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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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April 4, 2006

Ald. Mike McGee, Jr.  
(414) 286-2221

## Venezuelan Supreme Court Justice To Appear At City Hall

**Venezuelan Supreme Court Justice Fernando Vegas** will be welcomed to Milwaukee during a **special reception tomorrow (Wednesday, April 5, 2006) at 4:00 p.m.** in the anteroom of the Council Chamber, third floor of City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.

Ald. Mike McGee, Jr., will host the reception and **the public and media are invited to attend.**

Ald. McGee, who has corresponded with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, is proposing the formation of a mutually beneficial Sister City relationship between Milwaukee and a Venezuelan city – possibly Barquisimeto, Venezuela. The alderman said the visit by Justice Vegas “will impress and educate the citizens of Milwaukee that Venezuela has a Democratic government and constitution, where all citizens’ rights are protected and observed.”

Ald. McGee stated: “President Chavez may not be the favorite ally of President Bush, or the U.S. Government, but the country of Venezuela is the number two Latino importer of American goods, and I believe the country is willing to offer discount heating oil through its subsidiary, Citgo Oil.”

**-More-**

## **Venezuelan Supreme Court Justice Visit/ADD ONE**

It is the responsibility of Milwaukee's elected officials to increase economic opportunity, and to develop socio-political, international relationships that are beneficial to both parties involved, Ald. McGee said. But, with the increased discussion about Milwaukee becoming an international business hub, "leadership has ignored the oppressed people of this city in regard to economic opportunity, and international business development," he said.

"The Venezuelan government has a track record of redistributing wealth opportunity to all citizens, and I am excited about developing a connection between Milwaukee and Barquisimeto, Venezuela," said Ald. McGee, who represents the 6<sup>th</sup> Aldermanic District.

Justice Vegas, an expert in commercial relations, is a published novelist who writes regular columns for newspapers and journals. He was appointed to the Supreme Tribunal of Justice (TSJ) in August 2004, and assumed office in January 2005, where he sits in the Electoral Chamber of the TSJ. Justice Vegas has helped to negotiate various international trade agreements with companies doing business in Venezuela. He earned his law degree at the Central University of Venezuela and a master's degree in the Laws of Economic Integration in 1977.

Justice Vegas is currently on a speaking tour of the U.S., and he is scheduled to speak at UW-Milwaukee and Marquette University this week.

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