



January 6, 2010

Ald. Bob Donovan
(414) 708-2096

MEDIA ADVISORY

Fire Department "Brownouts" to be Aired at Public Safety Committee

Meeting at City Hall starts at 9 a.m. Thursday; Public Safety Chair Alderman Bob Donovan has taken Skeptical View of Plan to Shelve up to six MFD Crews

Michael Jones, Milwaukee's interim fire chief, will appear before the Common Council's Public Safety Committee at 9:45 a.m. **tomorrow (Thursday, January 7, 2010)** to discuss 2010 plans to "brownout" or shelve Milwaukee Fire Department crews for certain shifts. **Alderman Bob Donovan**, chair of the Public Safety Committee, has sponsored a resolution that will be taken up by the panel urging the Milwaukee Fire Department to limit the number of brownouts to no more than two per day during 2010.

The term "**brownout**" in this case refers to eliminating a shift of a ladder company or engine company from a fire house that houses more than one company. In the event of an emergency medical call or structure fire in a brownout fire house's area, crews from an adjacent area or areas would need to respond to handle the call, thus putting citizens at risk because of the increased response time, Alderman Donovan has said. "Imagine a call like a fire, or like a heart attack or stroke when mere seconds can mean the difference between life and death," he said last month, after learning Chief Jones intended on having up to six brownouts per day in 2010. "Do you want those crews coming from a mile or two miles away – or do you want them coming from just several blocks away?" he said.

Alderman Donovan has said Council members adopted a 2010 city budget understanding that MFD would be subject to only two daily brownouts on certain shifts.

WHAT: Public Safety Committee
WHEN: 9:45 a.m. Thursday, January 7
WHERE: Room 301-B, City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.

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