

August 1, 2024

To whom it may concern,

As the Chief of the UW-Milwaukee Police Department, I have focused my efforts on improving the University Police through the implementation of the concepts of 21st century policing, proactive policing, and actively working to ensure the competency of the members of the Department. During my tenure as Chief, I have accomplished many of my goals and my commendable performance has been recognized with favorable performance evaluations.

During the Spring of 2024, there were several antisemitic incidents on campus that the University leadership was reluctant to address even though they violated University policy. On April 19, 2024, the Milwaukee Jewish Federation and Hillel Milwaukee formally complained to Chancellor Mark Mone that students and community members were subjected to antisemitism and intimidation during a Jewish cultural event on campus. Chancellor Mone directly asked that I determine if the claims of antisemitism were true or exaggerated. I thoroughly investigated the incident and determined the claims of antisemitism were true.

My conclusion that antisemitism was present on campus was challenged by Head Legal Counsel, Joely Urdan, but supported by Chia Vang, the Vice Chancellor of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

On March 15, 2024, I was falsely accused of violating UWM Selected Academic and Administrative Policy 5-1, Discriminatory Conduct and Consensual Relationship Policy. Shortly thereafter, I was placed on administrative leave based on the false accusation that I was “surveilling a female police employee”. To date, I have never received any information or have been questioned relating to any such allegation.

I cooperated with the biased investigation led by Joely Urdan and provided evidence of gross incompetence and false statements by members of the Police Department. On June 3, 2024, the investigation concluded that I did not violate the Discriminatory Conduct and Consensual Relationship Policy. However, the evidence of gross incompetence and misconduct that I presented was ignored and was not investigated. Only after I sent correspondence to University of Wisconsin System President, Jay Rothman did an investigation commence.

On July 19, 2024, I was notified that the University was pursuing possible Code of Conduct violations. Despite my full cooperation, it has become obvious that the investigative process is corrupted, and the outcome is preordained.

After much contemplation, I have concluded that my trust in University leadership is broken. Therefore, I have chosen to resign and pursue other opportunities. Effective immediately, I resign as Chief of Police with the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Police Department.

Sincerely,

David A. Salazar Jr.

Chief of Police
University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
Police Department