
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

January 4, 2017

Ald. Bob Donovan

(414) 531-2096

Ald. Mark Borkowski

(414) 286-3768

MEDIA ADVISORY

Donovan, Borkowski invite President-Elect Trump to Milwaukee

Aldermen reach out to PEOTUS, feds for help with public safety issues

Alderman Bob Donovan and **Alderman Mark A. Borkowski** have invited **President-Elect Donald Trump** to Milwaukee for a firsthand look at some of the city's public safety challenges. In a letter issued to the President-Elect (**attached**), Alderman Donovan, chair of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee, and Public Safety Committee Vice Chair Alderman Borkowski indicate appreciation at the future President's recent reach-out to Chicago:

"As chair and co-chair of the City of Milwaukee's Public Safety Committee, we read with great interest your outreach to the City of Chicago, calling on the Mayor of that City to seek federal assistance if it proved unable to cope with the recent rise in homicide and other gun violence. It is frankly invigorating to hear the future occupant of the Oval Office speak so directly and particularly to the needs of a "rust belt" urban area and then go even farther and offer to begin a conversation about a federal response to the problem of urban violence. For too long the federal government has chosen to look away from the tangled web of cause and effect that has brought so much unemployment, under-education, despair, and violence to these communities that have begun to feel forgotten."

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR

- Public Safety

MEMBER

- Public Works
- Steering and Rules
- Anti-Graffiti Policy



ROBERT G. DONOVAN
ALDERMAN, 8TH DISTRICT

January 3, 2017

The Honorable,
President-Elect Donald J. Trump
1717 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Trump:

First, we would both like to tender you our sincere congratulations on your election as president of the United States. It is our hope, and the hope of many residents of the districts we represent, that your election will prove transformational and offer an opportunity for elected officials and all citizens to rise above partisan differences and set to work healing and building a great America of which we can all justly be proud.

As chair and co-chair of the City of Milwaukee's Public Safety Committee, we read with great interest your outreach to the City of Chicago, calling on the Mayor of that City to seek federal assistance if it proved unable to cope with the recent rise in homicide and other gun violence. It is frankly invigorating to hear the future occupant of the Oval Office speak so directly and particularly to the needs of a "rust belt" urban area and then go even farther and offer to begin a conversation about a federal response to the problem of urban violence. For too long the federal government has chosen to look away from the tangled web of cause and effect that has brought so much unemployment, under-education, despair, and violence to these communities that have begun to feel forgotten.

Milwaukee, our home, is only 90 miles North of Chicago and is struggling with many of these same challenges. Known in living memory as the "machine shop to the world", this metropolitan area was once the thriving home of AC Spark Plug, Allen-Bradley, Allis-Chalmers, Delco, Louis Allis, and Pabst Brewing to name only a few. In the era after the Second World War, thousands of people migrated to Milwaukee in search of their small pieces of the American Dream. They built homes and communities, raised and educated their children, and contributed not only their tax dollars but their own effort toward the creation of a better city.

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With the malaise of the 1970s lingering into the 1980s, all this began to change. One by one – at first all but imperceptibly – these corporate citizens either closed or shrank dramatically. Residents either left for other communities or stayed to confront un- or under-employment. Crime, fear, and disorder became problems that we have never since managed to truly abate. Now, we say with regret, our statistics are every bit as dire as Chicago's:

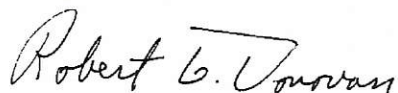
Milwaukee's homicide rate was 24.2 per 100,000 residents in 2015 and 23.7 per 100,000 in 2016. For comparison, Chicago's rate was 17.2 in 2015 (468 homicides) and 28.0 in 2016 (762 homicides). As far as non-fatal shootings are concerned, in 2015, Milwaukee had 634. For 2016, the figure was 548. Chicago had 2,939 shooting victims in 2015 and 4,331 in 2016. The shooting rates per 100,000 residents were 105.7 and 91.3 for Milwaukee (2015 and 2016, respectively), compared to 108.0 and 159.2 for Chicago.

While the news from our downtown has been good – even exciting -- neighborhoods once considered “good” or “safe” have seen an increase in violent crime. And, making matters worse, lesser crimes like robbery, assault, and vehicle theft have also increased.

Please accept this letter as an invitation from both of us to you to visit Milwaukee as president. We would be honored to both welcome you and show you a city of which we are very proud, but about which we are very concerned. Failing this, please know that we stand ready to work with you in partnership to bring much-needed assistance to this community we serve.

Again, our congratulations, and, should you have any questions of us, please do not hesitate to contact our offices at your convenience.

Respectfully,



Robert G. Donovan
Alderman, 8th District
Chair, Public Safety Committee



Mark L. Borkowski
Alderman, 11th District
Vice-Chair, Public Safety Committee

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CC:

Hon. Vice-President-Elect Mike Pence
Hon. Sen. Ron Johnson
Hon. Sen. Tammy Baldwin
Hon. Rep. Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House of Representatives
Hon. Rep. Gwen Moore
Hon. Gov. Scott Walker
Hon. Mayor Tom Barrett
Milwaukee Sheriff David A. Clarke
Milwaukee Police Chief Edward A. Flynn
Mr. Reince Priebus

