



PO Box 13143 Wauwatosa, WI 53213

August 6, 2020

PRESS RELEASE

The Wauwatosa Peace Officers Association (WPOA) demands clarifications from Wauwatosa Mayor Dennis McBride and Alderperson Heather Kuhl.

On July 30, 2020, the WPOA released a statement addressing concern over the actions of Mayor McBride and Alderperson Kuhl to exert influence and pressure on the Police and Fire Commission (PFC). Specifically, Alderperson Kuhl sent an e-mail to the Commission which, instead of focusing on facts, asserted that so long as Officer Mensah represents the police department “we cannot purport to have any serious conversations about repairing the damage of our past.”

The WPOA is not sure how the historic “damage” of the City’s past relates to the facts of Officer Mensah’s job performance, or what Alderperson Kuhl claimed in her email to the PFC to be an urgent need to terminate Officer Mensah.

We also ask Mayor McBride to clarify how Alderperson Kuhl’s email: 1) did not taint the due process to which Officer Mensah is entitled, given that it was presented to the PFC and contained within the documents provided to the PFC, and 2) did not unethically influence perceptions of Officer Mensah’s reputation and character beyond the facts of the matter.

Lastly, Mayor McBride has misinformed the public by incorrectly telling the Journal Sentinel that “experts we have consulted tell us that Officer Mensah is unique, in that no other officer in America has shot and killed three people while on duty, and in such a short time span (five years).” The Mayor has made that same inaccurate statement in email replies to community members.



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Had Mayor McBride engaged us directly in conversation early on, we could have corrected this false “expert” claim. For example, we could have pointed out how a Brown County (FL) Sheriff’s Deputy was unfortunately involved in three fatal shootings from 2009-2011, and a fourth fatal shooting in 2015.¹

As that deputy had to defend himself against violence that led to three fatal shootings within a three year period, Officer Mensah cannot possibly be classified as “unique” as Mayor McBride falsely claimed.

We also could have cited other examples as well to help prevent Mayor McBride from further misinforming and misleading the public.

We hope that Mayor McBride and Alderperson Kuhl will provide clarification and further explanation on these matters, so that their positions can be better understood, and the public can be better informed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Milotzky". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

John Milotzky, WPOA President

¹https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/for-55-officers-involved-in-fatal-shootings-this-year-it-wasnt-their-first-time/2015/12/22/435cb680-9d04-11e5-a3c5-c77f2cc5a43c_story.html