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ROBERT G. DONOVAN

Alderman, 8th District

Asking for Sheriff Clarke's help to stem south side auto theft crisis

243% increase in 8th Aldermanic District in five years

Statement from Alderman Bob Donovan

August 4, 2015

My first obligation as alderman is to protect the interests and the health, safety, and welfare of my constituents. When those interests are NOT being served, I am compelled to take action.

I am asking **Sheriff David Clarke (see attached)** for assistance in putting the brakes on the auto theft crisis we're seeing on the south side. I believe the help is needed because it appears the Milwaukee Police Department simply is not up to the task, despite the best efforts of the fine rank and file officers.

It gives me little pleasure, and makes me extremely angry, to point out a few of the statistics (**attached**) I have garnered from online city records:

- In the 8th District in 2015, there have been 460 vehicles stolen to date, including 105 between June 28 and July 27. The total increase from 2010 to 2015 is 243%.
- From this time in 2014 until now, the 8th District has seen a 97% increase in auto thefts.
- The 12th Aldermanic District has seen 348 stolen vehicles so far this year, and a 33% increase from 2014 to 2015.
- The 14th Aldermanic District has seen an increase of 185% from 2014 to 2015, including 188 thefts from January 1 to July 27, 2015.

It sickens me to know that my district leads in the entire city in car thefts over the past five years!

My great fear is that the huge uptick in auto thefts is but a warm-up that will lead to regular violence. The historic trend in recent U.S. history in this area shows that first come property crime increases, and then violence.

For years I have warned about this problem of increased disorder, and for years I have called for the critical need to make marked progress to address our insufficient police staffing.

-More-

For years I have called for hiring additional officers so we can protect “neighborhoods on the fence,” but we see no response and no plan from the Barrett Administration.

We have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years as part of Operation Impact to help augment overtime pay for additional beat cops, and for surveillance cameras, and for alley lighting. We have more than met this administration and this department half way on public safety, yet we are rewarded it would seem by crime that cannot be controlled, and a five-year increase in auto thefts in my district of 243%!

And sadly, auto theft is more than just a property crime. For the working class residents of my district, having a vehicle stolen can mean the difference between keeping or losing a job.

I am urging residents who share my concerns (and my disgust) to attend tomorrow night’s **joint community public safety meeting** hosted by myself and **Alderman José G. Pérez**. The meeting on Wednesday (August 5) evening will start at 6 p.m. at Ascension Lutheran Church, 1236 S. Layton Blvd.

The broken justice system is also a part of the problem – a large part! Criminals who are caught too often get out of jail early or plea bargain their way to a slap on the wrist and avoid jail altogether. This is wrong, and we need to make sure they are held accountable.

The MPD’s no pursuit policy is also fueling crime in Milwaukee, and has led to a major increase in drug dealing, vehicle thefts, robberies, and homicides.

The Barrett Administration’s public safety policies need to be re-tooled, and those changes must come directly from the mayor soon.

Until then, I await the input and assistance from Sheriff Clarke.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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ROBERT G. DONOVAN

Alderman, 8th District

July 29, 2015

Sheriff David Clarke
821 W. State St. Rm. 107
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Sheriff Clarke,

As the chief law enforcement officer for Milwaukee County, I am reaching out to you for help in an effort to stem the inordinately high auto thefts occurring on the near south side. I am hoping that you can assign any available Sheriff's Deputies to this area (largely the area covered by the District 2 Police).

As shown on the enclosed MPD data sheet, my Aldermanic District (District 8) has experienced nearly double the City's 2015 car theft rate, yet no plan was put forth by the Chief to address this escalating problem. I can only assume this is because he does not consider car theft to be a serious crime, even with the now overwhelming evidence showing that a good portion of these stolen vehicles are then used to commit additional (and many times violent) crimes.

My responsibility as an elected official, first and foremost, is to do what is in the best interest of my constituents. Unfortunately this is becoming increasingly difficult under the current scenario. I would also like to add, as I am sure you are well aware, that in many instances these stolen vehicles are being used to drive to other areas of Milwaukee County where these criminals feel at ease committing additional crimes.

Please let me know of any help you may be able to provide for these beleaguered residents.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert G. Donovan".

Robert G. Donovan
Alderman, 8th District

Aldermanic District	Stolen 2015 (thru 7/27)	Stolen between 6/28-7/27/2015	+/- % change (YTD 2014-2015)	+/- change (YTD 2010-2015)
1	255	39	-30%	+37%
2	250	21	-48%	+50%
3	165	20	-18%	+53%
4	159	24	+3%	-28%
5	289	32	-21%	+210%
6	244	36	-19%	+12%
7	247	25	-18%	+35%
8	460	105	+97%	+243%
9	244	22	-35%	+94%
10	145	22	-26%	+25%
11	113	15	+82%	+214%
12	348	76	+33%	+140%
13	149	36	+38%	+119%
14	188	42	+185%	+132%
15	209	29	-8%	-14%

Overall, auto theft has **increased 63%** in Milwaukee, YTD (2010-2015)