Safety & Health Committee. I am Kyle Mirehouse and I have the privilege of being before you today having been nominated to be Director of Emergency Management and Communications for the City. I want to thank Mayor Barrett for his confidence in me, and I express my appreciation to members of this committee and Common Council for your consideration of my candidacy.

Merely weeks after graduating high school I set off on a journey of public service and sacrifice. I joined the United States Marine Corps and during my 5 years of active service I was deployed on 3 occasions earning many unit and individual awards, which includes receiving the Purple Heart. Currently, I continue my dedication to the Country as a Reservist in the Marine Corps.

Complementing my military service is my public service in the civilian and academic realms. I am in the latter stages of earning my Doctorate in Emergency Management, which has me focusing my research on the Community Development Block Grant and how it could potentially be fused with emergency management best practices in concepts such as flooding preparedness or housing requirements.

I am currently employed as a crisis management consultant. I also have substantial experience serving in a traditional emergency management role, including employment by Milwaukee County as an Emergency Management Coordinator located at Mitchell International Airport.

Aside from my military experience, academic achievements, and history in the emergency management profession, I feel it is important to highlight my success with intergovernmental collaboration efforts while serving as a contractor for the U.S. Department of State. This role included working with extremely diverse cultures, while tackling competing priorities within a multi-national structure.

Public service has been important to me for as long as I can remember, and it provides the basis for my desire to serve the citizens of Milwaukee. This position demands an experienced hand with a proven track record, and not just because the DNC is coming to Milwaukee next summer. The Director must lay the groundwork for improving communication logistics between residents and our community's public safety services and advance preparedness for potential disasters in our City and region. I have the experience and fortitude to get that job done.

Much like all cities across this country, the City of Milwaukee offers many items to address and review under the umbrella of emergency management. With confirmation of my appointment, my likely areas of immediate focus would be continuity of government, public safety & preparedness, and major event preparation. While we only have once chance to get it right in



preparation for some of the major events like the DNC, Summerfest, and the Ryder Cup, it is imperative that the ongoing obligations to the residents of this City and their safety and preparedness are not compromised.

Lastly, I feel it is important to note that just like I signed on the dotted line for my military obligation, spent years working to better prepare and train the employees and residents of Milwaukee County and foreign entities alike, I am once again willing to sacrifice and be accountable for the greater good. I understand the privilege and magnitude of this position and would be honored to take the post should I be confirmed.

Thank you for this opportunity to be here today. I ask for your support and I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.