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**ROBERT G. DONOVAN**

Alderman, 8th District

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 11, 2010**

**Alderman Bob Donovan**

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## **Alderman Donovan seeks OpenSky records**

*Unprecedented, sweeping open records request to impact up to two dozen current and former city officials, including Mayor and Police Chiefs; also wants MFD OpenSky roll-out halted immediately*

Alderman Bob Donovan, chair of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee, said today he is submitting open records requests for all correspondence – including emails – from current and former top-level city officials pertaining to the troubled OpenSky digital police radio system.

Alderman Donovan said he is requesting records from Mayor Tom Barrett, Police Chief Edward Flynn (and Chiefs Nannette Hegerty and Arthur Jones), Mayor's Office Chief of Staff Patrick Curley, Department of City Development spokesman Jeff Fleming, as well as other high-ranking current and former MPD commanders and civilian personnel, including current MPD chief of staff Joel Plant and former COS Judy Pal.

"Last week's catastrophic failure of the OpenSky system, which put our officers and our citizens at great risk, was quite frankly the last straw for me," Alderman Donovan said, referring to the October 7 citywide failure that shut down the system for 30 minutes, leaving officers with only cell phones and squad computers as a means of communicating with each other and with dispatchers.

"The safety of our citizens and officers is paramount, and if I regret anything in regard to this \$18 million boondoggle, it's that I didn't ask for these records sooner," he said.

The purpose of the records request, according to Alderman Donovan, is threefold:

- To determine if the safety of officers and citizens is and has always been the top concern in implementing the OpenSky system.
- To determine if the system will ever work the way it is supposed to.

-More-

## **OpenSky Records/ADD ONE**

- With regard to the system – what mistakes were made in the past, who made them, and what steps are being taken to ensure they don't happen again?

The alderman is also seeking the immediate discontinuation of the OpenSky roll-out for the Milwaukee Fire Department, where steps are being taken to test the system in lieu of plans to have crews “go live” with it early next year. “In my estimation, the system should not have been rolled out for the police department until every bug had been worked out,” he said.

“I’ll be damned if we’re going to make the same mistake with the fire department,” Alderman Donovan said.

Once records are turned over, qualified attorneys and communications engineers will review the records and report findings back to the Public Safety Committee, Alderman Donovan said.

Alderman Donovan said he also intends to seek records from Capt. Andra Williams of the MPD’s Communications Division, Deputy Chief Monica Ray, previous Communications Division commanders, Harris Corp. officials, and others.

Alderman Donovan said he is especially interested to find out about the fate of the Harris Corp. employee who caused the failure by tapping into the system to perform maintenance without notifying MPD. “This person put our citizens, Harris Corp., and the City of Milwaukee and its officers at great risk and possibly liable (for damages) if anything major had occurred,” he said.

“I want to know who this person is and what steps Harris Corp. has taken to discipline him. You would think the leaders at Harris would not tolerate this kind of mistake, and would be taking measures to make sure it doesn’t happen again,” Alderman Donovan said.