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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Bob Donovan
(414) 708-9417

Alderman Donovan to Receive National WeTip Award

The top executive of WeTip's National Anonymous Crime Hotline program will present **Alderman Bob Donovan** with a national award for anti-graffiti efforts during a City Hall news conference and ceremony on Monday (July 25).

The event will be at 10 a.m. Monday in the third floor Council Chamber anteroom at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.

Susan Mandell, WeTip's national director, will present Alderman Donovan with WeTip's national local official of the year award for his effort in partnering with WeTip to combat graffiti. Late last year Alderman Donovan, the founder of **Operation Impact**, announced a \$5,000 donation from Operation Impact to WeTip and city anti-graffiti operations in the Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS).

The partnership also included ClearChannel, which coordinated radio ads, posters, and large ads on the rear portions of Milwaukee County Transit System buses to spread the word about the new campaign.

Monday's event will also include an award presented to **Sharon Blando**, anti-graffiti enforcement inspector for DNS. **Lt. Adrian Bump**, a former Horicon, Wisconsin police officer now working as a lieutenant for the UW-Milwaukee Police Department, will also be honored at the ceremony with WeTip's national police officer of the year award.

Alderman Donovan said he is "pleased and honored" by the award and recognition from WeTip. "The partnership is an attempt to try something different in the battle against acts of vandalism that deface our neighborhoods and our city, and by God I hope people continue to call in their tips and information so we can continue catching and prosecuting these criminals," Alderman Donovan said.

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WeTip Awards/ADD ONE

Ms. Aguilar of WeTip said: “This year, Milwaukee Alderman Robert Donovan is recognized as an individual who has spearheaded crime and graffiti prevention efforts above all other local officials, nationwide. With the help of Alderman Donovan and Sharon Blando of the city’s Department of Neighborhood Services, WeTip, the City of Milwaukee, and other Milwaukee County municipalities have actively implemented WeTip’s Anti Graffiti/ Crime Hotlines throughout the area, combating property and vandalism losses, and violent crime and drug trafficking.”

The alderman also praised Ms. Blando, who has been coordinating the city’s anti-graffiti efforts for many years. “Because of Sharon’s sheer determination and hard work, as well as her cooperation and coordination with Milwaukee police, the city has been able to keep up a very good fight in the war against graffiti, and she deserves our thanks,” he said.

More than 511,000 anonymous tips have led to the arrest of over 15,500 criminals, all made possible because WeTip provides total safety and anonymity to the caller.

Every year graffiti vandals deface valuable public property, but by utilizing WeTip’s Anonymous Crime and Graffiti Hotline, anonymous callers with information about a crime can call 1-800-78-CRIME. An operator will answer the hotline by saying “this is the WeTip Anonymous Crime hotline, do not give your name or identify yourself in anyway.” The operator then will ask some questions about the crime to obtain the maximum amount of information possible for the police investigator. All informants are eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000 when information results in an arrest and conviction.

During the past 20 years, WeTip has served the greater Milwaukee area, receiving more than 19,000 anonymous crime tips which supplied information to law enforcement resulting in 884 arrests and 574 criminal convictions. For this activity, WeTip also paid out thousands of dollars in rewards in the area as a part of the program.

WeTip now has a website where anyone can submit their information anonymously online, simply by logging on to www.wetip.com and clicking on the ‘submit tip’ button. By visiting the WeTip website, users can also find out more about wanted criminals and crimes solved with the help of anonymous informants who call the toll-free WeTip hotlines.