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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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June 21, 2010

Ald. Joe Davis, Sr.  
(414) 286-3787

## MEDIA ADVISORY

# Fire Symptom of Need to Secure Vacant Properties

*Alderman Joe Davis, Sr. Hosts News Conference to Discuss Police Funding Option*

**Ald. Joe Davis, Sr.** will host a news conference at **11:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 22, 2010 at 4049 N. 63<sup>rd</sup> St.** to discuss a plan to secure vacant and foreclosed properties with police patrols. The site is that of a recent garage fire, still under investigation, that amounted to damages of approximately \$15,000.

A file to come before the Community and Economic Development Committee next week outlines a **\$200,000 grant from the Community Development Block Grant contingent fund** to provide for police patrols and investigation of abandoned homes. Often, the homes become havens for squatting and drug crimes, or in the case of the recent fire in District 2, vandalism.

“Though the Department of Neighborhood Services has done well to work on plans to record vacant properties and they do monitor violations to the code, those inspectors are unarmed, unsworn workers. Milwaukee Police Department officers investigating abandoned properties have the power to fully secure a property and eliminate much of the criminal activity within them,” Alderman Davis said.

Recent legislation by the Common Council has developed a committee to manage the foreclosure problem in the city and Mayor Barrett has developed a similar task force to address the issue. This legislation and funding will supplement the city’s current efforts.

The alderman will appear with Alderman Bob Donovan and representatives of the Milwaukee Police Department to discuss the legislation.

**WHAT: Vacant Property Patrol Fund press conference**  
**WHEN: Tuesday, June 22, 2010, 11:00 a.m.**  
**WHERE: 4049 N. 63<sup>rd</sup> St. (Alley)**

-30-