



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Rep. Bowen Statement on One-Year Anniversary of the Killing of Alvin Cole**  
*"Our Goal is ... Justice and Dignity"*

MILWAUKEE - State Rep. David Bowen (D-Milwaukee) released the following statement in recognition of the one-year anniversary of the killing of 17-year-old Wauwatosa teenager Alvin Cole by then-Wauwatosa Police Officer Joseph Mensah:

"One year ago today, Alvin Cole's light went out of this world. Alvin was a child who was not perfect, and who needlessly was made to pay for his imperfection with his life. A child. A Black child from Milwaukee, frequenting the suburb of Wauwatosa's local shopping mall. Today we mourn the loss of this young man, and we mourn the loss of the potential that the years ahead of Alvin may have held. We also pray for the Cole family, and we stand with them in their ongoing struggle for justice. But in our sadness, in our grief, we recommit once again to bringing change to Alvin's community, to this state, and to this country. We recommit to the idea that no police officer has the right to be judge, jury and executioner, and that no child deserves a death sentence. We recommit to demanding top leadership in policing that doesn't turn a blind eye to the excessive use of force when other more dignified options can and should be used.

Today, I also urge those who have been fearful or opposed to the idea of reform to take a moment to listen to those who march for change - our goal is not lawlessness or baseless critiques of law enforcement, but rather justice and dignity. I pray all come to the table laid before us, and work together to build a future that celebrates and preserves life; a future that ensures safety and justice for *all*."

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(Image via Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel)