

EXCLUSIVE: Is Milwaukee Police Chief Alfonso Morales Going To Be Fired?

By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

Despite getting high marks from just about everybody, Milwaukee Police Chief Alfonso Morales may be in danger of being fired by Mayor Tom Barrett. Morales' contract is up in January and he has not been offered a new deal by the Milwaukee Police and Fire Commission, an agency controlled by Barrett.

Morales was hired after a contentious debate within the Commission about whether he or another high ranking police commander should get the position. The commission's executive director has since left the agency. The timing of Morales' lame duck status is of concern because of the planning process for next year's democratic National Convention.

Morales was named chief after the departure of controversial former Chief Edward Flynn. Milwaukee mayors have forever wanted police chiefs under their thumb but given that the chiefs are given contracts, it inevitably never works out that way.

Morales is considered an old school, law and order officer and is generally highly respected within the department. Morales pushed for more aggressive enforcement of car thieves and reckless drivers than his predecessor and has defended the police department's new policy of chasing most offenders. Barrett has not said anything about wanting to replace Morales but the chief's supporters are concerned that he has not been offered a new contract only a few months before his current term expires.

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