Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

BARRETT, CHISHOLM, FLYNN CALL FOR LEGISLATURE TO ADDRESS VIOLENT CRIME BEFORE SUMMER

MILWAUKEE (April 17, 2008) -- Mayor Tom Barrett was joined by Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm and Milwaukee Police Chief Edward Flynn to request that Governor Jim Doyle call the Wisconsin Legislature into Special Session to address violent crime reduction before summertime when warm weather typically brings an increase in violent crime in Milwaukee.

The letter comes on the heels of three incidents in ten days where Milwaukee Police Officers have been shot at and a recent episode where a young man with a handgun opened fire into a neighborhood grocery store.

In the letter, Barrett echoed sentiments from his inaugural address earlier this week: "How many more children will be at either end of a gun? How many more officers will be shot at? How many more funerals will there be in Milwaukee before action is taken to strengthen sentences for felons and others who think little of using, carrying or selling illegal guns to terrorize our residents?"

Barrett and law enforcement officials request the Governor's assistance in framing the issues of Minimum Mandatory sentencing, specific legislation to deal with illegal guns and funding for Community Prosecutors and others in the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office.

Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm said, "I strongly support these important tools to prosecute violent gun offenders and keep our streets safe for our citizens. The message should be clear – gun violence will not be tolerated."

"Governor Doyle has shown his willingness to be a partner in the effort to address the issues of violent crime," added Mayor Barrett. "The Legislature has been called into session to address the budget and the Great Lakes Compact. Where there is a will, there is a way. The time to act is now and I look forward to working with the Governor and Legislature."

A pdf copy of the letter is attached.

-30-