



MANDELA BARNES

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

11th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

October 14, 2015

Wisconsin State Senator Alberta Darling
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance
Room 317 East, State Capitol

Wisconsin State Representative John Nygren
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance
Room 309 East, State Capitol

INTER-D

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Nygren,

It is with great urgency today that I write to request that your offices release allocated funds to address the growing epidemic of gun violence in Milwaukee at the October 15 Joint Finance Committee (JFC) 13.10 meeting.

On July 20, 2015, leaders from the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office (MDAO), Milwaukee Police Department (MPD), Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC), the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ), and Milwaukee Mayor Barrett's office announced the Milwaukee Gun Violence Reduction Initiative, which is tasked with identifying solutions to reduce gun violence in Milwaukee.

One component to a memorandum of agreement (MOA) among the aforementioned groups involved two new assistant attorneys general to supplement current firearm prosecutorial resources within the MDAO. Under the MOA, these positions would be funded via the transfer of \$220,000 annually in general purpose revenue from the JFC supplemental appropriation account. However, DOJ and JFC have yet to take action on the request and approval of these funds nearly three months since this initiative was announced to the public.

As of today, Milwaukee has 120 homicides in 2015. 32 homicides have occurred since the day of your announcement. Milwaukee communities were promised a plan to aggressively target and prosecute gun offenders, and we must no longer betray their hope and safety.

To quote Attorney General Schimel at the July 20, 2015 signing of the Milwaukee Gun Violence Reduction Initiative: "Today, we declare war on those who would commit crimes with guns in Milwaukee."

Especially given that JFC is already scheduled to meet this coming Thursday, October 15, there is no reason why you shouldn't move approve this funding as soon as possible.

For the sake and well-being of Milwaukee families and neighborhoods, I urge you to act immediately. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mandela Barnes
Wisconsin State Representative
11th Assembly District

cc: Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel
114 East, State Capitol