

## **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

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- Finance and Personnel Committee
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**MICHAEL J. MURPHY**  
ALDERMAN, 10TH DISTRICT

August 27, 2018

Paul E. Maxwell  
Assistant Special Agent in Charge – Chicago and Milwaukee  
U.S. Department of Justice – Drug Enforcement Agency  
4725 West Electric Ave.  
West Milwaukee, WI 53219

RE: Opioid Prescriptions and Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

Dear Assistant Special Agent in Charge Paul E. Maxwell,

As Co-Chair of the City-County Heroin, Opioid, and Cocaine Task Force, I am contacting your office to request information relative to the actions of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has taken to address clinics and physicians who are overprescribing, or illegally prescribing opioids.

Opioids are having a devastating impact in the City of Milwaukee and the surrounding communities. As a result, the Task Force will pursue various strategies that focus on reducing the supply of opioids. One of the means to address the availability of opioids is to ensure clinics and physicians who are overprescribing, or illegally prescribing opioids are held accountable.

At one of the regularly scheduled Task Force meetings, on July 21, 2017, DEA Diversion Control Division supervisor, Kathy Federico, testified that there are doctors who are not utilizing the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), and there are no consequences to physicians or clinics who do not utilize the PDMP.

While recognizing that there are patients with legitimate needs for these prescriptions, it is essential to the effort of reducing the supply of opioids by pursuing establishments and physicians who overprescribe. Therefore, the Task Force was hoping your office would be able to provide information regarding the steps the DEA has taken relative to these clinics and physicians. In addition, has the PDMP been an effective tool in combatting the opioid epidemic, and are physicians required to comply with the PDMP.

I look forward to continuing to work with your office going forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Murphy".

Michael J. Murphy  
Alderman, 10<sup>th</sup> District