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Ald. Bob Donovan
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Public Safety Chair Announces Community Listening Sessions On Search For New Police Chief

Ald. Bob Donovan today announced plans to hold listening sessions throughout Milwaukee to gather public input on the qualities and qualifications people want to see in Milwaukee's next police chief, and to allow residents to describe their daily public safety issues and challenges.

Ald. Donovan, chair of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee, said the open public sessions will be held at various locations and will be official hearings of the Public Safety Committee. Other Council members are also expected to attend, and members of the Fire and Police Commission are being asked to attend.

Ald. Donovan said he believes it is critical for members of the Fire and Police Commission to hear what residents have to say. "If nothing else, commissioners need to hear about the criminal activity, violence and other issues that are a daily reality for many of our citizens," he said.

A schedule of the listening sessions will be released after locations are secured.

Police Chief Nannette Hegerty, appointed in November 2003, announced this morning that she will retire when her term expires in November 2007.

Ald. Donovan, who said he has a "deep and abiding respect" for Chief Hegerty, said the selection of the city's next police chief is critically important. "Public safety is by far the single most important issue facing the City of Milwaukee, directly impacting our economy, tourism and conventions, property values and, most importantly, our neighborhoods and our citizens," he said.

"Finding out directly from our citizens what kind of person they want in our next police chief is vital to us, so that as leaders we can proceed with that input in mind as we make our selection," said Ald. Donovan.