

ALDERMAN ROBERT G.  
**DONOVAN**200 E. Wells St. | Milwaukee, WI 53202 | 286-3533 | [www.milwaukee.gov/district8](http://www.milwaukee.gov/district8) | [rdonov@milwaukee.gov](mailto:rdonov@milwaukee.gov)

AUTUMN 14

**Hello Neighbors,**

Late last month, the law-abiding and hard-working residents who live near S. 33rd St. and W. Lincoln Ave. found out just how disruptive and violent problem properties can be. The occupants of two houses there engaged in a huge fight that spilled into the street, and eventually shots were fired and police responded and made some arrests. A few neighbors told me that they were considering moving out of the neighborhood (and even the city!) because of the disruptions and disorder of the two houses. Problems like those near 33rd and Lincoln CAN be addressed by the city's nuisance property ordinance – a measure which now makes it easier for the police department and the city to declare a problem property a “public nuisance.”

Prior to the approval of the nuisance property ordinance, whenever the chief of police determined that the police department had responded to three or more nuisance activities at a premises on separate days during a 30-day period, or that the police department responded to two or more nuisances of certain types occurring at a premises within one year, the chief could notify the premises owner or other responsible party in writing that the premises is a nuisance.

Under a recently approved amended version of the ordinance – supported by Alderman Donovan -- each separate and distinct incident of nuisance activity occurring at a premises on a single day are now considered separate nuisance activities (article enclosed).

In this newsletter you can also read about Operation Alley Cat, an initiative to add surveillance cameras to alley portions in the district. Criminals hate being on camera, and Operation Alley Cat aims to be a deterrent and a source of visual evidence for criminals who prefer to lurk in alleys.

Speaking of criminals, I've included some of my thoughts about our juvenile justice system. Please take a moment and read about just how bad I believe our juvenile justice system is failing us.

This edition of my newsletter contains many other informative articles – please take moment to read them and let me know if you have any concerns about your neighborhood or the city that I may be able to address and help with. Please call me -- my phone number is 414-286-3533.

Wishing you a safe and productive fall!

**Bob Donovan**  
Alderman, 8th District

**TOWN HALL MEETINGS**

Ald. Donovan has scheduled three fall town hall meetings to meet residents and discuss issues affecting the 8th District. Please attend the meeting that best fits your schedule or location. Each of the meetings will start at 6:00 p.m. The dates and locations:

**Tuesday, October 28**

U.S. Grant Elementary School  
2920 W. Grant St., 6-8 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 29**

Doerfler Elementary School  
3014 W. Scott St., 6-8 p.m.

**Thursday, October 30**

OASIS Senior Center  
2414 W. Mitchell St., 6-8 p.m.

Representatives of city departments (including the police) will be on hand to answer questions and discuss issues that you are concerned about including crime and crime prevention, graffiti, sanitation, recycling, and neighborhood development.

**PLEASE NOTE** that all meeting locations are handicapped accessible.

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS****Member**

- Public Works
- Anti-Graffiti Policy
- Public Safety

**View meetings at:**

[milwaukee.gov/citychannel](http://milwaukee.gov/citychannel).  
Follow us on Twitter @MKE\_CC,  
@Cityofmilwaukee and @MKE\_TV for  
City of Milwaukee Common Council and  
City Clerk news, info and updates.

### Strong Neighborhoods Plan Targets Foreclosure Problems ➤

The Strong Neighborhoods Plan, a centerpiece of Mayor Tom Barrett's 2014 budget, provides \$11.8 million to redouble city efforts to reduce the number and mitigate the impacts of tax-foreclosed properties that the city owns.

The Department of City Development (DCD) is responsible for managing and marketing that inventory. Alderman Donovan was a supporter of the budget item that initiated the program. DCD staffers are now moving forward on many fronts to implement the Strong Neighborhoods Plan, and the number of personnel devoted to these tasks is growing.

The current inventory of tax-foreclosed buildings is nearly 1,000. Real estate staff members handle the intake of tax-foreclosed properties, inspecting them, negotiating leases with tenants living in units at the time of foreclosure, arranging to re-key and board vacant properties, referring some properties for demolition and marketing the inventory that can be redeveloped.

The Strong Neighborhoods Plan funds this work, along with several new programs: a rent-to-own initiative that helps tenants purchase the houses in which they live; a pilot program that allows licensed real estate brokers to market properties; new loan and grant programs to encourage the purchase and renovation of foreclosed properties; the artistic board-up program that involves young people in creating visual art on boarded properties; and a vacant lot beautification effort. Housing development and preservation staff also are involved in these initiatives.

Alderman Donovan said the DCD's increased attention to neighborhoods – and less on commercial strips -- is a positive step for the city. He said he supports the increased focus on neighborhoods where people live.

"Our commercial corridors cannot succeed if our neighborhoods are falling behind and struggling," Alderman Donovan said.

**To learn more, visit the DCD website at [milwaukee.gov/cityrealestate](http://milwaukee.gov/cityrealestate). ■**

### Remember New Garbage and Recycling Set-Out Policy ➤

A significant change proposed by the Mayor and approved by the Common Council as part of the 2014 city budget requires residents with driveways to roll their own carts out to the street during the winter.

Alderman Donovan said the new policy offers residents year-round guaranteed collection dates while also saving significant city taxpayer dollars.

"It allows crews to more quickly and efficiently complete their routes, and it also reduces injuries to our workers from slips and falls on icy driveways and walks," he said.

**NOTE:** Residential households with cart collection received garbage cart tags in March 2014 with designated collection dates from April 7, 2014 through April 2, 2015. Residents can check online ([www.city.milwaukee.gov/mpw](http://www.city.milwaukee.gov/mpw)) to see their next scheduled garbage collection day.

Most recycling routes (except automated and twice monthly) will revert to non-guaranteed winter schedules on December 8th and crews will retrieve the recycling carts from their storage location. Residents can check online to see their next estimated (2 – 3 day window) recycling collection date. ■

### Residents Show Pride in Their Neighborhoods ➤

Neighborhoods are healthiest when residents join together with city officials and each other to tidy up and celebrate the things that make Milwaukee great.

For example, in one such event, more than 450 people turned out at a Zilber Clarke Square Neighborhood Initiative Spring Clean-Up. Neighbors rallied at the Journey House Playground and picked up supplies, then returned in groups to their individual neighborhoods to dispose of garbage and clean the area.

The event wrapped up with food and entertainment, along with a soccer tournament and college fair at Journey House.

"I am thankful to the many residents and volunteers who came out and helped clean up the neighborhood and the block where they live," Alderman Donovan said. "It truly makes a difference when people come together and show pride in their neighborhood and in their community." ■



**Simply call 211 to get help with life.**  
**Cell: (414) 773-0211**  
**Free: (866) 211-3380**

United Way of greater Milwaukee & Milwaukee County

## New NML Tower Downtown Creating Jobs >

Work has begun on a new high-rise office tower downtown that will reshape the city skyline, and City of Milwaukee residents will play a crucial role in building it.

As part of a deal negotiated with the Milwaukee Common Council, Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership will help Northwestern Mutual meet an objective in which 40% of the jobs on the site will go to residents of the City of Milwaukee. In addition, the program has a stated goal of connecting 350 people to a career in the construction trades and placing up to 150 workers on the job site.

Overall, the project is expected to create 1,000 construction jobs. Northwestern Mutual is building the 32-story, 550-foot tower next to its historic 1914 headquarters.

To learn more, call WRTP/Big Step at (414) 342-9787. ■



## Second Chances Working for Milwaukee >

Dozens of people trying to make a career for themselves after periods of unemployment or incarceration are finding second chances working for the City of Milwaukee through new transitional jobs programs.

One such program created 25 positions to supplement Department of Public Works efforts to patch potholes and repair roads. In the program, which is administered by United Migrant Opportunity Services, participants earn a living wage of \$10.10 an hour working for a limited term with the city and gaining valuable on-the-job experience.

“For people who are down on their luck, sometimes all that’s needed is for one employer to give them a chance,” Alderman Donovan said. “With the skills and experience these temporary employees will earn, they will be better qualified for permanent jobs that open up with the city or with private employers.”

Another program, the Dombrowski Landscape Training Initiative, has focused on landscape maintenance of city-owned foreclosed and vacant properties. Thirty low-income participants earned valuable job skills and a number of certifications over the course of the 17-week program, all while cleaning up blight in urban neighborhoods. The program was made possible by the bequest of the late Department of Public Works employee, David John Dombrowski.

And under the Milwaukee Jobs Act, \$180,000 was allocated to the transitional jobs Garage Demolition Program. ■

## REPORT FRAUD

It is everyone’s job to prevent and detect fraud, waste and abuse of public funds. If you suspect or witness any fraud, waste or abuse against City of Milwaukee resources, **TAKE ACTION** and **REPORT IT** to the Fraud Hotline at 286-3440, via email ([hotline@milwaukee.gov](mailto:hotline@milwaukee.gov)), or online. See [milwaukee.gov/comptroller](http://milwaukee.gov/comptroller).

**Tips may be made anonymously. The Fraud Hotline ensures confidentiality and will not share contact information without consent.**

## Keeping Crime and Disorder in Check ➤

New efforts to curb crime and other nuisances on the near south side are meeting with success, and a group of law enforcement officers that is near and dear to Alderman Donovan -- the Community Prosecution Unit -- is at the heart of that effort.

The CPU is tasked with handling long term problems that often cannot be handled with a single call for service to the police department, with a focus on nuisance properties that are the scene of repeated problems at the same address such as drug dealing, trouble with neighbors and loud music. It's a big, broad job.

In general, the CPU handles cases involving loud music, loitering, illegal drug activity, disorderly conduct problems, animals disturbing the peace, licensed premise violations, problems with taverns, drug houses, gang houses and other issues. They are also active at community meetings with residents to find out about problem locations in their neighborhoods.

The CPU is comprised of five police officers and supervised by one sergeant. But the effort to crack down on near south side crime has also included stepped up foot patrols in problem areas – something that has been boosted significantly by Alderman Donovan's Operation Impact. Operation Impact has paid for extra beat patrols on the near south side for years by utilizing the generous donations of foundations, businesses and residents.

**You can contact the CPU at 935-7763. ■**



**During a news conference at Christ Evangelical Lutheran School, Alderman Donovan joined Alderman José Pérez (left) and members of the Community Prosecution Unit to announce a new measure to combat drugs and prostitution on the near south side.**

## Toughened Nuisance Property Measure in Place ➤

Alderman Donovan supported a successful ordinance that makes it easier for the police department and the city to declare a problem property a public nuisance.

Prior to the approval of the ordinance, whenever the chief of police determined that the police department had responded to three or more nuisance activities at a premises on separate days during a 30-day period, or that the police department responded to two or more nuisances of certain types occurring at a premises within one year, the chief could notify the premises owner or other responsible party in writing that the premises is a nuisance.

Under the ordinance supported by Alderman Donovan, each separate and distinct incident of nuisance activity occurring at a premises on a single day are now considered separate nuisance activities.

**“ For the process to work, always make sure you have the correct address to report where the problems are occurring. ”**

Under the ordinance, properties where numerous problems are occurring will be targeted and required to develop an abatement plan of action that is submitted for review by the pertinent Milwaukee police district captain and the City Attorney's Office. Failure to develop and follow the abatement plan will result in administrative costs for police calls for service to the property. If problems persist, the property faces being placed on "chronic nuisance status" which could result in fines to the property owner of \$3,000 to \$5,000.

According to Alderman Donovan, in most cases a nuisance declaration at a property results in the owner evicting a problem tenant. It is critical that neighbors correctly report nuisance activities when observed, making sure they have the correct address of the nuisance property and reporting timely incidents to the police non-emergency line (933-4444).

“It is not adequate to make reference to ‘the house across the street,’ or ‘the gray house near the corner,’” Alderman Donovan said. “For the process to work, always make sure you have the correct address to report where the problems are occurring.” ■



**Alderman Donovan joined Common Council President Michael Murphy, Milwaukee Police Capt. Carianne Yerkes and Foundation for a Drug Free World – Chicago Regional Director Rebecca Cusano in honoring Police Officer Jesus Gloria for receiving a “Drug Free Hero” award from the foundation after a ceremony at City Hall. Officer Gloria was recognized for his contributions over the past four years in helping educate young people in Milwaukee about the dangers of illegal drugs.**



**Alderman Donovan joined representatives from partner organizations UMOS (United Migrant Opportunity Services) and Journey House at S. 21st and W. Scott to announce the arrival of the 2014 Neighborhood Ambassadors. Wearing brightly-colored shirts, the W-2 participants gain job training and work experience while picking up litter, removing graffiti and keeping an eye out for possible criminal activity on weekdays during the summer.**

## Juvenile Crime is Up, Juvenile Justice System in Shambles ➤

Recently, Alderman Donovan released statements regarding juvenile crime issues in Milwaukee, as well as what he describes as a broken juvenile justice system.

Here are a few excerpts:

“I learned today that Milwaukee police arrested two 14-year-olds in the investigation into the recent string of armed carjackings and robberies that have terrorized Milwaukee.

Now think back to when you and I were 14, and the things we would do for fun or after our homework was finished. I guarantee you that armed robbery wasn’t on the list of fun things to do!

It seems day-in and day-out we are hearing shocking stories – one after another – of out-of-control juveniles behaving outrageously and, in some cases, committing heinous crimes.

I ask very simply: Where is Milwaukee’s leadership on this issue?

I have cops telling me that our juvenile justice system is one of the worst in the nation, with kids not getting turned around or rehabilitated, and with the vast majority of them assembling lengthy police records by the time they turn 18.

Our system was set up to ensure that laws are enforced and that order is sustained, but it appears that it is a joke to most of these troublemakers.”

“According to the Municipal Court, curfew citations to teens hit a high in 2006, when well over 2,000 curfew violation citations were issued. So far this year, only 70 citations have been issued. At that rate, we’ll be lucky if 150 curfew citations are issued!

This issue has been in the news recently for a few different reasons. On June 14, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* published an editorial urging the city to adopt an even stricter curfew – 9 p.m. The argument made – and rightly so – is that we need to try every possible angle we can to curb the deadly gun violence that is plaguing too many neighborhoods in the city on an almost daily basis.

I will go further: I believe *not* enforcing the curfew simply emboldens young people to be out and about after dark, committing crimes. In fact, I have been told by well-placed sources that young people are coming in to my near south side district after dark from other parts of the city to steal cars, and to commit burglaries, robberies and other crimes.”

**To see the full statements, please go to Alderman Donovan’s webpage – [www.milwaukee.gov/district8](http://www.milwaukee.gov/district8) – and click on “News releases.” ■**

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AUTUMN 14

**OFFICIAL TRICK OR TREAT HOURS SET****Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Alderman Donovan urges motorists to take great caution on October 26 as children will be crossing streets frequently – sometimes without looking adequately/both ways – and some may also be wearing costumes or masks that obstruct their view.

**Robert G. Donovan**Alderman, 8th District  
200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202PRSR STD  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Milwaukee, WI  
Permit No. 4678**Alderman Donovan Launches Operation Alley Cat** ➔

**Operation Alley Cat** – a project to add surveillance cameras to specific alley locations throughout the Operation Impact area – was launched earlier this year by **Alderman Donovan, Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke** and neighborhood residents.

Alderman Donovan said Operation Impact's efforts in partnership with We Energies to provide alley lighting in Silver City (and now also in the Burnham Park neighborhood) has provided "an extra measure of safety" after dark, and the alley cameras now add yet another tool to help fight crimes such as illegal dumping, graffiti, illegal car repair, drug dealing and drug use, as well as break-ins and burglaries. "You think criminals hate alley lighting, just wait until they see the cameras being installed as part of Operation Alley Cat," said Alderman Donovan. "They'll scurry away like rats from a sinking ship."

Alderman Donovan said the privately-funded surveillance cameras are being added at several alley locations during the initial pilot phase of Operation Alley Cat. The cameras will provide footage that will be monitored by the Milwaukee Police Department.

The Operation Impact target area is located within the 2nd Police District and is bounded by W. Pierce St. on the north, W. Lincoln Ave. on the south, S. 16th Street/S. Cesar Chavez Dr. on the east and S. 38th St. on the west. ■



Alderman Donovan was joined by Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke, resident and business owner Betty Grinker and Rob Potrzebowski of the Kohn Law Firm during a news event launching Operation Alley Cat earlier this year in the alley behind 1105 S. 36th St. (the alley segment is located between W. Scott and W. National, from S. 36th to S. 37th). The initiative has added surveillance cameras to various locations in the Operation Impact area so far this year.