



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Murphy Calls for Accountability for Violence and Destruction in Capital

MADISON, WI — This week, uninterrupted acts of violence and destruction resulted in damage to the State Capitol grounds and critical city infrastructure. Rioters were allowed to firebomb a municipal building that houses children in the juvenile detention center. The firebombing also disrupted 911 services across the entire region. Multiple bystanders were also attacked by rioters, including State Senator Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee).

State Representative Dave Murphy (R-Greenville) issued the following statement:

“I strongly support the First Amendment and right to protest, but when protesters become shields for Marxist criminals, we need to question the inaction of the governor and Madison mayor. People who loot, riot, or assault should be arrested, prosecuted, and punished.

“My colleague Sen. Carpenter was severely injured, a Black man avoiding people in the street with his vehicle was beaten and robbed, and the juvenile detention center was firebombed by rioters. The symbols of freedom that were torn down represent the best ideals of Wisconsin and must be replaced; however, I’m most deeply troubled by the human lives put in danger, including those of children. Destruction and violence will not solve the problems we face. While the legislature doesn’t control law enforcement, I’ve called on the governor and Madison mayor to restore public safety and order.

“As we work to ensure justice for all, public safety and order must be upheld. I abhor violence. I cannot tolerate inaction by our public leaders when lives are at risk. It is critical that we protect life and livelihood. Whether it is Black Americans being beaten by police using excessive force or bystanders being beaten by rioters, we must work to end the violence in our state.

“In addition to restoring public order and allowing the police to do their jobs, we need our governor and mayors to support excellence in our police departments. We need to work harder to root out those few officers who abuse their power and restore public trust in our police force. I support police reforms that get rid of unions that protect bad behavior.

“While the governor and mayor of Madison have authority over a wide variety of law enforcement agencies, they seem content to sit back and hope the violence and destruction will magically go away. Wisconsin is dealing with the very real and serious crimes of looting, vandalism, and assault. We deserve serious leaders who are willing to take action instead of sitting things out.”

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