
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

February 20, 2006

Ald. Mike McGee, Jr.
(414) 286-2994

Call for Milwaukee-Venezuelan Cooperation

Ald. McGee Wants Economic & Cultural Relationship

In a letter to Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, Milwaukee Ald. Mike McGee, Jr. proposes forming a Sister City relationship between Milwaukee and Caracas, and expresses the hope that it would result in important economic development opportunities for both cities. (letter attached)

Ald. McGee says he has also been in contact with Venezuelan Ambassador Bernardo Herrera and Consul General Martin Sanchez regarding the Sister City proposal, as well as discussing the formulation of economic development opportunities such as a heating oil discount program. There are also discussions of a visit to Caracas by American business executives as well as plans by the Mayor of Caracas, Juan Barreto, to visit Milwaukee in May.

In his letter, Ald. McGee said that like President Chavez, he too comes from a strong, revolutionary, political and social family, and believes that the people of Milwaukee and Caracas, who have both made significant contributions to their countries, could have even more of an economic impact if they unite and work together.

The Sister Cities Program was developed to enlist volunteer citizen-diplomats in a "people-to-people" concept to encourage Americans to communicate with people around the globe and for communities to work together in projects that are mutually beneficial, such as municipal, economic, cultural, educational, medical and government exchanges.