



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Sen. Craig and Rep. Sanfelippo Respond to Mayor Barrett's Distorted View of Crime in Milwaukee** *City of Milwaukee funds Streetcar instead of Police Officers*

**Madison, WI** — Today, State Senator David Craig (R-Town of Vernon) and Representative Joe Sanfelippo (R-New Berlin) responded to [Mayor Tom Barrett's press conference](#) claiming success on homicide and violence reduction in the City of Milwaukee.

Last month, Attorney General William Barr directed Federal DOJ resources be diverted to seven cities, including Milwaukee, due to violent crime rates high above the national average in an effort called "[Operation Relentless Pursuit](#)". Mayor Tom Barrett's 2020 budget proposal would cut 60 police officers.

***"The fact that the top law enforcement agency in the Trump Administration sees fighting crime in several major cities as a priority should send a clear message about the violent crime situation in Milwaukee," said Sen. Craig.***

In addition to a lower homicide rate, Mayor Barrett claims a reduction in "carjacking" crimes in 2019. Rep. Sanfelippo and Sen. Craig led efforts to make carjacking a felony in 2017.

***"The legislature took carjacking seriously by making it a felony. However, Milwaukee County officials continually undercharge carjacking as 'joyriding' which masks the true numbers and skews the data," said Rep. Sanfelippo. "It's no surprise Mayor Barrett made sure to cherry-pick carjacking data in his press conference."***

This week, Legislative Republicans unveiled the "Tougher on Crime" initiative, a legislative effort to reform deficiencies in the current criminal justice system and get tougher on crime.

***"Mayor Barrett funds streetcar operations in his budget, yet hasn't fully funded police officers," said Sen. Craig. "Rep. Sanfelippo and I are trying to help Milwaukee County residents with the 'Tougher on Crime' initiative, which is designed to bring some accountability those in the justice system who enable repeat offenders to get back out on the streets."***

***"I'm thankful the federal government can see the problem from 600 miles away," said Rep. Sanfelippo. "I just wish Mayor Barrett would look out his window and see for himself. I'm hopeful that our legislation will help address the crime problem."***