



**Tom Barrett**  
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

---

March 1, 2018

Eloise Anderson  
Secretary  
Wisconsin Department of Children and Families  
201 East Washington Avenue, Second Floor  
P.O. Box 8916  
Madison, WI 53703

Chris Abele  
County Executive  
Milwaukee County  
Milwaukee County Courthouse  
901 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 306  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Brad Schimel  
Attorney General  
Wisconsin Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 7857  
Madison, WI 53707

Maxine White  
Chief Judge  
Milwaukee County Courts  
901 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 609  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

John Chisholm  
District Attorney  
Milwaukee County District Attorney  
821 W. State Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Alfonso Morales  
Chief of Police  
Milwaukee Police Department  
749 W. State Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Colleagues:

I'm writing to you today to express my concerns with the findings and recommendations contained in the report "Estimating the Magnitude of Sex Trafficking Risk and Victimization of Juveniles and Young Adults, City of Milwaukee 1/01/2013 through 12/31/2016."

The report, issued today by the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission, Rethink Resources, Medical College of Wisconsin Institute for Health and Equity, Milwaukee Sexual Assault Review and the Milwaukee Police Department – Sensitive Crimes Division, identified 340 individuals who were confirmed or believed to have been sex trafficked. Of that group, 231 individuals were analyzed for the report.

The majority of the individuals identified were female (97%), almost two-thirds African American and one fourth White and about half (49%) were between the ages of 14 and 17 at the time of their first reported incident of sex trafficking.

In 2013, 31 individuals were confirmed to have been trafficked, 59 confirmed in 2014, 55 in 2015 and, in 2016, 76 individuals were confirmed to have been trafficked.

The numbers alone are sobering but the narrative on group homes is most concerning and, frankly, disturbing. Given the feedback from law enforcement, medical systems, child welfare advocates and interviews with individuals from group homes, addressing the issues related to sex trafficking and group homes was a priority for all parties. As a result, there are seven recommendations directly tied to group homes.

In addition, there are recommendations addressing prevention and support, training for law enforcement professionals and service providers, enforcement and charging of laws, and legislative action.

I have asked the Homicide Review Commission and the Medical College of Wisconsin to convene a meeting so we can (1) get a full review of the report's findings and recommendations and (2) launch the process of implementing the necessary reforms and strategies to tackle sex trafficking in Milwaukee.

I have also asked that the community partners engaged in the report, Children's Hospital's Proactive Outreach for the Health of Sexually Exploited Youth (POHSEY), the Collaborative Rapid Advocacy for Youth (CRAY) and the City's Office of Violence Prevention and its Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault be included.

I trust that we all agree the issue of sex trafficking as well as the related system issues require our collective attention and action.

I look forward to our meeting and working with all of you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Barrett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "B".

Tom Barrett  
Mayor

Cc: Mark Mertens  
Reggie Moore  
Patricia McManus  
Ashanti Hamilton  
Mallory O'Brien