

8th District Alderman

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ROBERT G. DONOVAN

FALL 2007

Committee Assignments

- Chair** • Public Safety Committee
- Member** • Finance and Personnel Committee
- Steering and Rules Committee
- Anti-Graffiti Policy Committee

Menomonee Valley Development Remains Strong

We recently marked the third business to open in the city's Menomonee Valley Industrial Center. **Caleffi**, an Italian manufacturing firm, built a 35,000 square foot facility to house the company's North American headquarters, a new research and development testing laboratory, assembly operations, engineering, sales training and customer service functions. **The company specializes in hydronic heating and cooling systems.** Marco Caleffi, company president, flew in from Italy to join me for both the North American and Italian traditions of opening a new business: a ribbon-cutting and a wine toast.

Caleffi joins **Badger Railing** and **Palermo Villa Inc.** in the Menomonee Valley Industrial Center. **Taylor Dynamometer's** new \$4 million manufacturing facility is currently under construction. **The four companies add 428 jobs to Milwaukee.** Overall, throughout the Menomonee Valley company expansions will result in 2,100 new jobs and 2,000 additional construction jobs.

Dear Neighbor:

From time to time I'm honored to present a letter, a certificate or a commendation to an 8th District individual or business who has stepped forward to help make our city and their neighborhood a better place to live, work and play. In Milwaukee, grassroots volunteers and others willing to lend a helping hand have always provided the extra margin or measure needed to make community efforts a success. The tradition of volunteerism in Milwaukee is deeply rooted in churches, schools and a wide array of community organizations and it cuts across all ethnic and cultural lines.

So why am I mentioning all of this? Because I'm again urging YOU to get involved in your neighborhood and your community.

Your time and your skills are valuable, but they are indispensable in helping us make our city a better, cleaner and safer place. In this newsletter I'm again including the phone numbers for several organizations that can benefit from your generous donation of time and talents. I want to award more commendations to volunteers who have made a difference, so please give one (or several) of these organizations a call today.

In this newsletter you will also read about my effort to hold judges accountable by having citizens attend court hearings and sentencing proceedings as part of my **Court Watch initiative** – something we critically need to make sure justice is served. I've also included a wide array of public safety related articles, including information on the **South Side Safety Alliance**, a police effort to crack down on loud car stereos, the **Weekend Warriors** and **new surveillance cameras** keeping a close eye on many streets and public areas in the district.

The 2008 city budget, election related information and articles that will help you better access city services are also part of this newsletter. As always, please call me directly at 286-3533 if you have questions or concerns that need to be addressed. It is truly an honor to serve as your alderman.

Sincerely,

Bob Donovan
Alderman, 8th District



Simply call 211 to get help with life.

To call using a cell phone, dial 414-773-0211
or on a pay phone, dial 1-866-211-3380.

Surveillance Cameras Monitoring Stretches of W. Greenfield & W. Lincoln

No Taxpayer Dollars Used as Businesses Step Forward To Fund Exterior Video Cameras



Ald. Donovan spoke during a May news conference at S. 22nd St. and W. Greenfield Ave. (adjacent to Art Siemann Sign & Advertising) to discuss new exterior video surveillance cameras that have been mounted on private businesses on W. Greenfield between S. 21st and S. 27th (Layton Blvd.) and on W. Lincoln between S. 27th and S. 35th Streets. The installation of the surveillance cameras – similar to the effort that brought cameras to W. National Ave. from S. Cesar Chavez Dr. (S. 16th St.) to S. 27th St. (Layton Blvd.) – was made possible by a generous donation from the Redmond Co.

Exactly one year since crime deterring video surveillance cameras were installed along an 11-block stretch of W. National Ave., portions of W. Greenfield and W. Lincoln Aves. will also soon be monitored day and night by “eyes” in the sky.

According to Ald. Bob Donovan, the exterior video surveillance cameras will be mounted on private businesses on W. Greenfield between S. 21st and S. 27th (Layton Blvd.) and on W. Lincoln between S. 27th and S. 35th Streets. “This is a private venture that is very similar to the effort that brought surveillance cameras to National Avenue, where they’ve helped augment surveillance by Milwaukee police and where they’ve made a huge difference in terms of crime suppression,” Ald. Donovan said.

The expansion of the surveillance camera coverage to W. Greenfield and W. Lincoln was made possible by a generous donation from the Redmond Co., the alderman said.

A partnership with Badger Mutual Insurance and Roundy’s brought the street-level surveillance cameras last year to W. National

Ave. from S. Cesar Chavez Dr. (S. 16th St.) to S. 27th St. (Layton Blvd.). Those cameras – the first of their kind monitoring such a large area in the city – have acted as a strong deterrent against all types of crime, including theft, robbery, assault, drug activity, loitering, prostitution and vandalism, according to business owners along W. National and MPD officers who patrol the area daily, Ald. Donovan said.

“We’ve had known criminals tell our officers that they avoid frequenting National Avenue because they fear being watched by the video surveillance system,” Ald. Donovan said.

John Dobrzynski, loss prevention supervisor at Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center, worked on the camera initiative and other crime prevention issues with Ald. Donovan. He said the surveillance cameras offer an unobtrusive way to help law enforcement with crime prevention. “The cameras are a great tool for the Milwaukee Police Department to use in not only deterring crime but also identifying and apprehending suspects who are committing criminal acts,” Dobrzynski said.

MPD Pole Cameras Also Keeping Watch

While the near south side has its surveillance cameras along W. National Ave., W. Lincoln Ave. and W. Greenfield Ave., there are also some unique high-tech eyes scanning several areas elsewhere in the City of Milwaukee.

Pole-mounted video surveillance cameras are now keeping watch on a number of crime-plagued neighborhoods, the Summerfest Grounds and near the Bradley Center.

In addition to the cameras at Summerfest and the Bradley center, cameras installed at N. 27th St. and W. Wells St. and another at N. 60th St. and W. Silver Spring Dr. are also now operational. Four more were to be installed during August at: S. 23rd and W. Greenfield Ave. (in the 8th District), N. 27th St. and West Burleigh St., N. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr and W. Center St. and S. 16th St. and W. Lincoln Ave.

The police department reports that during a surveillance camera demonstration last year, the system assisted the Criminal Investigation Bureau in locating a homicide suspect, an arrest that led to information on a second homicide. On another occasion, “suspicious activity” observed on the system resulted in arrests for strong arm robbery.

“These surveillance cameras are intended to monitor high crime and/or areas where large concentrations of people gather,” said Ald. Donovan. “The cameras offer additional ‘eyes’ to monitor certain locations and serve to supplement the squads already assigned to patrol those particular areas,” he said.

Testing will continue as each camera is installed to insure proper installation, integration and video quality. Other locations where the surveillance cameras are planned are the intersections of S. Layton Blvd. (S. 27th) and W. National Ave. (in the 8th District), N. 35th St. and W. Garfield Ave., N. Teutonia Ave. and W. Capitol Dr., W. Hampton Ave. and N. Hopkins St. and N. 7th St. and W. Wisconsin Ave.



Citizens, Clergy Join Bell Ambulance, St. Luke's & Others In Safety Alliance

An alliance composed of neighborhood volunteers, clergy, Bell Ambulance, Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center, Securitas Security and other businesses has been formed to augment police patrols and help fight crime on Milwaukee's south side, Ald. Donovan said.

Ald. Donovan, who chairs the Common Council's Public Safety Committee, said the alliance was formed as a pilot project aimed at proactively addressing public safety on the south side. "This is a completely private endeavor, not using one dime of taxpayer money, where volunteers from Layton Boulevard West Neighbors will be patrolling the streets at night with area pastors and with staff from Bell Ambulance, Securitas, St. Luke's and other businesses patrolling in vehicles during times when they're not busy answering calls," he said.

"It's unique and a little different, but I really credit the private sector (participants) for stepping up to offer their assistance, and I believe the alliance can have a real impact on crime and disorderly behavior in south side neighborhoods," Ald. Donovan said.

The alliance will primarily focus its efforts on the area bounded by W. Pierce St. on the

In July Ald. Donovan joined members of the new South Side Safety Alliance during a news conference outside the Hmong American Peace Academy, 1418 S. Layton Blvd. The alliance, composed of neighborhood volunteers, clergy, Bell Ambulance, Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center, Securitas Security and other businesses, has been proactively augmenting police patrols and helping to fight crime on Milwaukee's south side.

north, W. Lincoln Ave. on the south, S. 1st St. on the east and S. 38th St. on the west. But Ald. Donovan said the boundaries are not "set in stone," and it's possible the group will address areas as far south as W. Oklahoma Ave.

Pastor Marty Calderon of Street Talk Ministries – a former gang member who has been credited by Ald. Donovan and others for his work in helping reduce gang violence – will be a part of the alliance's effort to provide clergy outreach to individuals in need. "Marty and the other pastors will conduct regular walks at night to locate and counsel people who need help getting off the streets and those who may just need someone they can talk to for help," said Ald. Donovan.

Citizens To Judge The Judges

Court Watch, an effort to encourage citizens to get involved in court outcomes by pushing judges for strict criminal sentencing in the 6th Police District, was announced today by Ald. Bob Donovan.

Citizens can share personal accounts of the harm these criminals have caused in their neighborhoods by writing letters to judges and attending hearings. It is hoped this public input can then influence judges' decisions on the severity of the sentence.

"Judges don't often live in challenged neighborhoods, and don't understand the impact these criminals have on our families and communities," Ald. Donovan said. "As a result, too often they don't fully understand the consequences of a light sentence."

Ald. Donovan, chair of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee, said that citizen input can have a large impact on a judge's decision. By personalizing the effects of a crime, judges will be forced to seriously consider the consequences their sentencing will have on the community.

"During election time, we see judges everywhere, learning what the public wants and needs," said the alderman. "However, once elected, we rarely see them at community meetings, actively seeking input from citizens. Hence, the need has grown for us to go into the courts to directly voice our opinions."

Court Watch also aims at reducing the number of repeat offenders in the court system. Stricter sentencing will hopefully detour criminals from committing more crimes in the future.

"Having citizen advocates write judges and enter the courtrooms is one more step to keep our families safe and criminals off our streets," the alderman said. "We need to make judges think twice about the impact their decisions have on our neighborhoods."

Jackson Park Neighborhood Update

A town hall meeting hosted by Ald. Donovan in late September at Manitoba Elementary School has led to the creation of the Jackson Park Safety Alliance. The meeting, which included representatives from the Milwaukee Police Department, the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, the City Attorney's Office, and the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, was well attended and was primarily focused on crime in the neighborhood.

"We've had some garage and home burglaries, as well as several instances of thefts from parked vehicles," Ald. Donovan said. "Residents voiced their concerns, asked questions, and we had some excellent discussions about how to address what's been happening."

The Jackson Park Safety Alliance – a group of resident volunteers – will be conducting neighborhood safety patrols and monitoring to help enhance public safety. "As we've known for some time, the police can't be everywhere and they can't put an end to criminal activity by themselves," said the alderman.

"The alliance volunteers will help greatly by serving as extra eyes and ears for the police, and that can only make Jackson Park a safer and more secure neighborhood," he said.

If you are interested in joining the alliance please contact Ald. Donovan at 286-3533.

Residents at the town hall meeting also indicated a desire to receive more information on crimes reported in the neighborhood and other developments, Ald. Donovan said. **He strongly suggests residents tap into the following:**

- Attend the monthly 6th District Crime Analysis meeting. The public meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. at the station, 3006 S. 27th St. This is a prime opportunity to learn directly from MPD about crimes and other matters in the neighborhood.
- Access the city's E-Notify system at www.milwaukee.gov/enotify. E-Notify is an easy to use method to receive such information as city news, police crime bulletins by neighborhood, permits issued to properties, license applications, meeting and bid notices and many other topics. Selections made by the individual citizen are sent directly to subscriber's e-mail accounts.
- Want an idea as to what kinds of crime are taking place in the neighborhood? The Police Department has been posting weekly Crime Analysis maps on the MPD website at www.milwaukee.gov/police for your review. Look under "Crime Statistics" on the site.

"Operation Bass Busters" Targeting Loud Car Stereos

Thanks in part to Ald. Donovan, Milwaukee police have begun **issuing tickets** to motorists who blast their car stereos to eardrum-cracking levels on city streets.

"Complaints about excessively loud music generated by car stereos is at the very top of the list when it comes to calls to my office, and I'm very pleased that police are addressing this very important quality of life issue," Ald. Donovan said.

Ald. Donovan, chair of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee, said he asked **MPD Deputy Chief Dale Schunk** about the possibility of having officers target loud car stereos after seeing media reports about just such operations being conducted by Racine police. In Racine, officers have been using special decibel-measuring detectors to identify excessively loud car stereos, and then squads are dispatched to pull over and ticket offending vehicles.

"When I saw the reports I thought 'Why isn't this being done here?'" the alderman said. So far MPD is focusing Operation Bass Busters in the 6th Police District on the near south side, including parts of the 8th District. "But I intend to see if it's possible to expand this initiative citywide, because loud car stereos are a problem across our city," he said.

Weed and Seed Info

Funded by a U.S. Department of Justice grant, the Historic Clarke Square neighborhood Weed and Seed initiative utilizes a multifaceted, multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention and community revitalization.

The "seed" part of Weed and Seed provides after-school, weekend and summer activities and educational opportunities for pre-teens and teens and offers alternatives for youth away from the negative pull of street crime and gangs. Neighborhood cleanup supplies are also covered under the "seed" portion.

The "weed" component of the initiative involves police department efforts to seize narcotics and illegal drugs and to arrest people involved in selling drugs. Also, the funding helps pay for equipment for bicycle officers and for foot patrols.

Additionally, the "weed" portion has also paid for "Caution Slow Down" signs and Weed and Seed ID banners.

The Milwaukee Police Department and the City of Milwaukee Community Development Block Grants Administration administer the Weed and Seed funds.

People's Voice Against Crime

Gangs, drugs and violence endanger our community. And in order to reduce crime, the police need help from everyone in the community.

"Too often people are reluctant to get involved in the safety and security of their neighborhoods for fear of reprisals," said Ald. Donovan. "But there is an answer, the WeTip Hotline, and no one will ever know who you are." **Call WeTip at 1-800-78-CRIME.** You may be eligible for a reward up to \$1,000.

The hotline is answered by bilingual operators 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are taken for all crimes. All calls are anonymous, not just confidential.



W-2 Recipients Provide Unique Boost To Neighborhood Ambassador Program

The rebirth and expansion of the Neighborhood Ambassador program was the topic of a news conference in June outside the Milwaukee Christian Center, 2137 W. Greenfield Ave. Ald. Donovan and Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr. were joined at the event by Lupe Martinez of UMOS, and several ambassadors, representatives of partnering agencies, and area business owners.

A unique group of **60 newly trained Neighborhood Ambassadors** worked this summer to help revitalize areas of the city's near south side and – for the first time – an area on the north side, Ald. Donovan said.

Ald. Donovan, who has been a proactive proponent of the Neighborhood Ambassadors since the program was first initiated on the near south side in 2001, said the program had been dormant for about two years until the unique proposal to include W-2 (Wisconsin Works) participants was brought forth.

"We are pleased that **UMOS** (non-profit United Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc.) stepped up to propose this innovative way of having W-2 recipients take part as Neighborhood Ambassadors," Ald. Donovan said.

"It's a unique approach that hasn't been tried before, and it provided a major infusion of ambassadors – literally 50 or more partici-

pants than what we have had in the past because of funding limitations," he said.

The rejuvenation included placing 30 Neighborhood Ambassadors in the 8th Aldermanic District and in Ald. Hines' 15th Aldermanic District on the north side. In the 8th District the partnering agencies included the **Layton Boulevard West Neighbors**, **Journey House** and the **Milwaukee Christian Center**.

Modeled after the Downtown Ambassadors, the Neighborhood Ambassadors work during the summer months to provide a visible presence that enhances public safety, to provide information to the public and to act as liaisons to local businesses. They also work to improve the appearance of key commercial areas, doing litter clean-ups, sidewalk cleaning, graffiti removal, tree planting and landscaping.

South Side Safety Initiative!

A group of volunteer citizens in the **Layton Boulevard West neighborhood** has been walking and bicycling the streets and alleys of their area at night on a regular basis, keeping an eye out for possible criminal activity and situations that may need the attention of the authorities. They've been very effective so far, and their work can be duplicated in other parts of the 8th District. Please call my office at 286-3533 if you would like to learn more.

Form a Block Watch

The Block Watch program provides residents with specific information on how to reduce or eliminate opportunities for crime. And it works. But block watch groups can also do so much more.

The support of local businesses is vital to the block watches and the support of block watches is vital to local business. They can accomplish many things by working together that they may not be able to do if working alone. This cooperation is essential to making our 8th District neighborhoods a cohesive community.

To become involved in a Block Watch please contact Community Liaison Officer Jesus Gloria for the 6th Police District at 935-7268. If you'd like me to attend a Block Watch meeting, please call my office at 286-3533.

Weekend Warriors Getting It Done!

Join the Weekend Warriors and make a difference in your neighborhood. The 8th District's Weekend Warriors are citizens who volunteer a few hours on two weekends each month to help clean up and beautify our neighborhoods. Sometimes they clean up debris and litter, and other times they handle small landscaping jobs. Call my office at 286-3533 to learn how you can become a Weekend Warrior.

Anti-Graffiti Panel Announces Several Arrests



Ald. Donovan, a member of the city's Anti-Graffiti Policy Committee, joined other committee members, Milwaukee police representatives, Department of Neighborhood Services personnel and citizens during a June news conference near 3500 W. Pierce (under 35th St. viaduct) announcing details about several arrests made in the city's efforts to combat graffiti vandalism. The alderman also stood near a truck used by a one-man volunteer graffiti abatement crew in the 8th District.

Now Online!

Citizens can now leave a complaint about a graffiti problem on a new E-mail address. Contact graffiti@milwaukee.gov please provide as much information as possible especially address, location of graffiti, type of graffiti (spray paint, black marker) and date first noticed.

You may also call the Graffiti Hotline at 286-8715.

Thinking About Putting Up A Fence?

If you are, check the city rules on fences rules before you put it up. People have had to take down fences after spending money on them because they were too high, in the wrong place or facing the wrong way. For more information on rules governing fences and other permits needed that may be needed, check the Milwaukee Development Center at www.mkedcd.org or call 286-8211.

Help Milwaukee Vote – Be A Poll Worker

The City of Milwaukee Election Commission has recently launched "Help Milwaukee Vote," a poll worker recruitment campaign to ensure that Milwaukee's voting sites have sufficient staff during the busy 2008 elections. The Election Commission relies on the participation of more than 2,000 poll workers to provide coverage at the city's 198 voting sites.

"We need strong public support of our local elections so that our polling sites run efficiently and with accuracy," said Sue Edman, Election Commission executive director. Ald. Donovan encourages the many civic-minded people in Milwaukee to consider dedicating time to supporting the importance of elections.

Election dates in 2008 are **February 19** (Spring Primary/Presidential Preference), **April 1** (Spring General Election), **September 9** (Fall Primary), and **November 4** (Fall General/Presidential Election). Available shifts include a full day from 6:30 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., or a split shift from 6:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Poll workers receive \$15 for attending a two-hour mandatory training class, and \$84.15 for working a full day, or \$42.08 for a split shift. Poll workers are usually assigned to a site within their Aldermanic District.

Call 286-3491 for more information or visit www.milwaukee.gov/election.

Election Commission Looking To Hire

The Election Commission is looking for dependable city residents to work as temporary office assistants during the 2008 election season (January thru April and August thru November). Duties will include answering phones, handling inquiries on the computer, staffing the in-person absentee voting site and assembling mailings. Applicants must have computer experience, as well as excellent customer service and organizational skills. If interested, please contact Denise Walton at (414) 286-5995 or submit a resume to the Election Commission, City Hall, Room 501, 200 E. Wells St., Milwaukee, WI 53202.

Fall Leaf Collection

Residents are asked to rake leaves into the street at the curb for collection by Department of Public Works Sanitation crews through November 15. After November 15, sanitation crews will still pick up remaining leaf piles as long as weather permits. Residents are asked to please note the date when collection crews will be operating on your block – and to make sure vehicles are not parked so as to hinder or prevent collection efforts (if you are unsure about your collection date, call 286-8282).

Leaves you have bagged can be taken to the Self-Help Centers, 3879 W. Lincoln Ave., or 6660 N. Industrial Rd. for disposal. Ald. Donovan urges residents not to put Halloween pumpkins, brush or branches on the leaf pile, and to keep the leaves away from fire hydrants, sewer grates and storm drains in the street.

Get Involved In Your Neighborhood

The 8th District has many excellent community organizations that can give you the opportunity to become involved and share your time and talents with your neighbors. Again I would thank those who are already volunteering and are involved, and encourage more of you to become active. The organizations listed below are always looking for volunteers for various activities during the year:

- **Boys and Girls Club** 383-2650
- **Historic Layton Boulevard Association** (Patti Davison) 645-4059
- **Jackson Park Neighborhood Association** (Ken Franzen) 604-0197
- **Journey House** 647-0548
- **Layton Blvd. West Neighbors** (Charlotte John-Gomez) 383-9038
- **Milwaukee Christian Center** 645-5350
- **Southside Organizing Committee** (Steve Fendt) 672-8090

Alley Parking Is Restricted

To ensure clear passage for emergency vehicles and city Department of Public Works (sanitation, street cleaning, etc.) vehicles, residents are reminded that parking in alleys is legal only if the vehicle is completely off the public right-of-way. Specifically, vehicles must be parked either in a garage or on a paved surface, and no part of the vehicle should protrude onto the public portion of the alley. For those who park on the “apron” between the garage and the public portion of the alley, avoid tickets by making sure no part of the vehicle is within the right-of-way.

For parking questions please call the City of Milwaukee’s parking hotline at 286-8350.



286-CITY (2489)
then press:

- 3 Police/ Fire Non-Emergencies**
 - 1 Police
 - 2 Fire
- 4 Mayor/ Common Council**
 - 1 Mayor
 - 2 Common Council/ City Clerk’s Office
 - 3 Licensing Division
- 5 Department of Public Works**
 - 1 Parking Operations
 - 2 Milwaukee Water Works
 - 3 Street Maintenance, Street Lighting, Traffic Control, Sewers, Forestry and Sanitation including Solid Waste/Recycling
- 6 Department of City Development**
 - 1 Housing Authority, Public Housing, Rent Assistance
 - 2 Development Center, Permits, Occupancy Applications, Zoning, Historic Preservation, Property Research
 - 3 Business Assistance Programs
 - 4 City-owned Real Estate, City Planning, Low Interest Home Renovation Loans
- 7 Health Department**
 - Immunizations, Medical Assistance, WIC, Communicable Disease Control
- 8 Library**
 - 1 Library Hours
 - 2 Renew Library Items
 - 3 Other Services
- 9 Department of Neighborhood Services**
 - 1 File complaint for Building Code Violations, Litter, Graffiti, Nuisance Vehicles
 - 2 Inspection Services
- 0 Customer Service Representative**
 - For all other City departments and services

CALL 911 FOR ALL EMERGENCIES

Need To Contact The City? Couldn’t Be Easier

In addition to contacting his office, Ald. Donovan wants you to know there are many ways to get information, request services, register complaints or comment on issues important to you. Among them: One Call, That’s All.

Or There Are High-Tech Options

If you have a computer and Internet access, keeping informed about what’s happening in the 8th District, the city and the county and finding government information and services online is just a few clicks away on the Milwaukee Portal Page. Go to www.milwaukee.gov, simply type a keyword or phrase in the site section and click GO. The new search engine will take you to the proper department in either the city or the county.

Another city initiative called E-Service provides an online request form that allows citizens to request a service without knowing which city department provides that service. E-Service cuts at least two-days off the process.

And the city can also communicate with you with E-Notify. This easy-to-use, internet tool allows the city to send such information as city news, common council meetings, police crime bulletins by neighborhood, meeting and bid notices and many other topics to subscribers’ email accounts based on selections made by the individual citizen. Both electronic communication tools are available on the city website at www.milwaukee.gov/eservices.

ROBERT G. DONOVAN

FALL 2007



Crossing Guard James "Jim" Fischer displays a Common Council commendation recognizing his service to the community that was presented to him outside Manitoba Elementary School in early October, just days after his 90th birthday. Ald. Donovan (right), who presented the honor to Mr.

Fischer, noted "Mr. Fischer has braved the most brutal weather conditions, putting students' safety and educational needs above personal comfort. In an age where 'me-ism' seems to reign supreme, his selflessness is admirable, and as a city we thank him." And, he quipped: "He's a model crossing guard and a wonderful role model for our students - he can even teach a thing or two about safety to 'youngsters' who are in their 70s." The brief ceremony was witnessed by dozens of Manitoba students and faculty, who gave Mr. Fischer a hearty round of applause.

Robert G. Donovan
Alderman, 8th District
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Milwaukee, WI 53202

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••• CITY HALL NEWS •••

Mayor Unveils 2008 Budget

Under the 2008 city budget proposed by Mayor Tom Barrett, the owner of a median valued property in the city will pay \$24 more in property taxes and fees for city services next year, an increase of 1.7% - well below the rate of inflation. **The proposed tax rate is \$8.01 per \$1,000 of assessed value, compared to \$9.73 four years ago.**

As chairman of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee, Ald. Donovan has consistently been calling for filling police vacancies to help cut into the city's shortage of more than 200 officers. In this budget he is proposing four new classes of police officer recruits for next year. "I vow to do all I can to make sure those classes are approved and that they receive all of the training and preparation they'll need," he said.

"Also, public safety involves both the Fire Department and the Police Department, and we can't 'rob Peter to pay Paul.' In other words I will not support reducing the capacity of our Fire Department to help pay for the additional police officers," the alderman said.

Other highlights of the mayor's proposed budget include:

Workforce Development

Continued progress of City of Milwaukee as lead agency for workforce development in the region. Features \$200,000 to continue the Driver's License Restoration Initiative, removing a major roadblock to employment.

Youth Summer Jobs

Invests \$300,000 to mobilize City government, the nonprofit community and the

business sector to offer paid internships to Milwaukee high school students. Last year 1,250 young people participated, gaining valuable skills and contacts.

City Development

City use of Tax Incremental Financing has already created and or will create an estimated 3,317 jobs and a \$357 million increase in Milwaukee's tax base and Barrett's budget builds on this success. It authorizes \$64.6 million in Tax Incremental Financing for projects and includes \$1.8 million for the development fund.

As a member of the Finance and Personnel Committee, Ald. Donovan is reviewing and voting on provisions in the budget. The process includes public hearings and a full common council vote on November 9.