
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

June 13, 2007

Ald. Robert J. Bauman
286-2221

Budgetary Photoshop Hijinks?

Alderman Says Police Chief Said in April That \$400K in Funding From MPD Operating Budget Would Pay for Surveillance Cameras in High Crime Areas

Milwaukee Police Chief Nannette Hegerty told a group of city officials in April that \$400,000 in police department operating funds were set aside to help pay for the pole-mounted surveillance cameras touted by Mayor Tom Barrett in his 2006 “State of the City” address, Ald. Robert J. Bauman said today.

The revelation about the \$400,000 by Ald. Bauman comes on the heels of today’s Finance and Personnel Committee meeting where administration representatives caught committee members off guard by proposing that \$525,000 from the Common Council Contingency Fund be used to help pay for the cameras – with no mention of using MPD operating funds.

According to Ald. Bauman, Chief Hegerty made her comment about the \$400,000 set aside for the surveillance camera initiative during an April 18, 2007 meeting of city officials in a conference room in the Department of Public Works’ 5th floor offices in the Zeidler Municipal Building, 841 N. Broadway. The meeting, focused primarily on public safety issues and the delivery of other city services in the Concordia neighborhood, was well attended, and included several representatives from each of the city’s key departments.

“(Chief Hegerty) said the surveillance camera initiative was going well, that they were getting responses to the RFP (request for proposals), and that there was \$400,000 in the Milwaukee Police Department operating budget to pay for them,” Ald. Bauman said, referring to notes that he jotted down during the meeting.

-More-

What Happened To the \$400K?/ADD ONE

“She also said that the pole-mounted cameras would be up by June 1, 2007 at 15 locations, and that one of the first locations was to be the intersection of N. 27th and Wells,” he said. “She never once mentioned the words ‘contingency fund,’ and obviously, those statements run counter to what happened today at committee.”

Today the Finance and Personnel Committee divided the file and the \$525,000 Contingency Fund portion was not recommended for approval. No formal recommendation was made about this portion (which will be a new file) and there will likely be a special meeting on it before the Common Council’s regular meeting at 9 a.m. on June 19 at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.

-30-