



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ohnstad Statement: One Year Later

KENOSHA - Today marks one year after an officer-involved shooting left Jacob Blake paralyzed in Kenosha, garnering international news coverage and further highlighting the need for action and attention on issues surrounding use of force, law enforcement training, and racial injustice.

Representative Tod Ohnstad (D-Kenosha) offered the following statement on the progress made in our community and the need for further reforms:

"One year ago today our hometown was deeply impacted by a law enforcement interaction that resulted in a man losing his ability to walk and unrest that led to the loss of lives and further injuries. Innocent small business and property owners were also victimized as ill-intentioned individuals committed acts of violence and vandalism among otherwise peaceful planned demonstrations.

We have come a long way. As I began talking to the people touched by these events beginning a year ago and over the intervening months, this was obviously a tragic situation, but in many ways it has also shown the spirit of the people of Kenosha. The community has really come together, helped one another, and connected through groups and discussions. Local leadership has responded in earnest as we repair and rebuild, as well as providing a plan and pathway for the future of our city, in addition to reforms such as the use of body cameras and rebuilding the Uptown area.

Local small business recovery continues thanks to assistance from Governor Tony Evers and multi-millions in major investments. He acted immediately to propose common sense legislation to address many of the issues the shooting underscored. Gov. Evers has been there for Kenosha since the moment he received the first call on this and provided the variety of critical resources the city requested to respond.

I was proud to support and cosponsor bipartisan legislation that was adopted by the Legislature and signed into law related to law enforcement policies and training. However, while these provided a step in the right direction, clearly further reflection, reform, and resources are also necessary. Without a doubt, there is still more work to do, but Kenosha is a great place to live because we are both so diverse and so united."

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