

From: Michael Crivello <crivello@milwaukeeecops.org>  
Date: Tue, Feb 3, 2015 at 2:20 PM  
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: MPA comment on DDR review  
To: Ashley Luthern <aluthern@jrn.com>  
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In response: Journal Sentinel Feb. 3, 2015/ Milwaukee's flawed duty disability system may be impossible to fix...

<http://www.jsonline.com/watchdog/watchdogreports/milwaukees-flawed-duty-disability-system-may-be-impossible-to-fix-b99438108z1-290668441.html>

If the Milwaukee duty disability system is flawed in any way – it is not due to the Milwaukee Police Association. To be clear, there certainly are former officers receiving a Duty Disability Retirement (DDR); however, each case is adjudicated on the individual merits and ultimately thoroughly scrutinized by accredited doctors.

The City has officers on DDR for a vast array of issues. Our officers routinely are exposed to the worst of the worst: direct encounter – scenes that would rival the goriest horror movies ever produced; while dealing with psychotic wanton killers all too often. We are all fortunate that we don't lose more officers to early retirement, or worse - suicide.

While the program may require study and review it [DDR] remains an absolute necessity to protect our besieged officers. Our officers are overwhelmed with endangerment, forever (daily) exposed to the harsh reality of the unknown. Currently we have officers on DDR that were shot in the face, suffered multiple gunshots, broken limbs, blinded, and/or severely injured in the performance of public safety; we also have officers who have stressed off the job – those that were exposed to one too many horrific encounters... there does come a breaking point to functionality.

The MPA has reached out to both the Department and the City. I have personally pledged a willingness to collaborate in effort to assure the program is administered properly and to identify potential improvement opportunities; at the same time I've requested chaplain services be established – most assuredly properly addressing and caring for an employee in need would mitigate the need for DDR.

The MPA has never been an impediment to enhancement – we are forged in professionalism and are appalled by any fraudulent DDR allowed by the city program. We are confident that the good citizens of which we are proud to protect and serve, would demand officers permanently injured in the line of duty must receive a Duty Disability Retirement.

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