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ROBERT G. DONOVAN
Alderman, 8th District

August 27, 2013

The Honorable, Mayor Tom Barrett
City Hall
200 E. Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Superintendent Gregory Thornton
5225 W. Vliet Street
Milwaukee, WI 53228

Mayor Barrett and Superintendent Thornton:

Given the recent increase in violent crime in Milwaukee and that the City has limited resources to address this issue, I am writing you both in the hope that you will begin, in earnest, to negotiate an intergovernmental cooperation agreement between your respective agencies for the merger of Milwaukee Public School (MPS) security services with the Milwaukee Police Department.

As you know, the MPS fiscal year 2014 budget provides \$14.3 million for school security and safety programs including approximately \$580,000 for the administration of these programs in the school safety office budget. I will admit that this amount surprised me. It is greater than the 2013 police department budgets of the cities of Cudahy and Franklin combined and is nearly that for the City of Wauwatosa. In this time of fiscal restraint, we must set aside parochial interests that can create administrative inefficiencies and work cooperatively to ensure that tax-payer dollars are used as wisely as possible.

The police officers that could be hired for \$14 million – more than 200 -- would represent a significant improvement in the safety of both our City and our schools as they could assume all the security roles now managed by MPS school safety and security personnel. I also believe that this combination of responsibilities would result in cost savings through administrative efficiencies that could, in turn, be used to provide better services for the City and the schools.

I would also note that, given the cyclical nature of the school year, officers responsible for schools during the school year would be redeployed to the community during times when MPS is not in session. These are times when the need for an additional police presence on our streets is desperately needed.

I look forward to working with you both on this initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Robert G. Donovan'.

Ald. Robert G. Donovan
8th District

Cc: All Members of the Milwaukee Common Council
All Members of the Milwaukee Public Schools Board of Directors
Police Chief Edward Flynn

