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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Michael S. D'Amato
(414) 286-2221

New Report Shows Officers Fired In Jude Beating Case Paid Nearly \$600,000

Ald. D'Amato Calls for Quick Passage of Bill to Change Current State Law

The nine Milwaukee police officers fired by Police Chief Nannette Hegerty in connection with the October 24, 2004 beating of Frank Jude, Jr. will have received more than \$585,000 in salaries, benefits and pension contributions through March 2006, Ald. Michael S. D'Amato said today.

Ald. D'Amato, who asked the Comptroller's Office and the Legislative Reference Bureau to provide the payment information, said the \$585,489 total compensation figure for the nine fired officers is "shocking" for city officials and taxpayers. He called for immediate, unanimous approval of a new bill authored by Rep. Barbara Toles of Milwaukee that would do away with the current language allowing officers fired by the chief to continue to be paid until the Fire & Police Commission exhausts their appeals.

"The Legislature must act immediately to adopt the Toles bill dealing with fired and suspended Milwaukee police officers," said Ald. D'Amato. "Milwaukee taxpayers are paying daily for this unfair and special treatment of Milwaukee officers."

The payments to the nine officers – Andrew Spengler, Jon Bartlett, Daniel Masarik, Ryan Lemke, Bradley Blum, Joseph Stromei, Jon Clausing, Michele Grutza and Jodi Kamermayer – include partial estimates through the end of March because the felony cases of Bartlett, Spengler and Masarik will not be settled until their cases are adjudicated. The criminal court trials of those three officers aren't expected to get underway until late March at the earliest.

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Fired Officers' Payment Info "Shocking"/ADD ONE

Rep. Toles' new bill would cut off pay to fired officers who are charged with crimes, require all fired officers who lose their appeals to reimburse the wages and benefits earned after their terminations, and speed up appeals. The Assembly Committee on Corrections and Courts voted 8-1 Wednesday to recommend approval of the bill. Next, the bill must pass the full Assembly, go through the committee process and then the full Senate before it can become law.

An earlier bill sponsored by Rep. Toles was voted down 6-4 in December by the same Assembly committee. In that vote, the Republican controlled committee held along party lines in rejecting the bill.

During the past 11 months, at least 12 Milwaukee police officers have been charged with crimes, including eight felonies, according to the department and the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office.

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