



CHRIS TAYLOR

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ♦ 76th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release

August 23, 2016

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**Rep. Taylor calls for adoption of conflict of interest
clarification to officer-involved death bill**

MADISON – In the aftermath of the officer-involved shooting in Milwaukee, Attorney General Brad Schimel acknowledged that former Milwaukee police officers, now working for the Department of Justice’s (DOJ) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI), are investigating the fatal incident. In response to this revelation, Rep. Chris Taylor (D-Madison) issued the following statement:

“As one of the authors of the officer-involved shooting legislation that requires outside, independent investigators, I can tell you that allowing former Milwaukee police officers to investigate their former department circumvents the true intention of the bill. This is something that has been recognized as problematic for some time, and I have had several meetings with the DOJ to urge them to adopt conflict of interest policies to prevent this situation because it creates an appearance of bias. They have refused to do so.

“Additionally, I authored a bill last session that would have addressed this situation, but my GOP colleagues refused to advance it. The bottom line is that you aren’t an outside investigator if you have formerly been employed by the police department you’re investigating. I’m calling on the DOJ to issue a formal policy prohibiting this type of conflict of interest and on the full legislature to pass my common-sense bill on a bipartisan basis to ensure that any investigator being brought in doesn’t have a previous relationship with the department in order to preserve the independence of the investigation.”

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