

CHRIS LARSON STATE SENATOR

November 3rd, 2021

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor Erik Brooks leaves an impressive legacy; South Milwaukee will miss his leadership

MILWAUKEE, WI - Senator Larson released the following statement regarding South Milwaukee Mayor Erik Brooks' announcement that he will be stepping down from his post later this month:

"I am sad to see Mayor Brooks' era of South Milwaukee come to a close. A dedicated public servant, my friend Erik Brooks has faithfully served our neighbors as an elected official for over 12 years, seven of those as mayor.

"A great neighbor and a proven leader, Mayor Brooks has maintained an open and optimistic outlook at all times. I have enjoyed serving with him and looked forward to the enthusiastic updates he'd give about all the amazing things happening our our neighborhood. His ability and eagerness to engage city employees, businesses, and local residents in frank discussions has led to improved city services, a reduction in local crime, and substantial new investments in South Milwaukee's future.

"Through his work with the Wisconsin League of Municipalities, Mayor Brooks has been a prominent and outspoken advocate for local control and innovation in local government across Wisconsin. Mayor Brooks fought for legislation in Madison that would close the "dark store loophole" and allow for local revenue flexibility, two bills which would have immediate positive effects on local budgets, property taxes, and services if enacted by state lawmakers.

"As he mentioned in his <u>heartfelt statement</u> announcing his resignation, Erik is not going away - far from it - and will remain an active and engaged citizen for years to come. I look forward to continuing to partner with him on initiatives to move our region forward and wish him the best of luck in all future endeavors."