



# *Milwaukee County*

## Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr., 10<sup>th</sup> District

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### **ECONOMIC DEVASTATION BEGETS CRIME AND VIOLENCE**

**Milwaukee, WI** – Milwaukee County Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr., released the following statement Thursday afternoon responding to Milwaukee’s fifth homicide in five days:

“2012 has gotten off to a rough start. Unfortunately, this level of violence has become an everyday occurrence for communities of color in Milwaukee. This is unacceptable. Our communities deserve better and they deserve more.

“Nevertheless, violence is a symptom of an overall sickness called poverty. In this city, we have failed the poor and working class people that we claim to serve. We have left nothing but impoverished boarded up neighborhoods, failing school systems, and a lack of economic base and job opportunities. What options do people and our children on the north side and the south side have? People are devoid of options, of hope.

“Status quo leadership and politics has failed to address the needs of the people, especially communities of color, time and time again. We must change our social and economic policies to serve those needs if we truly want to change this around. While I highly respect the sacrifices made by the dedicated men and women who put their lives on the line every day to protect and serve, more police won't solve this problem. More economics will.

“How bad do things have to get before we realize that things have to change. No more conferences, no more reforms that just promote the appearance of change. Instead, we need a true shake up to change this level of poverty and violence into high levels of jobs, employment, entrepreneurship, quality education and economic opportunities. Let's build healthy communities to enhance the quality of life for every man, woman, boy and girl in this city. I'm sick of violence, poverty and things staying the same. Aren't you?

“The violence that we are witnessing and living is a result of the economic and social violence communities of color have been suffering from the hands of failing institutions in this city, state and country. Violence begets more violence.”

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