
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

February 22, 2011

Ald. Robert Bauman
(414) 286-2221

Alderman Wants City Hall Entrances, Sidewalks and Street Reopened

Milwaukee Alderman Robert J. Bauman will introduce a file next week asking for the immediate reopening of all City Hall entrances and sidewalks, as well as the northbound lanes of N. Water St. adjacent to City Hall.

Alderman Bauman, chair of the Common Council's Public Works Committee, said today the closures – spurred after a piece of terra cotta fell from the east side of the City Hall bell tower on Thursday, February 17 – are “totally unacceptable.” He will be introducing a Common Council resolution for immediate adoption on March 1 to order the reopening of the sidewalks, entrances, and the northbound lanes of the 800 block of N. Water St.

“Accessibility to City Hall for the public, emergency personnel and for city staff members is critical, and having only one open entrance (on N. Market St.) is insufficient and unacceptable,” he said, also noting that the closure of the E. Wells St. entrance means handicapped access to the building has been eliminated.

The alderman said the Department of Public Works and the city should immediately remove temporary fencing erected to close the City Hall sidewalks along N. Water St., N. Market St. and E. Wells St. He said protective scaffolding should then be installed for pedestrians, so the sidewalks and City Hall entrances on E. Wells St. and N. Water St. can be reopened.

-More-

City Hall Access/ADD ONE

J.P. Cullen & Sons, the general contractor on the City Hall exterior restoration project (2005-2008), should be required to shoulder the cost to reopen the sidewalks and street, Alderman Bauman said.

“First and foremost, Cullen should be here making sure the protective measures are put in place to ensure full accessibility to the building, and then they should be closely inspecting the bell tower terra cotta fixtures to make sure we don’t have another incident like this,” he said.

Although no one was injured when the masonry fell last week, a parked car sustained minor damage.

-30-