

MEMBER

- Licenses Committee
- Public Safety and Health Committee
- Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- National League of Cities Community and Economic Development Federal Advocacy Committee
- National League of Cities Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee
- Milwaukee Continuum of Care
- Ethics Advisory Committee – Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
- City-County Carjacking and Reckless Driving Task Force



CHANTIA LEWIS
ALDERWOMAN, 9TH DISTRICT

We must work together to put an end to reckless driving

Statement of Alderwoman Chantia Lewis June 20, 2019

Unfortunately, we are grieving the fourth loss of one of our heroes in 13 months.

First and foremost, we want to thank Police Officer Her for his service and sacrifice during his tenure as a dedicated public servant for the City of Milwaukee. Anytime we lose any of our heroes there is a shadow of grief over the City, and that grief stabs deep when we lose one of our heroes in a senseless and completely preventable manner. Losing Officer Her to a reckless drunk driver -- while he was off duty -- should be more than enough inspiration for us to make sure that this does not happen again.

I have been working as a member of the newly-formed City-County Carjacking and Reckless Driving Task Force, searching for solutions on how to stop this epidemic that plagues the City. My Council colleagues and I agree that something must be done to address the critical reckless driving problem in Milwaukee, and that it is a problem that goes beyond politics and elections, and is about saving lives. I will try my hardest to do whatever I can to find ways to target this issue. This problem is near and dear to my heart because I have experienced personal loss to this type of senseless act of violence. I lost my cousin, Philip Franklin, when his daily drive home from work was interrupted by a reckless driver on Milwaukee streets. I also am a mother with children who will be taking to the road soon as drivers and I never want to receive the heart-breaking sentence that I just lost my child in an accident.

There is only so much we can do with laws and regulations; but there are amazing steps that all of us can take at home to fight this crisis. If you see a friend or a family member wanting to drive after having too many drinks, take their keys and stop them. Yes, they may be angry at you in the moment but understand that you are not just saving their life but someone else's, too. Educate your children that reckless driving or just being a passenger in one is not cool. Friends tell your friends to not speed because as a reckless driver they are not only endangering their own life, but they are endangering yours as well!

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I'm writing this not as Alderwoman Chantia Lewis but as "mom" Chantia Lewis, as "neighbor" Chantia Lewis, as "friend" Chantia Lewis. I'm writing this because I care about making sure your kids get home safe as much as I care about my own kids getting home safe. I'm writing this as someone who just had to listen to the cries of a mother who lost her son because his friend was running from the police.

So please: Let's address this as a community. I will do all I can on my end and I'm asking you to do the same.

Together we can end reckless driving.

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