

August 24, 2020

Kenosha Officer-Involved Shooting Governor Evers Special Session Call

Senator Steve Nass (R-Whitewater) issued the following statement in response to the officer-involved shooting in the City of Kenosha and the special session call by Governor Tony Evers:

"The officer-involved shooting of Jacob Blake in the City of Kenosha yesterday is a very serious situation and we all pray for his full recovery. In less than 24-hours, we have unfortunately witnessed rioting, looting and incendiary statements from both Governor Tony Evers and Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes prejudging the circumstances of this officer-involved shooting.

An independent and thorough investigation is underway by the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) of the Wisconsin Department of Justice. The Wisconsin Department of Justice is led by Attorney General Josh Kaul, a Democrat. The independent DCI investigators have conducted these types of inquiries before and will provide a fact-based report to the Kenosha County District Attorney and Attorney General Josh Kaul.

Governor Evers has rushed to call a special session for next week to address law enforcement reforms without the benefit of all the details relating to the Kenosha incident. If legislative leaders deem it appropriate to consider law enforcement reforms next week, I will be calling on Assembly Speaker Robin Vos and Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald to schedule a concurrent extraordinary session to address other necessary reforms in response to government abuses of power including:

1.) Rescinding by joint resolution, the Emergency Declaration issued by Governor Evers on July 30, 2020.

2.) Legislation to dramatically curtail the powers of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and local public health officials under Chapter 252 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

3.) Schedule a vote in the State Senate on rejecting the appointment of DHS Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm."

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