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FOR INFORMATION CALL

October 21, 2010

Ald. Joe Davis, Sr.
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Committee Approves Measure that May Bring Reduced Rates for Flood Insurance

Approval means city closer to participating in FEMA's community rating system

The Common Council's **Public Safety Committee** voted unanimously today in favor of legislation proposed by **Alderman Joe Davis, Sr.** directing a city agency to apply for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) community rating system accreditation, which if granted will allow residents to purchase flood insurance at discounted rates.

The measure (council file #100719) directs the city's Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to apply for the FEMA community rating system (CRS) accreditation and to coordinate all related city efforts. At today's committee meeting, testimony on the proposal was provided by Alderman Davis, Steve Fronk – Milwaukee's director of the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and Deborah Farmer, a FEMA hazard mitigation expert.

Alderman Davis, whose 2nd Aldermanic District was hit hard by flooding and basement backwater caused by the record July storms, said the next step is for the legislation to go to the Council's Finance and Personnel Committee before likely going to the full Council on November 3 for a final vote.

The community rating system is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. Alderman Davis said this key work will likely fall to certain city departments, especially the Department of Public Works, and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD).

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Discounted Flood Insurance/ADD ONE

The program provides discounted flood insurance premium rates to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from the community actions meeting the three goals of the CRS: reducing flood losses; facilitating accurate insurance rating; and promoting the awareness of flood insurance.

Alderman Davis has said applying for CRS accreditation is the “easy part of the process.” He said the true challenge will be making sure Milwaukee makes the floodplain and infrastructure modifications necessary to achieve CRS accreditation.

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