



September 3, 2009

Ald. Tony Zielinski
(414) 405-1483

MEDIA ADVISORY

Alderman Zielinski to Hold News Conference Outside Mayor's Office

Starts at 11:30 a.m.

Ald. Tony Zielinski will hold a news conference outside the Mayor's Office (room 201) at City Hall at 11:30 a.m. today as he continues his effort to convince Mayor Tom Barrett that he should accept the alderman's invitation to publicly debate the mayor's proposal to change state law to allow Milwaukee's mayor to appoint the superintendent of the Milwaukee Public Schools and to do away with the current MPS governance structure of a publicly elected school board.

On Wednesday Alderman Zielinski said he had received a quick "no, thank you" reply to his email sent to Mayor Barrett earlier this week inviting him to publicly debate the MPS proposal, which would require state legislators to change existing state law. The alderman, who is now the primary sponsor of Common Council legislation that would put the Council on record opposing the mayor's MPS governance change effort, said he's not letting the initial refusal stop him from trying to convince the mayor that a public debate "is good for the community and good for the democratic process."

"If the mayor doesn't want a debate with the primary Council sponsor of legislation opposing his move to control MPS then apparently his position and his commitment to it must not be real strong," Alderman Zielinski said.

"Very simply, Milwaukee needs open public discussion and vetting of his proposal," he said.

Alderman Zielinski has said consistently that he's open and available to debate the issues with the mayor "whenever and wherever" in a public setting with a neutral moderator.