



CITY OF MILWAUKEE

City Hall, 200 E. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202 • [www.city.milwaukee.gov](http://www.city.milwaukee.gov)

April 22, 2019

Mr. John T. Chisolm  
Milwaukee County District Attorney  
821 W. State St., Room 405  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Mr. Chisolm:

For many months now, the Milwaukee Common Council has been trying to come to an understanding of precisely what went so dreadfully wrong within the Milwaukee Health Department – and particularly its lead abatement programs – during the latter part of the tenure of former Commissioner Bevan Baker. Multiple hearings have been held, testimony has been taken, and the Council even took the unusual step of declaring the process a formal investigation entitling it to subpoena power under State Statutes.

As of this writing, it seems clear that fault for this tragic dysfunction rests with many people who held varying levels of administrative authority. Much of this work is documented in this Common Council File:

<https://milwaukee.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3312411&GUID=5B84AD27-4617-49A8-AC61-5B1D307ED484&Options=&Search=>

All the council members involved in this process pursued it in the hope that clear culpability would be established and, as appropriate, punishment brought. We believed this was the only way to assure the public that those responsible were held accountable and appropriate measures were taken to prevent their recurrence. While we continue to wait for an audit of the Health Department to begin in the coming weeks, we also thought it prudent to contact you and ask if there were any circumstances that you believe could rise to the level of an offense prosecutable by your office.

It may be true that this was a story of bureaucratic misfeasance that had horrible results. We, however, felt obligated to make every outreach we could in search of answers.

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Ashanti Hamilton in black ink.

Ashanti Hamilton,  
Council President

Handwritten signature of Robert G. Donovan in black ink.

Robert G. Donovan,  
Alderman, 8<sup>th</sup> District