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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Announcement On Concessions Regarding Pay For Fired Police Officers

*Aldermen Dudzik & Donovan To Outline Proposed Concessions During City Hall
News Conference*

Several key concessions, including one that would change the controversial state law allowing fired police officers to continue to be paid until the Fire & Police Commission exhausts their appeals, will be announced Monday during a news conference at City Hall.

The concessions, drafted by the Milwaukee Police Association and supported by Ald. Joe Dudzik and Ald. Bob Donovan, will be outlined during a news conference scheduled for 11 a.m. on Monday, May 7, 2007, in the Council Chamber anteroom, on the third floor of City Hall, 200 E. Wells St. Other elected officials are expected to attend, and media coverage is invited.

Ald. Dudzik said he decided to back the concessions because it's clear that current legislation (sponsored by Rep. Barbara Toles of Milwaukee) in Madison "may not move forward." He said the MPA's list of concessions isn't an attempt to undermine any efforts in Madison but rather a "compromise agreement that accentuates the urgency of the situation to state legislators."

"I certainly commend Representative Toles for her efforts, but I don't believe her bill is attracting the wide support that is needed for passage," Ald. Dudzik said.

"And with each passing day the city is literally losing money that could be saved with an agreement that has the ingredients needed for passage," he said. "We need all parties to have a framework they can use to come to an agreement that will benefit the citizens of Milwaukee and its police officers."

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Concessions Re: Fired Cops' Pay, Etc./ADD ONE

Under the MPA's key concession, an officer's pay would stop when he/she is charged with a felony, bound over for trial and also discharged by the police chief as a result of the same act(s) that constituted the felonious criminal charge. Any officer facing such charges and discipline would be made whole for back pay and benefits only if they prevail in court and are reinstated to the police department.

Ald. Donovan, chair of the Council's Public Safety Committee, said the concession is critical because it stops pay for fired officers and also protects those officers who are exonerated in court. "We need to have that 'made whole' provision as protection for the families of hard-working officers who are wrongly accused," he said.

"Compromise means that everyone gets something, a part of what they want, but not the entirety of what they want," said Ald. Donovan.

Another key concession being offered by the MPA involves the controversial "adjournment" option, which essentially has been used by some fired officers as a means of extending their pay and benefits for months while their appeal to the Fire and Police Commission is being weighed.

The concession would do away with a fired officer's right to a "mandatory adjournment" and provide for an adjournment only for "cause."

Other concessions being proposed by the MPA will be announced at Monday's news conference.