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FOR INFORMATION CALL

March 3, 2010

Ald. Michael Murphy
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Housing Trust Fund Awards Include Homeless Vets, Youthbuild Program

Common Council Approves \$818,395 in Housing Trust Fund Grants

The Milwaukee Common Council Tuesday (March 2) unanimously approved \$818,395 in funds for five projects to create 122 units of affordable housing for very low-income, disabled and homeless Milwaukee residents that were recommended for approval by the Milwaukee Housing Trust Fund (HTF) Advisory Board.

Alderman Michael J. Murphy, chair of the advisory board, said the projects include a \$168,395 grant to the Center for Veterans Issues, Ltd., to construct 52 units of supportive rental housing for homeless and mentally ill veterans at N. 35th and W. Wisconsin, and a \$105,000 grant to the Northcott Neighborhood House, Inc. for handicapped accessible single-family housing that will include construction work by Youthbuild – A Fresh Start participants – at-risk youth who are given a chance to turn their lives around through hands-on construction experience, and instruction in job and life skills.

All told, the projects will leverage an investment of more than \$25.77 million in construction work, helping low-income and homeless residents (including many families and children) while also bringing a helpful boost to Milwaukee’s economy.

“The economy is showing signs of improvement, but that recovery and positive news doesn’t reach everyone in our community,” said Alderman Murphy. “These are still very difficult times, and I’m pleased that the Common Council has again agreed to fund some excellent projects that will help residents who have critical housing needs, provide much-needed job opportunities and training, and provide additional affordable housing that Milwaukee needs.”

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Council Approves Trust Fund Projects/ADD ONE

“I’d like to especially thank all of the members of the Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board for their hard work and due diligence,” he said.

This year, a total of 14 proposals requested more than \$3.1 million in HTF funding. If fully funded, all 14 projects would have leveraged approximately \$47.87 million, Ald. Murphy said.

Other 2010 HTF awards:

- \$150,000 – Heartland Housing, Inc., 2500 W. Fond du Lac Ave. (supportive rental housing for very low-income).
- \$375,000 – Our Space, Inc. – Empowerment Village, 1525 W. National Ave. (one bedroom apartments for mentally ill renters).
- \$20,000 – Layton Boulevard West Neighbors (purchase and rehab of foreclosed property, to help low-income family).

All of the projects were reviewed and approved by the Common Council’s Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development Committee.

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