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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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February 13, 2007

Ald. Bob Donovan  
(414) 286-3778

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### **Alderman Says City Agency “Negligent” In Police Recruit Shortage**

The Fire and Police Commission has been “negligent” in its responsibility to provide viable police officer recruits for the Milwaukee Police Department, and **Ald. Bob Donovan has asked Mayor Tom Barrett for an explanation of the shortfall.**

In a letter to the mayor issued today, Ald. Donovan said he’s received word that the commission does not have enough recruits for the scheduled June 2007 officer training class, and will likely fall short of recruits for other training classes scheduled for later this year. The situation is critical, the alderman said, because of a higher than expected retirement rate at MPD and because of the department’s “dangerously high vacancy rate.”

“Given the dire needs within the department to fill these vacancies, along with your persistent statements that public safety is your number one priority, how could this happen under your watch? Just what is going on with the Fire and Police Commission?” Ald. Donovan states in his letter to the mayor.

The timing of the recruit shortfall couldn’t be worse, Ald. Donovan said, because the city is poised to receive \$1.5 million in state funding to hire additional officers, and the Common Council will likely be considering a proposal to add a third recruit class this year (**the measure will be heard at the Public Safety Committee meeting at 9 a.m. on Thursday, February 15 in room 301-B at City Hall**).

In addition, Ald. Donovan said he is worried about how the commission will handle the search for the successor to Police Chief Nannette Hegerty, who has said she will retire when her term expires in November.

**WHAT: Public Safety Committee meeting**  
**WHEN: Thursday, February 15 at 9:00 a.m.**  
**WHERE: Room 301-B at City Hall (200 E. Wells St.)**

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