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FOR INFORMATION CALL

June 6, 2013

Ald. José G. Pérez
(414) 286-3762

Man charged in scam targeting south side residents

A man has been charged with impersonating a U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) agent in an effort to coerce individuals to pay him money to “clear up” purported immigration issues, according to **Alderman José G. Pérez**.

Milwaukee County Circuit Court records show Reinaldo Acosta of Milwaukee has been charged with two felony counts of impersonating a peace officer to aid in the commission of a crime.

Alderman Pérez said Acosta, who has a previous record involving the same alleged activity, was arrested following an investigation by the Community Prosecution Unit in the MPD’s 2nd District. Complaints from citizens allege Acosta would detain individuals, and drive them around in a vehicle while threatening to turn them in to authorities for alleged immigration issues, the alderman said.

“This man would essentially shake people down for money while making threats,” Alderman Pérez said.

“If someone claiming to be a peace officer is asking for money to ‘clear’ up an immigration status issue, then that should send up a big red flag,” Alderman Pérez said.

Alderman Pérez said Milwaukee police advise that anyone approached by someone claiming to be an agent should ask to see a badge and an identification card. In addition, agents will not ask for money, and if there is any doubt about the person’s legitimacy residents should call police immediately.

Court records show Acosta is scheduled to make an initial appearance tomorrow (Friday, June 7) in Milwaukee County Circuit Court.

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