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\*\*\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*\*\*

### TRANSPARENCY OR POLITICAL MOTIVATION

May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020, a tragic incident occurred. Once an off-duty Milwaukee Police Officer was identified as being involved, the Milwaukee Police Department requested the Milwaukee County District Attorney (DA) office to the scene to investigate the incident. The off-duty officer was arrested that day. The incident was investigated by the DA investigators. Criminal charges were eventually issued.

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020, a Public Safety and Health Committee meeting was conducted. Many questions were asked by committee members and others. The Milwaukee Police Department stated that they would gladly recuse themselves from the internal investigation should the Fire & Police Commission (FPC) take over the internal investigation. But, why should they?

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020, FPC Executive Director Griselda Aldrete issued a letter demanding the MPD Internal Affairs Division (MPD IAD) to "immediately cease all investigations relative to Officer Mattioli" and that her office will be "taking control of the investigation moving forward". The FPC stated that they are taking over the investigation for transparency and public trust. But they have undermined the public trust with the MPD by taking over the investigation! This is obviously a political move, giving into political pressure.

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Mayor Tom Barrett wrote a letter to Chief Alfonso Morales stating that Officer Mattioli "must be terminated." MPD SOP 453 says that a member of the MPD is given a PI21 and given 7 days before an interview is conducted with MPD IAD. The officer may waive the 7 days. The department cannot waive it and just conduct the interview.

Mayor Barrett's letter said that the "department's procedure does not require a seven-day delay in a case like this" and quoted SOP 450.35(D)12. What he said is misleading. What he quoted deals with on-duty deaths. Up to this point, there is no indication that he was on-duty. **You can not put him on-duty just to fit your agenda.**

Wisconsin statute 62.50 is in place for this exact reason. It protects officers from people, like Mayor Barrett, who just want to terminate officers without giving them their due process. Last time I checked; people are innocent until proven guilty, including off-duty officers. The thought of people, especially those who are lawyers, deciding that they do not want to follow state statute 62.50, is completely disgusting and embarrassing.

We do not believe that the FPC has the authority to hand out discipline. The only authority that we believe they have is to deal with any appeals from punishments that are handed out by the Chief. So, if the officer decides to appeal a firing, that is given out by the FPC, who conducts the appeal hearing? The FPC??? There is no conflict in this with the FPC doing the investigation...yeah right. It has been already determined that FPC Commissioner Cocroft distrusts the police. He proved it by saying in a 2016 email that police officers use "excessive force, sexual abuse and Killing People." He will be one of the FPC commissioners that will oversee the investigator handling this case. Will it be a fair investigation? I

say **NO**. At the May 14<sup>th</sup> Public Safety and Health Committee meeting, he showed his bias with his comments and questions. He should recuse himself from this investigation.

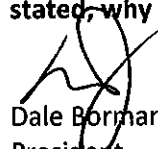
The internal investigation was taken from the MPD. Why?? The FPC has not provide a legitimate reason for taking it over. How can the Chief hand out a punishment since the investigation is out of his hands? Who will be handing out a punishment??

During my nearly 24 years on the department, to my knowledge, the FPC has never taken over a major internal investigation from MPD IAD. While the FPC investigators can take citizen complaints, they do not have the experience to investigate internal investigations. I believe that many people would want a complete and accurate investigation to be conducted. Unfortunately, with an inexperience investigator, many mistakes can be made which would affect both the internal and the criminal investigation.

It appears that the FPC has a predetermined outcome. Why would the FPC not leave the investigation in the hands of MPD IAD who has handle many internal investigations every year resulting in suspensions and terminations and instead put it in the hands of an investigator with one year of experience and very minimal investigations?

**The FPC taking over the investigation has nothing to do with transparency. It has everything to do with giving into political pressure. The FPC does not have the experience of investigating internal investigations. The lack of experience combined with the political pressure from many and not following due process and state statutes is creating a storm that could potentially be disastrous in both the internal investigation and the criminal case.**

All we ask for is that a fair process takes place to protect the rights of our members. It is clear, given the reasons stated, why this is not a fair process.



Dale Bormann  
President  
Milwaukee Police Association