MEDIA ADVISORY

“Operation Payback” Part II: HOC Inmates to Perform Community Service Today

Expanding on a successful initial run in 2008 that brought graffiti vandals back to the scenes of some of their crimes – with buckets of white paint and Milwaukee police officers looking on – Ald. Bob Donovan and the Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Office are expanding “Operation Payback” starting TODAY, Tuesday, April 7, 2009, with inmates from the county House of Correction. Alderman Donovan said inmates who are participating in the Community Justice Resource Center’s (CJRC) Community Service program will be handed brooms, garbage bags and litter grabbers at 10:30 a.m. outside the Milwaukee Christian Center, 2137 W. Greenfield Ave., before dispersing to clean streets and alleys (and remove graffiti) in the Operation Impact area -- Pierce St. to the north, Lincoln Ave. to the south, S. 16th St to the east and S. 38th St. to the west. All of the participating inmates will be monitored and are serving time for non-violent offenses.

According to Jan Brylow, sheriff’s office manager of inmate programs, the inmates who will be taking part have completed the core components of the CJRC program and are transitioning into employment search. “The community service curriculum is structured to orientate participants to civic responsibility and accountability for harm done, and it allows the participating inmates to ‘give back’ to communities affected by crime to help repair the harm done by crime,” she said.

Alderman Donovan is inviting the news media and public to observe the inmates at work. “These individuals will be giving back to the community, and law-abiding citizens expect nothing less,” he said. “And with the snow now melted away, they’ll be filling quite a few bags with litter and debris that is now all too evident.”

The alderman is working with Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke to explore the possibility of expanding the program further during the summer of 2009.

WHAT: “Operation Payback” media availability

WHEN: 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 7, 2009

WHERE: 2137 W. Greenfield Ave.

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