



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 15, 2016

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Rep. Johnson & Rep. Goyke Joint Statement Regarding Events In Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE- Today State Representative LaTonya Johnson (D-17) and State Representative Evan Goyke (D-18) issued the following statements regarding the events over the weekend in Milwaukee:

State Rep. LaTonya Johnson:

"Today, we call for calm in our community, but also demand action. Our city does not need a military intervention, we need a humanitarian response-- we need a surge of support for at-risk youth and their families, and we need to provide our law enforcement with the mandate and the resources necessary to reduce crime and improve community-policing initiatives. Most importantly, though, we need to listen to what the community is telling us-- that they don't condone violence and destruction of local businesses, but they also understand the deep well of anger and frustration that results from decades of declining opportunities and rising poverty that have been allowed to take hold in parts of our city.

Sunday morning, we saw hundreds of residents come out of their homes to assist in the clean-up of the neighborhood. Milwaukee showed that when we respond with action and with resources, there are people that are ready and willing to do whatever they can to restore their neighborhood's vitality. As policy makers, we have the responsibility to ensure that our State Government helps supply the tools we need to rebuild."

State Rep. Evan Goyke:

"Listening and understanding is often difficult in difficult times, but my hope is that we listen and seek to understand why the events over the weekend unfolded the way they did. We know that everyday too many people wake up in a world without honest opportunity and too many law enforcement officers are called to be more than resources allow. This is not sustainable. We must break this cycle by listening to the voices of those who have been ignored for far too long, as well as those sworn to protect and serve our communities.

Milwaukee is defined not only by acts of protest, but also by acts of healing. On Sunday I joined hundreds of my neighbors to work together in service, to heal, clean the neighborhood, and begin the process of positive and sustained change. I believe our community can grow and succeed together. I hope this weekend is a call that is answered."

Together Rep. Goyke and Rep. Johnson pledge to continue to work together to help heal the community. It starts first with listening and ends with legislative action in Madison. In the coming days, weeks, and months, Representatives Johnson and Goyke will be working on strategies to better improve community and police relationships and welcome positive, solution based input.

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