

November 4, 2021

To: Fire and Police Commission

From: Paul Mozina

Re: FPC21357 Resolution to appoint Acting Chief Jeffrey B. Norman to the position of Chief of Police of the City of Milwaukee Police Department for a term of four years

At the third community meeting I asked Acting Chief Norman a simple question:

As the leader of the MPD, did he have a moral responsibility to tell the law makers in the government hierarchy if something they were ordering him to do was not working?

I gave a specific example of drug prohibition, which like alcohol prohibition, was doomed to fail when President Nixon initiated the war on drugs 50 years ago.

Acting Chief Norman dodged the question.

What proof can the MPD provide that their efforts to enforce drug prohibition laws are working? Are illegal drugs more prevalent and profitable? Are they more dangerous? Have we seen an increase in the violence that accompanies the illegal street market? Does drug prohibition drive mobile drug dealing and reckless driving? Is drug prohibition the reason why they are finding fentanyl in everything these days? Does drug prohibition play a role in the record number of overdoses?

James Baldwin said, "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

We need a chief who will face the fact that enforcing drug prohibition laws is not working; that it is counterproductive and causing harms including generational trauma; and, that it is not the best use of scarce MPD resources. We need a chief who will protect and serve us by speaking truth to power. This will not happen under Jeffrey B. Norman's watch. You must reject his appointment.