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December 10, 2007

Ald. Robert J. Bauman  
414- 699-6343

## Alderman Says Owner Of Building Where Two People Killed In Fire Was Cited For Fire Protection Deficiencies

*Ald. Robert J. Bauman Says Owner Has Two Other Nearby Buildings With  
Same Issues; City Inspectors Looking at Them Today*

The owner of a west side apartment building where two people died on Saturday was cited for fire protection and fire safety deficiencies and other building code violations, Ald. Robert J. Bauman said today.

Ald. Bauman said Classic Homes Realty LLC of Muskego and its agent/owner, Paula Johnson, had been issued notices of violations and deficiencies by the Department of Neighborhood Services as recently as October. He said the building where the arson fire was set Saturday – 2726 W. Clybourn St. – appeared to be operating as “an illegal transitional living facility” for people with drug and alcohol problems and for individuals with mental health issues.

The alderman said the building at 2726 W. Clybourn and two others also owned by Classic Homes – 2732 W. Clybourn and 2738 W. Clybourn – possess no special use permits or zoning variances to be operated as a community-based housing or transitional living facility for people with problems involving substance abuse and/or mental illness. He said he has reason to believe the 2732 and 2738 buildings also have similar residents living under similar conditions.

**-More-**

## **Fatal Fire/ADD ONE**

“This owner is a parasite landlord who preyed on some of the weakest and most vulnerable people in our community by essentially flying under the radar and housing them in a building where they were living in unsafe conditions and without the appropriate safeguards they deserve,” said Ald. Bauman.

DNS inspectors today were walking through 2732 W. Clybourn and 2738 W. Clybourn looking at code compliance issues, Ald. Bauman said.

Milwaukee residents should look for telltale signs of illegal residential housing facilities, he said.

“If you notice a single-family home, duplex or building with people coming and going often and with frequent visits by people who appear to be counselors, then you should call DNS at 286-2268 and report that information to the city so it can be checked out,” he said.

Police have arrested a 52-year-old convicted arsonist who resided in the apartment building on suspicion of setting the fire.