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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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January 8, 2007

Ald. Bob Donovan  
(414) 708-2096

## Mayor Should Tap Panel Of Police Chiefs To Help Select City's Next Top Cop

*Ald. Bob Donovan Says FPC Members Not Qualified To Make Selection Alone*

In a letter to Mayor Tom Barrett, Ald. Bob Donovan today asked that a panel be convened of police chiefs from other large U.S. cities to help select the person who will succeed Milwaukee Police Chief Nannette Hegerty.

In the letter (please see attached), Ald. Donovan says city leadership must make sure that the Fire and Police Commission make the best selection possible. "I am particularly concerned that members of the Commission do not have police experience," he wrote. "It is essential that our next Chief have a comprehensive plan and I'm not sure that Commission members with no experience in law enforcement will be able to ask the right questions to discover which candidates can formulate the public safety strategies we need."

The letter continues: "To that end, I am calling on you to convene a panel of Chiefs from across the country to be part of the interviewing process. The Commission can certainly help choose a candidate who will work well with the public and City officials. But given the complexity and demands a Police Chief has in running a major department, who better to ascertain the qualities of our next chief than ones currently in that position?"

Chief Hegerty announced Jan. 5 that she plans to retire when her appointed four-year term expires in November 2007. Ald. Donovan, chair of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee, said it's likely that a multitude of internal and external candidates will apply for the opening.

**-More-**

## **Alderman Suggests Chiefs Help With Search/ADD ONE**

After Chief Hegerty made her retirement announcement, Ald. Donovan said he plans to hold community listening sessions across Milwaukee to allow residents to weigh in on what qualities they would like to see in the city's next top police official. He said he is also asking Fire and Police Commission members to attend the sessions, so they can hear firsthand about the daily realities of crime that are everyday facts of life in some city neighborhoods.

“It is critical that we choose a Chief who is aggressive and one that can land on his or her feet and immediately move this City forward. This new Chief needs to have more than an impressive resume,” the letter from Ald. Donovan states.

Chief William Bratton of the Los Angeles Police Department would be Ald. Donovan's clear choice to head the review panel, he said, noting that Bratton “has a proven track record of success in law enforcement.”