
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

October 9, 2007

Ald. Jim Bohl
(414) 286-3870

Council Demanding Answers On Proposed Police Redistricting

*Four Colleagues To Join Ald. Jim Bohl During City Hall News Conference
Wednesday*

Something about Police Chief Nannette Hegerty's claim that it's too costly to move forward with new Milwaukee police district boundaries just doesn't wash with Ald. Jim Bohl and several of his Common Council colleagues.

A news conference featuring Ald. Bohl, Ald. Michael J. Murphy, Ald. Willie C. Wade, Ald. Joe Davis, Sr. and Ald. Bob Donovan will focus on the stalled redistricting plan at 1 p.m. tomorrow (Wednesday, October 10, 2007) in the first floor rotunda at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.

Plans for the redistricting have been in the works for some time, with an initial planned roll-out in February 2007, but seemingly constant delays have kept it from moving forward, Ald. Bohl said. Cost concerns have never been mentioned as a potential obstacle to the redistricting plan, but in a letter to the mayor and Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr. last week, Chief Hegerty said costs are preventing it from going forward.

Ald. Bohl said he and Ald. Murphy have separately asked to see the cost breakdown for the plan but haven't received anything from MPD administration, despite promises of a timely response.

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News Conference On MPD Redistricting/ADD ONE

“How can the Chief say the police department can’t afford this plan without having a breakdown of the costs in front of her to justify the claim?” he said. “I believe there are other forces driving this and the whole rationale over costs is nothing more than a red herring, and I’m also disturbed that we’ve not heard a word from the mayor on this issue.”

Ald. Bohl said he’s also surprised by the “silence coming from the Mayor’s Office on this issue.” “When it became apparent that the police street (pole mounted) video cameras and the extension of the NSI (Neighborhood Safety Initiative) were in jeopardy because of a lack of funding, the mayor was quick to step into the fray to find the money. Where is he now?” Ald. Bohl said.

Ald. Wade, who has been pushing for the redistricting for years, said he questions the late hour of the chief’s concerns and the veracity of her claims. “It’s already past the 11th hour on this thing,” he said. “This was the Chief’s plan, but now that the work’s been done she seems eager to shove it in her hip pocket on her way out the door.”

Ald. Murphy, chair of the Finance and Personnel Committee, said he believes the chief is well aware of the disproportionate level of services rendered from police district to police district in Milwaukee. “It’s about striving for greater parity in services and coverage, and the bottom line is that all of our citizens deserve to have a system in place that ensures police service and coverage that protects them and enhances their quality of life,” he said.