



JAMES N. WITKOWIAK
ALDERMAN, 12TH DISTRICT

Statement of Alderman James N. Witkowiak February 4, 2010

Recent testimony before the Finance and Personnel Committee of the Milwaukee Common Council stated that the Milwaukee Fire Department (and the City of Milwaukee) is potentially underserved by the fire-fighting mutual aid pact the MFD is part of.

Besides that testimony, other questions have been raised about the sufficiency of the pact as it relates to the potential fire-fighting needs of the City of Milwaukee. That pact is known as the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). It is a regional pact and its scope extends well beyond a county-wide system.

I view that pact as a necessary, economical, and sensible extension of the MFD's capabilities.

Some questions have been raised about the capabilities of some suburban fire departments to fight an urban type fire. Some questions have also been raised about communications deficiencies between the departments.

In the interest of the safety of Milwaukee residents, I plan to introduce a Common Council resolution calling upon the MFD to fully study and fully report on, to the Common Council, any actual or potential deficiencies in the pact that could affect the safety of our city and residents.

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