



COMMUNITY ALERT

Joint Committee on Finance
Public Hearing

March 18, 2015
10:00 am — 5:00 pm

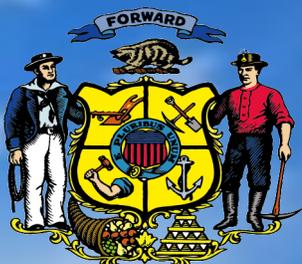
Brillion High School
Endries Performing Arts
Center

W1101 County Road HR
Brillion, WI 54110

Dear Friend,

Thank you for reading the legislative update. I hope you find the information provided here useful.

As Always,
I'm Here to
Serve



GOP RUSH TO ELIMINATE WAITING PERIOD FOR FIREARM PURCHASE



On Wednesday, Senate Republicans moved swiftly to pass Senate Bill 35 in the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety. This bill would eliminate the 48 hour waiting period required by law to do a background check on potential firearm buyers. The bill passed committee in a 3-2 vote, along party lines. Republicans made a decision not to provide background checks on all types of firearms and ignore public safety. Polling has shown that

nearly 74% of even members of the NRA support requiring background checks for all gun sales. At a time, when Wisconsin's lagging economy and stagnant wages, contribute to increased stress and mental health issues, we should not be eliminating options that help reduce tragic incidents of suicide and domestic violence. It is my hope that we will begin to focus the same ferocity used to rush this bill through, to tackle the real issues facing Wisconsin residents.

BLOODY SUNDAY REMEMBERED

March 7, 2015 marked the 50th anniversary of storied "Bloody Sunday". In 1965, a group of six hundred protesters gathered in Selma, Alabama to protest the unfair and illegal voting restrictions placed on African-Americans. Along with Dr. Martin L. King, Jr., they planned to march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, en route to the state capitol in Montgomery. Halfway across, the protesters were stopped by Alabama state troopers who ordered them to turn around. As the protesters kept marching, the state troopers shot tear gas and made their way through the crowd with their billy clubs, beating the nonviolent and steadfast protesters. Televised across the nation, the events during and following Bloody Sunday spurred the passage of the Voting Rights Act on August 6, 1965. Decades later, the fight to vote remains. Systematic plans, in the form of Voter ID Laws, restrictions on early voting, and the elimination of same-day voter registration are the modern day billy clubs and beatings. Their work must be continued..





Community Brainstorming Conference

FREE

**Gun Violence, Urban
Neighborhoods,
Protecting Families and
"Precious Lives "**

**March 28, 2015
St. Matthew Church
2944 North 9th Street**

**Breakfast: 8:00 AM Pro-
gram: 9:00 AM**

Senator Taylor's Office

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Contact Us!

**We Enjoy Hearing
From You!**



FALLOUT FROM FERGUSON

Last week, the U. S. Department of Justice (DOJ) released a report on the Ferguson Police Department following the shooting of unarmed African American teenager Michael Brown. The DOJ investigation found a number of incriminating practices undertaken by Ferguson police. One such practice was the department's policy to enforce criminal and traffic laws simply for the purpose of raising revenue. Officers admitted feeling pressured to issue these citations, that accounted for their 2nd largest source of revenue. According to the report, "African-Americans account for 85 percent of vehicle stops, 90 percent of citations, and 93 percent of arrests made by FPD officers." In response to these findings, U.S. Rep. Emmanuel Cleaver (D) from Missouri stated on March 9, that he will introduce a bill, called the "Fair Justice Act" which would outlaw such law enforcement practices, making them civil rights violations, punishable by up to five years in jail. I am working on similar legislation for Wisconsin.



(Photo: Courtesy H...)

FREE HAIRCUTS WITH A PURPOSE



Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II is encouraging residents to take part in Safe & Sound, Inc.'s Barber-shop Mondays. This initiative will provide free haircuts every Monday for youth and men, age 12 and older, at barbershops across the 15th Aldermanic District. In line with Safe & Sound's mission of uniting residents, youth, law enforcement and community resources to build safe and empowered neighborhoods, H.O.M.E Team (Heroes Operating In

Milwaukee Everyday) has been created as a means to promote neighborhood connectivity, positive youth engagement in the community, and project-based opportunities for creativity and leadership development. The H.O.M.E Team is coordinating the Barber-shop Mondays effort. According to Stamper, "The free haircuts on Barber-shop Mondays are meant to facilitate mentorship, networking and communication opportunities while also boosting self-esteem. The barbershop setting is a way of imparting positive knowledge, connections and ideas on youth and men who can then carry that forward." In exchange for grooming services, patrons will sweep their own hair and

Wise Words of the Week!

*"My thoughts and prayers are with the Ferguson
Community, both Citizens and Police."*

~Sen. Lena C. Taylor