
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

January 11, 2006

Ald. Robert G. Donovan
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MEDIA ADVISORY

City Funding Crisis Sparks Call For Spring Advisory Referendum

*Reliance on Property Tax, Coupled With Critical Public Safety Needs & Crumbling
Infrastructure Help Fuel Call for April Ballot Issue*

The Common Council will be asked to decide whether to direct the Election Commission to schedule an advisory referendum this April that asks voters if the city should pursue “alternative funding streams” to pay for public safety services and infrastructure projects.

The proposed legislation, authored by Ald. Robert G. Donovan and scheduled to be introduced during the Common Council’s January 18 regular meeting, will be discussed during a news conference at noon on Thursday, January 12, 2006, in the cafeteria at the OASIS (formerly the 55+ Senior Center), 2414 W. Mitchell St. Also participating in the news conference will be Police Chief Nannette Hegerty, who is expected to outline how she would utilize additional resources in fighting rising crime and violence in city neighborhoods. Media coverage is invited.

Ald. Donovan, chair of the Common Council’s Public Safety Committee, said the issue of how to fund city government services in Milwaukee has reached a critical point. “We simply cannot continue to operate under ‘business as usual’ in Milwaukee, each year cutting more and more services and then raising property taxes,” said Ald. Donovan. “It’s time that we as a community grab the bull by the horns and move this city forward.”

Ald. James N. Witkowiak, Ald. Robert J. Bauman, Ald. Jim Bohl and Ald. Joe Dudzik have added their names in support of the referendum and are expected to participate in the news conference, said Ald. Donovan.

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