

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 1, 2021

Tom Barrett
Mayor
City of Milwaukee
200 E. Wells Street, Room 201
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Jeffrey B. Norman
Acting Chief of Police
Milwaukee Police Department
749 W. State Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Mayor Barrett and Acting Chief Norman:

We write to you today regarding the murder of Mr. Bernell Trammell, who was shot and killed on July 23, 2020 outside of his storefront on East Wright Street in Milwaukee¹, which featured signs in support of former President Donald J. Trump.² It has been ten months since Mr. Trammell's death and the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) has yet to apprehend his killer. We urge MPD and the city of Milwaukee to use all available resources to find Mr. Trammell's killer and bring him to justice.

Mr. Trammell was a well-known member of the Milwaukee community. He has been described by members of the community as "a Milwaukee character".³ Many members of the Milwaukee community knew of Mr. Trammell for his religious and political signs and his eagerness to engage in civil political and philosophical discussions with his fellow citizens. He owned a small publication, eXpressions Journal, and ran it out of his storefront on East Wright Street. His storefront featured both religious and political signs, including ones with messages supporting former President Trump.

Mr. Trammel peacefully expressed his religious and political views, including his support for former President Trump. Due to anti-Trump sentiments in one of the most left-leaning neighborhoods in the state, we strongly suspect his murder was politically motivated. While all murders are tragic, murders to suppress political activity before an election is something one would only expect in a third world country. It is shocking that this could happen in Milwaukee. No American should live in fear for expressing a political opinion.

It is imperative that the city of Milwaukee make this investigation a priority and bring the killer to justice. The friends and family of Mr. Trammell deserve justice after 10 long months and Milwaukee's political minorities must have confidence that they can engage in peaceful political speech in all neighborhoods of the city. We hope the murder of Mr. Trammell continues

¹ Genevieve Redsten, "'He's like a Milwaukee character': Bernell Trammell, 60, was shot and killed on Thursday afternoon outside his office in Riverwest", Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, July 23, 2020, <https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/2020/07/23/man-shot-and-killed-thursday-afternoon-milwaukee/5498556002/>.

² Crystal Bonvillian, "Milwaukee police search for killer – and motive – in slaying of well-known Black Trump supporter", Fox 23, July 30, 2020, <https://www.fox23.com/news/trending/milwaukee-police-search-killer-motive-slaying-well-known-black-trump-supporter/T3MEKCYZSNEZRKQJWDXLHR614/>.

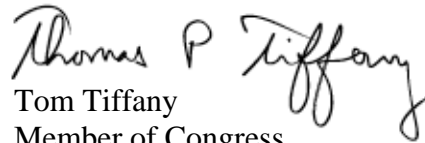
³ Op. Cit., Redsten.

to be of the utmost importance to MPD and the city of Milwaukee. We look forward to an update on the progress of this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glenn Grothman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas P. Tiffany". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress