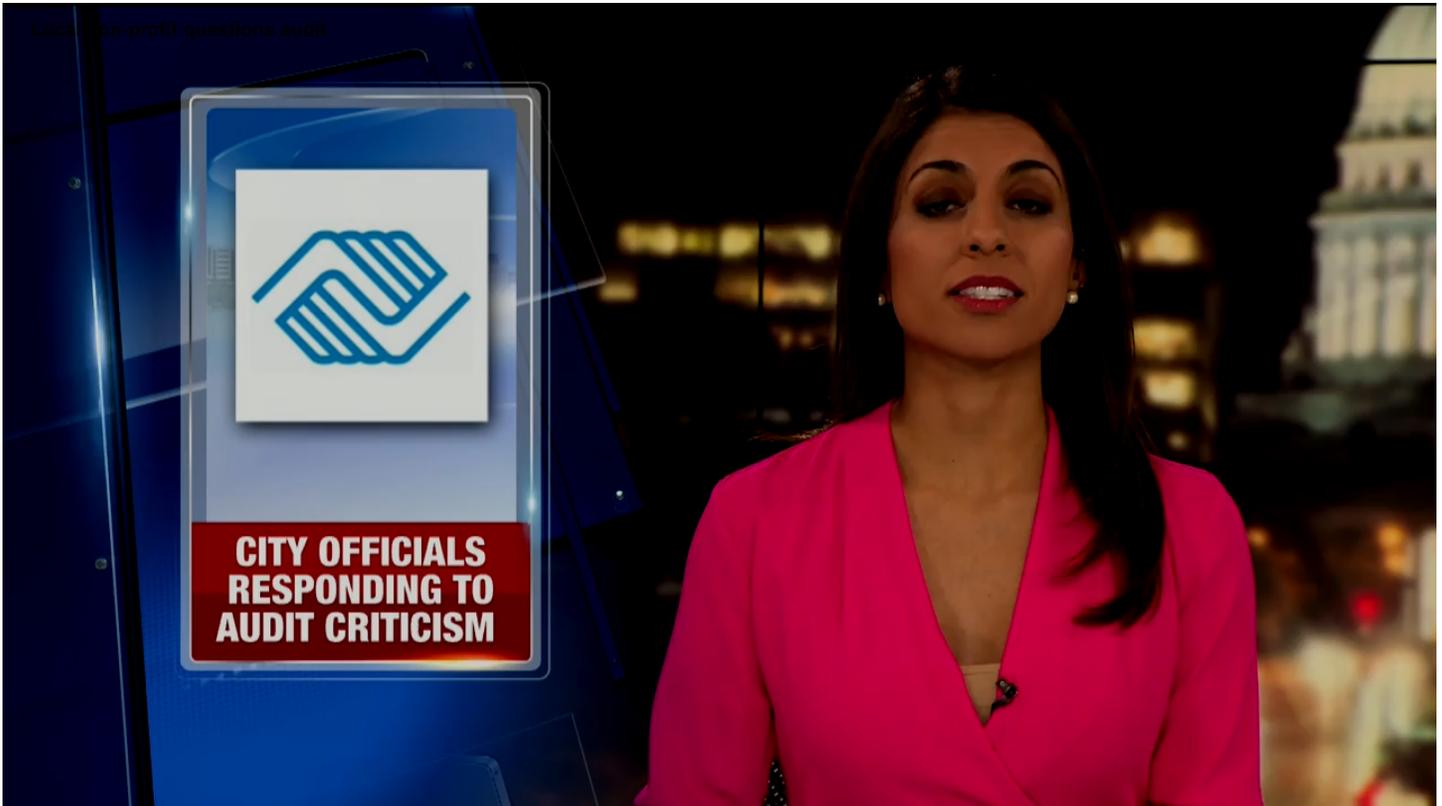


After months of auditing, Boys and Girls Club leader questions motive



By Avery Hall | Posted: Wed 10:40 PM, May 31, 2017 | Updated: Wed 10:58 PM, May 31, 2017

MADISON, Wis. -- After months of auditing by the Community Development Division, Michael Johnson is criticizing the Mayor's Office for what he feels is a targeted attack on the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County.



"Since I've been the CEO of Boys and Girls Club, the mayor's office has never done an audit on Boys and Girls Club," says Johnson, who was appointed to lead the non-profit in 2010.

"They use the word routine. Routine to me means on a regular basis. Once a year, twice a year."

"Routine" is what Community Development Center Director Jim O'Keefe says audits of neighborhood centers are supposed to be -- and will be after Housing and Urban Development audited his own department and said the audits needed to be back on schedule. 

According to O'Keefe, that means auditing - or "monitoring," a term he says he prefers - nine neighborhood centers that receive federal funds, examining one to two each year so each gets reviewed every three to four years on top of the quarterly reports he says the city already receives from groups who get city support.

That federal fund monitoring, he says, is a mandate from the government - one that the department wasn't able to meet in past years because of staffing issues. And he says the mayor's office is not involved in scheduling audits.

"The mayor will get involved at all if we bring the results of the monitoring to his attention, but these tend to be routine in nature. They tend by and large to not be punitive."

Still, Johnson says he thinks the timing of this audit is related to his criticism of the mayor's response to recent incidents of violence. Johnson says he has urged the city to take action and will continue to do so.

"Last week, there was four shootings. There's still no plan, there's still no team that's on the street to address these issues. I think it's unfortunate that they would try to craft a storyline and go after Boys and Girls Club."

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