
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Bob Donovan
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Mayor Asked To Seek National Guard MPs To Bolster Public Safety This Summer

*Ald. Donovan Says City's "Public Safety Crisis" Demands Strong Measures To Help
Stem Violence & Disorder*

Mayor Tom Barrett is being asked to help secure the services of 50-75 National Guard military policemen to help Milwaukee police patrol city streets this summer.

In a letter issued to the mayor today, Ald. Bob Donovan asks that eight separate proposals be pursued, including a request that the mayor "call upon the Governor to deploy 50-75 National Guard military police to augment our police force." It is believed to be the first time since the inner city riots of 1967 that a Milwaukee elected public official has asked for National Guard troops to be deployed to help police.

"It is incumbent upon you (Mayor Barrett) to address the escalating violence," Ald. Donovan states in the letter, noting also that he is "very concerned about this coming summer."

The alderman's letter continues: "Already we are seeing an increase in violence and disorder. I can only imagine what this summer will bring. Steps need to be taken *now* to begin a turnaround."

Ald. Donovan will discuss his proposals today during a 1 p.m. news conference at the Milwaukee Police Association headquarters, 6310 W. Bluemound Rd. The news conference will also include MPA officials and Ald. Tony Zielinski promoting the proposal to add 10 public service specialist investigators to help expedite background investigations of police officer candidates (this item is included in Ald. Donovan's list of proposals in his letter to the mayor). **Media coverage is invited.**

-More-

Public Safety Chair: Guard MPs Needed/ADD ONE

Nearly all of Ald. Donovan's eight proposals address police manpower and resources, a critical focus area that he says can help tip the scales in city neighborhoods where crime and violence have too often plagued law-abiding citizens. "While I wholeheartedly agree that police can't solve all of society's problems, given the appropriate resources they can maintain a level of order in the community that is sorely lacking at this time," Ald. Donovan, chair of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee, states in the letter.

Among Ald. Donovan's other proposals, he asks the mayor to:

- Work with Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke to put more sheriff's deputies on street patrol by having them relieved of freeway patrol duties. He says State Patrol officers could help free up deputies by assuming freeway patrol duties.
- Add a fourth police class of 66 recruits in 2007. Vacancies are at a critical level, leaving some police districts only 10 or fewer patrol officers on some shifts to cover districts that include 100,000 residents, he said.
- Implement a program that has been successful in Chicago whereby officers assigned to desk duty are put on street duty one day a week, staggered.
- Lead a delegation of civic leaders, business owners, social service groups, and public officials to Madison to call on Governor Doyle and the Legislature to increase state shared revenue to pay for the proposed public safety efforts.