



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Mark Spreitzer Reiterates Support for June 2020 Policing Reform Package, Applauds Governor's Special Session Call Following the Shooting of Jacob Blake

MADISON - State Representative Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) released the following statement:

“After the horrific shooting of Jacob Blake by Kenosha Police last night, Governor Evers has called for the legislature to meet in a special session on policing reform next Monday, August 31st. As we offer our prayers for Jacob Blake’s recovery, we must match those prayers with meaningful action against systemic racism. Today’s call for a special session on policing reform would not be necessary if the Legislature had come in to address these issues and passed these bills two months ago, when Wisconsin’s Legislative Black Caucus called for urgent action on these bills.

“The Speaker of the Assembly announced today that he wants to form a task force to study these issues. The time for study has come and gone - we already know that reform is desperately needed. This is part of a pattern of behavior from Speaker Vos, who dodges responsibility through delay and inaction. Just like the COVID-19 pandemic, the Speaker cannot pretend that systemic racism will solve itself.

“The policing reform package is a data-driven response to the urgent and widespread problem of racial bias in our criminal justice system. Wisconsinites cannot afford to wait. The legislature must meet in a special session next Monday to vote on meaningful reforms to ensure transparency and accountability from law enforcement.”

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