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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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January 30, 2012

Ald. Robert J. Bauman  
(414) 286-2221

## **Alderman proposes changes to Tax Increment District to jumpstart economic development on the near west side**

*Ald. Bauman's amendment to TID #35 would enable DOT to expand and enhance street infrastructure and improve traffic flow at N. 27<sup>th</sup> St. & W. Wisconsin Ave.*

The Common Council's **Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee** will consider a proposal Tuesday (January 31) that would amend Tax Incremental District 35 (27<sup>th</sup> & Wisconsin Ave.) by expanding the district boundaries and allowing major changes that could help boost economic development near the busy intersection.

**Alderman Robert J. Bauman** has introduced a resolution (**see attached**) that would amend Tax Incremental District 35 (27<sup>th</sup> & Wisconsin Ave.) by expanding the TID's boundaries to include the block bounded by W. Wisconsin Ave., N. 27<sup>th</sup> St., N. 26<sup>th</sup> St. and W. Wells St. and provide for the public acquisition of certain lands along the east side of N. 27<sup>th</sup> St. north of Wisconsin Ave. to provide right-of-way that is needed to perform certain street improvements on N. 27<sup>th</sup> St.

Tax Incremental District 35 was created in 1998 to provide a financing mechanism for economic revitalization at 27<sup>th</sup> and Wisconsin – a busy and important intersection in the Avenues West neighborhood. According to Alderman Bauman, the only activity that has occurred within the TID was the demolition of a large hotel that had occupied the site since the early 1960s. "For the better part of the last decade, despite numerous prospects and false starts, unfortunately no development has occurred and no development opportunities for the intersection are on the horizon," he said.

**-More-**

## **27<sup>th</sup> and Wisconsin/ADD ONE**

Several years ago, in an effort to jumpstart development at 27<sup>th</sup> and Wisconsin, Alderman Bauman brought together a team of consultants, designers and neighborhood stakeholders to discuss possible infrastructure improvements that would make the area more attractive to development. Among the ideas was to upgrade, beautify, and widen N. 27<sup>th</sup> St. from W. Michigan St. to W. Wells St. and to enhance and improve traffic flow at the intersection of 27<sup>th</sup> and Wisconsin. This work would be performed in conjunction with the state sponsored reconstruction of N. 27<sup>th</sup> St. from St. Paul Ave. to W. Highland Blvd. that the state Department of Transportation is planning to undertake in 2013.

Alderman Bauman, a member of the Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee, said the street improvements will specifically require the acquisition of certain real estate on the east side of 27<sup>th</sup> St. north of Wisconsin Ave. to provide additional public right-of-way. Under Alderman Bauman's amendment, tax incremental financing will be used to finance the acquisition of this real estate for public infrastructure purposes.

"This intersection is too important to Milwaukee and the near west side to remain the way it is now, and I'm hopeful my colleagues will agree and pave the way for development by approving my amendment," Alderman Bauman said.

**The ZND Committee will take up file# 110075 when it meets at 9 a.m. tomorrow (Tuesday, January 31) in room 301-B at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.**