



Local #21 IUPA-AFL-CIO

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September 23, 2014

Mayor Tom Barrett
City of Milwaukee
200 E. Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53233

RE: Statement by Alderman Kovac [Fox6 News / 2014.09.22]

Mayor Barrett,

On behalf of the Milwaukee Police Association (MPA) and the 1700 men and women of the Milwaukee Police Department which we are proud to represent I implore you to denounce the statement of Alderman Nik Kovac.

Yesterday, in an interview with Fox6, Kovac said, *"If our question is 'how can we catch teenagers that are committing mugging,' I don't think the answer is by having more officers. I think the answer to that question should be by having smarter officers, but also by having programs including libraries, health, schools."*

I don't believe there is any question as to why this needs to be publicly addressed [**admonished**]; however, I shall take a moment to communicate to the issue. The officers whom the MPA represents are true professionals, intelligent, well-educated and dedicated to service of community – this statement is an attack and an impeachment of their individual personal accomplishments. The officers go to work every day, every hour –*every second*- of the year. The hard working, often forgotten officers are at work protecting our communities while families sleep, celebrate holidays, attend their children's school events... always doing whatever they may to assure others can enjoy the pleasures of life; while they [the officers] often must pledge to attend the next... and then again the next as another unavoidable work commitment conflicts – ultimately missing much of the life of their families while protecting others.

Obviously under informed, or possibly simply arrogantly opposed to congenial relationship, Alderman Kovac just doesn't get [it] while being totally out-of-line with his inflammatory statement he has launched a nuclear assault on our [your] officers' already fractured morale!

His [Kovac] statement is also a blatant attack on diversity. He suggests that the city block disadvantaged individuals in Milwaukee for hire to the police department due to their inability to obtain a degree? What is his barometer for the measure of *smart*, or *smarter*? Apparently Kovac is unaware to the amount of officers who have obtained credible degrees and continue to pursue higher education. This association is proud to be an outstanding partner with the community and believes no one should be denied opportunity to serve because of one man's misguided agenda, or an individual's unfortunate inaccessibility to immediate higher education.

I am confident that this matter will be properly addressed; however, please know that this office will do all within our reach to protect the credibility of our membership. Morale is key to healthy police departments – Kovac's statement is viral through the department, leaving in the wake many upset and disgruntle public servants. I am confident in the professionalism of our officer's; the same from our elected officials is a reasonable demand.

Sincerely,

MILWAUKEE POLICE ASSOCIATION



Michael V. Crivello
President
Local# 21, IUPA, AFL-CIO

Cc.

Michael J. Murphy, Common Council President, Alderman 10th District
Nik Kovac, Alderman 3rd District

Edward A. Flynn, Chief of Police