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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Robert G. Donovan
(414) 286-2221

Surveillance Cameras To Help Curb Crime Along Stretch Of National Ave.

*Businesses Will Foot Bill for First-Ever Wide Scale Exterior Surveillance
Cameras in Milwaukee; News Conference Today*

Camera-shy criminals may want to steer clear of a certain 11-block stretch of W. National Ave. for the foreseeable future, Ald. Robert G. Donovan said today.

That's because a partnership with local businesses will result in video surveillance monitoring of street-level activity on W. National Ave. from S. Cesar Chavez Dr. (S. 16th St.) to S. 27th St. (Layton Blvd.), said Ald. Donovan, chair of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee.

A news conference announcing the initiative will start at 2:30 p.m. today outside Badger Mutual Insurance Co., 1635 W. National Ave. Police Chief Nannette Hegerty and officials from Badger Mutual and Roundy's Foods, principal partners in the initiative, will join Ald. Donovan at the news conference. Actual cameras and "Surveillance Area" signs to be used in conjunction with the project will also be displayed. Media coverage is invited.

The mounted cameras – the first of their kind monitoring such a large area in the city – will act as a strong deterrent against all types of crime, including theft, robbery, assault, drug activity, loitering, prostitution and vandalism, just to name a few, said Ald. Donovan. "Milwaukee is behind the curve on neighborhood and business district surveillance cameras, which are now used in many cities across the U.S.," the alderman said.

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Exterior Surveillance Cameras/ADD ONE

“This effort is great news, and it’s a great example of a public-private partnership providing an important tool to fight crime – and all at zero cost to the taxpayers,” he said.

Badger Mutual Insurance is paying for the cameras and their installation, and Roundy's foods is paying for the signage. Also, Roundy’s security personnel will help monitor the video footage captured by the cameras. “Badger Mutual and Roundy’s both have a stake in this area and in the City of Milwaukee as a whole, and they’re outstanding corporate citizens of the city and deserve our respect and our thanks,” he said.

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