



**Tom Barrett**  
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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November 6, 2014

Dear Resident:

Tomorrow the Milwaukee Common Council will address two important amendments to the 2015 Budget. These amendments would eliminate police officers and reduce police overtime.

Eliminating 12 additional officers over our 2014 staffing level and cutting 25,000 hours of overtime may seem inconsequential. I disagree. I believe these are important investments; investments we can afford and investments that will enhance all the other neighborhood initiatives we are undertaking.

I have never, and will never say, police alone can solve all our public safety issues.

In 2015, we're putting in \$1 million dollars for 130 transitional jobs. Our total spending on the Strong Neighborhood Program (our response to the foreclosure crisis) will reach \$22 million in 2015. Over the last few years, I've pulled together over \$1 million dollars annually in private and public funds to place more than 2,000 young Milwaukeeans per year in summer jobs. A strong capital budget combined with our Resident Preference Program generates about \$6 million dollars a year in wages for Milwaukeeans, many of them underemployed or unemployed residents.

This year, I worked with Alderman Hamilton to secure the funds for trauma specialists. My administration worked with members of the Council to add nuisance property inspectors and to phase-in Community Service Officers. I'm proud of the fact that we can work together to address areas of common concern.

Budgeting is about priorities and funding what we can afford. This year we can afford to fund an additional 12 police office so that deploying 85 police officers and achieving an average annual strength of 1,880 sworn Police Officers will be accomplished. The strength level is an increase of 12 officers from the 2014 budget, when the average annual strength was 1,868, and is the highest budgeted average sworn strength since 2012. We can also afford to continue funding the department's overtime budget at \$12.5 million, the same as 2014. Reducing overtime by \$1.2 million will result in 25,000 fewer overtime hours available for summer deployments.

We must continue to focus on building and maintaining strong and safe neighborhoods. I have always, and will continue, to support a multi-faceted approach to safer neighborhoods. I believe that this year, we have struck the right balance.

Please call or email your Common Council member, or all members, and tell them to reject the amendments to cut 12 additional police recruits and police overtime **before 9 am on Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**. Please forward my request to your friends and neighbors.

I thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Barrett".

Tom Barrett  
Mayor

**Common Council City Clerk Office Phone Number: 414-286-2221.**  
**Email [Common Council](#)**

**Email for Common Council Members by District:**

- (1) [Hamilton, Ashanti](#)
- (2) [Davis Sr., Joe](#)
- (3) [Kovac, Nik](#)
- (4) [Bauman, Robert](#)
- (5) [Bohl, James](#)
- (6) [Coggs, Milele](#)
- (7) [Wade, Willie](#)
- (8) [Donovan, Robert](#)
- (9) [Puente, Robert](#)
- (10) [Murphy, Michael](#)
- (11) [Dudzik, Joseph](#)
- (12) [Perez, Jose](#)
- (13) [Witkowski, Terry](#)
- (14) [Zielinski, Tony](#)
- (15) [Stamper II, Russell](#)