



April 29, 2009

Ald. Bob Donovan
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Administration Looking to Close Four Libraries; Irate Aldermen to Sound Off

News Conference Set for Tomorrow at 12 noon at Zablocki Library

Alderman Bob Donovan will be joined by **Alderman Joe Dudzik** tomorrow, Thursday, April 30, 2009 for a news conference at **12 p.m.** at the **Zablocki Library, 3501 W. Oklahoma Ave.**, to voice displeasure with a draft 2010 city budget proposal that would close two south side and two north side Milwaukee Public Library branches.

Alderman Donovan said the draft Barrett Administration proposal he's learned about would shutter the **Zablocki** and **Forest Home** libraries on the south side and the **Mill Road** and **Capitol** libraries. "The library board is apparently preparing for a vote to close these four libraries – even though Zablocki is the city's most used branch library and Forest Home is among the top tier in terms of usage," said Alderman Donovan.

"Although it's early and this is just a proposal, we intend to fight tooth and nail to keep our most visited libraries open for our citizens," he said.

The aldermen expect to be joined Thursday by several concerned city residents, including many who are shaking their heads after learning about the proposal. "If you own a private business and you're planning to close a few of your branch locations, you don't close your busiest and most patronized locations. This (proposal) defies common sense," Alderman Donovan said.