



**TERRY L. WITKOWSKI**  
ALDERMAN, 13TH DISTRICT

April 5, 2006

Alderman Robert Bauman  
Chairman, Public Works Committee

Concerned over the drowning death of two young girls in a spring-time Milwaukee River fast moving water incident, the Common Council adopted resolution 040514 on September 21, 2004. This resolution was sponsored by Aldermen Witkowski, Bauman, Mcgee Jr., Wade, Puente and Murphy and the council vote was 15-0.

The resolution directed that a report be given the Common Council within 120 days. This timetable would have allowed a program to be implemented in spring of 2005. The safety director submitted a report dated June 30, 2005 that was held at the call of the chair of Public Works Committee on a 5-0, on July 20, 2005 because it did not address the directives of the resolution.

For the record, the resolution directed the Milwaukee Safety Commission to prepare a report on measures to be taken to improve safety along Milwaukee's rivers, creeks and other waterways; and hold meetings prior to the preparation and submission of the report to solicit recommendations from all interested parties.

It further stated, "*this report shall:*

- 1. Emphasize educating children, particularly during the rain season and other times when floods may occur, on safety precautions that should be taken near rivers, creeks and other waterways to prevent drownings.*
- 2. Include specific recommendations for an educational media campaign to alert children and their parents to the potential safety hazards posed by rivers, creeks and other waterways.*
- 3. Include specific recommendations for materials (e.g., teachers' guides, handouts for students) that teachers in Milwaukee schools may use to educate children on the potential safety hazards posed by rivers, creeks and other waterways and techniques to avoid those hazards."*

Another spring rain season is upon us and we still have not received a report from the safety director addressing the directives of the Common Council through this resolution. I ask that this matter be scheduled for the next Public Works Committee meeting.

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RAB