



MILWAUKEE COMMON COUNCIL

City Hall Room 205, 200 E. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202 • (414) 286-2221 • Fax (414) 286-3456 • www.milwaukee.gov/council

June 1, 2016

The Honorable,
Mayor Tom Barrett

Dear Mayor Barrett,

We are informed by the Employees' Retirement System that, counting together only this year and next, 379 officers of the Milwaukee Police Department will be eligible for a full service retirement. This does not include the 161 individuals represented by the Milwaukee Police Supervisors' Organization who are eligible for a full service retirement in this same period. We do not need to tell you that these men and women represent some of the best employees the city has – trained, experienced, and tempered.

Under the best of circumstances these officers would be difficult to replace, but this class of eligible retirees comes at the same time the city is faced with a troubling increase in fear, crime, and disorder. Murder, non-fatal violence, armed robbery, car-jacking, and the rest have become regular news and much that is not reported in the media is communicated to our offices by residents who tell of unacceptable response times and, frankly, of fear for themselves, their families, and their community. Our residents implore us and you to take action to correct this by ensuring the Milwaukee Police Department is adequately staffed.

Therefore, we the undersigned ask you to include in your proposed 2017 executive budget funding sufficient to address this issue. We stand ready to work with you through the budget process to confirm our mutual commitment to the safety and well-being of all residents of this great city.

Respectfully,

President Ashanti Hamilton

Ald. Robert G. Donovan

Ald. Jim Bohl

Ald. Tony Zielinski

Ald. Mark A. Borkowski

Ald. José G. Pérez

Ald. Cavalier Johnson

Ald. Chantia Lewis

Ald. Khalif J. Rainey

Ald. Milele A. Coggs

Ald. Russell W. Stamper, II