

October 6, 2020

To: Mayor Barrett and Common Council
From: Paul Mozina
Re: Mayor's Proposed Executive Budget for 2021

You cannot defund the Police while at the same time ordering them to control what people choose to inoffensively put into their bodies. You have no legitimate authority to do this, efforts to date have utterly failed, and you can no longer afford it.

The War on Drugs creates crime. It increases violence, death, incarceration and overdoses because it perpetuates an illegal market just like alcohol prohibition did. Many of the homicides and non-fatal shootings that are a daily occurrence in this City are related to drug deals gone bad.

The War on Drugs is driving the Warrior mentality in the MPD and it fueled the Department's growth for many years. The City takes bribes, in the form of grants, from the Federal and State Government to prosecute the war on drugs and **WE** bear the true costs.

You have become numb to the **endemic** death toll of drug overdoses. In an illegal marketplace neither seller nor buyer knows the purity or dosage of the substances involved. Dr. Brian Peterson predicts 448 drug deaths in 2020 with: "**No End in Sight**". The Milwaukee City-County Heroin, Opioid and Cocaine Task Force refuses to look at the role of the war on drugs.

If you want to defund the police, **stop ordering them to do wrong!** None of us has a legitimate right to control what another person chooses to put in their body, and that includes the Police.

MPD members know that the war on drugs is hopeless and they have communicated this over and over to you politicians in charge only to be ignored. Imagine someone in DPW complaining that filling potholes with sand is not working and being told, 'Sorry, it's the law'. Unlike the DPW worker however, there are serious moral consequences for the MPD member.

You are acting as the tools of your Government Masters when you order the MPD to wage the drug war on our streets, and you won't be able to defund the Police until you stop.

Thank you for your time.