



## Crime is Destroying Milwaukee – It's Time for Change:

For more information contact:

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Rep. Brandtjen- (608) 267-2367

Why would a Suburban lawmaker question funding a lawless Milwaukee? Simple; leadership has failed Milwaukee and the entire state is tired of paying for the ongoing hopelessness.

As a "suburban lawmaker", I was born and raised in Milwaukee. I graduated from MPS and UW-Milwaukee. I bought my first home and gave birth to my first child in Milwaukee. When you add in that my husband and I financially sacrifice to send our kids to choice schools in Milwaukee you can tell Mandela Barnes to save his divisive racist rhetoric. I've lived in Milwaukee longer than he has. Milwaukee needs action not empty rhetoric and excuses.

What is that action?

The solutions are simple; more officers on the street to get the bad guys, enough detectives to make sure the casework is current and judges who will send criminals to jail with stiffer sentences.

Milwaukee is down 300 officers. Mayor Barrett needs to make that his top priority. No more infrastructure, TIDs or trolleys, the Mayor must make safety a major part of his budget. No excuses.

The no chase policy must end. This vision of keeping citizens safe sounded good, but it has tied the hands of law enforcement and the decision to chase needs to lie with the officers on a case by case basis. The policy encourages illegal behavior because criminals know they won't be pursued.

The Juvenile Justice System has been returning repeat offenders to the streets. Four of the five teenage offenders who drove recklessly and nearly caused a head on collision with law enforcement had lengthy records. How is this possible? Is it true that electronic monitoring is not monitored at night in Milwaukee? I know that the Legislature only recently passed a law that allowed judges to see prior criminal activity on minors in Milwaukee after it was exposed that judges had no access to criminal history. Where was the Mayor on that? How did this action take 18 months? The rest of the state had that capability. So who got fired? Where is the expertise we would expect? Who is accountable?

What is most frustrating to the taxpayers in the suburbs is that we are labeled indifferent about the 162 homicides, the hundreds of carjacking's, or the dozens of children killed by stray bullets. Nonsense, the

entire state is taken aback when we reveal how bad the crime actually is in many parts of the city. Half of the violent crime in the entire State of Wisconsin happens in Milwaukee.

A fundamental change in policy must occur. The legislature cannot sit back and let the situation deteriorate further. Residents of the suburbs don't have a vote to elect the mayor, police chief or county executive, but our taxes do pay for a large part of their ineffective policies. It is six months to the next state budget. I look forward to hearing from the leaders of Milwaukee on real solutions to the crime problems in Milwaukee.

State Representative Janel Brandtjen