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The Manipulation of the Truth, the Public, and Body Cams

(MADISON) – Today, in response to two videos released by the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) Senator Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee) offered the following statement:

“It is inconceivable to me that MPD would allow the behavior and reputation of Sterling Brown to be maligned, while withholding video of his interaction with officers for nearly 5 months. In the meantime and at taxpayer expense, they have made their own PR commercial to preempt the release of the Brown video. They have stood in front of an African-American congregation and asked them to stand by the police department through the challenges that lie ahead regarding Brown’s treatment...**Manipulation of the public.**”

“It stands in stark contrast to the recent response of Alpharetta, Georgia Police Chief John Robison. He promptly released a 17-minute-long traffic stop depicting an Alpharetta police officer aggressively grabbing, swearing and the removal of a 65-year-old woman from her car. Robison released a statement denouncing the actions of his officers and said, “It’s just not who we are”.

“The Milwaukee Police Department could have easily done the same. Instead former Chief of Police Ed Flynn, interim Chief Jim Harpole, and acting Chief Alfonso Morales each had an opportunity to address the abuse that took place, but instead they chose to protect the reputation of the police department...**Manipulation of the truth.**”

“Morales’ press conference was a sham. No questions, no video, no spine. And as for the body cams, I believe the sound was being manipulated. Are you seriously telling me that not ONE of the officers present had working audio on their body cam? And if so, why didn’t we hear it...**Manipulation of body cams.**”

“Let’s not omit the Mayor, the City Attorney and potentially the District Attorney. When will we have a mayor whose concern extends to everyone? A city attorney who negotiates officer involved settlements and is willing to say enough is enough? A D.A. that will prosecute these cases and let a jury decide the verdict?”

“Morales said he was sorry for Brown’s treatment. Was anybody sorry for Derek Williams, Terrill Thomas and countless others? Save the empty apologies. We need police officers capable of doing their jobs in a fair and unbiased way that honors their shield and respects the community that they serve. That starts with leadership.”