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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Mike McGee, Jr.
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Beating Outside Malcolm X Academy Brings Call For Harsher Sentencing

Ald. McGee Wants 10 Years Added To Convictions When Victim Is Black

Ald. Mike McGee, Jr. says the beating death of 15-year-old Raheim Patrick at a bus stop on Thursday is another example of the kind of destructive behavior in Milwaukee that must end. The alderman hopes to convince the state Legislature to adopt stricter sentencing guidelines that would add 10 years to the sentence of anyone convicted of intentional homicide when the victim is Black.

In addition to calling for harsher sentencing guidelines at a Monday news conference, Ald. McGee says if no arrests have been made by that time, he and a group of businessmen will offer a $5,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators in the death of Raheim Patrick.

"We have been preaching nonviolence toward each other," said Ald. McGee, "but it's getting so violent that we're going to have to intensify our efforts and the expectations we have for each other, and we are going to have to turn up the heat on those who perpetrate this type of behavior."

Ald. McGee will discuss his proposal at a news conference on Monday, March 27, 2006 at 10 a.m. outside Malcolm X Academy, 2760 N. 1st St. The alderman's Respect Kampain Street Code All-Stars, who have been touring schools with a message of nonviolence, and members of his Rapid Response Team will also take part. Media coverage is welcome.

"We must be more proactive in our approach to terrorists in our neighborhoods," said Ald. McGee. "We are past the point of talking and have to show them what we mean." The alderman said he would go into more detail on what that means at the news conference.

(more)

"It's time for us to organize at the grass roots level and proactively enforce the street Code of Conduct in regard to nuisance activities and the disregard for the neighborhoods," he said.

Homicides jumped from 88 in 2004 to 122 last year. In largely Black neighborhoods, murders rose from 57 in 2004 to 94 last year. Ald. McGee says the vast majority of those incidents involve Black on Black crime, and the city must implement new strategies to bring an end to the violence. The 2004 Police Department Public Safety Report reported the rate of homicides for all male residents of Milwaukee was 25.9 homicides per 100,000 population. For African American men and boys the rate was 43.3 homicides per 100,000, and that, said Ald. McGee, is a higher per capita murder rate than in New York City.

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