



January 19, 2010

Ald. Bob Donovan
(414) 708-2096

MEDIA ADVISORY

Fire Department's Staffing & Equipment Shortfalls Exposed by Pizza Man Fire; News Conference Called for 1:30 p.m. Today

*Public Safety Chair Alderman Bob Donovan to Join Fire Union Officials to Address
"Critical Issues"*

Alderman Bob Donovan, chair of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee, will join members of the **Milwaukee Professional Firefighters Association Local 215** during a **1:30 p.m. news conference today at the union's offices, 5625 W. Wisconsin Ave.,** to discuss the Milwaukee Fire Department's response to the massive fire that earlier today gutted the east side corner building where Pizza Man is located, and which spread to two other buildings.

Alderman Donovan said the response required the fire department – for the first time in memory – to request mutual aid firefighter staffing at city fire houses. “We needed volunteers from nine communities, including Greendale, Cudahy, West Allis, and Wauwatosa, to come and staff our city's fire houses – that's unbelievable to me,” Alderman Donovan said.

“Pretty soon we'll be bringing back the bucket brigades when a big fire breaks out,” he said.

The alderman said the Barrett administration's chipping away at MFD over the past few city budget cycles has decimated the staffing and equipment of a “proud department staffed by proud and brave individuals.” “When you reduce staffing and decommission two apparatus in consecutive budget years, you create critical issues and you end up playing Russian roulette with peoples' lives,” he said.

WHAT: News conference
WHEN: 1:30 p.m. Today, January 19
WHERE: Local 215, 5625 W. Wisconsin Ave.

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