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A seven-year old is dead. A child. She will not be in virtual school on her device this morning and her classmates will mourn her death while adults will struggle to help them process their collective trauma.

Thus, my condolences are insufficient and will fail to honor her memory. As well, press conferences by elected leaders and law enforcement shifting blame to community members reeling from the impact of violence, COVID-19 and unemployment is equally insufficient.

The neighborhoods that are experiencing the precipitous uptick in violence need an infusion of resources from infrastructure (see streets and sidewalks), housing, healthcare, and jobs.

The only thing any elected official can do is legislate policies that make our city safer for everyone, especially children.

I challenge every member of the common council and mayor to shift our collective outrage from pain to action. Our budget must prioritize an equitable allocation of our city's dollars into communities that have been left behind.

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