



October 30, 2007

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Ald. McGee Offers Budget Amendment Favoring Civilian Patrols

A 2008 budget amendment being offered by Ald. Mike McGee, Jr. would take \$500,000 from the Milwaukee Police Department and use it to fund unarmed civilian patrols, according to the alderman's office.

The amendment proposes reducing the MPD's salary account (which includes overtime funds) and establishes a special purpose account whereby Common Council members could offer resolutions requesting a release of funds.

Thursday's meeting of the Common Council's Finance & Personnel Committee – set to begin at 9 a.m. in room 301-B at City Hall – will be entirely devoted to Council members' proposed amendments to the mayor's proposed 2008 budget. For Ald. McGee's amendment to be considered, it must be offered by one of the five members of the committee. If it is not offered by a committee member, Ald. McGee will have the opportunity to re-submit the amendment 24 hours prior to the Council's November 9 budget adoption meeting.

An aide assigned to his aldermanic office said Ald. McGee, who founded the civilian Rapid Response Team to mediate disputes among neighbors and monitor police investigations where there have been allegations of brutality by officers, thinks the civilian efforts are worth nurturing and is hopeful his amendment will receive the support of colleagues who have backed like-minded initiatives in the past.

"The alderman knows that Alderman Hamilton has his Commandos, Ald. Zielinski has the Guardian Angels, Ald. Donovan has Neighborhood Ambassadors and others, and Aldermen Hines and Witkowski helped create the community service officers," the aide said.

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