
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

June 6, 2006

Ald. Mike McGee, Jr.
(414) 286-2221

City Lots Overrun With Tall Weeds; Ald. McGee Wants City Dept. Held Accountable

Ald. McGee Will Offer Proposal During Tomorrow's Public Works Committee Meeting

Still a month shy of the Fourth of July, there are too many weeds that are knee-high in city-owned lots, and that bothers Ald. Mike McGee, Jr.

Ald. McGee said many vacant city-owned lots in neighborhoods where property owners are shouldering 20% increases in their reassessments are "weed farms," with three-foot high weeds growing, well, like weeds.

The alderman said his office has fielded hundreds of complaints about the conditions of city-owned vacant lots in the last week. **To address the issue, he said he's offering a resolution that holds the Department of Neighborhood Services accountable for the timely upkeep of vacant city-owned lots. The proposal will be heard tomorrow, Wednesday, June 7, 2006 during the meeting of the Council's Public Works Committee. The item is expected to be heard shortly after 10 a.m. in room 301-B of City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.**

The tall weeds can present public safety issues and health concerns, but according to Ald. McGee there's a bigger issue at stake. "I think it is very hypocritical for the City of Milwaukee to expect homeowners to maintain their properties, but on the other hand to have city-owned lots looking so bad that Council members' phones are ringing off the hook with complaints," said Ald. McGee, who represents an area that includes Brewer's Hill and part of the Harambee neighborhood.

"Property assessments are rising, and city services are falling...this is not the scenario needed if we are to decrease blight and crime in the City of Milwaukee," the alderman said.

-30-