
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

July 13, 2007

Ald. Bob Donovan
(414) 708-2096

Citizens, Clergy Join Bell Ambulance, St. Luke's & Others In Safety Alliance

Details to be Announced at News Conference on Tuesday, July 17

An alliance composed of neighborhood volunteers, clergy, Bell Ambulance, Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center, Securitas Security and other businesses has been formed to augment police patrols and help fight crime on Milwaukee's south side, Ald. Bob Donovan said.

The new South Side Safety Alliance will be the topic of a news conference at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 17, 2007, outside the Hmong American Peace Academy, 1418 S. Layton Blvd. Attendees should enter the parking lot adjacent to the building at the southwest corner of S. 26th St. and W. Greenfield Ave. Milwaukee Police Department officials as well as other aldermen, representatives from Bell Ambulance, Securitas, St. Luke's, local pastors and the Layton Boulevard West Neighbors community group will join Ald. Donovan at the news conference. Media coverage is invited.

Ald. Donovan, who chairs the Common Council's Public Safety Committee, said the alliance was formed as a pilot project aimed at proactively addressing public safety on the south side. "This is a completely private endeavor, not using one dime of taxpayer money, where volunteers from Layton Boulevard West Neighbors will be patrolling the streets at night with area pastors and with staff from Bell Ambulance, Securitas, St. Luke's and other businesses patrolling in vehicles during times when they're not busy answering calls," he said.

-More-

South Side Safety Alliance/ADD ONE

“It’s unique and a little different, but I really credit the private sector (participants) for stepping up to offer their assistance, and I believe the alliance can have a real impact on crime and disorderly behavior in south side neighborhoods,” Ald. Donovan said.

The alliance will primarily focus its efforts on the area bounded by W. Pierce St. on the north, W. Lincoln Ave. on the south, S. 1st St. on the east and S. 38th St. on the west. But Ald. Donovan said the boundaries are not “set in stone,” and it’s possible the group will address areas as far south as W. Oklahoma Ave.

Pastor Marty Calderon of Street Talk Ministries – a former gang member who has been credited by Ald. Donovan and others for his work in helping reduce gang violence – will be a part of the alliance’s effort to provide clergy outreach to individuals in need. “Marty and the other pastors will conduct regular walks at night to locate and counsel people who need help getting off the streets and those who may just need someone they can talk to for help,” said Ald. Donovan.

-30-