



# DAVE MURPHY

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## **Rep. Murphy Statement on Mitchell Comments**

(Madison)...Representative Dave Murphy (R-Greenville) issued the following statement after hearing about comments from UW Director of Community Relations Everett Mitchell at a best policing practices community panel on the UW Madison campus earlier this week:

“What I heard on the radio news report shocked me. I am stunned that Mr. Mitchell, speaking publicly in his official capacity, would condone crime at any level and expect to face no consequences. His comments show disrespect for people who obey our laws, work hard and want to be treated fairly. Implying that any business, whether it is a small local one or a ‘big box’ store, can magically recover stolen goods is wrong. We have penalties for crimes to reduce their occurrence and seek some kind of justice for those who have been affected by the crime.

“What on earth would compel someone to say ludicrous things like ‘*communities should decide what laws get enforced*’ or prosecution of shoplifting is ‘over policing’? This is bad enough, but when I found out Mitchell is an attorney, is lauded as a community leader, and is someone who engages in community relations on behalf of our University of Wisconsin, I was astounded and upset.”

Murphy went on to say that reckless comments like these erode trust on all levels with those you are serving and the community at large. “It is a shame to have a possibly constructive discussion overshadowed by unfortunate comments that are this polarizing.”

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