

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

---



---

FOR INFORMATION CALL

---

May 9, 2007

Ald. Bob Donovan  
(414) 708-2096

## "Tom Do Something!"

*MPS Series Exposes Milwaukee's Continuing Public Safety Crisis; Alderman Donovan Again Urges Action By the Mayor*

The disturbing information that's been reported in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* series "Hard Lessons: The Struggle to Keep Milwaukee Schools Safe" has again prompted near south side Ald. Bob Donovan to call publicly for action by Mayor Tom Barrett.

"Day in and day out there's a rise in violence in the City of Milwaukee, and good people are moving out because they're losing faith in government's ability to deal effectively with public safety issues," said Ald. Donovan, chair of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee.

The MPS investigative series has been "difficult to read" yet has yielded a detailed look at the safety issues MPS schools deal with on a daily basis, Ald. Donovan said. "It (series) has probably dealt a serious blow to the overall morale of the teachers and to the district's teacher recruitment efforts, but it highlights the need for steps to be taken – like they were years ago in Chicago – to take back control in our schools, and I've called for that for years," he said.

"I point out that during the campaign the mayor made a big deal of calling for the city to take over the schools – what happened with that?" he said.

Ald. Donovan, who released a multifaceted anti-crime plan on April 1, said the mayor quickly "pooed pooed" the plan – stating that most of the directives were already being done – and has continued to trumpet public safety "successes" in the city. "If our current chaotic situation, which seems to include three or four shootings a night, is considered 'success,' then I shudder to think what 'failure' is," the alderman said.

**-More-**

## **Tom Do Something!/ADD ONE**

On the gun seizure statistics being released today by the Milwaukee Police Department, Ald. Donovan said: “I have no doubt the Milwaukee Police Department is working very hard and can rattle off any number of statistics on arrests and guns seized, but the fact remains that the basic public safety situation on our streets hasn’t changed.”

Calling attention to the reality faced by thousands of Milwaukeeans daily “is sometimes difficult but it’s the right thing to do,” Ald. Donovan said. “While Milwaukee has many great amenities and attractions, we simply cannot continue to ignore the negatives,” he said.

“The negatives are fueling people’s decisions to locate their homes and businesses elsewhere, and they are damaging the confidence many people have in Milwaukee,” the alderman said.

Again, Ald. Donovan said Mayor Barrett has failed to take decisive action to address the “800-pound gorilla” that is the city’s public safety crisis.

“I think Tom is a nice guy and I encouraged him to run for mayor, but he continues to drop the ball on these very important issues,” he said.

**-30-**