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FOR INFORMATION CALL

March 9, 2011

Ald. Terry L. Witkowski
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MEDIA ADVISORY

State Republican Leaders Should Reconsider Their Raid on Milwaukee *Aldermen Witkowski, Hines to Host News Conference on Residency Bill*

In an effort to bring attention to recent state budget discussions that directly impact the City of Milwaukee, **Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr., Alderman Terry Witkowski and other Council members** will host a news conference **TODAY at noon in the rotunda of City Hall.**

“I’d like to call on the Republican legislators who sponsored the residency bill to sponsor a bill to repeal the Republican legislation that forces Milwaukee taxpayers to pay approximately a quarter of a million dollars annually for police and fire union officials to negotiate against the taxpayers’ interests. Per state law initiated in the era of Tommy Thompson, the city is obligated to pay the salaries of fire and police union representatives—the very same representatives who lobby against the best interests of taxpayers of this city,” Alderman Witkowski said.

Recent announcements in the budget struggle include a bill designed to free fire and police professionals from the city’s residency requirement. “The residency bill is the work of suburban legislators working against Milwaukee’s interest and looking after their own economic gain. Thousands of well-paid professionals moving into the suburbs boosts their economy, but doesn’t represent regionalism—it’s simply anti-Milwaukee,” Ald. Witkowski said.

Witkowski argues these developments point to positioning police and fire professionals not as a protected class, but rather as a privileged class.

“I’d like to call on Governor Walker to demonstrate that this move is not simply an election payback by stating that he will now veto the residency bill when it crosses his desk,” Ald. Witkowski said. “State leaders should also recognize and work toward lifting Milwaukee’s burden of paying the very lobbyists who advocate taking thousands of well-paid workers out of the city.”

President Hines is the lead sponsor of a resolution opposing these measures which will be heard at tomorrow’s Judiciary and Legislation Committee and will discuss this today as well.

WHAT: News conference

WHEN: NOON TODAY, March 9, 2011

WHERE: City Hall Rotunda, 200 E. Wells St.

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