



# Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

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## VIA ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL DELIVERY

December 1, 2021

Mr. John T. Chisholm  
Milwaukee County District Attorney  
821 W. State St., Room 405  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear District Attorney Chisholm:

I write to you today as a governor with a heavy heart. As an educator, father, and grandfather, the tragedy that unfolded in Waukesha on Sunday, November 21, 2021, was gut-wrenching. Kids, families, and community members were gathered to celebrate the holiday season for the first time back together since this pandemic began at the 2021 Waukesha Christmas Parade. They went to their local parade—events ordinarily filled with joy, celebration, and community—only to have their lives forever changed by an unthinkable act of violence committed by a dangerous individual who should not have been on our streets. The innocent lives lost and the many severely injured, including kids and older adults, have been devastating both for the city of Waukesha and our entire state.

Many of us have spent the interceding days mourning this tragedy and the lives taken from us. So, too, we spent these days rightfully seeking answers for how this tragedy happened, justice for those families and the Waukesha community, and solutions necessary to ensure something like this never happens again. I understand there is presently an internal investigation being conducted by your office into the bail set for the accused, Darrell Brooks Jr., on previous, pending charges. I support this investigation. While Mr. Brooks' charges required a level of bail be set, as you indicated, the level set was, at a minimum, "inappropriately low."

It is to this end and in the pursuit of answers, justice, and solutions I write to you today. I am writing to formally request that your investigation and the essential, subsequent actions that must come after its conclusion address apparent failings that occurred in this case and account for the following priorities:

- Impartiality. A bond recommendation in one county can have a devastating effect on a neighboring community, the likes of which can have a profound impact on this state. I appreciate that you quickly issued a statement on Mr. Brooks' bond. Equally important is ensuring impartiality in this investigation and evaluation, which is the first step for restoring public confidence in our justice system.
- Transparency and accountability. It is my understanding that the bond recommendation, in this case, was inconsistent with your office's approach. While transparency and accountability will not bring back the

lives lost, ensuring this process is transparent is essential for accountability so there can be justice and healing moving forward.

- Remediation. While this bond recommendation might have been a deviation from office policy and the risk assessments available at the time, the state deserves clear, comprehensive assurances that bail recommendations made by your office in the future will not compromise community safety.

I have full confidence in local officials' commitment to the robust, impartial review of this case, which is key to ensuring healing, accountability, and meaningful solutions to prevent this from ever happening again. I look forward to reviewing the results of your investigation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Evers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tony Evers  
Governor