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FOR INFORMATION CALL

August 3, 2010

Ald. Bob Donovan
(414) 708-2096

MPS Rec Cancels All Ages Graffiti "Art" Course

One of the adult enrichment courses listed for this fall by Milwaukee Public Schools Division of Recreation and Community Services is an all ages art course on graffiti, according to **Alderman Bob Donovan**.

The course, entitled "Urban Art," has been canceled because the instructor who was scheduled to teach it has moved out of state, according to an MPS Rec staff member who spoke to Alderman Donovan yesterday.

Alderman Donovan said he was contacted about the MPS Rec catalog listing over the weekend by a concerned citizen, and after he made inquiries at MPS Rec, a staffer said information about the course would be removed from the MPS Rec website and an email would be sent to staff notifying them not to accept registrations for the course.

The course was to have been taught at Riverside University High School by Damon 'CEVE' Smith from September 30 to November 18. The catalog entry says participants "will learn all the basics of handstyles, throw ups, bombs, pieces, character constructions and coloring techniques."

Alderman Donovan, chair of the Public Safety Committee and a longtime member of the city's Anti-Graffiti Policy Committee, said he's overjoyed to learn the course was canceled. "Every resource MPS has, in my opinion, must be directed to helping students learn and achieve, and should definitely *not* be used to teach people how to do graffiti," he said.

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Graffiti “Art” Course/ADD ONE

“This (a course on graffiti) to me would be the very essence and embodiment of stupidity,” Alderman Donovan said.

Although it’s unclear how the course would have been funded, Alderman Donovan said it would be, in his opinion, clearly “inappropriate and unwise” to fund it with taxpayer dollars “in any manner.”