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HONADEL SEEKS TO CURB MOB VIOLENCE

Madison— State Representative Mark Honadel (R—South Milwaukee) is exploring new legislation that would bring stiffer penalties for those who take part in mob violence.

“Wisconsin families should not have to fear taking their children to a fair, park, or shopping mall because of mob violence,” Honadel said. “They should feel confident about their safety in public.”

Last week’s incident at the Wisconsin State Fair, as well as recent eruptions of mob violence in Philadelphia and around the country, has brought renewed attention to the issue.

“While communities are now striving to be more vigilant and law enforcement efforts have been increased, I believe we must provide them with an option to charge these criminals with stiffer penalties,” said Honadel. “I want to send the message that violent mobs will not be tolerated here in Wisconsin.”

Other states are enhancing their laws pertaining to mob action, including Illinois where legislation was introduced in June. The need to update the laws is due in part to changing technology that enables the ease and speed to organize through social networking groups.

“Our laws must keep up with technology that allows social groups to quickly form a ‘flash mob’ to cause harm and violence,” said Honadel.

Honadel said he is in the process of drafting a bill and looks forward to working with his colleagues on bringing forward this important legislation.

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