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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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March 1, 2005

Ald. Robert Donovan  
(414) 286-3533

## **Police Chief Hegerty To Update Council Members On Alarm Response Policy**

*Chief Hegerty to Appear Thursday Morning Before Public Safety Committee*

Police Chief Nannette Hegerty is scheduled to provide Common Council members with a six-month informational update on the Milwaukee Police Department's policy change requiring that all burglar alarms be verified before police officers are dispatched to a property.

**Chief Hegerty is expected to appear before the Common Council's Public Safety Committee at approximately 9:20 a.m. on Thursday, March 3, 2005 in room 301-B at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St. Media coverage is invited.**

Ald. Robert G. Donovan, chair of the Public Safety Committee, said all members of the council have been invited to listen to the chief's update and ask questions. He said he's received several affirmative responses from colleagues who have said they are interested in listening to the chief's six-month update and review. "This is an important topic and I greatly appreciate Chief Hegerty's willingness to come before the committee, in a public forum, to keep us informed," said Ald. Donovan. "I anticipate that we will see continued strong interest from council members on the policy change and its effects."

The burglar alarm response policy change – a directive from Chief Hegerty that went into effect in September 2004 – has enabled officers to respond more rapidly to high-priority calls and has led to 2,000 fewer calls per month, Assistant Chief Joseph Whiten reported to the Public Safety Committee in January.

**-More-**

## **Update On Alarm Response Policy/ADD ONE**

During public discussions prior to the policy change going into effect, it was noted that more than 96% of all burglar alarms in the City of Milwaukee are false alarms, and Chief Hegerty said about \$1.2 million or more than 13,600 hours of police patrol time was lost each year as police officers responded to unfounded or false burglar alarms.