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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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June 16, 2005

Ald. Robert G. Donovan  
(414) 286-3778

## Fighting Crime Pro-Actively

*D.A., Police Chief To Lead Law Enforcement Contingent at Monday Event Marking Expansion of Community Prosecutors*

With help from the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office, the city and other municipalities in Milwaukee County are attacking nuisance properties with an expanded **Community Prosecution Unit**, and the growing success stories of the bolstered community prosecution effort will be discussed at a news conference Monday.

**The news conference will be held Monday, June 20, at 10:30 a.m. in the Common Council chamber on the third floor of Milwaukee City Hall, 200 E. Wells St. Participants will include Ald. Robert G. Donovan, Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr., City Attorney Grant Langley, Milwaukee County District Attorney E. Michael McCann, Assistant District Attorney Jeff Altenburg, Police Chief Nan Hegerty and Department of Neighborhood Services Commissioner Marty Collins. Other police officials, including representatives of the West Allis and South Milwaukee police departments, several members of the Common Council and representatives of community based organizations are also expected to take part. Media coverage is welcome.**

The program started five years ago with one community prosecutor. There are now ten, six from the district attorney's office and four assistant city attorneys, with eight stationed in satellite offices in six Milwaukee police district stations and community based organizations. Ald. Donovan, chair of the Public Safety Committee, was instrumental in its expansion throughout the city. "The program has made a big difference in the lives of people in our neighborhoods, and I'm confident it will continue to have a huge impact on the quality of life in this community," Ald. Donovan said.

**-More-**

## **Community Prosecution Unit Expands/ADD ONE**

The goal of the community prosecutors is to work with homeowners and landlords to resolve issues. But they can bring criminal prosecution charges against problem tenants and/or prosecute property owners and charge them for police services if officers are called to a property for certain crimes more than three times in a month. Complaints include nuisance properties, drug dealing, prostitution, trash, dangerous dogs and code violations.

Community prosecutors are also investigating complaints in the cities of West Allis and South Milwaukee because those communities participated in the original state grant which funds part of the community prosecution effort.

Assistant District Attorney Jeff Altenburg, team captain for the program, says it's heartening to see the significant expansion of the community prosecution efforts in the city. "With eight community prosecutors in all police district stations except District One, we cover a significant portion of the city," said Altenburg. "The support we've received for the program indicates to me that our efforts have not gone unnoticed, and I believe the community prosecutors will meet the expectations that the community has for our program."

The agencies involved in the collaboration include the City Attorney's office, District Attorney's office, Milwaukee Police Department, Health Department, Department of Neighborhood Services, Department of Public Works, community based organizations, citizens and the religious community.

The majority of the prosecution team's effort deals with nuisance properties, homes and buildings that are the repeated sources of complaints and police calls. They also meet with owners and landlords to discuss solutions, including enrolling them in the city's Landlord Training Program. In addition, they can help neighbors get involved in block clubs, give crime prevention speeches in schools, discuss crime prevention techniques with residents and inform them how to effectively report criminal behavior to police. The community prosecutors are accessible to police, community groups and citizens in person or by cell phones.

Food and refreshments will also be available at Monday's event.