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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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March 3, 2006

Ald. Jim Bohl  
(414) 286-2219

## Blunt Truth: New Law Closes Drug Paraphernalia Loophole, Citywide Ban Being Proposed

*Ald. Bohl Says He's Introduced Measure to Prohibit Stores & Gas Stations From  
Selling Paraphernalia*

A new state law that would allow the City of Milwaukee to keep items used as drug paraphernalia out of neighborhood stores, gas stations, alcohol and tobacco outlets, and convenience stores was signed into law by Governor Jim Doyle Thursday, said Ald. Jim Bohl, the chief sponsor of city legislation poised to take advantage of the new state law.

The new state law authorizes cities, villages and towns to enact and enforce ordinances prohibiting the possession, manufacture or delivery of drug paraphernalia by persons 17 years of age and older. The previous state statute created a loophole because it authorized the enactment and enforcement of municipal ordinances prohibiting the possession, manufacture, or delivery of drug paraphernalia by persons under 17 years of age – but not adults.

Ald. Bohl said the new law will help the city protect neighborhoods by keeping drug paraphernalia and items such as blunt rolling kits and “shooters” – small glass tubes used to smoke crack cocaine and/or crystal meth – out of the accessible hands of the public. “Under the previous law, we were prevented from barring stores from selling these items,” said Ald. Bohl, noting that anecdotal evidence suggests some stores and gas stations open during late-night hours sell large numbers of paraphernalia items to late-night customers.

**-More-**

## **Drug Paraphernalia Ban To Be Proposed/ADD ONE**

“This legislation will provide the city with the necessary tools to prevent stores from selling the drug-related items which drive crime, violence and despair in so many of our neighborhoods,” he said.

Steve O’Connell, executive director of the Sherman Park Community Association, said drug paraphernalia is currently being sold openly at many gas stations and convenience stores in Sherman Park and other central city neighborhoods. “I’m very hopeful that the legislation being drafted for introduction by Ald. Bohl will be adopted by the Common Council,” said O’Connell, who along with concerned residents of Sherman Park, worked closely with state Representative Tamara Grigsby, pushed for the state law change.

“We need to do everything we can to make our neighborhoods safe for residents and businesses, and we also need to prevent our youth and young adults from being exposed to drugs at any early age,” said O’Connell.

Joining Ald. Bohl as co-sponsors on the city’s anti-drug paraphernalia legislation are Ald. Joe Davis, Sr., Ald. Tony Zielinski, Ald. Robert G. Donovan and Ald. Robert W. Puente, and Ald. Joe Dudzik.

The new law (Wisconsin Act. 116) was co-sponsored by Rep. Tamara Grigsby (D-Milw.) and Sen. Alberta Darling (R-River Hills).