

Statement of Ald. Terry L. Witkowski

August 15, 2008

I have asked to be a co-sponsor of a Common Council measure of support for fulfilling the request from Police Chief Ed Flynn to send 36 Milwaukee police officers to St. Paul for the Republican National Convention Sept. 1 - 4.

As a Milwaukee resident I would certainly hope that some day, if we have a similar national event and need the assistance, that St. Paul (and others) would return the favor and come to our aid.

I believe citizens expect our governmental units to work together, especially in the area of public safety, and even if that means crossing state lines to provide assistance.

In my opinion the chief has made a convincing case that public safety in our city will be unaffected by the temporary mutual aid assignment in St. Paul, where our officers will gain valuable knowledge and training experience while helping during a high profile national security event. This is a valuable opportunity that does not come along very often.

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