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FOR INFORMATION CALL

July 22, 2009

Ald. Bob Donovan
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MEDIA ADVISORY

Change of Heart: Mayor's Use of Police Chief at Fundraiser Will Benefit Officers

In a letter today (see attached) to Mayor Tom Barrett, Ald. Bob Donovan applauds the mayor for deciding to donate proceeds from a Tuesday (July 21, 2009) \$400 per person fundraiser that featured Police Chief Edward Flynn to a nonprofit police charity.

In the letter, Alderman Donovan – who last week called into question the propriety of the planned appearance of Chief Flynn at the fundraiser and also urged the mayor to donate the proceeds to Operation Impact – said the mayor made a good decision. “I applaud you for this and it is comforting to know that the money will be used to help Milwaukee police officers and their families,” the alderman says.

Today's letter from Alderman Donovan also notes that the chief's appearance at the fundraiser was “a clear violation of Section 312-11 of the city code of ordinances that prohibits police officers from engaging in any political activity while on duty and while in uniform.” Last week he reminded the mayor that Milwaukee police chiefs and top commanders have traditionally been kept away from politics – to avoid the appearance of conflicts and/or to keep their work free of political influence.

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