



July 19, 2006

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

MEDIA ADVISORY

Mayor of Carora, Venezuela To Discuss Possible Sister City Agreement, Meet With City Officials During Visit

Julio Chavez, the mayor of Carora, Venezuela, will visit Milwaukee Thursday and Friday (July 20-21, 2006) to discuss a proposed Sister City agreement between the City of Milwaukee and Carora, as well as his city's unique brand of participatory democracy and possible heating oil assistance and free eye surgery from Venezuela.

Ald. Mike McGee, Jr., who was the first Milwaukee official to proactively initiate cordial communications with Venezuelan government officials, will welcome Mayor Chavez to City Hall when the Sister Cities Committee discusses the proposed Sister City agreement with Carora at 9 a.m. Friday in room 301-B at City Hall.

Carora is currently exploring ways it can expand the limits of representative and participatory democracy – a rarity in Latin America, Ald. McGee said. For example, Carora's residents take part directly in drafting the city's municipal budget, in creating and modifying local laws, setting the salaries of public officials, and in making sure expenditures by government agencies are appropriate. Venezuela is also offering an initiative to provide heating oil assistance to needy families in the United States and to perform eye surgeries for needy seniors.

In recent months Ald. McGee has welcomed Bernardo Alvarez Herrera, Venezuelan ambassador to the United States, and Venezuelan Supreme Court Justice Fernando Vegas to City Hall during their visits to Milwaukee.

WHAT: Sister Cities Committee
WHEN: Friday, July 21 at 9:00 a.m.
WHERE: City Hall, Room 301-B (200 E. Wells St.)

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